



THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
THE TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. ABDULLAHI YUSUF AHMED, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA AT THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Republic of Somalia I am very pleased to address this majestic Summit, here in New York, marking the 60th Anniversary of United Nations and the 5th Anniversary of the Millennium Summit which embodies a number of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in order to reduce poverty by 50% by the year 2005. We believe that the 8 goals of the MDGs are desirable lofty goals and we fully endorse them. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances of conflict in Somalia we are unlikely to attain all of them. We are, however, confident that some progress will be made definitely.

Mr. President,

With regards to the United Nations Reform, Somalia commits itself to the position taken by the African Union (AU) at Siirt, Libya.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm Somalia's appreciation and approval for the 60 years of the United Nations' progressive work in keeping the Peace while concurrently realizing incremental achievements towards a more equitable and liveable world. The history of the UN's involvement with Somalia can be a good example of its invaluable role in helping the emerging nations of the world. Despite momentary setbacks, the UN had taken a laudable role at each juncture of Somalia's history, starting from colonialism, independence and throughout our nationhood.

Nothing can exhibit the importance of the UN better than the fostering role it took in the sorrow days of our 15 years civil war. While assisting the destitute and providing safe sanctuaries for an exodus of Somali refugees to the neighbouring countries and elsewhere, the UN had the political will to invoke the morally compelling doctrine of Humanitarian Intervention, thereby successfully reversing a calamitous famine that could potentially wipe out millions of Somalis. More over, during the two years of the Somali Reconciliation Conference at Nairobi, Kenya, the UN had been a helping hand in successfully finding a lasting and comprehensive settlement for Somalia's political crisis and the current Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia is the outcome of that political settlement.

Mr. President,

Allow me to hereby restate Somalia's indebtedness and profound appreciation to those who selflessly helped us during the Somali National Reconciliation Conference (SNRC) and to those who continue to help us in our current pursuit for a peaceful and well governed Somalia. Among others, special gratitude goes to AU, IGAD, LAS, EU and the government of Kenya for patiently and generously hosting and paying for our long Peace Process.

Mr. President,

The nascent TFG could not just sit and wait until the international community gets its acts together for its relocation to Somalia. It therefore took a daring unilateral initiative on June 13, 2005, to relocate itself from Nairobi, Kenya, to inside Somalia with minimal help. To the dismay of most sceptics, the massive relocation scheme is complete without any incident and the entire government is now in Somalia's soil. It is my judgement that we owe a situation report to those who earnestly wanted to witness the rise of Somalia from its ashes. Nonetheless, this report will also be useful for those who may continue to doubt the effectiveness of the TFG in the reclamation of Somalia from its current predicament of chaos and lawlessness.

The government continues to tackle its daunting task inside Somalia in a much faster pace than the international community can anticipate and catch up with. What is significant in here is that the TFG is being helped by a hidden hand that most observers and political analysts of Somalia typically regarded as a wild card, or a totally incalculable factor: they never clearly understood the importance of correctly accounting for the level of popular support that the new Somali government would get once it moves to Somalia. The high popularity of the TFG inside Somalia turned out to be so strong to the extent that it owes its very survival to

the admiration and active support it receives from the local population. This factor alone has proven to be even more crucial for the sustenance of the TFG than any other forms of help.

With the support of its citizens, the new government has already proceeded to consolidate the gains and the outcome of the Reconciliation Process with the aim of addressing the formidable expectations of the Somali people. As a result, I can confidently report to you today that our efforts of reclaiming Somalia from its lawlessness are already on the roll and they have born concrete results on the ground. It is little over 3 months since its relocation and the government have already accomplished a phenomenal progress;

- in recruiting and training a modest security force from all the regions,
- in consolidating its authority over much of Somalia,
- in winning the allegiance and support of regional leaders and the Somali public at large,
- in earning and assuming the moral leadership of the nation through responsible governance and peaceful means
- and in creating an overarching political momentum that powerfully augurs for the sure attainment of a durable peace and continuity for Somalia.

Therefore, contrary to the fears some may have the advent of the TFG would not boil down to some kind of a cruel hoax or a yet "another false start" of Somalia. Those sensible actions undertaken by the new government inside Somalia has already determined the capacity of its legitimacy and the kind of moral leadership it enjoys inside Somalia. This government is serious and committed to the basic social contract it made with its citizens: to guarantee peace and security to its people in return for the allegiance they have already conferred to their government.

