AMISOM mandate is derived from AU Peace and Security Council (PSC)'s 356th meeting and is reflected in its Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (CCCLVI) of 27 Feb 2013.

SRCC Overview on Political Situation in Somalia

If 2012 was a year of end of transition, the year 2013 was the beginning of the transformation in Somalia. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) administration made strides in getting recognition and re-establishing diplomatic relations with Somalia’s international partners in 2013 and in 2014, the government is poised to tackle insecurity. This is in line with the implementation of point-number-one and point-number-five of the Six Pillar Policy. Somaliland-FGoS talks were also a restating of the point-number-six of the Six Pillar Policy.

Great milestones have been achieved and among these are: recognition by the US, lifting of the arms embargo by the United Nations Security Council, the London II Conference, Yokohama Conference and the New Deal Compact signed in Brussels, the recognition of Somalia in the international community and the pledges of support.

At home, Somali National Security Forces (SNSF) with tremendous support (visibility) by AMISOM forces and international partners continue to create the necessary environment for the multilateral support for the Somalia’s government, through expansion deep into Lower Shabelle, connecting Mogadishu via Lower Shabelle to Baidoa, Middle Shabelle, Lower Jubba and Beledweyne. Shape-up operations facilitated government control and maintained a level of security and stability in Mogadishu, Balcad, Jowhar, Mahaday, Afgooye, Wanlaweyne, Buurhakaba, Baidoa, Luq, Garbahaarrey, Km50, Marka, Kismayo, Dobley, Beledweyne, Mataban, Ferfeetc are much secure, with increasing government engagements promoting dialogue, reconciliation, security and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

As the year 2013 ended, the FGoS re-focused on the panacea of Somalia fragile and fragmented state on the transformation of the country into a democratic state by agreeing to a set of principles under the Vision 2016.

Throughout the year, in the background, AMISOM Political Unit was performing its roles and obligations within the scope of the AU Mandate. The following profile seeks to highlight AMISOM Political Unit activities in complementing the military and police support for FGoS - the beginning of transformation - in Somalia.

The environment has enabled parliament to operate and the passing of 7 legislative acts among them the most crucial Local Government Act that lays the foundation for statebuilding and federalism in Somalia through all-inclusive and community involvement bottom-up approach. Other political and especially state-building efforts continued with support of AMISOM civilian component and partners.
Implementation of AMISOM Political Mandate

(a) Generic tasks
- monitoring and reporting on political issues
- support implementation of peace agreement(s)
- support dialogue and reconciliation
- support stabilisation
- support the implementation of mandated tasks, resolutions, directives
- support SRCC diplomatic and political engagements

(b) Political Unit Core tasks - elaborated in Mission Implementation Plan (MIP) 2013 are derived from AMISOM Mandate and aligned to the President’ Six Pillar Policy
- Political engagements - peacebuilding interventions
- Stabilisation interventions
- Focused Capacity Building for Federal Government of Somalia Public Service and Governance Institutions
- Political Engagements with partners
- Facilitating coordinated support to FGS by relevant AU institutions

(c) Achievements
- Support AU review on AMISOM from which AU PSC revised AMISOM mandate in February 2013 and led to SCR 2093
- SRCC consultative meetings with FGS President, Prime Minister and Speaker
- SRCC support to AU-UN Review team that gave rise to AU PSC and SCR 2124
- SRCC relocation to Mogadishu – the very first at this level
- SRCC meetings/briefings to AU PSC and reports to AU chairperson through Commissioner for Peace and Security

- SRCC hosting dignitaries at 50 years of AU
- SRCC liaison with AU departments especially through PSOD in support of AMISOM and FGS. Progress made on disengaging fighters, stabilization, gender, protection of civilians (PoC) strategies and support
- SRCC using his good offices, coordinating with partners and shuttle diplomacy in Somalia and the sub-region especially with troop contributing countries (TCCs) on promoting peace and conflict resolution. A mile-stone was support the very first and a successful TCC Summit meeting in Kampala in which a number of significant decisions were taken concerning Somalia and AMISOM
- SRCC successful lobby for additional troops for AMISOM to enhance security, better working environment for FGS, donors and partners and the Somali citizens, and, to deplete al Shabaab threat
- SRCC advocacy for support package for Somali Security Forces (SSF) which with support from AU Chair person and AU PSC culminated into SCR 2124 (2013), that provides for fuel, food, medical evacuation, tentage for Somali National Army (SNA)
- SRCC and AMISOM personnel engagements in the sectors, consulting elders in support for dialogue and reconciliation, providing AMISOM security and protection those political processes in Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowhar, Km50
- Capacity Building training for 180 civil servants conducted in Bujumbura early 2013. Previously AMISOM sponsored capacity building for civil servants since 2010 and a number of them are senior ranking including at least 03 Directors General and 01 cabinet minister. Still to come is high-level capacity building for 80 other civil servants scheduled 2014
- IHL trainings for 40 middle ranking SNA in Kampala. Previous IHL training was held in Djibouti 2012
- Conducting a workshop for Parliament Committee on Interior, National Security and Governance focusing on local governments, security and oversight, and support with ICT equipment. Providing legal and technical advice on draft Local Government Act.
- Rehabilitation of Ministry of Labour Training Centre and providing equipment to the centre for capacity building
• Supporting implementation of Addis Ababa (Jubba) Agreement on return of militias outside Kismayo
• Diaspora meetings held in London-UK and Minneapolis-USA in support of skilled labour return to Somalia to provide badly needed technical knowledge and support
• Working closely with Gender Unit on gender mainstreaming activities
• Efforts on stabilization through pre-recovery and post recovery engagement, MoU with partners including ACCORD and NIS Foundation on stabilization in Somalia
• Giving effect to SCRs such as operationization of CCTARC, support for Disengaging Combatants, support for respect of IHL and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the Mission Area
• Pre-deployment visits (PDVs) in TCCs and PCCs

Looking ahead in 2014
AMISOM is the most successful mission ever deployed in Somalia aimed at stabilizing the country and restoring its state. The collapse of the state structure plunged the nation in natural and man-made catastrophe. AMISOM Political Unit future activities will remain the implementation of AMISOM mandate in support of FGoS priorities including expansion of the state to newly recovered areas, stabilization and capacity building of state institutions

Highlights on priorities: further diplomatic engagements in support for FGS, support dialogue, reconciliation, stabilization, human rights improvement, increase coordination with partners, work towards preparation for 2016 elections as AMISOM looks forward to handing over much of the country to the future democratically elected government.

Political Unit Staff
Ambassador Basil Gateretse  Head of Political Unit
Ssebirumbi Kisinzinggo  Senior Political Affairs Officer
James Gadin  Political Officer

Acknowledgement
In light of the achievements made, the Political Unit owes it and expresses its sincere appreciation to the Supporting Partners.
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