

Remarks
H.E. Abdusalam H. Omer
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Federal Republic of Somalia
Pledging Conference for the Secretary-General
Peacebuilding Fund
21 September 2016 UNHQ

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my co-host colleagues for convening this important conference.

Distinguished delegates,

Your presence at this conference is clear testimony of the growing significance of early investments in prevention and peacebuilding. This conference comes at a time when we continue to witness tragic relapses in violence across the globe. In addition, the recent peacebuilding reviews stressed the importance of prevention and peacebuilding in order to sustain peace.

Peacebuilding is core business in the UN, and we expect the organization to effectively play its role in supporting fragile and conflict affected countries. In this context, the Peacebuilding

Fund (PBF) has made great strides towards responding to these challenges.

Over the recent years the PBF has become one of the important instruments of the international community to address the challenges of the transition from conflict to sustainable development in many countries, including my own - Somalia.

In Somalia, the PBF supports UN and the Federal Government of Somalia's stabilisation, peacebuilding and state building efforts at their early stages. Its support has been catalytic and innovative in response to Somalia's urgent peacebuilding needs.

Colleagues,

As a New Deal country, PBF support to Somalia is aligned to the New Deal Compact priorities jointly identified by the Federal Government and its development partners, including the UN Mission in Somalia.

The Fund is helping to kick-start priority activities and to fill critical peacebuilding funding gaps in peace and state building programmes and also feeds into the UN's support to the new, cutting edge Somali National Development Plan.

Since the Secretary-General declared Somalia eligible to access the PBF in December 2014, a total of US\$24 million have been made to strategic projects, e.g.

- The ongoing efforts in South Central Somalia towards Community Recovery and Extension of State Authority and Accountability that follow the Federal Government of Somalia and AMISOM strategy to retake territory from Al Shabaab are receiving Fund support to re-establish government authority in the Newly Recovered Areas.
- To strengthen the country's financial systems and fulfil a key principle of the Somali Compact, the PBF is the first to send funds through the national system to finance infrastructure projects in the newly established federal states.
- The alignment of PBF interventions to the Somalia Compact is best confirmed by the Fund's support to fill critical funding gaps in the Joint Programme on State Formations and the Rule of Law Joint Programme, both of which have been designed under the framework of the Somalia Development and Recovery Facility.
- To demonstrate the Fund's catalytic and risk-taking qualities, the PBF is supporting joint assessment by the UN and the Federal Government on alternative approaches to rehabilitate high risk inmates in Baidoa prison.
- Attention is also being given to women in peacebuilding with crucial investments made to strengthen Somali women's role and participation in peacebuilding processes.

- And portions of the PBF's most recent allocation under its Peacebuilding and Recovery Window will support and catalyse a comprehensive inter-agency approach addressing social integration of returning refugees, IDPs and host communities in South Somalia following the increased returns from Dadaab camp in Kenya.

Colleagues,

Allow me to extend my thanks to the Secretary-General and PBF donors for the support provided to Somalia.

The PBF needs a solid and predictable funding base to be able to adequately support conflict prevention and building peace across the globe. The Fund should be strengthened through adequate contributions.

Somalia calls for the replenishment of the Peacebuilding Fund.

I thank you.