



# 10 years

AU & EU  
Partnership  
for Somalia





AMISOM's work in Somalia is made possible by key strategic partners such as the European Union, without whom our operations would not be possible. Every milestone and achievement by the mission is a tribute to their continued support, friendship and partnership.



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Photo: HE Abdirahman Omar Osman

# Somalia is Rising, One Steady Step at a Time

The country has gone through extremely tough times since 1991 when the state collapsed. While we have witnessed civil war, chaos, piracy and extremism, the country is now making huge strides in every sector. We are immensely grateful for the support of our African brothers and sisters in AMISOM who answered the call to help bring peace and stability to Somalia. African forces and the Somali National Army have fought hard against an extremist enemy who are intent on destroying not only Somalia but the East African region and beyond. With critical support from AMISOM, we have laid the foundations for institutional reforms to thrive. One such initiative is the Public Finance Management Capacity Strengthening Project. For the first time in decades, we enjoy a good relationship with the IMF and the World Bank who are confident that we are headed in the right direction as regards managing our finances.

The political progress that the country has made during this period is very apparent. Since 2000, Somalia has had successive working governments. Some were transitional but from 2012, we have had permanent governments in office and serving the Somali people. We have successfully adopted a federal system of government with the creation of states that have their own Parliaments, Executives and Judiciaries. By capacitating the regions to be autonomous, we have taken the leadership closer to the people and improved the way that the vast country of Somalia is governed. With the existence of a forum where regional leaders and the federal state meet regularly to discuss the way forward and the future, the concept of consensus building is gaining traction.

As agreed during Somalia's national consultative process in 2015, the new Federal Parliament is constituted on the basis of the 4.5 power sharing formula where all clans are represented in government as well as in the council of ministers. This inclusive and fully representative approach is a way to foster consensus building and trust. As a result of the implementation of the formula, there have been significant representational improvements in this year's

elections. In 2012, 135 elders selected 275 Members of Parliament. In the last election (2016/2017), each MP was elected by representatives from the regional constituencies while before, this process only took place in Mogadishu. This monumental step is an indicator that our electoral frameworks and systems of governance are maturing. Our future plans are to transition from a clan system to a political party system: Once this is in place, it can pave the way towards achieving universal suffrage, one-man-one-vote, in 2020.

To the credit of the government, we are heavily invested in intensive consultation with our people on every key legislation that we draft and table in Parliament. It is in the same spirit that we hope to resume the constitutional review process. As regards matters of security, we have undertaken bold steps towards security reform. The National Security Policy of 2016 set the framework for Somalia's security institutions and decision-making. The Federal Government and Member States reached a historical political agreement on Somalia's National Security Architecture in April 2017. It set out to integrate federal and regional forces into a coherent National Security Architecture as well as facilitate 4 key areas of reform; numbers, distribution, command and control as well as the funding of Somali Security Forces at federal and state level.

The wave of reform has also seen significant changes within the Judiciary. We are working towards devolving the Judiciary to the regions and creating a tiered court structure. Recently, the Federal Government of Somalia launched a new training curriculum for the Somali judiciary. The course will be rolled out in Mogadishu as well as in Jubbaland, Southwest State, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, and Puntland. It will be run in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at Mogadishu University and targets 350 judges, prosecutors and registrars for training in 2017.

Gender inclusivity is a fundamental tenet of the Federal Government's agenda. In the recent elections, the clans were required to include women to occupy a designated



Photo: HE Abdirahman Omar Osman

quota of 30% of seats in the federal legislative assembly. Through rigorous campaign efforts and public awareness initiatives, we have succeeded in securing 26% female representation in parliament. We have also allocated to women key ministerial portfolios such as Health, Youth & Sports, Commerce & Industry, Women & Human Rights, Ports and Humanitarian. In total, we have 6 female ministers and 2 deputy ministers. We are proud that the girls and women of Somalia have female role models within government to look up to. We intend to ensure that this spirit of inclusivity and gender balance is implemented in the regions as well. The Benadir region particularly, can be credited with appointing women to top senior positions in their regional government. While it has not been easy to implement in the past, people are now coming to the realization that gender balance is important. Many Somali women have historically been the breadwinners of their families. Since the civil war when the men left the country or went to war, women stepped into the role of providing for their families. We strongly believe that their active contribution to leadership and governance has helped the country to move forward. It has been proven that women in positions of power are less likely to be involved on corrupt activities. The role of women is vital to the development of the society and we as a government will continue to push this agenda.

### **Somalia is open for business**

Walking through the streets of Mogadishu you will notice that there are people from all walks of life, not just

Somalis alone. We have even had tourists from China! The increased number of visitors and entrepreneurs is an indicator that Somalia is ready for engagement with others. We have reached out to the World Tourism Organization and expressed our interest in developing a master plan for tourism. We are keen to begin laying the groundwork for tourism even as we continue the peace and stabilization efforts. Increased stability is attracting visitors to Somalia and it is my hope that this will continue.

My vision is to see a democratic Somalia that positively engages its neighbours and makes valuable contributions to IGAD, the African Union, the United Nations and to the world at large. We are entering a new chapter and what we want most is a nation that is at peace with itself, its neighbours and the world. I made the decision to come back home from the United Kingdom in 2008 to serve my country and make my contribution towards its growth. My reason for doing so is my belief that if we don't do it for ourselves, no one else will. Not only are our people very resilient and enterprising, they are very attached to democracy; everyone wants to do something to serve the nation and this is a valuable asset. We want to provide an opportunity for every citizen to be a leader in his or her own small way and contribute towards making Somalia the great nation that it once was.

*His Excellency Abdirahman Omar Osman (Eng. Yarisow) is the Minister of Information, Culture & Tourism of the Federal Republic of Somalia.*





# EU-AMISOM Partnership: *A Message from the EU Ambassador to Somalia*

Ten years ago, a young continental organisation, the African Union, asked the European Union to support its efforts to stabilise Somalia: a once thriving country consumed by violence following the collapse of the Government in 1991 and the expansion of the terrorist group Al-Shabaab.

The European Union did not hesitate. Critical issues were at stake: the safety of the Somali people at the centre of it, but also the stability of the Horn of Africa region and the importance of continuing to lend support to the African Union as the main provider of security in the continent. What started with the establishment of the African Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) as a short-term operation of 6 months, turned into the longest partnership ever between the European Union and an African peacekeeping mission. And we are proud of it and the achievements made together over the years in Somalia for the Somali people.

With the benefit of a decade-long hindsight, we can see more clearly the immense contribution of AMISOM to the political and security progress made in Somalia over the years. From the liberalisation of Mogadishu in 2011, to the inauguration of the Federal Government of Somalia in 2012 and the successful electoral process earlier this year; all this was possible thanks to the sacrifices of men and women from the Troop Contributing Countries who contributed to the creation of space for a political dialogue in Somalia. The European Union pays tribute to them at this significant moment.

Whilst great political and security gains have been made, it is also clear that a lot remains to be done to safeguard and advance those gains. For peace and growth to be sustainable, Somalia must provide for its own security,

building its own capacity. And as this occurs, AMISOM, which has borne the main effort to maintain security in Somalia, can progressively hand over responsibility to the Somali security forces.

This is the letter and the spirit of the Security Pact agreed by the Federal Government of Somalia in London, and of the UN Security Council Resolution 2372/2017, following the AU-UN AMISOM review of May 2017. The latter also foresees a gradual drawdown of 1,500 AMISOM forces from December 2017 to 2018.

It is essential that we collectively ensure the success of this transition from AMISOM to a Somali-owned security. For that to be the case, it must be conditions-based: that is done responsibly, in a coordinated and orderly manner, and it must also be time-bound.

The European Union is ready and willing to be fully engaged in this process, with the Somali Government and our partners in the international community, starting with the African Union. We want Somalia to rise again, and Somalia can count on the European Union to fulfil that aspiration.

This special edition of the AMISOM magazine is a tribute to 10 years of partnership of the European Union and the African Union in Somalia, and the achievements made, together with the Somali people. And it is also a reminder of the unique opportunity for Somalia to start taking its destiny in its own hands. The European Union will be there, as it has always been, to accompany Somalia in this journey.

