



# Security Council

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## Situation in Somalia

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution [2540 \(2020\)](#) and paragraph 41 of resolution [2568 \(2021\)](#), provides updates on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers significant developments from 8 May to 31 July 2021.

#### II. Political, security and economic overview

##### A. Political developments

2. Progress was made towards holding the delayed elections. The National Consultative Council met between 22 and 27 May. It brought together Federal Government and federal member state leaders, the Governor of the Banaadir Regional Administration and the Mayor of Mogadishu. It reached an agreement to resolve the contentious issues in the implementation of the agreement of 17 September based on the recommendation made by the technical committee in Baidoa. Those issues included the composition of electoral management and dispute resolution teams, the composition of an electoral management committee on “Somaliland” seats and arrangements for holding national elections in the Gedo Region of Jubbaland. The Council reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the 30 per cent quota for the parliamentary representation of women, but fell short of identifying an implementation mechanism. Somali leaders also agreed upon a road map towards completing State-building, including a timeline for crucial national priorities.

3. On 29 June, the National Consultative Council concluded a follow-up two-day summit in Mogadishu and issued a revised electoral timetable, scheduling the elections for the Upper House for 25 July, the elections for the House of the People between 10 August and 10 September, the swearing-in of parliamentarians and the election of the Speakers of both Houses for 20 September and the presidential elections for 10 October. It also announced a 50 per cent reduction in the candidate nomination fees for women candidates.



4. On 29 June, following the summit, the Prime Minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, appointed a four-member regional ministerial reconciliation committee for Gedo Region, tasked with ensuring a conducive environment for elections in Gedo, especially in the Garbahaarrey district.
5. On 10 July, the Prime Minister concluded a four-day visit to Jubbaland, including the Garbahaarrey district, where he discussed the implementation of the electoral agreement and reconciliation efforts. The reconciliation committee, comprising ministers from four federal member states, visited Garbahaarrey on 14 July, in line with the decisions of the National Consultative Council, to prepare for the elections.
6. Elections for the Upper House were scheduled to begin on 25 July, but faced some delays. On 29 July, the first round of the Upper House elections took place in Jubbaland, with four seats out of the eight allocated to Jubbaland contested and filled.
7. On 14 June, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya formally accepted an invitation by the Federal Government to reopen its embassy in Mogadishu. The invitation, issued on 12 June, was in response to the decision taken by the Government of Kenya on 10 June to reopen its airspace to flights from Somalia.
8. On 12 June, the Hirshabelle Vice-President, Yusuf Ahmed Hagar “Dabageed”, met for the first time with General Abukar Warsame “Hudud” in Beledweyne, Hiraaan Region, following the latter’s demands for a greater role for the Hawadle clan in the power-sharing arrangements in Hirshabelle. General Hudud called for the involvement of leading elders of the clan in resolving the dispute with the Hirshabelle Administration, which centres on the question of whether the state capital and presidency should be in an area with a significant population from one clan. The Office of the Prime Minister is engaged in resolving the dispute and mediating the increased tensions that occurred early in July between militias loyal to General Hudud and the Administration.
9. On 31 May, “Somaliland” held long-delayed joint parliamentary and local council elections. Sixty-five per cent of registered voters cast their votes to elect 82 members of the House of Representatives and councillors for 21 districts. On 5 June, the results were announced, with the opposition winning 52 of the 82 parliamentary seats. No woman was elected to Parliament, but a minority clan candidate was elected to the House of Representatives and a woman as a mayor. The two opposition parties formed a coalition and won mayoral positions in five of the seven major towns, including the capital, Hargeysa.
10. The United Nations provided technical and advisory support to the Office of the Prime Minister and the newly appointed technical electoral support team in preparing for both National Consultative Council summits. Separately, together with the representatives of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the European Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, my Special Representative visited the federal member states to encourage continued constructive engagement in the electoral preparations.

## **B. Security developments**

11. The security situation remained volatile, with a monthly average of 260 incidents recorded. Most continue to be perpetrated by Al-Shabaab, primarily hit-and-run attacks targeting the Somali security forces and AMISOM, as well as attacks using improvised explosive devices. In particular, the use of person-borne improvised explosive devices has continued to increase over the past year, mainly in Mogadishu. Most affected overall by Al-Shabaab activity were Banaadir, Shabelle Hoose and Shabelle Dhexe Regions.

