



# Security Council

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## Situation in Somalia

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolutions [2705 \(2023\)](#) and [2710 \(2023\)](#), provides updates on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), covering progress achieved against the benchmarks identified in the strategic review and on the mandate of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers significant developments from 25 January to 23 May 2024.

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

##### A. Political developments

2. The constitutional review process was a central focus during the reporting period. On 12 February, at a joint sitting of the House of the People and the Senate, the Federal Parliament began deliberations on the proposed changes to the first four chapters of the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia, concerning: the nature of the State; the fundamental rights and duties of citizens; land, property and the environment; and representation of the people, including elections. Some of the changes incorporated reflected the outcomes of the meeting of the National Consultative Council on 27 May 2023 between the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member state leaders, with the exception of Puntland. On 30 March, at a joint session, Parliament voted to accept the proposed changes. A total of 212 out of 275 members of the House of the People and 42 out of 54 members of the Upper House supported the amendments. On 31 March, the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, signed the amendments into effect, and Parliament entered recess thereafter.

3. Several members of the opposition, including the former presidents, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo”, opposed substantive changes to the Provisional Constitution and boycotted the vote in the Parliament. On 23 March, they issued a joint statement declaring that they would not accept the constitutional review process. The two former presidents announced the establishment of a preparatory committee charged with organizing a grand



consultative conference to discuss the “critical situation” and “serious consequences” regarding the unity and nationhood of the country.

4. On 31 March, the Puntland Cabinet, in reaction to the approved constitutional amendments, announced that it had “withdrawn recognition and confidence in the Federal Government institutions until a comprehensive constitutional framework was negotiated and agreed upon by the Somali people, of which Puntland is a part”. In the statement, it reiterated the desire of Puntland to continue to engage with all parties that recognize and abide by the Provisional Constitution and to exercise the powers of an independent State pending the completion of a federal constitution, ratified by Puntland and approved by popular referendum. The Federal Government of Somalia has called on Puntland to return to the National Consultative Council and has maintained that the Provisional Constitution will remain open to further amendments until a referendum is held.

5. On 24 April, President Mohamud issued a statement urging federal member states to refrain from politicizing issues of national importance, such as unity, independence and solidarity. He reiterated the efforts of his administration to improve the working relations with all the federal member states and his commitment to enhancing cooperative relationships with Puntland. He reaffirmed his Government’s commitment to depoliticizing economic matters, development and humanitarian concerns and to reinforcing the constitutional roles and rights of regional administrations. President Mohamud convened a meeting of the National Consultative Council in Mogadishu, from 14 to 17 May, which was attended by the Presidents of Jubbaland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South-West State, as well as the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Governor of Banadir. The President of Puntland did not participate. In its meeting communiqué, the National Consultative Council emphasized the need to accelerate constitutional amendments for one-person, one-vote elections and agreed to maintain security, intensify the fight against Al-Shabaab and support the federal Government in assuming security responsibilities following the drawdown of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). The National Consultative Council further stressed the need to facilitate relief operations for flood-affected areas and address climate change issues.

6. On 7 April, the Prime Minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, reshuffled his Cabinet. Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, the former federal Minister for Internal Affairs, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, was appointed as the new federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Ali Yusuf Ali “Hosh” was appointed as the federal Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, while Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail “Fartaag”, a Senator, was appointed as the federal Minister of Internal Security. Abdullahi Bidhan Warsame, Mohamed Adan Moalim Ali and Ahmed Omar Mohamed were appointed as federal Minister of Energy and Water, Minister of Communications and Technology and federal State Minister of Environment and Climate Change, respectively.

7. On 25 January, Said Abdullahi Deni was inaugurated for his second consecutive five-year term as President of Puntland, following his re-election through indirect elections. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the federal member states leaders, apart from the President of Jubbaland State of Somalia, Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed Islam “Madobe”, attended the inauguration ceremony.

8. On 9 March, following approval from the two houses of the Parliament of “Somaliland” and legal clarification by the Supreme Court of “Somaliland”, the President of “Somaliland”, Muse Bihi Abdi, signed the amended Regulation of Organizations and Political Parties Law and the Electoral and Voter Registration Law. On 20 April, the Chairperson of the National Electoral Commission announced that

elections in “Somaliland”, which had been delayed since November 2022, would be held on 13 November 2024.

