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Situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution [2527 \(2020\)](#) and paragraph 37 of Council resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#) and provides updates on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers major developments in Somalia from 5 May to 4 August 2020.

II. Political, security and economic overview

A. Political developments

2. On 22 June, the President of Somalia, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo”, held a virtual meeting with the leaders of the federal member states and the Governor of Banaadir Region. It was the first time all federal and state leaders had met in a decision-making forum since June 2018, marking an important step towards the resumption of dialogue and collaboration. The leaders agreed to hold a face-to-face summit in July.

3. To prepare the ground for the July summit, the leaders of the federal member states held a consultative meeting on 11 and 12 July in Dhuusamarreeb. The state leaders issued a communiqué calling for timely elections with no term extension. They also called for inclusive consultations to agree on a viable electoral model that could be implemented within the remaining period of the current Administration’s term.

4. The summit was held in Dhuusamarreeb from 18 to 22 July, with the participation of Mr. Farmajo and the Prime Minister, Hassan Ali Khayre. The leaders’ discussions focused on the 2020/21 elections. On 22 July, the heads of the Federal Government and the federal member states issued a communiqué, agreeing to hold timely and credible elections acceptable to all Somali stakeholders. They also decided to establish a technical committee comprising representatives of the Federal Government and the federal member states to prepare recommendations on modalities for the holding of elections. They agreed to meet again on 15 August, in Dhuusamarreeb, to consider those recommendations.



5. On 25 July, the House of the People of the Federal Parliament passed a motion of no confidence against Mr. Khayre, with 170 votes in favour and 8 against. Introducing the motion, the Speaker, Mohamed Sheikh Mursal Abdirahman, accused the Prime Minister of failing to prepare a clear plan for the holding of one person, one vote elections; to complete federalism; to decide on the status of Mogadishu; to complete the review of the Constitution and hold a referendum on it; and to implement the political party system. In a statement immediately following the vote, Mr. Farmajo announced his acceptance of the Parliament's decision and said that he would appoint a new Prime Minister. In an address to the nation, Mr. Khayre questioned the legality of the procedure followed by Parliament but said that he accepted the President's decision for the sake of preserving the unity of the nation.

6. The Federal Parliament had reconvened on 6 June following a two-month delay owing to restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Soon after resuming the session, a rift emerged between the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament over how to process recommendations from the joint ad hoc committee they had tasked with addressing the gaps in the electoral code. On 12 June, the Speaker of the Upper House appointed a nine-member committee to facilitate consultation among federal and state leaders and called for consultations with federal member states before deciding on the ad hoc committee's recommendations. Meanwhile, the Speaker of the Lower House emphasized the primacy of Parliament in deciding on electoral modalities.

7. On 27 June, the National Independent Electoral Commission presented to the Lower House of Parliament a report on its plans for the upcoming federal elections. Given the delays in electoral preparations and readiness, the Commission proposed two possible options for the conduct of parliamentary elections: same day paper-based voter registration and polling, which could take place in March 2021; or elections with standard biometric voter registration, to be held in August 2021.

8. Following the presentation of the Commission's report, my Special Representative held intensive consultations with federal and state leaders, as well as with leaders of the Federal Parliament, political parties and civil society, and called for inclusive dialogue to reach political consensus on the modalities and timing of the elections. He also coordinated with international partners to ensure a unified approach to engaging the divided Somali stakeholders.

9. On 30 July, the Cabinet approved the appointment of five members to the Judicial Service Commission. Somali civil society organizations, the Somali Bar Association and the Forum for National Parties publicly opposed the appointments, stating that the Cabinet was currently a "caretaker government" and lacked the authority to appoint senior government officials.

10. At the initiative of the President of Djibouti, Ismaël Omar Guelleh, Mr. Farmajo and the President of "Somaliland", Muse Bihi Abdi, held a consultative meeting in Djibouti on 14 June, aimed at facilitating the resumption of dialogue between Somalia and "Somaliland". The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, also attended the meeting. The two sides agreed to form a joint committee, which met in Djibouti from 15 to 17 June, under the mediation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti and facilitators from the United States of America and the European Union. The committee discussed the way forward for talks, established three technical subcommittees on aid coordination, airspace management and security cooperation, and agreed to resume its work in Djibouti within 45 days. However, further talks scheduled to take place on 12 July were postponed for an indefinite period owing to "Somaliland" objecting to the alleged inclusion of two members from "Somaliland" in the delegation of the Federal Government of Somalia.

11. In “Somaliland”, the House of Representatives approved the final composition of the National Election Commission on 27 June. On 11 July, the President of “Somaliland” and the Chairpersons of the two opposition parties requested that the Commission prepare an election timeline for the holding of parliamentary and local council elections in 2020. The House of Representatives began considering the revised electoral law on 25 July.

12. In Galmudug, the state assembly approved, on 17 May, the nominations of the President of Galmudug, Ahmed Abdi Karie, to the 61-member state cabinet, including five women.

13. The President of Puntland, Said Abdullahi Mohamed Deni, and the President of Galmudug, Mr. Karie, met in Gaalkacyo on 27 June and jointly committed to cooperating on the maintenance of peace, security and economic development, notably in Mudug Region, which spans both Galmudug and Puntland. On 15 June, at the opening of the forty-sixth session of the Puntland state assembly in Garoowe, Mr. Deni announced that he would not accept the outcome of any dialogue between Somalia and “Somaliland” that excluded Puntland.

