



# Security Council

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## Situation in Somalia

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution [2592 \(2021\)](#) and paragraph 41 of resolution [2568 \(2021\)](#), provides updates on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers significant developments from 6 November 2021 to 31 January 2022.

#### II. Political and security overview

##### A. Political developments and United Nations activities

2. During the reporting period, some progress was made towards implementation of the electoral process in accordance with the agreements on elections of 17 September 2020 and 27 May 2021. However, the progress was marred by widespread complaints of procedural irregularities and a lack of transparency. Renewed political tensions between the President, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo”, and the Prime Minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, further threatened to halt the electoral process.

3. In Mogadishu, Mr. Roble dismissed and then replaced seven members of the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee, including the Chair, Hussein Laki Mohamud, on 18 December, citing failure to act with transparency and impartiality in adjudicating cases brought for its review. The Committee, also on 18 December, rejected Mr. Roble’s decision as a breach of the independence of electoral institutions, arguing that any changes to or dismissals of Committee members should be jointly decided with the National Consultative Council.

4. Following that, on 26 December, Mr. Farmajo issued a statement accusing Mr. Roble of having failed to lead and implement the elections and undermining the cohesion and operational independence of the election committees. On 27 December, Mr. Farmajo announced the suspension of Mr. Roble’s powers pending the completion of an investigation into graft allegations related to a parcel of land in Mogadishu belonging to the Somali National Army. Armed forces were positioned around



Mr. Roble's residence, preventing him from gaining access to his office until the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) intervened.

5. Mr. Roble rejected the allegations against him and accused Mr. Farmajo, whom he called a "former President", of having attempted to stage a coup. Mr. Roble indicated that he would continue to carry out his constitutional mandate and pledged to fulfil his national responsibility to conduct an acceptable electoral process that culminated in a peaceful transition of power. On 1 January, Mr. Roble appointed the Minister of Defence, Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur, to chair a five-member ministerial committee to investigate the 27 December incident.

6. In the light of the rapidly escalating tensions, and to address the mounting complaints of irregularities in the electoral process, the National Consultative Council met in Mogadishu from 3 to 9 January to discuss how to strengthen the integrity and credibility of the electoral process and to agree on a new timeline under which to complete the elections. The conference concluded with an 18-point communiqué outlining measures designed to strengthen electoral procedures and the transparency of the process. In the communiqué, it was outlined that the names of the Delegate Selection Committee must be registered and published prior to the election of each seat in the House of the People, that the respective State Electoral Implementation Team would share the names of the Delegate Selection Committee with the Federal Electoral Implementation Team and the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee and that all electoral management bodies would operate without interference. The communiqué included a call for the security forces to remain neutral and for AMISOM to strengthen the security of the presidential palace. It also included an announcement of the new timeline for the completion of the House of the People elections and a note that they would be held from 15 January to 25 February.

7. The communiqué from the National Consultative Council was met with a positive response across the political spectrum. On 9 January, the opposition Council of Presidential Candidates welcomed the decisions taken by the National Consultative Council and urged Mr. Roble to take charge of the implementation of the electoral procedures. In early December, the Council of Presidential Candidates had issued a 10-point proposal to address electoral malpractice, in which it called for halting the election and announced that it would convene a national consultative conference on the challenges facing the process.

8. In a state of the nation address delivered on 10 January, Mr. Farmajo commended the National Consultative Council for its agreement and encouraged federal member state leaders to follow through on the stipulated timeline for completion of the elections.

9. Throughout the period, UNSOM engaged with Mr. Farmajo, Mr. Roble and key interlocutors, calling for an immediate de-escalation of tensions and encouraging the leaders to resolve differences through dialogue. UNSOM continued to underscore to all parties the importance of creating an environment conducive to the full implementation of the electoral agreements of 17 September 2020 and 27 May 2021 and the urgency of concluding the elections in a timely manner while ensuring that the process was transparent and credible.

10. These messages were also reinforced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa during her visit to Somalia from 8 to 11 November, when she met with Mr. Roble, the Hirshabelle President and Acting President of South-West State, the Council of Presidential Candidates and civil society organizations, including representatives of young people and women. She urged all stakeholders to ensure attainment of the 30 per cent quota for the representation of women in the electoral process and for accelerating the participation of women in the political process.

11. In “Somaliland”, the President, Muse Bihi Abdi, accepted the amendment of the Regulation of Political Associations and Parties Law, through which new political associations were allowed to be formed, on 12 December. The opposition criticized Mr. Muse Bihi Abdi’s decision, alleging that it served as a pretext for delaying the elections and demanding that only the current registered parties participate in the forthcoming presidential election. On 21 December, 46 parliamentarians asked the Constitutional Court of “Somaliland” to provide a legal opinion on the disagreement over the registration of new political associations.

