



Serving the people of Somalia

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Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Somalia James Swan arrives in Mogadishu

The recently appointed Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSO) for Somalia and Head of Mission for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), James Swan, arrived in Mogadishu on 25 June to take up his duties.

Senior officials from the Federal Government of Somalia and the United Nations welcomed Mr. Swan during a brief ceremony held at Mogadishu's Aden Abdulle International Airport.

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Abdulkadir Ahmed-Kheir Abdi, represented the Federal Government at the ceremony and extended a warm welcome on behalf of the people of Somalia.

Mr. Swan, who is a national of the United States, said he was eager to work with Somali authorities and international

partners to fulfil UNSOM's mandate and help to coordinate state-building efforts in Somalia.

"I am honoured to be back to Somalia in this new capacity as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSOM. I have spent many years working on Somalia in different capacities. But I am eager to hear what the situation is currently and consult widely with leaders and the people. We in the UN community look forward to working very closely with you to make progress here in Somalia," he said.

SRSO Swan attended his first meeting with Federal President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo" on 27 June at his offices in Villa Somalia.

Mr. Swan is a career diplomat with extensive experience working in sub-Saharan Africa, where he most recently served as U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 2013 until 2016, the U.S. Special Representative for Somalia during 2011-2013, and U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti from 2008 to 2011.

He also was Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Africa Affairs of the U.S. Department of State in 2007-2008.

His first assignment to Somalia occurred 25 years ago when he served as a Political Officer in the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy for Somalia from 1994 to 1996.

He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, a Master of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and a master's degree in National Security Studies from the National Defense University's National War College, where he was designated as a distinguished graduate.



UN Photo/Calisto Lemashon



The Joint Police Programme: A Success Story of Fruitful Collaboration

UN Photo/Meinolf Schlotmann

The bar was set high when the Joint Police Programme (JPP) for Somalia was formally launched in Mogadishu on 11 June 2018.

A coordinated funding mechanism that is supported by the European Union, Germany and the United Kingdom, the JPP was developed to bolster investment in federal and state-level law enforcement agencies across the country within the framework of the New Policing Model that was endorsed by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member State (FMS) administrations in 2016.

During the inaugural meeting of the JPP Executive Board 12 months ago, the federal Minister of Internal Security, Mohamed Abukar Islow “Duale”, welcomed the Programme as an “investment in the Somali Police” that would provide “an excellent opportunity for rebuilding Somalia.”

Significant progress has been achieved in the intervening 12 months, making the JPP one of the showcase examples of successful collaboration between the FGS and FMS administrations on the one hand and international donors and the UN family in Somalia on the other. As of June 2019, approximately \$17 million had been allocated for various projects taking place under the aegis of the JPP, and they encompass infrastructure development,

increasing police numbers, capacity-building of police personnel, and the purchase of equipment.

Equally important, the federal government and federal member states have achieved good cooperation within the framework of the Programme despite a backdrop of ongoing political tensions between the FGS and the FMS.

“The support offered by JPP is cementing the bonds between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States with a long-term view to bolstering peace and security in Somalia,” said Tim Lardner, Country Director for the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) that serves as the secretariat for the Programme. “Police services across Somalia are steadily strengthening under the JPP umbrella.”

Six police agencies are benefitting from the Programme – the federal Somali Police Force (SPF) including its policing operations within the Benadir Regional Administration, and the State Police Services in Puntland, Jubaland, South West, Hirshabelle and Galmudug.

Funding of the JPP currently stands at approximately \$50 million.

The list of the Programme’s achievements to date makes for some impressive reading. Stipends have been paid to over 1,400 police in the cities of Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowhar and Galkayo this year. JPP funds have also paid for the acquisition of 150 VHF radio handsets for the SPF in align-

ment with the Transition Plan for Somalia and the procurement of 35 police vehicles, one ambulance and four 2,000-litre water tankers.

A total of 198 police officers completed a three-month basic policing course at the Jowhar Police Training Facility in Hirshabelle State earlier this year, while an additional 200 recruits commenced their training in May 2019. The cabinet-level official overseeing the Hirshabelle State Police is pleased with the working relationship that has evolved over time with the UN in Somalia.

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“Our working relationship with the UN is perfect,” said the Hirshabelle Minister of Internal Security Abdikadir Adan Jelle. “The support it gives to the ministry includes the training of police officers, the construction of training centres, and the raising of public awareness on issues like gender parity within our state’s police services.”

