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**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR RAMTANE LAMAMRA,**  
**COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**  
**AT THE MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON SOMALIA**  
**21 OCT 2010**

**Mr. President,**

On behalf of the African Union Commission, and its Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping, I would like to most warmly congratulate you for organizing this meeting. Coming, as it does, on the heels of the Mini-Summit convened here, in New York, on 23 September 2010, by the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, this meeting bears further testimony to the determination of the United Nations to sustain the current momentum in the search for a durable solution to the crisis in Somalia.

We commend the Secretary-General for the attention and efforts he continues to devote to the situation in Somalia, and for his rich and forward-looking statement to the Council this morning. This statement indeed translates his renewed and unflinching commitment to bring a durable end to two decades of suffering endured by the Somali people. Indeed such a strong determination which is required from the international community as a whole hardly needs to be emphasized. The protracted suffering inflicted on the Somali people and the increasing threat posed by the situation to regional stability, as well as to international peace and security, cannot be allowed to continue any longer.

**Mr. President,**

Today's session of the Security Council is taking place a week after the 245<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, which convened at ministerial level in Addis Ababa, on 15 October 2010. The meeting provided an

opportunity to review in-depth the situation in Somalia and to take far reaching decisions, whose timely implementation, we are convinced, will help turn around the situation on the ground and assist the Somali people open a new and more peaceful chapter in the history of their war-torn country.

The current developments in Somalia are well known. I would like, however, to provide a brief overview of the background against which the PSC meeting took place, highlighting political, security and humanitarian aspects:

- (i) Over the past few months, the political situation has been challenged by the inability of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to effectively implement their obligations under the Transitional Federal Charter and the Djibouti peace process. This was mainly due to the intermittent and recurrent wrangling within and between the leadership of the TFIs and the resultant lack of cohesion. This led to the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke, on 21 September.

The African Union notes that President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has now appointed a new Prime Minister, and we look forward to a the early formation of a representative Cabinet, and speedy completion of the parliamentary confirmation process.

- (ii) The security situation in Mogadishu, in particular, and the rest of Somalia (south central) remains unacceptable, as demonstrated by the persisting violence in the country and other heinous acts, such as mortar attacks, assassinations, suicide bombings, that continue to be perpetrated against the Somali people, the TFG and AMISOM by the insurgents and terrorist groups, al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam, with the active support of foreign elements. The African Union is very concerned that the insecurity in Somalia is spilling over into the region as attested by the despicable Kampala bombings of 11 July 2010.
- (iii) The humanitarian situation is of utmost concern, characterized by persistent attacks against humanitarian workers and agencies by al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam, limited access, but also inadequate funding.

In reviewing the situation in Somalia, the PSC was guided by the urgency of effective and coordinated action by the Somalis and the international community. In particular, the PSC was convinced that the situation required three layers of actions.

**The first layer concerns the Somalis themselves.** Indeed, the Somalis, in particular their leaders, have the primary responsibility for the restoration of peace, security and stability in their country. This is why the PSC strongly urged the leadership of the TFIs and all other stakeholders to show selfless leadership, resolve and unity of purpose, for without such dispositions, no amount of external assistance will make it possible to effectively turn around the situation in Somalia. More specifically, and bearing in mind that 20 August 2011 will mark the end of the transitional period, the PSC requested the TFIs to:

- (i) ensure the confirmation of the new Prime Minister by the TFP and the formation of a new Government;
- (ii) develop a roadmap regarding the management of the remaining transition period, with clear political, security and reconstruction priorities, in line with the Djibouti process;
- (iii) expeditiously complete the outstanding transitional tasks, including the constitutional process;
- (iv) continue to reach out to all peace-embracing Somalis, in a spirit of inclusiveness, bearing in mind that the Djibouti peace process remains the sole basis for peace and reconciliation in Somalia; and to
- (v) urgently endorse the draft National Security and Stabilization Plan and the Security Sector Assessment Report.

