



**Jamhuuriyada Soomaaliya
Ergada Joogtada ah ee Qaramada Midoobay
Dowlada Federalka ee Kumeelgaarka ah**

**Permanent Mission of the Transitional
Federal Government of the Somali
Republic to the United Nations**

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Ismael Mohamoud Hurreh
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

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**Madam President
Mr. Secretary General
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to see a sister from fraternal Bahrain presiding over this important session of the General Assembly. Your leadership will certainly contribute to promote dialogue and harmony in the midst of the spread of conflicts throughout the different corners of the world. We are confident that you will successfully guide the deliberations of the assembly.

Let me also take this opportunity to pay special tribute to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson for his commitment and diplomatic skill which enabled him to effectively manage the deliberations of the assembly. We likewise wish to recognize Secretary General Kofi Annan for the immense efforts undertaken, and the commendable services rendered during his tenure in promoting the maintenance of peace and security and international cooperation.

Madam President,

I wish at the outset to brief this august assembly, in some detail, on the current situation in Somalia. The establishment of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia as a result of the successful peace and reconciliation process held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004, had created a unique opportunity of ending the Somali political crisis. It was a great opportunity for the Somali people, that a comprehensive settlement of the conflict has been finally attained.

The advancement and consolidation of peace and stability requires unwavering commitment of the international community to reinforce national efforts in nation building of the TFG. Regrettably, due to circumstances not fully known to us, the international community failed to act in a timely fashion to support the new government in facing the enormous challenges it confronted. Consequently, a window of opportunity has been lost which led to continued violence and conflict.

Ironically, this also paved the way for the warlords and other armed groups to take advantage of the political vacuum, as they asserted and consolidate their power and clan-based authority in the capital city Mogadishu and its environs.

Although they had the privilege of holding important Ministerial portfolios in the new government, the warlords pursued their hidden agenda to promote their personal interest and political ambitions by maintaining the chaotic status quo in Somalia.

It is noteworthy to bear in mind that the warlords and Islamic Courts Union (ICU) had initially combined their forces and political rhetoric as an opposition alliance group against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). Both Groups were encouraged by the reluctance of the international community to quickly come to the aid of the new Somali government and by the continuation of the United Nations Arms Embargo on Somalia. However, the ICU had realized that the warlords were losing popularity in the eyes of mainstream Somalis.

At this juncture, while the TFG, though skeptical, responded positively to the initiative undertaken by the Arab League to convene peace talks and settle the differences between the parties. The first and second round of such peace talks has successfully taken place in Khartoum, Sudan and both sides agreed on general principles and some preliminary issues for the next round of talks scheduled to be held in Khartoum in October 2006. However, as the Islamic Courts Union continue to consolidate their grip, their concealed intentions are fast becoming evident to the Somali people and to the international community. In this connection, it will be recalled that the ICU continued with impunity to expand and attack other districts outside Mogadishu including Jowhar, Balad, and other adjacent areas. The latest development of ICU's territorial expansionism was the massive armed attack and capture of the city of Kismayo, in flagrant violation of the Khartoum peace agreement.

It should be noted also that the President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, survived targeted assassination attempt on 18 September 2006. My government firmly believes that this heinous crime is an act of terrorism aimed at undermining and sabotaging the peace process in Somalia and should

be condemned in the strongest terms. This heinous attack resulted in the death of several people including the brother of the President. We wish to express our appreciation to all those delegations and organizations that expressed their sympathy and condemned this act. These are all disquieting and disturbing developments and the situation is rapidly deteriorating to an alarming degree and continues to pose serious threat to the peace that has been achieved with serious implications to the security and stability of the region. Despite all these violations of the peace agreement, the TFG remains committed to the path of dialogue and negotiation with ICU and relevant civil society organizations. But this positive gesture will not continue if the ICU persists in their aggressive policies of attacks and territorial expansion.

Madam President

As I stated earlier, the absence of law and order, and the escalation of violence and the ensuing collapse of central authority were the major causes for the chaos and anarchy in Somalia. The main goal of the TFG is therefore, to engage in an effective focused plan for the re-establishment of institutions for peace and good governance to restore normalcy and stability in the country. We therefore strongly appeal to the international community to demonstrate a political will and commitment and redouble their efforts to provide political, financial and technical support to the TFG during this challenging transitional period.