12. Al-Shabaab targeted the international airport in Mogadishu with six mortar rounds on 21 July, affecting the United Nations and AMISOM compounds and resulting in slight injuries to two United Nations contractors. Another mortar attack targeted the presidential palace on 10 July, but caused no casualties. Al-Shabaab also maintained the capability to carry out high-profile improvised explosive device attacks in the capital. On 10 July, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeted the Chief of the Banaadir police in the Wadajir district. He survived the attack, but at least five people were killed. On 9 May, a person-borne improvised explosive device detonated at the Waab Arye police station, killing seven people, including the commander and deputy commander, and injuring five others. On 5 June, another such device exploded at a security checkpoint in the Dharkenley district, reportedly injuring nine people. On 15 June, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive-filled vest at the General Dhagabadan military training centre in the Wadajir district, reportedly killing 23 people and injuring 26 others. Information indicated that he may have posed as a Somali National Army recruit and blown himself up at the entrance to the training centre as recruits were waiting to complete applications. On 2 July, a person-borne improvised explosive device detonated at a restaurant in the Shibis district, reportedly killing 12 people and injuring at least 7.

13. In the southern and central regions, Al-Shabaab maintained its pressure on the Somali security forces, resulting in military and civilian casualties. In Bay Region, on 9 June, Al-Shabaab temporarily captured the Somali National Army base in Daynuunay, Baidoa district, attacking Somali National Army and AMISOM reinforcements with improvised explosive devices and ambushes before the Somali forces regained control. A hand grenade attack against a police position in Baidoa on 22 May left six people injured, including the dependant of a United Nations national staff member, who later died. In Shabelle Dhexe, the Somali National Army launched a large-scale security operation on 26 May, targeting Al-Shabaab positions east of Jawhar and reportedly killing several members of the group. The offensive was met with resistance from Al-Shabaab, who, on 18 June, detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device outside the Somali National Army base in Biyo Cadde, Mahadday district, killing four soldiers. On 4 July, an improvised explosive device detonated within an internally displaced persons site in Jawhar. Three people were reportedly killed and more than 10 injured.

14. In Mudug Region, on 18 May, the premature detonation of a suspected vehicle-borne improvised explosive device loaded on a rickshaw took the life of the driver, who was transporting the device to an unknown location in Gaalkacyo, highlighting the continued Al-Shabaab presence and operations in the central regions. On 27 June, heavy fighting broke out in Wisil, Hobyo district, when Al-Shabaab carried out a complex attack on the Galmudug security forces. More than 30 people, including civilians, were reportedly killed. The Somali National Army and Galmudug security forces recaptured the area of Ba'adweyne, Hobyo district, in July and advanced towards the Xarardheere district. Al-Shabaab sought to counter the offensive and targeted the Somali National Army and Galmudug forces in Ba'adweyne with improvised explosive devices and with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack on 16 July. Security forces clashed with Al-Shabaab on several occasions during the military operations, which were supported by two air strikes by the United States of America on 20 and 23 July.

15. Activity by pro-Da'esh elements continued to be reported in Bari Region, where, on 26 June, the convoy of the Puntland Minister of Security was targeted with an improvised explosive device attack in Balidhidin, Qandala district. On 29 June, the Puntland Security Forces were targeted by two more such devices in the same area. One soldier was reportedly killed.

## **C. Economic developments**

16. The political stalemate over the implementation of indirect elections continues to negatively affect the economy, as does the triple shock of locust infestation, flooding and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Federal Government is struggling with a budget deficit of between \$6 million and \$7 million per month as budgetary support from international partners remains on hold and domestic revenues decline.

17. The World Bank conducted an analysis in June that indicated a reversal of recent economic gains, with the economy contracting by 0.4 per cent in 2020, compared with a pre-pandemic estimated growth rate of 3.2 per cent. The trade deficit is projected to widen, given that exports of livestock and services have fallen owing to the restricted Hajj and the general pandemic-induced shutdown. The private sector is also struggling, as 45 per cent of microfirms are reported to have closed and nearly half of the firms have experienced a fall in sales or layoffs.

18. In contrast, the financial sector continued to demonstrate a broad level of stability as bank deposits and official remittances increased, although informal inflows declined. Private sector credit experienced an upward trend, and bank deposits have remained high since late 2020, when they rose sharply. The World Bank raised concern that political risks could destabilize the rising credit to the private sector and limit remittance flows.

19. On 9 June, the Prime Minister signed the instrument of accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The United Nations continued to provide substantive and financial support to the Federal Government through the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy.

## **III. Support for peacebuilding and State-building efforts**

### **A. Establishment of a functional federal State**

#### **1. Preparations for elections**

20. On 8 June, the Prime Minister established a technical electoral support team to support the implementation of the agreement announced by the National Consultative Council on 27 May. The United Nations has been engaging with that team through an electoral task force, comprising UNSOM, UNSOS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure the coordination of international technical and donor support. Reconstituted ad hoc electoral implementation committees, including the Federal Elections Implementation Team, state election implementation teams and the Federal Disputes Resolution Committee, were announced by the Prime Minister on 19 June. Members underwent a four-day induction course from 30 June to 2 July, organized by the technical electoral support team with United Nations assistance. On 16 July, the Federal Elections Implementation Team issued a revised electoral timeline, with the elections for the Upper House scheduled to be held between 25 and 28 July and those for the House of the People between 12 September and 2 October.

