



# Security Council

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## Situation in Somalia

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution [2592 \(2021\)](#) and paragraph 54 of resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#), provides updates on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers significant developments from 1 February to 6 May 2022.

#### II. Political and security overview

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

2. During the reporting period, considerable progress was made towards the completion of the electoral process, with all 275 House of the People seats elected as at 6 May. A total of 54 women, or 20 per cent, of the 275 were elected, falling short of the 30 per cent target and representing a decrease from the 24 per cent achieved in 2016. On 14 April, the inauguration ceremony for the eleventh Parliament took place in Mogadishu, with 290 newly elected members of the Upper House and the House of the People sworn in. On 26 April, Abdi Hashi Abdullahi was re-elected as Speaker and Ali Shaban Ibrahim and Abdullahi Ali Hirsi were re-elected as Deputy Speakers of the Upper House. On 27 and 28 April, Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nur “Adan Madobe” was elected as Speaker of the House of the People, while Sadia Yasin Haji Samatar was elected as First Deputy Speaker and Abdullahi Omar Abshir “Abshirow” as Second Deputy Speaker. Sadia Yasin Haji Samatar is the first ever female Deputy Speaker in the history of Somalia. The parliamentary Committee tasked with organizing the presidential elections announced that the elections would be held on 15 May.

3. The elections saw delays in February and March. The timeline announced by the National Consultative Council in January, whereby the House of the People elections were expected to conclude by 25 February, was met only for the Banaadir and Somaliland seats. On 24 February, the Prime Minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, extended the deadline to 15 March. Galmudug and South-West States completed their respective electoral processes by 15 March, while Puntland completed the process on 18 March. On 15 March, the Federal Electoral Implementation Team published an



updated timetable, announcing that parliament would be sworn in on 14 April but did not indicate a timeline for the completion of the House of the People or presidential elections.

4. Hirshabelle and Jubbaland States faced challenges in completing the House of the People elections, in particular in the second voting locations of Beledweyne and Garbahaarrey. In Hirshabelle, the President, Ali Abdullahi Hussein “Gudlawe” engaged with various clan elders, militia leaders and politicians in Beledweyne to defuse tensions between his administration and the Hawadle clan on the elections and broader power-sharing disputes. President Gudlawe and Hawadle leaders reportedly reached an informal understanding on 8 February to focus on the elections, which subsequently started on 20 February. Following complaints from clan elders and opposition candidates over the lack of transparency of the electoral process, President Gudlawe replaced the Chairperson of the Hirshabelle State Election Implementation Team on 20 March. Contestation over one House of the People seat continued to delay the finalization of the House of the People elections in Hirshabelle.

5. The organization of elections in Garbahaarrey, Gedo Region, the second designated polling location for Jubbaland State according to the agreement of 17 September 2020, remained a source of contention between the President, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo”, and the President of Jubbaland, Ahmed Mohamed Islam “Madobe”. In accordance with the outcome document of the meeting of the National Consultative Council, held on 24 February, the Prime Minister appointed a fact-finding committee on 28 February to assess the conditions for conducting the electoral process in Garbahaarrey. On 2 March, the committee met with Jubbaland officials and other election stakeholders based in Kismaayo. However, the Gedo regional administration barred the fact-finding committee from visiting Garbahaarrey, questioning the neutrality of its chairperson. Efforts to reach an agreement on the process have been unsuccessful. On 14 April, the Federal Electoral Implementation Team announced that the 16 Garbahaarrey seats would be moved to Ceel Waaq, Gedo Region. In a separate statement, also issued on 14 April, the Governor of Gedo Region invited elders, candidates and electoral bodies to Garbahaarrey to hold elections there. Consequently, parallel elections for the 16 Gedo seats were held on 22 and 23 April in El Wak and on 23 April in Garbahaarrey, with both groups of Members of Parliament claiming to represent the seats from Gedo.

6. On 31 March, the Federal Electoral Implementation Team published a list of the elected Members of Parliament for both the Upper House and the House of the People. The list excluded four House of the People seats, three for South-West State and one for Hirshabelle State. On 6 April, the Federal Electoral Implementation Team cited irregularities in the processes as the reason. As a result, South-West State recalled its newly elected parliamentarians for consultations and suspended cooperation with the Prime Minister on election matters. Following discussions between the Chair of the Federal Electoral Implementation Team and the State President, Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed “Laftagareen”, aimed at resolving the issue before the swearing-in of Parliament, two of the South-West State seats initially excluded by the Federal Electoral Implementation Team were recognized on 13 April and the third was re-run. The Hirshabelle seat decision was appealed to the Supreme Court, which declined to adjudicate on the matter. The seat remains pending.

7. On 4 April, the Prime Minister dismissed the former Chair and Secretary-General of the Federal Electoral Implementation Team, accusing him of involvement in attempts to disrupt the process of swearing in newly elected parliamentarians. Five other members of the body received warnings.

8. Reports of electoral irregularities continued to circulate during the reporting period. In a press release issued on 29 March, the Election Dispute Resolution

Committee stated that it had adjudicated six complaints relating to House of the People seats. The Committee stated that 25 complaints would be referred to the National Consultative Council as they involved “violations of multiple rights”, but no meeting of the Council took place on the issue.

