



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SOMALI REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

BY

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Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of the Somali Republic

At the 62nd Session of the
General Assembly of the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY H. E. MR. HUSEIN ELABE FAHIYE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE SOMALI REPUBLIC, AT THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK. 2 OCTOBER, 2007

*Your Excellency Srgjan Kerim, President of the United Nations General Assembly;
Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
Your Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
Distinguished Representatives;
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Mr. President,

It is indeed an honour for me to extend to you the sincere congratulations of the Government of Somalia, upon your election to the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly. Your tenure comes at a crucial period in the international community, as tensions and instability have surfaced and the United Nations has also embarked on a series of global altering reforms. My delegation is confident that you will rise to the challenges and steer this body competently during the 62nd Session.

Fitting tribute is also due to your distinguished predecessor, Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, for her sterling guidance and exemplary way in steering the proceedings of the 61st Session of the General Assembly during some of the most trying times of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Permit me also to express on behalf of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, my sincere felicitations to the new Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who had a distinguished career in international diplomacy and who brings to the United Nations that extensive experience. These skills will be crucial in his new assignment. We are confident that he will be a beacon of hope in keeping the UN ideal alive during the years ahead.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate H. E. Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, on her appointment to the High Office of Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

One of the major principles in the United Nations Charter is to maintain peace and security, and to that end to take effective measures for the prevention and removal of breaches to world peace and security. It is due to this conviction that I appear before this august body to underscore the concerns of the Federal Government of Somalia on political and security matters related to the roles that should be tackled by the international community.

Regrettably, we feel that our major efforts in nation-building and state institutions development were confronted with unreceptive response and reticence of inexplicable nature. Collective action by this world body was less consistent and devoid of vigor, until very recently, to come to the rescue of a nation in dire need of help. A case in point of the incomprehensible attitude is the over dragging adoption of the resolution on the timely deployment of a peacekeeping mission in Somalia. If this stand continues, it will only reveal a lack of commitment and indirect acquiescence to prolong the agony of the Somali people. We call upon the United Nations to come out without delay in support of the deployment of the multinational forces

Mr. President,

The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia had diligently embarked on implementing the tasks mandated by our Charter before the end of the transitional period in 2009. These include, among others, securing democratic transformation, putting in place permanent constitutional legality, establishment of multi-party democratic society and setting up regional autonomous administrations. The federal institutions in charge of this arduous task are working hard to provide the nation with a Federal Constitution that upholds these fundamental obligations, thus signaling a new era of tranquility for the Somali people.

The efforts of the Federal Government culminated in the convening of a peace and National Reconciliation Conference (NRC) in Somalia this year, indicating that national consciousness is regenerating within our society, and a self healing process has begun.

Despite disruptive intimidations by terrorist elements who tried to hijack the proceedings, the conference has come to a successful conclusion. Representatives of all walks of life in the Somali community attended the conference and dealt with issues of concern in every aspect. In this regard, we pay special tribute to the helping hand of the Ethiopian forces and the Ugandan led African Union forces (AMISOM) who effectively dealt with these terrorists who are gradually fading away.

Here, I wish to underscore that peace, security and well-being and prosperity of individuals and nations alike are at stake in the fight against terrorism. It is our view that the only viable response against terrorism is a collective response of all nations, and it is for this reason that the United Nations System has a pivotal role to play and vital contributions to make in many aspects of counter-terrorism, from promoting the rule of law and effective criminal justice systems to ensuring that countries have the means to counter terrorism measures. No other institution has the means of unifying nations in the fight against this evil and there is no better venue for nations to forge their protective measures.

Our efforts aimed at nation building, restoring peace and stability, conflict resolution, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation cannot produce the expected impact unless the required funding resources and the needed equipment and supplies are made available, as the days of institutional disharmony is replaced by immense aspiration to rebuild the country.

We, therefore reiterate our repeated calls for a pledging conference, and appeal to the donor community to show serious commitment in organizing and convening an international donor conference, in coordination with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

Mr. President,

Another area which cries out for speedy action is the humanitarian needs in Somalia. As you are all aware, the protracted civil war and persistent fragmented conflicts over the last two decades has been exacerbated by natural disasters, which have not only devastated public and private institutions but has also torn the socio-economic fabric of society and has contributed to grave humanitarian crises. We appeal to the world community to provide generous contributions and to work closely with the Somali authorities, to ensure that humanitarian access is provided to the most vulnerable populations. Meeting these humanitarian needs will ultimately provide strong foundation from which recovery, reconstruction and development can develop in the future.

Mr. President,

This historical moment requires bold initiatives on the part of the President of the General Assembly who, in tandem with the Secretary General, is called upon to provide the vision and strength of conviction necessary to carry the United Nations forward to face the myriad challenges of the organization. We are confident that, by working together closely, we can and should meet the challenges ahead.

I thank you, Mr. President.