21. On 5 July, the Prime Minister presented the updated electoral budget of \$26.5 million to the international community. In late July, the Federal Government, international partners and the United Nations agreed on a revised electoral budget of \$18.7 million. The Federal Government committed itself to providing direct budget support, including through candidate fees of \$11.2 million, and which, together with

the commitment of international partners of \$7.7 million, should be sufficient to fully resource the election budget.

22. Announced in the agreement communiqué of 27 May was the formation of a nine-member national electoral security committee, which includes the Federal Government and the chiefs of police of the federal member states and is chaired by the Prime Minister. AMISOM and United Nations police commissioners are also members. Its key priorities will be finalizing the national electoral security plan and budget and directing the priority tasks to ensure electoral security, including the delivery of the approved and funded training for the Somali Police Force. The committee met on 13 July for the first time and then held several days of meetings to discuss the plan and budget.

23. On 28 June, the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission announced that 46,187 people had registered for the local elections scheduled for 25 October, 50.5 per cent of them women and 49.5 per cent men. The announcement followed the completion of a voter registration exercise in three pilot districts.

## **2. Constitutional review**

24. Following the presidential decree of 24 December 2020 through which the constitutional review process and the procedure of approving the Constitution were deferred to the eleventh session of Parliament, the institutions mandated to facilitate the process, namely the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, the Oversight Committee and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission, prepared handover reports for the next Administration to safeguard the gains made thus far.

25. Consequently, the joint constitutional review support project was closed on 30 June. The United Nations and international partners organized a work session to consolidate lessons learned and identify challenges and gaps in the constitutional review process and the implementation of the project. Based on their conclusions, a strategy was developed to take the process forward. Another joint activity, on parliamentary support, is assisting with programme development on constitutionalism, parliamentarism and federalism, in line with the agreement of 27 May and the State-building road map.

26. In May, the National Consultative Council agreed on the main State-building milestones and their implementation, highlighting that the completion of the Constitution was a priority. Subsequently, UNDP and UNSOM developed a project proposal to support implementation. The project will serve as a vehicle for developing a programme for long-term United Nations engagement, focusing on State-building milestones.

## **3. Prevention and resolution of conflicts**

27. A dialogue process between the Jejele and Makane clans over a land dispute in Hiraan Region, in which several persons were killed, was concluded with the financial support of the United Nations. A reconciliation process between the Dir and Hawadle clans, in the same region, is aimed at enabling the completion of a bridge in the community, which will boost the local economy, and is also supported by the Organization.

## **B. Cross-cutting issues**

### **1. Gender equality and the empowerment of women**

28. UNSOM continued its efforts towards the implementation of a minimum quota of 30 per cent for the parliamentary representation of women in relation to the

forthcoming elections. Women currently account for 24 per cent of the 329 members of the bicameral parliament, a number that falls short of the minimum 30 per cent quota. On 27 May, the National Consultative Council reached an agreement in which leaders affirmed their support for the quota but did not communicate any guidelines or specify how the quota would be secured. The subsequent appointment of the electoral committees failed to fulfil the commitment to the quota. As a result, the United Nations Gender and Elections Task Team, led by my Deputy Special Representative, adopted a new strategy according priority to high-level advocacy, providing technical advice and guidance to the technical electoral support team, electoral committees and women leaders, ministries and goodwill ambassadors to advance the implementation of the quota.

29. As part of their advocacy with regard to the quota, women leaders, on 31 May, petitioned the Federal Government, federal member state authorities and the international community, expressing disappointment with the lack of an implementation mechanism and calling for guidelines to achieve the quota, including reserving seats for women.

30. On 25 July, the Prime Minister appointed a 13-member advocacy committee, with women accounting for 12 of the members, to advocate the attainment of the quota.

31. My Special Representative and my Deputy Special Representative continued to spearhead high-level advocacy with political leaders and decision makers and have been holding strategic and technical-level meetings with women leaders, including the Federal Government and federal member state ministers, civil society actors and women's leaders, to inform advocacy efforts. The United Nations also supported local resource mobilization to enhance advocacy by women actors and leaders, including ministries, civil society and gender advocates. The Organization provided briefings to donors on resources requested by federal and state ministries responsible for women's affairs on 23 June and 6 July and reached out bilaterally to donors and other potential partners to encourage increased funding for women's political rights advocacy.

## **2. Youth empowerment**

32. UNSOM continued to advocate that young people be included in political processes and governance. To facilitate intergenerational dialogue on meaningful participation in electoral processes, peacebuilding and reconciliation, the Mission, in collaboration with the Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy programme and a youth-led local civil society partner, convened a dialogue on youth political participation on 16 and 17 June. The dialogue, which brought together 100 youth activists, political aspirants, civil society leaders and decision makers, resulted in recommendations to advance youth inclusion in the implementation of the agreement of 27 May and wider State-building efforts.

