



#### HIGHLIGHTS

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## UN ENVOY JAMES SWAN BRIEFS THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

**On 28 August 2020, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2540, through which it renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) for one year, until 31 August 2021.**

Earlier in the month, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Somalia, focusing on key points related to election, relations between the Federal Government and Federal Member States, security, and humanitarian developments. Below is his statement to the Council:

Mr. President, Members of the Council,  
Thank you for this opportunity to brief on the situation in Somalia. You have received a detailed written update in the latest report

of the Secretary-General. So, I will focus on just a few key points regarding elections, relations between the Federal Government and Federal Member States, the security situation, and humanitarian developments.

Mr. President,

This very week top Somali leaders convened in Dhusamareb in an effort to reach a compromise on how to proceed with the 2020/2021 elections. We commend those

leaders who participated in this meeting, including President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo" and the presidents of the Federal Member States of Galmudug, Hirshabelle, and South West. Although much more work remains to be done, we are encouraged that their discussions are taking place in a conciliatory spirit and they are examining a diverse range of electoral options.

We regret, therefore, the absence of Puntland President Said Deni and Jubaland President Ahmed Islam Madobe from this

important meeting. It is disappointing that they declined to participate despite repeated appeals from other Somali political leaders and international partners. We understand that there are strongly held divergent views among the leaders and political tensions are high in this pre-electoral period. Yet, it is precisely during such moments that it is most necessary for the nation's leaders to engage in dialogue and present their best ideas to find solutions in the interest of the Somali people.

Mr. President,

On June 27, the Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission briefed the House of the People that - at this late stage - one-person-one-vote elections could take place no earlier than March 2021, and then only if manual voter registration were used, or in August 2021 if the Commission used biometric registration.

The Chairperson's briefing underscored the dilemma facing Somalia's political leaders. Under the Provisional Federal Constitution, Parliament must be elected through direct universal suffrage. But the Constitution also stipulates that Parliamentary elections must be held according to a prescribed



deadline, every four years. This means that parliamentary elections are due by the end of November 2020. It is now clear that it is not possible to satisfy both of these constitutional requirements.

As the Constitutional Court has never been formed, there is no credible judicial body to resolve this constitutional dilemma. A solution therefore requires broad-based political agreement. Unilateral action by any Somali stakeholder is unlikely to garner the support and legitimacy necessary for implementation.

Mr. President,

Members of this Council have for more than a year urged dialogue and cooperation between the leaders of the Federal Government of Somalia and those of the Federal Member States. I am pleased to report that since my last briefing to the Council these leaders met virtually on June 22 and then in person from July 18 to 22 in

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Dhusamareb. These meetings became possible following a conciliatory initiative by President Farmajo to reach out to Jubaland President Ahmed Madobe. I commend both leaders for accepting this dialogue despite their significant remaining political differences.

Federal Government and Federal Member State leaders agreed in July in Dhusamareb on the goal of timely and credible elections acceptable to all and they authorized a Technical Committee to develop and present detailed options for consideration at their follow-up

summit which started on August 15. The climate of cooperation in July regrettably was then somewhat undermined by subsequent political events, as some FMSes and political parties reacted negatively to the abrupt removal of the Prime Minister from office, among other developments.

President Farmajo and three Federal Member State leaders returned on schedule to Dhusamareb on August 15, as agreed, to continue discussions. Again, we regret the absence of the others.

It is of course up to Somali stakeholders to determine a model that will guide the electoral process. Nonetheless, we urge that such a model be arrived at through inclusive dialogue and compromise. It should be informed also by principles including that it must preserve the tradition of peaceful rotation in office every four years, be practically implementable, ensure far broader representation than the 2016

model, be inclusive of women, and advance progress toward the goal of one-person-one-vote elections.

Somalis and their international partners are watching closely the discussion currently underway in Dhusamareb. It is incumbent on Somalia's leaders to rise to this moment in history and pursue agreement in the national interest. At the request of many Somali stakeholders, we have contributed ideas and options for a compromise electoral model, and international partners stand ready to offer support if requested by the participants.

