



Council of the
European Union

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COAFR 220
CFSP/PESC 924
CSDP/PSDC 514
DEVGEN 129
COHAFA 73
COHOM 148

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Council Conclusions on Somalia

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on Somalia as approved at the 3961th meeting of the Council on 26 June 2023.

Somalia**Council Conclusions**

1. The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome the significant progress achieved in Somalia since President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud assumed office in May 2022. The EU commends the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) for its efforts to build a stable and peaceful Somalia to ensure delivery on the security transition in line with the UN Security Council mandates UNSCR 2628 and UNSCR 2670, as well as for its ambitious reform agenda, including commitment to comprehensive reconciliation and macro-economic reforms. The EU further commends the FGS's commitment to the United Nations Charter and the rules-based international order.
2. The EU strongly appreciates the long-standing partnership with Somalia and the reinforced Political Dialogue with the FGS which has resulted in the endorsement of the "EU-Somalia Joint Operational Roadmap – A Renewed Focused Engagement" (the "Roadmap"). The Roadmap aims at deepening the efficiency and effectiveness of the strategic cooperation between the EU and Somalia, focusing on defined milestones related to the priority areas originating from the FGS's reform agenda of inclusive politics and democratisation, human rights, security and stabilisation, as well as socio-economic growth. The partnership and cooperation between Somalia and the EU is based on shared values and principles, mutual accountability and benefit, transparency, and responsibility, as well as on a strong Somali ownership and delivery, which will be essential not only to strengthen progress on reforms but also will guide EU support. The EU looks forward to the joint operationalisation of this Roadmap.

3. The EU is the main long-term partner of Somalia with significant contributions amounting to over €4.3 billion¹ since 2009, including €2.5 billion mobilised through the African Peace Facility and the European Peace Facility (EPF) to the African Union (AU) and, more recently, to the Somali National Army (SNA). This support has been, and will remain based on the EU's integrated approach to support peace, stability and development, as well as responding to humanitarian needs. The EU encourages Somalia to continue progressing in the implementation of the Roadmap's priority areas and commits to support these efforts further.
4. The EU welcomes the Somali commitment towards political reforms related to state building, reconciliation and democratic elections at all levels. It commends the progress achieved by the FGS together with the Federal Member States (FMS) in the National Consultative Council (NCC). While acknowledging progress so far, the EU highlights the importance of the finalisation of the Constitution through the necessary codification of agreements reached in the NCC, including those on democratisation and the principle of equal representation, the establishment of the Constitutional Court and the formation of the Independent National Human Rights Commission. While commending the active engagement of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in reaching out to the FMS's Presidents, the EU encourages continued dialogue between the FGS and the FMS and constructive FMS contribution to the state-building process. The EU also stresses the importance of inclusive and transparent peace-building and development processes at local, regional, and national levels. It welcomes the FGS's commitment to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, youth, minority clans and persons belonging to other marginalised groups.

¹ This figure does not include Member States' bilateral commitments.

5. As progress in the political, security and socio-economic spheres continues, the EU highlights the importance for Somalia to further advance good governance, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and impunity, gender equality, and the promotion and protection of human rights, including political freedoms, such as freedom of expression. These are all essential cornerstones for inclusive development and sustainable peace. In this regard, the EU welcomes the commitments expressed by the FGS to uphold its obligations and encourages the advancement of relevant legislation, such as the female genital mutilation and sexual offences bills, in line with international human rights law. The EU stands ready to support further progress on these matters.
6. The EU reiterates its commitment and support to the FGS and the people of Somalia in their fight against al-Shabaab. It pays tribute to the huge sacrifices made by Somali men and women, as well as to the service and sacrifice of AMISOM/ATMIS and the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) in the campaign against al-Shabaab during successive AU-led missions. The EU acknowledges and encourages the momentum in the three-pronged (military, financial, ideological) offensives. The EU calls on AU/ATMIS and Somalia to strengthen their cooperation in support of Somalia's security transition, including for the ongoing Somali-led operations against al-Shabaab. In this regard, the EU welcomes the role of the Frontline States and support from the TCCs. In the conduct of military operations, the EU recalls that all actors must respect international humanitarian law and the core principles of precaution and distinction to ensure the protection of the civilian population, and must facilitate safe, unimpeded access to those in need, wherever they are.

7. The EU highlights the importance of stabilising the liberated territories and welcomes the FGS's development of a National Stabilisation Strategy in a "whole-of-government" approach. To support sustainable peace and stability in recently liberated areas, it is key to address root causes of instability, integrate peace-building and reconciliation activities and to provide protection, justice and basic services, such as health and education, for the Somali people. The EU also stresses the importance of addressing climate-security links in stabilisation efforts. The EU stands ready to accompany FGS and FMS efforts.
8. The EU welcomes the steps taken towards the National Security Architecture contributing to a more responsible, accountable, integrated and effective security sector. The EU calls for its implementation under Somali leadership and vision, with the aim to build capable, effective and efficient Somali Security Forces (SSF) with robust command and control, civilian oversight, accountability and governance structures in place. The EU recalls the jointly agreed objective of Somalia taking over the responsibility for its own security, underpinned by a robust legal and constitutional framework. The EU acknowledges the FGS's commitment to generating additional forces and to increasing their capacity, encouraging further efforts to ensure a smooth security transition.
9. The EU is committed to accompany the security transition in Somalia and highlights its decision to gradually increase support to the SNA in 2023-2024. It will also further calibrate the EU security-related instruments, including CSDP missions (EUCAP, EUTM) and Operation ATALANTA, to support the Somali security architecture and the holistic implementation of the Roadmap, including the mobilisation of additional funds to support counter-terrorist financing efforts and force generation needs. In doing so, the EU will assess the needs on the ground and those expressed by the FGS.