33. The United Nations continued to support the Ministry of Youth and Sports in developing the country's second national youth policy. The policy, which will incorporate youth and peace and security elements, will enable the Federal Government, federal member states and other stakeholders to tackle barriers that perpetuate the exclusion and marginalization of youth and advance conditions conducive to promoting young people's rights and opportunities.

34. Following the UPSHIFT social innovation and entrepreneurship boot camps held from 14 to 18 February, a group of 44 adolescents and young people, including 20 female participants, are incubating their businesses with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund. In addition, the Fund provided support in 179 cases of children and young people in conflict with the law in Puntland. The individuals are

undergoing screening, assessment and registration and will receive life skills-based education to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for empowerment, self-esteem and decision-making.

35. On 26 June, the United Nations Population Fund awarded eight youth start-ups in Boosaaso grants of \$2,000 to \$4,000 each. The start-ups, which are working in areas such as fisheries, fashion design and hospitality, had undergone a three-month incubation process and were assisted with their company registration. With the support of the European Union, the initiative awarded grants to 66 start-ups in 2021 and will continue to create decent jobs and contribute to sustainable peace for the next three years.

### **3. Development coordination**

36. The United Nations aid coordination project, which supports the implementation of the aid architecture, was due to end on 30 June, but was exceptionally extended to 31 December 2021 to allow for the establishment of a new project, scheduled to be implemented by December 2024. The project is aimed at making the refined aid architecture operational in a cost-effective manner and strengthening the engagement of federal member states.

37. Together with the Federal Government and international representatives, the United Nations established a high-level humanitarian-development-peacebuilding triple nexus steering committee and will support the implementation of working groups dedicated to strategic issues, such as combating corruption, environment and durable solutions.

38. On 2 June, a “Somaliland” development cooperation forum took place in Hargeysa, which led to an agreement to re-establish the High-level Aid Coordination Forum and to develop a draft partnership framework, although some work remains on hold pending negotiations on the clauses of the framework requested by the authorities in Hargeysa.

39. On the environmental front, in collaboration with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UNSOM is supporting a mediation initiative in Hirshabelle with a focus on environmental factors and youth inclusion. A draft strategy document has been prepared, and environmental mediation sessions are expected to be held at the end of 2021.

40. In July, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme launched a new programme on nature-based solutions, including the use of fast-growing, strong-rooted trees for bank stabilization to address flooding in Hirshabelle and provide long-term solutions to reduce flooding.

## **IV. Human rights and protection**

### **A. Human rights**

41. During the reporting period, UNSOM recorded 276 civilian casualties, comprising 125 people killed and 151 injured, compared with 116 and 144, respectively, during the previous period. Al-Shabaab remained the single largest perpetrator of civilian casualties, responsible for 188 casualties (68 per cent), followed by 37 casualties (13 per cent) attributed to unknown actors, 25 by clan militias (9 per cent), 20 to state security forces (7 per cent) and 6 to international forces (2 per cent).

42. Al-Shabaab publicly executed 19 civilians, including a woman, after self-appointed “courts” accused 18 of them of spying for foreign forces and 1 of murdering two civilians. On 22 May, Al-Shabaab amputated the right hand of a male civilian for theft in the Aadan Yabaal district, Shabelle Dhexe Region.

43. The Somali authorities arbitrarily arrested and detained 115 individuals, including 8 suspected Al-Shabaab members, 2 suspected Da’esh members, 27 clan elders and 6 journalists. On 27 June, the Puntland Security Forces executed 21 men convicted of being members of Al-Shabaab by firing squad in Gaalkacyo, Garoowe and Qardho. On 24 May, the military court of first instance in Beled Xaawo, Gedo Region, sentenced two former Somali police officers to death after they were found guilty of killing a male and a female civilian on 6 January. Both had legal representation and were given 30 days to appeal. Seventeen death sentences were issued by courts in Puntland and Jubbaland.

## **B. Compliance with the human rights due diligence policy**

44. In line with the human rights due diligence policy, UNSOM continued to monitor the conduct of non-United Nations security forces and support the implementation of risk mitigation measures to enhance compliance. Pursuant to the recommendation made by the Security Council in its resolution [2568 \(2021\)](#), UNSOM and UNSOS continued their engagement with the AMISOM leadership to strengthen technical cooperation and support for the Somali National Army to effectively implement the policy recommendations.

45. On 5 and 6 June, UNSOM conducted a refresher training course for 37 members of the Somali Police Force under the mobile vehicle checkpoint project managed by the Mine Action Service. In addition, from 27 to 30 June, UNSOM and the United Nations Office for Project Services, in collaboration with the European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces, conducted a four-day training session in Mogadishu on good governance and accountability for 20 Ministry of Defence and 35 Somali National Army officials. The training covered an overview of human rights law, humanitarian law, children and armed conflict, human rights due diligence policy mitigation measures and conflict-related sexual violence. On 25 May, the Minister of Defence approved a human rights policy for the Somali national armed forces, in which their critical role in the promotion and protection of human rights was reaffirmed, resolution [1960 \(2010\)](#) recognized, and full awareness and compliance of all Somali National Army troops with regard to preventing all forms of conflict-related sexual violence urged.

