



# UGANDA

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## **STATEMENT BY**

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**MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**AT**

**A SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON**

**SOMALIA**

**New York,**

**January 11, 2012**

**Honourable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane  
Minister of International Relations Co-operation of South Africa  
and President of the Security Council,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I congratulate you, Madam President, and the delegation of South Africa on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for this month. Thank you for organizing this important and timely briefing on Somalia. I also thank Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe and AU Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra, for their Statements.

**Madam President,**

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I would like to thank the Security Council for its commitment to the cause of peace and security on the African continent, and Somalia in particular.

This briefing on Somalia is taking place at a time when we can look back and say we have made visible progress in moving forward to stabilize Somalia. We can say that now there are prospects; there is a new opportunity to harness in order to give a final blow to the terrorist forces of Al Shabaab. This opportunity, Madam President, should not be missed.

All efforts of the members of the international community should be galvanized to seize this opportunity and we save ourselves from this terrorism.

Uganda and Burundi acting through AMISOM, have been in Mogadishu supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and battling the Al Shabaab since 2007. We have driven the enemy out of Mogadishu and enabled the TFG to control the city. We have created the environment for international actors to safely travel in and out of Mogadishu. We have secured the air port and sea port.

This has been at great sacrifice in terms of lives lost in the battle field. It has been at the cost of resources expended by the UN, the European Union and a number of bilateral donors.

**Madam President,**

The view of Uganda is that even greater progress could have been made if it were not for a number of short comings. These include:

- i) The challenges related to cohesion within the TFG leadership;
- ii) The failure to fast-track development of the Somali security forces who by now should be in full control of at least Mogadishu in order to release AMISOM to advance and further support the TFG to liberate the rest of Somalia;
- iii) The insufficiency of forces within AMISOM;
- iv) The less than adequate facilitation of AMISOM;
- v) The initial lack of enthusiasm from the international community.

**Madam President,**

What is the new situation that gives us optimism that we can now defeat Alshabaab, and stabilize Somalia?

First, I want to commend the Republic of Kenya for taking two important steps; pursuing the Alshabaab terrorists into Somalia in defence of their country, and taking the decision to now be part and parcel of the AMISOM force.

Secondly, I want to thank the Democratic Federal Republic of Ethiopia for the strong support they have given to the TFG allied Forces which has led to the capture of important areas in Western Somalia from Al Shabaab.

Thirdly, I want to commend the Republic of Djibouti which has started deploying its promised 850 troops into Somalia.

**Madam President,**

In the next few weeks, Burundi will deploy its additional 1,000 troops to Somalia. The delay has been due to the time required to obtain equipment and other facilitation for those troops.

The required logistics for Uganda to deploy the final 1,700 troops are being finalized by the Government of the United States and by March these forces will be in Somalia.

Kenya and Djibouti have together undertaken to deploy into AMISOM a total of over 5,000 troops in order to beef up AMISOM to over 17,000 troops.

And so now we have more troops but also Al Shabaab is being attacked on multi-fronts; in Mogadishu, on the border with Kenya and from the border with Ethiopia.

**Madam President,**

The fight against piracy also offers prospects to beef up the fight against Al Shabaab. The pirates that have disrupted international trade, through their actions on the high seas, are incubated on mainland Somalia. Therefore it is critical that we take opportunity of the new situation to effectively link the anti-piracy fight with the overall struggle to stabilize Somalia. The re-establishment of the Somali state and bringing back law and order to that country will be the sure way to deal with the root cause of piracy.

**Madam President,**

As the Council is aware, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union has approved a Strategic Concept for future AMISOM operations in Somalia, basing on a technical analysis and recommendation made by an AU-UN Technical Assessment Team.

What should be our next steps? We recommend the following:

- i) That the Security Council approves the expansion of the AMISOM force levels from 12,000 to 17,731 as requested by the AU PSC;

- ii) That the Council recognizes that the fight against Al Shabaab is now beyond Mogadishu;
- iii) That the Council enhances its support package to AMISOM adequately so that the assessed contributions of the UN cover the payment for force multipliers and enablers as recommended in the Strategic Concept. This package should include compensation for contingent-owned equipment as well;
- iv) That some of the resources being used to fight piracy be extended and be linked to the effort to stabilize mainland Somalia.

Uganda welcomes the initiative by the United Kingdom to convene a Special Summit on Somalia in London on February 23, 2012 and look forward to a positive outcome in terms of mobilizing greater support for political, security, humanitarian and development efforts.

**Madam President,**

I want to make reference, for avoidance of doubt, to some concerns I have heard since arriving in New York to the effect that there is lack of clarity about the Command and Control structure of the proposed expanded AMISOM force.

Since Kenya entered Somalia and Ethiopia renewed support to the TFG allied forces, intensive consultations have been taking place at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. . President Mwai Kibaki, President Yoweri Museveni and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi have been in constant contact on this matter. The IGAD Summit has held a number of extra ordinary sessions on the matter of Somalia.

Even before the joint AU-UN Technical Assessment Team was formed, the IGAD Summit had tasked the Chiefs of Defense Staff to clearly articulate how coordination of our forces in the field could be achieved.

Until Friday last week, the only difference that existed at the level of the CDS was the issue of whether the 12,000 troops contributed by Uganda and Burundi should all be deployed in Mogadishu or part of the force should be deployed in the newly liberated zones.

On January 6, 2012 consensus was reached by the troop contributing countries that the additional 2700 troops to be deployed by Uganda and Burundi should not go to Mogadishu. Their deployment will take into account the liberated areas created by actions taken by Kenya and Ethiopia.

Therefore, we the Ministers of Defense of the troop contributing countries, instructed our Chiefs of Defense Staff to further fine tune the Command and Control architecture proposed by the joint AU-UN technical team to take account of this consensus. This is being done and will be ready within the next few days.

**Madam President,**

In conclusion, the consultations taking place in IGAD and at the AU are intended to address not only the military aspects of our work in Somalia but even more critical attention is being focused on the political question. We know only too well that the crisis in Somalia is basically of a political nature rather than a military one.

I thank you Madam President, ladies and gentlemen for listening to me.