

3. The situation in Somalia

Decision of 24 January 1996 (3620th meeting): statement by the President

At its 3620th meeting held on 24 January 1996 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia dated 19 January 1996,¹ submitted in response to the request of the Security Council on 14 December 1995 for a written report on recent developments in Somalia and pursuant to the statement by the President of the Council of 6 April 1995.²

In his report, the Secretary-General noted that in the statement by the President of 6 April 1995, the Council had supported his view that, even after the termination of the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), the United Nations should not abandon Somalia but should continue to assist the Somali people to achieve a political settlement and to provide humanitarian and other services, provided that the Somalis themselves demonstrated a disposition to peaceful resolution of the conflict and cooperated with the international community. The Council had also requested him to continue to monitor the situation in Somalia and to keep it informed about further developments. He observed that the political situation in Somalia had been dominated by a debilitating stalemate for almost two years since the Somali faction leaders had failed to honour their commitments in the Nairobi declaration of 24 March 1994. While there had been no major progress towards national reconciliation, the worst scenario of an all-out civil war had been averted. The widely felt frustration seemed to have engendered some new political trends. It had contributed to the split in the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA), which together with other factors, might have led General Aideed to declare a "Government" without the consent of other key political factions. However, the "Government" had not been recognized by any Member State or regional organization. Another significant trend had been the emergence of regional administrations as a result of initiatives by faction and community leaders. It was unclear whether such regional authorities would be

formed in most of the regions in Somalia and, if so, what constitutional character they would assume; the Somalis seemed to be divided in their view as to whether these regional authorities should constitute the basis for a federal system of government or whether they should simply represent a degree of regional autonomy. Given the nature of Somali politics, however, the importance of sustainable peace at the local and inter-clan levels was obvious. The Secretary-General expressed his hope that further progress in establishing regional authorities, begun under UNOSOM II, would have a beneficial impact on efforts to establish a central authority in the near future. He suggested that the Security Council might want to reiterate its call on all Somali parties, especially those who adopted a unilateral approach, to return to an inclusive process of consultation and negotiation. In that process, it was undesirable for any outside party to intervene in favour of one or other of the Somali factions, for such support could tilt the delicate balance with negative consequences. He noted that while many Somali leaders had requested the United Nations, through the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, to support some of their peace initiatives financially and logistically, the Office had no resources for such support. He suggested that their best hope of attracting such support would be to give some first signs of concrete progress towards peace and reconciliation. He informed the Council that the low level of food production, continued political instability and other factors combined to make international assistance to Somalia essential. The United Nations agencies believed that, even in the worst-case scenario, their continued operations could play an important role in preventing another major humanitarian crisis, while the drawing down of their activities could have the opposite effect, particularly in the southern regions. He urged the international community to respond generously to the calls for assistance by the humanitarian agencies and stressed once again the responsibility of all the Somali parties to ensure the security of the courageous and dedicated humanitarian workers, who had suffered a number of casualties.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:³

¹ S/1996/42.

² S/PRST/1995/15.

³ S/PRST/1996/4.

The Security Council has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 19 January 1996 on the situation in Somalia and is deeply concerned about the absence of any credible progress towards national reconciliation. It calls upon all Somali political leaders and parties to return to an inclusive process of consultation and negotiation aimed at national reconciliation leading to the establishment of a broad-based national government.

The Council welcomes with appreciation the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the European Union and neighbouring States in promoting national dialogue in the search for a solution to the Somali crisis. These efforts demonstrate the commitment of the international community not to abandon the people of Somalia. It reaffirms that the people of Somalia bear ultimate responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and restoring peace. In this respect, the Council urges the leaders of Somali factions to reject violence and place the interests of the country and people above their personal differences and political ambitions.

The Council also welcomes and supports the intention of the Secretary-General to maintain the United Nations Political Office for Somalia. It stresses the importance of the Office maintaining close cooperation with the regional organizations, monitoring developments in Somalia and continuing contacts with Somali factions. It looks forward to the return of the Office to Somalia as soon as circumstances permit.

The Council expresses deep concern at the continuing conflict. The resulting insecurity, banditry and general lawlessness increase the suffering of the civilian population. The Council condemns the harassment, beatings, abduction and killings of personnel of international humanitarian organizations, and underlines the responsibility of all parties in Somalia for ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian and other international personnel. This atmosphere of insecurity has regrettably forced the United Nations agencies to relocate international personnel, thus hindering the smooth delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance.

The Council commends the valiant efforts of United Nations and international humanitarian agencies and their Somali personnel for the courage and determination to render assistance to the people of Somalia. The Council encourages Member States to continue to provide humanitarian assistance in order to avoid a further deterioration of the current situation.

The Council considers the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance to be a crucial factor in the overall security and stability of Somalia. In this respect, the closure of the Mogadishu main seaport and other transportation facilities severely aggravates the present situation and poses a potential major impediment to future emergency deliveries. The Council calls upon the Somali parties and factions to open those facilities unconditionally.

The Council reminds all States of their obligation to implement fully the general and complete embargo imposed by

paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992) on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia. In this respect, it calls upon all States to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep it informed about developments in Somalia. The Council remains seized of the matter.

Deliberations of 15 March 1996 (3641st meeting)

At the 3641st meeting of the Security Council, held on 15 March 1996 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Botswana), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Algeria, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The Council also extended an invitation, at the request of Guinea-Bissau, under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to the Permanent Observer of the Organization of African Unity to the United Nations.⁴

The representative of Italy, speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated countries,⁵ stated with reference to Somalia that this corner of Africa was sunk in a seemingly never-ending political struggle whose main ingredients were individual and clan rivalries, banditry and the use of violence. Somalia, then, was a country without even a semblance of central authority. He noted that UNOSOM II had been terminated almost one year earlier, and he maintained that against the background of continued fighting between the warlords there was a limit to what could be achieved by the international community. He underlined that the United Nations objectives in Somalia were fundamentally undermined by the lack of progress in the peace process and in national reconciliation, and in particular by the lack of sufficient cooperation from the Somali parties. The situation seemed particularly critical in the capital, where the increase in criminal activity was compounded by the continued closure of the port and the airport, leading to a blockade of commercial activity. The European Union was deeply concerned by the spiral of seemingly endless violence gripping

⁴ S/PV.3641, p. 15.