*Veronique Lorenzo,*  
EU Ambassador to Somalia.

# Taking Stock of How Far We Have Come: *A Message From The SRCC*



Somalia is without a doubt, a nation on the rise. Through AMISOM's work over the last 10 years and owing to the indomitable spirits of the Somali people and their determination to rebuild, significant strides in the nation's socio-political arena have been made. These efforts have changed the face of Somalia and have catalyzed exponential growth in the sectors of security, governance, social services and commerce. Thanks to the tireless efforts of a number of key international partners including AMISOM, Somalis can boast a new constitution, a functioning parliament, strengthened electoral processes, the formation of federal states and a growing economic sector. The wheels of progress are turning, slowly but surely. The achievements that we have realized in the decade of our existence have been made possible by the unwavering support of our partners such as the European Union. They have steadfastly walked this journey with us and in so doing, have enabled us to carry out our weighty mandate: Any success that AMISOM celebrates therefore, belongs to them as well.

In the last few years, AMISOM has facilitated a conducive atmosphere for not one but two political transitions through elections, in 2012 and again in 2017. Given the conclusion of the presidential and parliamentary elections earlier this year, it is evident that the principle of universal suffrage, one-man-one-vote, is no longer a distant pipe dream; Somalis can realistically hope to achieve this by 2020. We have also witnessed the gradual but steady strengthening of Somali security forces. For the first time in over 20 years, the security of the capital city of Mogadishu has become the responsibility local forces. It is my fervent hope that this positive trend is eventually replicated in every corner of Somalia. In addition to the mission's military activities, AMISOM Police has played a fundamental role in providing much-needed training and mentoring to support its Somali counterparts. It is of paramount importance to us to continue to capacitate Somali National Security Forces in preparation for their full take over as AMISOM works towards a conditional drawdown of its operations starting December 2017 as per UN Security Council Resolution 2372 of 2017. We shall nevertheless, continue to support the Somali government and other strategic partners incapacitating state

institutions, ensuring peace and stability and promoting sound, democratic governance.


It is with much gratitude that I acknowledge our successes in Somalia have been made possible by the dedicated support of our donors and partners. Through the tireless endeavors of the brave men and women of AMISOM, the mission's operations have changed the face of Somalia. AMISOM prides itself on having brought about relative peace and security, albeit at great cost to human life. I would like to profusely thank our African brothers and sisters who chose to walk side-by-side with Somalia by selflessly contributing troops and police to serve the mission in the 10 years of our existence. We honour the brave sacrifice of every fallen soldier and the great African nations from which they hailed. If we are to ensure the seamless execution of our core mandate, it is of paramount importance to continue to act collectively in solidarity and unity, in support of peace, security and the stability of Somalia.

With the close of another successful year and on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AMISOM, it is important to underscore that the success of the mission has undoubtedly been made possible by the critical funding support provided by the European Union through the African Peace Facility (APF). Since 2007, the EU has contributed more than 1.5 billion euros to AMISOM

and ultimately, towards the cause of stabilizing Somalia. The APF's financial support to AMISOM is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive and long-term approach to support security and development efforts in Somalia. This approach comprises political, diplomatic, civilian, military, humanitarian and development dimensions, all of which are integral components of the mission. As our biggest donor, the European Union have been a steadfast and loyal partner in ensuring the funding of our operations and efforts to help its people rebuild Somalia and make it the great nation that it once was.

*Amb. Francisco Caetano Madeira, The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia*

Since 2007, the EU has contributed more than €1.5 billion to AMISOM and ultimately, towards the cause of stabilizing Somalia.



Senators cast their vote to determine the Speaker of the Upper House, as well as the two Deputy Speakers, during an election in Mogadishu, Somalia, on January 22, 2017.  
AMISOM Photo/Tobin Jones

# Somalia's 2016/2017 Elections: *Making Strides Towards Universal Suffrage*

The recently concluded elections in Somalia have been touted as a success and a decisive step towards peace, stability and the growth of democracy. Somalia's new president, Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo" Mohamed, seamlessly took over the reins of leadership from Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who conceded defeat after a relatively peaceful poll in February 2017. The electoral process made significant strides in the inclusion of women and youth.

## **The election mode**

Given the security challenges in the country and the fact that Al Shabaab had vowed to scuttle the process, universal suffrage proved to be an electoral solution that wasn't yet a viable possibility for Somalia. Instead, 135 traditional elders picked 14,025 delegates who elected 275 MPs to the Lower House of Somalia's bicameral parliament. 54 senators were elected by their respective state assemblies to the Upper House. Together, they elected the president. Despite

challenges, the process has seen marked improvement: In 2012, 135 elders directly selected members of a unicameral parliament. With the provision of security by AMISOM and Somali Security Forces, the casting of ballots successfully took place in six cities within the regions, in addition to Mogadishu.

Somalia's national consultative process in 2015 agreed on a parliamentary constitution on the basis of a mix of community and geography. The 275 seats of the House of the People were distributed in accordance with the 4.5 power-sharing formula between the clans. These seats were also distributed between the existing and emerging federal member states. The Upper House on the other hand, represents the six federal states and their respective state assemblies elected their members.

Several delays occurred ahead of the parliamentary elections for several reasons, including disagreements

over the electoral process, disputes within and between federal member states and the unprecedented logistical and security challenges of holding parliamentary votes in six different cities across the country. Continued insecurity did not help either – the Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab vowed to step up its attacks to disrupt the elections. Electoral delays however, should not obscure the country's progress towards cleaner and more inclusive polls. The efforts and gains made are a sign that one-man-one-vote is achievable.

## **Gender and inclusion of women**

Since its deployment, AMISOM has been at the forefront of championing the rights of the women in Somalia. It has worked extensively with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to develop policies and frameworks to ensure gender inclusion and participation. One of the key thematic areas that AMISOM





The new president of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi “Farmajo” Mohamed is sworn in after he was declared the winner of the presidential election held at the Mogadishu Airport hangar in Mogadishu on February 8, 2017. AMISOM Photo/Ilyas Ahmed

has engaged in to support women’s inclusion in nation building is political participation. The Federal Government, together with AMISOM and other partners, has developed initiatives to ensure that the 30% quota for women is supported and implemented. While this target has not yet been reached, current figures suggest that female representation stands at 25%. This is more than 10% higher than the 14% achieved in the 2012 elections. This exponential increase is proof that there is political goodwill to implement real inclusion of women in government. In the run-up to the elections in February, some religious leaders offered support for women’s engagement in politics, stating that Islam isn’t at odds with female political engagement.

While there exists the challenge to create regulatory frameworks to ensure that the 30% quota rule is enforceable, significant strides have been made in the gender space.

### **Gains made in the electoral process**

A number of positive outcomes resulted from the protracted 2016/2017 electoral process: There has been an exponential increase in participation, coverage, oversight and scrutiny, both in the press and on social media, locally and internationally. The knock-on effect of this is a government that is more inclusive, both politically and geographically, than those produced by previous elections.

- The latest round of elections saw the president elected by the new bicameral parliament when in 2012, a single parliamentary house voted for the president. Inclusivity and representation therefore, have been on the rise.
- While security remains a key concern, stabilization and the growth of democracy is a tangible reality. Thanks to security efforts

by AMISOM and Somali Security Forces, elections were held in the 6 federal state capitals across Somalia. It was only just in 2009 when elections had to be held in Djibouti for security reasons while in 2012, parliamentary elections were centered in Mogadishu alone. Along with the role of federal states in selecting the Upper House of parliament, this further ties decision-making processes in the Mogadishu parliament with the regions.

- The federal electoral implementation team, through the electoral dispute mechanism nullified 11 election results and sought to re-contest seats without disqualified candidates. Though they have faced accusations of being subject to political influence, this demonstrates the ability of federal authorities to respond where there have been cases of misconduct.

# The European Union Training

The European Union's mission to contribute to the training of the Somali Security Forces was the first military training mission launched by the EU. Deployed in April 2010, EUTM Somalia has contributed to the training of approximately 5,000 Somali soldiers with a focus on the training of Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), Junior Officers, specialists and trainers.

