

**UNSOM Renewal Statement by**

**Ambassador Abukar Osman, Permanent Representative of Somalia to the UN in NY**

**March 27 th, 2018**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honor for me to speak again before the Security Council today. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your country's assumption of the presidency of the Council this month. I wish to assure you of my delegation's full support during your term in office. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait, for the outstanding work he accomplished on his watch in the month of February.

**Mr. President,**

I appreciate the Council's invitation and am excited to be present here to witness the adoption of this very important resolution ----- (2018), which, I believe, provides essential assistance for our new Government and facilitates the achievement of its policy of developing Somalia in the areas of, inter alia, political inclusiveness, governance, economic development and security. We welcome this unanimous adoption and appreciate the support and constructive engagement of Council members in committing to support Somalia and the Government's efforts to tackle the many complex challenges it faces. Though there may be nuanced differences in how Council members assess the current situation, we are united in recognizing the important role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Somalia.

I believe that the recently adopted resolution ensures that support by the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular UNSOM towards Somalia, will be truly effective. We are also confident that the Security Council, the international community and all other partners in the development of Somalia's future will adhere by what is clearly expressed here — that the current national reconstruction efforts, we are engaged in the Somali Republic, must be Somali-driven, and must be seen as Somali-driven. Having said that, we remain deeply concerned with UNSOM senior officials periodically, making erroneous statements during conferences on political issues

on Somalia. We are further troubled by the negative impacts these statements generate in UNSC as well as in Somalia. Those actions shouldn't get the UNSC members distracted from the challenges and issues on the ground. Accordingly, we strongly urge UNSOM leadership to remain committed on carrying their duties as set out in their mandate, and refrain from sensationalizing political trends, which can be harmful to our current effort in the government-led political process as well as peace and political stability in Somalia.

**Mr. President,**

The Somali Government will continue to be one that strives towards unity and works to enhance constructive dialogue in order to settle the outstanding issues between the Federal Government and all Regional Authorities. Nonetheless, we cannot abide any unconstitutional decisions taken by a Regional Authority, including the Northwestern Region of Somalia (Somaliland) – since such actions would undermine the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, which are all guaranteed under our Constitution.

In that regard, with sights set on preserving the unity of Somalia's territory and people, our Parliament voted to unanimously reject the United Arab Emirates-based DP World agreement with Northwestern Region Authority (Somaliland) and to commit the Government of Somalia to taking measures to secure Somalia's unity and sovereignty under Article 1 of our constitution.

Two years ago, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed an agreement with Somaliland Regional Authorities to establish a UAE military base in Berbera without the consent of the Federal Government of Somalia. The Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group confirmed in its latest annual report (S/2017/924) that construction of the new facilities is underway. The Monitoring Group further stated that the establishment of a foreign military base in Berbera, involving the transfer of military material to the territory, would constitute a violation of the arms embargo on Somalia.

These actions taken by the UAE in Somalia are in clear violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international relations and international cooperation. Therefore, the Federal Government of Somalia calls on the Security Council to take the necessary steps, in accordance with its mandate to maintain international peace and security,

to put an end to these actions and ensure the implementation of its resolution concerning Somalia.

The Federal Government of Somalia strongly condemns these blatant violations, and reaffirms that it will take the necessary measures deriving from its primary responsibility to defend the inviolability of the sovereignty and the unity of Somalia in accordance with the Somali constitution and international law and covenants.

**To conclude Mr. President,**

I cannot end my remarks without once again expressing to the Council the gratitude of the people and the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia for the continued efforts made by the United Nations to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country and to guarantee its peace and political stability.

**Thank you**