## **B. Elections and United Nations support**

12. Despite the challenges, elections for the 54-member Upper House of the Federal Parliament concluded on 13 November. A total of 14 women, or 26 per cent, were elected, which represents an increase from 24 per cent in 2016. Elections for the 275-member House of the People commenced on 1 November in Mogadishu for the “Somaliland” seats. As at 31 January, 87 House of the People seats had been contested, with 18 women elected.

13. On 16 November, the Federal Electoral Implementation Team notified all State Electoral Implementation Teams of the number of reserved seats for women, which was required to ensure the 30 per cent quota for their representation in the House of the People elections.

14. Following the announcement by Mr. Roble of the dismissal of the Chair of the Federal Electoral Implementation Team, on 25 December, the Chair was removed through an internal vote of no confidence, allegedly over a lack of consultation with other committee members in decision-making. This followed a similar attempt, on 6 November, to vote the Chair out. The new Chair of the Federal Electoral Implementation Team, Musa Gelle Yusuf, was elected on 15 January. Leadership elections were held for the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee on 20 January, in which Ahmed Awil Warsame was elected Chairperson.

15. Elections to 6 of the 27 House of the People seats allocated to Jubbaland were held on 28 December, even as some candidates submitted a letter of complaint to the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee and others complained that they had been denied registration certificates by the State Electoral Implementation Team and the Jubbaland Intelligence and Security Agency. From 27 to 30 November, South-West State completed elections for 11 House of the People seats in Baidoa, with 4 of the seats reserved for women. The Federal Electoral Implementation Team has called for a rerunning of the election for two seats, one of which belongs to the incumbent and former House of the People Speaker, Mohamed Sheikh Osman Jawari, who faced challenges in registering as a candidate. Moreover, on 27 January, following the submission of a complaint, the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee suspended the announcement of the results for three House of the People seats for “Somaliland”. As at 31 January, the Committee had registered three official complaints related to the House of the People elections, including a complaint from a woman.

16. Following the request by the Government and the Federal Electoral Implementation Team for additional financial support, international partners conditionally approved, on 16 November, additional funds of \$3.7 million for the electoral process, bringing the donors’ contribution to over \$11 million of the overall \$27.2 million budget. The conditions for the release of the funds included that all election fees from candidates be deposited into the treasury single account, in addition to meaningful and credible progress on election implementation.

17. No further meetings of the National Elections Security Committee have been held since 2 October. The United Nations and AMISOM continue to assist with election security-related planning and support at voting locations.

18. The Integrated Electoral Support Group of the United Nations continues to provide technical, logistical and financial support to the electoral committees. In parallel to these efforts, the United Nations continues to render capacity-building support to the constitutionally mandated National Independent Electoral Commission for the development of its five-year Strategic Plan 2022–2026.

### **C. Security developments**

19. The security situation remained volatile, with a monthly average of 265 incidents recorded in 2021. Most incidents continued to be perpetrated by Al-Shabaab, with a 17 per cent increase in the group's activities compared with in 2020. The attacks continued to target primarily the Somali security forces and AMISOM through improvised explosive devices. The Shabelle Hoose, Banaadir and Shabelle Dhexe Regions were the most affected by Al-Shabaab activity.

20. Al-Shabaab continued to carry out targeted attacks through suicide bombings in Mogadishu. On 11 November, a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeted an AMISOM convoy in the Wadajir district. At least three bystanders were killed in the incident. On 20 November, a person-borne improvised explosive device targeted a private vehicle transporting the Director of Radio Mogadishu and the Director of the Somali National Television. On 25 November, a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive targeted the private company Safelane (a Mine Action Service contractor) while it was travelling in a convoy escorted by the United Nations-contracted security company Duguf. At least eight civilian bystanders died, including minors, and 20 people were injured. Two Duguf escort members suffered minor shrapnel injuries.

21. On 12 January, a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive targeted a convoy escorted by a foreign security company in the Waberi district, reportedly killing nine security guards. A United Nations national staff member who was in the vicinity of the site of the explosion, was injured slightly. Al-Shabaab claimed that it was targeting "Western security officers".

22. On 16 January, in Mogadishu, Al-Shabaab carried out an improvised explosive device attack on the vehicle of the Spokesperson of the Federal Government of Somalia, Mohamed Ibrahim Moalimuu, who was in the vehicle and sustained light injuries.

23. In the southern and central regions, Al-Shabaab maintained a high tempo of attacks. In Bay Region, on 27 November, Al-Shabaab launched several mortar rounds in the direction of the AMISOM-protected area in Baidoa, where the United Nations compound is also located. Five mortar rounds landed inside the protected area. No casualties were reported. Al-Shabaab claimed the attack, stating that it had targeted the adjacent South-West State presidential palace and the Baidoa airport area to coincide with the initial day of the House of the People elections in Baidoa.

