



# Security Council

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## Situation in Somalia

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution [2592 \(2021\)](#) and paragraph 54 of resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#), 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 7 May to 23 August 2022.

#### II. Political and security overview

##### A. Political developments and United Nations activities

2. During the reporting period, the national electoral process concluded with the formation of the Parliament and the election of the tenth President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, on 15 May.

3. The national electoral process was preceded by the resolution of the outstanding dispute in Jubbaland over the issue of Members of Parliament for Gedo Region. Two parallel sets of parliamentarians had previously been elected in Garbahaarrey and El Wak, with each side requesting to be recognized as legitimate. On 8 May, the Speaker of the House of the People, Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nuur “Madobe”, after a process of deliberation and consultations, officially recognized the Members of Parliament from El Wak, allowing the presidential elections to proceed.

4. The presidential election, composed of three rounds of voting, was conducted in a single joint parliamentary session held at the Somali Air Force hangar in the Aden Adde International Airport zone, secured by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), with technical and operational support provided by the United Nations. Six candidates withdrew shortly before the start of voting, which left 33 candidates, including 1 woman.

5. The outgoing President, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo”, conceded defeat, and Mr. Mohamud was immediately sworn in to office. The presidential elections were peaceful and transparent and were broadly welcomed by Somali stakeholders. Mr. Mohamud assumed full presidential authority on 23 May and was inaugurated at an official ceremony on 9 June, which was attended by national



dignitaries and regional leaders, including the Presidents of Djibouti and Kenya and the Prime Ministers of Egypt and Ethiopia.

6. Mr. Mohamud travelled to Baidoa on 31 May for his first domestic visit, to hold discussions with the South-West State President, Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed “Laftagareen”. On 2 June, the newly elected President embarked on a similar trip to Dhuusamarreeb to engage with the President of Galmudug, Ahmed Abdi Kariye “Qoor”. Both federal member state leaders had been close allies of Mr. Farmajo. Mr. Mohamud, who has emphasized dialogue and reconciliation as key elements of his national agenda, prioritizing in particular security, the constitutional process and federalism. In addition, he appointed a Special Envoy for the Drought Response.

7. A meeting of the National Consultative Council, comprising the newly inaugurated President, the outgoing Prime Minister, leaders of the federal member states and the Governor of Banaadir Region, was convened by Mr. Mohamud in Mogadishu on 11 and 12 June. The Council reiterated the need to accelerate the implementation of the federal system, preserve the gains made thus far in the constitutional development process, complete the provisional constitution within an agreed timeframe and finalize a national independent judicial system. The Council underscored the importance of completing the national security architecture, in particular accelerating force development and enhancing counter-terrorism efforts. Furthermore, they emphasized the need to develop a unified democratic election model and agreed to pay special attention to dialogue between the Federal Government of Somalia and “Somaliland”. They also emphasized the urgent need to address the drought crisis and advocated greater cooperation in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those most affected.

8. On 15 June, Mr. Mohamud nominated Hamza Abdi Barre, a Member of Parliament from Jubbaland, for the position of Prime Minister. He was confirmed on 25 June through a unanimous vote in the House of the People. Following a lapse of the 30-day period within which Mr. Barre was due to form a cabinet, the House of the People gave him until 4 August to complete the task.

9. After protracted consultations, the cabinet, comprising 26 Ministers, 24 State Ministers and 25 Deputy Ministers, was announced on 3 August. Women were allocated 10 seats, approximately 13 per cent of the cabinet, a slight increase from 11.7 per cent in the previous cabinet, but still less than what had been advocated by the United Nations, Somali women activists and international partners during the cabinet formation process. Parliament endorsed the Cabinet of Ministers on 7 August.

10. A notable addition to the cabinet is a former deputy leader of Al-Shabaab, Mukhtar “Abu Mansur” Robow Ali, who was detained in December 2018 while attempting to contest the South-West State presidency and has been held without trial until his appointment as Minister. Mr. Robow was appointed Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs following weeks of negotiations on the conditions for his release and possible roles that he could play under the new administration.

11. On 21 August, the Jubbaland State Assembly amended the 28th and 70th articles of the state’s constitution to extend the term of the Assembly and the Executive to five years. The amendment would allow the incumbent Jubbaland President, Ahmed Islam “Madobe”, to remain in office for a further two years. The amendment was criticized by the opposition.

12. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General engaged in early outreach to the new federal leadership as well as to regional leaders to discuss its priorities and to identify how the United Nations could align its support. Outreach included early discussions with Mr. Mohamud, Mr. Barre, the Foreign Minister, Abshir Omar Huruse, and visits to several regional capitals. Furthermore, UNSOM facilitated the convening of meetings with regular international partners to coordinate support for the government’s priorities.

## **B. Elections and United Nations support**

13. Following the conclusion of the 2021–2022 electoral cycle, disbursement of resources provided by donors (\$12.3 million) was completed through the United Nations Joint Programme for Support to Universal Suffrage Elections in the Federal Republic of Somalia. Most of the physical equipment purchased with donor funding for the electoral committees was handed over to the National Independent Electoral Commission, as agreed with international donors and the Office of the Prime Minister, and can be used by the Commission for future operations.

