



Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6848th meeting

Tuesday, 16 October 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala)

Members:

Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
China	Mr. Li Baodong
Colombia	Mr. Alzate
France	Mr. Araud
Germany	Mr. Wittig
India	Mrs. Kaur
Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
Portugal	Mr. Cabral
Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
South Africa	Mr. Mashabane
Togo	Mr. Menan
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 12 October 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/764)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 12 October 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/764)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Ethiopia, Finland, Italy, Japan, Somalia, Spain and Turkey to participate in today's meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, to participate in today's meeting. On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Mahiga, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Mogadishu.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in today's meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/764, which contains a letter dated 12 October 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mahiga.

Mr. Mahiga: Before I read out my statement, I would like to introduce to you, Mr. President, and the Security Council, Ambassador Basile Gateretse, Deputy Representative of the African Union in Mogadishu; Lieutenant General Andrew Gutti, Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), based in Mogadishu; and Colonel Kenneth Muhairwe, Chief of Operations for AMISOM, also based in Mogadishu. In addition, with me are staff members of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

Mr. President, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to brief the Council on the recent developments in the Somalia peace process. At the

outset, I would like to congratulate you and your Government on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. Allow me also to express my profound gratitude to the Council for its continued support for the peace process in Somalia which has now entered a post-transition phase of transformation into peacebuilding.

The nine-year-old transition period in Somalia ended peacefully with the adoption of a new Constitution, the selection of a new Parliament, and a newly elected Speaker and President. The change met the expectations of most Somalis and has raised high expectations for more change. Somalia is now in the process of forming its first post-transition Government. This follows the election on 10 September of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as President of the Somali Republic. It was the most representative election of a President in Somalia since the country's 20-year-long crisis began, and the first to be held inside the country.

The election of the President by Parliament was preceded by an equally transparent and open process of selecting 275 members of Somalia's new Federal Parliament by traditional elders, who gave legitimacy to the process. The new Parliament is leaner, with the highest number of graduates, including women, than any other previous Parliament in Somalia. Earlier, an 825-member National Constituent Assembly adopted a new provisional Constitution. I pay tribute to the outgoing president, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, for his magnanimity and statemanship in conceding defeat in the election, as well as his public commitment to supporting and working closely with his successor. I also pay tribute to all six of the principal signatories of the road map, whose sustained political commitment underpinned the inclusive nature of the process to end the transition.

I thank the Secretary-General for convening a mini-summit in New York on 26 September on the margins of the General Assembly, which was unanimous in welcoming the political change in Somalia. In a video teleconference from Mogadishu, President Mohamud outlined his six-pillar policy priorities for the new Somalia, which include security stabilization, political outreach and reconciliation, and the delivery of basic services to the people. There was an encouraging and reassuring collective message of goodwill and support from an impressive cross-section of the international community at the mini-summit, which included several members of the Security Council.

On 6 October, President Mohamud appointed Mr. Abdi Farah Shirdon as Prime Minister. The process leading to the appointment was broadly consultative within the constitutionally stipulated timeline. The Prime Minister will outline his plan of action before Parliament this week, to be followed by Parliament's endorsement of his appointment. He will then proceed to appoint a cabinet. Thereafter, the Council of Ministers will develop a policy framework incorporating the plan of action to implement the six-pillar policy priorities, which Parliament will officially approve and adopt. At the same time, Parliament has already developed its own four-year plan of action, which captures the six-pillar principles and defines its obligations as the representative institution of the people, as well as its relationship with the executive, including its oversight responsibilities.

The security situation in Somalia has vastly improved thanks to the continuing efforts and sacrifices of the African Union Mission in Somalia, the Ethiopian forces, and the Somali Government and its local allied forces. The fall of Kismayo, the last stronghold of the extremist Al-Shabaab insurgents, in late September marked a decisive turning point in the conflict. The challenge now is to align the security and political strategies in Kismayo with the overall stabilization strategy in the newly recovered areas.

AMISOM is close to reaching its full authorized strength. The deployment of the Djiboutian battalion in sector four is ongoing, starting with contingent-owned equipment and followed by personnel. Two hundred thirty-five Djiboutian troops have already been deployed. The deployment of the contingent from Sierra Leone is also on call. Contingent-owned equipment has arrived in Mombasa for onward transportation to sector two. I am also pleased to report that the AMISOM force command headquarters in Mogadishu is fully operational, following the deployment of the entire senior leadership and almost all of its support staff officers in Mogadishu.

Although Al-Shabaab is now dispersed into a ragtag militia, it has nonetheless continued its attacks, using more asymmetrical terrorist and hit-and-run tactics, which it carries out occasionally in Mogadishu. AMISOM and the Somali forces must be equipped to deal with such tactics as they come to control more territory and their lines of supply get extended. Another worrying trend is the ongoing assassination and targeted killings of civilians. Those trends call for

expeditious deployment of AMISOM to its full strength with the necessary logistical support and the intense training and strengthening of the Somali security force. It is also essential that AMISOM be supported so that it can control more effectively the coastal waters around Mogadishu, Merca, Baraawe and Kismayo in order to protect its own forces and supply lines, interrupt Al-Shabaab's supply lines and effectively secure the ports for commercial use, including containing the trade in charcoal. I therefore encourage the Council to support the request contained in paragraph 50 of the fourth report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the implementation of the AMISOM, mandate addressed to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 5 October 2012 (S/2012/764, annex).

The surrender of disengaging Al-Shabaab combatants to AMISOM and Government forces has increased considerably, while some of the deserting former fighters are mingling with the civilian population. That poses a special challenge for the protection of civilians. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the International Organization for Migration have developed a plan for receiving disengaging Al-Shabaab fighters and for reintegrating them into their respective communities. That plan has not yet started for lack of funding.

Civilian casualties resulting from the conflict continue. The majority of cases derive from insurgent tactics involving the increased use of activated and improvised explosive devices in contravention of the basic rules of humanitarian law. At the same time, all United Nations-sponsored security forces need to be strengthened to comply with the humanitarian, human rights and international humanitarian law in their operations. The AMISOM force intends to support that process by implementing the human rights due-diligence promise with regard to the United Nations support for non-United Nations security forces.

Violence against women and girls is still widespread in Somalia despite the improved constitutional protection for women and vigorous campaigns by Somali human rights defenders and other advocacy groups. In Mogadishu, sexual violence against internally displaced women also continues. My Office, in coordination with the other groups, will continue to work towards improving the protection and promotion of the rights of Somali women, including their participation in public life and the peace and reconciliation processes. The target of 30 per cent for

women representatives in Parliament, posts that have up to now been held only by men, has been only half met, but the agenda of women's representation in public institutions has gained momentum, and it is now part of a firm political agenda in Somalia.

The protection of children in armed conflicts has also received encouraging compliance from the Government and from AMISOM.

On the humanitarian situation, the great political security strides that Somalia has made must not distract us from the persisting dire humanitarian situation. More than 2 million Somalis remain in urgent need of food aid and other assistance. Meanwhile, herding pastures are drying up less than one year after the famine raged, which has led to the worsened humanitarian indicators that we see now. Funding for the humanitarian appeal for 2012 stands at only 52 per cent, making it increasingly difficult for aid agencies to support and strengthen the livelihoods and resilience of Somalis to withstand future shocks. I urge international partners to sustain and expand their assistance of Somalia to prevent it from sliding back into famine and misery.

The international humanitarian community now has a promising partner in the new Somali leadership. Al-Shabaab's ban on Islamic Relief, which was one of the last aid organizations operating in areas under its control, came at the worst time and is unacceptable. With the new territory under the control of AMISOM and Government forces, we hope that the situation will improve quickly. I urge all armed factions in Somalia to grant unimpeded humanitarian access.

In conclusion, the new Administration in Mogadishu must now move with speed to lead in the stabilization of the newly liberated area. President Mohamud has already undertaken visits to Belet Huen and Baidoa in central Somalia in a show of commitment by reaching out to local authorities and communities. That is critical in filling the vacuum that could otherwise emerge from the retreat of the insurgents. The immediate challenge that the Government faces is therefore the establishment of local and district administrations, including justice and the rule of law, as well as to provide basic services to the population. It is evident that while taking leadership, the Government does not have the necessary resources.

UNPOS is now focusing on extending good offices and assistance to the new Administration in stabilizing the newly liberated areas. There are several actors that

need to be engaged and coordinated in stabilizing the newly recovered areas where the Government needs to be assisted so that it can assume political leadership. Civilian activities have to come in quickly behind military operations to establish local administrations and provide humanitarian and development-related activities. That remains slow in coming. The Office has furthermore embarked on a consultative process with other stakeholders as part of the strategic review of the future presence of the United Nations in Somalia, which will come soon.

With regard to the strategic review, under the leadership of the Department of Political Affairs, we have begun a highly consultative process of analysis and assessment, also engaging the African Union, in preparation for consultations with a new Somali authority. I would emphasize that in developing options for the future United Nations presence, as the Council requested, we must be led by the needs and expectations of the Somalis. That may mean adjusting our deadlines for reporting back to the Council in order to respect the Somalis' need for some time and space to constitute the Cabinet and begin establishing their programme of work before engaging with us. In that regard, I am glad to report that today I presented a letter to President Mohamud from the Secretary-General expressing our intention to begin the review in mid-November this year. The President welcomed the proposal.

I pay tribute to the international and regional partners for the support that they have extended to me and to the Somali peacemakers throughout the road map process. The Somali authorities now urgently need assistance to meet the new challenges in the various sectors to help them own and lead the process in the post-transition period.

The efforts of partners to develop a new aid framework for Somalia, in partnership with the Government, are most appropriate and timely.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Special Representative Mahiga for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mrs. Kaur (India): At the outset, I would like to thank the Guatemalan delegation for having organized today's debate on the situation in Somalia. As the new authorities start their work in Mogadishu, it is a good time to deliberate upon the progress achieved so far, the challenges that lie ahead and how the international

community can continue its support for the Government and people of Somalia.

We have carefully noted the views expressed by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Augustine Mahiga, and I would thank him for his valuable statement.

During the course of the past year, there has been remarkable progress in the process of stabilizing the political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia. That has created a historic opportunity that must be seized for the full restoration of peace and stability in Somalia after two decades of conflict.

The adoption of a provisional Constitution, the formation of the new Parliament, the elections of the President and the Speaker, and the appointment of the new Prime Minister clearly reflect the collective resolve of the Somali people to move from the transitional institutions to a more representative Government that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Somali society.

Those important milestones would not have been possible but for the coordinated and concerted efforts of the international community, including the African Union and the United Nations. The important role played by Special Representative Mahiga in the successful completion of the transition process deserves our special appreciation.

