



Security Council

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Letter dated 23 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you on behalf of the Arab Group regarding the draft resolution of the Security Council on the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the arms embargo, the charcoal and arms interdiction and the reports of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group, scheduled for voting tomorrow.

The Permanent Representatives of the Arab missions to the United Nations held an urgent meeting this afternoon to discuss the section entitled “Maritime interdiction of charcoal and arms” (operative paragraphs 11 to 21). The Group heard briefings from Jordan and Somalia regarding the current draft resolution. As the Group’s President for the month of October, I was entrusted by the Group with conveying to you the Arab position on the above-mentioned section.

The current draft resolution authorizes Member States “acting nationally” to inspect vessels “on the high seas off the coast of Somalia extending to and including the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf” (operative paragraph 15). This authorization could be abused by individual Member States and is unnecessarily expanded beyond Somali territorial waters. The Group believes that the authorization should not be granted to individual Member States and should be limited to those acting through voluntary naval partnerships, in accordance with the recommendations of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group. Furthermore, the geographical location of the authorization should be confined to the territorial waters of Somalia, as per the request of the Somali Government.

Hence, the Group requests the deletion of “acting nationally” and, “and on the high seas off the coast of Somalia extending to and including the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf” from operative paragraph 15.

The Group also reiterates the concern of the Federal Government of Somalia regarding the exclusion of the unlawful fishing as per their original request to the Security Council.

In the light of the above, the Group requests that you defer the consideration of operative paragraphs 11 to 21, in the section entitled “Maritime interdiction of charcoal and arms” of the draft resolution, for further consultations with the concerned Member States.

I would be grateful if you could distribute the present letter to the members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Amr **Aboulatta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