EUTM Somalia operates in close cooperation and coordination with other international actors; in particular the United Nations, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United States of America's US MCC. In September 2017, A total of 105 Somali National Army (SNA) troops concluded a nine-month-long infantry course on combat skills in built-up areas and landmine clearance. The training was a part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of Somali security forces to take over the security of their country. The light infantry company course, which began in January 2017, was conducted at the General Dhegabadan Training Centre in Mogadishu, by trainers from the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia.

"During this course, we experienced some difficulties but by working



Brigadier General Pietro Addis, the Commander of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia addresses Somali National Army (SNA) soldiers during a pass-out ceremony to mark the completion of a light infantry training course conducted by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia at the General Dhegabadan Training Centre (Jazeera) in Mogadishu, Somalia on September 10, 2017. AMISOM Photo/Omar Abdisalan

together, we have been able to successfully complete the programme thanks to your commitment, the motivation of the soldiers and the overall outstanding performance of EUTM trainers," Brigadier General Pietro Addis, the Commander of the EUTM in

Somalia said, during the official closing of the course.

"EUTM will continue day after day to prepare new troops to secure Somalia, trained, motivated, capable and an accountable army to ensure the country's security responsibility," Brig. Gen. Addis added.

## Other EU CSDP Missions In Somalia

### *EU NAVFOR Somalia*

The European Union Naval Force (Operation Atalanta) was launched on 8 December 2008 and is conducted in accordance with United Nations Security Council's resolutions. The Operation has been extended by the European Council until December 2018 and has the following objectives:

- Protects vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP), African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other vulnerable shipping.
- Deters and disrupts piracy and armed robbery at sea.
- Monitors fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.
- Supports other EU missions and international organisations working to strengthen maritime security and capacity in the region.



EUCAP Somalia in conjunction with the AMISOM Maritime Unit conduct a training course aimed at enhancing maritime capabilities of Somali Police officers from the Maritime Police Unit, enabling them to maintain and safely operate their boats. The course included exercises at sea and case studies simulating the interception of arms smuggling.



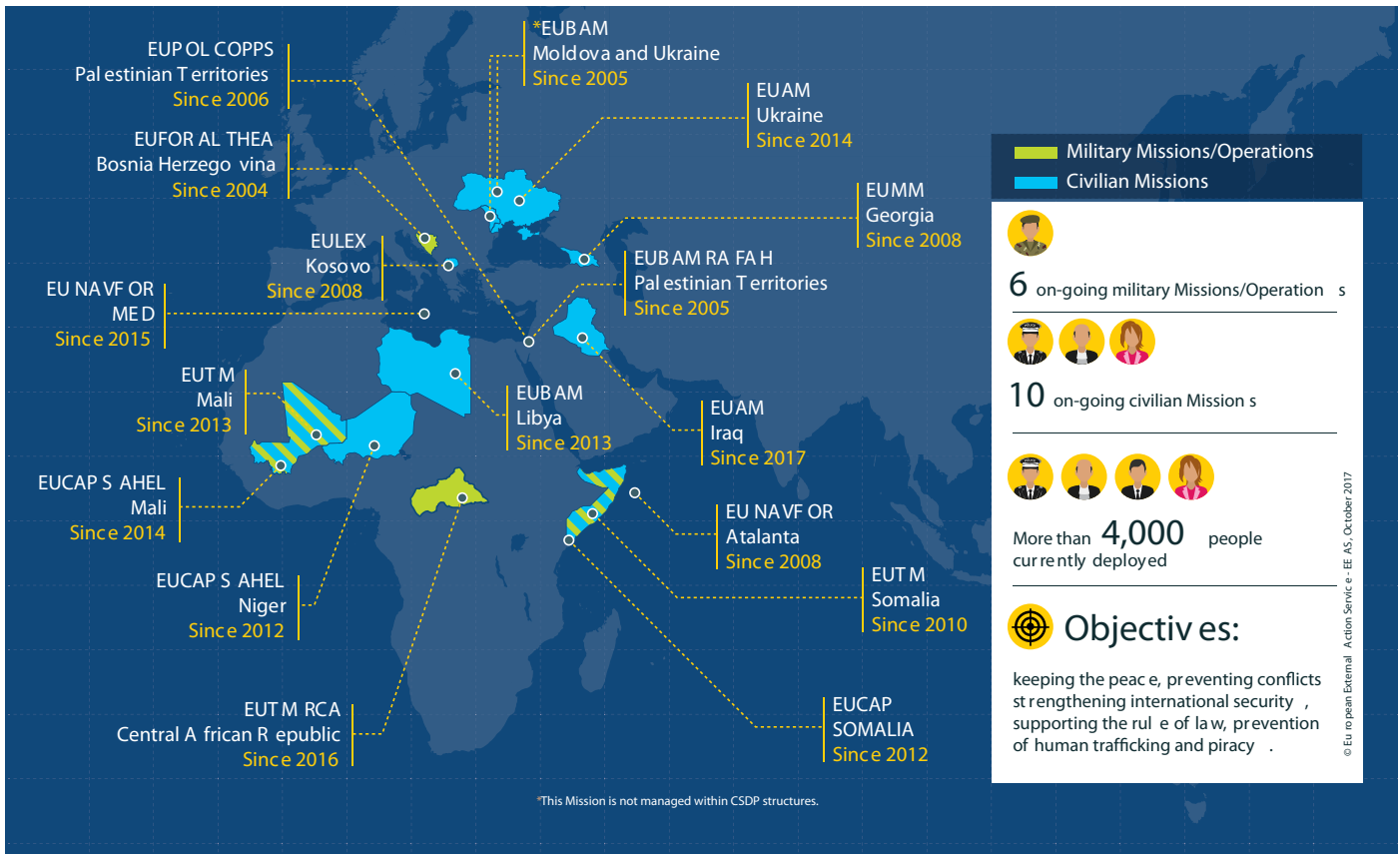
Somali National Army (SNA) soldiers during a pass-out ceremony to mark the completion of a light infantry training course conducted by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia at the General Dhegabadan Training Centre (Jazeera) in Mogadishu, Somalia.



# Mission (EUTM) in Somalia



## EUROPEAN UNION CSDP OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS 2017



### EUCAP Somalia

EUCAP Somalia contributes to the establishment and capacity building of maritime civilian law enforcement capability in Somalia. In July 2012, the EU launched EUCAP Nestor, a

civilian mission which assists host countries develop self-sustaining capacity for enhancement of maritime security.

At its launch, EUCAP Nestor was mandated to work across the Horn

of Africa (HoA) and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). As at the end of 2015, following a strategic review of the mission, activities focus solely on Somalia. The Mission Headquarters is currently located in Mogadishu.



Soldiers demonstrate field military tactics during a pass-out ceremony of a light infantry training course conducted by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia at the General Dhegabadan Training Centre in Mogadishu, Somalia on September 10, 2017. AMISOM Photo/Omar Abdalsalan

Senior military officers from the Somali National Army (SNA), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia, follow proceedings as Somali National Army (SNA) soldiers demonstrate field military tactics during a pass-out ceremony to mark the completion of a light infantry training course conducted by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia at the General Dhegabadan Training Centre (Jazeera) in Mogadishu, Somalia on September 10, 2017. AMISOM Photo/Omar Abdalsalan

# Somalia's Economy Marches On

A terrible war once descended upon the nation of Somalia, bringing with it an era of warlords and terror. 26 years on, the country has an entirely different face. Much like a fledgling phoenix, rising renewed from the ashes of a destructive fire, Somalia is heralding a new season. To the undiscerning, the dominant narrative of Somalia is a war-torn nation overrun by Al Shabaab but those who have spent any length of time there know otherwise.

The impact of renewed economic activity is largely visible in the capital city, where attractive office buildings and residential apartments are replacing bullet-riddled, dilapidated structures. The acceleration of Mogadishu's economic growth continues thanks to the country's reliance on livestock, fisheries and a resurgent private sector, which includes telecommunications, hospitality, construction, trade and money remittance services. Traffic jams comprising vehicles of all sorts snake their way through well tarmacked and lit roads in the capital city - almost defiantly asserting that Somalis are determined to create a new world for themselves.

