

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY EMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SOMALIA
16 DE OCTUBRE DE 2012**

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary General, SRSR Augustine Mahiga for his presentation. Unfortunately the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra could not deliver his statement due to technical difficulties.

Like other Council members that have spoken before, Guatemala celebrates the recent landmark achievements in Somalia, which draw the country closer to peace and stability. I am pleased to say that in both the political process and in the security strategy, Somalia has surpassed all expectations.

Regarding the **political process**, Guatemala welcomes the new President of Somalia, H.E. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Also, we recognize the timely nomination of Mr. Abdi Farah Shirdon as Prime Minister. Both individuals represent the new era in Somalia. We expect the new authorities to establish as soon as possible an inclusive, transparent, and accountable Government. We also expect the timely composition of the cabinet, including at its core equitable gender representation.

The Security Council and the international community should both continue its strong support for Somalia and reiterate that the end of the transition is not the end of the peace process. Also, we recognize that the Government of Somalia need to own its national agenda and we need to listen and assimilate its new priorities.

We look forward to receiving the Strategic Review of the United Nations efforts in Somalia, we trust that it will take into account the new reality that is emerging in this country, and will present options that will enhance coordination of the UN system in the field. It is essential that the UN works in a spirit of cooperation and synergy.

Regarding the **security strategy**, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has implemented its mandate in an exemplary manner, together with the Somali National Forces they have achieved what few predicted possible in the short-term, the recovery of the port of Kismayo. We recognize the extraordinary efforts of AMISOM and pay tribute to the troops that have made the ultimate sacrifice for peace in Somalia.

We appreciate the information contained in the fourth report of the African Union, which among other things, requests the technical rollover of AMISOM'S mandate with a few adjustments for its effective implementation, until February 2013. We believe these additional components will strengthen the logistical package approved in **resolution 2036 (2012)**. Our delegation supports the renewal of the mandate and will be participating constructively in the negotiations of the resolution in the coming days.

We look forward to a thorough assessment of AMISOM in January 2013. In our judgment, this assessment needs to take into account the recent movement of Al-Shabaab to the north of the country, it needs to ensure the security in the liberated areas and needs to go hand in hand with the strengthening of the Somali National Forces (NSF).

Based on the report of the African Union, we are concerned with the financial situation of AMISOM, particularly for the second half of 2013. AMISOM needs to have the necessary resources in order to comply with its mandate. We call on all countries in a position to do so, to generously contribute to this objective and to improve the predictability and sustainability of AMISOM funding.

We recognize the adoption of the National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP). We believe it is of great importance that the people of Somalia, particularly outside of Mogadishu, feel the change in their daily lives and to establish local administration that achieve the delivery of basic services.

The restructuring and reform of the Somali National Forces are of outmost importance. Nevertheless, the increased number of defections of combatants affiliated with Al-Shabaab represents a positive step and a glimmer of hope for the youth of Somalia. Also, the protection of civilians and the delivery of unhindered humanitarian assistance need to continue to be top priorities.

The **reconstruction of Somalia**, including infrastructure, social fabric, and the protection of its natural resources, represent critical challenges. The fight against piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia continue to pose a threat. In 2012, we have seen the transformation of the this country and Guatemala will continue to support its efforts.

Thank you.