10. Moreover, beyond the current operations, the EU highlights the urgency for Somalia to maintain focus on the implementation of its security architecture and take full ownership for the transition, including ensuring comprehensive coordination between key security partners. The EU recalls the need for all partners to ensure a responsible transition from ATMIS to the SSF, in line with the exit strategy for ATMIS and the deadlines stipulated by UNSCR 2628 (2022)². The EU also recalls the benchmarks formulated jointly by the Quartet (FGS, UN, AU and EU), and encourages Quartet's regular meetings.
11. The EU highlights the importance of regional maritime security in the Horn of Africa, particularly along Somalia's coastline, given its strategic location and the offshore trade routes. The EU recalls its commitment to deepen its security cooperation with Somalia in the maritime domain, including through EUCAP and Operation ATALANTA, whilst pursuing efforts with the FGS to improve conditions for the EU operation to execute its full mandate.
12. The EU takes note of the steps Somalia has taken towards reaching completion point in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) process. Reaching HIPC Completion Point will mark an important milestone, just as improving domestic resource mobilisation will be critical to underpin more extensive state-building efforts, including in newly liberated areas. The EU welcomes the efforts of the Somali government to enhance public financial management, foster meritocracy and ensure accountability. The EU encourages and supports Somalia to further advance policy reforms aimed at strengthening public financial management systems, anti-corruption and revenue generation to fund basic service delivery, including security and stabilisation. The EU encourages Somalia to advance its accession to the World Trade Organisation.

² Including for the full drawdown of ATMIS, by the end of December 2024.

13. The EU welcomes the wish of the Somali government to deepen business linkages between Somalia and the EU by promoting trade and investment, including through the operationalisation of the EU-Somali Investment, Trade and Business Platform. The EU also takes positive note of the willingness of FGS to diversify the economy and appreciates the approach to the Blue Economy in Somalia, while standing ready to engage on fisheries and coastal communities.
14. The EU is extremely alarmed by the deepening humanitarian crisis³ in the country caused by the prolonged drought, protracted conflict and associated displacement. The EU reaffirms its commitment to continue providing humanitarian assistance based on needs and in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, while advocating for principled humanitarian action and access. Acknowledging the ongoing efforts⁴, the EU further calls on the international community to scale up humanitarian support to prevent further loss of life. In parallel, the EU calls on the FGS and FMS to ensure humanitarian access and facilitate neutral and impartial delivery of assistance, in line with relevant international legal frameworks. In the face of severe and recurrent climate-related disasters, the EU underlines its support for the implementation of Somalia's Climate Change National Adaptation Plan, as well as the sustainable management of water resources.

³ In June 2023, whilst looming famine has been averted, the needs remain high, with more than 8.25 million Somali people in need of humanitarian assistance including approximately 1.8 million children acutely malnourished.

⁴ Inter alia the High-Level Pledging Event to support the Humanitarian Response in the Horn of Africa organised in New York in May 2023, which allowed to mobilise \$2.4 billion for Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

15. Within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Horn of Africa, adopted in May 2021, the focus of the EU's strengthened and focused partnership with Somalia is now on jointly implementing the Roadmap and maintaining the positive dynamic. The EU, through the integrated approach, will continue to mobilise its entire toolbox in support of Somalia. In the context of the mid-term review of the NDICI-Global Europe programming, the EU stands ready to commit additional resources to the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (2021-2027). Moreover, the EU will continue to mobilise the Global Gateway, humanitarian assistance, as well as the EPF and CSDP missions and operation. Regular political dialogues, including high-level and sectoral dialogues with Somalia, will be key to further discussing priorities, cooperation and implementation, in a spirit of partnership.
16. The challenges currently facing the Horn of Africa and Somalia can only be overcome through joint and closely coordinated action. Somalia's overall stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as peaceful development, are key for the country, the region and for the EU. The EU calls for reinforced international cooperation, partnerships and coordination under Somali initiative and leadership, to support the development of a safe and stable Somalia. Regional cooperation and support from Somalia's neighbouring countries is pivotal for stability in the region. The EU encourages Somalia to continue to advance its active engagement at both regional and international level, including with the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community and the Horn of Africa Initiative. In line with its Horn of Africa Strategy, the EU remains committed to support regional integration. The EU, including through the engagement of the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, will remain in close contact with countries in the region and with like-minded regional and international partners to ensure a common approach in support of Somalia's lasting peace and stability.
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