⁵ Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia (S/PV.3641, p. 2).

Somalia. Reiterating the line of strict neutrality towards the various Somali factions, he expressed their belief that Somalia would not be able to take its proper place in the international community until a government emerged that was truly representative of all the Somali components. He expressed their support for the continuation of the small political office for Somalia in Nairobi and reiterated their conviction that the efforts of the United Nations and of the international agencies to assist the civilian population needed to be pursued within the limits allowed by the unstable situation. The European Union strongly reiterated the appeal made by the Security Council to the Somali parties and factions to open unconditionally Mogadishu's main seaport and other transportation facilities for delivery of humanitarian assistance. The European Union also supported international and regional organizations such as OAU and encouraged them to continue their efforts to foster the return of peace and stability in Somalia.⁶

The representative of Indonesia stated that while they firmly believed that the people of Somalia bore the ultimate responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and restoring peace, nonetheless, the international community needed to resist, as reflected in Security Council resolution 954 (1994) and as stated in the Presidential statement of 24 January 1996,⁷ the temptation to abandon the crisis in Somalia. His delegation therefore, encouraged OAU, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to continue their efforts, in cooperation with the United Nations, in the search for a lasting peace in Somalia. The Indonesian delegation believed that there was an urgent need for the international community to pursue new initiatives to break the impasse. To that end, his delegation considered that it was an appropriate time to explore a wide range of options that would allow for both immediate and long-term responses. One of the options available would consist in upgrading the United Nations Political Office for Somalia by relocating it to Somalia as soon as circumstances permitted. The Office needed to be headed by a resident, high-ranking officer who would not only provide the Council with timely and accurate assessments of unfolding developments but would also act as facilitator in assisting the Somali parties towards national reconciliation and a peaceful

settlement. Furthermore, the Council might consider, as security conditions permitted, sending a mission to Somalia, similar to the one sent in 1994, so that the Council would be in a better position to respond more effectively.⁸

The representative of the United States emphasized that in 1992 the international intervention led by the United States, the United Task Force (UNITAF), quickly ended the famine, saving thousands of lives. UNOSOM had continued that undertaking. Almost all Somalis, even those who were sharply critical of the subsequent United Nations actions in their country had expressed gratitude for the international community's response to the famine. She maintained that one year after UNOSOM II forces had withdrawn, the United States had not abandoned Somalia and did not intend to. While they did not recognize or support any Somali group or faction, they remained in communication with all the political groups in the country. The United States and the international aid community were closely monitoring the food situation in order to prevent another famine. She called on the factions in Somalia to reopen the port and to ensure that it remained open so that assistance could be delivered. She also urged the Somalis to form a broad-based national government that enjoyed widespread support among all segments of the population.⁹

The representative of Germany underlined that a solution to the present situation could only be found through political dialogue. The Political Office of the United Nations had already established relations with those warring factions that were represented in Nairobi. The United Nations Office had been able to gain a reputation for impartiality, so that it was being accepted by all but one of the warring factions as a partner for dialogue. Therefore, he suggested that it might make sense to increase the number of personnel in the Office. He noted that it had proved particularly difficult for the Political Office of the United Nations to initiate a dialogue with General Aideed. His insistence on being recognized as president of Somalia had so far prevented any negotiations with him about the political future of the country. At the same time, the destabilization of agriculturally fertile provinces

⁶ S/PV.3641, pp. 2-3.

⁷ S/PRST/1996/4.

⁸ S/PV.3641, pp. 5-6.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

constituted a threat to the economic situation of the whole country. He appealed to the warring factions to accept the good offices of the United Nations and to finally agree among themselves on a peaceful solution.¹⁰

The representative of Egypt called upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility for the people of Somalia. The aim of the United Nations intervention in Somalia under Security Council resolution 794 (1992) was the establishment of a favourable climate for humanitarian relief operations, and this intervention had been undertaken under Chapter VII of the Charter, in view of the exceptional conditions prevailing in Somalia. Although the United Nations had achieved great success at a humanitarian level, it had not succeeded in laying down a framework for settlement and national reconciliation to which all parties were committed. He stated that nevertheless, OAU had decided to dispatch a new mission to Somalia to establish contact and to assess the real situation. The League of Arab States had also proposed a joint mission of representatives of regional and international organizations to meet with Somali leaders. For its part, the Organization of the Islamic Conference had called for an international conference for peace and national reconciliation in Somalia with the participation of all the Somali parties and all the relevant regional and international organizations. Turning to the role of the United Nations he maintained that there should be a follow-up to the ongoing commitment to the comprehensive international embargo on the supply of arms and military equipment to Somalis under Security Council resolution 733 (1992), as well as active, comprehensive follow-up with respect to the political and humanitarian situation with a view to building State institutions and to carrying out post-conflict peacebuilding. However, none of that was taking place. His country considered it necessary to energize the role of the United Nations in Somalia, and to that end they wished to propose a number of ideas, any or all of which could be adopted. First, he advocated the convening in a neighbouring State of a pan-Somali conference attended by representatives of all Somali regions. Second, regional and international organizations needed to be encouraged to undertake a joint initiative to convince Somali leaders of the importance of dialogue. Third,

the United Nations and regional organizations should offer Somali leaders feasible alternatives, such as the establishment of a country-wide joint presidential council, similar to the current experiment in Liberia or other means of power-sharing such as a federal or confederative system. Fourth, the role of the United Nations office in Nairobi should be enhanced. Fifth, the Security Council should dispatch a mission of Council members or a high-level envoy to assess the situation on the ground and to ascertain whether the time was ripe for making specific proposals. In conclusion, he reiterated that the basic responsibility for stability in Somalia lay with the people of Somalia.¹¹

