

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)



Country: Germany

Agenda Item: Somalian Conflict: Implications for Peacemaking and Peacekeeping Efforts

‘Horn of Africa’ is a large peninsula located in East Africa, also known as the ‘Somalia Peninsula’. The peninsula is in the most eastern side of Africa, and it’s the fourth largest peninsula around the world. It includes many states such as Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and is a part of a bigger geographical region: ‘Greater Horn Region’ (GHR).

Region have a geopolitical strategical position stationed in Aden Gulf and Red Sea, also have shores to the Indian Ocean. But since the 2nd World War’s end, the clouds of chaos is over the region.

Before 2nd World War, in 1936, Italian Army under command of Mussolini invaded free state of Ethiopia and colonized it. During the WW2, British Army captured that colonization. The regional countries gained their independence in the decolonization efforts after war. In 1958, Djibouti held a referendum to decide if country will join independent Somalia or will stay with France, but a lot of votes were rigged and Somalians were driven out from the country by France Military, and Djibouti protected it’s colonial state.

With the 1960s, State of Somaliland fully gained its independence and Aden Abdullah Osman became the first president of young democracy. But that peaceful state didn’t long much. Old prime minister Ali Shermarke became new president in 1967, but he was assassinated in 1969, and Somalian Army under command of Major General Mohamed Siad Barre took control of all Somaliland, with a successful coup to the elected government.

Siad Barre was a Marksist-Leninist high ranked gendarmerie officer in Somaliland Military. At first, his actions were to form a greater Somalia with its independent industry, economy, banks and cooperative farming. But later, he attempted to end tribalism in Somaliland in order to achieve a full control of the country and stabilize the politics between Somalian tribes. His efforts on anti-

tribalism were mostly related with use of excessive firepower over civilians. His actions later led to forming dozens of local militias such as SSDF and SPM.

Especially after the terrifying defeat of Ogaden War in 1977-78, against Ethiopia was a stepping stone in the Somali Rebellion and Civil War. Soviets, China and Cuban Communist Regime supported Ethiopia against Somalia and played a game-changer role with over ten thousand troops on the ground, hundreds of armoured and artillery units that they provided to Ethiopia.

Somalia suffered many casualties in their army in Ogaden War, and war spendings became a great burden on Somalia's shoulders. Somali Army started to separate their way from the government, by rejecting their demands on reducing the budget of army.

After Ogaden War, Barre chose to follow an anti-tribalist politics to gain more control over the country. During the anti-tribalism campaign, Siad Barre's military committed many massacres over the Somali tribes, especially on Isaaq, Hawiye and Harti tribes. Hundreds of thousands of unarmed and innocent people were killed or displaced from their homes. Also we have to take that into account: Siad Barre and his special unit 'the Red Berets' not only committed war crimes and displaced hundreds of thousands of people, they also mined hundreds of residences, streets and towns that used to be where tribes live, and ensured that they will not be able to come back.

Under that kind of circumstances, Somali people chose to arm themselves to protect their homes and lives. With economical and political pressure, that burden became uncontrollable when government increased pressure on people, and the number of gangs and armed organizations significantly increased after war. Many organizations like SSDF, SNM, SPM, USC, SSA. A few weeks after Ogaden defeat, because of increasing unhappiness waves all over Somalia caused a coup attempt against Barre and his Supreme Revolutionary Council, but that attempt was failed. Most of the attempters were killed by Red Berets. Therefore, some of the leaders of that attempt managed to escape and they led another coup with the United Somalia Front (USF), just 13 years later, in 1991 and that became the end of the Barre's Regime in the war of Mogadishu, where the city really turned into hell.

With that event, armed parties and organizations started to fight against each others to achieve the rule over all Somalia. USC and SNM parties declared their own independent Somaliland States. After that incidents, United Nations started UNOSOM I military observer mission over Somalia, but that mission failed because of heavy armed resistance. Short time later, UNOSOM II mission started with the USA leading UN armed peacekeeping 'Unified Task Force' (UNITAF), but that mission failed due to several reasons.