Fishing in the capital is a big economic activity. Remarkably, the bustling Xamarwayne fish market in Mogadishu managed to keep its doors open all through Somalia's dark decades of conflict. The fishing business is now experiencing a boom due to the increased security facilitated by AMISOM and Somali Security Forces. The market and its growing number of customers provide steady income for fishermen, traders and even porters who hand carry the day's catch of kingfish, tuna, sailfish and shark from the shore to eagerly waiting fishmongers at the market.

Ahmed Moumin Ekar says, "Sometimes it's a lot, at other times it's only a little. When the catch is small, we get 12 US dollars per kilogram

for kingfish, but when we've got a lot, it's 6 dollars per kilogram. Today, the kingfish are very few and it's always in great demand."

The abundance of fish available is no surprise given Somalia's 3,000 km long coastline, the longest in Africa. It is arguably one of the country's greatest resources.

## ***The business-savvy women of Mogadishu***

The enterprising spirit of the Somali people is not the exclusive preserve of the men; women are also heavily invested in the economic rebirth of the country. Luul Mohamed Osman was an established hotelier before the civil war broke out in Somalia in 1991, forcing her to seek refuge in Italy. She returned to her country five years ago, to pick up the pieces and start afresh.

"In 2012, I moved to Somalia. I was supposed to change my life and stabilize my life here in my country since I was tired of living outside Somalia," says Luul, who ran a popular eatery and guesthouse in the Zoobe area of Mogadishu. On 14th October 2017, a major bomb blast destroyed her business.

Luul is one of the many Somali women who have overcome the odds and become breadwinners for their families by establishing businesses that also provide employment to thousands of Somalis.

The hotelier, whose spirit has not been broken despite the setback, is busy putting finishing touches to another hotel and catering establishment that she is set to launch along a well-known street in Mogadishu.

"Now it is running but it's still not open because I'm worried about giving it a name. To put up a business sign here attracts significant risk. It is very hard and problematic to work in these conditions," Luul explains. The place is bustling, especially at lunch and dinner times, as it offers a variety of Italian dishes.

"There's food, there are beverages, and on Thursday night there's music. We should make the people happy because people here (in Mogadishu) have money but they don't have pastimes to distract them. They don't have anywhere to go," Luul says.

Luul is optimistic despite the adversity and distress caused by insecurity in her city. "We have to go on, we don't stop.



Hersio Abdulle Siad, founder of Somfresh Fruits and Vegetables, displaying some of the produce being packed for distribution in Mogadishu. Photo: Allan Atulinda



“Whatever happens, since we’re alive, since we’re strong, we work,” referring to recent attacks in Mogadishu that took the lives of relatives and close friends.

Across the city, another woman has turned her taste for high quality fruits and vegetables into a booming business venture. Hersio Abdulle Siad founded an enterprise that packs and distributes fresh produce to Mogadishu markets. She started her business from scratch in 2003, with savings from her previous employment.

“Other than advice from relatives and friends, nobody gave me money,” says Hersio. The company now specializes in selling yellow ripe bananas, a popular fruit in Somali cuisine.

While her initial clients were hotels, restaurants and cafes in Mogadishu, Hersio has grown the business to include women who sell bananas on the streets. The business has flourished, now employing 20 permanent staff and another 70 during peak seasons and using four vehicles to deliver the staple fruits. Hersio has big plans for her company, “My plan is to own a



The first Dahabshiil Bank branch in Kismayo. Photo: Dahabshiil Bank

farm for my company. I can train my staff so that I can produce a clean product. I can produce the famous yellow Somali banana,” the determined businesswoman adds.

***Elsewhere in Somalia, the regions have not been left behind***

Mogadishu being the capital city and the seat of the federal government, has long spearheaded commerce in

Somalia. The regions however, are determined to catch up. In a historic move, Dahabshiil Bank recently opened its doors in Kismaayo, Jubbaland in August 2017. This development in Dahabshiil’s expansion was welcomed by the Jubbaland Administration as a significant step towards augmenting the state’s financial services sector. Farid Jama Suleiman, Minister Commerce of the Federal State of Jubbaland, stated that he was honored to be part of the DBI event since the Bank symbolized another notch on the development scale of Jubbaland. “We wholeheartedly welcome Dahabshiil Group and DBI to all of Jubbaland with the honor it deserves,” Minister Farid stated.

Increasing stability in the regions creates a setting that is attractive to investors and an environment where business, commerce and industry can thrive. A great number of jobs are ordinarily created as a result and thus, the living conditions of innumerable households in the area are substantially elevated.

All its challenges notwithstanding, Somalia’s greatest resource has always and always will be its people. Their unbreakable spirit has lifted the country back onto the world stage and the nation is rising once again.



A young fisherman near the Xamarweyne Fish Market in Mogadishu with his catch of the day, a large sailfish. AMISOM Photo/Stuart Price

# AMISOM Military: *10 Years on the Front*

Somalia is home to a people whose rich history and culture spans hundreds of years. It is a country that knows all too well, the bitter taste of decades-long war, famine and political instability. The nation's progress ground to a halt with the onset of the civil war in 1991 and the subsequent collapse of the government. With the ouster of Siad Barre, the country's last military leader, Somalia descended into what would be an entire decade of instability.

The collapse of Government and the civil war that followed plunged the nation of Somalia into chaos and untold violence. As casualties continued to mount, it became apparent that the need for strategic intervention in Somalia was key to establishing lasting peace and stability. Consequently, on 20th February 2007, the United Nations Security Council, under Resolution 1744(2007) 13, authorized the African Union (AU) to deploy a peacekeeping mission with an initial mandate of 6 months. Its aim was to create a support mechanism for Somalia's Transitional Federal Government by countering the war waged by the Al-Shabaab.

In March 2007, 1,000 Ugandan soldiers deployed to Somalia, initially controlling little more than the tiny parcel of land upon which the airport stood. As AMISOM slowly expanded its numbers, it pushed Al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu and eventually, out of every major urban area in Somalia. The mission slowly grew with added contingents from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Since its initial deployment, AMISOM has endeavored to partner with Somali security forces in the fight against Al-Shabaab as a means of building their



Soldiers celebrate as the Al Shabaab-controlled town of Buulomareer is liberated by AMISOM forces in the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia on August 30 2014 during Operation Indian Ocean. AMISOM Photo/Tobin Jones

capacity. In mid-2011, Somali forces fought alongside AMISOM in the second Battle of Mogadishu (2010-2011) to take back the capital, including the Al Shabaab stronghold of Bakaara Market. In 2012, the Somali National Army (SNA) established six brigades stationed near Mogadishu, including

**“The focus for AMISOM going forward is to continue strengthening the capacity of the Somali National Army (SNA) and the Somali Police Force (SPF) as we begin the drawdown. Training and mentorship through joint operations will continue.”**

—Ambassador Francisco Madeira  
SRCC to the AU Mission in Somalia

two trained by the European Union Training Mission. That same year, SNA and AMISOM forces collaborated on Operation Sledge Hammer and successfully drove Al-Shabaab from its most strategically important base, the port city of Kismayo.

In October 2011, Kenyan forces launched a unilateral military intervention. Shortly thereafter, Ethiopian forces once again entered Somalia and advanced on Al-Shabaab positions across Bay, Bakool and Hiraan regions. In December of the same year, the AU developed a new Concept of Operations for AMISOM to take into account of these major developments. It outlined a larger AMISOM force of nearly 18,000 uniformed personnel and hugely expanded its theatre of operations across four land sectors covering South-Central Somalia. The AU's Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council endorsed this new posture in January and February 2012 respectively. The AMISOM troop contingent has since grown to over 22,000 troops, a number that is set to



reduce following AMISOM's decision to drawdown its troops by 2020

Over the course of the 10 years of its existence, AMISOM has managed to drive out Al-Shabaab from vast swathes of the country, including key towns in Somalia. This was executed through three major military operations namely, Operation Eagle, Operation Indian Ocean and Operation Jubba Corridor. The objectives of these operations were three-fold, namely, freeing cities, disrupting the terrorists' supply routes and preventing them from levying illegal taxes on the population. AMISOM's efforts and operations are continuous and ongoing based on the need to keep recovering territory, drive out Al Shabaab forces and facilitate the installation of Somali governance structures. As recently as November 2017, AMISOM troops have yet again launched a massive operation to flush out Al-Shabaab militants in the Lower Shabelle region and secure the main supply routes in the area.