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) supports the Programme through technical advice and training of Somalia’s police forces. UNSOM police advisers also provided significant support to state-level law enforcement

authorities in the development of their medium- and long-term plans within the framework of the New Policing Model.

“Implementation of this Programme has been made possible by the federal government, the federal member states, donors and UNSOM police,” said UNSOM Police Commissioner Meinolf Schlotmann. “This cooperation is working very well, and it is getting stronger every day.”

Implementing partners include the UN Development Programme, UNOPS and the police arm of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

One of the overarching goals of the JPP is to promote the consolidation of peace and security and the strengthening of the rule of law in Somalia.

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These include the delivery of non-lethal support to enhance policing presence and visibility, the rehabilitation and construction of police facilities, and the provision of civilian oversight of policing services, among others.

The Programme is scheduled to continue through to the end of 2022, and it is expected to play a vital role in strengthening the country’s policing agencies over the duration of the JPP. More professional policing services are widely regarded as an indispensable ingredient for an eventual transfer of primary responsibility for Somalia’s security from AMISOM peacekeepers to the country’s own security forces.



AMISOM Photo/Philip Mukasa

Joint Police Patrols promote peace in a once divided city

History seemed to be repeating itself in Galkayo on 7 October 2016.

On that day, armed forces from the federal member states of Puntland and Galmudug clashed in the Garsoor area of the historically divided city, which straddles the border separating the two states. The fighting killed at least 45 people and displaced an estimated 85,000 civilians.

It also marked the end of a cease-fire that had been brokered in December 2015 after an outbreak of deadly clashes in November of that year killed at least 40 people and displaced a comparable number of the city’s residents. A new agreement was signed by the presidents of Puntland and Galmudug states on 1 January 2017, and one of its three main provisions called for the introduction of joint police training in the city of 270,000.

Two hundred Galmudug and Puntland police were subsequently trained and deployed in Galkayo after completing training facilitated by the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia and the African Union Mission in Somalia. Their presence and operations have helped prevent any serious outbreak of fighting since the establishment

of the Joint Police Patrol Unit in August 2017.

The formation of the joint police unit has also spurred a greater sense of unity among the residents of a city that is claimed by both federal member states. “The joint police patrols have acted as a bridge between people in the two sections of the city,” said Col. Jama Mohamed Amed, the commander of the unit.

That view is echoed by the mayor of the portion of Galkayo inside Galmudug state. “In the past, it was so difficult to move between the two zones of the city,” said Hersi Yusuf Barre. “But people today move easily without fear, and members of the community like women and youths conduct their regular meetings in each zone of Galkayo during the day and also at night.”

Members of the joint patrol unit were instrumental in preventing a major outbreak of violence last year when two armed groups clashed in the city’s main market that sits astride the Galmudug-Puntland border. One policeman and a clan elder died in the shooting, but the timely intervention of joint patrol unit personnel averted a serious escalation in the fighting.

The Joint Police Patrol Unit has been generously supported by a range of projects funded by the European Union, Germany, United Kingdom and Qatar.



UN Photo/Mohamednor Abulsalam

Col. Aden Ali Ahmed

Countering the Al-Shabaab narrative behind bars

The decision of Ahmed Salat (not his real name) to join the ranks of Al-Shabaab had nothing to do with religion.

He was serving in the ranks of the Somali National Army and became frustrated over time with the sporadic payment of his salary as a foot soldier. The father of four defected to the jihadist movement in the hope of receiving a more reliable stream of income with all those mouths to feed at home. "I opted to join Al-Shabaab to get a better life," says the 28-year-old Salat. "Nothing else motivated me."

He fought on the front lines of the Islamist insurgency for nearly three years until he was captured by government forces in Somalia's South West State. Sentenced to the central prison in the state's interim capital of Baidoa, Mr. Salat enrolled in a psychosocial rehabilitation programme that seeks to prepare inmates for a successful, post-imprisonment re-integration into their communities and reduce the likelihood of their return to violent extremist groups.

The programme offers high-risk ex-jihadist prisoners psychological, social and religious counseling services, basic education cours-

es, sports facilities and vocational skills training. Mr. Salat recently completed his sentence and is now applying the skills he learned to good advantage as a civilian. "I gained multiple marketable skills and am now running my own business that employs between three and four people every day," he noted. "I feel lucky for the support we were offered."

