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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROSENTHAL**  
**OPEN DEBATE ON SOMALIA**  
5 March 2012 (AM)

Mr. President,

First, we would like to congratulate the United Kingdom for assuming the Presidency of the Council and for organizing this meeting. We would like to thank Mr. Henry Bellingham, Minister of State for African Affairs of the United Kingdom for chairing this meeting and to congratulate him for the successful Conference held in London only a few days ago. We would also like to thank the presentation of the Secretary General and of its SRSG Augustine Mahiga, an ex-colleague and esteemed friend, who joins us through cyberspace.

Mr. President,

The London Conference undoubtedly raised Somalia's profile among the international community, and generated good prospects to help meet the time frame established for the transition period.

We note that Somalia has before it a challenged akin to that of a marathon runner, since the drafting of the Constitution must end on April 20 and subsequently adopted on May 22. Following that, on June 15, we expect the new Somali Federal Parliament to be formed, and, as if that were not enough, the general elections are planned to be held on August 20. **Therefore, we believe that the next six months are critical in the political trajectory of Somalia, and a rigid discipline on the part of the authorities and civil society of the country, as well as a strong support from the international community, will be required if this highly ambitious itinerary is to be met.**

Both the London Conference as well as the recently adopted resolution 2036 (2012) – demonstrates the commitment of the international community to support the national process in Somalia. This is adequately reflected in the Roadmap as well as in the principles that came out of Garowe I and II. The Security Council must remain vigilant to the compliance of these deadlines since postponing the end of transition would represent a serious step backwards.

We trust that the new Government of Somalia that will assume power after

August 20, 2012, will be **more representative and inclusive of the Somali people**. We appreciate that 30 per cent of the representatives in the new Somali Federal Parliament will be women. We are concerned by the tactics used by a group of parliamentarians that do not recognize the principles agreed in Garowe, an issue that was addressed by SRSB Mahiga.

We also appreciate the efforts made by Mr. Mahiga and by the United Nations Office for Somalia (UNPOS) to support that these tasks are completed.

Mr. President:

Allow me now to highlight some point about the security strategy:

We are encouraged by events on the ground and by the areas recently recovered. We are grateful to all partners for their sustained support to Somalia, particularly to the troops that have paid with the ultimate price to bring stability to this country. We reiterate that financial support to AMISON must be predictable. At the same time, we believe that capacity building of Somalia's security forces is essential, and that these continue to work side by side with AMISON.

At the same time, we are encouraged by the fact that Mogadishu is experiencing, day by day, an increasing environment of stability and the relocation of SRSB Mahiga and his team to Mogadishu bears witness to this new reality. **We strongly support expanding and implementing the stabilization plans to the recovered sectors**. The establishment of local administrations capable of providing basic services to their local population will be essential.

Finally, we know that Somalia is endowed with an adequate base of natural resources, including one of the longest shorelines in Africa. **The sustainable management of these resources must benefit the local population**. We know that piracy and armed robbery on the coasts of Somalia is largely a consequence of the lack of economic opportunities for its population. That is why we are pleased that recovery and economic development of Somalia is one of the principal topics on the agenda of the forthcoming Istanbul Conference.

Thank you.