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NOTE

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Subject: Council Conclusions on Somalia

At its meeting on 14 May 2012, the Council adopted Council Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on

Somalia

1. With only three months to go to the end of the political transition in Somalia, the EU calls on the Somali leadership to seize this opportunity and to implement their commitments to ensure that the 20 August deadline is met. Responsibility for the design and delivery of a political solution lies with Somalis themselves. The Garowe Principles agreed by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the other signatories of the Kampala Roadmap and civil society, provide a sound basis for that solution. The EU welcomes the progress made so far. Crucial now is the establishment of new institutions and the adoption of a new Constitution by a representative Constituent Assembly in full transparency. This Constitution, subject to a national referendum in due course, must be underpinned by respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including women's rights and the rights of persons belonging to minorities.
2. The EU also welcomes the enhanced engagement of the international community to support that process and will continue to assess progress on delivery of the commitments set out in the Roadmap and Garowe Processes by the Somali leadership. Such progress will continue to guide EU support to the political process in Somalia. The EU is concerned about delays in implementing key tasks of the Roadmap and Garowe commitments. The EU endorses the warning that has been issued to those who are judged to be blocking or spoiling progress and will consider appropriate action against them. It therefore calls on the Somali leadership to tackle the pending issues to finalise the transition in a transparent and inclusive manner with the active participation of civil society. The formal establishment of the Joint Financial Management Board as soon as possible is important. The EU rejects any further extension of the mandate of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) in line with the outcome of the International Conference on Somalia in London on 23 February 2012.

3. The EU looks forward to the Istanbul Conference on 31 May-1 June and to the International Contact Group meeting in Rome on 2-3 July as important meetings in assessing progress before the end of the transition.
4. The EU recognises the importance of the action of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in bringing security to the country. It welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2036 expanding the AMISOM mandate and calls on the new Troop Contributing Countries to fully integrate their forces into the AMISOM command and control structure, in line with the Resolution. The EU will continue its significant support to AMISOM consistent with a Somali-led strategy to stabilise the country and encourages AMISOM to continue developing its capacity to protect civilians and their human rights. The EU calls upon other donors to contribute to sustainable funding for AMISOM and to provide force enablers that will allow the mission to operate effectively.
5. The EU underlines the importance of ultimately handing security responsibilities to Somali authorities, and to that end, to enhance the international support to the Somali National Security Forces (NSF). It encourages other donors to join this process. The EU stresses the importance for the Joint Security Committee to work effectively to oversee the development of the NSF. The EU commends the contribution of the trained Somali soldiers in bringing security to Somalia. Through the EU Training Mission (EUTM Somalia) the EU will continue to support the development of the NSF including their command and control structure, in cooperation with AMISOM, Uganda, the US and other relevant actors.
6. Creating security throughout Somalia through the actions of AMISOM and the NSF provides the necessary space for reconciliation and effective governance through representative and accountable institutions which will help build lasting peace and stability. The EU will contribute to efforts to stabilise all accessible areas to provide Somalis there with basic needs, security, the rule of law, governance and reconciliation. International coordination and coherence of stabilisation efforts will be essential, particularly in newly accessible areas. The EU will also maintain support to stabilisation, reconciliation and development in the more stable, but still fragile, regions of Puntland and Somaliland.

7. The EU remains concerned about the humanitarian situation facing millions of vulnerable Somalis. Humanitarian assistance will therefore continue to be provided to the people of Somalia based on needs and in full accordance with international humanitarian principles. The EU calls on all parties in Somalia to ensure safe and unhindered access to humanitarian aid and to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.
8. The EU recalls the obligation of all actors on the ground to prevent civilian casualties and to ensure the protection of civilians.
9. The EU condemns all forms of violence and terrorist attacks in Somalia and deplores the sustained targeting of journalists and other members of the media in the country. It calls on all parties to abandon violence and join the ongoing peace process. Terrorism is a threat to security in Somalia itself, the region and internationally. In this context, the EU has committed to building the capacities of the Somali authorities as well as of the region to counter the threat of terrorism and to support regional law enforcement cooperation, including through the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.
10. The EU is committed to tackling piracy through a comprehensive approach that combats it at sea, while contributing to a lasting solution through the rule of law, socio-economic development and capacity building on land. The new EU mission EUCAP NESTOR will assist states in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean, including Somalia, to develop a self-sustainable capacity to enhance their maritime security and governance, including judicial capacities. The mandate of the EU naval operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has been extended until December 2014. The EU also recognises the importance of disrupting the business model of piracy through the investigation of illicit financial flows that enable piracy.

11. As an integral element of its Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, the EU stands ready to continue its comprehensive support to Somalia together with the United Nations, African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development and other international partners. The weeks ahead are crucial. The EU will continue to follow developments closely and assess progress in the transition process as the 20 August deadline approaches.
