

**Joint Statement on Behalf of A3+1 (Niger, Kenya and Tunisia and Saint
Vincent and the Grenadines)**

Delivered by

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The Situation in Somalia

United Nations Security Council

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Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

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

At the outset we would like to convey our thanks to the UN Secretary-General and to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for their respective reports on the situation in Somalia. We also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Mr. James Swan and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Mr. Francisco Madeira for their comprehensive briefings.

We also would like to recognize the participation of H.E. Mohamed Abdirizak, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia at this meeting.

Our statement will focus on the political developments, the security situation and the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

Mr. President,

The A3+1 joins others to welcome the decision of the Lower House of Parliament on May 1st to rescind the 12 April 2021 “Special Electoral Bill for Federal Elections”. We hope that the return to the 17 September 2020 agreement and to the 16 February 2021 Baidoa technical committee will contribute to reduce tensions.

We welcome in this regard the resumption of dialogue between the Federal Government of Somalia, the Federal Member States and other stakeholders and urge all parties to be guided by a spirit of compromise in order to reach as soon as possible an agreement on the outstanding issues regarding the organization of the elections.

We underline the vital importance of holding free, fair, timely, transparent and credible elections in Somalia to realize the legitimate aspirations of the People of Somalia to security, stability, democracy, good governance and development. We hope that the agreement on the 30 per cent quota for women will be upheld and that it will pave the way to a stronger women representation and participation in the future. We also reiterate our support to the objective of holding one-person one-vote universal elections in 2024-2025 and encourage the continuation of efforts to that end.

Mr. President,

The A3+1 shares the concern over the potential grave implications of the political crisis on the security situation in Somalia and the implementation the Somali Transition Plan, as shown by the

recent fighting that broke out in Mogadishu between members of the national armed forces along factional and clan lines. While welcoming the disengagement agreement reached on May 5, we underline the importance that all Somali stakeholders refrain from any new and unilateral action that might deteriorate the situation again and join efforts against Al Shabaab and other terrorist groups that continue to represent the main threat to peace, security and stability in the country.

We are alarmed by the with increased ability of Al-Shabaab to generate revenue through illegal taxations that could be used to intensify their terrorist activities in the region. There is need for urgent and decisive measures to disrupt the illegal financial sources for the group, including enhancing the capacity of the Somali government to regulate its public financial management which remains susceptible to AS infiltration.

We also call for the continued international support to Somalia in its fight against Al Shabaab and for its State capacity building until it is able to take full responsibility for its own security. This should be buttressed by stringent weapons and ammunition management practices in order to ensure that weapons meant for Somali security forces do not fall in the hands of Al- Shabaab.

We pay tribute in this regard to the unwavering dedication, courage and sacrifice of AMISOM in the promotion of peace and security and stability in Somalia and we look forward to the finalization of the report by the AU Independent Assessment Team on AMISOM and its recommendations on the AU's engagement in Somalia post 2021.

If a reconfigured AMISOM is confirmed by all partners as the most viable option for Somalia post 2021, it will be crucial to make sure it is sufficiently, predictably and sustainably funded, including through UN assessed contributions.

Mr President,

The A3+1 deplores the civilian casualties recorded in the latest report of the Secretary General, a large majority of which being attributed to Al-Shabaab.

We condemn arbitrary detentions, including of journalists, the sexual and gender-based violence and the abuses against children reported by the Secretary General; we encourage the Somali authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent these violations and further promote and protect human rights, in particular women and children rights, freedom of speech and access to information.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains deeply concerning too with approximately 6 million people in need of assistance and an estimated 2.7 million people projected to be at risk of crisis or emergency level food insecurity by mid-June, including more than 800,000 children under five who are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition as stated in the Secretary General's report.

In the particular context of Covid-19 and climate challenges which include drought, floods and locusts that exacerbate this already volatile humanitarian situation, we reiterate our call on all international partners to scale up funding in order to support the humanitarian response plans for Somalia and alleviate the suffering of its people.

We commend AMISOM's humanitarian assistance efforts, including its support to health workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and renew our call for additional international support to enable AMISOM to fulfill its humanitarian action more effectively in all the mission's sectors.

To conclude, Mr. President, the A3+1 would like to reiterate its appreciation for the continued efforts of the UN, the AU the EU, IGAD and all the international partners in support of Somalia as well as reaffirm its unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, unity, political independence, and territorial integrity of Somalia.

I thank you