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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL**  
**UNSC DEBATE: SOMALIA**  
(11 January 2012)

Madam president,

1. Allow me to start by welcoming the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for South Africa, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, and to thank her for presiding over the Council on such an important matter. I also want to thank Mr. Ramtame Mashabane, representative of the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for his statement. Likewise, we appreciate the enlightening presentations of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya and the Minister of Defense of Uganda, and, of course, our appreciation goes to Mr. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Political Affairs, for the information he provided.

2. This meeting is linked with tomorrow's debate on AU-UN partnership, since in Somalia the UN has formed a strategic relationship with the African Union. The excellent work done by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the most recent UN-AU collaboration in planning its next phase of operations are examples of this close cooperation.

3. Only a month ago, the historic visit of the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly to Somalia took place. The impetus generated by this visit without doubt contributed to the results of the first national constitutional conference in Garowe that was held from 21 to 23 December 2011. The principles agreed on in this meeting, with the clear deadlines established, show the commitment of the national institutions to finalize the transition period before August 20th.

4. We share with other members that it is essential for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to adhere to the roadmap as well as to solve the Parliamentary crisis. It is necessary that the TFG show leadership, improve accountability and transparency. In this last phase of the transition period, the political process needs to be inclusive and representative of the Somali people.

5. We also agree with others on the need of a coordinated and coherent effort against Al Shabaab. We are aware that AMISOM continues to face serious resource gaps and for its next phase of operations, it is necessary that funding be adequate, secure and predictable. I am grateful for the insights provided today, as well as for the recent communiqué of January 5<sup>th</sup> from the Peace and Security Council of the AU requesting the Security Council to

strengthen AMISOM. We will be discussing this request along with the recommendations provided by the Secretary General.

6. At the same time, we believe it is important to keep a comprehensive approach towards Somalia: the security strategy must be aligned with the fulfillment of the road map. The long term effects of the humanitarian catastrophe and the development agenda must also remain priorities. We call on all donor countries to maintain their support for the humanitarian assistance being provided through OCHA.

7. In this regard, we hope the Conference on Somalia in London and after that the UN Conference in Istanbul will be important opportunities to support the ending of the transitional period in Somalia, and will lead to a more stable and solid system of governance.

8. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the important work of Mr. Augustine Mahinga, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Somalia.

I thank you.