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**A New Deal for Somalia: a unique opportunity to build a peaceful society**  
**Brussels, 16 September 2013**

*Minister Christian Friis Bach, co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding commented after the conference:*

Somalia is working hard to build a peaceful society. All those with a stake in global peace and stability have committed to support Somalia to achieve this goal. This is what a New Deal for Somalia is about.

The Compact for Somalia, which was endorsed today and which is inspired by the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, is a powerful example of what a strong partnership between national and international actors can deliver. Our challenge from tomorrow on will be to translate the promises set out in the compact into action and results. To achieve results, national and international partners will have to stay the course, working together for as long as it will take to ensure a safe transition, and despite the setbacks that may occur along the way. An inclusive national political dialogue is a pre-condition to progress, I believe.

The New Deal, which over 40 countries signed in 2011, promised change for countries affected by conflict or fragility. The New Deal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, which are at the core of the Compact for Somalia, are increasingly recognized as the key priorities in processes to build peaceful states and societies. Without inclusive political processes, justice, security, and an economy that creates revenues and opportunities for all there cannot be peace and development, neither in Somalia nor anywhere else. A compact, in the New Deal context, is a strategic agreement that focuses attention and resources on “the priorities of the priorities” in support of peace- and state-building, sets the mechanism to deliver on those priorities in partnership, and holds parties involved accountable for results or lack thereof. The Somali Compact is a New Deal contract between Somalia and its international partners and it is also a new social contract between the state of Somalia and its people.

I, as co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, am hopeful that Somalia can achieve the kind of progress its people expect, and that the New Deal approach can facilitate. Somalia can count on the support of all members of the International Dialogue, and most importantly the support of the g7+ forum, a group of fragile states of which Somalia is an active part.

As we move forward, we must ensure that the Somalia compact is simple and implementable, and that we manage the challenges ahead pro-actively and by staying engaged. A key priority will be to build the national institutions and mechanisms that can deliver the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals outlined in the compact.

We shall meet again soon to assess progress with the implementation of the New Deal for Somalia.

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