9. On 13 and 14 March, tensions over power-sharing led to armed clashes in Beledweyne, Hirshabelle State, between forces aligned with the self-proclaimed “Hiraan State” and Hirshabelle State forces. Four fatalities were reported before Hawadle clan elders mediated a cessation of hostilities. On 15 April, in Beledweyne District, traditional elders of the clan called for an urgent conference of the Hawadle politicians to address the security concerns and issues raised by the existence of the parallel administrations in the Hiraan region. Since then, officials of the Federal Government of Somalia have arrived in Beledweyne to begin engagement with all stakeholders.

10. Tensions have continued between Somalia and Ethiopia, following the announcement on 1 January of a memorandum of understanding between Ethiopia and “Somaliland”.

11. On 3 April, a Puntland State delegation met with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia to discuss strengthening bilateral trade. The following day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia issued a statement announcing that the Council of Ministers had passed a resolution instructing the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Somalia to depart from Somalia and for the Consulates of Ethiopia in Garoowe and Hargeysa to be closed. On 19 April, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia issued a statement in which it noted that dialogue with Ethiopia remained unattainable until Ethiopia revoked its illegal memorandum of understanding with “Somaliland” and respected the unity and sovereignty of Somalia and the principle of non-interference.

12. On 5 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation sent a letter to the Security Council formally requesting the termination of the mandate of UNSOM following a review of the strategic priorities of the Government of Somalia and that, going forward, the Government would no longer request a mandate renewal for Council resolution [2705 \(2023\)](#). In the letter, he further requested the swift conclusion of the necessary procedures for the termination of the Mission by the end of October. On 9 May, in a subsequent letter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said that the Government stood ready to engage with all relevant stakeholders in the preparation for the complex transition process within the appropriate time frame. The authorities expressed their support for the contributions by UNSOM and requested that a joint technical team be established to determine the best modalities and timelines for the transition. In the letter, they further emphasized their aim that the eventual objective of a smooth transition could be approached through distinct phases and reiterated their request for the initiation of a planning process at the earliest convenience of the Council.

## **B. Security developments**

13. During the reporting period, a total of 166 improvised explosive device attacks were recorded, resulting in 300 casualties. Three vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices were used. One person-borne improvised explosive device was used in Mogadishu, which did not result in any casualties.

14. There were three rocket attacks in Mogadishu during the reporting period, all claimed by Al-Shabaab. On 10 March, two 107 mm rockets were fired from the outskirts of Mogadishu in the direction of Villa Somalia. The rockets landed in residential areas, injuring one individual. On 8 April, five 107 mm rockets were fired from Dayniile district, landing on residential areas in Warta Nabada and Howlwadaag districts. On 4 May, four rockets were fired.

15. On 14 March, Al-Shabaab conducted a complex attack involving two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, targeting the SYL Hotel in Mogadishu. The incident resulted in 4 individuals killed and 30 injured. Outside Mogadishu, on 6 April, Al-Shabaab conducted a complex attack in Balcad town, Shabelle Dhexe region, using one vehicle-borne improvised explosive device at the local service station, which led to the death of a Somali National Army soldier, several civilians injured and severe damage to the local hospital.

16. The Somali authorities reported that operations to counter Al-Shabaab were conducted in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South-West States during the reporting period.

### **C. Economic developments**

17. Domestic revenue mobilization remains a key priority for the Federal Government to deliver on its policy agenda, laid out in Centennial Vision 2060. In 2023, the Government increased domestic revenues to 2.8 per cent of gross domestic product, up from 2.5 per cent in 2022, mostly driven by rising customs duties, generating a small fiscal surplus. In 2024, domestic revenues are expected to rise further. Economic growth is projected at 3.7 per cent in 2024, driven by continuing improvements in agricultural production and investments. Remittance inflows are increasing, improving resilience and boosting private consumption, fostering growth projections.

18. The moderation of global inflation rates and improving domestic livestock and crop production have contributed to a reduction in inflation in Somalia, which is expected to decline to 4.8 per cent in 2024. Food price inflation decreased significantly as compared with 2023 during the reporting period.

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

### **A. Support for political processes**

19. On 5 and 6 February, UNSOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-organized, with the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Office of the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, and with the support of the Somalia Joint Fund, discussions to take stock of the progress made on State-building and the constitutional review process and international partner support for inclusive political programming.