9. Following the convening of the Eleventh Parliament, the Interim Speaker, Abdisalam Haji “Dhabancad”, swore in the 16 Members of Parliament elected from El Wak on 25 April. Not recognizing his decision, the 16 Members from Garbahaarrey demanded to be recognized as the legitimate Members of Parliament from Gedo. This controversy delayed the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers of the House of the People on 27 April. However, the vote went ahead after a compromise was reached which prevented both groups of 16 Members from voting in the election, while remaining in the election venue. After his election as Speaker, on 8 May, Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nur, after consultations, formally recognized the 16 Members from Gedo as the legitimate representatives from that region.

10. My Special Representative and his team, jointly with international partners, continued to engage with all key stakeholders, including Mr. Farmajo, the Prime Minister, leaders of federal member states, opposition leaders and the election management bodies, to accelerate the completion of the elections, urge fulfilment of the women quota, de-escalate tensions and resolve outstanding electoral issues through dialogue and compromise. They also shared the view of the international partners that the delays in the electoral process were drawing attention away from key national priorities, including the security transition, the completion of the constitutional review and addressing the dire humanitarian situation. In an effort to encourage completion of a credible electoral process, the United Nations coordinated joint statements with international partners, which were issued on 18 February, 18 March and 14, 27 and 28 April.

## **B. United Nations electoral support**

11. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations continued to assist with election security planning and providing logistical support at voting locations. The United Nations also continued to provide technical and logistical assistance to the electoral committees.

12. The United Nations continued to support capacity-building efforts for the constitutionally mandated National Independent Electoral Commission, including the finalization of its five-year Strategic Plan 2022–2026. Technical support to the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission for district council elections, expected to take place in late 2022, was also provided by the United Nations.

## **C. Security developments**

13. The security situation remained volatile, with a monthly average of 236 incidents recorded since the beginning of 2022. Most incidents continued to be perpetrated by Al-Shabaab. Somali security forces and AMISOM remained the main target of attacks, carried out primarily through improvised explosive devices and hit-and-run attacks. Banaadir, Shabelle Hoose and Bay Regions were the most affected by Al-Shabaab activity.

14. In Mogadishu on 23 March a group of armed Al-Shabaab fighters disguised in military uniforms infiltrated the Aden Adde International Airport zone and attacked the SafeLane Global compound. The attackers opened fire, targeting the gate guards and people inside the compound. The attack resulted in five fatalities, including three

SafeLane international employees and one Somali police officer. Two of the attackers were killed and the others were neutralized by security forces. While this incident was ongoing, Al-Shabaab launched six mortar rounds against the Aden Adde International Airport zone, impacting areas near the United Nations compound. There were no casualties as a result of the attack.

15. The acceleration in the electoral process led to increased Al-Shabaab attacks, mainly in the locations hosting parliamentary elections. In Shabelle Hoose, on 9 February, the polling station in Baraawe was targeted by an indirect fire attack while the House of the People elections were ongoing. While elections were not disrupted, the mortars impacted a residential area, killing four civilians. On 10 February, in Xamar Weyne district of Mogadishu, a bus was targeted by a person-borne improvised explosive device carrying Somaliland electoral delegates to the voting centre. While the explosion did not impact the target vehicle, five civilian bystanders were killed.

16. In Mogadishu on 16 February Al-Shabaab used two suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices to carry out coordinated complex attacks on the outskirts of the city. The group attacked and temporarily overran the Kaxda Bajeelaad police station and the house of a government official in Daarasalaam area, resulting in four deaths and 19 injured.

17. In Hiraan, a person-borne improvised explosive device exploded inside a restaurant in Beledweyne on 19 February, causing the deaths of at least 18 people, including government officials. The attack occurred while a campaign meeting of electoral delegates and other officials was under way. Also on 19 February, an improvised explosive device detonated at a tea shop in Boosaaso, reportedly targeting elders involved in the electoral process. Four people were killed. Two days later, on 21 February, Al-Shabaab targeted the convoy of the President of Puntland, Said Abdullahi Deni, with an improvised explosive device on the outskirts of the town. The President remained unharmed, but two soldiers were killed. Both attacks coincided with the preparations of the House of the People elections in Boosaaso.

18. In Puntland, the dispute regarding the command of the Puntland Security Force, which had led to tensions in Boosaaso in late 2021, was resolved through dialogue during the current reporting period. Following Mr. Deni's agreement with Boosaaso elders and other stakeholders, the Puntland Security Force was reconstituted as the "Puntland Security Commando Force" and "Puntland Intelligence Special Forces" on 4 March. Mr. Deni reappointed Mohamud Osman Abdullahi "Diano" to lead the former, while General Mohamed Amin Abdullahi Haji Khayr, initially appointed in November 2021 to replace "Diano", was named head of the latter.