The representative of France requested that every effort be made to promote national reconciliation and that no possibility of restoring civil peace in Somalia be overlooked. He underlined that if they waited too long, the entire country might collapse. The north-west was already drifting away from the other provinces, and soon it would no longer be possible to preserve the territorial unity of the country, which had been a goal of the Security Council. He suggested that they might encourage mediation by African public figures acceptable to the factions and expressed their belief that the countries of the Horn of Africa in cooperation with OAU and the League of Arab States had a key role to play. If those African countries could give their concrete support to an initiative led by one or several African public figures, mediation would gain strength and credibility. Finally, he noted that thus far the message of the Security Council to the factions had had no impact. Since the factions believed that the Council was expressing the particular interest of only some of its members, he asked whether they could show that the international community as a whole disapproved of the policy pursued by the warlords. To that end he suggested considering organizing a debate in the General Assembly to allow all the Members of the United Nations to inform the parties to the conflict that the path of violence could only be a dead end.¹²

The representative of Tunisia spoke on behalf of the African group. He expressed his belief that the international community needed to mobilize in order to resolutely express its commitment to the Somali people. To that end, he urged that the following actions

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-13.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.

be taken. First, the Security Council should pursue and reinforce its interest in the question of Somalia, the first step being to send a mission to explore the prospects for national reconciliation. Second, a common strategy should be adopted by the United Nations, OAU, League of Arab States and OIC with a view to facilitating national reconciliation. Third, a joint mission should be dispatched, consisting of high-level representatives of international and regional organizations, to convey to the leaders and factions the desire of the international community to help the Somali people overcome the grave crisis threatening its survival. Fourth, an attempt should be made, using independent political figures of international stature, to narrow the gap between the different positions and attitudes of the factions. Fifth, the United Nations Office in Nairobi should be strengthened in two ways: by appointing to its head either an Assistant Secretary-General or a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and by giving it the financial and human resources to enable it to discharge its task properly. At a later stage it would be advisable to consider transferring the Office to Mogadishu if progress had been made with regard to security guarantees by the Somali factions.¹³

The representative of Guinea stated that his country had presided over the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of OIC; as Chairman of the group of members of OIC at the United Nations, his delegation was pleased to recall that at the twenty-third session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Guinea, States members of OIC reiterated their commitment to the restoration and preservation of the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Somalia. That conference had noted with appreciation the efforts of OIC to bring national reconciliation to Somalia and to relieve the suffering of the Somali people, in cooperation with the States of the region, the United Nations, the League of Arab States and OAU, in the context of a joint approach. It called for a continuation of those efforts and requested the Secretary-General of OIC to dispatch a contact group to urge the various Somali groups to resume dialogue to achieve national reconciliation. The conference called for the convening of an international conference on peace and national reconciliation in Somalia pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, with the participation of all Somali parties

and the international and regional organizations concerned.¹⁴

The representative of Kenya stated that the Security Council must continue to treat the situation in Somalia as a threat to international peace and security and must augment the efforts that were being made by regional organizations such as OAU. It could not run away from the responsibility bestowed upon it by the Charter. He maintained that the United Nations could do much more to make a difference in Somalia.¹⁵

The representative of Ethiopia spoke as the representative of the current Chairman of OAU. He stated that notwithstanding the primary responsibility of the Somali people, the international community needed to monitor closely the situation in Somalia and contribute its share in assisting and encouraging all inclusive national reconciliation. He noted that many Somali leader had requested the United Nations to support their peace initiatives financially and logistically, while the United Nations had no resources for such support. While they understood the frustration and disappointment of the international community over the lack of progress in the process of national reconciliation, he also stressed that every opportunity needed to be seized to encourage and promote dialogue and to maintain contact with all Somali factions to that end. At the regional level, OAU had continued to monitor closely developments in Somalia. In May 1995 OAU had dispatched a tripartite mission to assess the situation and to encourage dialogue and direct contact with the various factions in that country. The sixty-third session of the OAU Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 28 February 1996, also considered the report of the OAU Secretary-General on Somalia and adopted a resolution, in which it expressed concern over the situation in Somalia and over the stalemate in the process of national reconciliation and the establishment of a broad-based national authority. It also called upon the Somali leaders to act urgently to promote dialogue aimed at the pursuit of national reconciliation. Furthermore, the OAU Council of Ministers appealed to OAU member States and the international community as a whole to provide humanitarian assistance in view of the worsening situation. He emphasized the important role

¹³ Ibid., pp. 19-20.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 21.

¹⁵ Ibid., pp. 21-23.

that the United Nations and OAU and other regional organization could play in the search for a solution.¹⁶

The permanent observer of OAU noted that at its sixty-third session, the OAU Council of Ministers had decided that the tripartite mission should make another visit to Somalia in order to maintain direct contacts with the various Somali factions and assess the situation on the ground. As the humanitarian situation was serious, OAU appealed to Member States and to the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to deal with the worsening humanitarian situation. He stated that it was the time to support the proposals of Tunisia and Ethiopia and to reaffirm their support for establishing permanent United Nations representation in Somalia, which they believed was imperative.¹⁷

The representative of Rwanda stated that they could not forget that Somalia was not an isolated case in Africa; there was also Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone and others. His delegation also denounced the “minimalist practice, increasingly adopted by this Organization, of abandoning member countries in difficulty”. He stated that they had seen it in Somalia, Rwanda and, to some extent, in Liberia. It was well known that the withdrawal of the United Nations force from Somalia helped to increase chaos there. “Genocide” in Rwanda was made possible by the withdrawal of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda. Yet the same Organization was prepared to intervene elsewhere, in countries where the problems were similar but less severe. He maintained that experience had shown that countries which had been abandoned ultimately experienced disasters from which they had difficulty recovering. As for Somalia, while it was for the Somalis to find a solution to their problems, the parties had said that they needed a facilitator, the necessary resources and a forum. Those same leaders had also appealed to the United Nations to continue to play the role of facilitator and mediator. He asked what the point was of having several United Nations offices for Somalia in Kenya. Their effectiveness was difficult to gauge. His delegation was convinced that the establishment of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in Nairobi was useful neither for the Somalis nor for United Nations agencies. He noted that the latest report of the Secretary-General mentioned no important initiatives

¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 25-27.

¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 33-34.

taken by that office throughout 1995. He maintained that depriving Somalia of the presence of the international community and the United Nations in Mogadishu had given a green light to the various factions. However, the Somali leaders had requested reinstatement of the Office in Mogadishu, and his delegation hoped that that legitimate appeal would be heeded and answered. In conclusion, he noted that humanitarian aid should be continued, but it should be borne in mind that the most pressing need was to find a political solution.¹⁸

During the course of the debate, several other speakers spoke, noting the extraordinarily complex problems that existed and deploring the lack of progress and the humanitarian situation. They all expressed their belief that the primary responsibility for the situation lay with the Somalis themselves and called on them to return to negotiations with a view to establishing a broad-based national government. Several speakers underlined the importance of maintaining a neutral position with regard to the Somali factions. A number of speakers urged all States to observe strictly the arms embargo in accordance with Security Council resolution 733 (1992). Several speakers encouraged the Secretary-General to transfer the Office from Kenya to Mogadishu as soon as the circumstances allowed. A few speakers recommended sending a Security Council mission to Somalia to meet with the faction leaders and to urge them to resume negotiations. A number of speakers recommended closer collaboration with the United Nations and regional organizations, including OAU and OIC.¹⁹

**Decision of 20 December 1996 (3726th meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 3726th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 December 1996 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the

¹⁸ Ibid., pp. 34-35.

¹⁹ Ibid., pp. 3-4 (Chile); pp. 6-7 (Russian Federation); pp. 7-8 (Republic of Korea); pp. 14-15 (Honduras); p. 15 (Poland); p. 16 (United Kingdom); pp. 16-17 (China); pp. 17-18 (Guinea-Bissau); pp. 18-19 (Botswana); pp. 23-24 (Swaziland); pp. 24-25 (Algeria); pp. 27-28 (India); pp. 28-29 (Morocco); pp. 29-30 (Pakistan); pp. 30-31 (Jordan); pp. 31-32 (Zimbabwe); and pp. 33-34 (Uganda).

President (Italy) made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²⁰

The Security Council is gravely concerned at the resumption of fighting in Mogadishu, where the latest clashes are taking an increasingly heavy toll in human lives. It is deeply concerned, in particular, at the plight of the civilian population, whose suffering is increased even further by the fighting.

The Council calls upon all Somali factions to cease immediately all hostilities and to restore an effective ceasefire.

The Council fully supports the efforts of the countries of the region as well as of international and regional organizations, in particular the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, to facilitate a political settlement of the crisis in Somalia. It appeals to all Somali factions to join in such efforts and to start a process of national reconciliation aimed at the establishment of a broad-based national Government.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the situation and to report to the Council on any further development.

The Council once again reminds all States of their obligations to implement fully the general and complete embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia.

The Council reaffirms its appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who carry out humanitarian activities in Somalia and calls upon all Somali factions to ensure the safety of all the personnel involved.

**Decision of 27 February 1997 (3742nd meeting):
statement by the President**

At its 3742nd meeting, held on 27 February 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia dated 17 February 1997.²¹

In his report, the Secretary-General noted that the Security Council had requested him to consult with countries in the region and to submit recommendations on the role that, within its mandate, the United Nations, including the Council, could play in support of regional efforts for peace, particularly those of Ethiopia and Kenya. He informed the Council that the President of Kenya had succeeded in bringing together Hussein Aided, Osman Atto and Ali Mahdi Mohamed in Nairobi, which marked the first participation of the

Aided faction with the other two since 1994 and 1995, respectively. Those leaders had asked the President to continue his mediation efforts and had agreed to a cessation of hostilities throughout the country. Ethiopia, which had a mandate from both OAU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), succeeded in bringing together 27 Somali leaders, representing 26 political factions, in Sodere, which had culminated in the adoption of a declaration of national pledges and commitments and a solemn declaration. However, neither Mr. Hussein Aided nor Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Egal had participated in the meeting.

The Secretary-General observed that United Nations efforts had continued throughout the reporting period in the form of the good offices of the Secretary-General; the United Nations Political Office for Somalia's facilitation of mediation efforts; cooperation with regional organizations and neighbouring States; periodic reviews by the Security Council; humanitarian relief and rehabilitation assistance; and efforts to improve respect for human rights; all of which would continue. The regional actors had called for massive international aid in support of reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Government of Ethiopia and the Government of Kenya, as Chairman of IGAD, had stated that the most critical support that the United Nations could provide for the regional efforts for peace in Somalia was through exerting the necessary pressure on Somali factions and groups to show greater commitment to national reconciliation. The Security Council in particular had an important role to play in making sure that all efforts were pursued not with a further proliferation of initiatives, but by building on the positive achievements made thus far, and stressed that what had been achieved at Sodere under the auspices of the IGAD countries was sufficiently inclusive to merit the full support of the United Nations. The Secretary-General noted that while the United Nations was already undertaking and would continue to undertake efforts in the fields of relief and rehabilitation, if those efforts were to be expanded, it would be necessary for Member States to contribute more generously than they had in the recent past. He also suggested that the Council could call upon all the Somali parties to cooperate with the efforts of OAU and IGAD and serve notice that it recognized the will of the Somalis represented by those who signed the Sodere and Nairobi declarations and that it would not tolerate any faction's non-cooperation with

²⁰ S/PRST/1996/47.