Burundian soldier serving with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) communicates on a radio during a patrol near the village of Modmoday approx. 40km east of the central Somali town of Baidoa.

AMISOM Photo/Abdi Dakan



**AMISOM and Allied Forces enter Kismayo:** Soldiers of the Kenyan Contingent serving in AMISOM stand in front of the black flag of the Al Qaeda-affiliated extremist group Al Shabaab painted on the wall of Kismayo Airport on 02 October 2012.

AMISOM PHOTO/Stuart Price

## Operation Eagle

Launched in 2014, Operation Eagle aimed to seize control of the few remaining urban centers under Al Shabaab's control and consolidate the authority of the Somali Federal Government. It was a major joint military operation by AMISOM and the Somali National Army (SNA) and proved successful in liberating and driving out Al Shabaab from several strategic towns in the regions of Benadir, Lower Shabelle, Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Hiiraan, Galgaduud and Middle Shabelle. This strategy was continued under 'Operation Indian Ocean' and 'Operation Jubba Corridor'.

## Operation Indian Ocean

Operation Indian Ocean followed in August 2014: Its aim was to cut off key supply routes that act as the life line for Al-Shabaab and to remove them from their remaining coastal strongholds, including the port of Barawe, Al-Shabaab's administrative headquarters 100km south of the capital, Mogadishu. Other liberated towns included Tayeeglow, Bulomarer and Kurtunwaarey.

## Operation Jubba Corridor

In July 2015 AMISOM announced the resumption of active military offensive operations against the Al Shabaab in southern Somalia. This offensive, code named Operation Jubba Corridor, was aimed at removing the Al Shabaab from their strongholds in the Gedo (Taraka, Jungal, Duraned, Eel-elaan, Habakhaluul, Meyon, Magalay, Duraned, Bardhere), Bakool (Buur-dhuhunle, Kulun-jareer, Moragabey, Legaly and Gelewoyni) and Bay (Ufurow, Eesow, Hasanow-Mumin, LIidaale, Makoon, Dhargo and Manaas) regions of Somalia.

The hard-won peace and subsequent stabilization of security over the course of 10 years has brought with it sweeping change to the once war-torn nation. The initial interventions of AMISOM saw the Transitional Federal Government able to take residence in Somalia and subsequently hand over power. Somalia has a result seen two successive government regimes with seamless handovers of power.

The key successes of the military operations of AMISOM are that



Burundi



Djibouti



Ethiopia



Kenya



Uganda



it has won substantial territory from Al Shabaab and ensured an environment where Somali government institutions can rebuild and thrive. It has also facilitated the rebirth of the economy and the gradual return to normal life for the Somali people in a peaceful environment. The growth of Somali institutions and the strengthening of Somali security forces means that AMISOM can eventually hand over the responsibility of security back to the Somali people.

With the support of AMISOM's military operations, the authority of the Federal Government of Somalia has expanded outside of Mogadishu and into the regions, it has allowed for:

- The strengthening of democratic processes in the country and capacitation of the Somali National Government to provide governance and leadership e.g. through the creation of federal states and installation of regional governments.
- The successful execution of parliamentary and presidential elections in early 2017 that saw Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed 'Farmaajo' take office.
- An environment where the economy, industry and business can thrive.
- The return of refugees and diaspora Somalis, some of whom were born abroad and had never been to the country.
- The creation of a fully functioning society with access to social services and amenities such as education, healthcare and recreational activities.



AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Osman Noor Soubagleh, hands out Medals of Honour to Ethiopian soldiers belonging to the AMISOM contingent who completed tour of duty in Baidoa, Somalia, on July 15, 2017. AMISOM Photo



AMISOM Djiboutian female soldiers in a parade to mark Djibouti Armed Forces Day in Beletweyne, Somalia. AMISOM Photo/Mohamed Haji

In the face of AMISOM's impending conditional drawdown and gradual handover of security responsibilities to Somali institutions, an audit of AMISOM's presence in Somalia since 2007 can largely be said to have achieved significant results. The mission stepped in to halt the continued downward spiral of the Somali nation and has achieved the extraordinary feat of delivering it from the jaws of anarchy and chaos. The complex nature of the conflict prolonged the need to keep mission activities going but as marked gains continue to be made, AMISOM looks to Somali Security Forces to take up the reigns of securing the country and its people.



# Q&A with Mr Selidji Gbaguidi, The Head of the African Union Peace and Security Budget



## Q | What is the history of the African Peace Facility (APF)?

**A** The African Peace Facility (APF) was created in 2004 and is the mechanism through which the African Union receives financial support from partners such as the European Union (EU). It was designed to support peace on the continent and it utilises part of the AU development fund because we cannot have any conversations about development without peace as a precursor.

The AU's first engagement with the APF was in 2005 when it funded the organization's first mission in Darfur, AMISOM followed in 2007. It is of key importance to the AU to utilize its development fund to back peace across Africa. The idea behind the APF is to invest part of the development fund in supporting the mission and ultimately, assist the Somali nation to achieve an environment where development can thrive.

## Q | What has been the impact of the African Peace Facility (APF) to the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture?

**A** The African Union's Peace and Security Architecture has many components, one of which is the APF. There exist other components such as the Early Response Mechanism, Post Conflict, Conflict Management and the Peace Support Operations. The APF is one of the key tools among these and this is the area of support that the European Union has put in place to prevent and manage conflict in Africa.

## Q | With a particular focus on AMISOM, to what extent has EU support helped the financial capability of the AU towards peace and security in Somalia.

From 2007 to date, we have received about 1.5 billion euros from the European Union dedicated towards the AMISOM mission alone. Without the support from the EU, we would not have been able to effectively carry out the operations of AMISOM. Given that we receive 85% of our financial support from the EU, it remains the largest supporter of AMISOM. The progress witnessed in Somalia today is a key indicator that the APF has had a very positive impact on the stabilization efforts in Somalia.

## Q | Through the contribution of the European Union to the African Union's peacekeeping efforts in Somalia, what do you think have been the achievements regarding AU's financial capability towards sustainable peace and security in Somalia?

**A** At inception of the mission, the key objective was to fight the radicalism that had taken root in Somalia. This is a phenomenon that is affecting not just Somalia but its neighbours and the world at large. The African Union's intervention in the country was informed by the need to halt the spread of this radicalism as well as to pull the country back from the throes of war and chaos. While the AU might have had the will and personnel to intervene, it lacked sufficient funds to run such a large operation- the EU stepped in as its key financial partner and capacitated the AU to deploy troops and civilian personnel who have worked tirelessly to support the cause of bringing peace and stability to Somalia.

The funding of AMISOM by the European Union is the cornerstone upon which the mission's successes are built. In 13 years, the EU has contributed 2.7 billion Euros towards a number of peace and security operations across Africa. AMISOM being the largest and most demanding mission has been allocated about 55% of this amount. The mission has achieved much of what it set out to do in that life in Somalia is slowly returning to normal. AMISOM's gradual draw down, set to begin towards the end of 2017 is an encouraging indication that Somali institutions have begun to prepare to take over the gargantuan task of managing their country. This is a win for the Somali people, for AMISOM and its partners.

# Soaring High: Somalia's ICT And Aviation Sectors On The Mend

Mogadishu is a vibrant city rich in both industry and conflict, with a population of 1.4 million predominantly young people. Due to the increasing number of graduates, increased access to technology products and services, a growing culture of entrepreneurship and an influx of Somali diasporans, the need for the globally popular concept of co-working spaces to accommodate young entrepreneurial minds arose. iRise, opened in July 2017 to meet that need and became the very first of its kind in Somalia.

“There are no support networks or institutions that help ‘wantrepreneurs’ and entrepreneurs with the space, networks, skills and the resources they need,” says Awil Osman, founder and CEO of iRise Hub, Somalia’s first co-working space. In addition to acting as a co-working space, iRise provides research, incubation and acceleration services for new start-ups in the city.

