

**SRSG Swan's Remarks at the Opening of Day One of the
Somalia Partnership Forum,
1 October 2019**

- Let me start by thanking the Government of Somalia for hosting this Forum, and by thanking all invited delegations for their participation. This impressive turnout shows the collective commitment of the Somali Government and the international community to work together to keep Somalia on its path to peace, stability and prosperity.
- As we commence our discussions, we must first acknowledge the significant achievements made to date, under Somali leadership and with international support. These include improvements in administrative capacity at both the national and federal member state level, impressive gains in public financial management, recent advances in military operations against al-Shabaab and an important start to needed reforms to security institutions, a strategic focus on a long-term development strategy captured in the new National Development Plan, and many other areas of progress.
- This Somalia Partnership Forum now offers an opportunity to chart a course forward for the next 12 to 15 months, with clearly defined priority objectives and timelines. While acknowledging – indeed, celebrating – progress to date, we must also be honest and frank about the challenges that remain. And, together, we must redouble efforts to overcome these challenges and ensure that 2020 is the year of delivery on the most important priorities.
- To this end, the Mutual Accountability Framework for 2019 - 2020 contains a set of distilled priorities and distinct tasks, for both the Government and international partners.
- The United Nations family is engaged across a wide range of the objectives in Somalia's roadmaps for Inclusive Politics, Security and Justice, Economic Reform, and Social Development. In all that we do, we are mindful of cross-cutting objectives of women's empowerment, youth engagement, and respect for principles of human rights and humanitarian law, among others.
- As we focus together on the coming year, among specific priorities we particularly look forward to discussing today are:

- Preparations for national elections and the review of the constitution, to be completed within the agreed timelines;
 - Plans for further action to degrade Al Shabaab and build Somali security and justice institutions, using the principles of the Comprehensive Approach to Security;
 - Next steps to meet requirements for the HIPC debt relief by early 2020; and
 - Our collective response to the pressing needs of Somalia's people by building resilience and sustainable development for Somalis, in keeping with the partnership principles.
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- At today's sessions, the intent is to focus on the MAF and have an active discussion and exchange of ideas for how to implement its content. Tomorrow, we will have the chance to hear additional details from the Federal Government of Somalia and participating Federal Member States on the significant progress made so far, and to shape our common strategy going forward. Today, I suggest we seize the opportunity of so many friends of Somalia gathered around this table to emphasize concrete steps needed for implementation of priority commitments agreed in the Mutual Accountability Framework.
 - My hope is that we will conclude this Forum tomorrow with a clear, shared vision of our overall strategy, of the 'must not fail' priorities, and of how best to expedite their effective implementation from now through the end of 2020.
 - Thank you.