²¹ S/1997/135.

those who were striving to put those declarations into effect. He noted that while his predecessor had discussed sending a joint fact-finding mission with OAU, it was not evident that it could add significantly to the efforts of neighbouring States at this time. He stated that should the regional actors consider it desirable, he would be ready to designate a high-level Special Envoy for Somalia, whose mission would be to liaise with them in order to support their peacemaking efforts. The Security Council might also wish to urge all States to observe fully their obligations related to the arms embargo under resolution 733 (1992). Finally he noted that the efforts that had culminated in the Nairobi and Sodere declarations had entailed significant costs for the host Governments, and should those Governments wish, the Security Council could request the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and could call upon Member States to contribute to it. In conclusion, the Secretary-General expressed his view, similar to that of the Security Council, that the best hopes for restoring peace to Somalia lay in the negotiation of a political settlement entrusting power to a broad-based Government in which all factions would be represented.

At the same meeting, the President (Kenya) drew the attention of the members of the Council to a letter dated 8 January 1997 from the representative of Ethiopia,²² transmitting the text of a letter dated 6 January and its appendices concerning the High-level Consultative Meeting of the Somali factions held at Sodere, Ethiopia.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²³

The Security Council has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 17 February 1997 on the situation in Somalia.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It reiterates that full responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and for restoring peace rests with the Somali people.

The Council expresses its full support for the efforts of regional and other interested States, as well as those of international and regional organizations, particularly the

Organization of African Unity, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the League of Arab States, to promote a direct political dialogue and facilitate a broad-based political settlement in Somalia.

The Council calls upon all Somali factions to cease immediately all hostilities and to cooperate with the regional and other efforts for peace and national reconciliation in Somalia, including the initiatives taken at Sodere, Ethiopia, and at Nairobi, Kenya.

The Council encourages all States to contribute generously to the appeals of the United Nations to ensure continued relief and rehabilitation efforts in Somalia, including those aimed at the strengthening of civil society. It also encourages States to contribute to regional mediation efforts for Somalia.

The Council reiterates its call upon all States to fulfil their obligations to implement the embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia. In this context, it calls upon all States to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia.

The Council again expresses its appreciation for all United Nations agencies and other organizations and individuals carrying out humanitarian activities in Somalia. It calls upon the Somali factions to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of all humanitarian personnel and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief to the Somali people, including through the opening of the airport and harbour of Mogadishu.

The Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the Somali parties, regional States and organizations on the role the United Nations can play in supporting the peace efforts, including on specific options contained in his report. It requests the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the situation in Somalia and to report to it in an appropriate manner on those consultations and developments in the situation generally.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

Deliberations of 23 April 1997 (3770th meeting)

At the 3770th meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 April 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Portugal), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Ethiopia, Italy, Kuwait, the Netherlands and Tunisia, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The President then drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 16 April 1997 from Kuwait,²⁴

²² S/1997/17.

²³ S/PRST/1997/8.

²⁴ S/1997/324.

transmitting the text of resolution 5638, of 31 March 1997, adopted at the one hundred and seventh regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States, entitled "The situation in Somalia".

The representative of Egypt stated that the situation in Somalia differed radically from the situation in the past. Numerous regional initiatives had led to many positive developments. The Egyptian delegation hoped that the proposals of the Secretary-General would be given serious consideration. Egypt supported the Secretary-General sending a Special Envoy to Somalia on a mission similar to that of the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region. The new Special Envoy should be sent with a view to establishing contacts with the war lords and the representatives of the Somali people, and perhaps also in order to visit neighbouring States and other interested States and to consult with competent regional organizations with a view to presenting a comprehensive report to the Secretary-General on measures to be taken, at which time the Security Council could consider them and adopt an appropriate resolution. He maintained that it was now necessary to reach an agreement on the nature of the United Nations role in Somalia. The delegation of Egypt called for a substantial modification of that role, and it called upon the international community, to assume its responsibilities vis-à-vis the Somali people. He maintained that the efforts of the United Nations and of regional and international organizations to support national reconciliation depended on a number of considerations; the most important of which was that the international community must not recognize any authority in Somalia that did not represent all factions of the Somali people. Second, the embargo on arms shipments needed to be respected and strictly monitored. The international community needed to continue all necessary humanitarian and development assistance to all regions of Somalia without exception. The territorial integrity of Somalia and the principle of non-intervention in its internal affairs needed to be respected. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that the main responsibility for stability in Somalia rested with the Somali people themselves.²⁵

The representative of France stated that the international community needed to try to convince

Somali leaders that there was no alternative to negotiations to achieve national reconciliation. That effort had to involve in particular those who might be tempted by the idea of secession, since, as was the case throughout Africa, the maintenance of the territorial integrity and national unity of Somalia was essential to any settlement. He stated that at the time the best chances for progress lay with the continued efforts of the States of the region, of other interested States and of regional organizations, including the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. He maintained that strengthening the United Nations role did not seem possible unless it was very gradual and was accepted by the Somali leaders, who needed to demonstrate that they sincerely wanted to participate in negotiations to achieve national reconciliation.²⁶

The representative of China stated that China welcomed and supported the regional efforts and called on the factions in Somalia to cooperate closely with them and maintained that they should receive firm and effective support and cooperation from the international community, including the United Nations. The United Nations, particularly the Security Council, had the responsibility, and ought to take measures, to contribute constructively to the settlement of the Somali question. In that connection, they were of the view that the role of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia needed to be strengthened and that the Council should consider positively the Secretary-General's recommendations, made in his report of 17 February 1997 to designate a Special Envoy on the question of Somalia, to send a United Nations/OAU joint fact-finding mission and to establish a Secretary-General's trust fund.²⁷