24. In Hiran Region, Hawadle clan militias led by General Abukar Hud and Colonel Nur Dheere clashed with Hirshabelle armed forces near Beledweyne on 30 December and 2 January. Reportedly, eight people were killed and 11 were injured. Elements of the Hawadle clan claimed that they had been disenfranchised from key political and official positions in the Administration. The fighting ended following intervention by clan elders.

25. On 24 November, the President of Puntland, Said Abdullahi Deni, dismissed the Director of the Puntland Security Forces, General Mohamud Osman Abdullahi “Diano”, replacing him with General Amin Haji Khayr. The dismissal was contested, and tensions emerged in Boosaaso, leading to an increased Puntland Security Forces presence and a setting up of checkpoints and search operations. From 20 to 22 December, armed clashes between forces loyal to the dismissed Director and Puntland Security Forces erupted at a Puntland Security Forces base near the World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse. No United Nations casualties were reported, but one stray round impacted the gate of a WFP guesthouse.

26. Activity by pro-Da’esh elements was reported in Banaadir Region, with a total of two improvised explosive device attacks in Mogadishu. On 6 November, an improvised explosive device targeting a Somali National Army checkpoint exploded in Huriwa district. Four soldiers were wounded, including the checkpoint commander. Another attack was carried out on 23 November, when an improvised explosive device targeting a police battlewagon transporting the police commander, Colonel Mohamed Dahir, exploded in Hodan district. Colonel Dahir survived, but two civilian bystanders were killed in the attack.

27. On 24 January, a vehicle improvised explosive device explosion targeted a businessperson’s vehicle in the Bakara market, in Mogadishu. On 26 January, businesses in the market closed their shops owing to alleged extortion by individuals claimed to be affiliated with a pro-Da’esh group. Subsequently, Mr. Roble ordered the Minister of Security to take action against the alleged activity, deploying Somali security forces to the Bakara market.

### **III. Update on other activities of the Mission and the United Nations country team**

#### **A. Gender equality and the empowerment of women**

28. The United Nations continued its advocacy of an enhanced role for and the increased representation and participation of Somali women in the electoral process, as well as increased investment in the women and peace and security agenda.

29. On 30 November, the United Nations and Federal Government of Somalia launched a two-year joint programme on women, peace and protection, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund and the multi-partner trust fund for Somalia. Over 60 participants representing key stakeholders, including state and federal women’s affairs ministries, civil society organizations, women parliamentarians and donors, attended the launch event. The joint programme is aimed at accelerating the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in Somalia.

30. A national consultative conference on women in the maritime sector, held in Mogadishu on 29 December with support from UNSOM, was aimed at advancing the representation of women. The conference was attended by 75 participants, of which 60 were women, from eight line ministries and civil society representatives. Among others, the women participants stressed the existing gender inequalities and the need for developing common gender policies for women in the maritime sector.

31. The federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development and Goodwill Ambassadors held a consultative forum and a conference in Mogadishu on 1 and 2 December and 27 and 28 December, respectively, supported by the United Nations. Analysing the challenges that women candidates faced during the Upper House elections, attendees of both events discussed possible strategies and ways forward to advocate with the National Consultative Council and election management

committees. The conference was attended by over 150 participants who were mainly women, including women political rights activists, women ministers, officials from the indirect election implementation bodies and women candidates and aspirants. A communiqué was issued outlining a set of actions, including continued advocacy campaigns to achieve the minimum 30 per cent quota for the representation of women in the ongoing House of the People elections.

32. The United Nations Theme Group on Gender supported federal and federal member state-level women's ministries and civil society partners in commemorating the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign across the country. Most events held in the federal member states were focused on advocacy of the 30 per cent quota for the representation of women and the prevention of violence against women during the elections.

## **B. Youth empowerment**

33. On 4 November, the International Trade Centre launched its Digital Skills for Jobs initiative, engaging 140 young people, comprising 56 young women and 84 young men, which was focused on young returnees and internally displaced persons. The Centre, with local partners, will continue to provide technical training, coaching and mentoring to the participants to develop their technical and entrepreneurial skills in the digital sector while also supporting digitalization, value creation and employment in Somalia.

34. On 5 and 6 December, the United Nations Population Fund, together with UNSOM and partners, organized a workshop with 30 representatives of youth-led and civil society organizations to design a project on youth electoral participation and democratization. Through a series of forums in each federal member state in 2022, the project was aimed at supporting dialogue and action to advance the role of young women and men in democratization at the subnational level.

35. On 7 December, the annual Mogadishu Tech Summit was held, supported by the United Nations Population Fund and partners. The Summit was aimed at providing young innovators with a platform through which to showcase their businesses and technological solutions to investors, the government and the private sector. Approximately 5,000 people attended the Summit, which was focused on strengthening local resilience for inclusive coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery.

