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جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
البعثة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Federal Republic of Somalia
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
New York

Statement by

H.E Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman

Ambassador Permanent Representative

of the Federal Republic of Somalia

to the United Nations

on October 31, 2022.

FGS Draft Statement for Sanctions Renewal 2022,

At the outset, my delegation warmly congratulates you, Mr. President, and your country, Ghana, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this month. I would also like to commend your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Gabon, for his effective management of the Council's work during the month of October.

My delegation takes note of the just adopted resolution renewing the sanction regime on Somalia.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Three decades ago, the arms embargo was initiated by the Council to end Somalia's civil war in 90s during the collapse of the military regime. Today, Somalia has an elected government, who has vowed to protect its people and safeguard its territory.

In that context, the Somali Government goes on record again in seeking to lift the arms embargo imposed on its government since 1992. The arms embargo on Somalia, the longest United Nations sanction regime with the widest mandate, is

hindering our efforts in rebuilding our National Security Forces and our capability to properly counter the threat of Al-Khawarij, formerly known as Al-Shabaab.

In that regard, **I would like to underscore the following points:**

First, as a sovereign state, Federal Government of Somalia has the inherent right to strengthen its security and protect its population from violent extremist groups. We have fully implemented the Weapons and Ammunition Strategy in a comprehensive manner.

The WAM National Strategy was successful in guiding the governance of arms and ammunition, including the establishment of relevant national frameworks.

Second, after President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud declared war against Al-Khawarij, our National Army and the local population have inflicted heavy losses on the group and its followers. Nonetheless, challenges remain in consolidating operational gains, especially in liberated areas.

In addition, as you are aware, the Federal Government has requested an extension on the December 30th deadline to overtake some of the Forward Operating Bases from ATMIS. In the last four months, SNA forces have engaged in the ongoing offensive operations against Al Khawarij, and they have utilized a major portion of their armaments. With these renewed sanctions on Somalia, the situation of armaments is becoming unsustainable. This challenge and other new developments have forced the Government to request an extension on initiating the first phase of the STP.

Therefore, the agreed Somali Transitional Plan won't succeed if the necessary international support, is not restructured properly and made available with suitable alignment to the realities on the ground, including investment in quick impact projects as well as reestablishing local governance in recovered areas.

The present state of arms capability imbalance between our National Forces and the terrorist group is a direct cause of the Council's arms embargo. Our hands are tied in the fight against a ruthless enemy at this most critical time. The African Union Peace and Security Communique of July 2022 has called for the urgent lifting of the arms embargo on Somalia.

In this connection, as a matter of paramount importance, the Council should seriously consider the request of the African Union so, that Somali National Army

are sufficiently equipped in terms of lethal capability as captured in the CONOPs to defeat Al-Khawarij and pave the way for a successful exit of ATMIS by 2024.

Third, not only the arms embargo on Somalia is persistently violated as reported but also Council's charcoal ban is also violated on a regular basis as evidenced in MV Fox vessel case where the ship and its crew were released despite the irrefutable and overwhelming evidence provided by the FGS.

We commend the Omani Government for seizing the above-mentioned vessel in Salalah port in Oman despite the challenges in the transparency of the prosecution process of the criminal network involved in the illegal trade. We will continue our active engagement with Omani authorities and counting on their cooperation in following the guidelines of relevant Security Council resolutions in returning the confiscated Somali charcoal to its rightful owner, FGS.

Mr. President, Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Somali people who are fighting in many regions in Somalia are asking this esteemed Council: *“Why has the Council voted in favor of this resolution again despite the intensifying fight against the terrorist group?”*

The victims of the terrorists' attacks are also asking each Council member in this chamber: *“Why lifting the arms embargo on Somalia is a threat to international peace and security while we see and witness daily the arming of other countries to defend their territory and people?”*

This unjust and unfair double standard is preventing the Government of Somalia to legally obtain military lethal equipment to rebuild its national army for decades and without having to rely on external forces for the security of our country indefinitely.

Nonetheless, Somali people have risen against the tyranny of the terrorist group, and we will not await Council's condolences and sympathies for another terrorist attack of 100s of casualties anymore.

Somalis will continue to resist with arms and with their bare hands in all regions of Somalia against violent extremism ideology until a decisive victory is achieved
Insha-Allah

In conclusion,

It is clear that arms embargo on Somalia will not help build a well-equipped Somali National Security Forces capable of protecting its people and territory. As a result, it is also obvious that that STP and ATMIS successful exit from Somalia will not take place within the agreed timelines. What is certain in our view is that there is a small closing window of opportunity for Somalia, its neighbors, and its international friends to fully align with FGS priorities to defeat the transnational terrorist group once and for all as declared by HSM and endorsed by the African Union.

There is no doubt that transnational terrorist groups will continue to gain power through violence unless we work together bilaterally and multilaterally to provide stronger support and cooperation to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I will leave you with this quote: “It is not enough that we do our best; Sometimes we must do what is required”

I thank you for your attention