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حكومة بنتلاند الصومالية

PUNTLAND GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

To His Excellency António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters, New York

His Excellency Jérôme Bonnafont
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and President of the Security Council for the month of September 2026

September 13, 2026

Re: Briefing on the Somalia's political crisis and its security consequences

Excellencies,

On behalf of the people and the Government of Puntland State of Somalia, allow me to take this opportunity to convey a sincere gratitude and appreciation for the United Nations and the Security Council's longstanding commitment in providing multifaceted assistance for the people and States of Somalia, which we collectively value.

This letter serves to provide an in advance briefing for the Security Council's upcoming session on Somalia in October 2026. The briefing sheds light on Puntland's account of the current political and security developments in Somalia, and what the current crisis meant for the security in the State of Puntland.

Puntland is a constitutional semi-autonomous, and operationally independent State since 1998, even before the federal structure was agreed. From the outset Puntland directed its efforts toward the return of Somalia's state, through a federal mechanism of governance. In 2004, Somalis had agreed and formed a federal system of government, in which state responsibilities are demarcated between the Federal agencies and the Federal Member States under the constitution of the Federal Government. Puntland has since played a pivotal role for the major political state-building processes, which, Puntland had the expectation that one day will mark the return of a peaceful, democratic and federal Somalia. Regrettably, that expectation has not been met.

Despite the past, it is unfortunate to mention that since the beginning of 2023 the Federal Government's engagement with Puntland has been directed not at partnership but at fragmenting our state affairs. The FGS has cultivated parallel authorities within our territory, recruited, armed and paid militias inside Puntland, and financed political actors to destabilize the domestic security and political stability. The purpose has been to disintegrate Puntland into competing pieces, so that it cannot resist the centralising

project driven by the former President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (whose mandate expired in May 2026), nor bargain over the state-building process of the Federal system of Somalia.

On 4 August, the Federal Government airlifted weapons and equipment into the Galmudug-controlled sector of South Galkayo for onward transfer into Puntland territory of North Galkayo. The consignment was intercepted and the confrontation that followed caused casualties. On 5 August, heavy fighting broke out in Galkayo between our forces and an armed group supported by the Federal Government. Our forces took control of the camp in concern near Abdullahi Yusuf Airport, made 101 arrests and seized weapons, vehicles and equipment, including material donated to the Somali Police Force by a member of the Security Council. Puntland has been able to thwart the destabilisation attempt, but only after we had drawn forces and resources away from the successful offensive against ISIS-Somalia and the resurgent piracy.

Over the past two year, Puntland has been fighting against the ISIS fighters in the eastern mountains of Cal-miskaat. In this fight, Puntland has not received any federal support in personnel, funding or equipment, and luckily, it is the only front where Somali forces have effectively taken and held ground against a globally designated terrorist organisation. The Federal Government continues to present counter-terrorism as its central purpose, but in practice has failed to prevent AS from retaking new geographically important territories in Hiiraan and Middle Shabeelle of the Central Somalia.

Piracy has likewise returned at a scale not seen since 2012. Nineteen incidents have been recorded this year and five vessels are currently held. Our coast is where the vessels are held, although most of them were reportedly hijacked from the waters near Yemen. Our Maritime forces are now prepared to conduct anti-piracy operations from the land and sea, but we will need an immediate coordination and collaboration with the international partners.

In 18th and 20th of August, Turkish navy forces conducted air strikes killing fourteen Somali nationals at the shores of Jiifle and Garmal of Nugal region of Puntland and destroyed fishing boats, some of them unmanned. through the Turkiye's diplomatic mission in Mogadishu, Puntland had provided an advice not to harm fishermen and their properties but to collaborate on tackling the pirates, Turkish intentionally ignored these calls, and unilaterally did strikes and killed Somalia at the shores, not on the sea. Our Maritime police forces are always positioned alongside the coastal towns of Puntland along the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, to catch and arrest suspected pirates and other criminals conducting elicit businesses on the waterways. The Turkish strikes followed the seizure of MV LUTUF vessel which was allegedly carrying Turkish military supplies to Mogadishu, the vessel was later released following a payment of ransom money.

