

## **Statement by the Chairperson of the AU Commission**

Excellency Rt. Hon. Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey,  
Excellency Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia,  
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Excellencies Heads of Delegation,  
Representatives of regional and international organizations,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure, to have, once again, the privilege and honor of being in this great and historic city of Istanbul, the only place where the west and the east truly meet at both the geographical and civilizational levels. Istanbul is indeed a fitting place to host this all important international conference on Somalia.

Excellencies, we are gathered here at the most critical time in the Somali peace process. We are left with only a few months to the end of the Transition. But we are also gratified and fortified with the knowledge that our meeting is taking place on the heels of an epoch-making consultative meeting of the Somali Signatories of the Process for finalizing the Transition. This defining meeting, which took place from May 21 to 23, in Addis Ababa, was hosted by the African Union Commission and facilitated by the Office of the UN Special Representative for Somalia.

The outcome of the meeting in Addis Ababa, now commonly referred to as the Addis Communiqué of 23 May 2012, has made our task, here today, the easier. It helps us focus on actions that should ensure that the new Roadmap, with its very clear and achievable benchmarks and tight timelines, stays on course and on target. The new Roadmap is a product of the collective will of the Somali leadership for the greater good of the Somali people.

It is still in-line with our Istanbul Conference of 2010 stand, when then, we urged the Somali leaders and institutions to take ownership of the peace process and actively pursue the full implementation of the transitional arrangement, including critical tasks such as: (i) integration of TFG and its allied forces into a unified national security apparatus; (ii) re-establishment, training and sustenance of the Somali security sector institutions; (iii) drafting of a new Federal Constitution; and, (iv) acceleration of outreach, reconciliation and stabilization efforts;

We also reaffirmed our commitment, as international community, to supporting the Somalia Transitional Federal Institutions, civil society and the private sector towards the attainment of peace, reconciliation and prosperity after so many years of hardship and suffering.

I would like to personally thank H.E President Sheikh Shariff for acknowledging AMISOM efforts in Somalia and Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) for their continued support and commitment.

Then and as now, the people of Somalia need concrete support. They have dared to invent their future. We cannot fail them at this, their greatest hour of need.

Are we ready to play our respective parts? That is the underlying challenge to be affirmed by this conference.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is instructive to recognize and commend Turkey's direct support to the Somalia Transitional Federal Institutions. Turkey is providing life-saving relief assistance to the Somali people, who, we all know, have suffered one of the worst humanitarian disasters in recent history.

Allow me to loudly applaud the strong personal commitment demonstrated by Prime Minister Erdogan Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the Foreign Minister, Professor Davutoglu, for their tireless efforts in making Istanbul II a reality and a resounding success.

Thank you.

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