According to Osman, the name “iRise” was inspired by the #SomaliaRising hash tag, which emerged in 2013 to highlight the stabilization and recovery efforts of the country, which had long been deemed a “failed state.” The



Photo: iRise

hash tag aimed to show the world the resilience of the Somali people and attract tourism and international investors to the country.

“Somalia is an emerging success story, but momentum needs to be sustained,” says Nicholas Kay, former UN special representative to Somalia. The IMF’s Somalia mission chief, Rogerio Zandamela agrees: “If improvement in security continues, the entrepreneurial private sector will continue to be the most dynamic contributor to economic growth,” he says.

“We are [one] of the players that are trying to map Somalia and show that we are no longer a failed state but a promising and beautiful country with human resources; 75% of the population is under 35 years old,” Osman asserts “iRise will create job opportunities and help create local solutions for local problems.”

So far, \$50,000 has been invested in the incubation centre, this is in spite of the fact that raising funds locally and internationally posed a significant challenge to the young



Jubba Airways crew. Photo: Elayne Okaya



iRise CEO and Co-Founder, Awil Osman. Photo: iRise





A Turkish Airlines aircraft at Aden Abdulle airport, Mogadishu. Photo: Turkish Airlines.



View of the Aden Abdulle Airport, Mogadishu from the runway. Photo: Elayne Okaya

entrepreneurs. Osman explains that finding ways to work with the city's "poor infrastructure" and "expensive bandwidth" was also difficult.

The co-working space is still in its early stages, with Osman and his team still trying to figure out what the face of the Mogadishu tech community looks like and how they can integrate it into iRise Hub's tech ecosystem. Even though the iRise Hub brand will remain in the capital, the three men behind iRise Hub are looking to start similar initiatives in other Somali cities with the help of the locals.

Much like the innovation happening in the ICT space, the Somali aviation industry is witnessing a rebirth. The Federal Republic of Somalia is slowly regaining its former glory and has shown rapid development including in the sector of aviation. It has proven to be instrumental in facilitating the movement of people and goods from city to city within the country and internationally. Once considered unsafe



Crew of one of Jubba Airlines aircraft pose for a photo. Photo: Elayne Okaya

for commercial airlines, Mogadishu's Aden Abdulle International Airport now receives flights daily and operates from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm everyday. In a great show of confidence for the nation's ever-increasing stability and improving stability, Kenya and Somalia opened a new charter of cooperation

in March 2017 by announcing plans to re-launch direct flights between Nairobi and Mogadishu. In so doing, Kenya ended an 11-year ban on direct flights for Mogadishu. The historic move signals a win for Somali aviation and enhances bilateral ties between the two Eastern African nations. To Kenya's credit, direct flights commenced the very next day after HE Uhuru Kenyatta made the announcement.

A number of Somali-owned and international airlines ply various routes within as well as in and out of Somalia. They include Jubba Airways, SAX, Daallo, African Express and Ocean Airlines to name a few. Turkish Airlines, the largest international carrier has served Somalia since 2011 with regular flights in and out of the country.

Given the state of increased security and a functioning aviation unit in the form of the Somalia Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (SCAMA), the Somali government is keen to resume the administration of its airspace, which is currently managed by the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO), whose mandate is set to end in 2018.

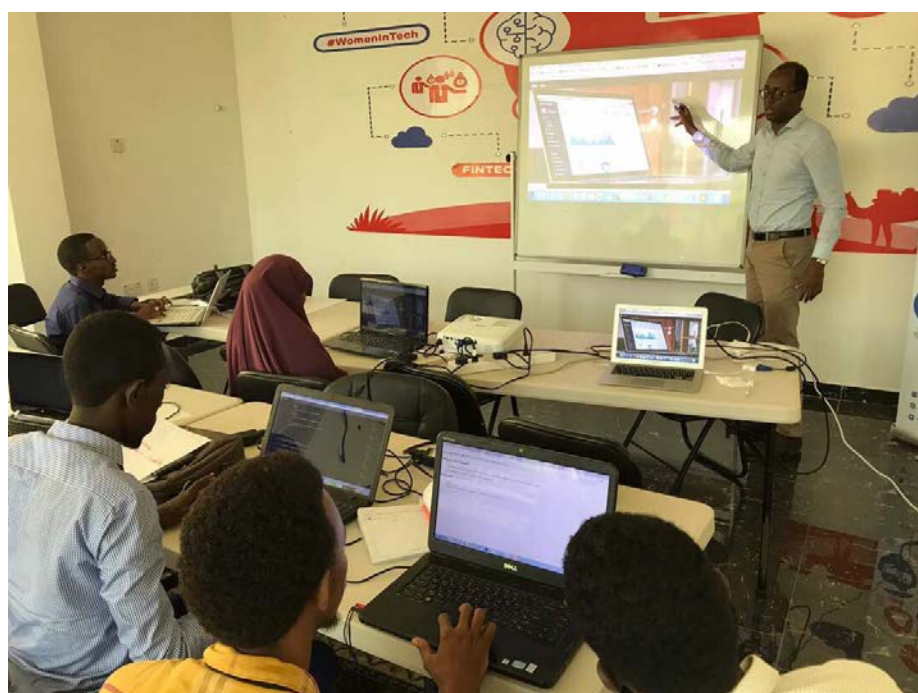


Photo: iRise

# An Analysis of EU Support to AMISOM: Q&A with Mr Koen Vervaeke



Koen Vervaeke is the Managing Director for Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS). He is a senior Belgian diplomat with a wealth of experience and expertise on Africa-EU relations. He was previously the Director for Horn of Africa, East & Southern Africa, Indian Ocean, and the Senior EU Coordinator for the Great Lakes region. He has also served as Head of the European Union Delegation to the African Union in Addis Abeba, (Ethiopia).

**Q** | **What is the history of the relationship between the EU and AMISOM/APF - kindly give a brief overview of EU relations with the AMISOM mission**

**A** From the start of African Union interventions in Somalia, the EU has been a fundamental part of African Union activities. When it was decided to launch AMISOM, the African Union turned to the European Union for support. This was part of a much broader engagement between the two organisations. The EU continues to maintain close and constructive relations with the African Union Commission (AUC) which ensures the political leadership over AMISOM. This partnership deepened over time and the situation in Somalia is notably part of the periodic meetings between the EU and AU PSC's (Political and Security Committee). On the ground, there are regular exchanges with the EU Delegation to Somalia and with the EU Training Mission in Somalia, which provides strategic advice and contributes to the capacity-building efforts of the Somali National Armed Forces.

**Q** | **What is the African Peace Facility and what are its key objectives?**

**A** In 2004, we were confronted with a new AU that showed results in tackling peace and security challenges in Africa. While it had the political goodwill to do so, it lacked the financial means to execute its mandate. The AU then called upon the EU to support and in so doing, the African Peace Facility was established, and thus, cemented the strong partnership between Europe and Africa. The APF is a revolutionary and innovative instrument that is financed through the European Development Fund. Its creation marked the first time that the EU made the strategic decision to invest in the security and peace efforts that the AU wanted to undertake in Africa. This enhanced AMISOM's legitimacy on the continent as an internationally recognized peace and security provider in Africa.

Since 2004 more than 2.7 billion euros have been invested in various peace operations in Africa, this includes AMISOM (Somalia), in Mali, South Sudan and the Central African Republic. The interventions that we support

are not always just military but also the less visible and arguably more important mediation efforts of the African Union.

**Q** | **What areas of support for AMISOM are covered by EU funding and how much funding has gone towards mission support since inception?**

**A** Since its establishment in 2007, The AMISOM mission is where the EU channels the bulk of its APF support. Of the €2.7 billion committed to peace and security in Africa, more than 55% have been dedicated to support AMISOM efforts.

In the 10 years of AMISOM's existence, the EU has supported the mission with more than €1.5 billion; currently that means €20 million/month. The lion's share of our support goes to the military component (85%), in the form of stipends to the troops. Other support includes the police component (5%), civilian personnel (5%) and some specific project funding. This is illustrative of the importance that the EU attaches to Somalia.



