



THE COUNCIL OF INTERSTATE COOPERATION

COMMUNIQUE

GAROWE

Date: 20th – 24th October 2018

The 4th Conference of the Council of Inter-State Cooperation (CIC) held in Garowe, the capital city of Puntland State and was attended by four leaders of the Council including the chairman of the council, and the hosting President of Puntland Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas, the President of Jubaland, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Islan, the President of Galmudug, Mr. Ahmed Du'ale Gelle and the President of Southwest, Mr. Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden.

The Conference which was held from the 20-24 October, was also attended by other leaders and over 100 delegates representing the respective two (parliament and cabinet) councils member states of the Council.

During the five days of the meeting, the participants had deliberations on many issues with a special focus on security, political and social aspects; and they have at the end put out the following statement:

I. Security Issues

After close assessments, objective analysis and long deliberations on the prevailing security developments and in close scrutiny of the efforts towards the federal member state securities aimed at securing the whole country:

1. Since the coming to power of the current government in early 2017, the Council has been consistently presenting recommendations and advices on how to secure the country and save its people, and quite a number of plans and procedures towards that very end were developed. But, unfortunately, and due to lack of vision and genuine intention towards anything security from the FGS side, all those plans have remained to be just plans written on papers. As a result, the security has gotten out of hand and the country is at the brink of Al Shabab take-over. This has made abundantly clear that the FGS in its current form and behavior cannot be trusted with the security of the country. Therefore, the Council has decided:-

1.1 to create a genuine inter-regional security structure and plans uniting the Federal Member States armies with the main responsibilities, execution and fundings led by the FMSs.

1.2 To establish an "Interstate Security Council" as a mechanism to streamline and execute all security related matters in the territories of participating FMSs.

1.3 To raise and integrate FMSs security forces (darawish) and establish one command and control and task them with liberating the territories from the terrorists.

1.4 To raise 1,000 soldiers to join the integrated forces from each FMS within two (2) months so that they are trained together for smooth, seamless and unified offensive against Al Shabab.

1.5 To create a unified fund for security in order to bankroll the integration, training and operations of the said forces.

1.6 It has also been agreed that the FMSs establish a joint intelligence focal point to share intelligence and information about the enemy.

2. When a Federal Government with genuine Somali vision and clear orientation on security is realized, the Council will handover this integrated forces to join Somali National Army (SNA.)

3. The Council has realized the failure of all plans and structures that they previously agreed with FGS only after the fact that the leadership of the later has consistently opted to not implement them. Therefore, the Council has on this day of October 24th 2018 pulled out of all those abandoned plans.

4. The Council has asked itself some pointed questions - and has failed to come up with satisfactory logical answers as to how the very countries in the international community that are paying blood and treasure for the security of Somalia and her people, are reluctant to become part of finding appropriate solutions to this impasse while it is clear that the country is slipping back to anarchy and into the hands of Al Shabab.

II. Political Issues

During the meeting, the leaders have discussed the general and particular political issues as they are related to the FMSs:-

1. The Council hereby reiterates that its decision to halt the cooperative deliberations with the FGS has not changed until such a time that the leadership of the FGS gets serious about the whole concept of federalism and consensus.

2. The Council is in support of the efforts led by the Upper House of the parliament, and it welcomes any advice towards the salvaging of the country.

3. The Council condemns the negative political machinations - now characteristic of FGS leadership - aimed at undermining the federalism system whereby the national time and resources - instead of utilizing them for national advancement or in the fight against terror - are used to sow discord, coup attempts, and fomenting violence and mistrust among the Galmudug communities in particular example, and same is true in all other federal member

states. This is clear indication that the leadership of FGS neither subscribe to federalism system nor prefer peaceful solutions.

4. The Council vehemently opposes and condemns the FGS behavior towards politicizing and using as personal leverages the international tax payers' money entrusted with them as leaders of the country and people, especially the funds intended as budget support for FMSs. At a time of divergent views on security and political issues between FGS and FMSs, those funds are being used in reminiscence to campaign chests for the holders of top offices of FGS.

5. The Council is grateful to Somalia donors that spend blood and treasure to support Somalia and the Somali people. However, it is unfortunate that the same donations are used for personal political gains - serving the opposite purposes. Therefore, the Council calls for a close scrutiny by the donors of how transparent and appropriate are the use of those funds.

6. The Council is squarely opposed to the legislations that the FGS is "expediting" such as the Petroleum Law - which is totally devoid of agreements reached over it in Baidoa, the Electoral Law, and the Parties Law all of which the people in the states were not consulted - and therefore do not reflect the will of the Somali people.

7. The Council warns against the attempt to unconstitutionally and single-handedly establish the Judicial Service Commission. In the unfortunate event of that happening, the Council will not recognize the outcome.

8. The Council calls for National Consultative Conference to be held in a month and in the city of Dhusamareb. This conference will be participated by all Somali civil society groups, political parties and associations with the aim to save the country. —-> ADD THE SOMALI TEXT - The main themes of this conference will include credible constitutional review, realistic electoral process and practical inclusive politics.

9. The Council is perturbed by the reticent role of the international community in this whole affair which we believe exacerbates the matter in leading the FGS top leadership to believe that ignoring the prevailing glaring security and political failures will somehow solve it.

10. The Council has agreed to lay the foundation of a political party named National Progressive Party (NPP) (with federalism, progressive and consultative agenda for Somalia) uniting initially the four participating federal member states. Dr. Abdiweli M. Ali Gas was elected an interim chair until a party conference is convened.

11. The Somali people have mandated the constitutional commission, Independent Constitutional Review & Implementation Commission (ICRIC) to review the Constitution. It is now clear that the ICRIC isn't complete with the members assigned by the states. — It is also clear that the constitutional review process has been hijacked by group interests and away from the incomplete ICRIC itself. Therefore the Council will not recognize any review outcome until the process is redressed in form norm and constitutionality.

12. It is unfortunate that the same FGS that “cannot afford” basic medical care for the regional forces that are wounded and fall in battle lines with Al Shabab everyday is also wealthy and willing enough to part with millions of dollars for a highly resourced political campaign as well as airlifting to Baidoa of security personnel, weapons and brand new armored cars for the candidate (s) of their (FGS) own - in South West constitutional FMS. This is also aimed at creating mayhem in the election of the state.

13. Finally, the Council is calling on the friends of Somalia in the international community, the United Nations, the IGAD and AMISOM to closely monitor the swift changes in the country’s security and political landscapes, and to take an exceptionally active role in the saving of the country.

14. The Council has elected President Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan a chair, and President Ahmed Du’ale Geelle “Haaf” as deputy chair.

15. The Council thanks the President, Government and people of Puntland for their hospitality.

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