14. Throughout the reporting period, UNSOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide institutional capacity-building and operational support to the National Independent Electoral Commission. UNSOM, in coordination with other entities, including the United Nations Office for Project Services and UNDP, engaged with the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission in preparation for additional Puntland district council elections, scheduled for December 2022. Support for the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission included preparation of the electoral operational plan, development of a voter education strategy and implementation plan, and review of electoral training manuals.

## **C. Security developments**

15. The security situation remained volatile, with a monthly average of 227 incidents recorded between May and July. Most incidents continued to be perpetrated by Al-Shabaab. Somali security forces and ATMIS remained the main target of the attacks carried out, primarily using improvised explosive devices and hit-and-run attacks. Banaadir, Shabelle Hoose and Bay Regions were the most affected by Al-Shabaab activity.

16. On 11 May, an individual wearing a person-borne improvised explosive device exploded the device at a National Intelligence and Security Agency checkpoint in Wadajir district, Mogadishu, killing at least four people and injuring at least six others. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, the fifth person-borne improvised explosive device incident registered in Mogadishu in 2022 and the sixth countrywide.

17. In Galgaduud Region, on 13 May, the Somali National Army, the Galmudug Darwish and Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a forces clashed in Dhuusamarreeb town, which resulted in casualties on both sides, including of civilians. Following the withdrawal of Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a from Dhuusamarreeb the following day, the Somali National Army launched a military operation against the Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a stronghold in Bohol.

18. On 15 May, the day of the Presidential election, the Aden Adde International Airport was targeted with six 81-mm mortar rounds, of which four landed in an area approximately 900 m away from the Somali Air Force hangar, where the elections were being held.

19. On 9 June, seven rockets, assessed to be 107 mm, were fired from the western outskirts of Mogadishu, impacting a residential area of Wadajir district. Up to three civilians were reportedly killed in the incident. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

20. On 28 June, Al-Shabaab attacked an ATMIS forward operating base in Bullo Mareer, Shabelle Hoose, firing four 107-mm rockets, which did not detonate. One warhead landed at the gate, and three outside the perimeter. It was assessed that Al-Shabaab had modified the rockets by including a gas cylinder filled with additional explosives, a technique not seen in Somalia previously.

21. In Hirshabelle, on 12 June, joint Somali National Army and local clan militia forces attacked an Al-Shabaab location in Bacda village, in Matabaan district, Hiran Region, expelling the group's militants from the area and taking their weapons. Similarly, on 17 June, a joint force consisting of local clan militia, the Galmudug Darwish and the Somali National Army repulsed Al-Shabaab attacks on Baxdo village, Galguduud Region.

22. Activity by pro-Da'esh elements in Somalia continued to be reported in Banaadir and Bari Region, in northern Puntland. While they compete with Al-Shabaab, an Al-Qaida affiliate, their influence remains largely limited to Bari Region. On 27 May, an improvised explosive device planted by Da'esh in Somalia exploded in Mogadishu, injuring three Somali Police Force officers. On 25 June, local police seized a boat from Yemen transporting automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades off the coast of Bandarbeyla town, Bari Region. A subsequent investigation by the police determined that Da'esh in Somalia was the intended recipient of the cargo.

23. On 17 July, the Nuur-Doob Hotel, in Hantiwadag village, Jawhar, was attacked using a suspected vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, resulting in several fatalities and multiple injuries, including the injury of two State Ministers. The explosion also impacted nearby buildings, causing significant damage.

24. On 20 July, Al-Shabaab attacked Yeed, Ato and Waashaqo, villages, Bakool Region, along the Somali-Ethiopian border. The group reportedly took control of the villages and destroyed several properties, including Ethiopian Liyu Police bases. An unconfirmed number of Liyu Police members were killed. Al-Shabaab withdrew on the night of 20 July, but attacked Ato village again on 29 July and clashed with the Liyu Police there.

25. On 27 July, in Marka, Shabelle Hoose Region, Al-Shabaab carried out a person-borne improvised explosive device attack targeting the headquarters of Marka district. At least 11 people were killed, including the Marka District Commissioner. On 29 July, in Baidoa, Al-Shabaab conducted a similar attack targeting the South-West State Minister of Justice and Judiciary Affairs, Hassan Ibrahim Hassan "Lugbur", after Friday prayers. He and his son were killed, and at least nine others were injured.

26. On 19 August, Al-Shabaab fighters conducted a complex attack against the Hayat Hotel, a venue frequented by Somali officials in Mogadishu. The attack was initiated through a series of high-profile improvised explosive devices, followed by an assault inside the hotel. The stand-off between the militants and the security forces lasted about 30 hours, leaving 21 people dead and 117 injured.