36. A total of 540 young Somalis, including 270 women, engaged in 630 sustained dialogue sessions in Baidoa, South-West State, Jawhar, Hirshabelle and Caabudwaaq, Galmudug State, through the project Connecting across Divides: Youth Building Peace in Somalia. Implemented by the Life and Peace Institute and Somali Peace Line, with financial support from the Peacebuilding Fund, the project is aimed at building meaningful relationships among young men and women in conflict-affected communities across diverse socioeconomic, political, religious and clan identity lines through wide-reaching sustained dialogue sessions. The youth participants in the sustained dialogues carried out 60 collaborative peace actions, including the Abduwak Peace March, which led a community affected by recurring clan conflicts to come together, advocate the ending of hostilities and call for lasting peace.

## **C. Coordination of development assistance**

37. On 21 December, in consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia, the steering committee of the United Nations aid coordination project agreed to conclude

the project without a successor arrangement in place. The project is aimed at supporting the government's development coordination efforts. The design of and assistance for the government-led aid coordination architecture will be revisited following the completion of elections in Somalia.

38. High-level government and international community representatives celebrated International Anti-Corruption Day in Mogadishu on 9 December. The celebration was preceded by a workshop organized by the Ministry of Justice on 8 December that gathered together students, young professionals and representatives of the National Youth Board from federal member states to discuss next steps in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which Somalia became a State Party in August 2021. Somalia participated in the biennial Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December.

39. In November, South-West State issued 4,305 title deeds to land in the new Barwaaqo site, in Baidoa, as part of a government-led durable solutions effort supported by the United Nations. Public-private partnerships are being explored to facilitate the settlement and reintegration of the displaced communities. The Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, supported by the United Nations, carried out a mapping exercise of the National Durable Solutions Strategy in Galmudug State in November. It builds on similar exercises already completed in Puntland, Hirshabelle and South-West State.

40. The joint coordination mechanisms created by the Federal Government of Somalia, the government of Hirshabelle State and UNSOM contributed to reducing the impacts of floods in Beledweyne.

#### **D. Humanitarian assistance**

41. Somalia is facing an acute humanitarian situation, with 7.7 million people expected to need humanitarian and protection assistance in 2022, including over 3.2 million people affected and 245,000 people displaced by extreme drought. On 23 November, the Federal Government of Somalia declared a state of emergency owing to the drought, with an urgent appeal for international assistance.

42. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network and the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the 2021 *deyr* rains largely failed across most of Somalia, leading to the worst seasonal harvests on record, livestock losses and high cereal prices. The situation is projected to intensify as Somalia faces the risk of a fourth consecutive failed rainy season in early 2022.

43. The drought conditions in southern parts of the country have deteriorated from severe to extreme, while those of other areas have shifted from minor to moderate. Water wells are drying up as the levels of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers continue to decrease at an alarming rate. Water prices have risen sharply, with eastern and central parts of Galmudug State, Jubbaland and South-West States reporting the highest prices.

44. The drought is devastating livelihoods in particular because the most vulnerable Somalis have had their ability to cope eroded by decades of protracted conflict, climate shocks and disease outbreaks. In 2022, 71 per cent of Somalis are projected to continue to live below the poverty line. Current severe water shortages and poor access to sanitation and hygiene facilities have heightened the risk of disease outbreaks, including acute watery diarrhoea and cholera, especially in camps for internally displaced persons and conflict-affected areas.

45. Without a scale-up of humanitarian assistance, 3.8 million people were projected to be in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 3 (crisis) and phase 4 (emergency) by January, increasing to 4.6 million people by May. The prevalence of acute malnutrition remains high, with global acute malnutrition rates assessed as serious (10 to 14.9 per cent) in most drought-stricken parts of the country and as critical (15 per cent or higher) in some of the worst-affected areas.

46. Somalis continued to be displaced as a result of conflict and climatic shocks. According to the Protection and Return Monitoring Network, in November alone, 42,000 people were displaced by drought and 2,000 by conflict. About 2.9 million people remain internally displaced and face significant protection risks, including eviction, abuse and harassment. About 2.2 million of those need humanitarian assistance. Displaced women and girls face a heightened risk of sexual violence and harassment, abuse and intimate partner violence.

47. Through a disability inclusion study conducted by the International Organization for Migration targeting all 146 internally displaced persons sites in Kismaayo, Jubbaland State, it was found that 20 per cent of respondents were persons with disabilities, while 31 per cent indicated that they experienced mental health concerns. Furthermore, over 24 per cent of respondents reported that they encountered danger when gaining access to or using services within internally displaced persons sites or the greater community, while 9 per cent reported encountering physical violence. In addition, 6 per cent of respondents cited experiencing verbal harassment, and 5 per cent encountered incidents of bribery when obtaining access to services.

48. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on the humanitarian situation. As at 31 January, the country had reported 26,067 COVID-19 cases in total, including 1,332 associated deaths (5.24 per cent). Since 7 December, the country has reported an increased number of cases, possibly owing to the circulation of the Omicron variant. As at 16 January, 5.5 per cent of people eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines (18 years of age and older) had been fully vaccinated. To date, Somalia has received a total of 1.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, of which 1.6 million doses (85 per cent) have been administered.

49. Humanitarian access remains a major challenge, affecting the safety of humanitarian workers and their ability to help people in need. At least 17 access-related incidents were reported. In a continuing trend throughout 2021, the highest number of incidents occurred in Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South-West States. To enable access to hard-to-reach areas, five flights using Caravan planes – air assets dedicated for use by the aid community to improve access to remote areas – were conducted with the support of WFP, coordinated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. A total of 23 such flights have been undertaken since 12 June, when the service commenced.

50. Despite the challenges, more than 272 humanitarian partners have continued to deliver life-saving assistance across Somalia, including 183 national non-governmental organizations. The partners have ramped up drought response, reprogramming activities to address acute water shortages and other urgent life-saving needs. The United Nations has released \$25 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund, in addition to a \$6 million allocation from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund. This brings funding for Somalia from the Central Emergency Response Fund in 2021 to \$52 million. Donors contributed close to \$60 million to the Somalia Humanitarian Fund in 2021.

51. On 20 December, the humanitarian community in Somalia launched the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, through which \$1.46 billion is requested to assist 5.5 million of 7.7 million people in need. This constitutes a significant increase from the 5.9 million people in need and 4 million people targeted in 2021. The 2022 Plan



includes a drought response plan that builds on the lessons learned from the drought of 2016 to 2017, during which quick joint actions by the Government, the United Nations, international partners, local communities and the diaspora helped to avert a famine.

52. Funding for humanitarian response in Somalia continues to arrive late and in a staggered fashion, hindering robust and timely response. At the end of December, the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan was 71 per cent funded, with the majority of the funding received in the last quarter of the year.

## **E. Human rights and protection**

### **1. Human rights**

53. UNSOM recorded 183 civilian casualties (82 killed and 101 injured), which constituted a 6 per cent decrease compared with the 194 civilian casualties (99 killed and 95 injured) reported during the previous period. Al-Shabaab remained the main perpetrator, responsible for 78 civilian casualties (43 per cent), including the beheading of a district Chief Judge, followed by the state security forces, with 64 (35 per cent), unidentified actors, with 31 (17 per cent) and clan militia, with 10 (5 per cent). Out of the 64 casualties (24 killed and 40 injured) by state security forces, 51 (15 killed and 36 injured) were a result of fighting by intra-Puntland security forces in Boosaaso town.

54. Three of the above-mentioned casualties were linked to the electoral process. On 16 November, one female civilian was killed and one male civilian was injured when an improvised explosive device was detonated at their residence in Kismaayo, Jubbaland. The injured man had reportedly received threatening messages about his participation in the electoral process. In another attack, in Mogadishu on 17 November, unidentified assailants shot and killed a man who was involved in sub-clan electoral negotiations in Mogadishu.

55. UNSOM continued to record violations of freedom of expression, documenting 12 such violations during the period under review, affecting 10 men and 2 women, including the killing of the Director of the State-owned Radio Mogadishu on 20 November, when a suicide bomber from Al-Shabaab targeted his vehicle. Another journalist was injured in the same attack. Between 26 and 30 December, the “Somaliland” police arrested six people, including three journalists. All were subsequently released without charges. In addition, on 22 December, the South-West State police arrested and detained a 13-year-old boy in Hudur town, Bakool Region, after he posted a video criticizing the third anniversary celebration of the President, Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed “Laftagareen”, amid severe drought conditions in the state. The boy was released through clan negotiations and was told not to post videos again.

56. In Mogadishu, the Military Court Prosecutor, Abdullahi Bule Kamey, announced on 21 November that preliminary findings indicated the absence of sufficient evidence to prove the involvement of National Intelligence and Security Agency officials in the disappearance of Ikran Farah Tahlil, an Agency employee who had not been seen since 26 June 2021. On 24 December, her family rejected the findings.

### **2. Compliance with the human rights due diligence policy**

57. UNSOM continued to support the implementation of various human rights due diligence policy mitigation measures, including background checks on recipients of

United Nations support and technical advice to United Nations entities regarding letters of assist and compacts.

58. On 23 November, the United Nations-AMISOM joint technical working group on the human rights due diligence policy discussed ways to strengthen measures to prevent and address civilian casualties, including standard operating procedures for air assets and the enhancement of synergies with respect to capacity-building activities for the Somali security forces.

