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STATEMENT BY

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AT

A SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON

THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

New York,

March 10, 2011

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you and the delegation of China upon assuming the Presidency for this month. Thank you for organizing this important and timely debate on the need for a Comprehensive Strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia. I also thank the Secretary-General for his Statement and commitment to Somalia.

We welcome the participation of Prime Minister Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed and the AU Special Representative, Mr. Boubacar Diarra, in today's debate. Uganda commends the efforts by Transitional Federal Government and the Somali people towards restoring peace, security, and stability in the country, in spite of the challenges.

Mr. President,

We are convinced that durable peace and stability in Somalia is attainable. What is needed now, more than ever before, is a comprehensive approach that addresses the political, security, rule of law, and socio-economic dimensions. The approach should be cognizant of the fact that the primary responsibility for durable peace and stability in Somalia remains with its government and people. Support by the international community is crucial in this regard.

We encourage the TFG to intensify its efforts in reaching out to those groups willing to cooperate in a spirit of reconciliation and inclusiveness, within the framework of the Djibouti Agreement.

It is also essential to intensify efforts to complete the outstanding transitional tasks, and ensuring that the constitution-making process is completed in a consultative and timely manner.

Uganda is encouraged by initiatives aimed at building the capacity of the Transitional Federal Institutions, especially in the security sector. However, more needs to be done to build on the gradual but steady progress attained by the Somali security forces, with the support of AMISOM, in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu and beyond. This will facilitate the creation of the necessary conditions for the political process.

On the problem of piracy, we reiterate the need for a holistic approach that entails addressing its root causes.

Mr. President,

Resolute action must be taken against armed groups, especially al Shabaab, that continue attacks including terrorist attacks, against the TFG, AMISOM, civilians, and humanitarian workers, as well as the spoilers within and outside Somalia who continue to undermine the peace process.

Furthermore, Somalia requires sustained financial, material and technical support in delivery of basic services, reconstruction, and setting up basic economic infrastructure, in order to improve the livelihoods of the population.

We call upon the international community to redouble their commitment and contributions to this noble cause, including at the next meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia scheduled for later this month in Kampala. We welcome the announcement by the UK of additional contribution to the Trust Fund for Somalia, without caveats as well as that of Japan towards the training and facilitation of the Somali police.

Mr. President,

Finally, we commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, the AU Special Representative Mr. Diarra and their teams for their work under challenging circumstances.

Thank you.