14. On 14 June, the President of Jubbaland, Ahmed Mohamed Islam “Madobe”, was formally recognized by the Federal Government as “President of the interim Jubbaland administration” for a period of two years from August 2019. On the same day, the Jubbaland administration rebutted the conditional recognition and stated that Mr. Madobe would complete his four-year term of office in accordance with the Constitution of Jubbaland.

15. On 30 May, the South-West State Police reinstated a 2019 ban on the holding of political meetings without prior authorization by the South-West State administration.

16. On 28 May, the President of Hirshabelle, Mohamed Abdi Ware, established a committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the abduction and killing of seven health workers from a local non-governmental organization and another person in Shabelle Dhexe Region on 27 May.

17. On 22 May, the International Court of Justice announced that it would postpone oral proceedings in the case *Maritime delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)* to the week beginning 15 March 2021.

B. Security developments

18. The security situation remained volatile, with 288 incidents in May, 269 in June and 218 in July. Most of those incidents were crime-related killings and shootings and Al-Shabaab attacks, including those using improvised explosive devices. Levels of crime and armed conflict-related incidents have remained steady since January, with a slight decline in June and July. The number of terrorism-related incidents remained at an average of around 75 per month in May and June, with 53 incidents in July.

19. Mortar attacks declined slightly countrywide, with a total of 23 between May and August, compared with 28 between February and April. The attacks mainly targeted African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and local security forces in Hiraan, Shabelle Dhexe and Banaadir Regions. On 9 May, Al-Shabaab carried out an attack with 60 mm mortars against the Aden Adde International Airport zone in Mogadishu, where the United Nations compound is located. While the United Nations infrastructure was damaged, no casualties were reported. The attack was the sixth targeting the Aden Adde International Airport zone in 2020, the highest frequency of such attacks on the zone ever recorded. On 30 June, Al-Shabaab carried out an attack on a stadium in the Wardhingley district of Mogadishu during a ceremony attended by Mr. Farmajo. No casualties were recorded.

20. Al-Shabaab maintained the capability to use vehicle-borne and person-borne improvised explosive devices to carry out high-profile attacks. On 13 July, the Chief of Defence Forces of Somalia, Brigadier General Odawa Yusuf Rage, survived a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack on his convoy in Hodan district. At least six people – three Somali National Army soldiers escorting the convoy and three civilian bystanders – were killed, and 10 others were injured. On 4 July, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at a security post manned by the Somali Police Force in Xamar Jajab district, resulting in five police officers and an unconfirmed number of civilian bystanders being injured. On 23 June, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest near a Turkish military training facility, killing two Somalis. On 17 May and 27 June, vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices targeted government officials in Mogadishu but there were no casualties.

21. On 3 August, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest inside Luul Bar and Yameni Restaurant, near the seaport in Xamar Jajab district. Three people were reportedly killed, including the perpetrator and two guards. Three civilian bystanders were injured in the explosion.

22. An increase in Al-Shabaab activity was also recorded in the northern regions. In Mudug, on 17 May, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeted the convoy of the Governor of Mudug in Gaalkacyo, killing the Governor and four of his bodyguards. It is the second high-profile attack claimed by Al-Shabaab in northern Somalia in 2020, after the killing of the Governor of Nugaal in Garoowe on 29 March. On 21 June, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded at a checkpoint near a police station in Hobyo district, killing two soldiers. On 5 July, in Shabelle Dhexe, the group abducted and killed a Member of Parliament from Hirshabelle.

23. While security operations have been ongoing in Shabelle Hoose since the resumption of Operation Badbaado in March, Al-Shabaab continued to target recovered areas with attacks on the Somali National Army and AMISOM forces. Pressure on Al-Shabaab in Shabelle Hoose appears to have forced the group to adapt and increase its presence in the Bay and Shabelle Dhexe Regions. In Bay, Al-Shabaab intensified an improvised explosive device campaign targeting AMISOM convoys on the main supply routes. Two Al-Shabaab attacks on 23 and 24 May targeted civilians during Eid celebrations in Baidoa and Diinsoor, reportedly resulting in seven people being killed and over 40 injured. A World Health Organization contractor was injured in a hand grenade attack at a restaurant on 10 July in Kismaayo.

24. Three attacks against government security forces were attributed to pro-Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) elements: two in Mogadishu and one in Boosaaso, Bari Region. This represents a decrease compared with the previous period, when six incidents were recorded. A total of seven air strikes in May, two in June and three in July were recorded in the Gedo, Juba Dhexe, Lower Juba, Shabelle Hoose and Bari Regions, targeting Al-Shabaab and ISIL. In the first seven months of 2020, there were a total of 45 air strikes, compared with 47 in all of 2018 and 63 in all of 2019.

25. On 25 May, a commercial aircraft, contracted by the World Food Programme to carry humanitarian cargo, was shot at during its approach to land in Qansaxdheere, Bay Region. The crew managed to land the aircraft and no casualties were reported. Investigations into the crash of an African Express Airways aircraft registered in Kenya on 4 May in Bardaale, South-West State, are ongoing. UNSOS supported the movement of officials and investigators from Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and AMISOM during several joint visits to the crash site.

C. Economic developments

26. The triple shock of COVID-19, the desert locust infestation and flooding has disrupted the trajectory of Somalia towards economic recovery. According to World Bank estimates from June, gross domestic product is projected to decline by 2.5 per cent in 2020 to \$4.6 billion, compared with an estimated pre-crisis growth of 3.2 per cent to \$5.2 billion. It is estimated that remittances will fall by 17 per cent in 2020 owing to the reduced financial capacity of the Somali diaspora and increased difficulties sending funds to Somalia.