Turning to another important dialogue, we welcome the summit of the leaders of Somalia and Somaliland convened by Djiboutian President Ismael Omar Guelleh on June 14, with facilitation by the European Union and the United States. We urge that planned follow-up discussions by the Technical Committee and sub-committees proceed.

Mr. President,

We are now witnessing a worrying upsurge in Al-Shabaab attacks, particularly in Mogadishu, but also in several regions. The vicious Al-Shabaab attack on innocent civilians at the Elite Hotel on August 16 was one of an increasing number of recent attacks across Somalia and is a tragic reminder of the continued imperative to improve security in Somalia.

Long-term security of course includes many aspects, such as improved governance and justice systems and inclusive economic development. Yet, there unquestionably also remains a requirement for "hard security" capabilities and operations to counter Al-Shabaab. In my May briefing to the Council, I commended the Somali National Army and AMISOM for their capture of Janaale, Lower Shabelle region,

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in March. Since then, efforts have focused on stabilizing the recovered areas and consolidating presence in the area. I again salute the courage and commitment of Somali and African Union troops.

2021 is to be a critical transition year in which Somalia takes the lead on its security matters. Last week the Federal Government of Somalia completed a Concept Note for updating the Somalia Transition Plan, and technical teams comprising Somali security leaders and international partners began work on the update this week. Force generation has faced some setbacks in meeting 2020 projections as a consequence of COVID-19.

The Comprehensive Approach to Security continues to operate at the technical level but would be enhanced by additional strategic-level guidance, as called for by the Council in its resolution 2520. Throughout this reporting period - despite the impact of COVID - the UN Support Office for Somalia (UNSOS) has continued to contribute reliably to the sustainment and operations of AMISOM forces and 10,900 Somali National Army troops.

In preparation for key security-related decisions to be taken in 2021, we look forward to the Independent Assessment called for by the Council.

Mr. President,

Somalia continues to suffer chronic humanitarian crises, with recurring destructive cycles of floods and drought, compounded this year by desert locusts and COVID-19. More than five million people - one-third of Somalia's population - still require life-saving humanitarian assistance. The 2020 Humanitarian Appeal of just over \$1 billion is currently funded at only slightly more than 50 percent. We thank international donors and request their continued generosity in support of the Somali people.

COVID-19 has of course undermined health, economic and development gains in Somalia. Achievement in March of decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative was crucial to Somalia's ability to secure funding to mitigate the impact of COVID. We hope the new Government and Prime Minister - once appointed - will continue and indeed accelerate Somalia's reform agenda for national development.

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Mr. President,

While today's briefing has focused on immediate, pressing issues, we remain mindful that progress in Somalia requires a long-term commitment to governance, justice, respect for human rights, and inclusion of women, youth, and minorities to build the nation.

In regard to efforts to counter sexual and gender-based violence, I note with concern the recent initiative by some parliamentarians to introduce a new bill titled The Law on Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes.

We have brought our concerns to the attention of the Speaker of the House of the People and, at his request, we have provided him details of many troubling elements in the proposed draft. Among them, this draft bill would violate protections against child marriage and forced marriage, and it is not in conformity with international human rights commitments to which Somalia is a party. We urge that the previous 2018 Sexual Offenses Bill be reintroduced for considerations.

Finally, Mr. President, on a positive note, I am pleased to report that the Secretary-General has approved Somalia's request for renewed eligibility for the Peacebuilding Fund. The next period of programming will focus on the important topic of Women, Peace, and Security.

Thank you for your kind attention.



## UN75 – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMALIS TO HELP SHAPE GLOBAL PRIORITIES

**As the UN marks its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2020, the UN envoy to Somalia, James Swan, wrote an opinion piece which highlighted the long-term partnership of Somalia with the world body, and encouraged Somalis to share their views on what priorities the world should focus on in coming years. The opinion piece appeared on various local media platforms.**

**T**he United Nations turns 75 this year. Somalia has been a proud member of the UN for 60 of those years.

The United Nations was created out of the ashes of World War II, with the aim of bringing nations and peoples together to preserve peace and security, and improve lives everywhere.

