



Concept Note

A. Context

Somalia stands at crossroads. Following the electoral process in 2016-17 and with the new government in office, significant progress has been achieved on the government's inter-connected reform agenda on security, inclusive politics and economics. The domestic situation, however, remains fragile.

With the current dynamics in Somalia, this is the moment where decisive action is required to keep progress on track. As the highest level international platform on Somalia, the Partnership Forum provides a critical opportunity to bring together the Somali actors and their partners in their joint contribution to a brighter and more prosperous future for the Somali population.

On the political side, the aim should be to further political stability, and make progress on the Constitutional review process and inclusive politics - notably resource and revenue sharing - as well as on the Roadmap towards the 2020 elections.

On security, in the overall context of the National Security Architecture, the key requirements are the implementation of the comprehensive Transition Plan, which includes securing sustainable financing for a transformed AMISOM and for the Somali security forces. There is also a need to accelerate stabilization activities to help consolidate political and security initiatives which is a core component of the Transition Plan.

On the economic side, key reforms must continue towards normalisation of relations with the IMF and the creation of an investment environment. Equally, drought recovery and humanitarian assistance are critical to stabilisation, job creation and poverty reduction.

Given the central importance of women's empowerment, rule of law and human rights in improving all efforts to build sustainable peace and development, it is critical that these challenges are consistently placed at the centre of discussions during the event and in its preparation, as well as to ensure meaningful participation of Somali women throughout the Forum.

This Forum directly builds on two earlier meetings: The London Somalia Conference in May 2017, where the landmark Security Pact and the New Partnership for Somalia were agreed; and the meetings in Mogadishu in December 2017, which called for a

security Transition Plan and to take a first substantive review of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF).

While these meetings included two components, one on security¹ and another on political, economic and other issues² linked to the New Partnership for Somalia, this Forum will address both in an integrated way – a core requirement for Somalia's stabilisation.

Leading up to the Somalia Partnership Forum, several international events have been essential to the preparation, notably the following:

- On economic reform, a Somalia Roundtable was organised on 19 April 2018 during the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings, in which Somalia's delivery of economic reforms was welcomed, and progress towards normalising IFI relations and access to concessional finance and debt relief was maintained.
- On security, the Somali Prime Minister and EU co-chaired a High Level Meeting in Brussels on 2nd May 2018. Following the Somali Government's and the AU Peace and Security Council's approval of the Transition Plan, the Brussels meeting secured international support for the Plan, as well pressing forward with other reforms. Linked to this are a set of actions and events linked to the transformation and mobilising of support for Somali Security Forces and AMISOM.
- On humanitarian response and recovery, the Somali Government, UK and UN hosted a humanitarian meeting in London on 6 March 2018. In the same area, progress has also been made in completing the Drought Impact Needs Assessment, and the subsequent development of the Recovery and Resilience Framework, which will be launched at the Forum.

B. Objectives

The overarching objectives of the Forum are the following:

- Take stock of progress made in delivering on the security, political, economic, and the resilience and humanitarian agendas.
- Set priorities for the next 6-12 months.
- Agree on commitments to support political, security and economic progress. Gender and human rights will be integrated into all of these commitments.

C. Expected results

The Forum will undertake a substantial review of the Mutual Accountability Framework and agree on joint commitments for the coming period. It will look at key themes as follows:

1. Political reforms

- Commitment by all parties to the implementation of the Political Roadmap 2020 in the areas of federalisation, reconciliation, judicial reform and Constitutional review, legislation and planning for elections, formation of State institutions necessary for inclusive elections and stability in 2020 and beyond. This will

¹ Under the Comprehensive Approach to Security and its Executive Group.

² This falls under the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) structure, and focuses on inclusive politics, effective and efficient institutions, social and human development, infrastructure, resilience, human rights and gender and stabilisation.

include political agreements between the Federal Government of Somalia and its Federal Member States on key reforms, including on resource and revenue sharing.

- Commitment to increased participation of women in local, regional and federal political and peace processes, as well as regarding the Constitutional review process.
- Renewed agreement on a time plan for the establishment of key institutions stipulated by the Provisional Constitution.

2. Comprehensive Approach to Security

- Commitment by the Somali Federal Government and Federal Member States to further progress on the implementation of the National Security Architecture and key reforms in Phase One of the Transition Plan; in particular, agreement on a process of integrating regional forces; agreement on roles and responsibilities of Somali Security Forces, plan for force generation; agreement on resource-sharing across security space.
- Commitment by all parties to the implementation of the conditions-based Transition Plan, with clear target dates, and identification of resources required to support it, including a financing strategy.
- Predictable funding for AMISOM to ensure the stability of its operations, reflecting its transformation and the need for increased burden sharing.
- Commitment and enhanced coordination to build the capacity of Somali National Security Forces, including maritime security, strengthening the rule of law, civilian oversight and promotion and protection of human rights, as well as increased gender balance in the security forces in line with the Transition Plan.
- Commitment to aligning all support activities, including complementary civilian stabilization activities, with the Transition Plan as well as the National Development Plan.