Our congratulations are also due to the new Somali leadership, particularly His Excellency Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the new President of Somalia. It is a matter of immense pride for us that President Mohamud spent a few years studying in India in the late 1980s.

The gains on the political front have been made possible by the impressive achievements of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali forces on the security front. Thanks to AMISOM, Mogadishu is today firmly under the control of the Somali authorities. Last week, AMISOM and the Somali forces secured the strategic towns of Kismayo and Wanla Weyn from Al-Shabaab.

The support of the international community to AMISOM operations has been instrumental in that success. We commend all troop-contributing countries, in particular Uganda, Burundi and Kenya, for their commitment to the Mission and for the sacrifices their troops have made.

In order to consolidate the gains made, the new Government in Somalia has to embark upon building effective State institutions that can pursue national reconciliation, provide for the rule of law, revitalize economic activities, and restructure and strengthen the security forces. It is also necessary to expeditiously implement the pending tasks of the road map. In that regard, we welcome the six-point policy framework set out by President Mohamud, and call upon the international community to fully support the implementation of the framework.

AMISOM remains the mainstay of the international community's efforts for stabilization of the security situation in Somalia. AMISOM and the Somali security forces have continued to expand their control in all four sectors of operations. Still, Al-Shabaab remains a major threat to peace and stability in Somalia, and has turned to asymmetric warfare.

The changing security situation demands further augmentation of resources for AMISOM, including enablers and force multipliers. We therefore support the request made by the African Union for a technical rollover of four months, continuing the current support package. We also support the expansion of the logistics support package to cover the deployment of additional civilian personnel and to include naval assets for contingent-owned equipment reimbursement. The latter is crucial to safeguard the supply routes of AMISOM and to prevent Al-Shabaab from benefitting from illegal maritime trade and piracy.

Maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and the humanitarian plight of hostages held by pirates remain a major cause of concern for India. Much of India's trade — estimated at over \$160 billion annually — passes through the Gulf of Aden. Indians constitute 7 per cent of the world's seafarers, and a consequence of piracy has been the tremendous human cost that those seafarers have had to pay. According to the Secretary-General's latest report, 259 hostages from 18 ships are still held by pirates. Of those, 43 are, unfortunately, Indian nationals. We hope that the international community will provide full assistance to the new Government in Somalia to implement the comprehensive set of measures to counter piracy as identified in the road map.

India and Somalia share two millennia of civilizational exchanges across the seas. Not many years ago, India made a major contribution to peacekeeping in Somalia through its significant involvement in the

United Nations Operation in Somalia II. Last year, following our Prime Minister's announcement at the second India-Africa Summit, India made a financial contribution of \$2 million to AMISOM. This year, we are making another contribution of \$1 million.

We have also continued to extend help to Somalia in capacity-building through human resources development and have recently increased the number of scholarships available for Somali experts and students to utilize in Indian academic institutions. We have also contributed to the development of the information technology sector in Somalia.

As Somalia moves on to a new phase of pacification and peacebuilding, the continued support of the international community will remain critical for its success. I would like to assure the new Government of Somalia of India's continued support for our common endeavours to put Somalia back on to the path of peace, stability and prosperity.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): We are very grateful to you, Mr. President, for arranging this timely debate so soon after the Secretary-General's mini-summit on Somalia last month. We welcome the Indian Minister of State to today's meeting. We also thank Ambassador Mahiga for his briefing, and we look forward to the possibility of a briefing from Commissioner Lamamra.

Much has been achieved in Somalia in the past 12 months, as we have heard. We congratulate the people of Somalia on the peaceful end to the transition and on the election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The transition was the most representative and transparent Somali political process in decades. As the Secretary-General's high-level event made clear, the process must continue to be Somali-owned and Somali-led, with the international community playing a supporting and facilitating role. I hope that we will be able to forge a new partnership between Somalia and the international community, based on the principles of mutual accountability, good governance and financial transparency, working for the benefit of the people of Somalia.

We continue to think that a joint financial management board would be a useful tool for the new Somali Government in pursuing those aims. It would build confidence among the international community and provide the Somali people with a tool with which they can hold their Government to account.

The upcoming reviews of the United Nations and African Union (AU) operations in Somalia provide a timely opportunity to ensure that the correct mechanisms are in place so that international assistance to Somalia is well coordinated and effective. The needs of the people of Somalia must be at the centre of the reviews, but the reviews must also be complementary and coherent, outlining a clear delineation of responsibility between the United Nations and the AU, and setting out how the wider international community can contribute effectively.

The Council and the wider international community must support the priorities that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has set out, including improving security, economic recovery, improving basic services, strengthening governance and combating corruption, as well as continuing the process of political dialogue, including between Mogadishu and Hargeisa.

It is in that context that my Foreign Secretary announced last month a further £10 million to help Somalia with its immediate needs. That is in addition to our £38 million three-year aid programme, focused on supporting core State functions throughout Somalia. As a further sign of our long-term commitment to Somalia, we hope to open our new Embassy in Mogadishu in the spring, should security conditions permit.

Maintaining and increasing security and establishing clear Government structures will be vital to creating the stability to allow increased delivery of basic services and economic activity. I pay tribute to the continued bravery and commitment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces, which have made significant progress, including by liberating Kismayo only two weeks ago.

I urge Security Council partners to do all they can to support Somali and international efforts to increase security, including through AMISOM's upcoming mandate renewal, on which we will circulate a draft resolution to Council colleagues in the next few days. There is much to be done, expectations are high, and there are many challenges ahead, but Somalia has my Government's unwavering support. I urge Security Council partners to do all they can to ensure that Somalia consolidates recent progress and continues on its national path to peace and prosperity.

Mr. Menan (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like first of all to thank the Special Representative of the

Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, for the briefing he has just given on the situation in Somalia.

Somalia turned a new page in its history with the end of the transition, marked by the adoption of the provisional Constitution, the holding of elections and the establishment of new institutions. Indeed, the adoption on 1 August of the Somali provisional Constitution by the National Constituent Assembly moved the country further towards lasting stability. It served as the basis for elections of new Members of the Federal Parliament and its principal organs, as well as the election of the President of the Republic. The Constitution also calls for the creation of many other institutions in the post-transition period, and we hope that they will soon be established.

My country welcomes Somalia's emergence from institutional instability and the onset of the process of creating a viable federal State, with more representative institutions to guide it towards the change that will lead to stability.

The encouraging results that Somalia has been able to achieve in the political, security and other areas are the fruits of the common efforts of the Somalis themselves and other political actors, notably the signatories to the road map of 6 September 2011, regional and international partners, especially the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other United Nations organs active in Somalia.

The London and Istanbul conferences, the meetings of the International Contact Group on Somalia, visits by several high-level international delegations to Mogadishu, and the recent summit on Somalia in the margins of the General Assembly are all evidence of the international community's support for the political process in Somalia. That international support, together with the work and sacrifices of AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces, led to the liberation of a number of important areas in southern and central Somalia. Recently, the recapture of the strategic port of Kismayo, the principal income source and the centre of operations for Al-Shabaab, was a death blow to that insurgency. My country reiterates its gratitude to AMISOM for its remarkable work and the great sense of responsibility and selflessness of its personnel.

Still, while Al-Shabaab has been routed from strategic areas and towns and lost much territory, and while some of its numbers are signing on with

Government forces and AMISOM, it is to be feared that it will use its remaining destructive abilities to engage in terrorist acts, as we have seen recently in the murder of journalists and many human rights violations. My country believes it urgent to safeguard Somalia's new institutions so as to solidify the recent gains, given that the post-transition period in Somalia remains fragile and that the new institutions are vulnerable to threats and face many challenges. They must be staunchly supported in the push to stabilize the country, including through dialogue with insurgents, because, as the Secretary-General has noted, the peace process does not end with the end of the transition.

Togo also urges the new Government to work for transparency in the management of public funds and of the aid it receives for reconstruction and development. We hope that it will honour the need for women's representation; work for inclusiveness, openness and responsibility; and keep a broad view of the goals to achieve beyond the establishment of political institutions, such as social and economic reconstruction, and the development of the country after 21 years of civil war.

The political and security progress achieved must not overshadow the humanitarian situation in Somalia, which remains critical. Togo urges the various humanitarian agencies to continue with their assistance initiatives to help the thousands of displaced persons, refugees and other people in need, despite the difficulties of doing so, in order to reduce food insecurity and serious child malnutrition in particular.

The protection of civilians and the issue of human rights also remain serious concerns and must be included as priorities in their reconstruction and national reconciliation programme.

While it is clear that the number of acts of piracy along the Somali coast has dropped significantly, the increased criminal activity on the continent, in particular the kidnapping of humanitarian workers and civilians by pirate networks, remains a source of concern. The problem of piracy has not disappeared with the end of the transition, and the new Somali authorities must take a comprehensive national approach to maritime security in order to achieve the remaining objectives set out in the road map. The international community must also continue to support the Government of Somalia in its fight against maritime piracy.

To conclude, we commend the invaluable contribution of the European Union and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, which have consistently supported AMISOM and the Somali authorities throughout the process. Togo welcomes the very positive actions undertaken by other partners that have steadfastly remained at Somalia's side. My country also supports the extension of the mandate of AMISOM beyond 31 October 2012, as set out in resolution 2036 (2012).

Ms. Rice (United States of America): Somalia has made significant progress in recent months. Among Somalis and the international community alike, pervasive despair has turned to cautious optimism as Somalia enters a historic new phase of national development.

First and foremost, I congratulate the Somali people and applaud their hard work and profound sacrifice. Still, success has been born of partnership. The African Union, the United Nations and the international community have joined with the Somali people to achieve the significant gains we have seen of late, and we must renew our shared commitment to ensure that progress continues.

The end of Somalia's transitional period marks a new era in governance. We are encouraged by the results of the road map process, including a provisional Constitution, the election of a new President and the appointment of a Prime Minister-designate. Those promising developments have come through Somali-led efforts and are nothing short of remarkable.

Addressing the Secretary-General's mini-summit on Somalia last month, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud outlined his vision for inclusive, broad-based governing institutions in Somalia. We welcome that vision and the initial but important steps that President Hassan Sheikh has taken to bring it about, including the appointment of Prime Minister-designate Saaid. We hope that the Prime Minister-designate will work closely and collaboratively with President Hassan Sheikh and the Parliament to improve governance and security in Somalia through inclusive, transparent and representative processes and institutions. Somalia's long-term stability and development demand it.