### **3. Children in armed conflict**

59. From 6 November 2021 to 31 January 2022, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations of children's rights verified 767 grave violations affecting 635 children (467 boys and 168 girls), seven attacks on schools and one attack on a hospital. A total of 289 children were recruited and used, 220 were abducted, 182 were victims of killing and maiming and 68 were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence. Of the violations, 510 (66.5 per cent) were attributed to Al-Shabaab, 114 (14.9 per cent) to unknown armed elements, 39 (5.1 per cent) to clan militia, 4 (0.5 per cent) to Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a, 1 (0.1 per cent) to Westland militia and 99 (12.9 per cent) to federal and state security forces.

60. From 12 to 14 December, UNSOM, in collaboration with the child protection unit of the Ministry of Defence, conducted a training session for 19 focal points for child protection and civil-military relations from the Somali National Army on the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

61. As part of UNSOM-led advocacy of the effective implementation of the road map on children and armed conflict (2019) and the standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia (2014), on 21 December, the Mission, in collaboration with the Office of the Puntland Human Rights Defender, concluded a two-day training session on child rights and child protection, human rights and humanitarian law in Garoowe, Puntland. The 40 participants included 11 members of the Puntland Human Rights Parliamentary Committee, 10 judges, 10 members of the Office of the Puntland Human Rights Defender, five lawyers and four members of civil society.

### **4. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence**

62. UNSOM verified, through the monitoring and reporting arrangement, four incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting one woman and three girls 15 to 16 years of age. All the incidents involved rape, including a gang rape. The first incident of rape was recorded in Armo district, south of Boosaaso, Bari Region; the second was recorded in Garoowe district, Nugaal Region; and the third was recorded in Dagaari village, Gaalkacyo district, Mudug Region. The gang rape was recorded in a village near Jannaale town, Shabelle Hoose Region. In three incidents, investigations are continuing following the arrest of alleged perpetrators, while the alleged perpetrator of the fourth incident was not identified. Psychosocial and medical support is provided to survivors through United Nations implementing partners.

## **F. Support for the security sector, the rule of law and stabilization**

### **1. Implementation of the Somali transition plan**

63. On 8 and 9 December, the Federal Government of Somalia convened the inaugural meeting of the Somali Transition Plan Strategic Steering Committee. Chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Committee assessed progress made in implementing the Somali transition plan and outlined priorities for the first quarter of

2022, which included the need to address force generation, improve joint planning between the Somali Security Forces and AMISOM, accelerate capacity-building efforts in the federal member states and complete Operation Badbaado I in Shabelle Hoose. The meeting of the Security and Justice Committee, expected to be held in December 2021, was postponed to early 2022.

64. Overall, the implementation of the Somali transition plan remains behind schedule owing to, inter alia, a delay in generating more holding forces, including for the Federal and state police services. The Somali security forces maintained a high operational tempo in Juba Hoose, Galmudug, Shabelle Hoose and Shabelle Dhexe, conducting several joint operations with AMISOM. The generation of AMISOM mobile forces was affected by the deployment of AMISOM units to support electoral security and addresses challenges in the deployment of holding forces.

## **2. Comprehensive approach to security**

### **(a) Institutional capacity-building**

65. The sub-working group on police of strand 2B of the comprehensive approach to security supported the revision of the policy on the Police Darwish and facilitated discussions with government and international partners on weapons and ammunition management for police. In December, 80 additional Somali Police Force Darwish completed their training.

66. On 1 and 17 November and 7 and 8 December 2021 and 18 and 19 January 2022, UNSOM, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, completed a series of workshops for Federal Government parliamentary security committees on civilian oversight of the security sector.

67. On 25 November, UNSOM and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime facilitated a five-day workshop at which the Custodial Corps of the Federal Government and federal member states validated and adopted standard operating procedures for prison management. The set of documents is expected to strengthen the functioning of correctional institutions in Somalia, in line with international prison management standards. Capacity-building activities were conducted by UNSOM for 54 (11 women and 43 men) Custodial Corps personnel and 135 (37 women and 98 men) judicial personnel in Kismaayo, Hargeysa, Baidoa and Garoowe on human rights, survivor-centred gender-responsive justice, trial and advocacy skills and prison administration.

68. On 27 and 28 November, UNSOM hosted a workshop in Mogadishu for 34 women parliamentarians from federal member states of Somalia to discuss how the women and peace and security agenda can be advanced through the Somali transition plan.

69. UNSOM, in cooperation with international partners, continued its support for the five rehabilitation centres for low-risk former Al-Shabaab fighters. As at 2 December, a total of 337 men and 223 women beneficiaries were enrolled in the centres in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismaayo.

70. The Mine Action Service delivered 1,270 in-person explosive ordnance risk education sessions to 1,388 women, 741 men, 1,370 girls and 2,110 boys in five federal member states and distributed 257 risk education talking devices embedded with audio messages on explosive ordnance and COVID-19 to the at-risk population across the country. The Service provided office and information technology equipment to the Somalia Explosive Management Authority at the federal level and to Jubbaland State to strengthen its mine action coordination capacities.