20. From 16 to 25 May, the United Nations supported the participation of an interministerial Somali delegation in a South-South cooperation study tour to Kenya. The initiative was organized by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister. Its aim was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices between experts from Nepal and Kenya and stakeholders in Somalia, with a view towards enhancing governance effectiveness, improving service delivery and promoting accountability.

21. In April, UNSOM and UNDP jointly launched a new programme to support the finalization of the constitutional review process. The programme will be focused on supporting inclusive, transparent and meaningful dialogues with all societal groups and federal member states and civic education on the chapters of the Provisional Constitution that remain to be reviewed.

22. UNSOM continued to provide support to the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation on elections planning, with a specific focus on implementation timelines and draft legislation on the elections. On 23 and 24 April, UNSOM conducted a workshop on electoral systems and temporary special measures for women's representation for civil society organizations. The workshop supported the advocacy efforts of women leaders towards broadening the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies. The United Nations, through its good offices and convening function, supported efforts by international partners and national stakeholders, including the women's parliamentary caucus, to advocate for inclusivity of consultations.

23. On 30 April, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, with support from the United Nations, launched the revised National Reconciliation Framework and its implementation road map. The revised Framework aligns with the current Government's agenda, incorporates lessons learned from past experiences and ensures comprehensive reconciliation that takes into account the impact of climate change and environmental aspects on relations among communities, reconciliation for newly liberated areas, ideological conflicts and the strengthening of transitional justice mechanisms.

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

### **1. Security sector development**

24. The United Nations, with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, continued to provide support to the Federal Government of Somalia for public finance management analysis as part of wider initiatives to ensure able, accountable, acceptable and affordable security and rule of law structures. Support was provided for the drafting and revision of five security-related bills during the reporting period.

25. On 12 March, the Somali National Army co-chaired, with UNSOM and the European Union Training Mission in Somalia, an inaugural meeting of the capability steering group.

26. In February, UNSOM coordinated a four-week training course for 10 Somali Navy and Coast Guard personnel on boat maintenance with the support of the Uganda People's Defence Force Marine component of ATMIS.

### **2. Rule of law**

27. During the reporting period, UNSOM supported the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in developing a civilian-led corrections model and provided advice on a revised structure, which was adopted by the Ministry on 7 March. UNSOM engaged with representatives of the parliamentary committee on prison conditions in the Banaadir region, providing technical advice and inputs to its assessment.

28. On 6 February, the Somali Police training strategy and community policing policy were endorsed by police representatives of the Federal Government and federal member states during a meeting of the Police Professional Development Board, co-chaired by UNSOM. On 7 February, the joint police programme phase II steering committee convened for the first time to discuss the finalization of the programme design. Representatives of the Federal Government, federal member states, except Puntland, and international partners attended the meeting. In February and March, a total of 48 Somali police officers (30 women and 18 men) participated in three workshops focused on enhancing the capacity of the Somali Police in gender-sensitive policing in accordance with the objectives outlined in the New Policing Model.

### **3. Stabilization**

29. Stabilization coordination efforts were focused on state-level events facilitated by the respective Ministries of Interior for Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South-West and Jubbaland States. In addition, the Ministries of Interior of both Galmudug and Hirshabelle undertook consultations with district officials, elders and civil society representatives from 1 to 5 February and 24 and 27 February, respectively. These meetings provided an opportunity for the governments and their partners to review progress on stabilization plans and identify priorities and gaps in fragile and newly recovered areas.

30. The federal Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation continued its efforts to bolster outreach and communication initiatives linked to stabilization to build trust and confidence between the authorities and citizens, including through Iftar-related community engagement efforts.

31. On 4 February, the Ministry launched the review process for the Wadajir National Framework for Local Governance with a workshop bringing together State Ministry of Interior and Banaadir Regional Authority counterparts to discuss issues related to improving district council formation and resourcing decentralized service delivery.

32. On 28 March, the Ministry held consultations on the revised Framework, specifically on scaling up support to address the issues referred to above, with international partners including the World Bank. On 29 April, the Ministry also led a steering committee meeting involving federal member state Ministries of Interior, donors and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on the Joint Programme on Local Governance to discuss progress over the previous programme period (2019–2023) and priorities and plans for the next phase of support to local governance.