Today, the United Nations has many facets.

- It is a set of principles and commitments to govern relations among states and protect the rights of people everywhere, through the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and many other agreements.

- It is a global team of UN missions, agencies, funds, and programmes – generously

supported by donor partners – that helps governments deliver humanitarian response, education, food security, development, and improved governance, among other benefits.

- Finally, it is an organisation of 193 sovereign member states that – through the General Assembly, the Security Council, and other fora – make decisions on peace, security, development, and many other priorities on behalf of the international community.

In Somalia and elsewhere, millions of people are helped every day by United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organisation, World Food Programme, United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Development Programme. The UN works with governments to provide people access to food and shelter, health care and education. The UN supports the creation of international laws and norms, helps to prevent and resolve conflicts, builds peace and fosters reconciliation, and offers practical support to governments on a host of issues – from tackling corruption to empowering persons with disabilities. Its work is both visible and intangible.

Somalia and the United Nations have a long partnership that goes back decades, when the United Nations walked shoulder to shoulder with Somalis on their country’s formation and path to independence in 1960. In the years since, the UN family has worked with Somalis in a range of areas, from humanitarian and development work, to political support and peacebuilding. Currently, in addition to the UN Assistance

Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the UN Support Office for Somalia (UNSOS), there are 27 UN agencies, funds and programmes supporting Somalis’ efforts on their path to peace and stability.

As it marks its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September, the United Nations is looking ahead and wants to hear from the people of the world about their future and how we can shape it together.

Known as UN75, this initiative is about dialogue – in which the United Nations wants to listen and learn, and to engage with as many different people and constituencies as possible. UN75 is asking people everywhere to “join the conversation” and present ideas for tackling the challenges we face as a global community.

It is vital that Somali voices are included in this listening exercise.

To obtain their views and hopes, the UN family in Somalia held an online dialogue – live-streamed on Facebook – with members of the UN Youth Advisory Board for Somalia to prompt discussion and obtain perspectives from Somalis. We also invite you to share your views through a survey that you can access at: <https://un75.online/?lang=som>.

Your responses will help to inform global priorities, both now and going forward.

This conversation is especially timely and relevant as the Federal Government and the UN family in Somalia are defining the priorities for the world body’s operations in the country for the coming five years as part of our 2021-2025 Cooperation Framework. This enables Somalis’ views to be fed into both the global and local approaches of the United Nations.

For UN75 discussions to be meaningful, young people in particular must be at the forefront. Somali youth have a key role to play as Somalia has one of the world’s youngest populations – approximately 60 per cent of the country’s estimated population of 15.9 million people is under the age of 30.

Survey feedback from around the world was presented to world leaders and senior UN officials. There was a high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government dedicated to the 75th anniversary on 21 September. In this event, the world leaders were due to adopt a forward-looking political declaration on ‘The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism.’

We encourage all Somalis to add their voices to this important dialogue which will impact both Somalia and the rest of the world in the years to come.

# AT SIX-MONTH MARK IN COVID-19 RESPONSE, UNITED NATIONS LAUDS SOMALIA'S HEALTH WORKERS

In September, Somalia reached the six-month milestone since the announcement of the country's first confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19).

On the occasion, the United Nations family in Somalia issued a statement in which it lauded the many health workers who have worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and provide support to infected people.

"The efforts that Somali health workers have made to contain the pandemic and help those affected by the virus have literally saved lives. This heroic work is a testament to their commitment and dedication, often under extremely challenging conditions," said the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan.

"They achieved these life-saving outcomes despite a very fragile and weakened health system in Somalia - the result of three decades of conflict, protracted crisis and repeated humanitarian emergencies. The results show their fortitude as well as the importance of the Somali authorities and national and international partners working together," he added.

Along with national and international partners, the United Nations family - spearheaded by the UN World Health Organization (WHO) - began ramping up its support even before the first case of the deadly virus was announced on 16 March. In February, it began working with Somali authorities to prepare for the prevention and early detection of imported cases, and the management of suspected and confirmed cases within communities.

