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جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
البعثة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Federal Republic of Somalia
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
New York

Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Somalia to the United Nations

on the Security Council Adoption
on
SEMG

New York, November 14, 2017.

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm pleased to be addressing you today at this Security Council meeting on Somalia's behalf. At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Kairat for his comprehensive briefing, as the chair of the Committee, and his effort to advance the work of the Committee since he took office. We broadly support the resolution on Somalia, and commend the British government, as the penholder of the resolution for their engagement and all members of the Sanctions Committee for their work. We welcome the steps taken to strengthen and fully implement the ban on charcoal trade, which provides significant funding for the terrorist group Al-Shabaab.

Mr. President,

Al-Shabaab remains the most pressing threat in Somalia and causes serious problems of security in the country, and indeed to the region. In this regard, I would like to remind you that shortly after his inauguration, my President H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo offered grace & amnesty to the members of this terrorist organizations. But his offer has been declined by those terrorists. As a result, the strengthening of security capabilities and architecture, through the reform of the security sector, and a robust disarmament demobilization and reintegration (DDR) program, continues to be the main priority for Somali Government. We firmly believe that this reform will only be achieved through increased coordinated international community's assistance to the Somali Security Sector, strengthening the Somali National Army and with a more robust AMISOM force while enforcing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia.

Mr. President,

I would like to emphasise the following three points:-

First, whilst the resolution underscores the importance of working to prevent destabilising effects of regional crisis spilling over into Somalia, it does not specifically call out the impact of the Gulf crisis on Somalia – be it from a political disintegration perspective or otherwise, It was our hope that the resolution would be more explicit in the need for respect for the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and above all unity of Somalia.

Second, while the resolution calls on the Monitoring Group to investigate further the use of chemicals in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices, our government would like to see recommendations adopted by the Security Council to curb such fatal tactics – particularly given that 6 of the last 7 al-Shabaab bombs contained chemicals, and given the scale of the October 14th bomb where over 350 innocent lives were lost.

Third, the arms embargo has been in effect in Somalia for over 20 years, with multiple modifications including that of a partial lift. Although this resolution calls for the implementation of national Security Sector Architecture for Somalia, which integrates regional and federal forces, the existing arms embargo framework on Somalia supports a disintegrated supply of weapons and ammunition to multiple different security sector

entities and may contribute to fragmenting our country in the worst possible way. There may be a rationale for limited specific exemptions but the arms embargo framework must be closely aligned with the architecture of Somalia's national security sector. The Monitoring Group, in their Implementation Assistance Notice of 2016 recognizes these concerns and provides recommendations to the Security Council which have to-date, been ignored.

Mr. President,

I accept that my government need to do more to fully comply with the partial lift requirements, including the improvements we must make to our weapons management, command and control systems. I confirm that my government will work on enhancing compliance over the next year. In this regard, we are asking this body (UNSC) to consider developing clearly defined benchmarks to the full lifting of the arms embargo as well as updating the arms embargo framework on Somalia to reflect our national security architecture.

Mr. President,

We express our great concerns regarding the fact that Eritrean Government has not accounted for the 13 remained Djiboutian POW that had been detained incommunicado in Eritrean prisons. We urge Eritrea to release them immediately, and to comply to UNSC resolutions, and to negotiate in good faith the settlement of the border dispute with Djibouti. This we the FGS believe will detrimental to the stability of the security situation in the Horn of Africa.

Thank you Mr. President