The representative of the United Kingdom, while maintaining that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council had shown their concern about the continuing conflict in Somalia and their support for regional and other efforts to initiate a political dialogue, in the light of the efforts being made in Kenya, Ethiopia and others, they themselves, however, saw no need for a new initiative on Somalia at that point. However, it was vital to ensure that the ongoing efforts were properly coordinated and fully

²⁵ S/PV.3770, pp. 2-3.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

complementary with each other. This was also the moment to recall that none of the efforts could succeed unless the leaders of the various parties in Somalia showed the necessary political will. He noted that the recent drought highlighted the continuing need for humanitarian assistance, but successful relief operations required the cooperation of the parties on the ground. He expressed his concern to hear of the problems that humanitarian agencies had encountered in Mogadishu and elsewhere and reiterated that the leaders of all parties needed to “stop jockeying for power and concentrate on the needs of the people they were supposed to represent”.²⁸

The representative of Kenya stated that as a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which had continuously been involved in the search for peace in Somalia, he wanted to stress the following points: first, the prospects for peace in Somalia had never been greater, and the international community needed to seize the opportunity to facilitate negotiations and dialogue. Second, all efforts aimed at securing peace in Somali needed to be complementary and coordinated with the IGAD initiative that was already in place. Third, the planned Bossaso conference needed to be provided with material and financial support to ensure its success. He reiterated that a regional initiative was in place, and he called on the international community to support it and to help the people of Somalia to help themselves.²⁹

The representative of Ethiopia reiterated that the primary responsibility for the solution of the problem lay in the hands of the Somalis themselves, and that the role of OAU, IGAD, the United Nations and others was to assist and facilitate the efforts of the Somalis. He informed the Council that in pursuing the mandate of the Sodere meeting, the Somali political movements had also agreed to convene a national reconciliation conference at Bossaso, Somalia, to be followed by a concluding national conference to announce the formation of a transitional central authority. They were pleased and encouraged that preparations were currently under way in that direction and that the Somali political movements had agreed at their recent meeting held in Mogadishu to convene the National Reconciliation Conference on 10 June 1997 in Bossaso, Somalia. He

noted that the Sodere initiative clearly recognized the need for inclusiveness and set procedures for the eventual inclusion of all those who might not have joined the process initially, and it was his hope that those who had not joined would do so. He expressed his belief that the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, needed to take the following measures. First, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the Security Council needed to call upon all the Somali parties to cooperate with the efforts of OAU and IGAD, and make it clear that the Council would not tolerate any faction’s non-cooperation with those who had shown concrete commitment to peace and national reconciliation. Second, the United Nations needed to expand its relief and rehabilitation assistance to Somalia with the clear aim of maintaining and advancing the present momentum for peace and of strengthening the constituencies for peace in the country. Third, to ensure the success of the National Reconciliation Conference and to support the regional peace process, the Security Council should request the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and call upon Member States to contribute. Fourth, the United Nations and its Security Council should emphasize the importance of closer coordination and consultation among those working for peace in Somalia. The new spirit of cooperation and commitment to consultation on the part of the United Nations and others should be welcomed and further enhanced. To that end, the proliferation of initiatives needed to be resisted by the United Nations.³⁰

During the course of the debate several other speakers spoke, underlining the need to support the continued efforts of States of the region, of other interested States and of regional organizations; expressing concern for the humanitarian situation and reiterating the fact that responsibility for the situation was primarily on the Somali people themselves. Most speakers also called for strict enforcement of the arms embargo established by resolution 733 (1992). Most speakers also called on the Somali factions to ensure appropriate security conditions for the operations of international humanitarian organizations. A number of speakers expressed support for the idea of a possible designation of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to support the peacemaking efforts. A number of

²⁸ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

²⁹ Ibid., pp. 11-12.

³⁰ Ibid., pp. 21-22.

speakers also reiterated the importance of any peace settlement being inclusive of all factions.³¹

Decision of 23 December 1997 (3845th meeting): statement by the President

At the 3845th meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 December 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Costa Rica) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 22 December 1997 from the representative of Egypt addressed to the President of the Security Council,³² transmitting the text of the Cairo Declaration on Somalia signed by the Somali leaders on that date in concluding their meetings in Cairo, Egypt.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:³³

The Security Council has considered the situation in Somalia, including the recent developments in the political, military and humanitarian fields.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the crisis in Somalia, bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, it stresses that the responsibility for achieving genuine national reconciliation and peace rests with the Somali people themselves.

The Council expresses its full support for the efforts of regional and other interested States as well as those of international and regional organizations, particularly the Organization of African Unity, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to promote a direct political dialogue and facilitate the emergence of a broad-based central Government in Somalia.

The Council welcomes the outcome of meetings between the Somali leaders held in Cairo concluded on 22 December 1997, in particular their decision to adopt a federal system with regional autonomy and their agreement to form a transitional government of national unity and to hold an inclusive

conference of national reconciliation in Baidoa through which a presidential council and a Prime Minister will be elected. It also welcomes the signing of the Cairo Declaration on Somalia and other important agreements attached thereto, particularly on the creation of an elected Constituent Assembly, the establishment of an independent judicial system and the preparation of a transitional charter. The Council calls upon all Somali leaders to contribute positively to the current momentum for peace and reconciliation created by the significant progress achieved in Cairo, and by the other previous initiatives of Sodere, Nairobi and Sanaa, through the widest possible participation in the planned conference and to cease immediately all acts of violence and to observe the ceasefire.

The Council urges all States to contribute generously to the appeals of the United Nations to ensure continued relief and rehabilitation efforts in all regions of Somalia, including those aimed at the strengthening of civil society. It also stresses the urgent need to address the humanitarian situation in those areas affected by the recent floods.