## **C. Children in armed conflict**

46. As at 31 July, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children had reported 674 grave violations against 530 children (408 boys and 122 girls). A total of 246 children were recruited and used, 188 abducted, 173 killed or maimed and 54 subjected to rape or other forms of sexual violence. Eight attacks on schools and five denials of humanitarian access were verified. Of the violations, 443 were attributed to Al-Shabaab, 102 to unknown perpetrators, 49 to clan militias and 63 to Federal Government and federal member state armed forces. During the same period, 23 incidents of deprivation of liberty affecting 34 boys and three girls were verified and attributed to the Somali Police Force (19), the Somali National Army (13), Puntland police, Jubbaland police (5), Puntland Security Forces and Jubbaland forces (2 each), Galmudug forces and Galmudug police (1 each).

47. On 21 June, UNSOM trained 30 staff of the Ministry of Defence on the protection of children affected by armed conflict. On 23 June, it coordinated the meeting of the National Children and Armed Conflict Working Group to review the implementation of the 2019 road map to expedite the implementation of the action plans on ending and preventing the recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children.

## D. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence

48. UNSOM verified four incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting five women and two girls, through the monitoring and reporting arrangement. In two cases, the perpetrators were unknown, while of the other two incidents one involved a member of a clan militia and the other a civilian. Two incidents occurred in Shabelle Hoose and the other two in Banaadir Region. On 14 May, five members of a clan militia allegedly wearing Somali Police Force uniforms and working with the Dayniile District Administration raped three women and attempted to rape two others in the Dayniile district of Mogadishu. The Somali Police Force arrested three suspects. On 29 May, the Office of the Attorney-General requested the Banaadir Regional Court to conduct a medical examination on the suspects for biological evidence and to take DNA samples. The samples were transported to the Garoowe forensic laboratory, the only one in the country, for further analysis. The results are pending.

## V. Humanitarian situation

49. The combined impact of drought and floods driven by climate change has exacerbated the protracted humanitarian crisis, displacing hundreds of thousands of people, jeopardizing access to safe water and contributing to an increase in water-borne diseases. By early May, at the onset of the *gu* rains, drought conditions had spread to more than 80 per cent of Somalia. Meanwhile, rains triggered flooding that affected 400,000 people in 14 districts, of whom 101,300 people were displaced.

50. Owing to inadequate levels of precipitation from those rains, up to 2.8 million people, or a fifth of the population, are projected to face acute food insecurity and hunger in the coming months. Dry conditions are also expected to contribute to crop losses and deterioration in pasture and water availability in some areas.

51. The rapid shifts from severe droughts to flooding serve as a reminder that Somalia is extremely vulnerable to climate change and recurrent climatic shocks. To mitigate the impact of climate change, task forces were established in Hirshabelle and Jubbaland to bring together humanitarian and development actors to tackle the problem. The positive efforts to improve coordination in Hirshabelle notwithstanding, flooding led to the displacement of 66,000 people in Jawhar and 21,000 in Beledweyne.

52. Cases of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera have spiked. Since January, 2,761 cases have been reported from 22 districts in Hirshabelle, South-West State and Banaadir Region. Since mid-May, hospital admission rates in Banaadir have risen, with 410 people admitted between 16 and 30 May, compared with 299 between 1 and 15 May, representing an increase of 36 per cent.

53. Displacement stemming from conflict events has also escalated. Since January, more than 523,000 people have been forced to flee their homes, 66 per cent (347,000) as a result of insecurity, with nearly 207,000 temporarily displaced in Mogadishu owing to the election-related violence in April. Furthermore, women and girls, who

face an increased risk of sexual violence and harassment, made up 50 per cent of the displaced population. In South-West State, following a directive from non-State armed actors to vacate 42 villages in April, more than 29,700 people were displaced to the town of Xuddur. In June, a verification of 25 sites hosting nearly 52,000 internally displaced persons in Garoowe found that 56 per cent of them were at risk of forced eviction.

54. Humanitarian access remained a major challenge. At least 145 access-related incidents were reported from January to 13 July, including 27 between 1 June and 13 July. Following discussion by the humanitarian country team on enabling access, and with the support of the World Food Programme, in June the humanitarian community was given access to a United Nations Humanitarian Air Service aircraft for an initial period of 90 days to conduct joint United Nations and partner assessment and access missions. As at 31 July, nine missions had been conducted, to Gaalkacyo, Dhuusamarreeb, Xuddur, Bardaale, Caabudwaaq, Afmadow, Hobyo and Wajid.