19. On 23 March, a person-borne improvised explosive device detonated near the Hiraan administration headquarters while electoral activities were ongoing. This explosion was followed by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive attack, which impacted first responders transporting the injured towards medical centres. The state administration reported that 50 people were killed, including female Member of Parliament, Amina Mohamed Abdi, and 106 injured. In Mogadishu, on 14 April, six mortar rounds were launched towards the Aden Adde International Airport zone and impacted an area in the vicinity of the Somali Air Force hangar, where the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Members of Parliament was ongoing. One security guard was slightly injured in the attack.

20. In Bay region, Al-Shabaab attacked and briefly took over Diinsoor town on 5 February. While government forces regained control of Diinsoor shortly afterwards, Al-Shabaab targeted the town with mortars seven times between February and March, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and the relocation of most international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

21. Activity by pro-Da'esh elements in Somalia continued to be reported in the Banaadir region. Two improvised explosive devices attacks targeted the Somali police and the vehicle of a government official in Dharkenley and Kaaraan districts on 12 and 19 March respectively. Two civilians and three members of the Somali security forces were injured. In addition, a police checkpoint in Howlwadag district was targeted by a grenade attack on 13 March, with no casualties.

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

#### **A. Gender equality and women's empowerment**

22. On 3 May, Al-Shabaab carried out a complex attack with two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices on the African Union Transition Mission (ATMIS) forward operating base in Ceel Baraf, Shabelle Dhexe, resulting in the deaths of and injuries to several peacekeepers.

23. During the reporting period, efforts continued to advocate for the fulfilment of a 30 per cent quota for women in the House of the People. On 14 February, the federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, supported by the United Nations, convened an advocacy forum involving over 200 Somali women in Mogadishu. The conference was aimed at encouraging the electoral stakeholders and clan elders to reserve seats for women in the elections for the remaining House of the People seats.

24. The Goodwill Ambassadors appointed by the Prime Minister to promote the 30 per cent quota of women's representation in parliament undertook seven field missions to federal member states to lobby and advocate for the 30 per cent quota in the reporting period. With support from UNSOM, the Goodwill Ambassadors intensified their advocacy efforts in the media, including through their participation in live talk shows and press conferences. On 7 March, the Goodwill Ambassadors conducted coordinated press conferences in Mogadishu and the capitals of the five federal member states to protest the lack of action by the leaders of the federal member states to fulfil their political commitments.

25. The Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and UNSOM initiated a coordination forum comprising the Goodwill Ambassadors, federal member states' Women's Affairs Ministers and civil society actors to strengthen coordination on advocacy for the 30 per cent quota for women. The body convened twice, on 9 February and 17 March, with a view to redoubling stakeholders' concerted efforts towards the achievement of 30 per cent representation of women during the final phase of the electoral process.

26. Following the targeted killing of incumbent parliamentary candidate Amina Mohamed Abdi in a suicide attack in Beledweyne on 23 March, women candidates expressed concerns over their personal safety and security. My Special Representative engaged with stakeholders on enhancing the security of women in the political process.

27. On 9 and 10 February, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and a donor, held a technical workshop for the costing and validation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) national action plan on women and peace and security. The Action Plan calls for women's meaningful participation in matters relating to peace and security, and accelerated action towards

gender parity among decision makers on peace and security issues, including at the leadership level.

## **B. Youth empowerment**

28. From 27 February to 2 March, UNSOM, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Internal Security of Galmudug State organized an intergenerational workshop on youth, peace and security. The workshop brought together 60 young women and men, and representatives from security institutions, for dialogue on young people's rights, as well as their specific security needs, to strengthen youth participation in the peace and security processes in Galmudug.

29. On 1 February, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) started the implementation of the second phase of the UPSHIFT Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme, which will end in May 2024. This phase targets 650 adolescents and young people (60 per cent female), including street-children, survivors of gender-based violence, children associated with armed groups and young people and children in conflict with the law.

30. From 7 to 19 March, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), through its implementing partner, conducted ideation bootcamp training courses for 391 young people (181 male and 210 female) in Dhuusamarreeb, Galguduud region, Jawhar, Shabelle Dhexe Region, Kismaayo, Juba Hoose Region, Marka, Shabelle Hoose Region and Mogadishu. Furthermore, 600 youths from the bootcamp and various youth centres are undergoing an additional two months of coaching and mentorship. The initiative is aimed at supporting youth-led activities and entrepreneurship.

31. From 19 to 21 March, UNSOM, UNFPA and an implementing partner in collaboration with local youth-led organizations and civil society partners hosted a forum on youth, elections and democratization in Puntland. The forum brought together over 90 young people (53 male and 37 female), civil society and other political actors, including women, to discuss strategies to increase youth electoral participation at the subnational level.

## **C. Coordination of development assistance**

32. During the reporting period, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) took stock of progress achieved against the economic programme of Somalia, including reforms and policies agreed under the Extended Credit Facility. IMF also found that Somalia had made headway on some of the triggers related to debt relief. However, the international financial institutions underlined that delays in the electoral process could hinder the implementation of reforms and policies, thus holding back access to development assistance and disrupting debt relief efforts.

33. On 24 February, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNDP in Somalia met with managers of the Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods, as well as the ambassadors of Gulf States. They discussed the need to provide alternative energy sources to reduce reliance on charcoal. The programme has been extended until the end of 2022.