As the United States and other international partners help build the capacity of Somali institutions, the new Somali leadership must take urgent steps to tackle corruption. The mini-summit laid a foundation

for coordinating the efforts of the international community, and I hope that both here in New York and in Mogadishu we will be able to continue that collaboration.

The security situation has improved dramatically in the last year, but Somalia would not be where it is today without the contributions of the Somali security forces, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and their strategic allies in the region. Their efforts have made Somalia's transition possible, and it has not been without cost. I would like to recognize the sacrifices made by the Somali National Security Forces and AMISOM forces, including those killed and wounded in the line of duty while protecting President Hassan Sheikh in the first days of his presidency.

The United States has been a leading donor for efforts to improve security in Somalia. We have contributed more than \$131 million to build the capacity of the Somali security sector. We have also provided more than \$429 million, in addition to our share of assessed expenses for the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia, which amount to \$225 million to date, towards training, equipment and logistics support to AMISOM troop-contributing countries. We welcome all new partners in this endeavour.

Despite the military successes and security improvements, Al-Shabaab remains a threat to Somali security, as demonstrated by the terrorist attacks in Mogadishu on 21 and 22 September. We need to maintain focus on improving the security situation in Somalia and continue to reinforce AMISOM and Somalia's capacity to root out Al-Shabaab.

We encourage all Member States to contribute to building the capacity of Somalia to provide for its own security. We especially urge new donors to assist the Somali National Security Forces with equipment, salaries, infrastructure, logistical support and support for regional training efforts.

The United States also welcomes the United Nations strategic review of its engagement in Somalia as well as the African Union strategic review of AMISOM operations. Now is the right time to take stock and consider how the United Nations and AMISOM can adapt to support Somalia in its post-transition phase. It is more important than ever that the Somalis themselves participate in this process, so that it supports their vision for the future Somalia.

While efforts by Somali forces and AMISOM to degrade Al-Shabaab remain essential, creating the conditions for effective and legitimate governance is the foundation of sustainable security for the Somali people. National and local Somali leaders must provide timely and visible benefits to Somalis in recently liberated areas. Establishing police forces and courts, increasing access to food and water, health care and education, and providing economic opportunity are what will earn the respect of the Somali people for their leaders and their Government. That is also what will lead to stability.

We recognize that former combatants defecting from Al-Shabaab will need to be reintegrated into local communities. We urge further progress under the national stabilization plan to cement military gains and to lay a foundation for long-term reconstruction and economic development.

Meanwhile, we cannot forget the humanitarian crisis that continues to afflict Somalia and neighbouring countries. Inside Somalia, more than 2 million Somalis are facing an acute food security crisis, and 1.3 million remain internally displaced. In 2012 alone, there have been more than 60,000 new refugee arrivals, bringing the total number of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa to more than 1 million.

The United States has contributed more than \$1.2 billion in humanitarian assistance to the region since 2011. We must sustain our humanitarian response, and we urge all Member States to strongly support the \$1.16 billion United Nations consolidated appeal for Somalia and to coordinate closely with the United Nations to ensure a coherent, effective and efficient response.

While Somalia's journey has been difficult, and there were many disappointments along the way, the completion of the transition was a real success, inspiring hope among Somalis for the first time in many years. We encourage the Somali people and leaders, with the support of the international community, to build on this momentum, as there is much more to do. Many challenges lie on the road ahead.

Let me reiterate our strong support for AMISOM and the United Nations efforts in Somalia, and express our continuing commitment to supporting the people of Somalia, so as to ensure that the next phase of their national development is indeed a success.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I would first of all like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on convening this debate at a time when Somalia is ushering in a decisive and promising phase on the path towards stability and national reconciliation. I would also like to commend the eloquent briefing of Special Representative Augustine Mahiga on recent developments and future prospects. Lastly, I welcome the presence among us and the participation of Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs of India.

Morocco welcomes the fact that, following the instability in Somalia for more than two decades, the country now has political institutions established on the basis of an inclusive and transparent process, with the participation of all elements of Somali society that support peace. Those significant gains towards stability and reconciliation would not have been possible without the resolve of the Somali people, who undertook to close the painful chapter of the past and to enter into a stabilization phase on the basis of the Djibouti and Kampala agreements and the road map.

The adoption of the Constitution, the establishment of Parliament and the election of the country's President and Prime Minister are already crucial elements in laying the foundations for stable political governance in Somalia. The formation of the first post-transition Government, which we hope to see as soon as possible, will mark the completion of the key political institutions of the new Somali State.

The achievements to date should be consolidated in order to build and strengthen the position of the institutions and the rule of law in Somalia. We would also like to commend and fully support the six priorities set out by the new President of the country, Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, on strengthening stability and peacebuilding, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance, economic recovery, the provision of basic services to the population and, of course, preserving the unity and integrity of the country.

Achieving all those goals will require the patience, perseverance and unwavering political commitment of the Somali authorities in order to establish peace and lasting stability. Above all, that requires security, defeating terrorism and extending the authority of the Somali State throughout the national territory, not to mention an appropriate response to the humanitarian situation, the refugees and the internally displaced persons, who are only now returning.

In that context, the liberation of the port of Kismayo, a stronghold of Al-Shabaab, which is inhibiting that group's main source of financing and, at the same time, giving the Somali State better control over the country's commercial activities, is a significant turning point in the fight against terrorism in Somalia. Those developments and the improvement in the security situation are in large part due to the African Union Mission in Somalia and to the troop-contributing countries and the important role that they continue to play in improving the country's security situation.

It goes without saying that extending the gains in terms of the country's security and stability to all Somalis necessarily means strengthening the Somali armed forces and police. In that regard, we welcome the signing in August of the national security and stabilization plan, which seeks to guide and plan security sector development in Somalia.

The fight against piracy is also an important aspect in strengthening the stability gains. Securing the Somali coast will make it possible to ensure normal economic and trade flows between Somalia and other countries and the establishment of economic activity and jobs, in particular for young people.

Somalia, which has emerged from two decades of war, is recovering. It requires assistance. It needs aid and the solidarity of the entire international community and the United Nations, which represents that community, in order to overcome the many reconstruction and development challenges facing its authorities. The Somali people aspire to calm, harmony and a decent life, free from insecurity, need and uncertainty. Let us give them the means to achieve their basic and legitimate aspirations.

Mr. Mashabane (South Africa): We wish to thank Mr. Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing to the Council.

Following two decades of prolonged conflict, Somalia is making remarkable progress in consolidating peace in the country. South Africa commends the leadership and the people of Somalia on ending the transition and on ushering in the post-transition phase. We are convinced that a peaceful and stable Somalia will have a positive impact not only on the country, but on the entire region and continent. The achievements in Somalia are indicative of the success that can be derived from strategic collaboration among the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations in

addressing the peace and security challenges on the continent.

In celebrating Somalia's achievements, we cannot afford to become complacent. As the Secretary-General stated in his recent report to the Council (S/2012/764), the end of the transition does not mean the end of the peace process. Somalia will continue to rely on the international community for support in addressing the many challenges that the new Government of President Hassan Mohamud continues to face.

One important lesson that we have learned from countries emerging from conflict is the need for the early realization of peace dividends in order to sustain peace and security. South Africa therefore welcomes the convening of the mini-summit on Somalia and the pledge of the international community to continue its sustained and coordinated support in the peacebuilding and stabilization phase in the country. That support will be crucial in assisting the new Government as it seeks to address the myriad challenges, including the security, development and dire humanitarian challenges still confronting the country.

As we provide that backing, we wish to underline that no amount of support can replace the important role of the Somali leadership and ownership in building their country. We therefore welcome the foundations of a new beginning, outlined in the six-pillar policy of the new Government. In that regard, we would like to highlight the need to strengthen and to support Somali institutions and leadership to allow the Somali Government to enhance its capacity in order for it to function independently in the future.

It must be acknowledged that progress at the political and peacebuilding levels would not have been achieved without the conducive environment provided by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the countries in the region. However, the success of the Somali National Security Forces, supported by AMISOM, in liberating areas that were previously controlled by Al-Shabaab will require the creation of local Government structures and the provision of security and social services to those areas.

It is therefore imperative for Somalia to begin developing adequate governance institutions that are equipped to focus on the implementation of the new Government's immediate and long-term priorities. In addition, the capability and capacity of the Somali National Security Forces must be developed to ensure

that security vacuums do not lead to the creation of militias. It is equally imperative to encourage the new Somali Government to prepare a strategy of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aimed at dismantling, where necessary, and integrating militias into the Somali National Security Forces. Strong and loyal National Security Forces will ultimately ensure that stability and security are preserved in the long term.

As we celebrate the dawn of this new beginning for Somalia, we are conscious that there are those in Somalia who remain violently opposed to the new Government. Recent security incidents in Mogadishu, including the attempt on the President's life, demonstrate that the political and military gains in Somalia must be jealously guarded in order to avoid a reversal of the situation.

We are therefore encouraged by President Mohamud's statement that he will reach out to the armed groups in the quest for peace and reconciliation. We should assist that process and consider increasing efforts to provide incentives to those who remain outside the political process. If managed properly, this could facilitate reconciliation and advance the cause of peace in Somalia. South Africa stands ready to share its experience and expertise in the area of national reconciliation with the Government of Somalia. My delegation is encouraged by the defection of more than 3,000 former Al-Shabaab combatants. Sustaining such defections will require significant resources and funding for providing former combatants with alternative livelihoods and employment opportunities. In that regard, we encourage the international community to support the Somali Government as it seeks to implement its national security and stabilization plan.

We pay tribute to the immense sacrifices that have been made by AMISOM and the countries of the region, working with Somalia's National Security Forces, to create the security environment necessary for political and economic development to take place. In order to sustain those gains, it is vital that the international community continue its financial and logistical support to AMISOM. That support must be extended to the maritime component, for which adequate resources are particularly crucial in view of the recent gains made by AMISOM in capturing the strategic port cities of Kismayo and Merca, and in order to ensure that Al-Shabaab's supply line is completely disrupted. In that regard, my delegation strongly supports the request of the African Union's Peace and Security Council that

the United Nations support package for AMISOM be extended to include civilian and maritime components for the Mission.

South Africa has always viewed the phenomenon of piracy as a byproduct of instability on land. Increased stability within Somalia, as well as strengthened Somali national institutions, will result in greater success for the international community's efforts to address this scourge. In that context, South Africa is committed to working with the new federal Government in rendering assistance in capacity-building for Somalis to manage their piracy situation.