55. The increasing humanitarian needs notwithstanding, funding levels remain alarmingly low. As at 31 July, only \$310 million had been provided for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, equivalent to 28 per cent of the total required. The funding forecast for 2021 is the worst in the past six years.

## **VI. Comprehensive approach to security**

56. The Somali National Army and AMISOM, with UNSOS support, continued to plan for the security transition in line with the Somali transition plan and the joint force reconfiguration plan agreed upon by the Somali National Army and AMISOM in April.

### **A. Operations**

57. Planning for operations to secure the main supply routes as part of Operation Badbaado II continued. Regular briefings have been provided through the Military Coordination Group meetings under strand 2A of the comprehensive approach to security. The Somali National Army also announced increased operations in Shabelle Dhexe and Shabelle Hoose. On 6 July, the Somali Police Force deployed 150 Darwish to support the “hold” phase of Operation Badbaado I in Jannaale and Awdheegle. For Shabelle Dhexe, the Hirshabelle State Ministry of the Interior presented a stabilization plan, which was discussed with Hirshabelle State security stakeholders.

58. The Mine Action Service supported AMISOM and the Somali security forces in mitigating the threat of improvised explosive devices by providing five threat analysis reports, along with six analytical reports supporting AMISOM concept of operations development, operational strategy formulation and capacity-building planning for the Somali security forces. The Somali National Army reported significant success in disrupting capabilities of Al-Shabaab to make improvised explosive devices.

### **B. Institutional capacity-building**

59. The implementation of the federated policing system continued. The South-West State Police Training Centre in Baidoa was completed by the Joint Police Programme on 7 June. On 29 June, Puntland State approved its police selection, vetting and recruitment guidelines. The Jubbaland technical committee on the implementation of the new policing model received support to reconvene on 25 and 26 July, during which the revision of the Jubbaland State police strategic plan was completed.

60. The joint security sector governance programme, delivered by UNSOM and UNDP, closed on 30 June after 30 months. The \$10.5 million programme was funded by the European Union, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and UNDP. It was followed on 1 July by a one-year initiative funded by UNDP, the security sector reform initiation plan, which provides a bridge towards the next generation of UNSOM-UNDP security sector programming in 2022. It retains investments made under its predecessor and offers substantive support for the Somali transition plan, electoral security and the implementation of the Somali national security architecture.

61. UNSOM and the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia supported the strengthening of collaboration between the Federal Government and federal member states through a network of focal points on women in the maritime sector. An action plan to enhance women's employment, education and economic opportunities in the sector was developed and will be presented to the international community in October to identify potential funding support.

62. The Federal Government and UNSOM and UNDP launched a one-year project on Somali security and women and peace and security, funded by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, on 4 June to help to advance the role of women in security institutions and further the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in the sector. The project is intended to identify barriers to women's recruitment, retention and promotion, as well as map women's representation in the security and defence sectors to establish national institutional mechanisms and recommend policy reforms.

63. On 10 May, a technical-level steering committee recommended amended workplans for the joint justice and joint corrections programmes for approval, including the reallocation of funds for emergency repairs at the Boosaaso prison. Training activities to increase the capacity of 103 Custodial Corps personnel and 15 prosecutors and paralegals were conducted in Hargeysa, Hirshabelle, South-West State, Jubbaland and Puntland.

64. The Mine Action Service provided victim assistance, risk education and gender and diversity training for 12 personnel (9 men and 3 women) of the Somali Explosive Management Authority to strengthen national coordination and monitoring capacity for mine action interventions. It also provided support to the Authority in developing a national policy and operational standards for assistance for victims of explosive hazards.

### **C. Support activities**

65. On 29 June, the steering committee for the joint prevention and countering of violent extremism pilot project evaluated the operationalization of the national strategy and the possible way forward, the project having closed at the end of June. Discussions are continuing on holding relevant outreach in the newly recovered areas to better understand drivers and promote the potential community-based reintegration of disengaged Al-Shabaab fighters.

66. In the framework of the national programme for the treatment and handling of disengaged combatants, the five rehabilitation centres for low-risk former Al-Shabaab fighters remained operational. As at 24 June, 355 male and 170 female beneficiaries were in the centres, while 157 men and 102 women had graduated from them in 2021.

67. The Mine Action Service delivered 1,664 in-person explosive ordnance risk education sessions to 2,087 women, 1,280 men, 1,414 girls and 2,304 boys most at risk from explosive ordnance throughout Somalia (except in Juba Dhexe).

## **VII. United Nations Support Office in Somalia assistance for the African Union Mission in Somalia and Somali security forces**

### **A. Support for African Union Mission in Somalia operations**

68. UNSOS supported AMISOM in the closure of the Marian Guwaay forward operating base in South-West State on 20 June. The closure is part of reconfiguration planning to free up troops to provide more effective security on the main supply routes.

