**Security Council**

**Briefing on the Situation in Somalia**

**9 November 2015**

STATEMENT

Mr. President, Distinguished Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom

Distinguished Prime Minister of Somalia

Distinguished Chief of Staff of the UN Secretary-General

Distinguished Special Representative of the Secretary General in Somalia

Distinguished Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations

Distinguished Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Angolan Delegation welcomes the convening of this meeting to debate the situation in Somalia, at a crossroads for the country´s future.

The briefings here delivered provided a better understanding on progress achieved and on the challenges faced by the people and Government of Somalia, by AMISOM, the United Nations and by the international partners who have joined forces to help build a new Somalia, in peace and stability.

In 2016, Somalia is expected to hold elections, a crucial landmark in the implementation of Vision 2016, the road map established by the Somali authorities, regarding the Federal and State building process, the Constitutional review and the preparations for elections.

However, despite significant progress achieved so far, we must acknowledge deep concerns over the political crisis and tensions among the highest State actors.

Last year’s political tensions between the President and the former Prime Minister considerably delayed the establishment of vital parliamentarian organs and the overall progress in the implementation of Vision 2016 Inclusive Political Framework.

After decades of instability and chaos, the political actors must put the highest interests of the State and people in the center of their concerns instead of personal political agendas.

The leaders and the people of Somalia must stand united and focused on the countries priorities which, in accordance with the national and international consensus, are the preparation and the holding of elections in 2016, to advance the State Building process and the fight against the Al Shabaab terrorists .

In this regard, we welcome the second Ministerial meeting of the High Level Partnership Forum; the creation of the National Independent Electoral Commission; the Boundaries and Federalism Commission and of the Independent Commission for the Review and Implementation of the Constitution.

The avowed implausibility of holding a “one person, one vote” election in 2016 is a matter of concern, and we look forward to the setting up of an alternative electoral ballot method, taking into account the need of inclusivity and the enfranchisement of all Somalis.

Inclusiveness and commitment are key issues in the Somali political and constitutional process. The meeting on the constitutional review process, recently held in Mogadishu, produced a roadmap for an inclusive and participatory process, establishing benchmarks for the adoption of a new Constitution by March 2016 that we hope will be met.

Mr. President,

The most recent Report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia raises alarming questions related to resources misappropriation by the political and business elite, to corruption, to violations of human rights by the Anti-Al Shabaab forces, to delays in the establishment of vital parliamentarian organs and to activities of individuals or groups referred as the “spoilers network”. Everything must be done to impede these alleged spoilers to jeopardize the efforts and hopes of the whole nation.

Such situations give Al Shabaab additional ground for recruiting new members, including among the youth who might not share their radical views but, being excluded from the State-building process see in joining the Al Shabaab a way out for their frustrations and despair.

Regarding the fight against Al Shabaab, after the successes achieved by Operations Eagle and Indian Ocean it is vital to establish the State Authority in the areas recovered from the terrorists, establish services that benefit the population and, by so doing, remove some of the causes of support to this terrorist group.

We welcome, in this regard, progress made in building capacities of the Somali National Army, of the Somali Police Forces, and in the implementation of the National Program for Disengaged Combatants, while expressing concern over the lack of sufficient funding for these crucial projects.

In the Somali context, it is crucial the strengthening of the national army and police forces in order to ensure security during the electoral period, when the increase of attacks by Al Shabaab is to be expected.

As such, we are deeply concerned with the difficulties experienced by the Somali Government for paying salaries to SNA troops and other security forces, a situation that might gravelly impair the preparation, readiness and, in general, the security and stability of the country.

Nevertheless, we commend the support that the UN Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) is providing to the Somali National Army and all Member States which are contributing to the Trust Fund established by the Somalia Donor Conference.

We also commend the Countries contributing troops to AMISON, and the troops themselves, engaged in an extremely difficult struggle. We want, at this occasion, express our heartfelt tribute to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in this fight against the barbaric forces of terrorism, and for the attainment of freedom and ultimately for peace.

Mr. President,

Concerning the human rights situation, we deem particularly important that the federal government and regional authorities ensure the strict compliance of security operations with international standards and the respect for the rule of law.

Mr. Tom Nyanduga, the Independent Expert appointed by the Human Rights Council qualifies, in a report recently released, the judicial system of Somalia as ineffective and incapable of providing equal protection and justice to all Somali citizens.

The same Report refers AMISOM´s and SNA’s joint capacity as overstretched and unable to adequately protect the newly recovered areas and, as a result, the humanitarian agents ability to provide services to those in need, as well as the Government and other stakeholders aptitude to conduct social and economic programs, a situation with potential to ignite the relapse into conflict and chaos.

In conclusion, Mr. President, despite the substantial progress achieved so far, the situation prevailing in Somalia is still fragile concerning security, political stability and in all walks of life. It is up to the international community, in particular the Security Council, to remain vigilant and supportive for ensuring sustainable peace, stability, economic and social development, the respect of human rights and rule of law in Somalia.

The Somali Federal Government and all stakeholders must remain committed to these goals in order to continue enjoying the confidence and support from the international community for the attainment of the goals for which such great investment has been made, and guarantee a better future to the Somali people.

Thank you very much.