3. Economic recovery

- Commitment to priority reforms, including those contained in the IMF's 3rd Staff Monitored Programme underway, in order to sustain progress towards IFI normalisation and to reach arrears clearance as well as the decision point for debt relief.
- Set priority actions on accelerating economic growth, including public-private dialogue, creating an enabling regulatory framework for investments and private sector development.
- Commitment for increased livelihood opportunities especially for youth and women.

4. Resilience, recovery and humanitarian assistance

- Taking stock of the lessons learned from 2016-17-18 crisis, challenges and progress achieved so far towards more harmonized and better-coordinated disaster and crisis response, recovery and resilience building in Somalia;
- Presenting the RRF in order to accelerate recovery and resilience to future shocks. ;
- Commitment to maintain a significant humanitarian response in 2018.
- Providing recommendations on the next steps towards the operationalisation of the humanitarian/development nexus in order to foster complementarity, synergies and cooperation between humanitarian, development and other actors,.

5. Women, Peace and Security

- Firm commitment to enhancing women's meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and state-building, democratization and economic recovery.

D. Structure/choreography

The event will be held over 1.5 days. The first day (16/7) will be a senior officials' preparatory meeting. It will focus on political, security and economic reforms and also include discussions on long term solutions to humanitarian challenges and building resilience.

The second half day (17/7) will be a high level ministerial segment bringing all strands together, and generating commitments in support of the broader security transition.

A joint communiqué including agreement on actions for the next 6-12 months will be issued on the second day.

There will also be **three side events**:

- A breakfast ministerial meeting with focus on women's meaningful participation and voice, not least in peacebuilding, Constitutional reform and the 2020 elections
- A side event on solutions for internally displaced persons and returnees
- A side event on Private public dialogue



Monday 16th July - Somalia Partnership Forum **Senior Officials' Meeting**

09:00-09:30 **Opening Remarks – FGS, EU and SW**

09:30-11:00 **Inclusive Politics – co-chaired by FGS, SW and UN**

- Introduction by the co-chairs
- Presentation of the Political Roadmap 2020 - progress made and priorities going forward
- Key interventions from delegations
- Response from the FGS, conclusions and next steps

11:00-11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15-13:00 **Security Part I: Implementation of the Transition Plan and National Security Architecture – co-chaired by FGS, EU and AU**

- Introduction by the co-chairs.
- Progress made and priorities for the implementation of the Transition Plan and National Security Architecture
- Key interventions from delegations
- Response from the FGS, conclusions and next steps

13:00-14:30 **Buffet lunch [*Side event Displacement and Durable Solutions –by invitation*]**

14:30-15:30 **Security Part II – Supporting the Transition Plan and National Security Architecture Implementation– co-chaired by FGS, EU and AU**

- Introduction by the co-chairs.
- Resource requirements
- Reconfiguration of and support to AMISOM
- Key interventions from delegations
- Response from the FGS, conclusions and next steps

15:30-17:00 Economic recovery - *co-chaired by FGS, EU and WB*

- Introduction by the co-chairs
- Priority actions to accelerate economic growth and to sustain progress towards IFIs normalisation
- Key interventions from delegations
- Response from the FGS, conclusions and next steps

17:00-17:15 Coffee break

17:15 – 18:15 Resilience, recovery and humanitarian assistance - *co-chaired by FGS, SW, EU and UK*

- Introduction by the co-chairs
- Presentation of the Resilience and Recovery Framework and the Humanitarian Response Plan, and linkages between them
- Key interventions from delegations
- Response from the FGS, conclusions and next steps

18:15-18:30 Agreement on the Communiqué and Mutual Accountability Framework - *co-chaired by FGS, EU, SW, AU, UN*

19:00-20:30 Reception at The Hotel

Tuesday 17th July – Somalia Partnership Forum
Ministerial level

[08:30-10:00 Ministerial breakfast Women, Peace and Security – by invitation]

[10:30-13:30 Private Public Partnership –by invitation]

SPF Ministerial Meeting

15:00-15:30 **Opening Remarks from FGS, EU, SW, AU, UN [4 min/each]**

15:30-15:40 **Family picture**

15:40-15:50 **Summary from FGS on main outcomes and priorities on**

- **Inclusive Politics**
- **Security**
- **Economic Recovery**
- **Resilience, recovery and humanitarian assistance**

15:50-17:40 **Key interventions from delegations**

17:40-18:00 **Endorsement of the Mutual Accountability Framework, adoption of the Communiqué and close - *FGS, EU, SW***

18:00 **Press conference – *FGS, EU, SW***