It goes without saying, that the absence of effective functioning government institutions, capable of enforcing law and order has always been the genesis of the Somali conflict for the past 14 years. What Somalia urgently needs at this crucial juncture is immediate and substantial support for the creation of an enabling environment conducive to peace and security which in essence is the key requirement for reconstruction and economic recovery.

Madam President,

The economic challenges facing the TFG of Somalia are formidable. The collapse of the Somali state in 1991 resulted in extensive destruction of governing and management institutions which are now being reestablished by the TFG in its post conflict reconstruction programme.

It is deeply disturbing to note that over half a million children under the age of five years die each year from preventable diseases, Malaria being the biggest killer. Moreover, over 100.000 women die each year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth. Despite all these hardships, the economic and social recovery programmers of the TFG have received virtually no assistance from the international donors commensurate with the massive needs of the Somali people. Far too long, Somalia was allowed to struggle alone and the negative consequences have been monumental. Somalia can aspire to establish the sufficient conditions for sustained economic growth by leveraging its energetic human and social capital.

However, a successful and sustainable reconstruction and development plan requires the support of the international community to the determined efforts of the TFG in gaining administrative authority and competence at the federal, regional and district levels. This calls for a broad based participatory partnership approach from the family of nations and provision of technical assistance to build efficient institutions that leverage the resiliency and potential of the Somali people.

In terms of the required relief assistance, it is to be noted that approximately 1.8 million Somalis are still in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and livelihood support. In view of the magnitude of this challenge, my delegation appeals to the world body and the donor community to respond positively and generously and above all act in a concerted fashion to meet the humanitarian needs so as to avert a catastrophe of major humanitarian proportions.

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In an effort to stabilize Somalia to overcome the sources of insecurity, the Government has put in place a well marshaled National Stabilization Security Plan (NSSP). Both in concept and operation, the plan takes a holistic approach to the nature and scope of insecurity in the country. It takes into consideration local, regional and international dimensions for the implementation of the Plan. By the same token, it envisions the combined and concerted local, regional and international efforts in the execution of NSSP. The realization of this goal would remain elusive in so far as the Government remains fragile and

incapable to enforce the policies and laws of the land as prescribed in the Transitional Federal Charter.

Madam President

The TFG welcomes all efforts now being undertaken by the international community in addressing the new problems and realities of Somalia. It is important to note that IGAD and the African Union have now finalized putting together the details and salient elements of the Peace Support Mission (IGASOM) to Somalia. At the international level it is also gratifying that the International Somalia Contact Group (ISCG), which was recently established, convened its second meeting in Brussels to find ways and means to streamline the international engagement and support for Somalia. Moreover, on its part, the UN Security Councils in the process of considering Somalia's security problems in particular lifting the UN Arms Embargo and the deployment of IGASOM to Somalia.

All these combined activities at regional and international levels demonstrate the heightened interest and attention given to Somalia. However, it remains to be seen whether all these initiatives can be properly coordinated and directed towards assisting in a substantial way the TFG in its daunting task of stabilizing the country. The contributions by the international community to be meaningful and effective must focus as a matter of priority the fundamental issue of capacity building for the Transitional Federal Institutions and more particularly in the security sector. It is imperative that the following specific measures be taken as a matter of urgency:

- 1. UN Arms Embargo must be favourably reviewed and lifted by the Security Council.**
- 2. The IGAD Peace Support Mission should be deployed as mandated by the African Union and IGAD**

3. The National Security Forces must be institutionalized, trained and equipped.

4. The Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) Programme must be undertaken throughout Somalia.

It is also of paramount importance that a solid basis for the Somali public administration is established and a modest and lean civil service is recruited and trained for the various public sector organs of the state. Regional administrations should be put in place and the federal restructuring should be drawn and implemented in conformity with the Transitional Federal Charter. Finally, immediate efforts should be exerted for the drafting of the permanent federal constitution of Somalia so as to pave the way for free and fair elections after the completion of the transitional period.

The aforementioned proposals are aimed at restoring peace and stability in order to assist the TFG in establishing functioning and effective institutions capable of providing essential basic services to the people. Failure to do so would once again relegate Somalia into yet another cycle of violence and anarchy.

In concluding my remarks we share the desire expressed by many delegations in this forum to see the United Nations reinvigorate its role and strengthen its capabilities with a view to achieving a more active and effective role, a role which would guarantee the fulfillment of the objectives and principles that are enshrined in the Charter so as to ensure that peace on earth and international cooperation will continue to prevail for the welfare of mankind.

I thank you, Madam President.