Since then, the United Nations and its partners helped Somalia deploy 73 well-trained rapid response teams, including more than 3,300 community health workers in 49 districts across the country, for early case detection and contact tracing. These frontline health workers have visited more than 1.5 million households over the last six months, reaching approximately six million people - contributing significantly to reducing transmission and slowing down the virus' spread.

The United Nations' collaboration with national medical authorities also led to the establishment of 18 isolation

centres across the country, equipped with ventilators, oxygen concentrators, intensive care unit beds and other material; the transport of thousands of samples and pieces of equipment around the country; and public health campaigns to raise awareness about COVID-19.

"Over the past six months, this unprecedented event has required an unprecedented response - an integrated, coordinated and timely response. This took place, and working as 'One UN' the UN agencies in Somalia will continue supporting Somali-led activities to serve and protect the most vulnerable and help health systems recover better and stronger from this crisis," said the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula, who also serves as UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the country.

At the same time, the statement continued, while the past six months have seen achievements in containing the pandemic in Somalia, the United Nations highlighted that the response to COVID-19 was far from over.

"I would like to remind everyone that we may still have a long way to go. Even though cases in the national count may seem to have dropped, we still have to reach more communities and vulnerable people - I strongly urge Somali communities to do their part and exercise caution to avoid COVID-19 infections," said the WHO Representative for Somalia, Dr. Mamunur Rahman Malik. "To our donor community, I extend our sincere gratitude for the support provided. However, the job is not done yet; we still need to strengthen the public health system from grassroots levels upwards to build back better in Somalia."



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS NOTE ANNOUNCED FGS-FMS ELECTORAL AGREEMENT



In a joint statement issued in September, Somalia's international partners took note of the agreement announced by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) President and the five Federal Member State (FMS) Presidents regarding the 2020/21 electoral process.

In it, they acknowledged that the agreement resulted from a Somali-led and Somali-owned dialogue among FGS and FMS leaders, and said that they understood that some details of the agreed process are still to be clarified and additional stakeholders may be consulted.

The partners also observed, with regret, that the announced model fell short of the longstanding Somali goal of direct voting for members of parliament in this electoral cycle. The partners urged that the 2020/21 electoral process be free, fair, transparent and inclusive.

Looking to the future, the international partners encouraged rapid progress to establish other Somali democratic institutions, including the judicial services commission and the human rights commission, along with efforts to advance the review of the Provisional Federal Constitution and ensure respect for international commitments on human rights.

In the statement, the partners also said they would also welcome a roadmap with clear milestones, agreed among Somali political leaders, to ensure decisive democratic progress going forward. In addition, they appealed to the FGS and FMS leaders to continue meeting regularly in a spirit of dialogue and compromise to address urgent national priorities, including security and economic reform as well as inclusive politics.

The signatories to this statement were: Belgium, Denmark, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the United Nations.



## SHAPING PEACE TOGETHER: SOMALI YOUTH AS CHANGE-MAKERS

Somalia's youth need to be change-makers and actively take part in politics, reconciliation, peace-building, elections and ongoing efforts to help develop their country – this was the main message stemming from a recent panel discussion which brought together more than 30 youth representing different parts of Somali society.

“A country is saved by its youth. It is the youth who lead in all efforts to bring change, hence it is good for the youth to also participate in politics and to be part of the positive change and development in the country,” the Executive Director of the Somali Youth Civic Organization (SYCO), Abdiwasa Idriss Jelle, said at the gathering, held recently at a venue in Mogadishu.

“A country is saved by its youth.”

The event was organized by SYCO, a local non-governmental organization which focuses on youth development and leadership, de-radicalization and livelihoods, with the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). Held on the International Day of Peace, celebrated globally on 21 September, the event was aimed at helping empower Somali youth, and underpinned by the belief that youth who are well-informed and engaged are well-placed to help rebuild

and transform their country.