In conclusion, there can be no security without development and no development without security in Somalia. In that regard, we welcome the strategic review of AMISOM, designed to determine how the Mission can continue to contribute to Somalia's stabilization and to implementing the Somali Government's priorities. We also look forward to receiving the Secretary-General's recommendations on an integrated strategic approach to the United Nations system in Somalia. The results of those reviews will be crucial for developing coherent institutional responses in Somalia's peace consolidation phase. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his personal commitment, and to express our appreciation for the tireless efforts of Special Representative Augustine Mahiga in helping the people of Somalia to close the transition chapter in their country. Our gratitude and appreciation also go to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union for their selfless contributions and solidarity with the people of Somalia.

Mr. Cabral (Portugal): I thank you for organizing this debate, Mr. President. I would like to join others in thanking Special Representative Augustine Mahiga for the update and for his forward-looking observations today. I would also like to commend him and his team for their work and efforts, as well as the work of the African Union, and to acknowledge the role and contribution of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its leaders to the peace process in Somalia, particularly that of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia.

During the past year, Somalia has been a stage for major political and security developments. On the political front, August marked the completion of the transition period, which began eight years ago. After the adoption of a new Constitution, the Somali political leadership, traditional elders and other stakeholders

rose above their differences and acted in the best interests of the Somali people, in a process that led to the establishment of a new Parliament, the election of a new President and, subsequently, the nomination of a new Prime Minister. On the security front, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Somali national forces and regional partners continued to expand their areas of control, significantly weakening Al-Shabaab. Portugal commends the Somali stakeholders and the Somali people for their achievements and pays tribute to the sacrifices that have been made by the women and men serving in AMISOM.

The same degree of commitment, integrity and endurance we have witnessed during these months is now needed from the Somali authorities, to enable them to respond to the demanding challenges that this new chapter brings: creating a secure and stable country that will be ready for elections under universal suffrage in four years' time. We welcome the resolve and vision of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the priorities he has already outlined: national reconciliation, the delivery of social services, economic development, improved justice and security. Those should become part of the finalization of the pending elements of the provisional Constitution and of stabilization in general, that is, through reform of the security sector, establishing inclusive and representative administrations throughout the country, delivering basic services to the population, stimulating business and comprehensively addressing the threat of piracy. Beyond that, they should translate into improvements in good governance, the rule of law, transparency and accountability, as well as respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. At the same time, more attention should be given to the role, full participation and representation of women in the Somali peace process.

Because the tasks ahead are extremely complex and demanding, this is the moment for the international community to renew its commitment to the Somali people and, at the same time, to strengthen coordination among all actors in Somalia. In that regard, we look forward both to the results of the thorough joint African Union-United Nations assessment of AMISOM, which has thus far been instrumental in creating an environment capable of advancing the political process and efforts to achieve the country's economic revitalization, and to those of the current United Nations strategic review, aimed at considering the Organization's presence in Somalia for the next four years.

However, as the African Union recently pointed out, while we reflect on the future of AMISOM and the important contribution it is making towards the maintenance of peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia, it is important to take into account the issue of the Mission's funding. We therefore take this opportunity to urge all parties to give due consideration to the need to improve the predictability and sustainability of AMISOM's funding mechanisms.

On our part, Portugal will continue to play an active role, at different levels and in various forums, in contributing to improving the Somali people's daily life, in particular through the outstanding contribution of the European Union, which has been evident on multiple fronts: development assistance, support for AMISOM and common security and defence policy operations such as the European Union Training Mission, the European Union Naval Force Operation Atalanta and the new maritime capacity-building mission in the Horn of Africa. In that context, we naturally share the position of the European Union that will be expressed later on in this meeting by Ambassador Mayr-Harting.

I conclude by once again acknowledging and commending the decisive steps Somalis have taken so far towards achieving a more representative, democratic and peaceful Somalia and by reiterating our support for helping to make the long path of reconstruction ahead a successful one.

Mr. Alzate (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this debate on the situation in Somalia at this crucial moment in the efforts to make progress towards Somalia's political, economic and security normalization. I would also like to thank and pay tribute to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office in Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga.

Somalia has made significant strides towards achieving peace and stability. The last phase of the transition has been proof of the efforts of Somalia's stakeholders towards establishing a more legitimate and representative Government, with new leadership and new institutions, capable of guiding the future of the Somali people. While we look with optimism on the significant progress achieved in security matters, we are aware that that progress must be consolidated on various fronts. We must contribute to guiding the country towards sustainable economic and social development.

While the new Somali authorities have the primary responsibility for restoring security, political stability, the rule of law and economic development, it also is essential that the international community continue to provide support, albeit not unlimited, but recognizing the inherent challenges facing a country in the process of consolidation. In that context, we must adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at strengthening the institutions and national capacity-building of the new Somali State in step with the vision of the Somalis and the priorities established by the Somali authorities and in a manner that is also consistent with the future presence of the United Nations in Somalia. We must also ensure that there is clear consistency and coordination in the efforts undertaken by the different entities and agencies of the United Nations and other regional and international partners.

We must recognize the significant expansion of territorial control by the Somali National Security Forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Today that includes important and strategic cities such as Mogadishu, Afgoye, Baidoa, Marka and Kismayo. Despite that progress, Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks continue to represent a serious threat to Somali institutions and the political process itself. For that reason, the work and presence of AMISOM continues to be crucial for Somalia's stabilization.

We cannot fail to note that the expanded capacity of AMISOM hinges to a large degree on whether the Mission has the resources and equipment needed for meeting its mandate. Similarly, it is essential that the Mission have force enablers and multipliers in order to afford greater operational capacity and flexibility to the Mission. Along those lines, it is crucial that we renew the entirety of the logistical support measures granted under resolution 2036 (2012). We must also give due consideration to the request of the African Union for the inclusion of a maritime component and the strengthening of the civilian component within AMISOM. We must also provide greater technical and financial resources and resources for training of the Somali forces so that they can undertake a more significant role in the ongoing operations. Efforts to reform and restructure those forces must continue through a regularization process that allows for a clear command and control structure.

We must also harmonize and synchronize the various political and military efforts with an eye to achieving a true stabilization of the situation in

Somalia. For that reason, we believe it is important to support the efforts of the Somali authorities with regard to the consolidation of the recently recovered areas and, in particular, with the implementation and launching of the national policy for reconciliation and stabilization, as well as the national security and stabilization plan. We must also give due consideration to addressing the immediate needs of a growing number of combatants who have abandoned the ranks of Al-Shabaab, as a first step towards a far-reaching process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

The end of the transition does not mean the end of the peace process. On the contrary, it is the time to address the fundamental tasks that have remained pending in the Somalia end-of-transition road map on progress towards the training of local administrators and the development of functioning institutions capable of supporting the economic and social recovery of the country. We must also move forward in the creation of an inclusive Government Cabinet, the submission of the national Constitution to a referendum and the organization of local and national elections in order to definitively advance the peacebuilding process.

Piracy off the Somali coast is a problem that will not end with the transition. A stable and sustainable solution must be an integral part of the efforts undertaken to strengthen the rule of law in the country and the capacity-building of national institutions, areas in which factors relating to the economy, security, the judiciary and the correctional system can be simultaneously dealt with.

One of the areas in which the international community and, in particular, the United Nations are called upon to provide technical assistance to Somalia is that of the demarcation of its maritime spaces in accordance with international law. That will allow for a clear definition of its territorial waters, exclusive economic zone and maritime borders. That would enable Somalia to strengthen its ability to maintain sovereignty over its waters and maritime resources and further develop activities such as fishing and port activities as viable economic alternatives for the population, given the current dependency on activities linked to crime surrounding the piracy networks.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize again AMISOM's meaningful contribution to the search for peace in Somalia. I call upon the Somali authorities and other relevant stakeholders to maintain and broaden the unity of purpose seen throughout the transition and to

look upon the stabilization and strengthening of the Somali State as the principal objective in the long term.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, for his briefing on the situation in that country. We were pleased to see the completion of the transition period in Somalia and the implementation of a number of important political tasks, including the designation of a Prime Minister. All of that lays the foundation for strengthening stability and gives important impetus to the political, social and economic development of the country.

Progress on the implementation of the Somalia end-of-transition road map affords a certain optimism with respect to the prospects for further normalizing the situation in Somalia and reaffirms the aspirations of its people to put an end to years of internecine warfare and disintegration. To maintain the momentum of the peace process, the new authorities need to mobilize political will and domestic resources. They need to immediately complete the formation of the executive branch, determine priorities for the development of the country in the post-transition period, including the implementation of the outstanding tasks under the road map, and begin to implement them without delay. The close cooperation of the signatories of the road map and the strengthening of the engagement between the international community and the Somali authorities are critical conditions for achieving success.

There continues to be the daunting task of subduing Al-Shabaab, without which stabilization in Somalia will not be possible. In that regard, we welcome the military successes of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the National Security Forces, which could be seen specifically when they pushed the extremists out of Kismayo. However, opponents of the stabilization still maintain considerable firepower and, in seeking to retain their influence on the ground, are regrouping their forces and shifting to terrorist tactics and guerilla warfare. Considerable areas still need to be cleared of extremists, who have dug in, including to the north of Kismayo and south of Mogadishu. Even in Kismayo itself, restoring order will require considerable effort, above all from the Somalis themselves. There is a similar situation in other liberated areas, and stabilization in those areas must be one of the priorities of the country's leadership.

In that connection, it is also important to promptly disarm and reintegrate the Al-Shabaab members there. While the security situation continues to be far from calm in Somalia, the African Union's Mission in Somalia continues to be one of the key levers for normalizing the situation. The process of providing United Nations support for AMISOM must be sustained and must take into account the progress in stabilizing the country and gains in terms of quelling Al-Shabaab. At the same time, prospects for the peaceful development of the country also require further strengthening of the Somali Security Forces, who will ultimately have to assume full responsibility for internal security once AMISOM departs.

We are concerned about the persistent flow of illegal weapons into Somalia and financial support for Al-Shabaab. It is therefore necessary that Member States, especially those in the region, strictly comply with their obligations under the sanctions regime with respect to Somalia. In that light, it must be borne in mind that one of the channels of that activity is smuggling and the far-flung business activities of extremists in Somalia itself.

For the first time in recent years, there is evidence of a downturn in piracy activity along the country's coast. That is a result of the well-coordinated actions of the international community to put an end to the pirate threat. However, the problem remains acute. The pirates are shifting their focus to areas beyond the safe corridor and waiting out this period unfavourable to them.

Taking hostages for ransom has created a new source of criminal income, including for refinancing piracy operations. There have been increasing reports of contacts between the pirates and Al-Shabaab. Given that, the Somali authorities have increased responsibility to implement efforts to eradicate piracy within the framework of their road map obligations. Specifically, we anticipate immediate steps to adopt a range of anti-piracy laws and remove other obstacles to prosecuting pirates.

