COMMUNIQUE

ON THE JOINT AMISOM/FGS CONFERENCE ON TRANSITIONING SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES FROM AMISOM TO SOMALI NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES

1. A five-day Joint African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) / Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) conference on the transition of security responsibilities from AMISOM to Somalia National Security Forces (SNSF) was held from 24 to 29 July 2017 in Mogadishu, Somalia. The conference was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister HE Mahdi Mohamed Guled on 24 July 2017 and attended by the Minister of Defense HE Rashid Abdullahi Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Internal Security HE Abdinassir Mohamed Ali, The Governor of Banadir and the Mayor of Mogadishu HE Thabit Abdi Mohamed, the Commissioner of the Somali Police, Director General NISA, Deputy Chief of Defense Forces, SNA regional Commanders and other high ranking officials of the Federal Government of Somalia.

2. Hosted by AMISOM Special Representative the African Union Commission Chairperson (SRCC) HE Ambassador Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, the conference was also attended by the AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. General Osman Soubagleh, the Police Commissioner Brigadier General Annad Pillay, all AMISOM Sector Commanders and other senior AMISOM staff, International partners including UNSOS Head Hubert Price, Deputy Commanding General for CJTF-HOA Brigadier General Miguel Castellanos and representatives of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM), UNMAS, OCHA, UNSOM, UK MST.

3. Under the theme “Transitioning Security Responsibilities From AMISOM to Somali National Security Forces”, the objective of the conference was to provide a platform where AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces brainstorm on the implications of the adoption of the April 2017 National Security Architecture, the decisions of 11th May London Conference on Somalia, the recommendations of the AU-UN Joint Review of AMISOM, and deliberate on the transitioning imperatives.

4. The Conference recalled the AU-UN Joint Review findings and outcomes, among which was the decision for AMISOM to gradually and on conditions-
based approach, handover primary security responsibilities in Somalia to Somali National Security Forces. Further, the conference recalled the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, which at its 700th meeting held on 12th July 2017, adopted the Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on AU-United Nations (UN) Joint Review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and also renewed the mandate of AMISOM.

5. The conference took note of the FGS highlights and implementation of the National Security Architecture from the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Security, Somali Police and National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), the role of Banadir administrations in the transition, the national stabilization strategy and the establishment of local administration in Somalia. The conference further commended the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia towards stabilization of the capital Mogadishu and the strengthening of security in the regional states.

6. The conference discussed the suggested AMISOM/Somalia National Security Forces forward operating bases (FOBs) Handover/Takeover tasks and the planned Federal Government of Somalia of operational readiness assessment, which are key steps during transition when AMISOM would handover security responsibilities to the Federal Government and its security forces.

7. The conference:

i. Reiterated the commitment that the transitioning of security responsibilities from AMISOM to Somali National Security Forces is real and must happen, but will be gradual, conditions-based and will seek to ensure that the gains made so far against Al-Shabaab are not reversed.

ii. Stressed, in this context, the need for adequate and predictable funding for AMISOM as well as force enablers and force multipliers to further enhance the effectiveness of AMISOM and SNSF forces in the theatre of operations.

iii. Highlighted as critical and urgent, the need for continued joint operations in all sectors in the country in order to further disrupt and degrade the
enemy. The SNA sector commanders shared their immediate objectives and priority operations to degrade al Shabaab.

iv. **Agreed** that both AMISOM and SNSF commanders will hold a planning session in August 2017 for joint and coordinated operations for the rest of 2017 and beyond, to disrupt, degrade and defeat al Shabaab and other armed groups, protect population centers, open and secure main supply routes (MSRs) to allow Somalis to go about their lives freely, securely, and confidently.

v. **Agreed** that AMISOM will also assist in the development of a counter insurgency plan as set out in the Draft National Defense Strategy.

vi. **Emphasized, to this effect,** the need to empower Somali National Security Forces in terms of training, mentoring, infrastructure, equipment, sustainment, and mobility in order to gradually but effectively fully takeover security responsibilities of the country.

Done at Mogadishu, 29th July 2017.

HE Rashid Abdullahi Mohamed

Minister of Defense

Federal Republic of Somalia

HE Ambassador Francisco C J Madeira

Special Representative of the African Union Commission Chairperson (SRCC) and Head of AMISOM