

**SRSG's Remarks on Inclusive Politics
Somalia Partnership Forum,
2 October 2019**

Prime Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me congratulate the Somalia Government for organizing this Somalia Partnership Forum, and for the commendable progress achieved in the country in recent years. I join the praise extended by others for the impressive accomplishments in public financial management, recent advances in military operations against al-Shabaab and institutional reforms in the security sector, and ambitious reconciliation initiatives – such as those in Galmudug and South West States – to cite just a few examples of progress.

As the representative of the United Nations, I also want to take this occasion to recognize the contributions of the partners here today, who have stood by Somalia through difficult times and who are eager to see a positive trajectory continue. Partner contributions have come not only from conventional donors but also through impressive examples of south-south cooperation, and of course we honor AMISOM and its troop – and police - contributing countries for their courageous sacrifices to further peace and stability in Somalia.

Together in this Forum, we reaffirm our collective goals for inclusive politics, security and justice, economic reforms and social development in Somalia. In yesterday's session, we detailed specific shared commitments, under the Mutual Accountability Framework, to implement the most important, “must not fail” priorities for the next 12 to 15 months.

The topic I have been asked to discuss in this session is inclusive politics. Inclusive politics, if handled with the necessary leadership and consensus-building, has the potential to accelerate progress across all of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) commitments.

Technical aspects of the inclusive politics agenda are well-advanced. Further progress is now contingent on political compromise on unresolved issues.

For example, we are encouraged by the progress made in the Constitutional review process. Yet, outstanding questions surrounding the allocation of powers, resource-sharing, the system of government, the justice model, and the status of Mogadishu, are fundamentally political. We welcome the MAF commitment to finalize and adopt

the amended Provisional Constitution by June 2020 in a process to be agreed with Federal Member States by March.

On elections, we welcome the re-commitment by President Farmajo last week at the United Nations General Assembly to hold universal suffrage parliamentary elections in the last quarter of 2020. The recent appointment of the National Electoral Security Task Force is a positive step, adding to the commendable ongoing technical work by the National Independent Electoral Commission. Passage of the electoral law is the crucial next step, and we are pleased to see the commitment to make every effort to complete this by the end of 2019. Failure to meet this deadline will delay the mobilization of essential funding and risks slippage in the electoral calendar.

The endorsement by the Cabinet of the National Reconciliation Framework is another vital step in peacebuilding in Somalia. The impending launch of this Framework can help foster a culture of reconciliation to accelerate progress across the reform agenda

Let me briefly note, on a point of foreign relations, that we also encourage reconciliation to foster mutually beneficial ties to all immediate neighbors and those across the Red Sea.

A common theme in our commitments in the MAF, is the need to ensure participation of all sectors of society in all aspects of decision-making. This includes women, youth, and marginalized communities. Such inclusion will engender legitimacy and ultimately boost prospects for success.

The agreed 'must not fail' priorities in the MAF are ambitious, yet achievable, providing that leaders put the needs of Somalia first and commit themselves to overcoming their differences through dialogue and compromise, in a spirit of national unity.

To that end, we appeal to Somalia's leaders – as a matter of urgency – to repair the fraught relations between the Federal Government and some Federal Member States. The current strains have slowed progress on crucial priorities. We also encourage use of dialogue and pragmatic solutions to resolve tensions in Jubaland, to ensure they do not impede other priorities.

Prime Minister, Excellencies, advancing Somalia's already significant achievements in inclusive politics, is an ambitious goal. As the next steps are inherently political, they can only be taken by Somalis. But, as part of our collective commitments, the UN family, and the broader international community, stand ready and committed to provide the necessary support to the critical next steps on inclusive politics.