One of the key components of a comprehensive anti-piracy strategy remains the fight against impunity. That problem will only be resolved by establishing at the regional level an effective mechanism for the criminal prosecution of pirates, with international participation.

There is serious concern over the humanitarian situation in Somalia. The problems due to the many

years of civil war have been compounded by natural disasters, including recent flooding in the central part of the country. For our part, we intend to continue to actively participate in strengthened efforts by the international community to provide comprehensive assistance to Somalia, including humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): Thank you so much, Sir, for convening today's meeting. We also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Augustine Mahiga for his briefing.

Pakistan welcomes Somalia's progress over the past few critical months. Given the courage and resilience of the Somali people, such progress is no surprise to us. The people of Somalia have braved all difficulties to draw the transition to a close.

The presidential and parliamentary elections and the Prime Minister's nomination herald a new political dispensation, which reflects the aspirations of the Somali people. Somalia is on the cusp of a new chapter in its history. We congratulate President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on his election and wish him and his Government success.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has helped create a stable and secure environment for meaningful political progress. Recent successes by AMISOM and the Somali Security Forces have enabled pro-Government forces to gain control over all major Somali cities. Peace and security in Somali urban centres will create salutary conditions for economic and political progress.

The capture of the strategic port of Kismayo last month is a major step towards eliminating piracy off the coast of Somalia. Pakistan has been a victim of piracy. We support adding the maritime component to AMISOM for preventing piracy. The component will reinforce the efforts of the international naval forces in the Gulf of Aden and adjacent waters. We must not forget the plight of hostages held by pirates. A comprehensive approach to ending piracy entails addressing its root causes, particularly illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste in Somali waters.

AMISOM still faces asymmetric conflict with terrorists and extremists. The ongoing assessment of AMISOM must therefore take into account the different challenges the Mission faces. Its role will obviously be determined by the situation on the ground. In the

meantime, we urge the international community to ensure political and financial support for the Mission. That is necessary to secure the gains made so far and to prevent a possible relapse of the conflict. We must not be complacent.

In many ways, AMISOM operations are a good example of successful cooperation between a regional organization and the United Nations. Africa's collective and consensual response to its security challenges is very impressive. We commend the AMISOM troop-contributing countries for their resilience and valour, and the African Union Peace and Security Council for its sagacity and resolve. We endorse the African Union request to extend the AMISOM support package.

Special Representative Mahiga and Commissioner Lamamra have cautioned that daunting challenges lie ahead in Somalia. A clear demarcation of goals and objectives is necessary to sustain the current momentum of progress. Last month, the Security Council commissioned the Secretary-General to review the future of the United Nations presence and underlined the need for an integrated strategic approach.

We believe that three considerations should guide us on the subject. First, the review must take into account the need for national ownership and must accommodate evolving national priorities. The Somali Government is now in a position to articulate those priorities and lead the discourse. Secondly, it is important to develop an interface between the Secretary-General's review process and the initiatives of the African Union. Thirdly, the United Nations presence should be geared towards safeguarding territorial integrity and federalism in Somalia. Different interpretations of border demarcation and revenue-sharing among the federating units should not alter the shared commitment for a strong and united Somalia.

Pakistan and Somalia have strong links going back in history. We have contributed to the peacekeeping efforts in Somalia. Now is the time for peacebuilding. We will do whatever we can to help the Somali Government accomplish that task. Our bonds with Somalia will grow even stronger in the years to come. We will continue to support Somalia bilaterally, as well as in our capacity as a member of the Security Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation contact group on Somalia and the United Nations Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. We assure the new Government of Somalia of our fullest support.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): Naturally, I too thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Augustine Mahiga.

In recent months, Somalia has been able to achieve historic milestones that would have seemed impossible a year ago. They have adopted a provisional Constitution, designated a Parliament and its President, elected a new President of the Republic, and, lastly, designated a new Prime Minister. We now look forward to the upcoming appointment of a Government. In Somalia, therefore, there is new hope. The international community must stand with the Somalis and support them as they build a new State, all the while respecting Somalia's sovereignty.

With the completion of the transition, consolidating gains is now a top priority, so as to ensure that the progress of recent months will not be undone. To that end, as the President of Somalia underscored in his statement at the mini-summit on Somalia held on the sidelines of the General Assembly, making the country secure and stabilizing its territory are the immediate goals.

Making the country secure requires ongoing military effort. I will return to that later. But it also calls for a political strategy. Throughout Somalia's territory, particularly in the areas liberated from Al-Shabaab, establishing inclusive federal and civil administrative institutions is of priority. But after 20 years of the absence of federal power in a country where clan allegiances have been key, those institutions will need to be accepted by the population and thereby gain their legitimacy. To that end, we encourage Somali authorities in their desire to open a dialogue with all Somalis by undertaking a process of national reconciliation. All of the components of Somalia should be represented in the institutions that will be put in place at the federal and local levels.

In that context, a civil political presence in support of Somali authorities is vital. The United Nations has the necessary experience and expertise in that regard. We therefore hope that it will speed up its deployment in Mogadishu and swiftly plan the modalities for its new presence in the liberated territories, in concert with the African Union and Somali authorities. We look forward to the results of the review in terms of strengthening the United Nations political presence, but we do not want to lose precious time.

On the security front, the successes of AMISOM and the Somali security forces in recent months have made it possible to regain territory throughout the central and southern parts of Somalia, and thereby weaken Al-Shabaab. The reconquest of the south has been stepped up with the taking of the ports of Marka and Kismayo, which has denied Al-Shabaab its major strategic bastion and a considerable part of its resources. Those results need to be commended, even as the Ugandan, Burundian, Kenyan, Djiboutian and Ethiopian troops continue to pay a heavy price to liberate Somalia from Al-Shabaab.

Despite the recent gains, the presence of AMISOM is still necessary in order to assist the Somali National Security Forces in ensuring lasting security in the country.

In that context, France supports the renewal of AMISOM's mandate for one year at the current ceiling on troop strength. A midterm assessment of the nature of its presence is to be undertaken based on the reviews to be carried out in close cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union prior to the end of the year.

We therefore share the analysis of the African Union, which, in its last progress report (S/2012/764, annex), underscored the necessity of finding lasting financing for AMISOM. I would like to recall that, since 2007, the European Union has provided ongoing support to the Mission in the amount of €442 million. We will renew our financing to pay salaries for AMISOM soldiers in 2013. However, those resources are limited, given the current AMISOM troop strength and the needs that have been expressed with respect to other parts of the African continent. Other donors will have to complement the contributions of the European Union so that the soldiers of AMISOM will be fully underwritten in 2013.

In the medium term, the setting up of a credible Somali security force should be our priority so that it can take over from AMISOM at any early date. That is needed in order to establish the political credibility of the new Government and is the only way to guarantee lasting control of the territory of the country. That effort needs to be the strategic priority for the international community in Somalia in the medium term.

France and the European Union are fully committed to the process, together with the European Union training mission, which is training Somali soldiers,

strengthening the establishment of a command structure and consolidating the chain of command. The strategic review that is beginning in Brussels will decide how that mission will continue — we hope that it will cover two years — and will determine how to develop it to meet the needs of Somalia. The efforts of that mission to strengthen security on land will be complemented by another mission to develop the coast guard in Somalia.

Let me conclude by addressing the human rights situation and the humanitarian situation in the country. The recruitment of child soldiers, the killing of reporters and extrajudicial executions continue to be a source of concern. In addition, 4 million people still need food assistance. The United Nations, like the non-governmental humanitarian organizations, is providing vital support to people affected by famine in the region. Unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance must be guaranteed.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Augustine Mahiga for his briefing. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for convening a successful mini-summit on Somalia in New York on 26 September. Azerbaijan joins the participants of the summit in congratulating the Government and the people of Somalia on the peaceful end of the transition. That significant achievement represents a historic moment for the country and an important step towards a peaceful, democratic, stable and prosperous Somalia.

We commend President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia for his intention to ensure the formation of inclusive, broad-based governing institutions, and we welcome his early priorities. It is important to ensure that international support is aligned with those priorities and that the spirit of unity is preserved as an essential guiding principle for all Somali and international actors working towards peace and development in Somalia.

The United Nations plays a critical role, and we commend the efforts of Special Representative Mahiga. We are encouraged by the further consolidation of the partnership between the United Nations and its partners.

We note the role of regional bodies, in particular the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in contributing to peace in Somalia and to bringing an end to the transition. It is obvious that progress has become possible mostly because of significant improvements in the security situation. We

pay tribute to the great sacrifices made by the troop-contributing countries of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces.

I would also like to commend the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the European Union and individual Member States for their contributions to achieving peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and for providing significant support so that the urgent needs of the peoples affected by the humanitarian crisis can be addressed.

The international community must remain strongly committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia. It is crucial that all necessary efforts continue to be undertaken to effectively address the threats and challenges posed by terrorists and armed opposition groups in Somalia, in particular Al-Shabaab, including through supporting and implementing measures against the internal and external actors who are attempting to undermine the peace process in the country.

As the Secretary-General noted in his recent report, it is important that the people in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab quickly see the difference between life under the insurgents and under the new Government. That can obviously be achieved through committed efforts on the part of the national authorities in favour of strengthened security in liberated areas, the establishment of good governance and the rule of law, the development of security sector capacities, the rapid delivery of services and the continued support of the international community.

Additional efforts are needed aimed at combating piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking off the coast of Somalia. It is important to ensure that national commitments are matched by strong support and assistance from the international community. The full respect of the relevant international law is a necessary precondition for the effectiveness of the anti-piracy response and international cooperation.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia requires constant attention. Safe, full and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need must be ensured by the parties involved. We stress the importance of sustainable assistance to Somalia in that regard, as well as a need to redouble efforts to find long-term solutions to challenges still being faced by the country and its people.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Let me start by joining other speakers in thanking Special Representative of the Secretary-General Augustine Mahiga for his briefing. Let me also thank him for his efforts in the past years in support of Somalia. We commend him and his team for the part they have played in moving the political process in the country forward and helping it to cross the critical threshold that paved the way for a brighter future for Somalia.

I would like to focus briefly on three points today — the political situation in Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the upcoming strategic review.

Germany strongly welcomes the completion of the transition. We congratulate the authorities and the people of Somalia on the peaceful conduct of the process, and I pay tribute to all the signatories of the road map for their contribution to the successful conclusion of the transition.

The creation of a new Parliament, the election of a new Speaker and the election of a new President are landmarks in Somali history. Now Somalia must focus on stabilization, reconciliation and building sustainable and accountable institutions, based on respect for human rights. The Somali people need to see a peace dividend after decades of civil war and massive destruction.

