

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

African Union Mission for Somalia
P.O. Box 20182- 00200; Tel:+254(20)7216710, Fax:+254(20)7216775, Nairobi, Kenya
au-amisomhom@africa-union.org

PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

AU Special Representative concerned over political wrangling among Somali leaders

Kampala, June 3rd, 2011; The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra has expressed concern over the current political paralysis in Somalia. He noted that the incessant wrangling between the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) does not augur well for the peace process.

Addressing the 19th meeting of the International Contact Group (ICG) for Somalia in Kampala, Uganda, Ambassador Diarra reiterated several calls by the AU Assembly, and other policy organs of the Union, for the Somali stakeholders to demonstrate the required political will to overcome the current crisis which he said required the willingness of the leadership to put aside their personal differences and interests for the common good of the Somali nation.

“While it is the primary responsibility of the people of Somalia to decide the specific political arrangements to be endorsed, the international community should continue to insist that the transition process and the post-transition disposition be based upon a clear roadmap. In this regard, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of setting benchmarks and timelines for finalizing and adopting the draft constitution, and preparing for national elections in accordance with the provisions of the new constitution.” said Ambassador Diarra.

The AU Special Representative said in an effort to boost the political process, AMISOM forces have stepped up their back-up support to TFG forces in their military operations against Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups that have continued to pose a threat to the peace process. AMISOM, with a current troop level of 9100, has helped the TFG to record significant achievements on the military front which he attributed to the tremendous sacrifices and firm commitment of AMISOM troop contributing countries of Uganda and Burundi.

Furthermore, Ambassador Diarra told the two day meeting that "in spite of the progress on the security front, a major challenge has been the lack of predictable, reliable and timely resources for AMISOM, including funding for critical force enablers and equipment, reimbursement of Contingent Owned Equipment (COE), among other important requirements." He urged the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council to provide the required support to AMISOM.

For more information, please contact;

PIU, Tel:+254(20)7216710, Fax:+254(20)7216775, Email:amisommediacentre@gmail.com