



Speech by H.E. Mr Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

to the United Nations Security Council

Security Council Meeting on Somalia

New York, 24 February 2020

I would like to thank the speakers for their presentations.

Allow me now to say a few words, firstly about the political situation.

Somalia is currently developing its federal system and we understand the complexity of the task. We welcome the good technical cooperation between federal levels that has been established to achieve debt relief. It is now important to extend this cooperation to other areas and add constructive dialogue at the political level.

Somalia is making progress on a number of critical issues, such as security sector reform and election preparations. However, without internal political dialogue, solutions can only be incomplete. Certain aspects of the electoral code need to be reviewed, as has been said. Time is running out for ensuring that the presidential elections are held on schedule. We also encourage the Federal Government to expand the democratic space to allow for the participation of everyone, including women, young people and displaced persons. Lastly, a fair and reasonable outcome must be found to the tensions caused by the regional elections in Galmudug and Jubaland.

With regard to security issues, the inadequate dialogue between the Federal Government and some Federated States is also having a negative impact on the transition plan for the withdrawal of AMISOM. Better coordination would

enable Somalia to make progress on the implementation of its security architecture, and the SNA to increase its numbers.

Al-Shabaab remains the primary threat to the security and stability of the country; the deployment of the Somali army is vital for containing this threat and protecting the population. The authorities are in a position to acquire the weapons they need thanks to the partial lifting of the embargo. Lastly, 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 maritime counter-piracy operation ATALANTA.

Finally, we are concerned about the suffering of the population. Humanitarian crises and population displacements due to the conflicts and climatic phenomena such as droughts and floods are mutually reinforcing. The study presented by Mr Smith highlights the interaction between these phenomena. In our view, a greater focus on these issues by UNSOM would improve the Mission's effectiveness.

In conclusion, I would like to commend Special Representative Swan and the staff of UNSOM for their commitment.