34. On 19 March, the project on stopping the climate displacement cycle in Galmudug, led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with UNEP, was launched. The project is to be completed by September 2023, with

the aim of reducing environmentally induced displacement and conflict in Galmudug State.

35. On 20 March, the Federal Government of Somalia and the United Nations jointly launched the “Saameynta – Scaling Up Solutions to Displacement in Somalia” programme. The programme promotes the sustainable integration of displaced communities in urban areas. IOM, UNDP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will work closely with the Government and State authorities to support the Government to enhance urbanization and infrastructure investment in order to increase access to basic services for displacement-affected communities in Baidoa, South-West State, Beledweyne, Hirshabelle State, and Boosaaso, Puntland State.

36. On 28 March, the National Flood and Drought Task Force held a virtual workshop with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources on sustainable flood management and risk reduction. With 35 government officials and water professionals in attendance, the Task Force validated the final deliverables of the project on flooding, including a nature-based solutions catalogue, a research paper on water-related conflicts, a study on knowledge, attitude and practices related to embankment breakages, as well as a road map for the nexus response to flooding.

37. On 6 April, a United Nations inter-agency team visited Hargeysa in “Somaliland” to conduct an impact and needs assessment following the Waheen Market fire on 1 April. The team worked jointly with a “Somaliland” government committee on data collection and held engagements with victims to assess the infrastructural, socioeconomic, environmental and health consequences of the fire.

#### **D. Humanitarian assistance**

38. At least 7.7 million people in Somalia are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 2.9 million people are internally displaced and face significant protection risks, including eviction, abuse, sexual violence and harassment. In Diinsoor, South-West State, three weeks of hostilities by Al-Shabaab in February forced over 17,400 people, many of whom were women and children, to flee their homes.

39. The humanitarian emergency due to the drought continues to escalate. The country faces the risk of localized famine up to June 2022. An estimated 6.1 million people are affected by drought, with the majority facing hunger, destitution and loss of livelihoods. About 759,400 have been newly displaced in search of food, water and humanitarian assistance, according to the Protection and Return Monitoring Network, a project implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and partners.

40. More than 90 per cent of Somalia received no precipitation throughout March, creating a high demand for water and overstressing functional permanent water sources. About 3.5 million people were in acute need of water, while an estimated 80 per cent of the water sources across the country have dried up. Along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers, water levels were below their historical minimum. Dry riverbeds were observed in many sections of the two rivers, affecting farming activities. In February, water and staple food prices rose by 140 per cent to 160 per cent above the five-year average in some areas, comparable to prices recorded during the 2010/2011 and 2016/2017 droughts.

41. Acute food insecurity in Somalia has drastically worsened since the beginning of 2022, with an estimated 6 million people, up from 2 million in January, facing severe food shortages (integrated food security phase classification (IPC) phase 3 or

higher) from April to mid-2022, according to the March IPC and Famine Risk analyses. This includes 1.7 million people facing Emergency (IPC phase 4) and over 81,000 people likely in IPC phase 5 (Catastrophe). Famine could occur in six areas across Somalia by June 2022, if the current April to June *gu* season rains, which to date are below average, fail, if food prices continue to rise and if humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach the country's most vulnerable populations. Funding is urgently required to make this possible.

42. Partly owing to drought, acute malnutrition levels have deteriorated across much of the country. Approximately 1.4 million children under the age of 5 are facing acute malnutrition in 2022, of whom 329,500 are likely to be severely malnourished. Particularly high levels of acute malnutrition were reported among newly arrived internally displaced persons in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Gaalkacyo. Since January, a total of 50,348 children (27,704 girls and 22,644 boys) have been treated for severe acute malnutrition, according to UNICEF.

43. The drought has particularly devastated the livelihoods of the most vulnerable Somalis, whose ability to cope has been eroded by decades of protracted conflict, climate shocks, locust infestation and disease outbreaks. As at March, significant losses of livestock – a main source of livelihoods in Somalia – have been reported in several parts of the country. In addition, the drought emergency has disrupted education for 1.4 million children; of whom 420,000 (45 per cent girls) are at risk of dropping out of school. More than 3.5 million people across the country lack access to sufficient water.

44. In response to the crisis, since January, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have constructed 42 new shallow wells in Gedo and Bay Regions and rehabilitated 55 in Shabelle Hoose, Gedo, Juba Hoose, Bay, Mudug and Galgaduug Regions. Solar system installations were included in all rehabilitated water sources. IOM provided more than 33,200,000 litres of clean water to 13,000 households in nine different districts throughout the country. As at March, while 2.6 million people have received food assistance primarily through unconditional cash transfers, over a million more are benefiting from longer-term resilience, livelihood support and social protection programmes.

45. Disease outbreaks continued to be reported in parts of the country as extreme drought conditions led to the consumption of contaminated water and exacerbated poor hygiene standards. Since January 2022, 3,170 cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and 2,460 cases of measles were reported in Somalia. Most of those affected were children under the age of five from rural village sites for internally displaced persons. Since January 2022, 1.23 million children have undergone routine immunization in 54 districts and another 533,000 received measles vaccinations provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF.

46. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to impact the humanitarian situation. As at 30 April, the country had reported 26,581 COVID-19 cases in total, including 1,350 associated deaths (5.1 per cent). According to WHO, as at 30 April, more than 1.4 million people in the country have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and Somalia has administered at least 2.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, on 16 March, WHO handed over two state-of-the-art pressure swing adsorption containerized oxygen plants to the Government of Somalia.

47. Humanitarian access remained a major challenge, mainly as a result of ongoing conflict and insecurity, affecting the safety of humanitarian workers and their ability to help people in need. At least 24 access-related incidents were recorded during the reporting period. In a continuing trend, the highest number of access-related incidents occurred in Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South-West States. Approximately 900,000



people live in areas controlled by non-State armed groups, with serious access challenges that hinder humanitarian reach.

48. Despite the security, operational and financial challenges, 220 humanitarian actors continued to be present in 72 out of 74 districts across all regions and states, providing life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people, including 158 national NGOs. Humanitarian partners continued to ramp up drought response, prioritizing geographical areas and reprogramming activities to address acute water shortages and other urgent life-saving needs. Some 2.5 million Somalis were reached with various forms of drought assistance from January to March 2022.

49. On 24 February, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund launched an early allocation of \$25 million to provide immediate assistance to communities hard-hit by the drought emergency in priority locations. The allocation complemented the \$17 million previously provided from the Central Emergency Response Fund to meet the immediate needs of communities affected by drought.

50. Funding for humanitarian response in Somalia continues to arrive late and in a staggered fashion, hindering a robust and timely response. The humanitarian community has scaled up advocacy and resource mobilization efforts. On 26 April, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Union co-hosted a high-level round table on the Horn of Africa drought. During the event, donors pledged \$1.39 billion for the humanitarian and development response to the drought in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. As at 6 May, the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia, requiring almost \$1.5 billion to assist 5.5 million of the most vulnerable Somalis, remained significantly underfunded, at 7.6 per cent.

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

### **1. Human rights**

51. During the reporting period, UNSOM recorded 428 civilian casualties (167 killed and 261 injured), a 134 per cent increase compared with the 183 civilian casualties recorded during the previous period. Al-Shabaab remained the main perpetrator, responsible for 325 civilian casualties (76 per cent), followed by 51 (12 per cent) attributed to unidentified actors, 34 (8 per cent) to clan militia and 18 (4 per cent) to state security forces. The increase in casualties was caused primarily by Al-Shabaab increasing its attacks against electoral delegates and candidates in February.

52. During the reporting period, UNSOM documented the arbitrary arrest and detention of 27 journalists and media workers, including for allegedly spreading false information, posting views critical of public officials and covering an attack by Al Shabaab. In one incident, on 8 February, the “Somaliland” National Intelligence Agency detained a freelance journalist at the Criminal Investigation Department detention facility in Hargeysa. He was reportedly arrested in relation to his post on social media in which he claimed that a foreign Government would take over a port in Awdal region. In addition, on 16 February, four journalists were reportedly physically assaulted and mistreated by officers from a unit of the Somali Police Force while covering an incident that involved Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu.

53. Two individuals convicted of being affiliated with Al-Shabaab and five former members of security forces were sentenced to death on 13 February and 24 March, respectively, by the First Instance Military Court in Gaalkacyo. One civilian was sentenced to death on 20 February by the Puntland Court of First Instance. In addition,

six former members of security forces were executed by the authorities – four in “Somaliland” and two in Jubbaland. The latter were reportedly denied the right to appeal.

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

54. On 10 March, the AMISOM-United Nations Joint Working Group on the human rights due diligence policy resumed its quarterly meetings at the principals level. Building on discussions of the AMISOM-United Nations technical working group on the policy, the Joint Working Group reviewed the progress made in implementing mitigation measures. The group also discussed strengthening the follow-up on alleged violations and other strategic issues, including the work of the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell and pre-deployment training of uniformed personnel. In addition, UNSOM provided technical guidance to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Mine Action Service, to develop risk assessments relating to their respective projects in support of the Somali National Army.

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

55. From 1 February to 31 March 2022, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children verified 372 grave violations against 368 children (281 boys and 87 girls), two attacks on a school, one attack on a hospital and one incident of denial of humanitarian access. A total of 138 children were victims of killing and maiming, 98 were abducted, 94 were recruited and used and 38 were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence. Of the violations, 217 (58.3 per cent) were attributed to Al-Shabaab, 65 (17.4 per cent) to unidentified perpetrators, 59 (16 per cent) to the federal and state armed forces, 20 (5.3 per cent) to clan militia and 3 (1 per cent) to Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama’a.

56. From 9 to 13 February, UNSOM, in collaboration with the ministries of internal security in Galmudug and Jubbaland, commemorated the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers. Activities included panel discussions and the dissemination of key messages to raise public awareness about the prohibition of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups.

57. In line with its efforts to build the capacity of civil society organizations in monitoring and reporting on the six grave violations against children, UNSOM, in collaboration with UNICEF and partners, conducted capacity-building sessions in Mogadishu from 14 to 16 and from 21 to 23 March on the monitoring and reporting mechanism. A total of 101 monitors (70 men and 31 women) from civil society organizations from Gedo, Galguduud, Juba Dhexe, Banaadir, Hiraan, Shabelle Dhexe, Bay, Bakool and Mudug Regions participated in these sessions.

