



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
to the United Nations - New York  
Security Council - 2021-2022

**ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE  
RENEWAL OF THE 751 SOMALIA SANCTIONS  
REGIME**

**EXPLANATION OF THE VOTE**

**AMB MARTIN KIMANI, PHD, C.B.S  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**17 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Thank you Madam President,**

The Kenya delegation thanks the United Kingdom for ably steering the negotiations of this resolution to its adoption.

We have voted in the affirmative to demonstrate our backing for the resolution's tougher operational, strategic and political measures against the Al Qaeda affiliate in Somalia. The vote accords to our serious security concerns, those of the region and the International Community. This afternoon, we can take some comfort in having agreed as the Security Council to stand together against terrorism.

Our efforts now join those of the valiant people of Somalia who have determined, in rallying behind their president and government, to defeat this group for its brutality, extremism and deviance from all the moral principles they hold dear. We understand that the Government of Somalia seeks more support from the Security Council in its just struggle, including the dropping of the Council's arms embargo. This is also the position that has been taken by the African Union Peace and Security Council. In this round of negotiations, the dropping of the embargo did not meet with sufficient support from members. But there is little doubt that the battlefield conduct of the Somalia forces, and their determination, will be in short order lead to the dropping of the embargo. As it is, Kenya, and the rest of the A3, negotiated hard for steps to be taken in this direction.

We were instrumental in ensuring that the resolution is named in a way that clarifies that the enemy is the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. We increased pressure on the group by making it easier for the Federal Government of Somalia to acquire more lethal weapons. This we did by ensuring that the resolution ensures that some military items for purchase are subject to a no-objection process and completely removing others from any notification requirements.

There is now a clear roadmap to exempting the FGS from the embargo completely in the future. This based on deploying an effective weapons and ammunition

management capability with clear and realistic benchmarks consistent with the final report of the Panel of Experts, UNODC reports and the September 2022 Secretary General's report and recommendations proffered following July 2022 Technical Assessment. We hope there shall be proper tracking and storage systems of such military equipment and supplies to the Somalia unit levels to ensure none falls into the hands of Al-Shabaab.

We urge members, and particularly the incoming group, to stand alongside the government's demand that its every step lead directly and promptly to the lifting of the arms embargo in any way that negatively affects it. The partial arms embargo in Somalia cannot exist in perpetuity as they are counterproductive and adversely affect the capability of the FGS to eradicate the existential threat posed by the terrorist group.

In the past, Kenya has sought the listing of Al Shabaab under the resolution 1267 sanctions regime to reflect its status as a sworn and undisputed affiliate of Al Qaeda. We wanted to pressure the group more than the resolution 751 sanctions achieves with its treatment of Al Shabaab as a political spoiler not an international terrorist group. What this approach has meant is the limiting of actions by member states to combat Al Shabaab's financing, to do more to combat its recruitment and human trafficking, and to increase other forms of pressure against it. Most importantly, it sought to send an unambiguous message to all states and peoples that this is a group outside political inclusion. There is no compromise to be given to a group that has has a fascist, anti-human and unceasingly violent vision of the future it wants in Somalia and our region.

Our applications for this listing were blocked by some members of the Security Council. They cited as their reason the need to protect humanitarian efforts from the effects of a 1267 listing given the group's name exploitation of the shipment of food and other critical supplies. We agree that every step needs to be taken to protect the humanitarian response to the people of Somalia who, like the rest of the Horn region, are suffering the worst drought in decades.

However, when we sought humanitarian exemptions in Somalia in resolution 1267, the same countries refused leaving us displeased about the transparency of the process. We urge the Council to take a more consistent and predictable manner of listing without resorting to the present double standards.

Gladly, what matters most is the fight against the terrorists in Somalia. In this regard, the government and the people are showing that they will give no quarter. The only way forward for the elements in the group that seek accommodation is for them to retreat from the extremism, and surrender to the will of the people of Somalia as expressed in their government.

It must be clear to all that this resolution is about supporting Somalia and exerting pressure on Al-Shabaab. That is reflected in the provision renaming the sanctions committee henceforth to the **751 Security Council Committee concerning Al-Shabaab**. Kenya appreciates the efforts of the pen to refocus the subject matter of this regime ever so accurately and the steadfast support received.

Finally, extremist groups including Al-Shabaab must not be allowed to use religion to spread propaganda and to justify violence. We welcome the support received from the UAE and others to have this language in reflected in the resolution.

In conclusion, we count on the international community to support the Government of Somalia in their renewed efforts to counter Al-Shabaab's narratives. Kenya reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, and our neighbourly goodwill.

**Thank you.**