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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

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Subject: Somalia
- Council conclusions (3 April 2017)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on Somalia, as adopted by the Council at its 3530th meeting held on 3 April 2017.

Council Conclusions on Somalia

1. The European Union (EU) welcomes the conclusion of the electoral process in Somalia, the election of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo and the smooth hand-over of power. It also welcomes the swift formation of the Cabinet of ministers. It is now essential and urgent to start delivering on the multiple priorities Somalia has to address. Expectations among Somali citizens, Somalia's neighbours and all of its international partners are high. The EU affirms the need for continued political, economic and developmental support to build on achievements over the last years.
2. The EU recognises the 2016 electoral process was an important step, but highlights the importance of one-person, one-vote elections in 2020 and calls for an early start of the preparations of a credible political road-map to reach that objective. This road-map should include a process for tackling important issues that need to be resolved in the electoral law that should provide the legislative framework for the elections. It links to the need for serious steps in improving Rule of Law in Somalia including finalizing the constitutional review process. The EU highlights that recommendations made by the EU Election Expert Mission and other international missions could prove useful in that context.

The EU welcomes the increased representation of women in Parliament and the new Cabinet. The EU underlines the need to build on the gains already made and continue ensuring increased women's representation and participation in the Somali political process with a view to improving democratic inclusiveness, as well as the situation of women in the country.

3. The EU is alarmed by the unfolding humanitarian crisis due to the drought in the Horn of Africa, for which Somalia is particularly impacted. Out of the 6.2 million people in Somalia in need of food assistance, an estimated 2.9 million face crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity between now and the peak of the agricultural lean season in June; the level of food insecurity and AWD/cholera cases beyond this may remain high depending on the rains. In response, the EU has mobilised more than €140 million notably to drought specific humanitarian assistance in the Horn, including nearly €80 million for Somalia. Several EU Member States have also bilaterally committed significant humanitarian assistance. The new federal leadership must urgently confront the severe humanitarian consequences of the drought. The EU calls on the international community to scale up efforts to respond to the needs.

4. The new federal leadership faces crucial challenges as well as opportunities to build on the progress that has been made in recent years. The EU emphasises the urgency of ensuring security throughout the country by establishing a new nationally agreed and inclusive security architecture. It also calls for the new leadership to immediately address corruption and build credible institutions, in order to deliver key services to the Somali population, including in the areas of health and education. These are the preconditions for sustainable socio-economic development. The EU recalls that the new leadership must help drive a nationwide process of reconciliation. The EU welcomes President Farmaajo's commitment to all these objectives and calls upon both Houses of Parliament to work towards the same ends. The EU further emphasises the importance of strengthening governance and building a constructive relationship between the new national leadership and the leadership of the nascent federal member states.

5. In spite of progress achieved so far, the EU remains concerned by the security situation in Somalia. Security Sector Reform (SSR) is an urgent priority of the new government. Sustainable security will require Somalia to take progressive responsibility for its own national security. The federal government is currently developing a new security architecture. The EU encourages Somalia's central and regional administrations to negotiate with each other quickly and in a spirit of compromise and pragmatism, to agree a credible and inclusive political agreement on the security architecture that provides the basis for able, acceptable, accountable and sustainable Somali security forces which are representative of the entire nation. This work will require close coordination of all actors engaged in Somalia, including regional neighbours, in order to create one comprehensive security framework serving all people in Somalia. The EU commits to an integrated approach between its different instruments in its support to Somalia.

6. The EU supports and recognises AMISOM's essential role so far in maintaining security and containing Al-Shabaab. A Somalia owned security plan should also include the gradual, conditions-based, sustainable transfer of the responsibility of providing security from AMISOM to Somalia national forces from late 2018. The EU's support to AMISOM has been one of the key contributions to Somalia's progress in recent years. Its continued support needs to drive more effective action by AMISOM troops and capacity development of Somali security forces; the EU recalls the planned joint AU-UN review of the mission. It calls on international partners to join these efforts and contribute to AMISOM in view of ensuring its sustainable transition.

The EU is committed to supporting the development and operationalisation of the new security architecture and joint agreements between Somalia and the international community which will detail commitments and benchmarks. International coordination in the field of SSR support is equally important. In a wider effort, Somalia's neighbours should be part of a broader collective security system that contributes to securing borders and economic development in the region. Security and stability on the mainland are beneficial for the safety and security of vessels in the region. The EU will continue supporting Somali efforts in the field of SSR also through EUTM Somalia and EUCAP Somalia. EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta has been successful in deterring the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Council welcomes ongoing discussions on EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta's key achievements in view of the upcoming strategic review.