The panel discussion brought together youth representatives from many of Somalia's different clans and different walks of life, including young professionals, university graduates and students. It was also held in the midst of an exacting panorama for Somalia as it engages in preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections, while also dealing with the social and economic consequences of the ‘triple threat’ posed by floods, the highly infectious COVID-19 pandemic, and locust infestation.

### The power of youth

Panellists at the event noted that youth in Somalia form around 70 per cent of the population, and broadly urged them to tap into their numerical strength to mobilize for peace and development – with the role of young women particularly highlighted.

“Since women and youth are history makers in Somalia, and play a role in nation-building, we want them to move forward, because we need them to find solutions to the huge challenges we are facing now as a nation,” an activist representing the Somali National Women's Organization (SNWO), Bilan Mahamud, said in the discussions.

Looking back to Somalia's history of women's involvement in national efforts, Ms. Mahamud encouraged participants to emulate the 13 members of the Somali Youth League, and prominent woman activist Hawo Tako, all of whom played critical roles

in the country's path to independence in the 1950s and 1960s.

“Youth must never back down, but instead they need to come out and develop their country,” she added.

Another panellist, Mohamed Shirie, the director of the multi-sectoral platform Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA), which brings together non-governmental and community-based organizations, highlighted that the topics under discussion were centred on the unavoidable realities faced by Somali youth.

“Our country is reeling from years of conflict and many challenges, and hence we need to motivate youth to actively take part in politics, the upcoming elections and reconciliation efforts,” said Mr. Shirie.

### Youth and peace-building

Some attendees said that being able to take part in the discussions helped flesh out their thinking, and motivate them to vie for slots in the upcoming parliamentary elections as well as be more involved in community matters.

Noting the need to have youth avoid becoming radicalized, one participant, Abdiiaz Mahamud Aidid, compared youth to a double-edged sword in that they can be used for both good and bad purposes – and stressed the need for youth to be catalysts of positive change.

“Today, the Somali youth have a huge



opportunity to take part in nation-building, to bring political change through the upcoming elections and to take an active role in rebuilding their country,” said Mr. Aidid.

“I have learnt the importance of youth in peacebuilding and I am now motivated to take part in politics and peace-building. I also have realized how valuable I am as a youth to the community,” said another attendee, Fatuma Abdullahi Mahamud.

The UN Security Council has highlighted, through resolutions 2250, 2419, and 2535, the key role that young people can play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as the importance of facilitating youth participation and leadership in these areas, as well as the importance of

Youth in Somalia form around 70 per cent of the population

facilitating youth participation spaces.

At a recent Council meeting on youth, peace and security, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, emphasized that the involvement of youth in peace initiatives is a must.

“We must build on the fact that the active participation and inclusion of young people in political processes in peace-building is no longer viewed as optional or as an afterthought. It has rightly become one of the cornerstones of the sustaining peace agenda,” said Ms. DiCarlo.

## INTERVIEW WITH THE UN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR TO SOMALIA, CHRISTOPHE HODDER

Christophe Hodder’s job description is unique: he is the first United Nations climate and security expert within the framework of a UN peace mission.

His position is funded by Germany’s Federal Foreign Office due to the country’s stance on the subject of climate and security in the world body’s agenda.

Mr. Hodder began supporting the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) from Nairobi in June 2020. He is planned to travel regularly to the Horn of Africa country, but that has not yet been possible because of the corona pandemic.

**In what way are climate and security interlinked?**

There is little doubt that climate change is happening – we really are in a climate emergency. It is something big and massive, and it causes changes in ecosystems and livelihoods. This is specifically relevant for populations that depend on what we call natural capital, such as local farmers. Let’s look for example at people who graze their animals around river banks.

Increasing flooding might lead to their displacement. These people will then move on to other lands that other farmers are using already. So there is an increase in fighting over natural resources. These pressures interact with social, political, economic and demographic dynamics. When certain thresholds are met and the coping capacities are exhausted, this creates a web of effects that basically threaten human communities. That’s the link between climate and security.

