



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 December 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 14 October 2013 ([S/2013/606](#)), in which I recommended the deployment of a static United Nations guard unit to strengthen the security of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) compound within Mogadishu International Airport.

I also have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution [2124 \(2013\)](#), and more specifically to paragraph 22 thereof, in which the Council took note of my intention to deploy an appropriate United Nations static guard unit to strengthen security at UNSOM compounds and looked forward to receiving further details of its deployment.

In keeping with my recommendations for the establishment of UNSOM ([S/2013/239](#)), a United Nations guard unit would form part of the overall security concept by providing “inner ring” static protection for the compounds of UNSOM and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), located inside Mogadishu International Airport.

More specifically, the United Nations guard unit would carry out the following functions: (a) provide static security, patrols and access control for UNSOM and UNSOA facilities and installations in Mogadishu, including should UNSOM move outside Mogadishu International Airport; (b) act as a deterrent against possible attacks by extremist elements on those facilities and installations; (c) provide rapid extraction capability within Mogadishu International Airport; and (d) support AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces in extracting and relocating United Nations personnel who are outside the airport area in the event that they are under imminent threat of physical violence.

Should other situations warrant the use of the guard unit, especially in the regions, I would revert to the Council with advice on supplementary measures that may be required. I intend to review the continuing need for the presence of the United Nations guard unit on an annual basis by conducting a security assessment.

The United Nations guard unit will comprise a guard battalion and an extraction and reinforcement team supported by an adequately composed logistics company. These would be provided as contingents by Member States to form part of UNSOM. The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has welcomed the deployment of the guard unit on this basis. Based on the assessment of a reconnaissance team that I recently



dispatched to Mogadishu, and on the assessment of the prevailing situation, I propose that the guard unit consist of 410 personnel.

The status-of-mission agreement for UNSOM is still under negotiation. Pending the incorporation in a concluded agreement of provisions that would extend the necessary legal protection to the guard unit and to the State or States contributing contingents, it would be understood that the provisions of the model status-of-forces agreement (A/45/594, annex) that apply to, and in respect of, the military personnel of national contingents assigned to the military component of a United Nations operation and to the property, funds and assets of the States contributing those contingents shall apply provisionally to, and in respect of, the military personnel of national contingents assigned to the guard unit and to the property, funds and assets of the States contributing those contingents.

Recognizing that AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces are the primary providers of security to UNSOM in Somalia, the deployment of a United Nations guard unit will require continued partnership and close coordination with AMISOM and the national authorities. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the support and assistance provided by the African Union to the United Nations in this regard.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that these arrangements are acceptable to the Security Council. If so, it would then be my intention to proceed with the establishment and deployment of the guard unit as soon as possible.

In keeping with existing practice, I would, in due course, notify the Security Council of the concurrence of the troop-contributing country or countries whose units would be deployed to Mogadishu.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon
