

Statement by H.E. Mr Jeroen Cooreman, Ambassador, Deputy  
Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

**Security Council Meeting on Somalia**

New York, 21 August 2019

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Madam President,

I wish to thank the briefers for their enlightening reports on the situation in Somalia.

Today, I will talk about the political situation, security issues, and, finally, the humanitarian situation.

Tomorrow, elections are due to be held in Jubaland. These Presidential elections on the level of a Federal member state offer the Somalian political class an opportunity to show its wish to participate fully in the democratic process. We hope to see a serene and transparent election and a peaceful and non-violent transition of power whatever the outcome of the election. The future President of Jubaland will have to contribute to reviving relations between the Somalian federal government and its Federal member states.

Federalism can work but on condition that the Federal government and the Member states are prepared to dialogue and comply with a spirit of constant cooperation and compromise. This also means being prepared to concede some power and share rights and responsibilities.

It is also time to make headway on preparing the 2020-2021 universal suffrage elections. We call on the federal bodies to step up their efforts to

comply with the planned agenda by reaching an agreement about the key electoral issues with the Federated member states and quickly adopting the electoral law with the necessary modifications.

Mr President,

The report of the Secretary General confirms once again: Al-Shabaab present the main threat to the country's security and stability. Terrorist attacks continue to plague Somalia. Control of the security situation by the government, namely the Somalian Armed Forces, is a priority. Al-Shabaab's continued use of improved explosive devices highlight the need to maintain and implement the weapons embargo in a cautious and considered manner.

We want to see more initiatives that aim to create conditions for the gradual withdrawal of AMISOM. On this subject, we thank the Ambassador Madeira for the attention he pays to monitoring the transition in his briefings to this Council.

We pay tribute to the men and women who risk their lives for Somalia in the frame of AMISOM and regret the victims of the recent attack. Weapons are not enough to protect populations from security risks; the Armed forces and the police must be well educated, trained, supervised, with a well-considered strategy and a clear code of conduct. I also add that in order to succeed with the reform of the security sector, coordination is necessary between all the sector's stakeholders, including international stakeholders.

Mr President,

The fate of the Somalian population continues to lie at the heart of our concerns: 5.4 million people require humanitarian aid, more than 2.6 million of which are internally displaced persons - including 220,000 new displaced persons in the first part of the year. Somalia is particularly sensitive to climatic events: droughts are increasingly frequent and undermine the population's resilience.

The issue of sexual violence in the conflicts and the fate of tens of thousands of women and young girls who have fallen prey to this barbaric practice continues to be one of Belgium's major concerns. We recommend an approach centred on the victim and a need to progress more in the accountability of the instigators of sexual violence, as stressed by resolution 2467.

Justice must be done for these crimes. We defend the clear incorporation of sexual violence as a designation criterion in sanctions regimes. It is encouraging that the Federal government of Somalia is committed to working on a new national action plan and we encourage it to associate the Federated member states in the process.

To conclude, I wish to congratulate Special Representative Swan for the dynamic manner in which he has started the first weeks of his mandate. The coming months promise to be complex and Somalia has everything to gain from full and sincere cooperation with the representative of the Secretary General. We give him our full confidence.

Thank you.