7. The EU calls on the new Somali leadership to promptly finalise the constitutional review process, with a view to adopting a Constitution that is widely consulted and fully guaranteeing fundamental human rights, supports cooperation among the federal and regional administrations and defines clearly their respective responsibilities. At the federal level, the new Constitution should ensure a balance of power between the bicameral legislature, the President and the Federal Government. The constitutional review should be finalised well before the next presidential election.
8. The EU urges the government to resolutely address and continue the implementation of financial governance reforms at federal and regional levels to improve transparency and accountability of government finances with a view to increasing the confidence of the public as well as donors. Efforts should be made in facilitating economic recovery and in increasing domestic revenue. Efforts to strengthen public finance management are an important building block towards restoring normal relations with IFIs and eventual debt relief.

A New Partnership Agreement (NPA) between Somalia and the international community, building on the principles and experiences of the New Deal Compact, is essential for delivering tangible progress on security, political and development priorities for the next four years. The NPA is an excellent opportunity to highlight the ownership of the new Somali administration and should commit the Somali government to an ambitious set of reforms in the areas of security, governance, elections, Constitution, economic recovery and public financial management. It is equally an opportunity for international actors to better align political engagement, institutional support and financial assistance to a single framework of a Government of Somalia owned set of priorities. The principle of mutual accountability will be central to future relations between Somalia and its international partners. The EU welcomes the NPA outlining clear priorities and respective responsibilities. To this end, the EU has allocated an additional amount of €200 million under the EDF for the period up to 2020, beyond the €286 million already committed since 2014.

9. The EU remains deeply concerned by continued serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights law in Somalia, including violence against women and children and attacks against journalists. It is essential to bring those responsible to justice. The EU encourages the Federal Government to implement fully its Human Rights Roadmap adopted in August 2013 and to increase efforts in implementing its action plans on children and armed conflict, as well as to apply a moratorium on the death penalty. The EU also encourages the Somali authorities to enact the necessary legislation to operationalize its Human Rights Commission.

10. The EU stresses the need to build on lessons learned from the famine in 2011 and urge all donors and humanitarian actors to rapidly scale up the support. The EU underlines the importance of allowing the full and safe access of all humanitarian actors to all those in need of assistance, in line with international humanitarian aid principles, and underlines further the importance of full accountability in international support. A greater effort to improve the coordination is required to address the gaps in coverage and to secure access in locations beyond the current reach of the humanitarian community. Furthermore, long term resilience is crucial to end conflict and break the vicious cycle of drought and famine. In this regard, the EU encourages more collaborative efforts between humanitarian and development programmes, with the necessary respect for humanitarian actors' impartial mission and distinctive nature.

11. The EU welcomes the 25 March Special Summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees in Nairobi. Its Declaration and accompanying Action Plan reflect the commitment by regional leaders to support a comprehensive integrated regional approach to deliver durable solutions for Somali refugees in safety and dignity whilst maintaining protection and promoting self-reliance in the countries of asylum, with the support of the international community and other stakeholders. The EU Trust Fund shall contribute to creating sustainable solutions for refugees and displaced populations.

12. Somalia faces challenges related to forced displacements and irregular migration, some of which are shared by the EU. Addressing them requires solidarity, determination, mutual commitment and genuine partnership. The EU stresses the need for a comprehensive dialogue on joint management of migration flows, building on the key elements of the Valletta Declaration, the Joint Valletta Action Plan and the work of the Khartoum Process, and calls on the new Somali leadership to address the cooperation with the EU on these as a political priority for the coming years.

13. The EU also welcomes the recent meeting in Addis Ababa between EU High Representative Mogherini and IGAD foreign ministers highlighting the strategic importance of the region and the EU's interest in the Horn of Africa, notably looking forward to effective security cooperation to which the EU could contribute. The EU furthermore stresses the need for a holistic perspective on the many interlinked challenges in the Horn of Africa.

14. Somalia, under a new political leadership, has the opportunity to create a better future. It is essential that the new administration shows true political resolve to address the urgent humanitarian and security situations in the country and works to bring tangible benefits to the people of Somalia, especially the youth. The EU reaffirms its willingness to support an accountable and responsible leadership delivering on commitments, promoting human rights and democratic values, and working for sustainable development and security in Somalia. The EU looks forward to the London Somalia Conference on 11 May 2017, co-chaired by the Federal Government of Somalia, the UN and the UK, as an opportunity to drive forward progress on this important agenda.