The Council reiterates its call upon all States to fulfil their obligations to implement the embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia. In this context, it calls upon all States to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia.

The Council also expresses its support for the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General aimed at exploring means for the United Nations to assist in restoring peace and stability in Somalia. It notes with appreciation the decision of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in Nairobi. In this regard, it stresses the need for closer coordination of all efforts for peace in Somalia.

The Council expresses again its appreciation to all United Nations agencies, other organizations and individuals carrying out humanitarian activities in all regions of Somalia. It calls upon the Somali factions to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of all humanitarian personnel and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief, including through the immediate reopening of the airport and seaport of Mogadishu.

The Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the Somali parties, interested and regional States and organizations concerned on means for the United Nations to support peace and reconciliation efforts, including through specific options contained in his report of 17 February 1997. It requests the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed and submit a report about these consultations and developments in the situation in due course.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

³¹ Ibid., pp. 5-6 (Republic of Korea); pp. 6-7 (Japan); pp. 7-8 (Russian Federation); pp. 8-9 (Chile); pp. 9-10 (Sweden); pp. 10-11 (Costa Rica); pp. 12-13 (Guinea-Bissau); pp. 13-14 (Poland); pp. 14-15 (Portugal); pp. 15-16 (Netherlands on behalf of the European Union and associated and aligned countries); pp. 16-17 (Italy); pp. 18-19 (Kuwait); and pp. 19-20 (Tunisia).

³² S/1997/1000.

³³ S/PRST/1997/57.

**Decision of 27 May 1999 (4010th meeting):
statement by the President**

By a letter dated 17 May 1999 addressed to the President of the Security Council,³⁴ the representative of Ethiopia drew the attention of the Security Council to a very dangerous development in Somalia caused by Eritrea's involvement in the conflict in that country. They stated that recent eyewitness accounts had revealed that Eritrea had embarked on a large-scale military activity of destabilization in Somalia in support of one of the warring factions in that war-torn country through shipments by air and sea of arms, including heavy weapons, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 733 (1992). As Ethiopia was the ultimate target of Eritrea's lawlessness and its manifest promotion and sponsorship of terrorism, Ethiopia reserved the right to take the appropriate measures in defence of its national security.

By a letter dated 24 May 1999 addressed to the President of the Security Council,³⁵ the representative of Djibouti shared his country's apprehension about a menacing development in the Horn of Africa that could have the potential of igniting widespread regional conflict. He referred to the widely reported and corroborated accounts of Eritrean weapons and personnel involvement in the anarchic and clearly explosive situation in Somalia. This was also a clear violation of Security Council resolution 733 (1992) and subsequent resolutions. The Government of Djibouti, therefore, called upon the Council to take urgent necessary measures designed to thwart Eritrea's undisguised provocative and destabilizing activities in the region, whose implications were "far beyond measurement of comprehension".

By a letter dated 26 May 1999 addressed to the President of the Security Council,³⁶ the representative of Eritrea forwarded a statement issued on 26 May 1999 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea concerning Ethiopia's accusations regarding Eritrean involvement in Somalia, which were only intended to serve as a smokescreen for Ethiopia's longstanding and escalating armed intervention in Somalia to forward its "own expansionist and hegemonist goals".

³⁴ S/1999/563.

³⁵ S/1999/600.

³⁶ S/1999/611.

At the 4010th meeting of the Security Council, held on 27 May 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Gabon) drew the attention of the Council to the above-mentioned letters.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:³⁷

The Security Council expresses its alarm at the serious deterioration in the political, military and humanitarian situation in Somalia and concern at the reports of increasing external interference in Somalia.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and unity of Somalia, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It reiterates that full responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and for restoring peace rests with the Somali people.

The Council expresses its support for the activities of the Standing Committee on Somalia and calls upon all Somali factions to cease all hostilities immediately and to cooperate with the regional and other efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation.

The Council is deeply concerned at recent reports of the illicit delivery of weapons and military equipment to Somalia, in violation of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, which could exacerbate the crisis in Somalia and endanger the peace and security of the region as a whole.

The Council reiterates its call upon States to observe the arms embargo and to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia. It further requests Member States having information about violations of the provisions of resolution 733 (1992) to provide this information to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992.

The Council expresses its deep concern at the humanitarian impact of the long-lasting crisis and, in particular, condemns attacks or acts of violence against civilians, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons. It also condemns attacks on humanitarian workers, in violation of the rules of international law.

The Council calls upon the Somali factions to cooperate on the basis of the principles of neutrality and non-discrimination with the United Nations agencies and other organizations carrying out humanitarian activities. The Council urges all parties to guarantee the security and the freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and to ensure unhindered

³⁷ S/PRST/1999/16.

access to those in need of assistance. In this regard, it also commends the existing coordination of all efforts of the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of the Somali people, undertaken by the Somalia Aid Coordination Body, comprising donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The Council urges all States to contribute generously to the appeal of the United Nations to ensure continued relief and rehabilitation efforts in all regions of Somalia, including those aimed at the strengthening of civil society.