Piracy is a criminal matter, and suspected criminals are not lawfully killed from the air where they can be arrested. What concerns us is that partner capability was directed without coordination on the basis of a political relationship with Mogadishu, rather than on security cooperation with allied Somali forces who actually hold the ground in the area. On 3 September 2026, a drone strike destroyed the Dollow residence of a senior officer dismissed by the Federal Government in March 2026 over his political

alignment, wounding him and others present. Whatever is eventually established about responsibility, the use of an aerial strike capability in a dispute between Somali political actors is an escalation of a different order from anything preceding it. The Security Council must take this development seriously, put responsible authorities into account, and take necessary actions that could avert the use of non-conventional military assets into political differences. This is a new security development in the region, which will have negative spiral out consequences.

It is an act of crime that military-geared assets provided by international partners for use against Al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia is being directed to use for the purpose of political revenges. Where that happens, the responsibility to require an accounting rests with those partners as much as with Somali Federal institutions.

I therefore respectfully request that the Secretary-General and the Security Council:

1. **Somalia's political settlement**; to call and support the convening of an immediate and inclusive Somali dialogue to agree a transitional roadmap that delivers elections of the Federal and FMS, whose mandates expired, with the UNSC Member States' mediation and security guarantor. Under the current status, where Federal Parliament and the President's mandates expired in April and May 2026 respectively, there is an inevitable risk that a parallel government shall be an option, and Puntland might eventually consider to permanently sever ties with Mogadishu.

2. **Reinstating of Somalia's dual track**; as the central system has failed, we request the United Nations and Member States to provide a direct support for the Puntland's security, humanitarian and economic programmes, particularly, the ongoing security operations against the ISIS, AS and the Piracy, and efforts on creating humanitarian and livelihood resilience, as well as the Puntland economic development and investment agenda. We ask for the UNSC to call for the donors to allocate supports based on operational need and effectiveness, not political alignments, and renew international naval cooperation against piracy in the Somali basin, in coordination with Puntland's Maritime and land security forces.

3. **Renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts;** ensure that the Panel of Experts resume its full mandate and resources to report on the movements and flow of weapons, criminal connections and terrorist networks in Somalia, and the neighboring. We call for a new strategy approach for the maritime security on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden

4. **Review and reconsider re-imposing arms embargo**; that Somalia has no fully responsible and agreed upon security and arms control framework in place, and no record of the proof of end-user exists, is threatening the very delicate security conditions, compounded by the deteriorating political uncertainty. The misuse of drone assets by the political opponents, and the risk of Al-Shabaab and IS receiving advanced weaponry and military-geared capabilities like drones, missiles and anti-aircraft rockets is an urgent call for the UNSC to take an immediate action to impose strict arms embargo on Somalia.

5. **Extension of UNTMIS Mandate**; given the deteriorating political and security conditions in Somalia, with likely risk of reversing the hard-earned counter terrorism fight and state-building gains, the resurgence of piracy, and the increasing geo-political trends, the UNTMIS office is most needed to continue its meaningful engagements in Somalia, we are therefore requesting for the UNSC to further extend the UNTMIS mandate.

6. **Disinformation and manipulation of resources**; the Representative Seat that Somalia holds in the Security Council has diabolically been used as a tool to disinform the Council about the facts on the ground in Somalia, and also to silence the reports and assessments from the good offices of the Members of the Council. The misleading has unfortunately affected the discernment of the Council, and has therefore caused the current crisis where the FGS lacks a constitutional mandate to operate, some of the FMS's tenures had expired years ago, AS, IS and Piracy is a seriously growing issue. The diversion and corruption of the international aid is rampant, and there is unaccounted rapacious monetization of national properties in Mogadishu. Additionally, the FGS has granted controversial and clandestine resource concessions and contracts for its foreign allies, this happened without a due legal procedure, and a lack of proper consultation with the Federal Member States. Under the federal structure, there has not been a political settlement and agreed upon resource sharing formula, therefore, the FGS has no an enshrined authority to grant concessions and contracts for International Partner/s. In consideration of this, we ask for the UNSC to make serious deliberations on these matters and consider to effect relevant resolutions and instruments for accountability, transparency and immediate restoration of constitutional order of Somalia.

Puntland has long pursued for a stable, peaceful, democratic and federal Somalia since before even the federal structure existed, which is an unmet expectation, thus far, Puntland is currently facing pressures from huge masses of its citizens who are in favor of full independence from the Center, taking into account the protracted fatigue and failure of the state-building project, as well as lacking any reciprocal partnership from the federal authority in Mogadishu.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Office of the President, Puntland State of Somalia

United Nations, New York

Copy: Permanent Representatives of the Members of the Security Council;
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom (penholder on Somalia);
Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs;
Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support;
United Nations' Special Representative for the Secretary General to Somalia;
Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023);
Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Executive Secretary, IGAD