**Q** | **If you were to review the AMISOM mission from its inception ten years ago, what would you say have been the key successes and gains made, specifically those made possible by the APF?**

**A** Somalia is no longer a failed state, it is moving towards transitioning from fragility and that is in great part due to AMISOM. The EU pays tribute to the sacrifices made by the Troop Contributing Countries to help the Somali people achieve peace and stability. The political, security and economic gains that we have witnessed over the past decade cannot be understood without AMISOM. The mission has decisively contributed to create the conditions necessary to rebuild the foundations of a functioning state in Somalia. Notably, in 2012 it allowed for the peaceful handover of power from the transition authorities to the new federal institutions and the adoption of a provisional constitution.

More importantly, in 2016/2017 the parliamentary and presidential elections were held. At a time when the Al Shabaab were determined to scuttle the process, the elections went ahead with AMISOM providing security in the designated electoral locations. This is by far the greatest achievement of AMISOM and the EU is proud to have contributed.

The EU is one of AMISOM's biggest donors – in direct financial contributions we are the biggest. Without this funding, the current AMISOM deployment, neither its achievements, nor the political progress would have been possible to date. The facts speak for themselves.

**Q** | **Many would assume that AMISOM operations solely comprise of military interventions when in actual fact, there's so much more. How important is it to the EU to support other AMISOM activities?**

**A** The EU's commitment towards stability and development in Africa, which can be illustrated in Somalia, Mali, CAR, Sahel countries, is a comprehensive one. If there is one lesson that we have learned over years of engagement in peace operations in Africa, and particularly in Somalia, it is that military operations are not enough to bring stability and reconciliation. The non-military dimension is just as important to win the hearts and minds of the population.

The EU is a key security actor in Somalia. We do this through the APF in support of AMISOM and also through our missions in Somalia. We have a mission that is combating piracy and other threats in the Indian Ocean. We also have a civilian capacity building mission that helps in the building of Somali capacity to curb and

combat piracy as well as a military training mission. Additionally, through our development cooperation, we actively contribute towards stabilization. As regards the EU's contribution in this area, we have availed and allocated more than 500 million Euros since 2014 in addition to the regular support to AMISOM.

**Q** | **There are now talks of a gradual draw down of AMISOM operations in Somalia, what is the EU's position on this?**

**A** First and foremost, it is important to underscore the enormous contribution that AMISOM has provided in Somalia. It is important to take some historic perspective of where Somalia is has come from and how it has gradually rebuilt the structure and stability that it needs to secure its future: AMISOM has been a decisive part of that story because at critical moments, it prevented the collapse of the state and it provided conditions that were conducive for the political process to advance. Politics need security to thrive and that is what AMISOM has been doing.

As Somalia moves towards a strong federal state with institutions, it is a matter of course that it also takes charge of its own security. [Somalis are best placed to defend Somalia – territorial control and security provision are fundamental elements of statehood]. Undoubtedly, AMISOM has been essential in creating conditions that allow political progress but it is time to move forward. Naturally, and as mutually agreed, the transition of AMISOM needs to be gradual, orderly and conditions-based to avoid security vacuums: It is also key for the draw down to happen within a time frame with clear timelines attached to it.

**Q** | **What is required for a successful transition from AMISOM to Somali-led security in the country?**

**A** We are at a momentous juncture in Somalia's future- the 2017 elections have been successfully conducted and there is a new government in place. The time has come for Somali authorities to gradually play a bigger role in providing security for its people and in facilitating an environment that spurs economic growth. It is important that Somali political leaders from the central government and the regions implement the security pact as agreed at the London Conference that took place in May 2017. Secondly it should be complemented by agreements in the economic field: revenue sharing, mobilization of new revenue, ensuring that the regions have the capacity and the resources to ensure service delivery to their populations.

The international community can thereafter step in: the EU remains committed to supporting Somalia in this new framework.

# AMISOM in Pictures:

AMISOM'S Police unit has the unique responsibility of training, mentoring, monitoring and advising the Somali Police Force. The intended outcome of this engagement is to build the capacity of the SPF and transform it into a credible and effective organization, able to carry out law and order operations within Somalia according to international standards. The component is able to execute its mandate through the support of the mission's Police Contributing Countries; Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and as of May 2017, Zambia. Since initiation, over 4000 Somali Police Officers have received training in police work.

**C**aptain Idil. A Hassan (second-right), Head of the Somali Gender Police Unit in a group photo with other female police officers during a gender training conference in Mogadishu. The unit benefits from extensive specialized training on gender-related matters in a law-enforcement context.

AMISOM Photo/Ilyas Ahmed

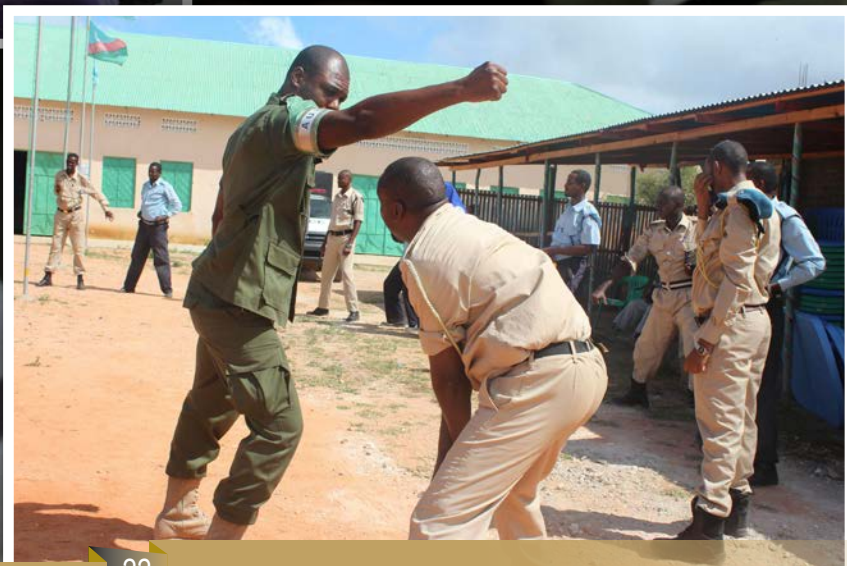


**F**emale members of Mogadishu neighbourhood-watch teams practise during a training programme designed by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to teach basic and practical self-defence skills to women. 20 trainees drawn from camps for the internally displaced in Benadir and Middle Shabelle region were taught personal defence skills and given advice on what to do in case of an attack. In addition to empowering women to protect themselves, AMISOM is also working to build the capacity of the Somali security services and police to enhance security in Somalia.

AU-UN IST Photo/Stuart Price

**A** Somali Police officer (with back to camera) and an AMISOM Police trainer demonstrate self-defence skills acquired during a close protection course conducted by AMISOM Police. About 30 SPF participated in the two-weeks training conducted by AMISOM in Baidoa, Somalia. The training ended on June 4 2015.

-AMISOM Photo /Abdikarim Mohamed





# Capacitating the Somali Police Force Through Training and Mentoring

New recruits for the Somali Police Force (SPF) demonstrate skills acquired during their training during a passing out parade to mark the completion of their training in Kismayo. The African Union Mission in Somalia conducted the training.

AMISOM Photo/Awil Abukar



Somali Police officers attend a training session on gender based violence and child protection in Baidoa, Somalia

AMISOM Photo/ Abdi Dakane

Parade conducted by police officers in Beletweyne.

AMISOM PHOTO/Abdikarim Mohamed







A Member of Parliament casts her vote during Presidential elections held in Mogadishu, Somalia on 8 February 2017. AMISOM Photo/Ilyas Abukar

# A New Dawn for Somalia

—by *AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO CAETANO MADEIRA*

Somalia has a new President, democratically elected by members of both houses of the national parliament in an open and fair electoral process witnessed by local and international observers.

I congratulate H.E. President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo on his election and wish him well, as he steers the country towards a brighter future.

Despite enormous and multiple challenges, Somalis have defied

the odds and completed their parliamentary election. A new bicameral parliament is now in place as a result of an inclusive electoral process.

Although a one-person one-vote election was not attained this year, the foundation stone has been laid and Somalia is now on the path towards achieving universal suffrage by 2020.

As the Head of AMISOM, I congratulate the people of Somalia for this feat. I thank the country's leadership for staying the course.