27. On 28 May, the federal Cabinet approved revisions to the 2020 budget. Federal, state and local governments expect shortfalls in domestic revenue. On 23 June, the World Bank approved \$55 million in supplemental financing to help the Federal Government to bridge the fiscal gap caused by the triple shock and to continue the implementation of fiscal and economic policy reforms. The supplemental financing follows the approval by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of a three-year financing package of \$395 million under the Extended Credit Facility and the Extended Fund Facility, in support of policies and reforms between the decision and completion points under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and in support of the implementation of the ninth national development plan. Prior to the decision point, arrears to IMF were cleared, thanks to the contributions of IMF members and bridge financing from Italy.

28. The United Nations updated the socioeconomic component of the Somalia COVID-19 country preparedness and response plan to align it with the global framework of the United Nations. The revised plan consists of an integrated support package for the humanitarian, development and political workstreams of the United Nations, and seeks to adapt existing programmes to the changing context and the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. It is also aligned with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the Federal Government's comprehensive socioeconomic impact and response plan for COVID-19. The funding appeal for the Somalia COVID-19 country preparedness and response plan is \$526.8 million (\$255.7 million for the humanitarian component and \$271.1 million for the socioeconomic component).

29. The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources announced the virtual launch of an offshore licensing round that will run from 4 August 2020 to 12 March 2021. The Forum for National Parties opposed the initiative.

III. Support for peacebuilding and state-building efforts

A. Establishment of a functional federal state

1. Preparations for elections

30. The report of the joint parliamentary ad hoc committee tasked with addressing gaps in the electoral code was submitted to the House of the People on 17 June.

31. Between 22 and 30 June, the House of the People debated the committee's recommendations and adopted four resolutions that, respectively, guaranteed a minimum 24 per cent quota for the representation of women in Parliament; outlined a separate modality for electing members of both houses from "Somaliland"; allocated 13 additional seats to the Upper House for representation of the Banaadir Region; and confirmed the allocation of seats to constituencies for both houses. The House of the People also adopted the amendments to the political parties law on 22 July.

32. Progress on elections security planning has been slow since the National Electoral Security Task Force met from 15 to 18 March. My Special Representative, together with other international partners, engaged with the leadership of the Somali Police Force and offered support to put security arrangements in place. A mapping tool with proposed voter registration and polling sites was developed by the National Independent Electoral Commission and shared with the National Electoral Security Task Force to allow for ongoing site assessments by the federal member states and Banaadir police chiefs.

2. Deepening federalism

33. Concerted efforts, including virtual meetings at the technical and political levels, were undertaken by the United Nations and international partners to promote collaboration and foster political consensus among the federal and state leaders, with a view to advancing the implementation of national priorities. Following the agreement of Mr. Farmajo to designate a focal point for relations between the Federal Government and the federal member states, the federal member states also appointed their representatives to a joint secretariat that was tasked with preparing for a meeting between federal and state leaders. The secretariat held three virtual meetings between 27 May and 4 June but did not reach an agreement on the timing and agenda of the envisaged summit, prompting the representatives of Puntland and Jubbaland to withdraw from the secretariat. Subsequent engagement by my Special Representative and other international partners helped to elevate the consultations to the level of the federal and state leaders, which culminated in an agreement to hold the virtual summit on 22 June.

34. On 14 June, the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation convened an interministerial consultation to review and analyse the draft intergovernmental relations act, which aims to define the vertical, horizontal and sectoral dimensions of different levels of government. Participants agreed to form a technical working group with federal and state representatives to identify institutional, administrative and technical aspects of the draft act. Meanwhile, the establishment of key national institutions identified in the Federal Government's political road map and in the Mutual Accountability Framework, including the federal Constitutional Court and the Human Rights Commission, is yet to be completed.

3. Constitutional review

35. Efforts by the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, the joint parliamentary Oversight Committee and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission to conclude the constitutional review process continued. The three implementing entities prepared a workplan covering the period from July to December 2020 after the 30 June deadline set in the Mutual Accountability Framework for the adoption of the revised constitution was not met.

36. On 23 June, my Special Representative hosted a virtual meeting with international partners and the three entities to take stock of the review process and agreed to explore ways of facilitating the resumption of high-level dialogue between federal and state leaders to reach the political agreement required to complete the review process.

4. Prevention and resolution of conflicts

37. On 18 May, the Ministry of the Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation convened a virtual meeting of the National Reconciliation Framework Advisory Board with international partners to move the reconciliation agenda forward. For the first time, the federal member states participated in the meeting.

38. Security cooperation between Galmudug and Puntland improved markedly in Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region, which resulted in the arrest of suspected Al-Shabaab elements and the death of an Al-Shabaab official on 6 June. In the aftermath of armed clashes on 3 May in the villages of Taaroge and Saho-Kurun, the Leelkase and Sa'ad clans held a peace conference from 5 to 12 June in Bandiiradley and signed an agreement to end the cycle of violence and promote peace in west Mudug. The second phase of the reconciliation conference, held from 28 June to 5 July in Galdogob, concluded with the exchange of compensation and the signing of a cooperation agreement for peaceful coexistence between the clans.

39. On 5 July, a South-West State ministerial delegation secured an agreement on the cessation of hostilities between the Shamta-Alemod and Galjel sub-clans of the Digil and Hawiye clans, respectively, in Wanlaweyn district, Shabelle Hoose, allowing displaced people to return, and the recruitment from both communities of a 250-member special police force, working closely with Somali National Army units.

