

**Joint Statement on Behalf of A3 (Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

**Delivered by
Mr. Tarek Ladeb
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia**

**The situation in Somalia
Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
(UNSOM).**

**Security Council Chamber
24 February, 2019
New York**

Mr President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3 +1 Niger, South Africa Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

We would like to thank Mr. James Swan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia and Mr Dan Smith, Director of SIPRI.

As Somalia embarks on a crucial year, Niger, South Africa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia commend the Federal Government of Somalia for its continuous efforts and progress to stabilize the country including strengthening State institutions, improving security situation and creating an enabling environment for pushing the political process forward.

We hope that the Federal Government and the leaders of the Federal Member States would continue to engage to reach the necessary political agreement and build consensus and unity on key national priorities.

A constructive and inclusive dialogue would certainly enable the Somalis to adequately address the political, security, humanitarian and development challenges the country is facing. We, therefore, echo the call by the Secretary-General for the Somali leaders to consider instituting a mechanism of dialogue and consensus building in order to advance the aspirations of the Somali People.

We hope that such a dialogue will also help pave the way for the preparation and timely organization of peaceful national elections in 2020. We view that the timely organization of peaceful national elections in 2020, as identified in the Mutual Accountability Framework, is of utmost importance for progress to continue to be achieved towards stabilization and the building of a functional federal state in Somalia.

Mr President,

We underscore the importance of engaging women and young people in the country's political life. Building a democratic and inclusive State would require their full and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes.

On the security situation, we appreciate the close cooperation of UNSOM and AMISOM in support of the National Security Architecture Agreement and Transition Plan with the view of devising an inclusive security sector approach that responds to the needs of the Somali people.

However, we remain deeply concerned by the still persistent terrorist threat that Al-Shabaab still poses, and we reiterate our strong condemnation of the attacks and all acts of terrorism and violent extremism perpetrated by the terrorist group. We are steadfast in our support for Somali National Army and we appreciate the support of AMISOM and other partners to continue reducing the capacities of Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups operating in Somalia.

We welcome the joint UN, AU and Federal Government threat assessment of security conditions on the ground and call on the international community to continue to provide the necessary security assistance to Somali authorities at both federal and state levels including in force generation and capacity building. In this respect, we reiterate our position that any reconfiguration or drawdown of AMISOM should be condition-based and should not lead to a security vacuum that will be exploited by terrorist groups and undermine the gains made in Somalia so far.

We commend the gains made during the joint military operations by the Somali National Army and AMISOM in Lower Shabelle resulting in several strategic areas recovered from al Shabaab. We urge the Federal Government to continue building the structures and capabilities of the Somali National Army to be effective and well-resourced in accordance with the Transition Plan in order to take over their responsibilities from AMISOM. We are convinced that these achievements will help create favorable conditions that will allow Somalia to effectively assume the security responsibilities by 2021 and facilitate the holding of democratic elections in the country by the end of the year 2020.

We appeal to the international community and partners to mobilize resources and replenish the Trust Fund for AMISOM and the Trust Fund to support the Somali security forces.

Mr President,

We express our concern towards the humanitarian situation affecting millions of Somalis as a result of adverse climatic conditions and terrorist threat. The climate has presented adequate conditions for the locust invasion, which is having a devastating impact on the agriculture sector of Somalia, leading to the declaration of a state of emergency this month.

In this regard, it is imperative to take into consideration the impact of climate change. Urgent assistance is needed to build adaptation and resilience measures into the country, and we call on the international community of donors to support Somalia in this regard.

Finally, we commend the sustained efforts by the Federal Government over the years to ensure that Somalia becomes eligible for debt relief from the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This is a significant achievement that we hope will pave the way for further economic developments in Somalia.

Thank you