



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

by

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At the

AUPSC/UN Joint Annual Consultation: The Situation in Somalia

United Nations Security Council
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Thank you Mr. Chair,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes this opportunity for a critical and inclusive discussion on the situation in Somalia.

We commend the resumption of dialogue between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) President and the Federal Member States (FMS), and the subsequent agreement regarding the forthcoming elections. While we await the details of the modalities for hosting of elections, we welcome this Somali-led and owned process. Ongoing cooperation between the FGS and FMS will ensure an advancement of democratic norms and institutions; the integrity of the rule of law, including international law; and overall cooperation on economic, human and social development issues.

It is also noteworthy that Somali parliamentarians recently endorsed a 30% representation of women in Parliament. We commend the Government and people of Somalia for taking this important step to expand civic and political space.

The security situation in Somalia – particularly the protracted threat posed by Al-Shabaab – remains deeply concerning. We support the national, regional and international efforts to defeat Al-Shabaab militarily, but also by limiting their access to financing and, thus, eliminating their ability to intimidate, abduct, recruit and terrorize civilians.

We commend ongoing efforts by the Federal Government of Somalia, supported by AMISOM, UNSOM and other international partners, toward troop generation, training and resourcing for an improved and efficient Somalia National Army (SNA). This enhanced capacity must be prioritized as the Somalia National Army prepares to assume security responsibility under the revised Somalia Transition Plan and the National Security Architecture. The Trust Fund for AMISOM and the Somalia National Army must be appropriately resourced with the support of the international community, in order to ensure that recent gains made in repelling Al-Shabaab in the Lower Shabelle and Janaale are extended.

Somalia has been plagued by one of the deepest humanitarian crises, resulting from conflict, Climate Change, other environmental challenges and now COVID-19. We urge the

international community to stay the course and support the Secretary General's appeal for increased funding for life-saving interventions. Strategic long-term funding for development in the form of debt relief (as was announced early this year by the IMF), and in support of economic policies and actions, will be needed to eliminate the humanitarian crisis in the long term.

The humanitarian, economic, political and security situations in Somalia are inextricably linked. We end by calling for greater coherence, cooperation and dialogue among national, regional and international partners, in line with the whole of system approach, to deliver sustainable, people-centred development in Somalia.