### **III. Update on other activities of the Mission and the United Nations country team**

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

27. Notwithstanding the concerted advocacy efforts of Goodwill Ambassadors, civil society organizations, international partners and the United Nations, the national electoral process failed to deliver on the 30 per cent quota for the representation of women, resulting in 20 per cent of the House of the People seats being filled by women, a decrease from the 24 per cent achieved in 2016. There was, however, a slight increase, with 26 per cent of seats being filled by women in the Upper House, up from 24 per cent in 2016. The total number of women represented in Parliament thus declined to 67 seats in both houses combined, compared with the 80 seats secured in the 2016 elections. Engagement by the United Nations to encourage representation by and the participation of women continues, in particular as Parliament now moves to form its committees.

28. A joint programme on women, peace and protection, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund and the Somalia Joint Fund and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNSOM, provided support for capacity development and preparation for the implementation of the national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), currently pending endorsement by the cabinet. The joint programme provided capacity development training targeting federal- and state-level women's affairs ministries and civil society organizations led by women. Through the joint programme, UN-Women is supporting the establishment of women's peace-related networks across the federal member states. Thus far, six such networks have been established in five federal member states and Banaadir. In addition, UNDP facilitated a capacity needs assessment of federal and state women's affairs ministries and civil society organizations involved in the implementation of the programme. The initial findings and recommendations of the assessment were presented in a dissemination workshop with all stakeholders in Mogadishu on 28 July. The federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, with the support of UN-Women and an international partner, held a capacity development training session on the women and peace and security agenda for members of the technical steering committee, which was established in February 2022.

29. UNSOM launched a series of consultations with women civil society leaders to advance the women and peace and security agenda, with a focus on ways to influence the implementation of national priorities as stipulated in the National Consultative Council communiqué of 12 June. The first consultation was held on 23 June with the participation of women leaders from Mogadishu and Goodwill Ambassadors. Five additional consultations are planned for the five federal member states. The outcome of the consultations will inform United Nations priorities to support the women and peace and security agenda and to strengthen civil society advocacy and engagement.

30. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to bolster its efforts towards ending sexual and gender-based violence. Discussion forums with men and boys, as well as with community and religious leaders, to end gender-based violence and female genital mutilation were held to accelerate consensus among key stakeholders. UNFPA support included the launch of a legal clinic and services in Boosaaso, Puntland, to improve access to legal information and services on the part of women and adolescent girls who may have been subjected to gender-based violence. The initiative was aimed at promoting the utilization and application of the legislation on sexual offences in Puntland for the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, as well as at strengthening survivors' confidence in seeking justice and protection.

## **B. Youth empowerment**

31. From 21 to 23 June, UNFPA and an implementing partner, in collaboration with local youth-led organizations and civil society partners, hosted an awareness forum on young people, elections and democratization in Dhuusamarreeb, Galmudug State. The second in a series of such forums across all federal member states, it brought together a total of 120 participants throughout Galmudug, including young men and women and civil society and political actors.

32. From 26 to 31 May, UNFPA and UNDP held a workshop in Hargeysa, "Somaliland", for five integrated youth centres. The initiative was aimed at developing a scalable model for the centres, in Boosaaso and Garoowe (Puntland), Gbiley and Hargeysa ("Somaliland") and Mogadishu (Banaadir), offering integrated youth services.

## C. Coordination of development assistance

33. On 7 June, the National Flood and Drought Task Force, with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, held a virtual workshop on water resources development and climate change in the Shabelle River Basin. At the workshop key findings were identified on transboundary collaboration in the region, including in the areas of improving water resource management, modelling tools and nature-based solutions to flooding. The Task Force is supported by UNSOM and several United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

34. With the support of the United Nations, a study was launched on 28 June to map sand dune movement in Hobyo, Galmudug, over the past 10 years. The mapping will help to inform the project entitled “Breaking the Climate-Conflict Cycle in Galmudug”, which is aimed at reducing environment-induced displacement and conflict in Galmudug through pragmatic investments in water infrastructure, as well as through improving climate-adaptive awareness, techniques, capacity and social infrastructure.

35. Somalia sent a delegation to the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Vienna from 13 to 17 June, the first time that it sent such a delegation. Somali authorities continued their engagement on the first cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism under the Convention by collating data for the self-assessment checklist, a critical part of the whole-of-system review of anti-corruption and governance arrangements in the country. The data will inform the country review in due course.

36. On 18 May, Somali authorities and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached a staff-level agreement on the second and third reviews of the economic programme of Somalia supported by an Extended Credit Facility. The agreement will enable the Government of Somalia to gain access to funding as part of its debt relief process under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

37. On 17 June, IMF cleared pending reviews as part of the debt relief process for Somalia. The clearance allows the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative to remain on track and enables the release of IMF support. On 27 July, the World Bank approved a \$100 million grant to support the reform efforts of Somalia in reaching the completion point of the Initiative, when Somalia will be eligible for full and irrevocable debt relief.

## D. Humanitarian assistance

38. Somalia is facing a catastrophic drought emergency following four consecutive failed rainy seasons and the possibility of a fifth. The impact of the drought and increasing economic pressures have exacerbated the severity of humanitarian needs. Nearly 50 per cent of the population – 7.8 million people – are estimated to be affected by the drought.