### **4. Preventing and countering violent extremism**

33. During March, UNSOM supported the transition of the defector rehabilitation programme from the federal Ministry of Internal Security to the Office of the Prime Minister, under the management of the Tubsan National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. The Center is overseen by the Office of the Prime Minister and funded by multiple donors. This institutional transition is intended to align the programme closely with the revised national strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism. To support this process, intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder technical-level coordination mechanisms were revitalized, and a first meeting of partners was held on 18 April. Four male and two female rehabilitation centres, in Mogadishu, Kismaayo, Baidoa and Dhuusamarreeb, remained operational, providing support to 100 female and 331 male beneficiaries as at 26 May.

34. UNDP held four workshops in February and March with 100 religious scholars from newly recovered areas in Galmudug and Hirshabelle States and supported six community dialogues aimed at fostering social cohesion and consensus-building in Xarardheere, Wisil, Baxdo, Adaan-Yabaal, Al-Kowsar and Mahadday Weym districts.

## **C. Humanitarian assistance**

35. The 2024 humanitarian needs and response plan was launched on 30 January. While it is assessed in the plan that the number of people in need decreased by 17 per cent, from 8.3 million in 2023 to 6.9 million in 2024, it remains alarmingly high and well above the five-year average. Intersectoral needs decreased, with no district classified as “catastrophic” in 2024, compared with 11 districts in 2023. This is

largely due to the end of drought, combined with the scale-up of humanitarian assistance in late 2022 to early 2023, with consequently reduced food insecurity and improved access to water. The plan includes 10 priority districts for integrated multisectoral assistance, mostly districts affected by the historic floods in late 2023.

36. Despite some improvement, acute food insecurity persisted during the reporting period. In the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations published on 15 February, it was projected that 4 million people in Somalia faced crisis or emergency food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or worse) from January to March. An estimated 1.7 million children aged 5 and 6 years face acute malnutrition, of whom 430,000 are likely to be severely malnourished in 2024. The findings show an improvement in food security as compared with the same period in 2023, when approximately 5 million people were classified under IPC phase 3 or worse owing to protracted drought.

37. Poor sanitation and lack of adequate safe water, especially in sites for displaced people, triggered a spike in acute watery diarrhoea/cholera cases. During the reporting period, more than 10,000 cholera cases were reported, including 120 deaths, with a case-fatality rate of 1.1 per cent, which is slightly higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of less than or equal to 1 per cent. The majority of all cases were recorded in Beledweyne, Hirshabelle State. Health agencies and the Federal Ministry of Health, supported by WHO and partners, developed a response plan, established more than 20 treatment centres and have obtained 1.4 million vaccine doses in 2024 to date, as a stop-gap innovative intervention, but require additional funding of \$10.5 million to contain the outbreak, through additional interventions, which has spread as far as Puntland and South-West States. The Central Emergency Response Fund has allocated a total of \$2 million to support the cholera response.

38. More than 3.8 million people are displaced in Somalia, of whom 80 per cent are women and children who face significant protection risks, including the risk of eviction from their shelters by landowners. Newly arrived internally displaced people are often at increased risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and evictions by landowners. Of particular concern are women, children and minority groups. During the reporting period, more than 40,000 internally displaced people were evicted from their shelters, mostly in Mogadishu. In April and May, the federal Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development conducted states-level planning workshops with federal member states authorities, municipal officers, civil society organizations and internally displaced persons communities on development investments needed to put 1 million internally displaced people in Somalia on pathways to durable solutions by 2025.

39. The April to June *gu* rainy season began in mid-April, with floods reported in several areas. Projections indicate a strong likelihood of above-normal rainfall in most parts of Somalia. In anticipation, humanitarian partners are implementing a flood preparedness and response plan that includes pre-positioning stocks and boats. On 7 March, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator launched the Somalia Humanitarian Fund Reserve allocation 1 for 2024, in the amount of \$3 million, to help mitigate the impact of the anticipated heavy *gu* rains and floods in Jamaame, Luuq and Afgooye districts.

40. Security concerns, bureaucratic hurdles and ongoing conflicts obstruct access to people in need. From January to March 2024, at least 54 access incidents, of which 17 involved violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities, were documented. Three aid workers were reportedly kidnapped but later released. The incidents impeded the delivery of lifesaving assistance to vulnerable people. In addition, attacks on humanitarian workers and infrastructure and restrictions on

movements exacerbated access and operational challenges. During the reporting period, 23 out of 74 districts were either hard or extremely hard to reach.