During the mini-summit on Somalia that took place on the margins of the General Assembly three weeks ago, we listened carefully to the priorities of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. We think those priorities — security and peacebuilding to begin with — are rightly chosen. President Mohamud can be sure of the continued support of the international community. My country will carry on playing its part in the efforts, particularly within the European Union and through the United Nations.

The success we are celebrating would not have been possible without the critical contribution of the African Union Mission in Somalia, which provided for the security environment for the political process to make headway. Let me reiterate our appreciation for AMISOM and what it has achieved under very difficult circumstances. It deserves our full political support. But also, among other things, sustainable and predictable financing should also be supported by initiatives with regard to the building the capacity of the Somali security forces. Eventually, the Somalis

should be in a position to provide peace and security in their country on their own.

In that context, let me reiterate that the European Union (EU) supports the Somali security sector through the European Union training mission Somalia. Since the beginning of 2009, my country has actively participated in that mission. Several thousand Somali soldiers trained by the EU's mission continue to play a crucial role in improving security jointly with AMISOM. Security remains key for any progress, and all efforts by partners in the security sector should be coordinated and should take into account the lessons learned.

The achievements of AMISOM and its partners in the field of security must also translate into political progress and improvements in the economic and social situation of the Somali people. That is foremost a task for the Somalis themselves, but the international community stands ready to support them.

Finally, the ongoing assessment and the strategic review of the United Nations presence in Somalia are welcome in order to further stabilize and consolidate the peace in Somalia. We believe that the challenges Somalia is facing require a joint approach, a sound and coherent strategy, and a clear division of labour. Let me offer assurances that Germany continues to stand by Somalia and its people.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, for his briefing.

The peace process has achieved historic progress in Somalia. The tasks specified by the road map have been basically accomplished. A new President has been elected, a new Prime Minister has been appointed, and there have been military gains in combating Al-Shabaab. We welcome and offer congratulations on the success and thank the Special Representative, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other regional organizations for their efforts. We highly appreciate the important contributions by the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Meles Zenawi.

China has noted that there is still a long way to go to reach lasting peace, and challenges remain. The capabilities of the Somali Government still need to be strengthened. Terrorism and extremist forces still exist.

The terrorist situation remains precarious. We hope that Somalia's different parties will make efforts in the following four aspects.

First, they should continue to advance the political process and national reconciliation. We hope the Somali parties will seize this historic opportunity for the greater good of national stability and development, strengthen unity and cooperation, and bridge their differences through dialogue and consultations. We support the new Government of Somalia in implementing an interim Constitution, exercising Government functions and extending effective authority over all its national territory. We urge different factions in Somalia to renounce violence and to join the peace process as soon as possible.

Secondly, the security situation must be further consolidated. We support Somalia's efforts to expedite the building of the security sector and to assume full responsibility for protecting sovereignty and national civility. We appreciate AMISOM's effective work, and we support its continuing to play an important role in stability in Somalia. In the light of the real need, the international community, especially the United Nations, should strengthen logistical support for AMISOM and the Somalia security forces.

Thirdly, they must start economic and social reconstruction. Poverty and underdevelopment are the root causes of the 20 years of turbulence in Somalia. We hope that Somali parties will soon prepare economic and social reconstruction plans so as to let the Somali people see the prospect of national peace and development. We call on the United Nations and the entire donor community to deliver what has been committed and to raise more funds, in cash or in kind, to help Somalia achieve economic and social development.

Fourthly, a new strategy in which the international community can help Somalia must be prepared. We support the Secretary-General's strategic review of the continued United Nations presence in Somalia beyond 2012 to 2016. We hope the United Nations will play an active coordinating role and take fully into account the views of the African Union and IGAD, on the basis of respecting Somalia's sovereignty. We hope that it will prepare a comprehensive and viable strategic plan to help Somalia achieve stability and development and put that plan into effect as soon as possible.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

Guatemala would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, for his statement. We regret that we Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, was not able to participate to present his report.

Like the rest of the Council members who have spoken today, Guatemala celebrates the recent achievements in Somalia, which draw the country ever closer to the longed-for peace and stability. I am pleased to say that in both the political process and in the security strategy, Somalia has surpassed all expectations.

With regard to the political process, Guatemala welcomes the new President of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. We recognize the timely nomination of Mr. Abdi Farah Shirdon as Prime Minister. Both individuals represent the new era in Somalia. We expect the new authorities to establish as soon as possible a Government that is inclusive, transparent and responsible in financial management. We also expect the timely composition of the Cabinet, with equitable gender representation in its core. In turn, the Security Council and the international community should maintain their strong support for Somalia, and we reiterate that the end of the transition is not the end of the peace process. Likewise, we recognize that the Government of Somalia needs to take ownership of the national agenda, and that we need to listen to and assimilate its new priorities.

We look forward to receiving shortly the strategic review of United Nations efforts in Somalia, which we trust will take into account the new circumstances emerging in Somalia and present options for enhancing United Nations system coordination on the ground. It is essential that the United Nations work in a spirit of cooperation and synergy.

Regarding the security strategy, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has implemented its mandate in an exemplary manner. Together with the Somali National Security Forces, it has achieved what few predicted possible in the short-term — the recovery of the port of Kismayo. We recognize the extraordinary efforts of AMISOM, and we pay tribute to the troops that have made the ultimate sacrifice for peace in Somalia.

We appreciate the information contained in the fourth progress report of the Chairman of the African

Union Commission (S/2012/764, enclosure), which, among other things, requests the technical renewal of AMISOM's mandate, with a few adjustments for its effective implementation, until 22 February 2013. We believe that these additional components will strengthen the logistical package approved in resolution 2036 (2012). Our delegation supports the renewal of the mandate and will participate constructively in the negotiations of a draft resolution in the coming days.

We also look forward to the strategic review of AMISOM in January 2013. In our judgment, the assessment must take into account the recent movement of Al-Shabaab to the north of the country. It needs to ensure security in the areas liberated from Al-Shabaab and should be accompanied by the strengthening of the Somali National Security Forces.

Like the African Union in its report, we are concerned over the financial situation of AMISOM, in particular for the second half of 2013. It is essential that the Mission have the resources necessary to carry out its mandate. We call on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to this objective and to improve the predictability and sustainability of AMISOM funding.

We recognize the adoption of the national security and stabilization plan. We believe it of great importance that the people of Somalia, in particular outside of Mogadishu, feel the change in their daily lives and that local administrations be established and successfully deliver basic services.

The restructuring and reform of the Somali National Security Forces is of the utmost importance. Likewise, the increased number of defections of combatants affiliated with Al-Shabaab represents a positive step and a glimmer of hope for the youth of Somalia. Moreover, the protection of civilians and the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance must continue to be top priorities.

The reconstruction of Somalia, in terms of both its infrastructure and its social fabric, as well as the protection of its natural resources, represent critical challenges. The fight against piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia continue to pose a threat. In the past year, we have seen the transformation of that country, and Guatemala will continue to support all its efforts.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Duale (Somalia): I am honoured to be in the Council Chamber and to see such enthusiasm — much more today than in the past. As mentioned by all speakers and duly noted, we are moving away from a bleak forecast and starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate on Somalia and to address the members of the Council. First and foremost, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October, and also to congratulate your predecessor.

My job has been made much easier today by the briefing given by Mr. Augustine Mahgja, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia. We thank him very much for his untiring support to successive Somali transitional Governments, and we hope that he will also continue to support the new Federal Government.

I regret that we could not hear a briefing from Mr. Ramtane Lamamra. I nonetheless thank him, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for their continued support.

As the Council has heard, the road map has been completed. A new Parliament has been elected, as have a new Speaker and Deputy Speakers. On 10 September, Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud won the presidential election, and he was inaugurated on 16 September. On 6 October, Mr. Abdi Farah Shirdon was appointed Prime Minister, and he is now in the process of forming a new Cabinet, which he said will be small but competent, and will not tolerate corruption or mismanagement. Furthermore, he stated that, as far as possible, he and his Cabinet will follow the President's six-pillar policy, which is the foundation of a new beginning.

The six-pillar policy has already been referred to, but I wish to give a little summary. Pillar 1 is full stability, the supremacy of the law and good governance and the rule of law, covering security, the judiciary and good governance. Pillar 2 is economic recovery, focusing on livelihoods and economic infrastructure. Pillar 3 is peacebuilding, stressing social reconciliation through building bridges of trust. Pillar 4 is service delivery in the areas of health, education and the environment. Pillar 5 is international relations, emphasizing building collaborative relations and polishing the national image. Pillar 6 is about the unity and integrity of the country,

and collective striving for a better future. That is a very brief summary. I also took the liberty to attach more on the six pillars to the documents I have distributed.

I am also pleased to state that significant progress has been made in the security sector. The National Security Forces, valiantly supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Ethiopian National Defence Forces, have succeeded in liberating significant territory from Al-Shabaab in all four sectors. While Al-Shabaab has been significantly weakened, it still retains the ability to strike. Therefore, it is now all the more necessary to pursue and completely flush them out from all sectors and all corners of Somalia.

It is now very clear that the new Federal Government urgently needs tangible, concerted and well-coordinated support from the Security Council, all United Nations bodies and the international community, to enable and empower the new Government in implementing and achieving the end goals of the six-pillar policy. Furthermore, AMISOM also urgently requires the additional support they have been requesting for a long time now, as mentioned in the fourth progress report of the Chairman of the African Union Commission (S/2012/764, enclosure). We concur with and endorse that report.

We also wish — as has been mentioned by nearly all members of the Council — that the Somali Security Forces should be reinforced, trained and well equipped as a matter of urgent priority. I also wish, on behalf of the Government and people of Somalia, to express our sincere appreciation for the continued and unwavering support of AMISOM, the troop-contributing countries, including police components, and the Ethiopian forces. We are also grateful for all the support given by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Mahiga, and the United Nations country team. We are very thankful for the support given by the international community and we trust that, with the assistance of all of our partners, Somalia will entirely overcome the predicament it has been in for the past 21 years.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): At the outset, Mr. President, I would like to express appreciation to you for your leadership in convening this debate on Somalia and for giving me the opportunity to address the Security Council. I also would like to express appreciation to

Mr. Elmi Ahmed Duale, Permanent Representative of Somalia, for his statement and to Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, for his briefing.

After more than 20 years of devastation and 8 years of a transitional period, the concerted efforts of the Somali Transitional Federal Government, the African Union (AU), the United Nations, the Security Council and other partners have contributed to the advancement of peace and stability in Somalia. Those efforts include the Djibouti Agreement and the Kampala Accord, as well as the road map, which together have set up a timeline for the political process leading to the end of the transitional period. Japan strived to play a substantial role in those efforts.