58. On 4 April, UNSOM, UNICEF and the Puntland Human Rights Defender engaged the Puntland State government on the issue of age verification for the alleged minors sentenced to death on 31 January. As a result, the State authorities agreed to form a subcommittee on age verification that would conduct its work in accordance with UNICEF age verification guidelines.

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

59. UNSOM verified, through the monitoring and reporting arrangement, four incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting three women and a 15-year-old girl. The victims included an internally displaced woman and a pregnant woman who were raped and killed by the alleged perpetrators. Of the four incidents, three were allegedly committed in the context of inter-clan conflict in Galmudug State. The fourth incident was perpetrated against an internally displaced person by an

unidentified assailant, reportedly wearing a military uniform in Beledweyne town, Hiraan Region. In the case of the minor, the family decided to settle the case in agreement with the relatives of the alleged perpetrator through traditional dispute mechanisms, in contravention of international human rights standards. The survivor received medical and psychological care.

60. There was no significant progress in the prosecution of rape cases during the reporting period. UNSOM continued to follow up and inquire as to the legal status of five suspects, including two Somali Police Force officers and one Somali National Army soldier, who were arrested in connection with the gang rape and subsequent death of a girl in December 2021. The suspects remain in custody while investigations are ongoing.

61. On 10 March, the monitoring and reporting arrangement technical working group held a meeting and assessed the trends and patterns of conflict-related sexual violence. Of particular concern was the ongoing displacement of the population caused by the drought, which may increase the vulnerability of internally displaced persons to sexual and gender-based violence. Participants agreed to strengthen coordination and advocacy with the Government to enhance the protection of displaced women and girls.

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

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

62. The African Union and Federal Government of Somalia concept of operations for ATMIS and the African Union-United Nations joint proposal were completed in February and subsequently endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 8 March. The Peace and Security Council, at its 1068th meeting on 8 March, further authorized ATMIS to replace AMISOM, effective 1 April. On 31 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2628 \(2022\)](#) endorsing the decision to reconfigure AMISOM into ATMIS and authorizing its mandate for an initial period of 12 months. On 1 April, ATMIS was established and officially took over from AMISOM.

63. The Federal Government convened the second meeting of the Somalia Transition Plan strategic steering committee on 21 March to brief on the Concept of Operations and the revised Somalia Transition Plan. Key changes to the Somalia Transition Plan included amendments to operational timelines to align with the Concept of Operations and the inclusion of a revised gradual and conditions-based exit strategy for ATMIS in December 2024.

64. During the reporting period, Somali security forces and AMISOM operational priorities were focused on countering Al-Shabaab's attempts to hamper the ongoing House of the People elections. This operational focus triggered delays in implementing the Somalia Transition Plan. Delivery on objectives, such as further force generation, planning for the clearance of the Mogadishu-Baidoa main supply route by mid-2022 and the convening of the Security and Justice Committee, remained on hold.

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

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

65. During the reporting period, UNSOM conducted capacity-building activities for 56 personnel of the Custodial Corps of the Federal Government (12 women and 44 men), 11 judges (all men), 9 court staff (all men) and 15 Members of the "Somaliland"

Parliament (all men) in Kismaayo, Hargeysa, and Mogadishu on oversight, accountability, case management and prison administration.

66. To enhance election security, the United Nations completed 29 election security training activities, funded by the Joint Police Programme, and a series of Joint Operations Centre intelligence training workshops, funded by the trust fund for peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

67. On 15 and 16 February, the final workshop of the five federal member states' parliamentary security committees took place in Garoowe, with the aim of further enhancing civilian oversight of Somali security institutions. The new "Somaliland" Parliamentary Security Committee also participated in workshops on 9 and 23 February in Hargeysa.

68. Eighty Somali Police Force Darwish commenced a three-month training course in Djibouti on 8 March. The 74 South-West State police officers deployed to Baidoa in January 2022 for election security remained unarmed; in addition, the timing of their intended redeployment to Shabelle Hoose remained unclear. Concerns remained over the delays experienced in arming and deploying Somali Police Force Darwish and South-West State police who have been trained by international partners.

69. The Joint Police Programme continues to provide capacity-building support to the Somali Police Force and federal member state police services, with agreement reached to extend stipends to 4 December 2022, recruit and train 300 police officers in Jubbaland and 400 in Galmudug States and equip 12 recently constructed police stations in Jubbaland, Hirshabelle, Banaadir, Galmudug and Puntland.

70. The Mine Action Service delivered 688 in-person explosive ordnance risk education sessions to 856 women, 539 men, 697 girls and 1,037 boys in four federal member states (Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South-West State) and distributed 114 risk education talking devices embedded with audio awareness messages on explosive ordnance and COVID-19 to the at-risk population across the country.

71. On 1 March, the Mine Action Service began the construction of an ammunition storage area in Jazeera outside the Aden Adde International Airport zone, which will be managed by the Somali National Army Weapons and Ammunition Management Directorate.

