

COMMUNIQUÉ

A NEW DEAL FOR SOMALIA, BRUSSELS CONFERENCE, 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

1. Today a landmark Conference on ***A New Deal for Somalia*** was held in Brussels, co-hosted by the Somali Federal Government and the European Union (EU), with participation from Somali regions, Members of Parliament and civil society, as well as international friends and partners.
2. We met at a crucial time for the Somali people as they embark on the path of reconciliation and reconstruction after years of conflict. We welcomed the political and security progress that has already been made, and commended the leadership demonstrated by the Federal Government working with other stakeholders in seeking to consolidate it, including at previous international conferences in London and Yokohama. We emphasised the importance of maintaining the momentum towards positive change and reconciliation in the country, reaffirming our support for Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
3. To support that progress, we today endorsed a ***New Deal Compact*** and committed to support its implementation. This Compact is a testament to the new partnership, based on mutual accountability and risk management that is being initiated between the Federal Government, Parliament, regions and people of Somalia, and the international community. It includes Special Arrangements for Somaliland. The aim is to create a better future for all Somali people, by means of a dialogue and process that promotes political reconciliation and establishes peace, security, justice and sustainable development throughout the country. The best platform to achieve our goal is the New Deal framework developed by the g7+ group and endorsed in Busan in 2011, specifically aimed at supporting fragile countries in transitioning towards stability. It ensures a clear focus on Somalia's most vital political, social and economic priorities: building inclusive politics, security, justice, the country's economic foundations, revenue collection and the provision of services. We commended the engagement of all those who participated in the New Deal High Level Task Force to prepare the Compact, which involved consultation with the people and regions of Somalia.
4. Since the formation of a new Somali Federal Parliament and election of a new President twelve months ago, Somalis have worked hard to establish the foundations of their state. This rests on building a national consensus among all Somalis on the kind of Somalia in which they wish to live. We warmly welcomed the recent agreement to establish the Interim Jubba Administration, facilitated and guaranteed by Ethiopia as Chair of the African Union (AU) and the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). We recognised the impetus this gives to inclusive political processes enabling the finalisation and adoption of the Federal Constitution by the end of 2015 and the holding of elections by 2016. We commended the role of the Federal Parliament in setting out a roadmap and timeline, with benchmarks, to achieve this by 2016. We welcomed the Vision 2016 conference and encouraged an inclusive national dialogue between the Federal Government of Somalia and existing and emerging administrations, as well as all

elements of society. This would lead to the establishment of local and regional authorities and federal units, anchored in the Provisional Constitution, as building blocks for a viable, united, sovereign and stable Somali state. To facilitate the full ownership of the political roadmap, we underscored the importance of including all Somalis in the political process, including Diaspora and refugees and encouraged support for this. We welcomed President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud's political outreach across the country, and we looked forward to the IGAD Partners' Forum (IPF) Ministerial meeting of 26 September 2013 in New York, as efforts to provide further impetus to this process.

5. We emphasised that security remains critical for political, social and economic progress. Establishing capable, accountable and inclusive Somali security institutions that provide protection for all people, in particular women and children, is therefore vital. The integration of existing security forces into one cohesive structure is a priority that goes hand in hand with progress on political inclusiveness. But this remains a joint effort. The direct support of the international community is still essential. We commended the troops of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Ethiopian forces on the vital role they are playing in providing security in Somalia and encouraged further coordination between the mission and the Federal Government. We called on all partners to contribute to strengthening AMISOM and the Somali security forces, including through predictable and sustainable funding. We condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism, in particular the acts of Al-Shabaab and we welcomed the Federal Government's conference to address religious extremism. We welcomed the moves to establish a Somali capacity in maritime security and maritime resource management, and the support that the international community is providing in this area and encouraged transparent and sustainable use of those resources.
6. We noted that security and justice go hand in hand. Judicial reform is critical to respond to people's need for justice and protection. Independent justice institutions, which are both accessible to all and legitimate, will be essential in building citizens' trust in the government. Improving human rights through appropriate legal frameworks and addressing sexual violence and violence against women will also demonstrate an end to impunity and encourage post-conflict reconciliation.
7. We particularly highlighted the important role of Somali women in the peace- and state-building process and called for their greater inclusion and participation in the political, economic and public spheres.
8. We expressed concern over the continuing humanitarian crisis in Somalia and its impact on the Somali people. We encouraged humanitarian agencies to remain engaged and stressed the need for them to be free to deliver life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable populations. We condemned any misuse or obstruction of such assistance. We emphasised the importance of a comprehensive solution based on the principle of voluntary return that would help millions of displaced people and refugees return home to a secure environment with adequate livelihood opportunities. We welcomed the Government's new strategy on stabilisation in newly-accessible areas, where the linking of relief to recovery and development will be vital in addressing the needs of the population.