39. According to the Protection and Return Monitoring Network, a project led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, from January 2021 to June 2022, over 1 million people were displaced from their homes owing to drought, mostly in the central and southern regions. Banaadir witnessed the largest inflows, with 298,080,300,000 displaced people, followed by Galgaduud and Mudug Regions, which received 128,000 and 109,000 people, respectively.

40. There is an imminent risk of famine if food prices continue to increase and humanitarian assistance is not sustained to reach the most vulnerable people, including marginalized groups and minority clans. An estimated 7.1 million people –

45 per cent of the population – face acute food insecurity. For the first time since 2017, in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, pockets of catastrophic food insecurity (phase 5) have been confirmed, affecting more than 213,000 people. Forecasts by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network and the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations indicate a below-average 2022 *deyr* rainy season (October to December), which suggests that, even in the best-case scenario, food security conditions will not improve until mid-2023 at the earliest.

41. The drought has taken a toll on children, women and older persons. An estimated 1.5 million children under 5 years of age face acute malnutrition, including 386,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Over 750 children have reportedly died in malnutrition centres since January 2022. In addition, more than 1.2 million of the people affected by the drought are women and girls of reproductive age.

42. Disease outbreaks have increased in areas where extreme drought conditions have forced people to consume contaminated water and cope with worsened hygiene standards. Nearly 9,300 suspected cholera cases have been reported from 24 drought-affected districts since January 2022. Most of the cases are in children under 5 years of age living in rural sites for internally displaced persons.

43. An estimated 6.4 million Somalis do not have adequate access to water. The water levels of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers have fallen to 30 per cent below the short-term average. In the most drought-stricken areas, one third of all livestock have perished since mid-2021, decimating livelihoods. As the drought and food and water insecurity persist in Somalia, women and girls are experiencing alarming levels of poverty and economic deprivation, a precursor of increased vulnerability to gender-based violence.

44. The drought has devastated the livelihoods of the most vulnerable Somalis, whose ability to cope has been eroded by decades of protracted conflict, climate shocks, locust infestation and disease outbreaks. An estimated 2.4 million school-aged children have been affected by the drought; 720,000 who were enrolled in schools in 2021–2022 are at risk of not returning to class.

45. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to have an impact on the humanitarian situation. As at 20 August, the country had reported 27,162 COVID-19 cases in total, including 1,350 associated deaths (5 per cent). According to the World Health Organization, more than 2.43 million people in Somalia have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and 4.49 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered.

46. Humanitarian access remained a major challenge, mainly as a result of ongoing conflict and insecurity, affecting the safety of humanitarian workers and their ability to help people in need. In some locations, logistical challenges also constrained access. Approximately 740,000 people live in areas controlled by non-State armed groups, with serious access challenges that hinder humanitarian reach.

47. Despite the security, operational and financial challenges, 304 humanitarian actors, including 238 national non-governmental organizations, continued to be present in 73 out of 74 districts across all regions and states, providing life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people.

48. Some 5.3 million Somalis were provided with humanitarian assistance from January to July 2022. Currently, active area-based coordination forums are covering 38 districts. In addition, a rapid response mechanism has been rolled out to provide multisectoral emergency response to newly displaced people. However, the scale and severity of the drought crisis exceeds available resources and response.

49. On 24 June, humanitarian partners published the 2022 drought response and famine prevention plan, which targets 6.4 million people affected by drought. The plan, in which \$993.3 million is sought, provides outlines of strategies including the financial requirements needed to prevent famine in Somalia. It is a revision of the drought response plan that was developed in late 2021 as a subset of and annex to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia. Although donors have increased funding significantly, the worst outcomes can only be averted if the drought response and famine prevention plan is immediately and fully funded. As at 31 August, the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, which requires nearly \$1.5 billion to assist 5.5 million of the most vulnerable Somalis, is 67 per cent funded. On 19 August, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator announced an additional \$10 million Central Emergency Response Fund allocation to help to avert a further catastrophe, underscoring the urgency of the situation and demonstrating the need for continued resources provided for a situation that is not expected to improve until at least mid-2023.

50. From 24 to 28 July, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Emergency Director Group visited Somalia to engage with affected people, the humanitarian community, donors and government counterparts, as well as to mobilize additional resources for and raise awareness of the severity of the drought situation.

51. With hundreds of thousands of people facing an increased risk of famine through at least September 2022, an urgent and timely scale-up of integrated humanitarian assistance is needed. Already, malnutrition and mortality outcomes in Baidoa and Buurhakaba districts, in Bay Region, point to an extremely concerning situation.

## **E. Human rights and protection**

### **1. Human rights**

52. During the reporting period, UNSOM recorded 419 Somali civilian casualties (173 killed and 246 injured), a 2 per cent decrease compared with 428 civilian casualties recorded during the previous period. Unidentified actors were the main perpetrators, responsible for 249 civilian casualties (59 per cent), followed by 88 (21 per cent) attributed to Al-Shabaab, 46 (11 per cent) to state security forces, 30 (7 per cent) to clan militias and 6 (1 per cent) to the Liyu Police.

53. Al-Shabaab continued to target those involved in the electoral process even after the elections were concluded. UNSOM recorded six casualties (three killed and three injured), including those of three male electoral delegates, one in Mogadishu on 13 June and two in Beledweyne town on 14 and 27 May, respectively.

