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**IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251
OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”**

**Letter dated 13 June 2007 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Permanent Mission of Somalia addressed to the President of
the Human Rights Council**

Enclosed herewith you will find a response** to the oral update given to the Council by the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia on 12 June 2007. The response is entitled “Highlights on the current political situation in Somalia” and has been sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic. Although the Somali delegation intended to take part in the interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Somalia, unfortunately it could not make the trip due to unforeseen circumstances. Furthermore, my Government would appreciate it if you could circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the fifth session of the Human Rights Council.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** The annex is circulated as received, in the language of submission only.

**The Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

Date: 11th of June, 2007

Highlights on the current political situation in Somalia
Difficulties and prospects for the way forward

It was obvious that the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and all its institutions were established as a results of the two years long IGAD Somali National Reconciliation Conference in Kenya, with the support of the International Community would not have made headway without:-

- 1- Transitional Federal Government's firm commitment to lead the transitional period, despite inner cropping differences to face the crucial national issues.
- 2- Limited support provided by the International Community to strengthen the Transitional Federal Institutions and enable them to achieve the goals of peaceful stabilization and political normalization of the country.

Undeniably, there is up to now, an inexplicable delay of an immediate deployment of the International Peace-Supporting forces requested since the National Reconciliation Conference at Embaghaty, Kenya, following the establishment of the TFIs, in reflection of the true will of the Somali people. The objective was to reduce risks of the persistent anarchy and continuation of the vacuum breeding terrorist political culture in Somalia.

In the meantime, strong re-emergency of anti-institution Warlord Groups has taken place in Mogadishu, to cripple TFG's efforts with the aim of misleading politically the International Community, under the cover of the so-called Mogadishu Stabilization Plan, conceived outside the Government's Programme of pacification, despite neglected strong advises issued by the Transitional Federal Institutions against such a political deviation and false starts.

This in turn led to the upsurge of the Terrorist Network Groups in Mogadishu, under the cover name of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) fully supported, backed and financed by Foreign Extremist Al-Qaeda connected Legionaries of different nationalities. Their target with sophisticated political "masquerade" was to overthrow the legitimately established Transitional Federal Government in a bloody show of strength and use of brutal force which put Baidoa, the interim provisional capital of the TFG, under complete besiege and military threat, with supply boycott for over six months, exposing large parts of Central and Southern Somalia to the perils of war, ignoring totally the Peace Agreements of Khartoum 1 and Khartoum 2, calling for cease fire and stoppage of military expansion.

It is a very well-know fact the this period went off without any international humanitarian aid support to the besieged suffering civilian populations and without any consideration to the gross human right abuses and violations against Mogadishu population of approximately over one million citizens. And finally not to forget the tragic case thousands of our beloved youngsters scholl children, from Mogadishu and surrounding areas of lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Jubba regions, Gedo, Hiran and Galgaduud regions, driven by the ICU helplessly to the military fronts as human shield and cannon fodders, without a minimum International condemnation or reaction.

With this background in mind, it becomes a matter of an open question as to where was then, the voice of those preachers of political morality, with in Nairobi-based international aid-workers, now pretending to do so with great uproar? Is there any international investigation on the mentioned tragedies, whereby thousands of innocent children lost their lives? Have they ever uttered a word in this regard, except describing the horrific days of ICU as the golden days of Mogadishu, without understanding or either ignoring the human and political catastrophe lying underneath?

Despite all these, it seems that the Transitional Federal Government is facing undeserved comments and disregards for all the efforts it has done for the consolidation of state institutions avoiding to collapse but always relying on legal Charter-based framework solution to advance.

And worse than that, it looks that the TFG is being criticized and punished for successfully stabilizing the country and introducing administrative governance, where anarchy was prevailing for more than a decade, particularly in the Central and Southern parts of the country, with Mogadishu being the center of all instabilities and inter-clan fighting promotion.

Currently, all capacity building assistance are being put on slow paralyzing motion if not virtually on total halt since forces of evil were smashed in our country. Is this not another proof of non commitment towards strengthening the TFIs, instead of encouraging them to pursue the pace of the stabilization with much more vigor to restore Somalia back on its feet in all security and political fields?

Is continuation of anarchy, regional instability, terrorism subservience attitudes are our choice, neglecting Somalia's yearn for help, under different pretexts from time to time?

It is time for change and to provide without further delay the timely sustained support to Somalia through its legitimate institutions. We have refused to be victims of internal and international destabilization forces and we hope that we will not be let victims of the international aid-workers prophecies in Nairobi, who seem accustomed and continue to behave, unfortunately, as substitutes of state institutions and authority in place, instead of promoting genuine partnership and cooperation.

They, themselves are victims of the past vacuum culture in Somalia and it is a high time to retrieve them from this state of affairs and only Governments and Donors can do that and reorient them to the right track.

On our part, we will be ready for cooperation without surrendering our Sovereignty and National Authority. In n our view it is more than urgent to have a serious dialogue in this respect to charter a reliable and concrete way forward.

We seek support and understanding of the International Community and they can rely on us, as true partners and genuine interlocutors to promote a new dawn of peace, institutional stability in Somalia and correct partnership.

In this connection, the Transitional Federal Institutions are all united to create a new peaceful environment and coexistence among all social components of the Somalia people and exhort them to leave behind all past ill feelings against each other.

For that purpose the Somali government is committed to make the up-coming National Reconciliation Congress a success to strengthen the spirit of natural cohesion and mutual tolerance and we call the International Community to appreciate the strenuous efforts and messages of peace that the TFIs are determined to deliver and therefore we kindly request to provide assistance needed in this respect.

Within that context of reconciliation, the thorny issues of settlement of property and land claims will be addressed, among other important topics. This is one of the key factors for the continuation of the civil war, the suffering and impoverishment of communities, the population upheavals, internal displacements and massive exodus and emigration.

Moreover, allow me to underline, among our immediate priorities, the important task of drafting the new Federal Constitution, so as to lay down a strong foundation for the future political life of Somalia and its post transition state institutions.

Finally, my argument will be incomplete, if I fell short of reminding the International Community to take urgent steps in support of the deployment of the agreed African Union Peace-Support forces (AMISOM) in Somalia.

Let me take again this opportunity to renew my highest consideration for our friends in the International Community our sincere commitment to help the Somali people during this very delicate period.

Thank you,

Ali D. Farah
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