69. The report of the AMISOM board of inquiry investigating the accident involving the Ugandan Aviation Unit attack helicopter on 5 February was submitted to the African Union Commission for consideration. Uganda is replacing the helicopter.

70. UNSOS continued with its AMISOM forward operating base wellness programme in all sectors and delivered field defence stores to Beled Amiin in sector 1, Buulobarde and Jalalaqsi in sector 4 and Gololey and Jawhar in sector 5.

71. Following the decision to repatriate eight oversized contingent-owned vehicles belonging to the Ghanaian formed police unit that could not be transported from Mogadishu to Baidoa, the transport contract was awarded. The vehicles are expected to arrive in Ghana by mid-August.

72. UNSOS operated and maintained 45 wastewater treatment plants and seven waste management yards and synchronized an additional diesel-powered generator house into the camp system. Wastewater recycling systems continued to provide non-potable water to irrigate plants and lawns and clean Mission vehicles in all sectors. On 5 June, 900 tree seedlings germinated from the UNSOS base camp nursery in Mogadishu were planted within the camp to mark World Environment Day. UNSOS procured 50 barrel-type incinerators that will be deployed to all AMISOM forward operating bases.

73. As at 25 June, the balance of the AMISOM trust fund was \$2.8 million.

74. UNSOS supported the rotation of Burundian troops in May, rotating 1,742 troops out and 1,756 troops in.

75. The Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support visited Somalia and Ethiopia between 11 and 19 July. He held meetings with the Governments, the African Union Commission, AMISOM and international partners on the logistical support provided to AMISOM and the Somali security forces by the United Nations.

76. The Head of UNSOS continued her annual outreach to partners and held a meeting with the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Bankole Adeoye, in May to brief him on UNSOS operations. She also held separate meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries to coordinate support for AMISOM contingents.

77. The Mine Action Service, with assistance from UNSOS, trained 1,139 AMISOM and African Union uniformed police personnel to enhance their capability to locate and destroy improvised explosive devices and operate safely within a threat environment. The Service contributed to the safety and security of strategic infrastructure by deploying 26 explosive detection dog teams, working with 52 detection dogs to conduct searches of 23,841 pieces of luggage, 51,129 vehicles, 98 buildings, 22,000 m<sup>2</sup> of building areas and 5,252,635 m<sup>2</sup> of open areas throughout the sectors.

78. The Mine Action Service supported 132 AMISOM convoys across all six sectors, giving 132 predeployment and post-deployment briefings. It also supported

AMISOM in conducting 280 searches along the main supply routes, of which 18 were positive. AMISOM improvised explosive device disposal teams trained and equipped by the Service destroyed 10 devices in situ along those routes.

## **B. Support for Somali security force operations**

79. The Head of UNSOS held meetings with the Somali leadership, including the Senior Security Adviser in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Director-General at the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of the Somalia National Armed Forces and the Commissioner of the Somali Police Force, to agree on cost-saving options that would help to prolong support for the Somali security forces as efforts are made to replenish the dwindling trust fund.

80. UNSOS continued to provide logistical support to the 13,900-strong Somali security forces. As at 25 June, the balance in the United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali security forces was \$1.9 million, sufficient to sustain UNSOS logistical support for Somali National Army at the current reduced rate until July and for the Somali Police Force until November. The Head of UNSOS, on 18 May, wrote to the international community and held meetings with the representatives of France, Germany, Ireland and Norway on support for AMISOM and the Somali security forces. On 28 July, the Head of UNSOS and the Somali Minister for Defence provided a joint briefing to the diplomatic community on the dire situation of the trust fund and appealed for additional funding to sustain support for the Somali National Army beyond August.

81. The Mine Action Service, with UNSOS support, handed over specialized equipment to five Somali National Army route search teams and continued specialized training to search for and dispose of improvised explosive devices for 11 Somali National Army teams (99 members). The service also trained four Somali National Army headquarters members in the use of mapping software and equipment.

## **VIII. United Nations presence**

82. United Nations entities remained present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 31 July, 395 international staff and 1,362 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia.

## **IX. Observations**

83. The recent political developments are encouraging, and I welcome the agreement of 27 May and the continued dialogue by the Federal Government and federal member state leaders on the implementation of the electoral process. Many challenges remain, however, and I urge the Somali leaders to expeditiously implement the agreements of 17 September 2020 and 27 May, so as to hold credible, transparent and inclusive elections without further delay, and to resolve contentious issues in a spirit of consensus and cooperation in the interest of the people and the nation.

84. The renewed commitment of the Somali leadership to the State-building agenda, as laid out in the annex to the agreement of 27 May, is commendable. It should allow progress to be made on crucial national priorities, including the constitutional review process. The State-building goals in the agreement of 27 May are ambitious and require sustained dialogue and strong collaboration between the Federal Government and federal member states, with support from the international community, if they are

to be achieved within the agreed time frame. I reiterate the importance of achieving progress on the wider rule of law framework, which is essential to advancing State-building priorities.