54. Journalists and media workers continued to face serious threats when exercising their right to freedom of expression. On 27 June, two male television journalists were injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling while accompanying a government delegation was struck by an improvised explosive device in Qabno village, Matabaan district, Hiran Region. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. On 21 August, a Somali Police Force officer reportedly shot and injured a male media worker in Mogadishu while he was filming the Al-Shabaab attack on the Hayat Hotel. The police have initiated an investigation.

55. UNSOM documented the arbitrary arrest and detention of 17 journalists, including 11 in “Somaliland” and 5 in South-West State, allegedly for posting critical views of the police, reporting allegations of diversion of humanitarian assistance by state officials and covering demonstrations, among others. All of the journalists were later released either without being charged or after appearing before a court. On 19 July, a “Somaliland” Government Minister announced at a press conference that

an international media station had been suspended from operating in “Somaliland”. In addition, in “Somaliland”, it was reported that 5 male civilians were killed and 86 were injured during protests that took place in several locations on 11 August. It was also reported that 332 persons were arrested, almost all of whom have been released.

56. On 6 August, the Regional Court in Woqooyi Galbeed Region sentenced a 22-year-old woman who had converted to Christianity to five years’ imprisonment under the Penal Code of Somalia. She was given 30 days to appeal the sentence.

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

57. On 12 June, the human rights due diligence policy task force finalized its review of the draft risk assessment and mitigation measures related to support of the Mine Action Service for the Somali National Army.

58. From 20 to 24 June, the African Union, ATMIS, UNSOM and UNSOS attended a workshop to review the African Union-United Nations pre-deployment training manual for ATMIS troop- and police-contributing countries, in line with human rights due diligence policy mitigation measures related to the capacity-building of ATMIS. In addition, attendees updated modules on the human rights due diligence policy, the protection of civilians, international human rights and humanitarian law, child protection, and women and peace and security.

## **3. Children and armed conflict**

59. From 7 to 31 May, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict verified 153 grave violations against 151 children (135 boys and 16 girls). A total of 72 children were victims of killing and maiming, 21 were abducted and 17 were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence. Attacks on two schools were also verified. Of the violations, 71 (46 per cent) were attributed to Al-Shabaab, 44 (29 per cent) to the federal and state armed forces, 32 (21 per cent) to unknown armed elements, 3 (2 per cent) to clan militia and 3 (2 per cent) to Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama’a.

60. On 20 June, in Mogadishu, UNSOM and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) held a meeting with representatives of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Children and Armed Conflict to agree on establishing a joint process to monitor the implementation of the 2019 road map to accelerate the implementation of the action plans. Participants included the Directors General and child protection focal points from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Security. Participants agreed to coordinate and follow up on the quarterly trend analysis provided by the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict and to actively implement activities in line with the road map.

## **4. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence**

61. UNSOM verified, through the monitoring and reporting arrangement, two incidents of rape affecting two girls 9 and 12 years of age in Jubbaland and Galmudug, respectively. The alleged perpetrators, one Somali National Army soldier and one member of a clan militia, were arrested, and the survivors received medical care.

62. On 15 June, the working group on monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements held a meeting in which it discussed trends of conflict-related sexual violence. Particular concerns were raised regarding the impact of climate change on women and girls, including a marked increase in gender-based violence in areas of displacement. Attendees agreed to strengthen advocacy with the government and

other stakeholders to ensure that sexual and gender-based violence prevention and responses are mainstreamed into the drought response and famine prevention plan. In August, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and its partners scaled up the provisions of gender-based violence-related services in the areas where incidents have been reported.

63. On 19 June, in Mogadishu, UNSOM, in coordination with a local partner, commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. Several activities were conducted, including an event attended by 50 participants from civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, government officials and 30 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The survivors were awarded business skills certificates after they completed a three-month specialized vocational training course, a critical effort towards their economic empowerment and measures to combat stigma.

## **F. Support for the security sector, the rule of law and stabilization**

### **1. Implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan**

64. A core security partners group at the ambassadorial level, chaired by the National Security Adviser of Somalia, has been established and met on 14 July to discuss joint priorities and the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan. A technical-level core security partners group has also been established and met on 24 July to commence technical-level discussions.

65. In line with Security Council resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#), UNSOS established a transition planning cell in support of the reconfiguration of ATMIS and the transition of security responsibilities to the Federal Government of Somalia. A core function of the cell is to provide strategic analysis and planning, facilitate engagement and enhance the monitoring and evaluation capabilities of the United Nations in the delivery of its mandate in support of the transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to the Somali security forces.

66. In line with the ATMIS concept of operations and the conclusion of the AMISOM Sector Commanders' conference held from 14 to 17 March, UNSOS has established joint operations coordination centres in all the ATMIS sectors in operational headquarters locations: the Mogadishu, Baidoa, Beledweyne, Dhooble, Jawhar and Kismaayo sectors. UNSOS is also in the process of establishing joint operations logistics bases in all ATMIS sectors, which are to be realigned with the locations of the Somali security forces.