40. In Jubbaland, reconciliation talks, facilitated by the state administration and the Soransoor clan, took place between the Majerten and Awramale clans. From 10 May to 4 June, the two clans agreed to withdraw armed militia from the affected areas. A meeting of Hawadle clan elders was convened in Beledweyne on 11 June by the President of Hirshabelle, Mr. Ware, with a view to minimizing conflict over district council formation processes. Mr. Ware also intervened to end clashes over land between the Reer Hassan and Hawadle sub-clans in Hiraan Region, which had resulted in the killing of nine persons on 16 June. The Hirshabelle administration also arranged a ceasefire on 14 June between the Hawadle and Habergidar sub-clans concerning a land dispute in Matabaan district.

B. Cross-cutting issues

1. Gender equality and the empowerment of women

41. On 17 June, UNSOM and the United Nations Development Programme provided a virtual training session on gender awareness and on the women and peace and security agenda for 16 staff members (11 women and 5 men) of the Security Analysis Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister.

42. On 14 June, women leaders in Xuddur met the President of South-West State, Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed "Laftagareen", to discuss the lack of female representation in the current district council. The President assured them that the next elections in Xuddur would follow a model implemented in Diinsoor district, which achieved female representation of 47 per cent.

43. On 14 May, the state assembly of South-West State established a parliamentary committee on women, human rights and humanitarian issues. The committee is chaired by a female Member of Parliament and could increase opportunities for women and help to promote legislation that empowers women and boosts gender equality.

2. Youth empowerment

44. From 20 March to 15 June, with support from the United Nations Population Fund and in partnership with the Somali Youth Peer Education Network, a youth-led caravan travelled to parts of Hargeysa, Gebiley, Halaya, Arabsiyo, Wajaale, Garoowe, Buuhoodle, Boosaaso and Baidoa, delivering education and communication materials relating to sexual and reproductive health, HIV and COVID-19. The caravan reached 27,000 people (19,000 females and 8,000 males). Another youth caravan visited 42 villages in Jubbaland with the support of a local non-governmental organization,

Somali Lifeline Organization, reaching 1,539 men and 3,155 women with messaging aimed at countering female genital mutilation and raising awareness of COVID-19.

C. Development coordination

45. The Federal Government began operationalizing the revised aid architecture in June to streamline coordination structures and focus on the priorities stipulated in the Mutual Accountability Framework. The new architecture is simpler than the previous one and is expected to be cost-effective and more agile and strategic. The Somalia Partnership Forum will continue as the apex of the aid architecture. However, plans for the next forum are currently on hold owing to uncertainty around travel restrictions.

46. On 25 June, Mr. Khayre wrote to me endorsing the request for Somalia to continue to receive support from the Peacebuilding Fund. On 21 July, I declared Somalia eligible for support from the Peacebuilding Fund for a period of five years to enable continued funding for new peacebuilding and sustaining peace initiatives in line with national priorities. The endorsement of the Prime Minister was preceded by virtual consultations on peacebuilding priorities involving 383 people from across Somalia. The consultations concluded on 14 May. A closed phase of the consultations included participation from the Federal Government, the federal member states, civil society, members of the diplomatic community and the United Nations system in Somalia. Participants agreed that future interventions under the Peacebuilding Fund would focus on reconciliation, justice, governance and security. In the new eligibility phase, funding will be prioritized for initiatives supporting gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the Somali Women's Charter.

47. Since the endorsement of the National Environmental Policy of Somalia in February 2020, the Federal Government has drafted a climate change policy and a national environmental act. Both documents are with Parliament for approval and are expected to strengthen legislation on environmental protection. On 30 June, the World Bank released the Somalia Country Environmental Analysis, which contains short-, medium- and long-term recommendations on such issues as stemming the depletion of natural wealth, resource protection, capital accumulation and diversifying the economy.

48. The United Nations in Somalia prepared a draft common country analysis of the situation in the country, undertaken within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding nexus, and shared it with the Federal Government for feedback. The common country analysis will inform the next United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2021–2025, which will be aligned with the ninth national development plan of Somalia and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IV. Human rights and protection

A. Human rights

49. UNSOM recorded 319 civilian casualties, including 138 killed and 181 injured, compared with 170 killed and 120 injured during the previous reporting period. Al-Shabaab was the main perpetrator, responsible for 41 per cent of civilian casualties (132), followed by unknown actors with 31 per cent (98). Other perpetrators included State security forces with 12 per cent (39), clan militias with 12 per cent (39) and AMISOM with 2 per cent (7). Unidentified aerial attacks accounted for 1 per cent of civilian casualties (4).

50. Journalists and media workers in Somalia continued to face challenges exercising their right to freedom of expression. A total of six journalists were arrested: one in Hirshabelle, two in Jubbaland and three in “Somaliland”. On 21 May, the Chair of the Banaadir Regional Court ordered the Office of the Attorney General to conduct an urgent investigation into complaints by journalists. On 29 July, the Banaadir Regional Court sentenced the Deputy Director of the Goobjoog Media Group to six months’ imprisonment and imposed a fine for insulting a judicial body of the Federal Government and for publishing fake news related to COVID-19. He was released a day later, after paying the fine and an additional amount in lieu of the imprisonment term.

