

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 12 April 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2245 (2015), and specifically to its paragraph 14, in which the Council welcomed the intention of Member States to provide uniformed personnel, as well as government-provided personnel, to the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) in support of the delivery of its mandated tasks and looked forward to further details on their deployment.

Further to that resolution, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has approached the Secretariat and made known its readiness to deploy a national contingent of up to 70 military personnel to support UNSOS. The contingent will consist of military engineers, military medical trainers, staff officers, military information analysts, combat vehicle engineers and logisticians with expertise in ammunition and vehicle management. They will strengthen the delivery by UNSOS of its mandate to support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the Somali national army on joint operations with AMISOM.

The contingent will deploy in three phases. Eight personnel will deploy in April 2016, a further 35 between August and November 2016 and a final additional 25 personnel at a subsequent date to be confirmed on the basis of the evolution of needs on the ground.

During the first phase, the contingent will be based at and operate within Mogadishu International Airport. During the second phase, a small number of technical experts will be temporarily deployed to Kismaayo and Baidoa to deliver training in combat engineering capabilities. In the third phase, the same temporary deployment arrangements are envisaged to apply in other sectors, depending on the evolving security situation.

The contingent will be largely self-sustained and the contribution of personnel, equipment and services will be formalized under a standard memorandum of understanding with troop-contributing countries. The members of the contingent will carry personal weapons for the purposes of self-defence only.

The contingent will form part of UNSOS and operate under the authority of the head of UNSOS who, in turn, reports to my Special Representative for Somalia and, through him, to the Security Council, in accordance with Council resolution 2245 (2015).



The Government of Somalia has, through a letter from its President dated 7 April 2016, expressed its consent to the deployment of the contingent in support of UNSOS.

The agreement between the United Nations and the host Government concerning the status of UNSOM applies mutatis mutandis to UNSOS. It will be necessary to negotiate and conclude a protocol of amendment to that agreement in order to extend the necessary legal protection to the members of the contingent and to the United Kingdom as the contributing State.

Pending the conclusion and entry into force of that protocol, it is to be understood that the provisions of the United Nations 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 the contingent of the United Kingdom and to the property, funds and assets of the United Kingdom as the State contributing the contingent.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the contribution provided by the United Kingdom to the United Nations in this regard.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that the above arrangements are acceptable to the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **BAN Ki-moon**

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