67. On 6 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support and the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security co-hosted an interactive dialogue with ATMIS troop- and police-contributing countries to exchange views on logistics support implications arising from Security Council resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#). Participants welcomed the steps taken to have logistical support that is fit for purpose and meets the needs of more mobile and agile forces. The Department of Operational Support, in consultation with the African Union, finalized the logistics support concept, as requested in resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#).

### **2. Comprehensive approach to security**

#### **(a) Institutional capacity-building support**

68. The Joint Police Programme, involving the United Nations, the European Union, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, continues to provide support to the Federal Government and federal member states in police capacity-building and the development of the legal framework of the federated police.

United Nations support included leadership training for 500 senior Somali Police Force and Puntland Police officers, drafting of federal member state police bills for Puntland, Hirshabelle and South-West States and collaboration with ATMIS and the Jubbaland and Galmudug administrations to recruit and train 150 Jubbaland State Police who will conclude their three-month training on 28 September.

69. On 25 May, UNSOM facilitated the inaugural meeting of the working group on the Somali Navy and Coast Guard, chaired by the Ministry of Defence and the Deputy Commander of the working group and including the participation of Italy, Türkiye, the United States of America, the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, the European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Union Naval Force. Terms of reference were endorsed to formalize the working group within the structure of the comprehensive approach to security and to enable a coordinated approach to developing the maritime security sector in Somalia.

70. UNSOM and the International Organization for Migration worked with international partners to keep rehabilitation centres for low-risk former Al-Shabaab fighters and women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab open to prospective beneficiaries. As at 28 July, there were 304 men in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismaayo and 184 women in Kismaayo and Baidoa attending the centres. Since 1 January, 187 men and 186 women have been rehabilitated and reintegrated within host communities; in addition, 31 men are expected to complete the rehabilitation programme in August. A multi-year transition plan enabling the Federal Government of Somalia to fully lead on the disengagement, disassociation, reintegration and reconciliation process in Somalia is under way and is being coordinated by the International Organization for Migration as the main implementing partner.

71. On 28 and 29 June, UNSOM held a two-day training session on trial advocacy and case management for 20 participants from the courts and the Office of Attorney General in Baidoa, South-West State. From 7 to 9 June, UNSOM conducted a three-day training-of-trainers course on prison management and leadership for 15 Jubbaland Custodial Corps personnel (13 men and 2 women) in Kismaayo.

72. During the reporting period, UNSOM conducted several training and awareness-raising activities to enhance justice sector capacity at the subnational level. They included a training session from 11 to 13 May on prison security management and international human rights standards for 40 South-West State Custodial Corps personnel (27 men and 13 women) in Baidoa, South-West State, and a workshop on 19 May on legal aid and the recently passed State Urban Land Management Act for 32 internally displaced persons (17 men and 15 women) in Baidoa. On 29 to 31 May, an induction training session on the limitations of the military court's jurisdiction was held for 26 military court personnel (23 men and 3 women) in Hargeysa, "Somaliland".

73. On 1 and 2 June, UNSOM supported the functioning of the courts through a training session on judicial independence and accountability for 10 male participants from the Puntland High Judicial Council and judges from the Puntland Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office. On 6 to 16 June, UNSOM supported the "Somaliland" Supreme Court in delivering a training session on court administration to 50 male judges that was focused on court jurisdiction, courtroom and case management, judgment-writing and sentencing guidelines. On 22 June, UNSOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees conducted training for 30 participants on the role of the judiciary in the protection of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons in Kismaayo, Jubbaland. Attendees included 14 judges, 3 female prosecutors and personnel from the Jubbaland Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and the Office of the High Commissioner.

74. The Mine Action Service trained four national Operations and Quality Assurance Officers from the Somali Explosive Management Authority in Jubbaland and Hirshabelle to strengthen their capacity to coordinate mine clearance operations.

75. The Mine Action Service provided policy advice and technical support to the Federal Government of Somalia in the implementation of the national weapons and ammunition strategy to strengthen Somali weapons and ammunition management infrastructure and capabilities. In addition, the Service continued with construction of an ammunition storage area in Jazeera, Mogadishu, in support of the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to move a large quantity of ammunition from Halane armoury, located within the Aden Adde International Airport zone. Furthermore, the Service provided ammunition management training to nine staff responsible for managing the storage site, including on explosives safety, security and accounting procedures that minimize the risks of ammunition loss or diversion.

**(b) Support for stabilization and the prevention and countering of violent extremism**

76. The Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation continued to engage in a series of consultations for the review of the national stabilization strategy to ensure coherence across the programmes of various international partners and donors. The discussions included ongoing support for stabilization initiatives in Shabelle Hoose Region to consolidate the progress made under the Somalia Transition Plan, the need to enhance coordination and comprehensive joint planning with security partners as the transition progresses and efforts to address underlying drivers of conflict and the need to link to development programmes in districts across Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South-West States.

77. The United Nations enhanced its engagement with members of religious groups through the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs and the Ulema. The engagement, which included the provision of training and curriculum, was aimed at improving the skills of religious groups to identify and mediate disputes related to extremist views and hate speech, as well as to promote peace and tolerance in madrasas.

