

**Statement of H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud,
President of the Federal Republic of Somalia**

New Deal for Somalia Conference
Brussels, 16 September 2013

H.E. Ismail Omer Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti,
H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council
Her Excellency, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European
Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the
European Commission,
Excellencies and Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to the New Deal Somalia Conference in Brussels. Your presence and participation at this important event demonstrates your commitment, level of seriousness and desire to assist Somalia and its people. I am honoured to be co-hosting this conference with the European Union and I thank you for the warm welcome accorded to all delegates here in Brussels. I also wish to note support and formidable hospitality availed by the Belgium government and its people in this endeavor. Our presence here signifies a new beginning in Somalia's relationship with its international development and donor partners.

You would recall that when I assumed office in September 2012, I made a high call and challenged our development partners, donors and our friends within the international community to wear new glasses with new lenses and partner with us on a new model that is different from the model that we engaged each other for the past 22 years, including the long transitional periods. In essence, I called for a paradigm shift in development interventions with Somalia as the old models did not work.

Let me congratulate all parties here and announce that the Compact that we are here to sign tailored within the framework of the New Deal speaks to that call and is a fresh approach in that it was designed through a consultative process with our development partners, MPs, regional administrations, line Ministries, civil society and women groups and thus is Somali led and Somali owned. The Compact incorporates our government's Six Pillar Policy framework with priorities anchored on state building and peace-building goals. These priorities are inclusive politics, security and justice reform, economic foundation, revenue and services delivery. Most importantly, the New Deal Compact is underpinned by core principles informed by this new paradigm shift, and which bind the government and its development partners.

From our side we've changed our approach as well in line with paradigm shift, and we have engaged with our communities to take part in key decision-making processes. We held national reconciliation conferences on judicial reform, education reform, political vision and extremism. Conference participants were Somalis from all walks of life and all segments of the society. Their voices will be heard and their views reflected in our strategies to implement key policies and procedures.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is about expressing our commitment and signing to the Somali Compact as the development framework in this regard. This COMPACT process is based on the Busan New Deal principles to determine the priorities for the next three years (2014-2016). Public Consultations has been undertaken with key stakeholders and across the country. With this in mind the Federal Government of Somalia, on behalf of its people presents this COMPACT, a living document reflecting the on-going process of transition.

First and foremost, let me begin with the security which is our top priority and is indeed it is the foundation of a functioning state, and the pre-requisite to stability and development.

We are laying down the foundations of our security institutions and reform is progressing very well across the board. We are steadily building the long-term sustainable force that will take over our own security. New commanders are now in place, a campaign to instill discipline and national loyalty is ongoing and we are allocating the majority of our budget to security institutions. We are integrating various militias, rehabilitating defectors, increasing patrols and taking tough decisions when human rights abuses are committed.

Our forces lack basic and necessary equipment. Paying them on time is an absolute must in the interests of discipline and loyalty but all too often this has not happened. Security operations in across the country continue around the clock in our attempt to deter and prevent Al Shabaab attacks on civilians and high value targets in the capital and other cities.

Moreover, we have also successfully launched the Somalia National Security Council, which will improve coordination, planning and strategic operations. This means we will be more effective in preventing security incidents and protecting our citizens.

In the security sector we must find the right balance between fighting a counter-terrorism campaign, reforming and retraining at the same time. Doing

either would be difficult from our starting point. Doing both simultaneously, as we must, is a real challenge.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me now say a few words about governance. We fully understand that good governance is essential in all Somali institutions. public finance management reform, judiciary reform, and Institutional building initiatives are underway and testament to our commitment of establishing good governance and Rule of Law. Our parliament, where we have introduced and ratified legislation on setting up local administrations, public finance management, investment, and much more, is now functioning properly.

Public Finance Management is critical area where we have made progress. Our central bank now has modern facilities, such as swift-code and a high-tech biometric system to pay salaries. Other critical reforms are also underway. Our parliament has approved the government budget on three occasions and our expenditure is in line with the budget. We have restored our relationship with the World Bank and IMF after 22 years absence. Norway is assisting us with direct budgetary support through the Special Financing Facility. For the first time in Somalia we have advertised the positions of Accountant General and Auditor General in order to get highly competent and professional people. We have a zero tolerance policy on corruption.

On the other hand, I would like to present to you the political progress that we are making in Somalia - a political solution is the first step in building a stable governance framework in our country. This is why inclusive politics is the first pillar of the Compact. It holds everything else together.

During our first year in office, we have begun to lay the foundations for the return of effective, stable and representative governance in Somalia: the cornerstone of lasting peace. The New Deal will help us to enlarge, accelerate and deepen those efforts.