**(b) Stabilization and prevention and countering of violent extremism**

72. In Bariire, Shabelle Hoose Region, stabilization partners have made efforts to replace the strategic bridge across the Shabelle River, which was destroyed by Al-Shabaab in 2017. While the installation of the new bridge has faced various security and logistical challenges, the current process provides an opportunity for security and stabilization actors to engage in joint planning efforts, addressing logistical and security issues in a comprehensive manner.

73. On 13 and 14 March, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation held a consultation workshop bringing together the Ministries of Interior of the federal member states, as well as relevant line ministries, for a consultative review of the national stabilization strategy.

74. The Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Coordination Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, with the support of the United Nations, continued to lead consultations with Somali stakeholders on the revision of the national strategy on preventing and countering violent extremism.

75. Discussions among national and international partners are ongoing towards reviewing and strengthening the National Programme for the Treatment and Handling

of Disengaged Combatants. As at 14 April, a total of 296 male and 219 female beneficiaries were enrolled in the five rehabilitation centres.

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

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

76. During the reporting period, UNSOS facilitated troop deployments to various sector locations in support of election security. UNSOS also commenced regular quarterly inspections of contingent owned equipment following an almost two-year break owing to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. As at 31 March, 85 per cent of the equipment had been inspected.

77. On 9 March, UNSOS and AMISOM held a logistics conference in Mogadishu to discuss the support concept for ATMIS. Similarly, on 12 and 21 March, UNSOS convened a conference with senior representatives of the Somali security forces to discuss logistic support. Broad concepts were developed for a joint forward logistics framework capable of supporting the security transition.

78. From 14 to 17 March, UNSOS participated in the annual AMISOM Sector Commanders' Conference in Mogadishu. The discussions were focused on implementation plans for both operations and logistics support for the transition from AMISOM to ATMIS. It was agreed that ATMIS and Somali National Army Sector Commanders would develop a forward operating base reconfiguration proposal by May 2022 and establish joint operational logistics bases at Baidoa and KM50 in South-West State, Kismaayo and Dhooble in Jubbaland, and Jawhar and Beledweyne in Hirshabelle State.

79. From 25 to 28 April, the Head of UNSOS visited Burundi and Uganda as part of UNSOS annual outreach to ATMIS troop- and police-contributing countries. Meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence and Chiefs of Defence Forces of Burundi and Uganda respectively, as well as with the Inspector General of Police of Uganda, were focused on UNSOS logistic support to their respective contingents.

80. In line with its environmental strategy, UNSOS continued to provide waste management services to all AMISOM/ATMIS locations at the sector hubs and deployed barrel incinerators and portable toilets to AMISOM/ATMIS forward operating bases, as well as training to AMISOM/ATMIS uniformed personnel on the environmentally friendly management of water, solid waste and energy. In support of the AMISOM/ATMIS civil-military coordination programme, UNSOS established tree seedling nurseries in all sector hubs; the seedlings are being used for joint planting initiatives with local communities. UNSOS continued to install solar panels to power the communication equipment and conduct environmental audits at AMISOM/ATMIS sites and forward operating bases to ensure compliance with its Environmental Action Plan and related policies.

81. The Mine Action Service produced seven threat analysis improvised explosive devices awareness reports in support of AMISOM/ATMIS and Somali security forces. The Service trained 2,608 AMISOM/ATMIS military and police personnel, enhancing their capability to locate and destroy improvised explosive devices and to operate safely within a high-risk environment. It further contributed to the safety and security of strategic infrastructure, by deploying 32 explosive detection dog teams that conducted searches of 35,530 pieces of luggage, 107,794 vehicles, 239 buildings,

109,595 square kilometres of building areas and 613.6 square kilometres of open areas throughout the sectors.

82. The Mine Action Service provided 189 pre-deployment and 186 post-deployment briefings to 193 AMISOM/ATMIS convoys across all six sectors. It supported AMISOM/ATMIS in conducting 243 searches for improvised explosive devices along the main supply routes, during which 16 such devices were found and destroyed. AMISOM/ATMIS improvised explosive device disposal teams trained by the Service destroyed 3 devices.

## **2. Support to Somali security forces operations**

83. UNSOS continued to provide logistical support to 11,649 Somali security forces in accordance with availability of funds. As at 30 April, the United Nations Trust Fund in support of the Somali security forces had a balance of \$3.2 million, which should be sufficient to cover operational expenses up to August 2022, with the use of austerity measures. Outreach efforts by the United Nations in Somalia continue to secure further contributions to the Trust Fund.

84. UNSOS supported eligible Somali National Army personnel with field defence stores and tents for the forward operating base in Bariire, Shabelle Hoose Region (AMISOM/ATMIS Sector 1). The Mine Action Service handed over equipment for four Somali National Army multi-skilled improvised explosive device disposal teams, which completed the equipping of 21 Somali National Army multi-skilled teams (3 in Baidoa and 1 in Garbahaarrey) launched in 2021. The Service also conducted the refresher training for 62 Somali National Army personnel.

85. The Mine Action Service continued to support and mentor a network of 14 Somali Police Force explosive ordnance disposal and improvised explosive device disposal teams deployed throughout the country, as well as the Mobile Vehicle Checkpoint Unit, which continues to make a significant contribution to the security of the capital.