## **IV. Support of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia for the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia and Somali security forces**

### **1. Support for African Union Transition Mission in Somalia operations**

78. In furtherance of Security Council resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#), UNSOS continued to support the implementation of the ATMIS reconfiguration plan, of an equipment review aimed at repatriating not-fit-for-purpose equipment and deploying more agile force enablers, and of the transition of security responsibilities to the Somali security forces.

79. UNSOS supported the ATMIS equipment review during the third meeting of the Military Strategy Support Group, held in Addis Ababa from 27 June to 1 July, during which the Statement of Unit Requirements for ATMIS was drafted. The equipment review would assist in the prioritization of the equipment identified as not fit for purpose to be withdrawn and replaced as part of the ongoing ATMIS reconfiguration.

80. From 4 to 6 July, a logistics conference was convened in Mogadishu for UNSOS and ATMIS logistics planners, in coordination with counterparts from the Federal Government of Somalia. The ATMIS-UNSOS logistics conference was held under the theme “Joint planning and coordination of logistics for effective implementation of ATMIS CONOPS in line with the Somalia Transition Plan”. UNSOS and ATMIS

logistics planners, in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, are working jointly on a plan to support the reconfiguration and transition of security responsibilities to the Somali security forces.

81. UNSOS continued its regular outreach to partners and held meetings in Addis Ababa on 31 May and 1 June with senior officials of the African Union and the Ethiopian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. UNSOS also met with the Chief of Defence Forces of the Burundi National Defence Force in Somalia on 5 June. Discussions covered the ongoing ATMIS reconfiguration and UNSOS support for the transition, including the establishment of a transition planning cell, and participants agreed on delegation of authority and decentralization of support for ATMIS sectors, as well as opportunities for enhancing planning and coordination.

82. UNSOS continued to provide services that included wastewater and solid waste management in all ATMIS locations and sectors. It delivered environmental management training to 60 Sierra Leone Formed Police Units, 20 Kenya Defence Forces and 20 Uganda People's Defence Forces personnel. In addition, the Office distributed 5,000 tree seedlings for planting to the South-West State Ministry of Environment through ATMIS.

83. The Mine Action Service trained 3,399 ATMIS military and police personnel, enhancing their capability to locate and destroy improvised explosive devices and operate safely in a high-risk environment. In addition, the Service delivered pre- and post-deployment briefings to 411 ATMIS convoys to operate across all six sectors and conducted 640 searches for improvised explosive devices along the main supply routes, during which 11 such devices were found and destroyed. The Service produced 9 threat analysis reports and 24 reports on awareness of improvised explosive devices in support of ATMIS and the Somali security forces.

84. The Mine Action Service contributed to the safety and security of strategic infrastructure by deploying 32 teams of explosive detection dogs that conducted searches of 60,777 pieces of luggage, 154,672 vehicles, 305 buildings, 152,721 km<sup>2</sup> of building areas and 23.1 km<sup>2</sup> of open areas throughout the sectors.

85. In support of the Somalia Transition Plan, the Mine Action Service collaborated with ATMIS on hosting a conference in Mogadishu from 14 to 16 June on countering improvised explosive devices, bringing together ATMIS, the Somali National Army and improvised explosive device experts to inform the upcoming transition phases with lessons learned during recent counter-improvised explosive devices operations. The deliberations contributed to the meeting of the Military Strategic Support Group of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa from 27 June to 1 July, which was tasked with developing ATMIS standard unit requirements for counter-improvised explosive devices.

86. The Mine Action Service concluded refresher trainings in route search and conventional munitions disposal for two improvised explosive device disposal teams of the Somali National Army in Beledweyne, Hirshabelle State. The Service also conducted training on explosive hazard awareness for 18 newly recruited Somali National Army soldiers in Dhooble, Jubbaland State. During the reporting period, the improvised explosive device disposal teams of the Somali National Army neutralized eight improvised explosive devices in Banaadir, Juba Hoose and Bay Regions. The Service continued to enhance the capacity of the Somali Police Force through the training of one new explosive ordnance disposal team deployed in Jawhar, Hirshabelle State, and two new improvised explosive device disposal teams in Garoowe, Puntland State, and Beledweyne, Hirshabelle State.

## 2. Support for Somali security forces operations

87. UNSOS provided logistical support to 11,649 personnel of the Somali security forces. As at 31 July, the United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali security forces had a balance of \$444,023, was not sufficient to cover operational expenses in August 2022. However, an additional contribution received on 24 August of \$2.8 million will cover operational expenses until end of December 2022. Outreach efforts by the United Nations in Somalia continued to secure further contributions to the trust fund. To advance ongoing discussions on the concerning state of the trust fund, UNSOS held separate meetings in July with senior Somali authorities in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Defence, as well as with the National Security Adviser of Somalia, discussing options for attracting sustainable funding in support of UNSOS logistics support for the Somali security forces. They also discussed the UNSOS support package and agreed to jointly develop a separate logistics support concept for the Somali security forces as part of the transition and in line with the Somalia Transition Plan.