51. A total of 85 individuals, including 70 Al-Shabaab suspects, were arbitrarily arrested and/or held in prolonged detention, which constitutes a 4 per cent decrease from the previous reporting period, when 89 individuals were arbitrarily arrested or detained. A total of 37 individuals, including six journalists, were released without charge or being brought before a court, as required under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

52. Two members of the Somali security forces were executed on 16 and 28 May in Kismaayo and Boosaaso, respectively, after being sentenced to death for the killing of their colleagues. Eight death sentences were handed down by the Somali military courts in Jubbaland, Puntland and Mogadishu to four Al-Shabaab suspects and four members of the Somali security forces.

53. To ease overcrowding in prisons, Somali authorities pardoned and released 380 inmates (365 in “Somaliland” and 15 in Hirshabelle).

B. Compliance with the human rights due diligence policy

54. In May and June, UNSOM provided support for the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy mitigation measures under the Mine Action Service Somali police mobile vehicle checkpoint project. Support to strengthen internal compliance and reporting systems was provided to the Mine Action Service as part of the preparations for UNSOS support to an additional 3,000 Somali security forces, as mandated by Security Council resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#). UNSOM also communicated to AMISOM two incidents of alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by AMISOM involving seven civilian casualties.

C. Children in armed conflict

55. The country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict verified 546 grave violations affecting 495 children (376 boys and 119 girls), one attack on schools, one attack on a hospital and three cases of denial of humanitarian assistance. A total of 143 children were abducted, 185 children were victims of killing and maiming, 165 were victims of recruitment and use and 48 were victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

56. The violations were attributed to Al-Shabaab (320, or 58.6 per cent), unknown armed elements (108, or 19.78 per cent), clan militia (31, or 5.68 per cent), federal and state armed forces (83, or 15.2 per cent), AMISOM (2, or 0.37 per cent) and unidentified aerial attacks (2, or 0.37 per cent). A total of 17 incidents of deprivation of liberty affecting 31 boys were recorded, with 26 boys detained by the Somali Police Force, 2 by Puntland state forces, 2 by Jubbaland state forces and 1 by Galmudug state forces. Reintegration programmes supported 986 children associated with armed

forces or armed groups, and 299 vulnerable children continued to receive support from reintegration programmes supported by the United Nations Children's Fund.

57. On 7 June, a meeting of the working group on children and armed conflict was convened. Participants reviewed the steps taken by the Federal Government to implement the 2019 road map on children and armed conflict and agreed on strategies for strengthening child protection measures. Following the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/74/845-S/2020/525), specific and time-bound measures have been developed in collaboration with the Somali Police Force to address the reported violations committed against children.

D. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence

58. Forty incidents affecting 45 victims and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence were documented. All those affected were women and girls (41 minors and 4 adults). While the majority of the perpetrators (31) were reportedly unidentified armed men, four incidents were attributed to Somali National Army personnel, one to South-West Special Force personnel, one to clan militia members, one to Somali Police Force personnel, one to Al-Shabaab and one to Ethiopian National Defence Forces personnel.

59. On 14 May, in the Wadajir district of Mogadishu, a four-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a Somali National Army officer. Upon the arrest of the alleged perpetrator on 17 May, UNSOM worked closely with the Office of the Attorney General to ensure that the perpetrator was held accountable.

60. On 19 June, Somalia commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. My Special Representative issued a statement commending the work of front-line health workers and emphasized the need to support the victims and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

61. A motion to return the sexual offences bill to Parliament for its first reading was dismissed by the Speaker in June. An alternative bill, entitled the law on sexual intercourse-related crimes, was recently drafted by Parliament. The bill is narrow in scope and contravenes a number of the country's obligations under international human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNSOM and other international partners have engaged with the Speaker to bring the shortcomings of the bill to his attention and proposed ways to address them.

V. Humanitarian situation

62. Multiple shocks, including COVID-19, desert locusts and floods, have deepened the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. Since 16 March, COVID-19 has affected 3,212 people, including 133 health workers, with 93 associated deaths and 1,598 recoveries. COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities, disrupted socioeconomic gains and affected livelihoods. It has also reduced the humanitarian footprint in Somalia, with most staff working in restricted environments, including from home or remotely.

63. Humanitarian partners have expanded their support to the Somali authorities to detect, prevent and interrupt transmission of COVID-19. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing laboratories are operational in Mogadishu, Garoowe and Hargeysa. GeneXpert testing capacity has been established in Mogadishu, Kismaayo, Beledxaawo, Baidoa, Dhuusamarreeb and Jawhar and is being established in Beledweyne. In addition, hospitals and isolation centres have been equipped and risk communication and community engagement have reached 10.9 million people. At the

same time, 279 humanitarian organizations are implementing humanitarian programmes in all 18 regions. In May, 2.3 million people received food assistance, a more than three-fold increase from the 700,000 people reached per month from January to March. A total of 1.8 million people were reached in June.

64. The *gu* rains (from April to June) have eased and most displaced people have returned to their homes, but the impact of flooding owing to climate change remains widespread. At least 1.3 million people in 39 districts were affected by flooding, with over half a million displaced. Riverine and flash floods since late June have also affected almost 198,000 people. The rains washed away crops, thereby exacerbating food insecurity, and contributed to the current outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera. From January to mid-July, there were 5,177 confirmed cholera cases and 29 deaths reported in 23 districts, which is a more than three-fold increase compared with the same period in 2019.

