



Kingdom of Belgium

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

At the United Nations Security Council

Information meeting

"UNSOM"

New York, 23 May 2019

Thank you to the speakers for their presentations.

In Somalia's very difficult context, it is important to acknowledge the positive developments and efforts made. For example, the meeting held in Garowe from 4 to 12 May between the Federal President and the Regional Presidents can be described as encouraging, even if the hoped-for outcome did not materialise.

I therefore welcome President Farmajo's commitment to resuming dialogue, and I urge him to follow up rapidly on this meeting at Garowe. The Secretary-General's report lists other positive points, including the federal government's commitment to economic reforms and the biometric registration of national army troops.

As Belgium is a federal country, I cannot overstate the importance of maintaining close and constructive relations between the federal level and the federated entities. This notion of "cooperation" is essential in order to make federalism an effective system that can meet citizens' expectations in the context of constructive dialogue between different levels of government.

The electoral issues unfortunately remain a source of discord and tension, and electoral deadlines in Jubbaland are fast approaching. We need to be especially vigilant in this respect.

The Somali National Army has taken the lead in operations to secure the Lower Shabelle region. This security needs to be accompanied by stabilisation measures; I welcome the creation of an inter-ministerial *task force* to prepare them, and I would be interested in having more details regarding the next steps.

It is striking to see the level of international support for Somalia, but it is important to ensure coordination and transparency in the support provided. I am referring in particular to bilateral cooperation programmes. Nonetheless, it is essential that all Somalia's partners work together in the same direction.