41. During the reporting period, the humanitarian country team, in cooperation with the Federal Government, continued to strengthen measures to deter interferences in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and aid diversion. The humanitarian country team is working closely with the authorities, donors, partners, community leaders and people receiving aid to implement strong collective action to ensure that all aid reaches the intended recipients, including through improving vulnerability-based targeting, beneficiary identification and registration and data-sharing among humanitarian partners.

42. At least 18,000 people were displaced from their homes during military operations from 11 to 17 February, according to the refugee Protection and Return Monitoring Network of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

43. Funding for the humanitarian response is significantly below the amounts required. The 2024 humanitarian needs and response plan requires \$1.6 billion to meet the needs of the 5.2 million most vulnerable people, a 37 per cent reduction from \$2.6 billion for 7.6 million people in 2023. As at 23 May 2024, the plan is only 20.9 per cent funded.

44. The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations visited Somalia on a joint mission from 7 to 9 March. The delegation met Government officials, donors and humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations operating in the country. On International Women's Day, 8 March, they travelled to Doolow, in Jubbaland State, to celebrate with women and visit resilience projects for displaced families.

#### **D. Support for coordination of development assistance**

45. On 5 March, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development held the Development Coordination Forum in Mogadishu. The Forum brought together Federal Government ministers, as well as federal member states, civil society representatives, international partners and the United Nations. The Forum demonstrated progress in economic and social development, human rights and gender, environment and climate change, security and justice, stabilization and inclusive politics. The Government announced a shift from a national development plan modality to a national transformation plan from 2025 onwards, as well as the plan to hold the Somalia Partnership Forum.

46. On 10 and 11 March, representatives of the Green Climate Fund travelled to Somalia, marking the first occasion of a high-level visit of the Fund. During the visit, the team met the President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Prime Minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, the Cabinet, representatives of the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and accredited agencies and committed to disbursing \$100 million in 2024 to communities facing the climate crisis. The funding will be focused on agroforestry, reforestation and innovative nature-based solutions.

47. On 21 February, the Water Sector Coordination Facility Integrated Task Force, led by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, held a donor coordination meeting that led to an alignment around the national water road map and a linkage to the nationally determined contributions to five "bankable" programmes presented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and further funding being released to the flagship water programmes.



48. On 27 February, the International Renewable Energy Agency held a coordination workshop on renewable energy and the road map around alternative energy approaches in Somalia. The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources led the workshop, attended by several key private sector partners and organizations collaborating with the energy sector.

## **E. Women and peace and security**

49. During the deliberations in the Federal Parliament on the proposed amendments to the Provisional Constitution, women parliamentarians urged parliamentary support for the inclusion of a minimum 30 per cent quota for women in elections. On 18 March, women parliamentarians announced their intention to boycott the parliamentary proceedings in protest at the absence of the minimum 30 per cent quota for women in the amendments. On 30 March, the Federal Parliament approved constitutional amendments which include a provision under article 47 (7) for “ensuring women’s participation in legislative assemblies and political parties, with quotas regulated by laws enacted by the Federal Parliament of Somalia”.

50. On 1 April, UNSOM, through the Somali women parliamentarians/United Nations leadership forum, delivered a media training session for women parliamentarians and women civil society leaders on the minimum 30 per cent quota for women. The training session was aimed at enhancing Somali women’s capacity to engage the media and supporting the women in creating key messages and videos for the campaign.

51. On 5 February, a steering committee meeting was held for the women and peace and protection programme, supported by the United Nations, with the participation of the Acting Minister for Women and Human Rights Development. Participants discussed a perception survey conducted through the programme which indicated an incremental increase in Somali respondents who answered that women have the skills to participate in peacebuilding and that women should assume leadership positions for peace processes. The percentage of survey respondents indicating that they believe that women have the skills and knowledge to participate in peacebuilding increased from 46 per cent to 54 per cent, and the respondents indicating that they believe that women should be in leadership positions for peace processes increased from 61 per cent to 71 per cent between the two surveys.

## **F. Youth and peace and security**

52. On 27 February, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) inaugurated a new youth centre in Berbera. This centre is designed to host activities that foster the well-being of young people. The establishment of this facility is aimed at cultivating a positive environment that encourages youth to engage, learn, interact and exchange information.

53. On 16 and 17 January, UNFPA organized an intergenerational dialogue on the political participation of youth at the Abdiaziz Youth Centre in Mogadishu. The event was attended by 60 young people, including 32 men and 28 women, to discuss political participation and their role in peacebuilding with community elders.