**What are the risks at the Horn of Africa in particular?**

There are increasing droughts and flooding, environmental land degradation, animal and crop diseases, human diseases like malaria but also zoonotic diseases like COVID-19. There is a high population density and an increase in the urban population, especially in slums, which causes a higher demand for food and issues about food prices. Thus, climate insecurity overlaps an increase in poverty and social disparities. This all increases conflict over natural resources and issues of instability.



**You are the UN’s first climate and security expert in the context of a UN peace mission worldwide. What is your role exactly?**

My role is to help the United Nations Assistance Mission to Somalia (UNSOM) to implement its mandate around the environment. It is about how the mission considers the implications of climate change and natural disasters in its programmes. I sit in the office of the Deputy Special Representative to Somalia. I try to help the Special Representative and the mission as a whole to bring the environmental security approaches to everything they do. Generally my role is about raising awareness and coordinating the different partners and actors, among them also grassroots organisations.

Hopefully I can show evidence of the fact that it’s important to link climate and security and to bring all this together in peacebuilding missions under UN mandate.

**How do you plan to do this and who are your partners?**

I’ve got support from the Climate Security Mechanism – a group set up across the UN family. There is a lot of research already and various partners, including German embassies, have been working intensely on this. But there is still a lot to do in terms of specific things on the ground and really trying to work with the political arms of the missions, supporting them in looking at



climate-related peacebuilding initiatives and helping building legislative and legal institutions. That's one arm, the other is supporting the government and the various institutions.

“There is a high population density and an increase in the urban population, especially in slums, which causes a higher demand for food and issues about food prices.”

**So it's a huge network you're working with.**

Definitely. Another aspect is gathering the data and information I need. Therefore, I am working with partners like the FAO on food issues and the UNHCR in terms of displacement. Within the UN Environment Programme we have a lot of information from satellite imagery, and we are also cooperating with regional organisations who can bring in a lot of data and information as well.

**Your work is financed by the German Federal Foreign Office. How do you see Germany's role in tackling security risks caused by climate change?**

The Germans have been a leading partner when it comes to looking into climate insecurity. They have been involved in bringing this agenda to the Security Council. I would urge them to continue to focus on the long term implications of the Paris Agreement. They should widen the agenda and continue trying to bring the topic to high-level dialogues. I would also urge them to continue strengthening the capacities of UN and regional organisations. Amplifying voices of affected states such as Somalia is also important. Germany should continue doing research, sharing findings and leading by example.

**Tell us something about yourself – you have a background in health.**

I come from a public health background, with a focus on behaviour and behaviour changes. Much of what I'm doing in terms of climate has to do with these issues as well. I have spent most of my career in fragile and developing countries, so I've worked closely with governments around the world and know how to help fragile systems. Before coming to Somalia I was in Nepal where I worked in helping out after the earthquake. For example, I was involved in setting up the national disaster management authority.

## HUMANITARIAN UPDATE: SOMALIA STILL AT RISK FROM THE 'TRIPLE THREAT'



Somalia's humanitarian situation remains precarious due to the 'triple threat' of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant flooding and locust infestation upsurge. Humanitarian food assistance needs are high across Somalia, with Puntland, Galmudug and Somaliland most affected. An estimated 3.5 million people in rural and urban zones, as well as settlements for internally displaced people, are in need of urgent intervention. Somalia's aid operation remains woefully underfunded. As of 11 September, the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia (Somalia HRP), which aims to seek to deliver aid and protection to three million people out of 5.2 million people in need, is only 56 per cent funded – or \$568 million out of \$1.01 billion requested. This is the lowest level of funding received by this time of the year since 2016, severely impacting partners' ability to respond.

## SOMALIA'S NEW PM MOHAMED HUSSEIN ROBLE MEETS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The United Nations envoy to Somalia, James Swan, was among the international community representatives who took part in an introductory meeting in September with the country's new Prime Minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, to discuss partnership in achieving national priorities. The meeting was held shortly after the Somali Parliament approved his appointment by President Mohamed Abdullahi 'Farmaajo.'