65. The *gu* rains created favourable conditions for desert locust breeding in “Somaliland”, Puntland and Galmudug. With support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the implementation of the joint desert locust crisis – Somalia action plan has expanded local surveillance and control capacities. FAO and the Federal Government have sprayed 43,655 hectares with bio-pesticides to reduce desert locust populations. Those efforts have saved an estimated 87,255 metric tons of staple foods, valued at \$26.2 million, which will be sufficient to feed 581,700 people for a year. The spraying has further protected feed and pasture sources needed by 40,505 pastoral households. Of the \$56.9 million required for the action plan, \$34.3 million had been received as at 4 August.

66. Preliminary estimates indicate that the overall 2020 *gu* season crop harvest could be 30–40 per cent lower than the long-term average owing to the combined impact of locusts, other pests and climate change. An estimated 3.5 million people are projected to face crisis or emergency food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 3 or higher) between July and September. The Central Emergency Response Fund has made a \$15 million anticipatory action allocation to Somalia to mitigate the impact of the triple shock of COVID-19, the desert locust infestation and flooding.

67. In recognition of multiple compounding vulnerabilities, the Somalia humanitarian country team launched a reprioritization of the Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia, which resulted in revised requirements and numbers of people targeted. On 26 May, the humanitarian country team endorsed the new financial requirements, which decreased from \$1.05 billion requested in the original 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan to \$1.01 billion. The decreased financial requirements do not imply an improved humanitarian situation but rather a reprioritization of the response towards addressing the most vulnerable. As at 3 August, the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan is 49.5 per cent funded. Additional funding is urgently needed to continue to deliver humanitarian assistance.

68. Security remains a major constraint to humanitarian operations. From 5 May to 4 August, 76 incidents against humanitarian operations were recorded, in which 9 humanitarian workers were killed, 4 were injured, 17 were abducted and 11 were detained or temporarily arrested.

VI. Comprehensive approach to security

69. The Federal Government aligned the comprehensive approach to security structures with the revised aid coordination architecture. On 25 May, the

Comprehensive Approach to Security Executive Committee was renamed the Security and Justice Committee, and on 29 July, its new secretariat was formed within the Office of the Prime Minister. Internal consultations on updating the transition plan continued among relevant federal institutions and federal member states.

A. Operations

70. The Somali National Army continue to secure recovered areas in Shabelle Hoose. Its positions in and around Jannaale are becoming more established with the building of an additional forward operating base in the town, despite numerous Al-Shabaab attacks, including improvised explosive devices, ambushes and indirect fire. The extended *gu* rains have affected the expansion of some security activities. Joint planning for the final phase of operations in Shabelle Hoose, addressing the inland town of Mubaarak and the coastal town of Gandarshe, has begun. However, generating sufficient Somali security forces remains a critical issue that has been affected by COVID-19.

71. Stabilization activities in Shabelle Hoose continued to focus on supporting the local administration's outreach activities to communities in Jannaale and the surrounding villages.

72. There are currently 525 Federal Darwish Police and 376 South-West State Police in Mogadishu waiting to be supplied with small arms prior to their deployment to Shabelle Hoose as part of stabilization and transition operations in that region. Complementary non-lethal support, such as vehicles and other equipment, is being provided through the joint police programme.

B. Institutional capacity-building

73. Together with the Somali Police Force and in close cooperation with the respective line ministries, the United Nations assisted in developing general orders on the police response to COVID-19, with an emphasis on human rights protection during operations and detention. The Somali Police Force was also given support to calculate its requirements for protective equipment.

74. The United Nations supported the development of the new Galmudug administration's action plan for building the Galmudug state police, including the state Darwish (special armed police units), and expanding the state's maritime police capacity.

75. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the implementation of capacity-building activities, the Federal Supreme Court concluded a six-week training programme in July for 21 newly recruited judges from the Banaadir Regional Court. The training programme focused on ethics, court administration, human rights and cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

76. UNSOM, in conjunction with the Central Bank, assisted the Office of the Attorney General in developing its strategic plan for 2020–2024. The plan includes the establishment of a financial crimes agency to address money-laundering and other financial crimes.

77. With support from UNSOM and the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Somalia, eight federal ministries and the respective state ministries started implementing the action plan for women in the maritime sector by establishing a network of officials, civil society members and academics to advance the women and peace and security agenda within the country's maritime domain.

78. In June, as part of continued efforts to ensure that the Somali security forces are better equipped to assume responsibility for security, 39 officers from the Somali Police Force (28 men and 11 women) were provided with online training on searches, improvised explosive device component parts and the human rights due diligence policy mitigation measures under the mobile vehicle checkpoint project. That was followed by face-to-face training, which commenced on 4 July. In addition, the Mine Action Service continued to support the Federal Government in the area of improvised explosive device threat analysis, providing regular awareness reports on such devices.

C. Supporting activities

79. On 6 June, the Fragility Index and Maturity Model for 2020, which provides a dashboard and analysis on progress and conditions in 32 districts on the issues of local governance, social reconciliation, community recovery, security and rule of law, was issued. Coverage has been expanded from 24 districts in 2019 to 32 districts in 2020.

80. From 5 May to 4 August, the Mine Action Service continued to contribute to reducing the threat posed by explosive ordnance to the civilian population by providing risk education to 17,706 individuals (5,108 women, 3,767 men, 3,535 girls and 5,296 boys).

81. In an effort to counter Al-Shabaab's narratives around COVID-19, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Health, in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister, developed joint prevention and social distancing messaging, prepared religious burial guidelines and mobilized burial teams of trained front-line health workers.