The programme was in large part the brainchild of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), which was also instrumental in obtaining the necessary funds for launching it. The concept was produced by the UNSOM Joint Justice and Corrections Section, which drew on a similar programme in a Jordanian prison facility, and the Mission secured monies from the UN Peacebuilding Fund for the pilot phase that kicked off in March 2016.

The initial batch of inmates numbered 22, and a Swedish corrections officer named Amelie Runesson who had been seconded to UNSOM as Government Provided Personnel oversaw implementation of the pilot phase. The successful outcome of the pilot phase caught the attention of Ms. Runesson's own government, and funding for a second phase arrived from Stockholm in July 2017.

The programme is implemented by the Mogadishu-based Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD), which has a ten-person team assigned to Baidoa who includes two religious case workers, a psychosocial case worker, a teacher, a rehabilitation officer, a re-integration officer and a sports and recreational case worker, among others.

The CRD team also works with a committee of seven village elders who meet with enrolled inmates on a regular basis and also accompany them to their own communities to prepare residents for the inmates' eventual return.

I gained multiple marketable skills and am now running my own business that employs between three and four people every day.

"It's a very successful programme, and we get more and more prisoners who want to enrol in it," says CRD executive director Abdullahi Haji. "People are happy to be coming back to their communities."

Funding for a third phase was released by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on 27 June. The commander of Baidoa Central Prison is one of the programme's biggest backers.

"These high-risk prisoners are educated about how our religion forbids the killing of innocent persons, the extortion of private citizens and the perpetrating of suicide attacks," says Col. Aden Ali Ahmed

Security Council Renews Mandate of African Union Mission in Somalia

of Somalia's Custodial Corps. "It is good that we rehabilitate Al-Shabaab prisoners instead of executing them. Killing them is not a solution, it only fosters animosity, which in turn increases the number of terrorists' supporters."

Col. Ahmed is the first to admit that winning the trust of hardened ex-jihadist fighters was no easy task.

"They used to say, 'you are apostates, don't come near us,'" he recalls. "But after tireless efforts to coach them on the correct interpretation of Islamic teachings and engage them in robust debates, all the high-risk prisoners acquired a positive understanding of Sharia law."

A total of 44 Baidoa prison inmates have participated in the programme to date.

The chief of the UNSOM Joint Justice and Corrections Section sees the programme as compelling proof of the beneficial effects of a comprehensive rehabilitation initiative that is tailored to the special needs of addressing violent extremism and the experiences of the participants.

"It is special because it is multi-dimensional and focuses on the damage that violent extremism has inflicted on the prisoner," says Mitch Dufresne, a Canadian lawyer who joined the Mission in 2013. "And it could not have been launched and implemented without the support of community leaders, the local population, donors and Somali government officials all working together with UNSOM and the CRD to address the root causes of violent extremism."



Ahmed Salat

UN Photo/Mohamednor Abdulsalam

The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2472 on 31 May 2019 to extend the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for another 12 months.

Council members paid tribute to the bravery and sacrifices made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali security forces personnel in the fight against Al-Shabaab, and they commended the contribution of AMISOM to lasting peace and stability in Somalia.

The new resolution, based on the Somali Transition Plan, urged all those supporting the gradual transition of security responsibility to Somali authorities to coordinate all planning and operations. The resolution recognizes that the threat of Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups will not be defeated by military means alone and calls on the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the Federal Member States, AMISOM, the UN and UN Member states to work together on a comprehensive approach to security.

The resolution established a maximum number of 19,626 uniformed AMISOM personnel that will take effect on 28 February 2020.

Priority tasks include the implementation of a gradual handover of security responsibilities to Somali forces



Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Francisco Madeira

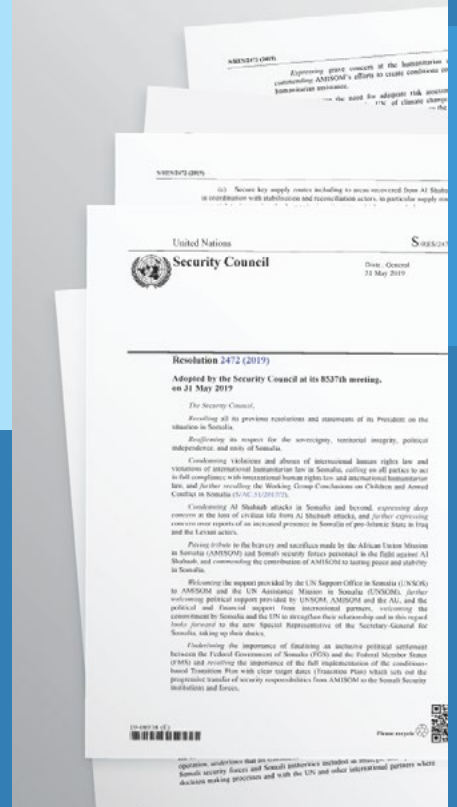
and degrading of the threat posed by Al-Shabaab. The Council authorized other tasks such as the securing of key supply routes, in particular those that are essential to improving the humanitarian situation, conducting of targeted offensive operations that support the Transition Plan, and assisting the Somali authorities to create a more secure environment in preparation for elections in 2020.

The resolution also renewed the mandate of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia to provide logistical support for AMISOM, as well as 10,900 Somali security forces. It calls for new donors to come forward to support AMISOM with additional funding for troop stipends, equipment, and technical assistance, as well as support for the United Nations Trust Funds for AMISOM and the Somali National Army (SNA) and national and state-level institutions for the development of the Somali security sector.

The Council recognized the important steps taken by the FGS towards institutional reform and capacity-building in the security sector, including biometric registration of SNA troops, and payment of salaries through direct electronic transfers.

The Council expressed grave concern about Somalia's ongoing humanitarian crisis and encouraged all partners, including donors, to maintain related efforts throughout 2019.

The Council appealed to all parties to urgently accelerate progress towards an inclusive political settlement.



“The UN’s Results Are Somalia’s Results”

Interview with George Conway

In March, George Conway was appointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres as his Acting Deputy Special Representative for UNSOM, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.

The Canadian national arrived in Somalia in December 2013 as UNDP Country Director. Recently, the UN has finished its first UN Somalia Country Results Report, which covers the organization’s results in 2018. He spoke with UNSOM NEWSLETTER about the document earlier this month. Excerpts:

UNSOM NEWSLETTER: What is the significance of this country results report?

CONWAY: This is the first time the UN in Somalia has done a comprehensive report on the work of all the UN’s agencies and missions (UNSOM and UNSOS) in Somalia, in order to show how 25 different UN entities are collectively supporting Somalia’s priorities as identified in its National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-19. Based on the NDP, the government developed four cabinet-level roadmaps, which are a concrete specification of what the government intends to deliver. The results report shows the UN’s alignment to, and how it is providing coherent and coordinated support to, the NDP and the deliverables of the four roadmaps, which cover inclusive politics, security and justice, economic recovery and social development.

Q. What are the headline-grabbing achievements that are highlighted in the 2018 report?

A. Any achievements on the UN side are Somalia’s achievements. Where Somalia

is progressing on its political path and where that’s supported by the UN, it’s an achievement of the country itself and of its government. A number of key political processes such as preparations for one-person, one-vote elections in 2020/21 are being supported, and likewise for progressing the constitutional review process. In the case of security and justice, there have been important developments with the reform of the security apparatus and implementation of the AMISOM transition plan, which look towards boosting national security capabilities. The roadmap on economic recovery saw very good progress in terms of economic reforms, which confirmed that the government’s reform efforts are on track towards the benchmarks set by the International Monetary Fund, and ultimately towards debt relief.

Q. Since this country results document is envisioned as an annual report, what do you hope to see in the 2019 edition when it comes out early next year?

A. This is a critical year for Somalia. The electoral bill needs to be approved by parliament in 2019, and preparations for voter registration need to advance. The constitutional review process must likewise progress. We expect to see a final decision on the justice and corrections models for Somalia. The Government’s efforts to reform the security sector are going into their next phase, and new areas are being recovered from Al Shabaab. However, in 2019 we are very concerned that food insecurity levels are ris-

ing again as a result of delays in the onset of rains impacting the growing season. This needs continued humanitarian support, but it also demonstrates the need for development investments that will break the cycle of recurrent emergencies in Somalia. The Government is taking the lead here with the implementation of its new “Recovery and Resilience Framework.”

And just to reiterate, the UN’s results are Somalia’s results. We should not be delivering projects independently of national structures or priorities. We are here to support a national development agenda and help the Somalis to realize their political, security and developmental aspirations. That’s the role of the UN family in Somalia.

