

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 14th MEETING OF THE JOINT SECURITY COMMITTEE

Mogadishu, 5th to 6th August 2012

The fourteenth session of the Joint Security Committee (JSC) was held in Mogadishu from August 5th to August 6th 2012. The Committee was co-chaired by His Excellency Hussein Arab Isse, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Mr Peter de Clercq, United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Somalia, and the Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC), and Colonel Gebre Egzaibgher Alemseed, Representative of the Facilitator for Somalia Peace and Reconciliation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

The first day of the JSC meeting was hosted by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and was attended by representatives of Puntland, Galmudug, and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a (ASWJ). The participants applauded and welcomed the progress made on many fronts, in particular the tremendous efforts by the National Security Forces, working in partnership with AMISOM and regional neighbours, to liberate Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Upper Juba, Galgadud, Hiraan, Bay, Gedo, and Banadir.

The participants discussed various issues and concerns and agreed on the following:

- Reiterated their commitment to maintain a unified position regarding national security.
- Stressed the importance of establishing regional and district security committees throughout Somalia.
- Emphasised the requirement to collaborate on issues regarding outreach, reception, rehabilitation and reintegration of disengaged former combatants and the rehabilitation of youth. There was agreement on the need to establish and build immediate capacity for handling disengaged former combatants in all Somali regions.
- Reinforced the need to establish a mechanism based on sound Islamic principles to counter Al-Shabaab's negative influence on youth.
- Committed to reaching out to those Al-Shabaab members willing to renounce violence, and to provide counselling and job training to facilitate their re-integration into society.
- Recognised the need to monitor any shift in Al-Shabaab's strategy and prevent them from reaching other regions of the country; in support of this, to empower regional states, in collaboration with the central government, to fight terrorism and piracy activities.
- Reinforced the need to provide access to the required resources for all Somalia Security Forces engaged in combating Al-Shabaab. It was acknowledged that as new areas are recovered from Al-Shabaab the resource imbalance will be addressed.
- Emphasised the need to rehabilitate former correctional centres, which are currently lacking capacity to accommodate prisoners.

- Acknowledged the need to maintain the momentum established as a result of recent operational gains in Mogadishu and other areas of South Central Somalia.

The Committee Secretariat produced a comprehensive summary of the proceedings and main recommendations which was available to JSC delegates on Day Two.

The second day of the JSC meeting was jointly facilitated by UNPOS and the TFG. In addition to Somali stakeholders, it was attended by members of the International Community, including Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, as well as the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the United Nations (UN).

The AMISOM Deputy Force Commander briefed the Committee on military and security developments since the last meeting, including the status of AMISOM expansion under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2036 (2012). The Somali Chief of Defence Force also provided an update. The following issues were identified:

- There is an ongoing need to support Somali forces engaged in operations alongside AMISOM;
- There was a danger that, with the ‘migration’ of Al-Shabaab from South Central Somalia, other fronts could be opened up and that support to regional forces and to ASWJ must be factored into any support plans.

Following the security update the Committee was provided an update on the status of planning for establishing a comprehensive programme for ‘Disengaged Former Combatants’ including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). It was accepted that there were a number of challenges and issues still to be resolved but it was hoped that these would be addressed through the programme development. While there was some concern with the language used in the SOPs/documentation, particularly regarding oversight, the Committee:

- Recognised the need for a decentralization of support to all regions;
- Emphasised the need to establish not only a long-term framework but also the capacity to deliver immediate effect to deal with both a likely increase in the volume of ‘Disengaged Former Combatants’ and high-risk/high-value individuals. In this regard, the Committee:
 - Agreed the need to set up a small assessment team to consider the immediate requirements;
 - Requested donors to identify pre-qualifying operational partners that could assist with immediate implementation of programme activities;
- Agreed the need for clarification on the funding mechanism and resource mobilization requirement and proposals;
- Emphasised the need for ‘right of access’ for monitoring by International humanitarian and human rights organisations throughout the process.

The Committee was then briefed by the Turkish Defence Attaché and Turkish Police advisors on Turkey’s proposals for support to the Somali Security Institutions. The Committee was advised that authority had been provided by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish a Trust Fund with an initial investment of \$5m and that the Fund was to be independent of the United Nations funding mechanisms. While welcoming Turkey to the JSC and applauding their initiative and commitment, the committee reinforced the need to:

- Acknowledge the critical role that AMISOM has under UNSCR 2036 (2012);
- Coordinate all activity through the JSC and Technical Working Groups (TWGs);
- Carry out mapping of existing support.

With the mandate of the JSC due to run out within one month of the ‘End of Transition’ the Committee was briefed on plans for its review. While there were some divergent views it was generally felt that a coordinating mechanism was required and that the JSC had delivered this function, albeit that there was room for improvement. The Committee agreed that:

- The JSC needed to be action- rather than process-oriented;
- It should routinely consider a small number of attainable goals;
- More weight needed to be given to the Justice Sector, whether through the JSC or through a separate but equivalent body, and that support to both sectors needed to be balanced and proportionate;
- Good governance was critical;
- The lead ministries needed to be capacity-built and empowered.

The meeting was concluded formally with a summing up, allowing those delegates with flights to leave. This was followed by the signing of the action plan on ‘Elimination of the Killing and Maiming of Children’. In signing, those present acknowledged that this is a significant step towards the delisting of the Somali National Armed Forces.

The meeting was concluded at 1500 hours on 6th August 2012.

Mogadishu, 6th August 2012