The political tasks have been achieved, despite some delays. Japan commends the ownership demonstrated by the Somali people in a democratic and transparent manner, with the adoption of the new provisional Federal Constitution of Somalia and the election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The progress that has finally put an end to the transitional period has been remarkable. We cannot forget to applaud the dedication of Special Representative Mahiga to that process. Sincere tribute should also be paid to the Somali Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), whose sacrifices made possible the liberation of a large majority of the territory of Somalia. Japan extends its appreciation to AMISOM troop-contributing countries and Ethiopian troops in that regard.

The Somali people have overcome major challenges. Now is the time for the people of Somalia to enter the next phase of new political dispensation, stabilization and peacebuilding. Japan welcomes the six-pillar policy introduced by President Mohamud at his inaugural speech, and his appointment of Mr. Abdi Farah Shirdon as his Prime Minister. Japan is ready to support the new Somali Government in its new endeavour towards the reconstruction and development of the country.

While acknowledging the progress made so far, we need to consolidate that progress. In this regard, security still remains key, and it is indispensable to reinforce the Somali National Security Forces. Japan has been one of the leading actors in security sector development in Somalia, and remains committed to working with the United Nations and other donor countries towards peace and security in Somalia.

Piracy also remains an important item on the agenda in terms of stability in Somalia. The number of attacks by pirates is decreasing, thanks to the joint efforts of Somalia and the international community. Japan is proud to have taken part in those efforts, and continues to ensure maritime security of the region by various measures, including the deployment of two destroyers and two patrol aircraft in the Gulf of Aden, working in close cooperation with other partners.

Last but not least, as Somalia enters a new phase of peacebuilding, it is necessary for the Somali people — who have suffered and therefore deserve to receive the dividends of peace — to become the front-runners in the development of the country. For that purpose, a new road map should be made for the reconstruction and peacebuilding of the country. Japan appreciates the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold a mini-summit on Somalia last month, where participants discussed the future dispensation of Somalia, as well as the modalities of peacebuilding in the country. We also appreciate the United Nations ongoing efforts to conduct a strategic review on the future presence of the United Nations in Somalia.

Those peace, security and development initiatives in Africa will be the top priority on our agenda under our initiative, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). The TICAD process is the platform whereby Japan has explored and promoted the development of the African continent, together with its African countries and friends, since 1993. Next June, Japan, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, and, for the first time, the AU will co-organize the fifth TICAD meeting, and discuss current and future challenges that Africa is now facing, including peacebuilding in Somalia.

Japan would like to invite a high level of participation by African countries and partners.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I would like to begin by thanking Special Representative Mahiga for his briefing and the Permanent Representative of Somalia for his statement. I would also like to thank and congratulate the Secretary-General and his staff for having organized the timely and successful Somalia mini-summit in the margins of the General Assembly. It provided an excellent opportunity for participants, including the European Union, to hear from Somalia's newly elected President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, with which priorities his Government aims to set the foundations for a new beginning.

Like others, we welcome the prospects that the end of the transition has brought to Somalia for lasting peace, prosperity and stability. It is clear, however, that much work remains to be done. The new federal institutions should embark on stabilization and reconciliation efforts throughout the country, including in those areas recovered from Al-Shabaab, where they will need to establish inclusive, representative administrations. Both are crucial for the future of a viable federal Somalia. The people of Somalia should also be assured of good governance, transparency and accountability, justice, respect for their rights and fundamental freedoms, and economic development. The new federal institutions should reach out to Somalis of all walks of life and act in their interests, and they should finalize key pending elements of the provisional Constitution.

The humanitarian situation remains dire. All parties to the conflict have an obligation to comply with international humanitarian law and to protect civilians. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need must be ensured by all parties involved.

Against the background of those significant challenges, the international community should remain strongly committed to the provision of support to the Somali people. But in doing so we must respect Somali ownership, carefully structuring and aligning our collective actions into a truly comprehensive approach, in partnership with Somalia. That requires increased coordination, both among donor countries and among other international actors. We must avoid duplication and fragmentation of our support. We are ready to play an active role and look forward to the results of the United Nations strategic review of its presence in Somalia. We believe that such a review must also include a renewed commitment to help the Somali Government improve the human rights situation and strengthen monitoring mechanisms to that end. The European Union supports

the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the implementation, with the Somali authorities, of the human rights road map.

Such a comprehensive approach would have to deliver support at the right place and at the right time. In line with the President of Somalia's initial vision, that means in practice focusing on, first, an accelerated and intensified approach to security-sector reform; secondly, a comprehensive approach to the elimination of piracy; thirdly, immediate support to build the capacities of the institutions and improve their transparency and accountability through appropriate mechanisms; and, fourthly, the rapid delivery of services to regions no longer under Al-Shabaab control.

The new Somali Parliament was able to vote for a change because of the new sense of security made possible by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). I therefore want to use this opportunity to once again acknowledge the great sacrifices made by AMISOM troops for the benefit of the Somali people and the role that the mission played in finalizing the transition.

Since the deployment of AMISOM, the European Union has been one of the main funders of the operation. The total support to AMISOM provided by the European Union since 2007 amounts to €412 million. We join the African Union in its call for more predictable and sustainable AMISOM funding, as repeated in its latest report on the mission, and we call on others to contribute to the AMISOM Trust Fund, in line with the demands contained in successive Security Council resolutions. The planned assessment of the African Union and the United Nations on the future of international support to Somalia should take this issue into account.

I can assure the Council that, in addition to its support for AMISOM, the European Union will continue to contribute to Somalia's efforts in addressing the remaining challenges, including through its large amount of development assistance and its Common Security and Defence Policy operations. Those operations include the European Union Training Mission, the Atalanta Naval Force and the new regional maritime capacity-building mission for the Horn of Africa.

In conclusion, the transition may be over, but it is clear that the work of transformation is just beginning. In four years' time, Somali institutions need to create the conditions for holding a referendum on the

provisional Constitution and elections under universal suffrage. The United Nations and its Members will have to stay committed in their support and, in close cooperation with our Somali counterparts, achieve a united, efficient and transparent organization of our international assistance. The Somali people deserve no less.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this debate on Somalia, which comes at the very start of the new era in Somalia. I would also like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary-General for having convened a mini-summit on 26 September. That timely summit once again demonstrated the unified support and commitment of the international community to assisting Somalia in its peacebuilding efforts.

On this occasion, let me congratulate His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on his election to the presidency and His Excellency Abdi Farah Shirdon for his designation as Prime Minister. I also would like to thank the former President, Sheikh Sharif Ahmed; Speaker Sharif Hassan; and Prime Minister Mohamed Ali for the strong statesmanship that they displayed throughout the most difficult times in Somalia.

Somalia has entered a completely new era — an era of peacebuilding, institution-building, national reconciliation and economic recovery. This era is going to be an era of normalization.

The new, more legitimate and representative Somali Government now has many tasks that need to be completed in order to ensure that the normalization process progresses successfully. We believe that all of those tasks should be well systematized in a new programme. Such a new programme and the new era must be Somali-led and must also address the unfinished tasks of the former road map. In that sense, the six-pillar plan outlined by President Mohamud is a positive first step and sound evidence of Somali leadership.

We commend the efforts of the African Union through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and acknowledge the remarkable sacrifices made by the troop-contributing countries. Without AMISOM's efforts and sacrifice, we would not have been as optimistic about the future of Somalia.

The international community has developed a common understanding on the need to support professional and capable Somali National Security Forces. They will eventually replace AMISOM and assume full responsibility for securing and stabilizing the whole country. The rebuilding and restructuring of the Somali security sector is an indispensable precondition for State-building. An efficient and robust Somali security sector that represents Somalia's diversity is also essential to realizing the goal of a united, secure and prosperous Somalia. There will be no sustainable peace and prosperity without security.

At this point, I would like to draw attention to the fact that Turkey's efforts to establish a fund for the restructuring and rebuilding of the Somali National Security Forces is well under way. The political support of the Somali authorities, neighbouring countries and some international partners has been obtained. We will soon start restructuring and training the Somali National Security Forces. I would like to underscore that all our efforts in that area will be coordinated with the international community.

Turkey believes that at this critical period in Somalia, the United Nations is the most important actor in coordinating all international assistance, promoting the political reconciliation process and providing the necessary support in rebuilding State structures in Somalia. We welcome the Secretary-General's ongoing strategic review process to determine how the United Nations can be most helpful to Somalia in this new era. We strongly believe that a comprehensive United Nations presence that integrates all elements of State — and peacebuilding support should be the new United Nations structure in that country. Turkey stands ready to cooperate with the United Nations in that process.

In the efforts of the Somali people to rebuild their country, we, as the international community, are responsible more than ever for supporting them. While providing our political, technical, humanitarian and financial support, we must be aware that the Somalis want to see our physical presence on the ground as a sign of solidarity. We believe that opening new embassies in Mogadishu at this historic moment in Somalia will give the Somalis a proper signal that we, the international community, will stand by them in their struggle for their future.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Ragolini (Italy): I wish first of all to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this timely debate on the situation in Somalia.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

After two decades of instability, Somalia seems to be finally showing signs of real promise. The election of a new President and a new Speaker and the appointment of a new Prime Minister, who still requires a vote of confidence from the new Parliament, represent a turning point in the history of Somalia. Such developments have instilled new legitimacy in the political process that began in 2004 with the start of the Somali transition.

As Prime Minister Monti stated at the mini-summit on Somalia in New York on 26 September, those are Somali achievements, while the consolidation of peace and stability will be primarily a Somali challenge. That is an honour and a burden, a merit and a responsibility. Somalis are certainly aware that reconstruction will require a far-sighted vision and the commitment to work for the benefit of their people, with full respect for the principles of transparency and accountability.

The adoption of the provisional Constitution lays the foundations for a federal democratic State. The new Parliament must be the embodiment of the responsibility to honour democracy and human rights. The new President is a symbol of national unity and the guardian and promoter of the founding principles of the Constitution. The new Government, which we hope to see performing its duties as soon as possible, will have the task of implementing and administering the policies for which the Somali people have been waiting for two decades.

We welcome the six-pillar policy launched by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The priorities set out in the document are at the core of the bold and comprehensive strategy that the new Somali authorities should carry out decisively in the years ahead. From now on, reconstruction and stabilization must be the guideposts for action. We expect due attention to be paid to developing the institutional and legal framework of democracy, the judiciary, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Only when the new Constitution is fully implemented will civil coexistence once again be possible in Somalia. Italy is ready to do

its part in concretely supporting the work in progress in that field.

