

Security Council Debate on Somalia

Address by

Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen  
Permanent Representative of Finland  
to the United Nations

New York, 16 October 2012

(check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak today. I also align myself with the statement made earlier by the representative of the European Union.

Finland congratulates the people of Somalia for the historical steps taken in the recent months. We give **our support to the new federal institutions** and political actors in Somalia. **The goal of the political process** is clear: to pave the way to general elections and a functioning multiparty system.

Finland has constantly underlined the importance of **Somali ownership** in the political process. Today, this question remains as important as ever. **Decisions on Somalia's future rest with Somalis**. The Somali political leadership must be accountable to the Somali people.

Mr. President,

At this moment, **the new institutions** need all our help in providing the basic services. We emphasize the need for a **better coordination at all levels**, between donors, international organizations and Somalis themselves.

**UNPOS and SRSG Mahiga** have played a key role in the transition process, and we thank them for their tireless work. The reconstruction work calls for a strategic and comprehensive approach and we look forward to the results of the strategic review of UN presence in Somalia.

Mr. President,

The transition period has come successfully to an end, but the peace and reconciliation work continues. Peace should not be allowed to become the business of a few. **Inclusive peace process** leads to sustainable peace. This means that all relevant actors should be kept around the table, including youth and women. **Full and effective participation of women** is one of the key questions for the new political era in Somalia. Agreement on a 30 % quota for women representatives in the New Parliament is a major achievement. In order to reach this goal, we encourage more attention to be given to the representation of women.

The role of Somali Elders and Traditional Leaders as constructive contributors in furthering peace has been - and will remain - vital. Finland has been supporting the inclusion of **Somali Elders and Religious Leaders** in the peace dialogue and we keep on emphasizing their central role also in the post-transition period.

Mr President,

Let me express serious concern for **the human rights situation in Somalia**. The efforts for protecting civilians and ending the human rights violations should continue. The new institutions in Somalia should be built on the principles of good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Improvement of the security situation should go hand in hand with the support to the justice sector in the country.

Mr. President,

Like other speakers, we would like to acknowledge the sacrifices made by the **AMISOM**, Somali security forces and other stakeholders. Despite achievements, the security situation in Somalia is fragile. **Al-Shabaab** has suffered significant losses and become weaker, but it hasn't vanished. The international partners should continue to seize this opportunity to consolidate the security situation in Somalia.

AMISOM deserves support and should be enabled to carry out its mission to the end. EU funding to the operation since 2007 has been considerable, and we encourage partners, **especially new donors, to contribute to funding for AMISOM**. We all agree that **improved security is a prerequisite for normalization of living conditions and further development** in Somalia.

That will, in turn, enable us to tackle the root causes of Somalia's problems, including the piracy off-coast of Somalia. Finland has been supporting the anti-piracy work inter alia by participating in the Atalanta –operation and by supporting the UNODC programme "Combating maritime piracy in the Horn of Africa".

Mr President,

We should not forget the role of Somali **diaspora**. The political developments in Somalia have shown us how active diaspora and able individuals can make a difference. In Finland, we emphasize the role of Somali diaspora and their NGOs participation in development cooperation. Finland has supported development activities – among them diaspora NGOs' work on the ground – primarily in Somaliland and Puntland, as well as contributed to humanitarian assistance. **Finland is currently assessing the ways of further supporting Somalia in the country's development needs.**

**Now that the transition period has come to its end, we are embarking on a new era. Finland has been standing side by side with Somalia before, and you can count on our support now - as well as in the future.**

(I thank you Mr. President.)