



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**STATEMENT BY H.E. ABDULLAHI YUSUF AHMED, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA AT THE SECURITY
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H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa and the current President of the United Nations Security Council, Heads of State and Governments, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to appear before you at this special session of the United Nations Security Council. I am grateful to those who brought about our gathering here today to debate the important issue of strengthening the relationship between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm Somalia's appreciation and approval for the Security Council which has taken a consistent

and laudable role at each juncture of Somalia's civil strife and state failure. The Security Council, as we may all remember, had the resolve and the political will to invoke the morally compelling doctrine of Humanitarian Intervention, thereby successfully reversing a disastrous famine that could have potentially wiped out millions of Somalis.

It is my considered judgment that Somalia once again needs the courageous intervention of this body to intervene in the situation in Somalia by urgently sending an international force to assist the Transitional Federal Government to implement its Peace and Stabilization Plan.

The conflict in Somalia which was once among clans is today about extreme ideology and predatory economic and commercial interest. The conflict is in fact between those who want to live free in peace and harmony under democratic governance and

those who espouse violence and want to keep Somalia in the *status quo* of lawlessness and anarchy.

The solution to the problem in Somalia, therefore, has three basic but important ingredients:

1. Re-establishing the collapsed Somali state
2. Furthering the reconciliation process
3. Stabilizing and providing security

On reconciliation, we conducted the largest Reconciliation Congress in the history of Somalia, the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC). The NRC, which was held in Mogadishu was attended by close to 3000 delegates and attracted many more peace loving Somalis into the city. The NRC produced corrective resolutions in the affairs of government and a road-map to a fair and free election that would lead Somalia to a democratic transition in 2009. In addition, the TFG has shown time and again willingness to talk to those who oppose our government.

I furthermore, would like to formally restate in this session of the Security Council that I am for peace and reconciliation in Somalia. My only purpose in leading Somalia in this critical period of our history is to bring peace and lawful living back to my country. I want to witness the renaissance of Somalia as a progressive democratic state that is in peace with itself, with its neighbors and with the rest of the world. I am willing to do whatever it takes to promote peace and stability in my country.

Mr. President,

The third basic and important ingredient of providing security is where we have not performed well and it is where we cannot make progress without the significant support of the international community. Security is of paramount importance to any country of the world and it is architectonic for the rest of our priorities mentioned above. The lack of security in Somalia is compounded by the continuation of the UN arms embargo.

The Security Council must assist the efforts of the TFG in the stabilization of the country by:

- a) Reviewing the merits of the Arms Embargo on Somalia and promptly lifting it,
- b) Authorizing the deployment of a United Nations Peacemaking force with the mandate of helping Somalia in achieving fuller reconciliation, stabilization, disarmament and durable peace,
- c) Helping Somalia in the formation of the security organs of the government such as the police, military and other bodies of intelligence.

Finally, the prevalence of pirates at the long shores of Somalia is hampering international trade as well as international marine safety and navigation. Since Somalia can not at the moment guard its vast coast, we would want to authorize the international community to take action and combat piracy at the high seas of Somalia until we can effectively undertake the security of our territorial waters. Thank you.