**The second layer relates to the AU.** The Somalis will not succeed in their efforts without the full support of the continent and the international community as a whole. While the situation in Somalia calls for the mobilization of resources and assets that are beyond the means of the AU, our continental organization cannot abdicate its responsibilities to Somalia and fail its people. Building on the achievements recorded so far, the AU and IGAD will continue to do their utmost to support the Somalis as they strive to bring to a definite

end the conflict and violence that have plagued their country for two decades. In particular, AU's action over the coming months will center around the following:

- (i) support to the political process, including the management of the remaining transitional period and efforts to reach out to all peace embracing Somalis;
- (ii) strengthening of AMISOM, in order to bring its military component to 20,000 troops and its police component to 1,680. This increase in strength will be accompanied by the enhancement of the equipment of the Mission. In addition, the civilian component of AMISOM will be substantially enhanced;
- (iii) mobilization of the international community for it to fully play its role. The appointment of former President Jerry John Rawlings as AU High Representative for Somalia will no doubt inject a new momentum in this respect.

**The third layer is that of the international community and the United Nations, in particular.** Clearly, and while acknowledging the support rendered so far, we, at the AU, strongly believe that more efforts are required, for the international community to rise to the challenge posed by the current situation in Somalia. More specifically, the PSC has urged the UN Security Council to take the following actions:

- (i) endorse the newly-authorized strength of AMISOM,;
- (ii) authorize an enhanced support package for AMISOM, funded through UN assessed contributions, on the basis of the newly-authorized strength, and catering for reimbursements for Contingent Owned Equipment (COE), including minor and major equipment, and the payment of troop allowances at UN rates, in order to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission. In addition, such support should be availed to the Mission both within and outside Somalia, as required;
- (iii) impose, in response to the request by the AU and IGAD, a naval blockade and a no-fly zone over Somalia to prevent the entry of foreign fighters into Somalia, as well as flights carrying shipments

of weapons and ammunition to armed groups inside Somalia, which are responsible for attacks against the TFG, AMISOM and the Somali population. In this respect, the Security Council should like to consider requesting the governments and organizations involved in the naval operations undertaken off the coast of Somalia, and with Council's authorization, to provide a more direct, tangible and operational support to AMISOM;

- (iv) ensure the effective implementation of sanctions against all those impeding the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;
- (v) approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner, with the view to effectively addressing its underlying causes and other equally serious threats which affect the livelihood and well being of the Somali people, in particular illegal fishing and dumping of toxic substances and waste off the coast of Somalia; and
- (vi) reaffirm the commitment to deploy, in due course, a UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia through the re-hatting of AMISOM, and to establish a timeline for this deployment.

**Mr. President,**

Somalia is today at a crossroads. While the situation on the ground remains very difficult and the TFIs confronted with a myriad of challenges, not least those relating to their internal cohesion and effectiveness, we should not lose sight of the opportunities that exist to make peace happen in Somalia. After two decades of conflicts and chaos, the Somalis are yearning for peace. In addition, there is today greater awareness than ever before of the serious threat that the current situation in Somalia poses to international peace and security, as illustrated by the phenomenon of piracy and, even more dramatically, the Kampala terrorist bombings of last July.

The international community can decide to pursue its current policy of limited engagement and half-hearted measures, in the false hope that the situation can be contained, and continue to make the existence of a peace to be kept a precondition for the deployment of a UN operation and a greater contribution to the stabilization of the situation in Somalia.

The international community can also decide that it should step up its efforts, bearing in mind its duties and responsibilities to Somalia and its people and the need to give a concrete meaning to much-heralded notion of the responsibility to protect, as well as the urgency of confronting the threat which the prevailing situation poses to international peace and security. We, at the AU, are convinced that this is the right course of action. And the time for action is now, in the expectation that the “2010, the Year for Peace and Security in Africa” will indeed bring the blessings of a normal life to the people of Somalia.

We therefore call on the Council to stand along with the African Union, in rising to the challenge, and responding decisively to the desperate call for assistance from the Somali people.

I thank you.