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

86. United Nations entities remained present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 6 May, 607 international staff and 1,361 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia.

## **V. Observations**

87. I welcome the progress achieved towards the completion of the elections, most notably the swearing-in of parliament on 14 April and the election of the Speakers and the Deputy Speakers of the Upper House and House of the People. I reiterate my calls for Somali stakeholders to urgently finalize the process and resolve outstanding issues based on broad consensus. It is crucial that arrangements for the final stage of the electoral process enjoy strong endorsement across the political spectrum and deliver a result that is accepted as legitimate. As the elections are approaching their final phase, I urge leaders to exercise restraint and de-escalate any tensions arising, through dialogue and in the spirit of compromise. The reports of widespread electoral malpractices are disconcerting, and it is pivotal that stronger accountability and transparency measures are implemented in the next elections.

88. I welcomed the announcement that the presidential elections would be held on 15 May, and I reiterate that a swift conclusion of the electoral process is of paramount

importance to refocus on State-building and advance critical national priorities as outlined in the annex to the agreement of 27 May. Further, the conclusion of the elections and a peaceful transition of power are crucial to ending the political uncertainty that risks jeopardizing the hard-won gains achieved in Somalia.

89. I deeply regret the low representation of women in parliament, especially in the House of the People, in spite of the leaders' commitment to the 30 per cent quota for women. I urge Somali stakeholders to ensure that women are adequately represented, including at the senior level, in the new administration and that women's political participation is advanced and codified in the legal framework. I welcomed the election of Sadia Yasin Haji Samatar as the first female Deputy Speaker of the House of the People. I call on the next government to recommit to advancing women's participation in electoral processes and supporting women parliamentarians to meaningfully participate in decision-making. I further call upon the international community to redouble its support to advancing the women and peace and security agenda in Somalia. The participation of youth and marginalized communities also needs to be strengthened, and the continued marginalization of communities highlights the need for a collective effort to be undertaken towards one-person, one-vote elections in 2026.

90. I welcome the establishment of ATMIS and reiterate the full support of the United Nations for the new mission. I pay tribute to the significant achievements of AMISOM over the past 15 years and thank the troop- and police-contributing countries for their service and commitment to advancing peace in Somalia. I honour the sacrifices made by AMISOM, ATMIS and the Somali security forces to protect the Somali people and in the pursuit of peace and stability for the country. I strongly condemn the attack on the ATMIS base in Ceel Baraf, Shabelle Dhexe, and express my heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed, as well as to the Government and to the people of Burundi. I appeal to the international community to provide all necessary support to ATMIS and to the Somali security forces in their fight against Al-Shabaab.

91. I am deeply concerned that the financing of ATMIS is yet to be resolved and reiterate my call on all partners to urgently ensure sustainable and predictable funding for ATMIS and adequate resourcing for the Somali security forces. The international community has a duty to ensure that ATMIS troops are adequately funded and that Somali security forces are supported. I also appeal to Member States to provide additional contributions to the United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali security forces to ensure that continued support can be maintained.

92. The timely implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan and the national security architecture is pivotal to transition security responsibilities from ATMIS to the Somali security forces by the end of 2024. I call upon Somali stakeholders to work jointly towards a swift implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan. The enhancement of efforts to develop predictable and sustainable modalities to generate capabilities for the Somali security forces and to accelerate transition-related operations and the integration of regional forces is critical to this end.

93. A conducive security environment is critical to advancing the political, development and humanitarian agendas. I am therefore deeply concerned that civilians continue to face recurrent attacks from Al-Shabab and unknown assailants, including attacks aimed at deterring their participation in the electoral process. I condemn terrorism in all forms and extend my condolences to the families of all victims. These heinous acts should not deter the Somali Government and people towards peace, stability and prosperity.

94. I continue to be alarmed by the worsening impact of the drought on the most vulnerable people in Somalia, who are now facing a risk of famine. I thank donors

who have contributed generously to the drought and humanitarian response, enabling the United Nations and our partners to assist almost 2.5 million people as at March and call upon partners to ensure funding for the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. I thank donors who pledged additional funding following the 26 April high-level round table. It is further essential that impediments to humanitarian access are removed so as to facilitate urgent assistance to all affected Somalis.

95. The continued high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, grave violations against children and all other forms of violence in Somalia are alarming, with many children in Somalia remaining trapped in a cycle of violence. The severity of the situation requires urgent attention from the authorities and international partners to take all necessary steps and measures to fulfil their commitments to ending and preventing grave violations against children. The Somali authorities must take steps to ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence are held accountable to counter the impunity that fuels further sexual and gender-based violence.

96. I would like to express my deep-felt gratitude to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, NGOs, and other partners for their steadfast support of peace- and State-building in Somalia.

97. I thank my Special Representative and United Nations staff in Somalia for their extraordinary efforts in advancing the political, socioeconomic, security and humanitarian agenda. Their continued commitment to the full implementation of their respective mandates, especially against the background of the challenging security environment, is a testament to their dedication to advancing peace and prosperity in Somalia.





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