

Jamhuuriyadda Soomaaliya  
Xukuumadda Federaalka ku meelgaarka ah  
Ergada Joogtada Soomaliyeed ee Qaramada  
Midoobey ee Geneva  
Xafiiska Safiirka



جمهورية الصومال  
الحكومة الانتقالية الفيدرالية  
البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية الصومال بمكتب الأمم  
المتحدة بجنيف وبالوكالات المتخصصة بسويسرا  
مكتب السفيرة

**THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA  
THE TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Somali Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other specialized institutions in Switzerland  
The Ambassador**

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PM Geneva December 08, 2011

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari, Ambassador  
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of  
Somalia to UNOG and other specialized institutions in Switzerland at an  
intergovernmental event at the Ministerial level of Member States of the United  
Nations to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention  
relating to the status of refugees and the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on  
the Reduction of Statelessness from 7-8 December 2011**

**I thank you Mr. Chairperson**

**High Commissioner, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and  
Gentlemen**

good morning/afternoon.

At the outset I would like to congratulate the UNHCHR for this celebration of the 60th anniversary of the 1951 convention on the status of refugees and the 50th anniversary of 1961 convention on reduction of statelessness.

Somalia fully aligns itself with the statement made by Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho on behalf of the African Group.

It is a great privilege for me to represent here today my Government and my beloved countrywomen and men especially the most vulnerable.

In today's commemorations of the United Nations conventions related to the protection of refugees and stateless persons, Somalia is expressing its utmost gratitude to the brotherly and friendly countries who have offered international protection and assistance to its citizens forced to cross its borders due to persisting conflict and violence in some parts of the country. I pay tribute to AMISOM peacekeepers for the successful efforts deployed to bring Somalia to peace. The same note goes to all the brotherly and friendly countries which have extended their hands during the worst drought of the past 60 years.

Ravaged by more than two decades of conflict, the current fighting continues to take a heavy toll on the civilian population that remains in the country especially in the south-central regions. There are approximately 1,5 M internally displaced persons inside

Somalia who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence and insecurity and who are currently in dire need of humanitarian assistance, but more importantly of durable solutions to their plight. Despite the tremendous challenges it is facing, Somalia continue to host refugees from neighboring countries and beyond.

Somalia welcomes the adoption of the Kampala Convention on the protection and assistance for IDPs and is pleased to inform the audience that the country has ratified this instrument on 15 March 2011. With a view to allow the Convention to be fully implemented in the Somalia context, my country commits to adopting a national IDP policy as soon as possible.

My Government makes the pledge of putting in place a system to register all new born babies inside and outside Somalia as a means to guarantee their citizenship. I count on the support of the International Community to make this happen effectively and efficiently. Children are the multiplier of sincerity and honesty. Their innocence is peace. Therefore they will guide, inspire and support and shape the future of Somalia. We owe them an environment where they will grow and feel secure.

On behalf of my Government I would also like to reiterate the commitment made by the TFG leaders to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed conflict prevention to halt the recruitment of child soldiers into its forces. This pledge was made during the visit of the Special Representative in Mogadishu which took place in November 2010 and November 2011.

Nevertheless, the recruitment of child soldiers into armed forces by non-state actors remains a major problem.

By mean of this statement, I also wish to call - on behalf of my Government - the non state actors to take concrete and immediate measures to lessen the impact of the ongoing armed conflict on civilians in complying with the international humanitarian law.

### **Excellences,**

My Government at national and sub-national levels is committed to effectively engage with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women who is due to visit my beloved country for the first time next week.

The national human rights report and its follow-up made by Somalia and adopted on 21 September 2011 by the UN Human Rights Council is the legitimate road-map for the promotion and protection of all human rights in Somalia and in particular the socio-economic and cultural rights as the foundation of the rule of law.

### **Excellences,**

For so long – 20 years to be exact – we have been under constant emergency. We are reflecting about this every day since trying to find a solution to this unending emergency and heavy reliance on international community. We remain convinced that the Somali

people will once again take their destiny in their own hand and become once more a self-reliant and contributing member of the IC. We are struggling to give relief to tax payers of the donor countries who are continuing to fund the unsustainable 20 years of emergency.

After the historic visit of the Prime Minister of Turkey and his family, the OIC and some of its member states have launched the new humanitarian and recovery diplomacy inside Somalia. This initiative deserves the sustainable support from the OIC member states in partnership with our neighbors, other brotherly and friendly countries and the concerned international organizations.

The root causes and the symptoms of the man-made political crisis of Somalia are well known. Let us agree on the best way possible to address it.

My beloved country has the necessary human and natural resources to stand on its feet and to prosper in harmony with all its neighbors and beyond.  
May ALLAH swt bless my beloved country.

I thank all of you for your kind attention.