54. In May, UNFPA began a collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to support the development of a youth and peace and security national action plan. The national action plan will identify priorities for the implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda and strengthen the meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding processes in Somalia.

## **G. Human rights and protection**

### **1. Human rights**

55. UNSOM recorded 340 civilian casualties (146 killed and 194 injured) during the reporting period, a 104 per cent increase compared with the 167 civilian casualties recorded during the previous period. Al-Shabaab remained the main perpetrator, responsible for 182 civilian casualties (54 per cent of all casualties), followed by 68 attributed to Somali security forces, 52 to clan militia, and 38 to unidentified elements. The increase in civilian casualties is due to the increased number of Al-Shabaab attacks using improvised explosive devices. For example, three improvised explosive device attacks by the group in Mogadishu were responsible for 103 casualties.

56. The safety of journalists and media workers remained a concern. A television journalist was injured in Al-Shabaab's coordinated attack on the SYL Hotel in Mogadishu on 15 March. On 2 February, "Somaliland" authorities arbitrarily arrested and detained a television journalist in Berbera for criticizing the Berbera port administration on social media. He was released on 7 February without being charged.

57. On 14 March, the Federal Cabinet endorsed the appointment of the nine members of the National Media Council, which had been pending since 2016. Major Somali media associations opposed the appointment of the Council members, claiming that the selection process and the composition of the Council were not in line with the Media Law.

58. On 7 and 8 March, the Human Rights Committee considered the initial report of Somalia under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. On 28 March, the Committee issued its concluding observations ([CCPR/C/SOM/CO/1](#)).

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

59. On 6 February, at a meeting of the United Nations-ATMIS technical working group on the human rights due diligence policy, representatives of the African Union and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights gave briefings on the implementation of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework project in Somalia, including the revised rules of engagement for ATMIS military personnel and the directive on the use of force for ATMIS police adopted in October 2023. Both documents were revised with technical assistance from the United Nations and contribute to the implementation of policy-related mitigation measures recommended for ATMIS.

60. On 15 February, UNSOM gave a briefing to the United Nations country team on the United Nations human rights due diligence policy to reinforce the capacity of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to discharge their roles and responsibilities under the policy. To promote a United Nations system-wide implementation of the policy, the human rights due diligence policy task force has maintained an information-sharing tool adopted in October 2022. Since January, task force members have provided monthly updates on the implementation of mitigation measures recommended in relation to their support for the Somali security sector.

61. On 7 March 2024, the terms of reference for the Federal Government of Somalia-UNSOS human rights due diligence policy administrative mechanism were endorsed by the Federal Government of Somalia and UNSOS during their monthly coordinators' meeting.

### 3. Children in armed conflict

62. From January to April, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children verified 769 grave violations against 614 children (454 boys, 160 girls), including 138 children (125 boys and 13 girls) affected by multiple violations; 13 incidents of attacks on schools and two on hospitals; and two incidents of denial of humanitarian access. Al-Shabaab and unknown perpetrators continue to be responsible for the majority of violations, representing 71 and 17 per cent, respectively, and 10 per cent are attributed to the Somali security forces, 4 per cent to clan militia, 2 per cent to Da'esh and 1 per cent to “community defence forces”.

63. On 22 February, the country task force on monitoring and reporting presented the 2023 trends and patterns of grave violations committed against children to the national working group on children and armed conflict, chaired by the Ministry of Defence. The participants stressed the importance of continuing the screening of the Somali security forces, age verification for new recruits and the handover of children associated with armed groups to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for reintegration or family reunification.

64. On 24 March, the Co-Chairs of the country task force on monitoring and reporting presented the trends and patterns of grave violations against children recorded for 2023 to the Minister of Defence. Following the presentation, on 1 April, an advocacy letter was shared with the Minister of Defence providing information to support the Government’s response.

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

65. UNSOM verified eight incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting eight girls aged from 10 to 16 and four displaced women. On 26 February, two members of the Somali National Army serving in a military police unit allegedly raped two sisters aged 15 and 16 years. The two Somali military police officers further allegedly sexually assaulted two other minors in Jilib Marko, Marka district, Shabelle Hoose region. Two other incidents were related to alleged forced marriages, one by a member of Al-Shabaab and the other by a Somali National Army soldier, both in Jubbaland State. The remaining incidents were attributed to unidentified armed men (3), Al-Shabaab (1) and clan militia (1). At least 7 of the 12 survivors were from minority clans and 3 were internally displaced.

