

**REPORT OF THE CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON SOMALIA HELD ON
THE SIDELINE OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF OIC
FOREIGN MINISTERS
NEW YORK
21st SEPTEMBER 2016.**

The OIC Contact Group on Somalia met at Ministerial level on 21st September 2016 on the sideline of the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) of Foreign Ministers during the 71st Session of the UNGA in New York. The meeting reviewed the latest developments in Somalia. It received a briefing from the Somali Foreign Minister and the OIC Secretary General. It also heard interventions from other members of the Contact Group. During the deliberations focusing on peace and state building process, stabilization efforts and the implementation of the electoral system in the country, the meeting agreed on the following:

i. The meeting reiterated its respect for the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Somalia and urged all countries to do the same.

ii. The meeting noted with satisfaction the steady progress made by Somalia under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud and conveyed its full support for the Government led by Prime Minister HE. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke. It encouraged the Federal Government and institutions to intensify their outreach efforts in order to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation including with the regions to lay the basis for durable peace and stability in Somalia.

iii. The meeting commended the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the Somali Security Forces and AMISOM for their sacrifices in the stabilization efforts and urged them to sustain the momentum. It paid tribute to those who lost their lives and appealed to the UNSC to consider lifting the arms embargo imposed on Somalia in order to accelerate the building of Somalia's capacity in the security sector.

iv. The meeting strongly condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism perpetrated by Al-Shabaab militants who continue to attack high profile targets, AMISOM and the Somali security forces as well innocent persons in their continuing desperate attempt to destabilize Somalia, the region and the current electoral process underway in the country. It emphasized that such odious acts of criminality negate the Islamic values of moderation and the respect for the sanctity of human life. The meeting called on the militants to renounce violence and join the peace building and reconciliation process.

v. The meeting welcomed the recent agreement reached by the stakeholders on the 2016 electoral process and the release in August 2016 of the electoral timetable by the Federal

Indirect Election Implementation Team and call for its timely implementation in a transparent, inclusive and peaceful manner as a means of restoring full democracy in Somalia.

vi. The meeting called on the OIC Member States and Financial Institutions to step up their assistance including humanitarian assistance to the FGS and the drought affected regions to support peace and state building as well as the reconstruction efforts consistent with the Six Pillar Policy of the FGS.

vii. The meeting reviewed the overall engagement of the OIC in Somalia and welcomed the recent transformation of the OIC Office into a Development agency to contribute to the long term political and socio-economic development of the country. In this context, it encouraged the Secretary General to undertake his planned visit to Somalia as soon as possible to explore ways and means to further assist the Somali national reconciliation.

viii. The meeting welcomed the recent high level visits to Somalia by officials from some Member States and encouraged others to emulate this example. It further requested them to reopen their diplomatic missions in Mogadishu.