71. On 15 December, under the Joint Rule of Law Programme, the United Nations supported the second meeting of the “Somaliland” threat assessment task force in Hargeysa. The report of the task force will be published in June to inform the third national development plan of “Somaliland”.

**(b) Stabilization and prevention and countering of violent extremism**

72. On 29 November, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation held a forum on national stabilization in conjunction with its federal member state counterparts, which outlined the upcoming review of the national stabilization strategy and provided briefings on social cohesion, governance and community recovery initiatives at the district level.

**G. Support of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia for the African Union Mission in Somalia and Somali security forces**

**1. Support for African Union Mission in Somalia operations**

73. In addition to the mandated support provided to 19,626 AMISOM military, police and civilian personnel, UNSOS facilitated deployments to various sectors to support elections. On 20 December, logistical support for AMISOM, Somali National Army and United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights were temporarily halted when the Federal Government of Somalia closed the United Nations terminal in Mogadishu and pressed for modifications to procedures at the facility. Following meetings between senior leadership of the United Nations and senior Somali officials, operations at the terminal were temporarily recommenced on 8 January, with a technical working team established to address the future modalities for long-term arrangements.

74. UNSOS successfully vaccinated 10,400 AMISOM personnel in Somalia against COVID-19, and efforts are under way to secure additional vaccinations to inoculate the remaining personnel.

75. In line with its environmental strategy, UNSOS deployed 50-barrel incinerators for the disposal of solid waste at the AMISOM forward operating bases. UNSOS trained the Ghana Formed Police Unit and Burundian AMISOM personnel on environmental management. UNSOS continued to conduct environmental audits at AMISOM sites and forward operating bases and provided recommendations to ensure environmental compliance.

76. The Mine Action Service supported AMISOM and Somali security forces in improvised explosive device threat mitigation by providing 19 threat analysis reports and 6 reports on awareness of improvised explosive devices. The Service trained 1,936 AMISOM military and police personnel and enhanced their capability to locate and destroy improvised explosive devices and operate safely within a threat environment. The Service contributed to the safety and security of strategic infrastructure by deploying 32 explosive detection dog teams to conduct searches of 30,008 pieces of luggage, 73,579 vehicles, 139 buildings, 37,292 m<sup>2</sup> of building areas and 7.2 km<sup>2</sup> of open areas throughout the sectors.

77. The Mine Action Service supported 73 AMISOM convoys across all six sectors, providing 72 pre-deployment and 71 post-deployment briefings. It supported AMISOM in conducting 204 searches for improvised explosive devices along the main supply routes, during which three such devices were found and destroyed. AMISOM improvised explosive device disposal teams trained by the Service destroyed five devices.

## **2. Support for Somali security forces operations**

78. UNSOS continued to provide logistical support to 13,900 Somali security forces. The United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali security forces received contributions of \$620,655 in November 2021 and \$3,307,157 in January 2022. As at 13 January 2022, the trust fund had a balance of \$1,745,118. With a further anticipated contribution, the balance will be sufficient to sustain mandated logistical support for the Somali security forces until 31 March 2022. Outreach efforts continue to appeal for more contributions to the trust fund.

79. UNSOS continued to support eligible Somali National Army personnel with communications equipment to enhance interoperability with AMISOM. On 9 November, two FM transmitters were donated to the Somali National Army. UNSOS has stocked 20 high-frequency Codan manpacks and 683 sets of handheld radios for onward issuance to the Somali National Army and the Somali Police Force. In addition, UNSOS is in the process of procuring 200 high-frequency mobile radios, 20 mobile repeaters and 30 fixed repeaters for the Somali security forces.

80. The Mine Action Service completed the training of five additional Somali National Army multi-skilled improvised explosive device disposal teams in January, which brings the total number of multi-skilled improvised explosive device disposal teams trained through the support of the Service to 21. Continuation of the project will require further donor funding. The Service facilitated the installation of electronic countermeasure equipment in three Somali National Army vehicles and delivered electronic countermeasure training to 12 Somali National Army personnel.

81. UNSOS continued to provide logistical support, including materials such as handheld metal detectors, vehicle inspection mirrors and field defence stores, to the Somali security forces for the security of election centres across Somalia. Election security items and field defence stores were delivered to Mogadishu polling centres on 21 and 28 November, and concrete jersey barriers were delivered on 18 and 19 December. Security items and field defence stores were delivered to Beledweyne, Baraawe, Dhuusamarreeb, Kismaayo, Baidoa, Jawhar and Garbahaarrey and subsequently handed over to Somali security forces. In addition, UNSOS delivered handheld wands and vehicle inspection mirrors on behalf of UNSOM to Garoowe and Boosaaso.

## **IV. United Nations presence in Somalia**

82. United Nations entities remained present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 9 January, 327 international staff and 1,454 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia.