66. During the constitutional review process of the first four chapters of the Provisional Constitution, the United Nations provided technical support to the parliamentary committees on ensuring compliance with the international obligations of Somalia, in particular concerning female genital mutilation and the age of majority. UNSOM, in collaboration with partners, continued to advocate for the revised Federal Constitution to be in line with the regional and international human rights obligations of Somalia.

## H. United Nations Support Office in Somalia logistical support to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia and Somali security forces in joint and coordinated operations

### 1. Support for the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia

67. During the reporting period, UNSOS continued to support ATMIS in preparations for the phase 3 drawdown of 4,000 ATMIS troops by 30 June, in line with resolution 2710 (2023). Through the tripartite technical committee mechanism between the Federal Government of Somalia, ATMIS and UNSOS, the Somali

security forces and ATMIS reached an agreement on the handing over, taking over and closure of nine forward operating bases, as well as the closure of four across the ATMIS area of operations.

68. Following the conclusion of phase 2 of the ATMIS drawdown, UNSOS conducted an after-action review of the phases 1 and 2 drawdowns to learn lessons and guide its support for the upcoming phase 3. The outcomes of the review reconfirmed the need for early joint planning, information-sharing and contingency planning.

69. On 21 February, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and UNSOS organized a workshop for the Federal Government ministries on the privileges and immunities granted to the United Nations and its personnel within Somalia under the status of mission agreement. Sixteen representatives from 10 Federal Government entities, including the ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Internal Security and Labour and Social Affairs, as well as the Somali Civil Aviation Authority and the Immigration and Citizenship Agency, participated in the workshop.

70. The Department of Operational Support and UNSOS organized a workshop in Mogadishu from 21 to 23 April to engage with the Federal Government of Somalia, the African Union, ATMIS, troop-contributing countries and United Nations and international partners, to identify best practices and lessons learned in the operational partnership between the United Nations, the African Union and the Federal Government of Somalia in the delivery of a logistical support package.

71. The Mine Action Service continued to deliver improvised explosive device threat mitigation solutions that support the mobility and safety of the countries contributing troops to ATMIS in Somalia. These measures included delivering specialized in-country and predeployment training, including training-of-trainer courses, to 27 ATMIS military and police personnel. The Mine Action Service provided 241 pre- and post-convoy briefings to ATMIS convoys on main supply routes. Searches related to these convoys led to the destruction of seven improvised explosive devices.

72. During the reporting period, the Mine Action Service supported phase 2 and preparations for phase 3 of the ATMIS drawdown by deploying technical and combat engineer advisers to 39 forward operating bases identified for drawdown. The advisers supported the handover and collapse of forward operating bases free from explosive and related hazardous materials, including the disposal of unexploded ordnance and unserviceable ammunition.

## **2. Support for Somali security forces and capacity-building efforts**

73. The Security Council, in resolutions [2687 \(2023\)](#) and [2710 \(2023\)](#), increased the number of Somali security forces eligible for non-lethal logistical support from 15,900 to 18,900. From March, UNSOS has been supporting a total of 18,400 Somali security forces in joint or coordinated operations with ATMIS in 21 locations, pursuant to Council resolutions [2687 \(2023\)](#) and [2710 \(2023\)](#). Support for an additional 500 Somali security forces is currently being planned, in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia.

74. As at 23 May, the UNSOS-administered trust fund in support of the Somali security forces stood at \$3.8 million, which is expected to sustain support to eligible Somali security forces until the end of July 2024. UNSOS continued engagements with donors to mobilize the necessary additional funding.

75. In February, UNSOS provided logistical support for the establishment of two new Somalia National Army small-scale logistics and operations support bases. UNSOS also provided materials for the establishment of 10 police checkpoints to the

Somali Police Force in Mogadishu to enhance security in the capital city and strengthen efforts to counter Al-Shabaab. During the reporting period, various capacity-development training courses, including Air Liaison Officer training, aviation safety, a field technology business relationship management programme, a digital transformation workshop, a Power Business Intelligence training programme and sensitization sessions on human rights due diligence policy, were provided for 105 troops and 57 police personnel.

76. The Mine Action Service continued to develop the capacity of the Somali security forces to mitigate the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, through the provision of specialized training and equipment for seven Somali National Army and Police explosive ordnance disposal teams. During the reporting period, explosive ordnance disposal teams of the Somali National Army and Somali Police Force, trained by the Mine Action Service, cleared 42 improvised explosive devices.

