

STORY: High-level security conference calls for accelerated security sector reforms in Somalia
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SHOT LIST:

1. Close up shot, H.E President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmaajo" arriving at the conference venue

2. Med shot, President "Farmaajo" arriving at the conference venue

3. Wide shot, participants attending the conference

4. SOUNDBITE: (English) Abdirahman Omar Osman, Somalia Federal Minister of Information

"The participants agreed that the three priorities for immediate action were; one, implementation of the national security architecture; two, urgent development of the realistic conditions-based transition plan with clear target dates, to transfer security responsibility from AMISOM to Somali security forces, the completion and implementation of which will be essential to enable sustainable and predictable financing for AMISOM. This plan must be guided by the rule of law, respect for human rights and should include countering violent extremism, stabilization and governance; three, continued international support to build the capacity of Somali security forces and institutions targeted in line with needs emerging from progress on the above priorities."

5. Close up shot, Presidents of regional states from Puntland, Jubbaland, South-west, Galmudug and HirShabelle, at the conference

6. Med shot, participants listening

7. Close up shot, Med shot, participants listening

8. Wide shot, participants attending the conference

9. SOUNDBITE: (English) Michael Keating, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia

"Somalis deserve coherent support by the international community to doing this. And I think the Comprehensive Approach to Security does provide a mechanism to bring everybody together to work with you and your colleagues to move down this pathway including in the area of financing. So I strongly urge, that we work together to achieve that, and the UN stands ready to work with you and to work with our partners to that end."

10. Close up shot, Presidents of the regional states

11. Close up shot, SRCC Madeira and SRSG Keating listening

12. Wide shot, participants listening

13. Close up shot, Mr. Mahdi Mohamed Guled, Somalia Deputy Prime Minister listening

14. Med shot, Hubert Price, Head of UNSOS, DSRSG Peter de Clercq and DSRSG Raisedon Zenenga attending the conference

15. SOUNDBITE: (English) H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmaajo”, President of the Federal Government of Somalia

“My government’s key strategic objective is to establish a unified, capable, accountable, integrated and right-sized Federal and member states security force, that will provide a safe environment for our citizens. We honor the sacrifices made by AMISOM forces and our international partners. We are forever indebted for their sacrifice. We are also cognizant that we must address the critical security gaps, before transitioning security operations and full responsibility to well trained, equipped and supported Somali Security Forces.”

16. Close up shot, SRCC Madeira listening

17. Wide shot, participants attending the conference

18. SOUNDBITE: (English) Michael Keating, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia

“A conditions-based transition plan is now really essential. The Troop Contributing Countries need it, and AMISOM needs it, both because they need a partner to hold territory and to work within their operational activities. But also because they cannot stay in Somalia forever and they need a horizon.”

19. Wide shot, participants stand up to leave at the end of the conference

High-level security conference calls for accelerated security sector reforms in Somalia

Mogadishu, 4 December 2017 - A high-level security conference on Somalia today called for the “urgent development of a realistic, conditions-based transition plan” to transfer primary national security responsibility from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the country’s own security forces.

“This plan must be guided by the rule of law, respect for human rights and should include countering violent extremism, stabilization and governance,” stated a communiqué that was issued at the end of the conference and delivered by the Federal Minister of Information, Abdirahman Omar Osman.

Participants in the first high-level conference on security to be held in the capital Mogadishu included the presidents of Somalia’s five federal member states, Prime Minister Ali Hassan Khaire, key members of the federal government cabinet and senior representatives of the international community.

According to the communiqué, the conference also agreed that a process for developing such a transition plan should be concluded by the end of this month “with a view to completing a draft transition plan” before a joint review of AMISOM requested by the UN Security Council is conducted next year.

The transition should provide “affordable, accountable and acceptable forces” that are capable of providing security across Somalia.

While underlining the progress the country has made towards implementing key security reforms, Somalia’s Federal President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmaajo” made a commitment in his keynote address to tackle critical security gaps before transferring full responsibility from AMISOM to Somali security forces.

“The Operational Readiness Assessment is completed and we have learned the strengths, gaps and lessons for the Police and National Army. We will use this as a springboard to identify and implement necessary reforms,” President Farmaajo said.

Michael Keating, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, said the UN stood ready to work with the country and international partners to address the various security challenges facing Somalia.

“Somalis deserve coherent support by the international community. The comprehensive approach to security does provide a mechanism to bring everybody together to work with you and your colleagues to move down this pathway, including the area of financing,” he remarked.

Mr. Keating also noted that the meeting had provided an opportunity to review the achievements of the Farmaajo government and agree on a future list of priorities.

“A conditions-based transition plan is now really essential. The Troop Contributing Countries need it and AMISOM needs it, both because they need a partner to hold territory and to work within their operational activities. But also because they cannot stay in Somalia forever, and they need a horizon,” he stated.

The security conference was convened to review progress on security sector reform and the implementation of the National Security Architecture, which was endorsed by Somalia’s federal and state-level leaders last April.

Participants also called for continued international support to build the capacity of Somali security forces and institutions.

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