The needs of the people must be at the top of the agenda. A civic strategy focused on health care, social services and the creation of job opportunities is the precondition for a full recovery.

Security must also be a priority. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is doing a remarkable job, but threats still exist. Italy calls on all Somalia's partners to provide adequate resources to finance the Somali National Security Forces and AMISOM, whose presence is still needed to consolidate the security framework. Italy is working in close cooperation with the African Union to provide assistance to the Somali army and training to the Somali police. We hope that other partners will soon join us.

The past two decades of Somalia's history have taught us that a strategy implemented by military means alone is not enough. We should therefore ensure that a civilian strategy is implemented and that local administrations, representative of all clans, are set up to revive the reconciliation process. To that end, we encourage the new Government to spare no effort in building an effective federal State. At the same time, we urge all Somalia's partners willing to support that federalist agenda not to encourage a process of fragmentation. The preservation of the unity of a Somali federal State is essential if we truly want to turn the page and put Somalia's past instability behind us.

Ending a transition is always difficult, but the positive achievements of recent months are a ray of light after two decades of darkness. If the summer of 2012 is to be remembered as the Somali Spring, we need a renewed and broad commitment to make such accomplishments durable and sustainable. The international community must continue to stand alongside the Somalis, building on the important lessons learned, first and foremost, solidarity and determination.

The United Nations has played a positive guiding role and must continue to do so. The review of the United Nations role in Somalia must take into account the emergence of today's new and more legitimate authorities. The new United Nations role should therefore be shaped through an in-depth dialogue with the new Somali authorities to guarantee Somali ownership of the process, to prevent duplication and to ensure that our efforts will enable the United Nations

to play an effective role in State-building and the consolidation of peace.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Finland.

Mr. Viinanen (Finland): Finland congratulates the people of Somalia on the historical steps taken in recent months. We give our support to the new federal institutions and political actors in Somalia. The goal of the political process is clear: to pave the way for general elections and a functioning multiparty system.

Finland has constantly underlined the importance of Somali ownership of the political process. Decisions on Somalia's future rest with the Somalis. The Somali political leadership must be accountable to the Somali people.

The United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, have played a key role in the transition process, and we thank them for their tireless work. The reconstruction work calls for a strategic and comprehensive approach. We look forward to the results of the strategic review of the United Nations presence in Somalia.

The transition period has come to a successful conclusion, but the peace and reconciliation work continues. An inclusive peace process leads to sustainable peace. The full and effective participation of women is one of the key issues for the new political era in Somalia. The agreement on a 30 per cent quota for women representatives in the new Parliament is a major achievement. The role of Somali elders and traditional leaders as constructive contributors to furthering peace has also been vital, and will remain so. Finland has supported the inclusion of Somali elders and religious leaders in the peace dialogue and we will continue to emphasize their central role in the post-transition period as well.

Like other speakers, we would like to acknowledge the efforts, achievements and sacrifices made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Somali security forces and other stakeholders. Despite their achievements, the security situation in Somalia is fragile. Al-Shabaab has become weaker, but it has not vanished. International partners should continue to capitalize on this opportunity to consolidate the security situation in Somalia.

We all agree that improved security is a prerequisite for normalizing living conditions and promoting development in Somalia, and that includes dealing with piracy off the coast of Somalia. Finland has supported the work of combating piracy, among other things by participating in the European Union Naval Force Operation Atalanta and by supporting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's programme for combating maritime piracy in the Horn of Africa.

We should not forget the role of the Somali diaspora. The political developments in Somalia have shown us how an active diaspora and able individuals can make a difference. In Finland, we emphasize the role of the Somali diaspora and its participation in coordinating development. Finland is currently assessing ways of further supporting Somalia in its development needs.

Now that the transition period has ended, we are embarking upon a new era. Finland has stood side by side with Somalia in the past, and it can count on our support now and in the future.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. González de Linares (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate on the situation in Somalia at a crucial time when the support of the Security Council and the international community for the new Somali authorities is especially important.

Spain fully supports the statement made by the Observer of the European Union. We would like to make some brief remarks in our national capacity in order to emphasize our commitment to Somalia.

We are very pleased with the progress made in recent months in implementing the road map. With Somalia having successfully reached the end of its transition period, we are facing a new era in the country's history. We are confident that the new Government will make the right decisions in dealing with the challenges ahead. In that regard, it is essential to expand State authority and the provision of services to the people who have been liberated from Al-Shabaab's control, as well as to encourage development so that the Somali people can begin to enjoy the rewards of peace after so many years of destruction and suffering.

For its part, Spain firmly intends to support Somalia in this new phase, as it has been doing since the beginning of the process in the political, security and development

areas. In the political area, since the road map was launched on the basis of the Djibouti Agreement and the Kampala Accord, Spain has supported every effort undertaken by Somalia's Government and transitional institutions. We have participated actively in the meetings of the International Contact Group, one of which was held in Madrid in September 2010, as well as at the London and Istanbul conferences and the Group's meeting held in July in Rome.

In the security area, aware that security plays a key role in Somalia's economic, developmental and institutional development, Spain has contributed actively to helping the African Union to train troops for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and until July 2011 led the European Union training mission for security forces in Somalia. In recognition of AMISOM's central role in stabilizing Somalia, Spain will continue its commitment with a contribution of \$1 million in 2012.

Spain has also played an important part in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia. We are one of the main contributors to Operation European Union Naval Force Operation Atalanta, led by Spain between December 2011 and April 2012. My country also supports NATO's Operation Ocean Shield. Under Spain's chairmanship, the updating in July of the working methods of the Contact Group on piracy off the coast of Somalia is another example of my country's active commitment to improving the effectiveness of the Group's work.

Regarding the development of Somalia, Spain has contributed €3 million in financial assistance to projects and initiatives in this area. I would also like to highlight our humanitarian assistance, which has amounted to €8.7 million euros since 2011.

In sum, in view of all the elements highlighted in my statement, I would like to reiterate Spain's firm commitment to continuing to play an active role in providing Somalia with all the support it needs to tackle the significant challenges ahead in this new era.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize this debate at a very important juncture in the history of Somalia. I would also like to thank Ambassador Mahiga for the excellent work he has been doing, and

the Secretary-General for the serious attention he has always given to Somalia. We regret that Ambassador Lamamra was unable to participate in his briefing.

Recent developments in the political and security fronts in Somalia have created an unprecedented window of opportunity for stabilizing the country and ensuring sustainable peace and national reconciliation there. Indeed, this is proof of how serious national efforts and focused and coordinated subregional, continental and global endeavours can bring the desired results. It is evident that the multi-pronged military operations by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Transitional Federal Government forces, with tangible support from the defence forces of some of Somalia's neighbours, have decisively weakened Al-Shabaab. The progress made on the ground in consolidating the security gains has continued, with the latest inroads making it possible to foresee increasingly safe and secure communication between Mogadishu and Baidoa.

These impressive developments, coupled with the growing consensus within the international community on Somalia, have converged to help the people of Somalia seize the unique opportunity that has been created. The Security Council should be commended for adopting resolution 2036 (2012), significantly expanding the number of AMISOM uniformed personnel and allowing for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment. That resolution has undoubtedly enabled peacekeeping forces to be deployed in the liberated areas in order to facilitate the establishment of administrative systems by the Somali Government as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance and repatriation for refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees.

Whatever we in the region or the international community might do, at the end of the day it is the people and the leaders of Somalia who matter the most in achieving lasting peace and reconciliation in their country. We have no doubt that the new leadership will continue to deepen national reconciliation and focus on building and strengthening the necessary governance institutions to ensure the provision of basic services and promote economic recovery. There is no better way for a Government to enhance legitimacy and strengthen credibility than by making a difference in service delivery and in attending to the basic needs of people.

We are of the view that there is real momentum for durable peace in Somalia. The chances for making the process irreversible have never been as excellent as

they currently are. What remains is for there to be wise and prudent use of those opportunities on the part of all, including the new Government. But Somalia needs help — genuine solidarity — that does not infringe upon Somalis ownership of the process. The international community has little option than to do the maximum possible for peace in Somalia and for the economic recovery of the country. The peace and stability of Somalia is closely linked to regional and global peace and stability. Accordingly, assistance rendered to Somalia has broader significance, impinging upon the interest of all those who value peace and stability. The general situation in regions close to Somalia and further afield makes it all the more critical that we appreciate what has been gained in Somalia and that we do the best we can to ensure that the process is irreversible.

We in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) will continue, along with the African Union (AU), as well as the United Nations and its partners, to assist our brothers in Somalia in proceeding with success along this promising trajectory. In fact, a delegation led by the Executive Secretary of IGAD is currently in Mogadishu to hold consultations with the new Somali leadership.

We are convinced that a coordinated effort is what continues to be needed to maintain the momentum achieved so far and build on the gains that have already been made. IGAD fully supports the request by the AU Peace and Security Council for a four-month technical rollover of the United Nations support package to AMISOM, as provided for in resolution 2036 (2012), adopted on 22 February, with the inclusion of additional civilian and maritime support components of the Mission, to address the urgent needs arising from the realities on the ground. We also wish to reiterate our support for the AU's call for the Peacebuilding Commission to take steps to contribute actively to post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts in Somalia.

In the same vein, we welcome the decision of the Secretary-General to undertake an assessment that will form the basis for coordinated and coherent United Nations engagement in post-transition Somalia. We believe that the review should take into account the initiative by the African Union Commission to undertake a strategic review of AMISOM and the implementation of its mandate, with a view to determining how best the Mission can further contribute to the stabilization of Somalia and the successful implementation of the

priorities set by the Somali Government, in close coordination with an empowered and restructured national defence and security sector. Once again, we wish to stress our readiness to cooperate with the United Nations assessment team in its effort to develop a comprehensive United Nations engagement strategy for Somalia.

We condemn in no uncertain terms the recent terrorist attacks in Mogadishu. No doubt, Al-Shabaab is retreating and is unlikely to regain strength if the regional and the international effort to marginalize the hardcore elements of the terrorist group is pursued in a principled manner and in line with what is called for by international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Finally, I wish to pay particular tribute to the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Somali Security Forces, AMISOM and the allied forces.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mahiga for any additional comments he may wish to make.

Mr. Mahiga: I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Council and to the speakers from other Member States who were invited for their kind words to me, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and my colleagues in the United Nations. I also want to thank the members of the Council for their support and promises of continuing support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and the new Government of Somalia. We are encouraged by those sentiments and, in the coming strategic review, we hope we will be faithfully able to present options to the Council that will define the next mandate of our respective institutions.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.