**Security Council**

Interactive Dialogue on Somalia

8 May 2015

Talking points

We congratulate Lithuania and the United Kingdom for this timely initiative.

We thank the Prime Minister of Somalia, Mr. Sharmake, and the Special Representatives of the UN and AU Mr. Kay and Mr Sidikou for the briefings and the information shared with the members of the Security Council.

We look forward to receive the report on the joint review and the assessment on the Mission benchmarks, later this month.

We take the opportunity to express our satisfaction for the successful crackdown in Elasha Biyaha conducted by the Security forces of Somalia and AMISOM, averting possible serious terrorist attacks to the capital.

We follow closely the situation. Among the 150 arrested, all those connected to Al Shabab or other terrorist organization must be brought to justice and dully prosecuted in accordance to law.

In this connection we would like to have additional information on this joint operation and an update regarding the current security situation in Mogadishu.

We warmly congratulate the Government of Djibouti for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union for the deployment of additional nine hundred troops to AMISOM.

We would like to know when these troops will be ready and deployed in support of the AU/UN effort in Somalia.

We take this occasion to pay tribute to the hardship, recognize the great value and acknowledge the remarkable progress achieved by the troops integrating AMISOM, from Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

For this progress to be sustained, however, the Somali Security forces need to be strong, effective and united, and overcome clanship or regional differences.

In this regard, we would like to know how this issue is being dealt, the degree of integration in the Somali National Army, and what role, if any, play the regional balance in the SNA and the security apparatus of the country.

The following remark is specifically addressed to Mr. Sidikou, related to his recent visit to Beletweyne, with Ms. Michele d’Urso, the EU Special Envoy.

We would like to have your views on the challenges facing AMISOM in that sector and how can the African and European Union work together to address them.

Our last question also relates to international cooperation and the degree of coordination in security and intelligence matters between the countries of the region, the troop contributing countries, the AU, the UN and the EU troops and personnel.

Thank you very much.