## **V. Observations**

83. The electoral process in Somalia is now more than a year behind schedule, with the resulting instability increasingly jeopardizing gains that the country has made in the past decade. The elections of the Upper House and the House of the People have, moreover, come under increasing criticism from Somalis themselves. Although the Upper House elections have been completed, thus far only 87, of which 18 were women, out of 275 House of the People seats have been elected. After sustained advocacy by national and international stakeholders, the representation of women in the Upper House increased moderately, from 13 representatives to 14 out of the total membership of 54. Similar efforts are under way in the continuing House of the

People elections to ensure the achievement of the 30 per cent quota for the representation of women.

84. I commend the procedural clarifications announced by the National Consultative Council and the Somali leaders' renewed commitment to the electoral agreements of 17 September 2020 and 27 May 2021, which remain the basis for finalizing the elections. I urge leaders to urgently implement the agreed measures to ensure a credible and transparent process by the revised deadline of 25 February. The reported irregularities in the elections are of grave concern, and it is of utmost importance that they be addressed and rectified. A credible, fair, timely and transparent electoral process is vital to guarantee the support and confidence of the Somali people.

85. The leaders of Somalia should rise above their political differences and work together to complete the elections credibly and swiftly so that the country can focus on addressing its many pressing challenges and critical national priorities. Greater demonstration of commitment to the process and recognition of its urgency are critical. I urge the Somali leaders to rally behind the electoral process to secure its conclusion towards a legitimate and peaceful transfer to advance the consolidation of peace, security and stability in the country. It is of utmost importance that all stakeholders exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions and address grievances through political dialogue when disagreements arise.

86. Another notable development is a commitment by Somali authorities to ensuring that the 30 per cent quota for the representation of women is met in the House of the People, and I encourage leaders to reserve at least 82 seats for women. The equal participation of women in the public sphere, including elected offices, the executive and the judiciary, is key to the country's State-building process.

87. It is essential to reiterate the importance of participation by young people and marginalized groups in political life, including through elected bodies. In this regard, I am pleased to note that the direct district council elections that Puntland has piloted have enabled candidates from marginalized communities to compete and be elected.

88. I strongly condemn the attacks by Al-Shabaab, which continue to affect civilians disproportionately. The increase in Al-Shabaab attacks in 2021 and its continued ability to conduct them in populated urban areas are deeply troubling. I reiterate my strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism and violent extremism and express my sincere condolences to all the victims. The fight against Al-Shabaab requires close coordination and collaboration among all Somali stakeholders. I call upon them to work jointly towards this common goal.

89. While Al-Shabaab remains the largest perpetrator of civilian casualties overall, the increased civilian casualties inflicted by state security forces are alarming. The clashes in Boosaaso in December caused significant casualties and civilian displacement and disrupted the movement of people and trade as the country was undergoing severe drought conditions. I call upon the Somali authorities to ensure the protection of civilians and resolve political differences peacefully.

90. The continued attacks on freedom of expression are deeply concerning. It is essential that the Somali authorities ensure the protection of journalists and media workers and uphold the right to freedom of expression for all Somalis. Independent reporting on issues of public interest, open debate and criticism are cornerstones of democracy. Somali authorities should create an enabling environment for safe, free and independent media and end the arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists, media workers and other citizens exercising their right to freedom of expression.

91. Conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations against children continue to be of great concern. I urge the Somali authorities to investigate these violations, as

well as all forms of violence occurring outside the conflict, and to hold perpetrators accountable. I further urge the Somali authorities to take all steps and measures necessary to fulfil their commitment to ending and preventing grave violations against children, specifically in relation to the 2012 action plans and the 2019 road map, and to ending rape and other forms of sexual violence, including by adopting a new national action plan to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict.

92. The impact of the drought on the most vulnerable people in Somalia is extremely concerning. Their coping mechanisms have been eroded by decades of conflict, climate shocks, disease outbreaks and now three consecutive rainy seasons with below average rainfall. In this regard, I thank donors who contributed to the drought response and to the overall humanitarian response. It is critical that the international community and partners ensure substantial and early funding for the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.

93. I appeal to Member States to provide additional contributions to the United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali security forces to ensure that support for the forces can be provided. Moreover, I call for continued funding for the Mine Action Service-provided training and equipping of Somali National Army multi-skilled improvised explosive device disposal teams, noting that such devices pose the greatest risk to the Somali security forces.

94. I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other development partners for their sustained support and engagement in the peacebuilding and State-building processes in Somalia. I would like to pay tribute to AMISOM and the Somali security forces for their tremendous sacrifices to protect the Somali people and in the pursuit of peace and stability for the country and the wider region.

95. I thank my Special Representative, James Swan, and the staff of UNSOM, UNSOS and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Somalia. Their hard work and commitment under challenging and often dangerous conditions reflect their unshakable dedication to the Somali people.