First thing UNOSOM II failed was they couldn't open any contact way to any other Somalian parties, and most armed parties raced against UN influence in Somalia. After that, UNSCR 837 gave permission to UNOSOM II to use military power against terrorist organizations, but that only make the fragile connection between UN and locals worse. UNITAF used excessive power in several locations, and caused many accidents such as Mogadishu Radio Tower and Kismayo incidents that where UNITAF and Somalia Forces fought against each others due to miscommunication. After losing their influence over Somalia, UNOSOM II withdrew from region in 1995 completely.

After the second millenium, Transitional Federal Government (TFG) had been formed in Somalia and created a parliment. Also, many foreign countries started to back up militia groups in region which only makes situation more complex and fragile. That organizations started to attack coalition government of TFG and ICU (Islamic Courts Union), but coalition government managed to drive them out of their territories. In 2007, African Union started a military assistance and training program on Somalia, called AMISOM (African Union Mission In Somalia), but armed seaparative organizations drove many of AMISOM units out of Somalia. With departure of Ethiopian troops from Somalia, many organizations that created after the Siad Barre's fell and disintegration of several armed militias, such as Al-Shabaab, gained initiative over the region. Ten years later, 2017, United States created AFRICOM to fight terrorism but USA participated in combat too harshly that also damages local civilians, and mostly focusing on fighting against al-Shabaab, not the humanitarian side of the conflict. Despite that, Somalian government with the support of USA, started a new counter-offensive on al-Shabaab militias in country and retaking their core territories.

As Germany, we see most of the efforts in Somalia were failed or was missing in humanitarian side because of non-coordination with Somalian locals and authorities. Germany's look on Somalian conflict is in a way that not see individual involvements without support and assistance of United Nations always will be missing in the same spot. UNOSOM I, II and AMISOM missions were failed because of same reason and US mission to Africa is using too much dangerous power in civilian areas. Also it's a part of United States' global campaign against terrorism, not a humanitarian aid to Somalia State and people.

Somalia is in a key position that have both borders with Aden Gulf and Red Sea, controlling the passage from Red Sea to Indian Ocean. It's also a home to many terrorist organizations that have to be stopped for the good of the world. Somalia is taking steps to have a better place for their people, but they still have much way to walk. Illegal roadblocks are too much common in the country, NGOs are trying to serve people but that only put them into more danger, and makes them preferable targets for terrorist attacks. Terrorists keep kidnapping children, bombing cities and other armed attacks in all over the Somalia. That terrorism can not be end with only clearing Somalia. To put an end to these organizations, United Nations have to embargo and besiege, force terrorists to surrender or bound them to defeat with engaging from multiple sides, not only directions but also from the human side of the conflict.

We have some solution ideas that we can discuss with the rest of the committee, especially with the delegations of USA, UK, France and primarily Somalia. Despite Russia and China have objections about UN's missions to countries in turmoil, we believe that as a humanitarian movement, all committee can unite with one idea and can improve our ideas and offers for the greater good, not glory of one specific side. Somalian Army's main difficulties in their offensives against al-Shabaab is their lack of air forces, despite many countries like Türkiye, UAE and USA providing air support to them. Also Somalian army is in lack of armoured units in the battlefield. Also Somalian economy took many damage from the ongoing civil war in the country. Somalia have many resources such as bauxite and uranium, as well as plants and farming like endemic creatures of 'Somalian Cyclone' that belonged to Horn Region, Somalia specifically. Somalia have the chance to open a trade to world, and reaching the global markets but first, they need assistance to do that.

We believe that with another United Nations operation, we can provide more support than US did by themselves. We don't deny their and many NGOs involvement to build a safe Somalia for all, but that effort must have more order and multilateral that can cover both military, humanitarian side and sustainable development, under the protection of United Nations.

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