



AMISOM NEWSLETTER

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AU introduces Ambassador Diarra to TCCs, Partners

The African Union Commission introduced its Special Representative for Somalia Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra to the AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) during a follow-up meeting of the AU, Ministers of Defense of the TCCs and partners held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Monday 14th December.



Ambassador Boubacar Diarra

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security and was attended by the Ministers of Defense of the TCCs to AMISOM, namely Burundi and Uganda, and the Minister of National Security of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia.

The United Nations, League of Arab States (LAS), European Union, the Chair of IGAD Partners' Forum, the permanent Members of the UN Security Council, Ethiopia, Libya, and Djibouti also participated in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed developments in Somalia, in particular with regard to the progress made by the TFG towards strengthening its authority, including on efforts in the area of peace and reconciliation process, as well as efforts geared towards stabilizing the security situation in the country. The meeting strongly condemned the recent bombing in Mogadishu, during which three Ministers and several other civilians were killed and wounded. The meeting paid tribute to those who lost their lives, and commiserated with their families.

AMISOM budgets for 2010

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) held a four day budget session in Mombasa, Kenya.

The meeting which was officially opened by the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somali Honorable Wafula Wamunyinyi, was attended by heads of Components, Departments and Units.



The Deputy SRCC (centre) Opening the AMISOM Budget Session

The AUC Finance Directorate and Strategic Planning Management Unit (SPMU) were also represented.



IGAD Ministers approve plan on Somalia

The 33rd Ordinary Meeting of the IGAD Council of Ministers approved the Strategic Plan of the Office of the IGAD Facilitator on Re-Establishing Effective Government Institutions in Somalia for 2009-2011 .

The meeting was held in Djibouti on December 7 and 8, 2009. The Council was chaired by **H.E. Seyoum Mesfin**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers.

The Council received briefs from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, **H.E. Ali Ahmed Jama'a** and the IGAD Facilitator for the Somali Peace and National Reconciliation, **Hon. Kipruto arap Kirwa** .

The Council deliberated in depth on the prevailing political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia.

The Council noted with grave concern, the continued and escalated attacks being carried out by the extremist groups of Al-Shabab and Hizbul Islam militia on the TFG leadership, AMISOM Peace keepers, Government installations and the civilian population creating a general state of heightened insecurity in Somalia, leading to huge loss of lives and destruction of property, as well as creating endless humanitarian crisis situation associated with the displacement of the people within and outside the country.



(file photo) : IGAD leaders



The Council highlighted with dismay that the international response is not measuring up to the threat of insecurity.

It condemned the December 3rd suicide attack at a graduation ceremony in Mogadishu that killed 22 persons including three Cabinet members of the TFG, journalists and students.

The Council welcomed the recent announcement by the Government of Djibouti to contribute troops to AMISOM and urged other African countries that have made pledges to provide troops to AMISOM without further delay in order to reach the level of authorised troop deployment as per the initial African Union plan.

It emphasized that maintenance of peace, security and stability in Somalia is ultimately the responsibility of the TFG. However, there is need for the partner countries and organisations to appreciate the urgency and magnitude of the challenges posed by extremist forces and provide the requisite financial, technical and logistical assistance to the TFG to enable it build a credible and effective security throughout the country.

The Council commended those countries that provided training and made their facilities available for the training of the Somalia police .

The Council appealed to the international community to prioritise and increase humanitarian assistance to Somalia while at the same time taking necessary measures including imposing targeted sanctions on the spoilers that are preventing the humanitarian operations in the country.

AMISOM holds Confidence Building Workshop

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) held a two day Confidence Building Workshop in Kampala, Uganda from the 2nd-3rd December.

The workshop drew participants from the media fraternity and civil society organizations from Somalia, current Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) of Uganda and Burundi and potential TCCs.



A cross section of the participants in Kampala

The main objective of this workshop was to get wider public support from its current TCCs and potential TCCs and in Somalia. The workshop was organized with financial support from the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).



The Workshop aimed primarily at exploring ways in which AMISOM can increase public confidence with an ultimate view of ensuring sustained troop generating and contributing.

The Workshop also aimed at exploring mechanisms for influencing public opinion and support for AMISOM in current and potential TCCs.

It aimed at better information on the roles, responsibilities and contribution of AMISOM troops to the peace in Somalia and in this way to ensure that public opinion in the TCCs regarding deployment of troops is objectively formed.

The two day gathering further explored mechanisms of influencing public opinion and support for AMISOM in Somalia and the current and potential TCCs.

The expected outputs of the Confidence Building Workshop included better appreciation of the roles, responsibilities and overall positive contributions of the troops to the peace and recovery efforts in Somalia.

The workshop was also expected to create a more informed media coverage and information dissemination within the Civil Society Organizations about the work of AMISOM and troops deployment in Somalia and a strategy for enhanced and positive public support for deployment of troops in Somalia.

The workshop was officially opened by the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Honorable Wafula Wamunyinyi.



AMISOM Force Commander Major General Nathan Mugisha making his presentation during the workshop.



Deputy SRCC (3rd from right) and Somali Ambassador to Kenya (4th from right) with participants to the Confidence Building Workshop