82. The International Organization for Migration and UNSOM continued to work with women-led civil society organizations that provide rehabilitation and reintegration support to women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab who are survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In June, the five rehabilitation centres in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismaayo reopened fully, albeit under strict COVID-19 mitigation measures. As at 4 August, the three male rehabilitation centres are supporting 222 male Al-Shabaab defectors, while the two female rehabilitation centres in Baidoa and Kismaayo have 52 female beneficiaries.

VII. United Nations Support Office in Somalia support for the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Somali National Army

A. Support for African Union Mission in Somalia operations

83. UNSOS provided support for the continuity of AMISOM operations and ensured the availability of critical life support logistics capacities, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions imposed by the host and neighbouring Governments on the movement of personnel and cargo. The support of the Somali, Kenyan and Ethiopian Governments was instrumental in enabling UNSOS to move essential cargo and personnel across borders. Heavy rains and flooding restricted the movement of supplies by road and resulted in the increased use of aviation assets to supply AMISOM sectors.

84. AMISOM established a COVID-19 task force in all sectors and participated in the United Nations Somalia COVID-19 task force. The response efforts of the AMISOM COVID-19 task force are guided by projected transmission rates, enabling

rapid and coherent implementation of preventive measures and treatment capacity across the AMISOM area of operations. UNSOS continued to strengthen medical treatment capacities, including by providing COVID-19-related supplies to all AMISOM sectors, such as personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitizing materials, 10-person tents for isolation facilities and wash basins. By early June, AMISOM and the United Nations in Somalia had achieved a substantive level of treatment capacity, including additional hospital beds and intensive care units to be able to transfer and treat multiple serious cases in Mogadishu. Efforts are also under way to establish more robust practices. UNSOS support to the African Union Commission, AMISOM and AMISOM troop- and police-contributing countries includes reinforcing existing prevention and containment practices by establishing a joint mechanism to monitor measures taken by AMISOM, in particular in areas where the risks of contracting or spreading COVID-19 are high. The United Nations also invited the African Union to align its troop rotation mechanisms and COVID-19 mitigation measures.

85. UNSOS also supported the conversion of its training centre in Mogadishu into an isolation facility, supplementing the existing AMISOM transit camp capacity, and commenced work to upgrade the AMISOM Level 1 plus medical clinic in Kismaayo, augmented by additional medical personnel provided by Kenya.

86. UNSOS continued to support AMISOM to mitigate the threat of indirect fire in Mogadishu by prioritizing construction projects to build hard-walled structures, strengthening perimeter surveillance and defences, and installing early warning systems, with additional systems planned for deployment to AMISOM sector headquarter locations.

87. UNSOS support for water borehole drilling and improving forward operating bases has slowed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the high security threat. UNSOS capacity to undertake optimum oversight and accountability measures for support to AMISOM, including certification and inspection activities, has also been adversely affected.

88. The deployment of the AMISOM formed police unit to Baidoa, provided by Ghana, continues to be delayed owing to the rains, which have affected roads. The contingent-owned equipment for the unit has been in Mogadishu since October 2019, resulting in UNSOS incurring high demurrage charges.

89. As at 4 August, the balance of the United Nations trust fund in support of AMISOM was \$2,717,712.

90. The Mine Action Service, with assistance from UNSOS, continued to support AMISOM security operations and stabilization efforts by providing advice, analysis, training and mentoring concerning the use of specialized equipment, explosive detection dogs, community liaison officers and explosive ordnance clearance teams.

91. The Mine Action Service also supported AMISOM to reduce the threat posed by improvised explosive devices and explosive ordnance. From 5 May to 4 August, the Mine Action Service delivered training to 548 AMISOM uniformed personnel to enhance their ability to find and destroy improvised explosive devices and to safely operate within the threat environment. The Mine Action Service also supported AMISOM predeployment training for 142 troops in Mudubugu, Burundi, from 4 May to 9 July. The Mine Action Service further contributed to the safety and security of strategic infrastructure through the deployment of 24 teams to conduct searches of 16,306 pieces of luggage, 45,057 vehicles, 254 buildings, 168,840 m² of built-up areas and 10,717,040 m² of open areas throughout the sectors.

B. Support for Somali national armed forces operations

92. UNSOS delivered field defence stores, communication equipment and life support supplies to Somali National Army troops deployed to Operation Badbaado in Sabiid, Ceel Saliini, Awdheegle and Jannaale. UNSOS also supported the establishment of a Somali National Army logistics hub in the AMISOM forward operating base at KM50 and provided field defence stores to the same location, enabling the Somali National Army to establish field headquarters for the 14th October Brigade.

93. The Federal Government has not yet advised on the modality to enable the United Nations non-lethal support package to be extended to an additional 3,000 members of the Somali security forces, including an appropriate share of state and federal police, as authorized by the Security Council in resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#). The Head of UNSOS continued to consult regularly the Minister of Defence and Commander of the Somali Armed Forces on the current support to 10,900 Somali National Army personnel.

94. On 16 June, the Head of UNSOS wrote to the embassies of Member States accredited to Somalia in an appeal for contributions to the trust fund in support of the Somali security forces. As at 4 August, the balance of the fund was \$9,191,430, which is sufficient to provide mandated support to 10,900 Somali security forces for seven months.

VIII. United Nations presence in Somalia

95. United Nations entities continued to be present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 4 August, 308 international staff and 1,261 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia. Approximately 65 per cent of United Nations staff in Somalia have transitioned to remote work owing to COVID-19.