The Council welcomes the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in Nairobi.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to submit periodic reports on the situation in Somalia.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

Decision of 12 November 1999 (4066th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4066th meeting held on 12 November 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia dated 16 August 1999,³⁸ submitted pursuant to the request in the statement of the President of 27 May 1999.³⁹

In his report, the Secretary-General observed that despite persistent security threats and rising distribution costs caused by clan conflict, mines and other problems, the United Nations agencies and their humanitarian partners continued to deliver food aid to a high proportion of the most affected areas and to most settlements known to have incorporated displaced families. However, in areas threatened by sporadic armed conflict, aid delivery had not been maintained at requisite levels. He stated that greater investment was needed to strengthen local community capacities and resilience to meet the demands of man-made and natural emergencies. While “loud” emergencies in Somalia had been met by substantial short-term responses from the donor community, the operational capacity of humanitarian agencies had gradually been eroded, primarily owing to inadequate donor support for medium-term rehabilitation measures. Such longer-term support was a prerequisite for any agency to be able to

maintain its staff and its presence. He noted that little or no development had taken place in Somalia for 10 years and the country’s development process had even gone into reverse. In addition, in both informal and formal discussions of the Security Council, Member States had expressed concern about the increasingly evident effects of the lack of a functioning central government in Somalia. Somalia was different from other African societies in crisis, given its fundamentally homogeneous character. There was no major religious divide, ethnic division or dispute over the allocation of wealth derived from natural resources. Rather, Somalia was a polity in crisis. He stated that while a negotiated settlement of Somalia’s crisis had continued to be elusive, some important steps forward had been made. Within Somalia itself, there was increasing evidence that ordinary Somalis were tired of violence and were pressuring their leaders to opt for peace. However, several Somali leaders had said that they believed that no progress was possible while Eritrea and Ethiopia continued to be at war and to involve Somali faction leaders in that war. The conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia was clearly having a highly adverse effect on the situation in Somalia. He noted that while reports of arms flows into Somalia, in contravention of the embargo established by Security Council resolutions 773 (1992), were deeply worrying, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia lacked the requisite mandate and capacity to verify those reports.

He expressed his belief that the stage had been reached at which it might be appropriate for the United Nations to play an enhanced role in Somalia. He proposed that consideration be given to action on two fronts. First, the United Nations, working impartially and objectively with interested Member States, especially with the IGAD process, needed to do more to bring about national unity and the restoration of a national government in Somalia. In addition, consideration might be given as to whether, in advance of political agreements on the formation of a national government, actions could be taken by the international community to assist Somalia to recover its sovereignty in certain limited fields, for example the protection of offshore natural resources. Efforts could also be made to limit the introduction of illegal arms and weapons. Other possibilities might exist in the area of developmental assistance.

³⁸ S/1999/882.

³⁹ S/PRST/1999/16.

At the same meeting, the President (Slovenia) made the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁴⁰

The Security Council recalls the report of the Secretary-General of 16 August 1999 on the situation in Somalia.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and unity of Somalia, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council expresses its grave concern at the increasingly evident effects of the lack of a functioning central government in Somalia. It regrets the fact that most children receive no health care and that two generations have had no access to formal education. It is concerned that some Somali natural resources are being exploited, mainly by foreigners, without regulation and monitoring. It expresses its deep distress over reports that the absence of law and order in the country risks creating a haven for criminals of all kinds.

The Council welcomes the progress that has been made in the development of a greater uniformity of approach on the part of the international community in addressing the crisis in Somalia. It recognizes that the Standing Committee on Somalia, created a year ago, has been instrumental in monitoring the evolution of the Somali situation and working for a greater coordination of efforts by the various external actors, in order to avoid contrasting influences and to give weight to common actions. It calls for the strengthening of the coordination of these efforts aimed at securing peace and stability in Somalia.

The Council expresses its full support for the efforts exerted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to find a political solution to the crisis in Somalia. In this context, it welcomes the initiative of the President of Djibouti aimed at restoring peace and stability in Somalia, which was outlined in his letter dated 23 September 1999 to the President of the Security Council. It endorses the call made by the President of Djibouti to the warlords to recognize fully and accept the principle that the Somali people are free to exercise their democratic right to choose their own regional and national leaders. The Council looks forward to the finalization of the proposals of the President of Djibouti at the forthcoming summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and stands ready to work with the Intergovernmental Authority and the Standing Committee to help to bring about national unity and the restoration of a national government in Somalia. It calls upon the leaders of the Somali factions and all others concerned to cooperate constructively and in good faith in the efforts to resolve the crisis.

The Council strongly calls upon all States to observe and improve the effectiveness of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 and to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia. It urges Member States having information about violations of the provisions of resolution 733 (1992) to provide this information to

the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, with a view to supporting the work of the Committee.

The Council expresses its grave concern at the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia. It urges all States to contribute generously to the appeals of the United Nations to ensure continued relief and rehabilitation efforts in all regions of Somalia, including those aimed at the strengthening of civil society. In this context, it encourages enhancement of the operational capacity of humanitarian agencies in Somalia through donor support.

The Council expresses its appreciation to all United Nations agencies, other organizations and individuals carrying out humanitarian activities in all regions of Somalia. It calls upon the Somali factions to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of all humanitarian personnel and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief. In this context, it strongly condemns attacks and acts of violence against, and the murder of, humanitarian workers in Somalia, and reiterates its position that those responsible for these acts should be brought to justice.

The Council expresses its satisfaction that despite all the difficulties, approximately half of Somali territory continues to enjoy relative peace. In this context, it notes that local administrations in some parts of the country are beginning to provide some basic services to the people of Somalia.

The Council welcomes the efforts of civil society in Somalia. It is encouraged by the political initiatives of Somalis, through regional conferences, often organized by traditional leaders and informal cross-clan contacts, to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. In this context, it underlines the active role of Somali women's groups.

The Council welcomes the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in Nairobi.

The Council encourages the Secretary-General to review the role of the United Nations in Somalia, as a prelude to the United Nations playing an enhanced role, aimed at achieving a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia. This review would include the possible relocation of some United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as the United Nations Political Office, to Somalia. The review should also consider the security situation carefully, as well as the resources that would be necessary to provide a secure environment for United Nations operations in Somalia.

The Council takes note of the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General of 16 August 1999 that the international community should consider establishing mechanisms which would allow financial assistance to flow into secure and stable areas of Somalia even before a formal central government and other institutions are re-established, with a view to promoting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and unity of Somalia.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

⁴⁰ S/PRST/1999/31.