



**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
MESSAGE AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY FOR PRESIDENT
MOHAMED ABDULLAHI MOHAMED FARMAAJO OF SOMALIA
Mogadishu, 22 February 2017**

Delivered by Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Keating

I am pleased to extend my congratulations to President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo on his inauguration – and to the people of Somalia on the outcome of the electoral process.

I commend outgoing President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for his role in advancing federalism, his gracious handover of power and offer of support to the new Administration.

Over a decade ago, the Federal Government of Somalia was conceived to help realise the Somali people’s dreams for democracy, peace, and prosperity. Its peaceful handover of power is a milestone in that effort and is a major step towards strengthening Somalia as a federal and inclusive state, and the goal of achieving one-person-one-vote elections in 2020.

As we mark this occasion, we also recognize the vital role of AMISOM and Somali forces in protecting the political process and in providing a secure environment throughout the elections, as well as the support of many donor countries and organisations.

You and your government will have the support of the United Nations and the entire international community, including the African Union, European Union, IGAD, the League of Arab States in addressing the many pressing challenges facing Somalia. Their combined support

illustrates our collective hope to see the people and government of Somalia united in building their country.

This means taking on the hard challenge of strengthening the Somali National Security Forces to represent and protect the people of Somalia. It means resolving long standing local conflicts and a comprehensive approach to dealing with violent extremism. It means advancing the constitutional review and the basis upon which resources and revenues will be mobilized, managed and shared. It means extending basic governance and services to all cities and towns.

No one individual or institution alone can accomplish these goals. Partnerships are required, most importantly between the Federal Government and Federal Member States, but also with the private sector to raise revenues, generate jobs and create an enabling and secure environment.

Challenges such as corruption and weak governance require all Somalis to work together. Members of the new Federal Parliament have an opportunity to pass impartial and proactive legislation and empower the Government to address the country's challenges.

As the government and the parliament take on the business of state building together, I urge the international community to respond to urgent needs. Our immediate priority must be to support a Somali-led and holistic plan to respond to the devastating drought and to avert famine, most importantly by contributing funds to scale up efforts.

The United Nations is proud to play its part at this critical moment in Somalia's history. The new government can count on the determined support of the United Nations as it moves toward peace, development, and human rights for all the people of Somalia.