96. Following the unprecedented number of mortar attacks since the beginning of the year, the United Nations enhanced safety measures within the Aden Adde International Airport zone and strengthened security cooperation with AMISOM and the host Government. The frequency of the attacks highlights the intent and capability of Al-Shabaab to target the United Nations and adjacent compounds in the Aden Adde International Airport zone. The likelihood of further attacks remains high.

IX. Observations

97. I welcome the long-awaited resumption of dialogue between the Federal Government and the leaders of the federal member states and the steps taken towards normalizing Federal Government relations with Jubbaland, which is critical for the restoration of collaboration between federal and state levels of government. I also commend the work of the country's nascent institutions, in particular the Federal Parliament, which has made some progress towards developing an electoral code, and the National Independent Electoral Commission, for its efforts to advance technical preparations for the 2020/21 elections in the face of significant political challenges.

98. Somalia is at a critical juncture. The preparations for the 2020/21 elections have suffered significant delays, the legal framework remains incomplete and security arrangements are not yet in place. The provisional Federal Constitution mandates that parliamentary elections must be held through direct universal suffrage and must occur on a four-year cycle, which ends in November. Broad-based agreement among the

major stakeholders is necessary to chart a viable way forward, as any electoral modalities pursued by a single stakeholder, including the Federal Parliament, will not be implementable without the support and buy-in of other key stakeholders. I therefore welcome the discussions held by the federal and state leaders in Dhuusamarreeb as an important first step towards building the essential political consensus on the electoral modalities. As the work of the technical committee established by the leaders in Dhuusamarreeb moves forward, it is important to devise options for electoral modalities that not only move the country away from selection processes and towards direct elections, as codified in the provisional Constitution, but also keep the country on a stable political path, in the interests of the Somali people.

99. I am concerned that the abrupt removal of Mr. Khayre might disrupt the implementation of the agreements reached in Dhuusamarreeb, as well as the ongoing security transition operations and the political, security and economic reforms the Prime Minister was leading. It is vital to continue to honour the agreements reached by the federal and state leaders in Dhuusamarreeb and the timelines for follow-up meetings, and to ensure that all Somali stakeholders, including the federal and state leaders, Parliament, political parties and civil society representatives, undertake urgent and concerted efforts to reach a broad-based inclusive agreement on the way forward on elections.

100. The federal and state leaders all have a responsibility to keep the nation together and steer it towards the essential political consensus, not only on the modalities for peaceful elections, but also on how to advance cooperation on security and economic development and how to complete the review of the Constitution.

101. I encourage the Federal Government to accelerate the updating of the transition plan to allow for continued progress on the transition of security responsibilities to Somalia. The inclusion of federal member states, AMISOM and key security partners in the revision of the transition plan will ensure greater success in meeting updated targets and timelines. I also look forward to the revitalization of strategic level engagement on the comprehensive approach to security to provide the necessary assistance towards achieving holistic security for the Somali people. This will build on the encouraging work undertaken at the technical level between the ministries concerned and international partners to define strategic priorities and operational objectives.

102. Further reform in the security and justice sectors will require political will and cooperation between the Federal Government and the federal member states. I call upon the Federal Government and the state authorities to ensure that federal Darwish units and South-West police personnel are appropriately equipped and deployed to Shabelle Hoose to support stabilization efforts following successful operations. I urge the Somali authorities to complete the transfer of high-risk cases from military to civilian courts as a matter of priority.

103. I condemn attacks by Al-Shabaab on Somali civilians, security forces, AMISOM, the United Nations and the international community. I call upon international partners to continue to extend support to the Somali security sector through training and capacity-building, as well as contributions to the trust fund in support of the Somali security forces, including through funding earmarked for the training, equipping and mentoring of Somali security forces to counter the threat of improvised explosive devices.

104. In addition to the impact of conflict on civilians, I remain concerned about attacks on freedom of expression, with the killing, assaulting and intimidation of journalists and media workers. I commend the national authorities for recognizing the

hostile environment in which journalists carry out their vital work by committing to undertake investigations into attacks on the media.

105. The occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects women and girls, is also concerning. With regard to the deterrence of such crimes, I am alarmed by the alternative draft law on sexual intercourse-related crimes and urge the Cabinet to reintroduce the sexual offences bill in Parliament so that it can be adopted and enacted, while ensuring that any amendments are in line with international standards. I also urge the Federal Government to take steps towards establishing the national human rights commission, which has a key role to play in promoting and protecting human rights.

106. I welcome the meeting between Mr. Farmajo and Mr. Bihi and the technical talks between Somalia and “Somaliland” held in Djibouti. Following the earlier meeting between the two leaders in Addis Ababa, the Djibouti talks constitute a further positive step towards the improvement of relations and the resumption of dialogue between the two sides. I urge the two parties to agree on concrete actions to advance confidence-building efforts.

107. I commend the ongoing response of the Somali authorities to the COVID-19 pandemic at both the federal and state levels, which the United Nations continues to assist. Somalia will continue to need the support of the international community in these efforts, including to alleviate the economic impact of the pandemic on Somali households and to address the humanitarian needs resulting from recurring floods and the desert locust infestation. I call for donor support for these efforts.

108. I thank the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other partners for their invaluable support and engagement in Somalia. I pay tribute to the brave personnel of AMISOM, the Somali National Army and the Somali Police Force for their sacrifices in pursuit of peace and stability in the country.

109. I also thank my Special Representative, James Swan, and all United Nations personnel in Somalia for their dedication and untiring efforts, working in very challenging conditions, in support of Somalia and its people.