Mr. President,

Evidently, there is a unique chance for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to restore normalcy, legitimacy and lasting peace to Somalia. Regrettably however, the situation is not tenable for the long haul. The challenges that are hampering the TFG's efforts on the ground are all related to the indifference of the International Community. We believe that the international community has the moral obligation to help the new Somali government in its quest for peace, stability, territorial integrity and unity of the country in manners consistent with the United Nations Charter. Now is the time when the

International Community must assist Somalia in a strong and decisive manner by addressing the following 3 challenges:

One of the challenges for the new government is that most of the international community is yet to materialize its obligations towards the realization of a peaceful and well governed Somalia. Even much of its initial cheerful pledges, by way of affording material and financial support to the government, are yet to reach us. Consequently, their actual role in our efforts on the ground remains very confusing to us as we do not understand the new ambivalence of the international community which seemingly moderated its initial enthusiasm to offer Somalia a consolidated Rapid Assistance Programme (RAP). In addressing this,

- 1. The International Community must help Somalia by providing the necessary financial and political support to enable rapidly the new government**
 - a) To rehabilitate infrastructures needed to house the government,**
 - b) To provide budgetary support and other administrative expenditures,**
 - c) To tackle the security issues such recruiting the national Police Force, Pacification programmes and the implementation of Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration programmes (DDR).**

Another puzzle which poses more of a serious problem to the new government of Somalia is the UN's Arms Embargo on Somalia. The Embargo directly undermines the government's inherent right and genuine effort of forming its national security force that would protect the public and keep the peace by enforcing the law and order throughout Somalia. In addition it discourages willing friendly countries from offering their help to Somalia, especially in the areas of security and the rule of law. More over, the embargo in effect has delayed the formal deployment of the African Peace Support Mission in Somalia whose mandate is to protect the government and its premises during its capacity-building period as well as to help the government in the creation and training of Somalia's national security forces.

Mr. President,

It does not make any sense to the rational mind to help Somalis reach a comprehensive political settlement for their long conflict, while at the same time denying them the ability to build the institutions through which they would overcome the lawlessness in their country. With the creation of the new government and its relocation to Somalia, those

prevailing political conditions and realities under which the UN had to introduce the Arms Embargo on Somalia are not valid any more., Then whose interests and purposes does this embargo continue to serve now that there is a legitimate functioning government in Somalia? In the same vein, by reflecting on the absurdity of what can become of any nation or government whose capacity to institute its law enforcement bodies has been neutralized, one wonders what is the political or moral relevance of keeping Somalia under the cuffs of the old embargo? In addressing this predicament we petition that;

2. The Security Council must assist the efforts of the TFG in the stabilization of the country, by reviewing the merits of the Arms Embargo on Somalia and promptly lifting it.

Finally, the disintegration of the state and the absence of law and order led to the prevalence of criminal enrichment activities by individuals and groups, including war profiteers and terrorists. They are under the impression that the current *Status Quo* of Somalia is in their favour. They would therefore do whatever they can, including renewed active hostilities, to resist the return of law and order to Somalia. In addressing this possible scenario;

3. The UN must establish punitive and targeted sanctions against those who may opt to spoil Somalia's chance to a lasting peace by undermining the on-going efforts to pacify the country and by frustrating the effectiveness of the government in upholding the primacy of the rule of law.

Mr. President,

The cost of the prolonged Somali civil war is enormous in terms of its direct social, economic, political and environmental impacts. Now there clearly is a rare chance for my country to overcome the above negative impact of the civil war. The performance of the TFG on the ground and the overall political environment in Somalia are very promising. Africa and the Region are both very forthcoming to help Somalia. It is imperative that the rest of the international community extends its help to Somalia by adopting the above 3 proposals thereby effectively ending the plight of Somalia once and for all.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Allow me to hereby submit my personal appeal to this Grand Summit: not to leave Somalia in the cold in this crucial period of its pacification and nation-building. While much of the countries of the world are

Struggling to meet their Millennium Development Goals, Somalia is struggling to stand on its feet. It would be a grave negligence if the international community fails to undertake its obligations towards Somalia in a timely and decisive manner.

Thank you.
