



SOMALI FUTURE COUNCIL

July 27th, 2026

To the Heads of States, Ministers of Defence, and Chiefs of Defence Forces of the Troop and Police Contributing Countries of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM)

The Republic of Uganda
The Republic of Kenya
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
The Republic of Djibouti
The Republic of Burundi
The Arab Republic of Egypt

Re: Open Letter: A Somali political settlement must be the foundation of any security transition

Excellencies,

The Somali Future Council, comprising a former President, former Prime Ministers, the current Presidents of Jubaland and Puntland Federal Member States, and former ministers and political leaders, presents its compliments and has the honor to address Your Excellencies at this pivotal moment for Somalia and the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

At the outset, we express the profound gratitude of the Somali people to the troop and police contributing countries of the African Union mission for nearly two decades of extraordinary sacrifice in Somalia. Thousands of African soldiers have served with courage and distinction, and many have made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of a peaceful, stable, and united Somalia. Their service has protected not only Somalia but also the wider Horn of Africa, demonstrating the enduring strength of African solidarity in confronting common security threats.

Your Excellencies, you meet this month to consider the future of AUSSOM at a perilous moment for our country. The President's constitutional term expired on 15 May 2026. The term of Parliament lapsed on 14 April 2026. There is still no political agreement in place to manage the transition that must follow. Somalia is now in the most dangerous phase of its politics, without a legitimate, agreed framework for who governs, and how.

The political fragmentation now unfolding in Somalia is the direct product of the mismanagement of a government whose mandate has expired. The Somali National Army, built with the support and sacrifice of African partners to defeat al-Shabaab and Da'esh, has been diverted from its constitutional mission of protecting the Somali people. Instead, growing political polarization has weakened national cohesion, sidetracked the common fight against terrorism, and eroded the unified national effort upon which lasting security depends. A fragmented state cannot successfully wage a unified campaign against transnational terrorism.

Equally concerning is the growing deterioration in relations between the Federal Government and key Federal Member States of Puntland and Jubaland, whose forces are actively engaged against al-Shabaab and Da'esh, and whose territory holds the front lines against both groups continue to shoulder a substantial burden. In spite of this, these forces have been marginalized, denied support, and directly targeted by the Federal Government. The forces most committed to the fight against terror are being weakened by Mogadishu, with the united national front this war demands being prevented from forming. Somalia cannot defeat two insurgencies while its government fights its own frontline states.

It is in this context that the funding crisis surrounding UNSOS and AUSSOM, and the growing hesitation of international donors is occurring. These challenges do not have their root in Africa's commitment or in the design of the mission. The greatest challenge is the absence of a legitimate government the world can trust and engage with. No mission can substitute for a state, and no measure of foreign sacrifice can secure a country whose own leadership has forfeited its legitimacy.

Your Excellencies

The Somali Future Council wishes to assure that we remain fully committed to a peaceful, negotiated, and Somali-owned settlement, reached through dialogue and compromise rather than unilateral action. In that spirit, we submit that Somalia's immediate priority is a comprehensive political agreement establishing an inclusive Transitional Council to provide collective oversight of the constitutional and electoral transition until legitimate national institutions are peacefully renewed. Such a body would restore political legitimacy, rebuild national confidence, safeguard the neutrality of the Somali National Army and all state institutions, and ensure the transition is managed in an inclusive, transparent, and credible manner.

We therefore respectfully urge the Heads of States and Governments of the Troop and Police Contributing Countries to use the Kampala Summit to encourage and support a political settlement that restores legitimacy, rebuilds national consensus, and establishes the conditions for a peaceful constitutional transition. Somalia urgently needs an inclusive political settlement, and this should be the condition and foundation of any continued engagement.