88. During the reporting period, UNSOS continued to provide non-lethal support to Somali security forces conducting joint operations with ATMIS. In addition to routinely supplying food, fuel and medical evacuations for 11,649 troops in 23 locations, UNSOS supplied the Somali security forces with additional very high frequency radios and field defence stores for the construction of bunkers in forward operating bases of the Somali National Army.

89. UNSOS provided air liaison officer training to 10 Somali National Army personnel. The Office also provided capacity-building in other support areas, in coordination with ATMIS.

90. The Mobile Vehicle Checkpoint Unit of the Somali Police Force, which has been mentored by the Mine Action Service, played a critical role in securing the presidential elections and providing convoy escorts to Members of Parliament and presidential candidates through the use of electronic countermeasures to prevent remote-controlled improvised explosive devices.

## V. United Nations presence in Somalia

91. United Nations entities remained present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 23 August, 630 international staff and 1,361 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia.

92. As mandated in Security Council resolutions [2592 \(2021\)](#) and [2632 \(2022\)](#), a strategic review of UNSOM, including recommendations for clearly defined, measurable and realistic benchmarks to track the timely execution and achievements of its mandate, was conducted during the reporting period. The strategic review team was led by Ian Martin and comprised Representatives from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support, as well as from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office to the African Union. The review team visited Somalia and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 9 August to consult the Federal Government of Somalia, federal member states, United Nations entities, ATMIS, women's and youth civil society representatives and international partners, as well as the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.

## VI. Observations

93. I welcome the completion of the protracted parliamentary electoral process, as well as the presidential elections that were held peacefully on 15 May. I commend the acceptance of the outcomes by all political actors, as well as the peaceful transfer of power that took place. I am encouraged by the fact that, soon after his election, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud met with the leaders of the federal member states in a National Consultative Council. At the meeting, the commitment of the leaders of Somalia to the key political and State-building priorities outlined in the 27 May 2021 electoral agreement was reaffirmed. Sustained political will and progress in advancing the State-building priorities collaboratively will be essential. In this regard, I urge the leaders of the Federal Government of Somalia and the federal member states to work together in a renewed spirit of cooperation to advance the key national priorities. The United Nations remains committed to supporting Somali-led efforts in this regard.

94. I further urge the political leadership of Somalia to advance the political, social and economic inclusion and participation of women, including in the new administration. Such measures would send a positive signal regarding the commitment of the Federal Government to promoting the full participation of women in the political process following the regrettable shortfall in the targeted levels of representation by women in the elections. More should be done to ensure that women are equally and meaningfully included and represented in the political, peacebuilding, development and security processes in Somalia.

95. I remain deeply concerned by the worsening drought, and its ever-mounting impact on the Somali people, including the displacement of more than 1 million people. Humanitarian actors are scaling up the drought response and famine prevention efforts, and they will continue to respond to the dire needs of the population. Some 5.3 million Somalis have received life-saving assistance from United Nations humanitarian organizations and their international and local partners in the first seven months of the year. In a concerted effort, the United Nations, in close coordination with the Special Envoy for Drought Response of the Government of Somalia, continues to appeal for more support from the international community. Given that the support of international partners remains vital to life-saving responses across the country, I call upon donors to contribute generously to the full funding of the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.

96. I express my concern about continued human rights violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations committed against children. I encourage the Federal Government of Somalia to continue to strengthen efforts aimed at implementing its commitment to ending sexual violence and grave violations against children under the 2013 joint communiqué and the 2019 road map. I also call upon the Federal Government to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of children. I reiterate my call upon the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. I encourage the new Government to make progress on the swift adoption of key human rights-related bills to comply with the regional and international human rights obligations of Somalia. I am concerned about recurrent attacks on the right to freedom of expression and call upon the Somali authorities to ensure that journalists and media workers can carry out their legitimate work without intimidation or reprisals.

97. I am deeply concerned by continued attacks by Al-Shabaab and the suffering that they bring to civilians. I condemn all terrorist activities and welcome the efforts

of the Federal Government of Somalia to prioritize efforts to combat Al-Shabaab and to improve the overall security situation in Mogadishu and across Somalia. In this regard, the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan, with the Federal Government and the Somali security forces increasingly assuming the lead role for the management and provision of security, represents an essential step towards the further consolidation of peace and security efforts. Ongoing discussions led by the Federal Government on force generation, force integration, the phased handover of security responsibilities from ATMIS and the strengthening of its coordination with security partners will need to continue in the months ahead. I welcome the efforts of the Federal Government to continue to enhance its coordination of the security transition and to advance the implementation of key activities. I thank Member States for their contributions to the United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali security forces but remain concerned about the dwindling balance and reiterate my appeal to Member States to provide additional contributions to the trust fund to ensure that continued support can be maintained during this critical transition period.

98. I wish to convey my appreciation to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other partners for their sustained support and engagement in peacebuilding in Somalia.

99. I thank my Special Representative, James Swan, and all United Nations staff in Somalia for their tireless work and dedication in support of peace and stability in the country.



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