85. I am concerned that a specific mechanism for implementing the minimum quota of 30 per cent for the parliamentary representation of women in relation to the upcoming electoral process is yet to be identified. Although the commitment of the Somali leadership to the quota, for both parliamentary chambers, is laudable, it remains imperative that the commitment be translated into practice. That women accounted for 24 per cent of those elected in 2016/17 was crucial in the advancement of women's political rights, and it is paramount that the gains achieved be safeguarded and expanded.

86. More needs to be done to advance women's rights and equal representation by creating an enabling environment for women's participation in political processes and decision-making, as well as wider peacebuilding initiatives. The Federal Government and federal member states should ensure that women's rights are codified in the revised constitution and other legal frameworks and all stakeholders and partners should enhance their support for the advancement of the women and peace and security agenda. I call upon the Somali authorities to urgently accelerate the finalization and implementation of the national action plan on women and peace and security and to ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

87. I am alarmed by the increased sexual and gender-based violence and the fact that many Somali women and children remain trapped in a cycle of violence, a situation that requires urgent attention from the authorities and international partners. I welcome the Puntland Cabinet's approval, on 10 June, of a bill on zero tolerance of female genital mutilation, by which that harmful practice that undermines the rights and health of young girls and women will be criminalized. I encourage the Federal Government to fulfil its commitment to implementing the joint communiqué and accelerate the adoption of the new national action plan for ending sexual violence in conflict.

88. The announcement by Somalia and Kenya of the restoration of diplomatic relations and the reopening of their embassies is encouraging. I hope that those developments lead to the full re-establishment of friendly relations between the two nations, which are pivotal for peace and stability in the region.

89. The implementation of the Somali transition plan remains hampered by electoral controversies, and the process to generate appropriate Somali security forces remains uncertain. The timely implementation of the plan and the national security architecture, aimed at building a capable federal security sector, is critical if it is to move to the full transition of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces. I therefore reiterate my previous calls upon the Somali leadership to enhance efforts to develop predictable and sustainable modalities to generate capabilities for the Somali security forces and to accelerate transition-related operations and the integration of regional forces.

90. The development and endorsement of a human rights policy for the Somali national armed forces mark a positive step towards implementing the reforms to which the Somali leaders committed themselves at the London Conference on Somalia on 11 May 2017, which include enhancing the human rights protection system. The policy is aimed at ensuring compliance by the Somali National Army with national, regional and international obligations on human rights protection. I urge the authorities to ensure its implementation in alignment with the Somali commitments under international human rights law and encourage the adoption of

relevant operational measures and resources to support its concrete implementation by military personnel.

91. The depleted state of the trust fund in support of the Somali security forces poses significant risks to efforts to sustain progress in delivering vital peace and security tasks mandated by the Security Council. The interruption of the logistical support provided by UNSOS to the forces through the trust fund could compromise the implementation of the transition plan. I therefore urge donors to contribute generously to the trust fund.

92. I remain deeply concerned about the alarmingly low funding levels of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, which is only 28 per cent funded halfway into the year. The lack of funding could expose up to 3 million children, women and men, already in dire need of humanitarian assistance, to the risk of repeated displacement, violence, hunger and disease. I implore the international community to urgently provide the funding necessary to save lives in Somalia.

93. Recurrent climatic shocks continue to have a negative impact on the population, with dire consequences for the humanitarian situation. During the reporting period, more than 80 per cent of the country experienced drought conditions owing to poor *gu* rains, while some districts were flooded. To advance durable solutions to cyclical flooding and drought, it is crucial that the national water strategy be adopted and implemented to support nexus-centred interventions that mitigate vulnerability to climate change and build resilience against future shocks.

94. The response by the authorities and health-care workers to the COVID-19 pandemic has been fundamental to mitigating the impact. Nevertheless, sustained international support is required. I express my gratitude to all partners for their support for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access initiative and appeal for continued support in ensuring sufficient provision for the national vaccination campaign. Progress in the roll-out of vaccinations remains highly uneven, and I call upon the international community to ensure that those most affected by conflict and insecurity are not left behind.

95. I am grateful to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other partners for their continued support for peacebuilding and State-building in Somalia. I pay tribute to the personnel of AMISOM and the Somali security forces for their bravery and sacrifices in establishing a peaceful and stable Somalia. I strongly condemn the recurrent attacks by Al-Shabaab, which represent a clear strategy to undermine the State-building progress achieved. The United Nations remains fully committed to supporting the authorities in their fight against violent extremism. Those attacks should not deter the population and the Government from remaining on their path towards peace, stability and prosperity.

96. Lastly, I thank my Special Representative, James Swan, and the United Nations staff in Somalia for their tireless efforts during this critical period.