9. We commended the Federal Government's commitment to good public financial management and welcomed its draft Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) as a basis for prioritising flagship projects for social and economic development. We looked forward to the transformation of this Plan into an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper following deeper and more extensive consultations including with the regions. A growing economy will generate both employment and essential revenue to support the delivery of public services, helping build trust in government and encourage social cohesion. Somalia's re-engagement with the International Financial Institutions will be crucial in achieving these goals. It will be based on continued commitment by the Federal Government to sound economic governance, and continued progress in establishing systems to provide transparency and accountability of revenues and national resources. We emphasised the efforts by the Federal Government to establish a sound track record of performance in these areas, including through the preparation of the Compact and the ERP. Implementation of these plans will be important steps towards creating the conditions for arrears clearance and ultimately for debt relief, which international partners have committed to, under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. We highlighted the importance of strengthening mutual accountability between the international community and Somalia, and between the Federal Government and the Somali people. We noted IGAD's position, at 47th its Extra-Ordinary Ministerial Council, on establishment of a special support facility for the Somali remittance industry.
10. We welcomed in particular the mutual commitment to milestones in implementing the Compact. We highlighted the importance of drawing on this to promote federalism, dialogue and reconciliation, highlighting the importance of the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the Federal Government and the regions in this process. We therefore looked forward to the Federal Government's plan to promote federalism.
11. Engagement with the Somali people will remain an essential part of the process. We therefore emphasised the importance of continued consultations across the country to seek the views of civil society, academics, women, youth, vulnerable groups such as refugees and IDPs, private sector and local administrations and refine the Compact, building on the interim Fragility Assessment. This will ensure the ownership of the Compact by all Somalis, which should reflect their priorities. We stressed that the Compact will continue to be a living document and would require effective international and domestic coordination to ensure it was monitored, remained relevant and was effectively implemented. We welcomed the commitment to establish the High Level Partnership Forum as the main platform for dialogue overseeing implementation of mutual commitments in the Compact. In line with Security Council Resolution 2012 (2013), we welcomed the wide-ranging support of the United Nations to Somalia.
12. We welcomed the commitment of international partners to provide political and financial support for the implementation of the priorities set out in the Compact, and the offer of pledges amounting to €1.8 billion. We called upon donors to increase efforts to coordinate their support to Somalia to ensure transparency and

complementarity, avoiding duplication, in line with the new financial architecture proposed today. We stressed our support for the Compact's implementation by aligning behind its priorities and by establishing and gradually working within the framework of the Somali Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF), which will help strengthen delivery through local systems and institutions. We welcomed the establishment of the Special Financing Facility (SFF) which began last month to support civil service salaries, as a transparent financial instrument and first practical demonstration of the Federal Government's commitment to the principles of the New Deal. We committed to establish the SDRF and the mechanisms for dialogue and aid coordination within three months of the conference and begin implementation of the Compact.

13. In conclusion, we thanked all participants for their engagement and generosity. A new era has begun for the Somali people, underpinned by the collective determination to bring better lives to all the people of Somalia.