



Speech by H.E. Mr Philippe Kridelka, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

Security Council Meeting on Somalia

New York, 20 August 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the African Union's Peace and Security Council for their reports and actions. I would like to reiterate here our full support for them.

Before saying a few words on the political situation, human rights and security issues, I would like to offer my condolences to the families of the victims of last Sunday's attack on a hotel in the capital. These acts of terrorism are unacceptable and once again demonstrate that control of the security situation by the Somali Government and armed forces is a priority.

With regards to the political situation:

I would like to applaud the relaunch of a high-level political dialogue last July between the Federal Government and Federated Member States. This is an encouraging development and absolutely necessary to address the urgent issues facing Somalia. Care must be taken to ensure that this dialogue is maintained and that a consensus is reached between the Federal Government and all Federated Member States. We hope that the removal of Prime Minister Khaire, in questionable circumstances, does not signal a change of direction. Time is running out to take important decisions on how

the elections are organised, but these decisions must be the result of a compromise, not a unilateral decision by a Somali political institution or actor. We also encourage the authorities to broaden the democratic space in order to allow a large part of the population, including women, young people and displaced persons, to participate in these processes, which are crucial for the country's future. In this context, we also express our concern about the attacks on journalists as they conduct their work and their freedom of expression.

On the subject of human rights:

Mr President,

We remain concerned about the grave violations against children. In my capacity as President of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, I am pleased to confirm that the group has adopted the conclusions regarding Somalia. In particular, the group commends the efforts made by the Federal Government. Belgium encourages the Government to continue its efforts to implement the necessary legislation to combat several types of violation, such as the draft law on sexual violence. On this point, we are concerned about the introduction into parliament of a new text that appears to be incompatible with Somalia's international obligations.

Finally, Sunday's attack reminds us that Al-Shabaab remains the primary threat to the security and stability of the country; the development and deployment of the Somali army are vital for containing this threat and protecting the population. We await the review of the transition plan, which will be the key document to guide Somalia, with the help of its partners, towards restoring security and restructuring AMISOM I would like to recall the support that the European Union is providing to Somalia through the financing of AMISOM, the EUTM and EUCAP missions and the ATALANTA

maritime counter-piracy operation. The international community's support is not limited to the area of security. There is of course, also humanitarian aid, which is badly needed since the number of food-insecure people is in the millions. There is also aid for institutional capacity development. The restoration of State authority is not just a military operation; for the Somali authorities it is about providing the population with the basic services and freedoms to which they aspire.

Thank you.