



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 18 July 2016
(OR. en)

11238/16

COAFR 220
CFSP/PESC 618

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 18 July 2016
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 10907/16

Subject: Somalia
- Council conclusions (18 July 2016)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on Somalia, as adopted by the Council at its 3482nd meeting held on 18 July 2016.

Council Conclusions on Somalia

1. The forthcoming electoral process in Somalia is a milestone for the Somali people and Somali politics. It will have long-lasting implications for the security, stability and development of Somalia, and the wider region. The EU welcomes the progress, both at central and regional level, since the establishment of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in 2012. This progress reflects the achievements, despite great challenges, of the Somali people themselves, and the close relationship with the international community through the 2013 Somali Compact. The EU recognises the crucial role played by the UN, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
2. Only a credible and accountable electoral process will ensure the necessary legitimacy for the elected leadership. The electoral process must mark a clear change in scope from the one that took place in 2012 and be more inclusive and transparent. It must also mark a step on the path to a democratic, united and stable Somalia, at both central and regional level with the objective of conducting free, one-person-one vote elections in 2020. The electoral implementation bodies mandated to manage and oversee the polls must be established urgently and transparently, and be clearly free of political interference.
3. The EU presses upon the Somali leadership the importance of moving forward with operational electoral implementation without further delay and to adhere to agreed credible timelines in line with constitutional provisions as well as commitments made before the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The polls must be transparent and take place within the highest possible degree of security provided by Somalia's own armed forces and police and the troops of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM).

4. The promotion of greater female representation in the political process as committed to by the National Leadership Forum (NLF) will be an important achievement. The essential role of women in political reconstruction and development is internationally recognised. The EU expects regional and federal Somali leaders to adhere to and promote this principle and urges them to establish mechanisms to guarantee the 30% quota for women in both houses of Parliament.
5. The EU reaffirms its commitment and stands ready to continue to support Somalia throughout the electoral process, in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of the country. The level of support will be contingent upon the integrity, transparency and conduct of this process.
6. The new Federal leadership emerging from the electoral process will have to take on crucial challenges. In this context, the EU highlights the importance of finalising the constitutional review process with a clear timeline. The new constitution must ensure a balance of power between the bicameral legislature, the President and the FGS, and clarify the relationship between the central institutions and the federal member states. Nationwide political consensus is the *sine qua non* for all political and security progress, including the consolidation and much needed expansion of the steps towards state-building achieved by the federal government. The NLF has proven to be able to contribute to this, setting the stage for future cooperation between the regions and the FGS.
7. The EU strongly condemns the attacks perpetrated by al-Shabaab and expresses its continued concerns with the threat it represents for the peace and stability of Somalia and the region. In this context, the EU recognises the critical role of AMISOM in contributing to restoring peace and security in Somalia and stresses that AMISOM's presence remains essential until Government security forces are able to take over.

8. The establishment of effective Somali security and defence forces is essential in order to allow for a transition from AMISOM under safe conditions, and, in the long term, to stabilise the country. Despite significant international assistance, including from the EU, progress made has been too limited. A political agreement between the FGS and the federal entities, through the NLF, is necessary to ensure nationwide consent to, and engagement in, the development of security and defence forces. Based on such an agreement, and as the security and defence forces develop, they must increasingly complement and replace AMISOM, thereby laying the conditions for that mission to draw down gradually and according to a shared timeline. The EU stands ready to uphold this process by ensuring political and financial support to AMISOM and, in parallel, by supporting the development of the Somali security forces. The EU is strongly engaged in the international community's efforts to deliver on security sector reform, including with the swift roll out of Capacity Building in support of Security and Development (CBSD).

The EU reiterates its call on regional and international partners to contribute to sustainable and predictable funding for AMISOM and the Somali security forces. It highlights the need, as a matter of priority, for closer interaction between the Somali security sector, AMISOM troop contributing countries, and international partners.

9. The EU welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2297, renewing AMISOM's mandate and calls for its full implementation, including regarding measures to be taken by AMISOM to maximise its efficiency and to strengthen its operational effectiveness, and by the FGS to build its own national security forces. The EU welcomes the AU decision, following the revised concept of operations (CONOPS), to identify as a priority tasks for AMISOM, more targeted and effective offensive operations together with Somali security forces against al-Shabaab.

10. Somali authorities, supported by international partners, need to strengthen rule of law and enhance stabilisation efforts by providing basic services and support to liberated populations. Such an approach is also critical to facilitate sustainable reintegration of returning refugees.
11. Following the electoral process and the end of the Compact, Somalia, under a new political leadership, will enter another era of political and socio-economic development that needs to benefit the whole Somali population. The EU stresses the importance of speeding up the consolidation of the administrative structure of the Somali State and the institutions tasked with the delivery of services, including accessible education, and recognises the importance of a Somali-owned National Development Plan as a key element to promote this agenda. It supports preserving essential elements of the Somali Compact in a new partnership framework that will allow processes, including on politics, security and rule of law, to move forward effectively under the leadership and true ownership of Somali federal and regional leaders, supported by the international community. Transparency and close dialogue among all international partners is essential for effective implementation of the National Development Plan.
12. The EU reaffirms its strong commitment to a peaceful and prosperous future for Somalia, and will continue to support the sustainable development and security of the country in the post-electoral period.