## **I. United Nations presence in Somalia**

77. United Nations entities remained present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 23 May, 908 international staff and 1,768 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia.

## **J. Observations**

78. I welcome the efforts to generate momentum on the constitutional review process, with its completion at the heart of the State-building process in Somalia. It is imperative to make progress on this priority while ensuring that the review proceeds through an inclusive and consensus-based process, to pave the way for its implementation. The protracted dispute between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Puntland authorities poses an obstacle to an inclusive process and the advancement of key national priorities. I call upon all parties to engage in a constructive dialogue, to seek compromise to resolve their differences and to restore consensus on key national priorities.

79. I also call upon all stakeholders to redouble efforts to implement the women and peace and security agenda to overcome the structural challenges that women continue to face in Somalia. I urge the stakeholders to ensure that women's political representation is codified and the minimum 30 per cent quota for women is enshrined in legislative electoral frameworks to enable their meaningful political participation. Equally, I call upon the Somali authorities to ensure that the chapters of the Constitution under review and all related legislation are in line with the country's human rights obligations under international human rights law and meet international and regional standards, including provisions maintaining the definition of a child as being below the age of 18 years. Safeguarding and codifying human rights will lay a strong foundation for a just society based on the rule of law.

80. The commitment by the Somali authorities to conduct one-person, one-vote elections at both the national and subnational levels in order to enhance democratic participation is commendable. I strongly encourage all stakeholders to accelerate preparations for the timely delivery of credible and accepted elections.

81. I remain concerned over the memorandum of understanding between Ethiopia and "Somaliland". I reiterate my call for all stakeholders to refrain from inflammatory words or actions that could further escalate tensions. I encourage Somalia and Ethiopia to pursue the path of dialogue to resolve the matter in a peaceful manner in

accordance with international law and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

82. Somalia continues to face recurrent humanitarian crises, increasingly driven by climate change. Persistent conflict also drives displacement, uprooting and disrupting peoples' lives and livelihoods and worsening an already challenging humanitarian situation. It is of grave concern, therefore, that the 2024 humanitarian needs and response plan remains significantly underresourced. It is paramount that partners urgently provide additional funds to ensure that life-saving aid can be delivered.

83. Since my previous report, the Green Climate Fund has made a significant commitment to Somalia, which is highly welcome. I continue to encourage the prioritization of durable development solutions, to break the cycle of reliance upon humanitarian assistance and to provide sustainable community-based adaptation, as well as mitigation of the increasing threat of climatic shocks. I welcome the initiative by Somalia to formulate a long-term strategy, Centennial Vision 2060, to transform Somalia into a middle-income country with the ability to effectively serve its people by 2060 and reiterate the support of the United Nations.

84. I express my deep appreciation to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States and other partners for their sustained support and engagement in State-building and peacebuilding in Somalia. The efforts by the Somali authorities to advance the implementation of the Somali National Security Architecture and the security sector development plan are encouraging. I urge partners to continue their support and ensure that their efforts are aligned.

85. I pay tribute to ATMIS and the Somali security forces for the sacrifices that they continue to make in order to achieve long-term peace and stability in Somalia. I am deeply concerned about the continued funding shortfall for ATMIS and call upon donors to provide additional contributions to ensure that the Mission can deliver on its mandate. I welcome the current work undertaken by the Federal Government and the African Union to plan a follow-on mission. I call upon partners to identify predictable and sustainable funding to avoid a repeat of the financial woes of ATMIS. I also appeal to the international community to contribute to the trust fund in support of the Somali security forces.

86. Lastly, I note the request by the Federal Government of Somalia for a transition from UNSOM to the United Nations country team. Over the past decade, UNSOM has carried out important work to support Somalia on its path to stability and prosperity. The United Nations is engaging with the Somali authorities, and as guided by the Security Council, to determine the modalities and timeline for a successful and orderly transition process. Furthermore, the United Nations remains deeply committed to Somalia and to continuing to support the country in its priorities in the future.

87. I express my gratitude to the former Special Representative, Catriona Laing, and thank her for her dedicated service and leadership during her tenure. Following her departure, I have designated James Swan as Acting Special Representative and Head of UNSOM. I also express my appreciation to the entire United Nations in Somalia leadership team and all United Nations staff in Somalia for their work and efforts to support Somalia.