The successful conclusion of the presidential election heralds a new dawn for a country that, for too long, has been plagued by years of instability, devastating internal strife, cyclical drought, violent extremism and terrorism.

Having worked side by side with the Somali national security forces to secure the electoral process, AMISOM takes pride in this collaboration and the successes achieved.



Somalia's newly elected President, Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo" Mohamed addresses guests during his inauguration ceremony in Mogadishu on February 22, 2017. AMISOM Photo/Ilyas Ahmed



It was a grueling but worthwhile journey that started in October 2016 and culminated in the presidential vote a few days ago.

The election of the president and members of parliament is one key step ahead in the long journey Somalia has embarked on. As the saying goes in my native language, *“There are no short cuts to reaching the top of the palm tree.”*

The road ahead is bumpy and the task is arduous, but the confidence and determination of the people of Somalia and their leaders to make true the pledges made during the electioneering period is a big encouragement. I have no doubt in my mind that Somalia will prevail and victory is assured.

Let 2017 be the year of firsts for Somalia. The opportunity presents itself for leaders to continue to work together in building a strong partnership between the government and the people of Somalia for the furtherance of mutual recognition and acceptance, reconciliation and national unity in an all-inclusive dialogue on power sharing, resource sharing, job creation, women and youth empowerment, national security and development.

AMISOM remains committed to a sound and focused collaboration with the people of Somalia in their quest for lasting peace and stability.

I cannot help but reminisce how far Somalia has come. As AMISOM marks 10 years in Somalia, this year, the positive developments in the country are there for all to see. The transformation is remarkable compared to a decade ago, when the AU mission first deployed in Mogadishu and armed militia gangs roamed the streets not only in the capital city but also in other major towns. Success has been registered, among others, in the health, construction and education sectors.

Despite the skepticism from naysayers, the ordinary Somali is reaping benefits from the progress made in the stabilization process.



Insha Allah, we hope for a change after the elections. I expect businesses to grow; to see more help extended to the agriculture sector which will enhance its productivity,” Abdirahman Abukar Somow, a greengrocer, shares his aspirations in Mogadishu, Somalia, on February 15, 2016. AMISOM Photo/Ilyas Ahmed

The militants may not have been totally vanquished, but have been significantly degraded and their operations remarkably curtailed.

With a new government in place, one of our key priorities with the Somali national security forces is to intensify our offensive against the terrorists, especially in vast swatches of inhabited areas, where the terrorists have sought refuge. We have a watertight plan. We will work side by side with the Somali national security forces and will not relent until terrorists are significantly degraded and the war against violent extremism and terrorism is won.

However, the African Union is profoundly convinced that no matter how effective AMISOM may be, it will be difficult to achieve lasting and sustainable peace and security in Somalia, until the Somali national security forces is fully established and functioning. We will, therefore, continue to advocate for adequate support for Somali national security forces, not only for current and future joint operations with AMISOM, but also in helping build a capable security apparatus in the long term. To this effect, we will continue to insist on the need for a better coordinated, complementary and mutually reinforcing partner intervention in the security sector in Somalia.

In line with the envisaged drawdown of AMISOM military in 2018, AMISOM Police has been instrumental in the strengthening of policing structures throughout the country and are actively engaged in training local officers on policing.

We will continue to work closely with the national authorities and international partners in the promotion of a comprehensive approach to security, anchored on mutually reinforcing factors such as presence and adequate territorial expansion of government authority, effective state institutions and administration, democratic governance, distribution of humanitarian assistance and other essential requirements.

Lastly, provision of services such as healthcare, education and infrastructure will be essential in preventing conditions conducive for violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

I wish the Somali people a very successful 2017-2020 period.

*This op-ed was initially published in various regional newspapers immediately after 2016/2017 Somali electoral process that culminated in the election of the Mohamed Abdullahi “Farmajo” Mohamed as the President of Somalia in February 2017.*



## Q&A with Mr Sivuyile Bam, *The Head of the AU Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD)*

**Q | What has been the European Union's contribution to the African Union peacekeeping efforts in Somalia?**

**A** The EU is the biggest financial partner to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) with more than 1.5 billion Euros provided so far through the Africa Peace Facility (APF), which is the EU's key financial vehicle to support cooperation with Africa in the area of Peace and Security.

The European Union's (EU) support to the AU is part of the closer working relationship that was established between the two regional organizations in 2004. The genesis of the partnership was a coming together of partners to collectively address the challenges that Somalia was facing. The APF's financial support to AMISOM therefore, is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive and long-term approach to support security and development efforts in Somalia. This EU approach contains political, diplomatic, civilian, military and development elements.

**Q | Through the contribution of the European Union to the African Union's peacekeeping efforts, what do you think have been the achievements towards sustainable peace and stability in Somalia?**

**A** The Somalia of today has a completely different face than it did before 2007; significant progress continues to be made. Through the contribution of the European Union in various forms such as the troop allowances, the African Union has managed to maintain its peacekeeping mission in Somalia since its first deployment in March 2007 to date. Back then, over 80% of South Central Somalia was under the control of the Al Shabaab: Today, AMISOM and the Somali National Army (SNA) have recovered that territory and driven Al Shabaab from most urban centres in Somalia. The African Union Mission in Somalia therefore, has helped to create relative security in Somalia, which in turn has provided for an environment where key political processes can take place. Since the collapse of a central government in 1991, the country has successfully held

democratic elections twice, most recently in February 2017 that saw the election of the current president.

Through the efforts of AMISOM in ensuring peace and security in Somalia, the country also embarked on a process of setting up federal states and their corresponding governance structures.

On the economic front, Somalia is experiencing a boom as many Somali diasporans are returning home to invest in their motherland and bolster the country's skilled workforce. There is significant growth in sectors such as construction, ICT, telecommunications, trade etc. due to the confidence people have in the security situation.

**Q | What plans are in place to ensure the readiness of Somali Security Institutions to take over once AMISOM leaves?**

**A** Part of AMISOM's key agenda has always been to capacitate Somali security institutions and eventually hand back that responsibility to the Somali people. Through the contribution of the European Union and other partners, AMISOM is undertaking robust capacity-building of Somali Security Institutions to ensure their readiness to manage the country's security once AMISOM leaves. In this regard, AMISOM is continuously conducting training for the Somali National Army and the Somali Police Force. AMISOM also conducts mentorship of the Somali Security Institutions such as co-location in the case of the Somali Police Force and conducting joint security operations in the case of the Somali National Army.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the European Union's support has managed to keep the mission alive and enabled AMISOM to carry out its mandate. Without it, the sustainability of the mission might not have been possible. Given the gains made in stabilizing Somalia, the current discussions with our stakeholders are centred on how to implement a gradual handover and contribute towards the focusing of support to the Federal Government of Somalia going forward. It is our intent to leave a very robust, Somalia. This is in line with our own Africa Peace and Security Architecture to prevent manage and resolve conflict, successful post-conflict reconstruction and the facilitation of development on the continent.



# The African Peace Facility



22,126



The total authorised level of uniformed personnel (Police and Military) in AMISOM.

## APF

Africa Peace Facility

APF's financial support to AMISOM is an integral part of EU's comprehensive and long-term approach to support security and development efforts in Somalia. This EU approach contains political, diplomatic, civilian, military, humanitarian and development dimensions. The APF is the key EU financial instrument to support cooperation with Africa in the area of Peace and Security (Africa - EU Partnership).



€1.5 billion

- 85% military component stipends
- 5% police component
- 5% civilian personnel
- 5% specific project funding

The total amount in Euros that the European Union through the African Peace Facility has given to AMISOM to date. The total APF commitment to AMISOM, from the start in 2007 up to May 2015, amounts to 865.5 million, making the EU one of AMISOM's biggest donors.



The percentage of South Central Somali currently liberated and under the control of AMISOM in support of the Somali National Army.



The number of years AMISOM has been in Somalia since its deployment in March 2007.

9 The number of countries currently contributing Troops and Police under AMISOM in Somalia.

- BURUNDI**
- DJIBOUTI**
- ETHIOPIA**
- KENYA**
- UGANDA**
- NIGERIA**
- GHANA**
- SIERRA LEONE**
- ZAMBIA**



Strong partnership for peace and security through the African Peace Facility (APF).

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