But we must be mindful that much more remains to be done. Somalia should possess a fully-fledged Constitution reflecting a broad national consensus on how we wish to govern ourselves. We must complete the establishment of our federal system, and advance the process of democratization through development of a multiparty electoral system that will serve to unite us, rather than to divide us.

To this end, Parliament has already passed legislation establishing an independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission, as

required by the Provisional Constitution. We must move quickly to put in place other critical, statutory bodies, including the Boundaries and Federation Commission and National Independent Electoral Commission, whose tasks it will be to guide our thinking and inform our actions in order to complete Somalia's transition to stability, security and democracy.

In March this year, my Government signed an agreement with the authorities in Puntland, framing our shared commitment to implement a federal system of governance. This agreement must now be translated into institutional merge, deepening governance and social cooperation.

In August, we signed an accord that establishes an interim Jubba Administration, which also aspires to become a Federal Member State in accordance with the Constitution. This agreement, achieved after long months of painstaking negotiations, demonstrates what can be achieved through the combination of Somali political leadership, AMISOM peace support operations and the steadfast support of our closest neighbors, working together within the framework of IGAD. I extend special thanks to the Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia -- and my good friend Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom in particular -- for its tireless efforts in bringing these talks to a successful conclusion.

Under the terms of the Jubba agreement, critical national assets will be restored to Federal Government control, our forces will be integrated into a unified command and control, and we will work together to develop an inclusive, representative and permanent authority for the people of that region. We urge the people and the leadership of the Jubba Regions to sustain their commitment to building peace and good governance, and to set an example of which all Somali people can be proud.

We have begun similar processes elsewhere in Somalia, establishing interim administrations in Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Hiiraan and Galgaduud regions. We have engaged the authorities in Galmudug and Himan and Heeb, as well as Ahlu Sunna wal Jama'a, to solicit their views and commitment as we pursue the twin goals of peace building and state building across southern Somalia. Members of Parliament have also played a key role in all of these processes, working with their constituencies and serving as a critical channel of communication between the people of their regions and the Federal Government.

With the good offices of the Government of Turkey, we have continued our dialogue with the authorities in Somaliland, underscoring our determination to preserve the unity of both the Somali state and the Somali nation, not by force and coercion, but through negotiation, mutual respect and understanding.

Somali unity must be more than a rhetorical device: it must preserve and promote the dignity, equality and legitimate aspirations of all Somali citizens. By adhering to such principles, we are confident that our dialogue with Somaliland will not only continue, but will eventually bear fruit.

These are major milestones, but enormous challenges still lie ahead – challenges that were clearly articulated by participants at the Vision 2016 Conference convened earlier this month in Mogadishu, where some of the best minds in the country, and from Somali communities living abroad, came together to offer their remarkable experience, insights and expertise in charting the way forward. At another major gathering just last week in Mogadishu, respected Somali religious leaders from across the country announced their determination to a future free from the intolerance and extremism that has taken root in recent years.

We welcome all such efforts, and in order to build upon them, and to ensure that during the course of the daily struggle to rebuild our country we do not lose sight of the longer-term challenges ahead, we are announcing the Vision 2016 Initiative: a concerted effort under my leadership, to complete the Constitution, establish the federal system and prepare the ground for elections. We will need direction, determination, discipline, as well as the requisite human and financial resources if we are to succeed, and as we roll out the concrete objectives and benchmarks for this initiative, we will be seeking the support of both the Somali people and the international community.

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I would like to call on international partners to support the money transfer system which is the lifeline of poor people and I request your support to encourage Barclays Bank to postpone the suspension of Somali remittance accounts. It is the poor people who will suffer most from this measure. We also call on all remittance companies to be completely law-abiding and transparent in their operations in order to provide confidence to the banks.

Finally, all the achievements that we are making on the ground require our collective commitment, determination, and unity. I therefore would like to kindly request your generosity to help Somalia. I am very confident that with our collective leadership and courage we can continue this journey to a successful conclusion. The New Deal must deliver on the ground. It must not be a well-intentioned, bureaucratic process that remains remote from Somali lives.

The expectation from our people is extremely – and understandably – high. Somalis are looking towards the international community to emerge from recovery to reconstruction and deliver support that makes a real difference to the lives of ordinary people. We must not let them down. Assistance must be real and tangible, not abstract and theoretical. Somalis have given us their confidence as they turn from despair to hope.

Let me end with an appeal to you all. Let us rally round to rebuild Somalia together. Let us make sure the COMPACT revolutionizes the international community's approach to a country shattered by war and ready to enjoy the fruits of peace.

The best possible legacy of the New Deal is a New Somalia.

I thank you for your efforts to make this happen.

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