



J A M H U U R I Y A D D A S O O M A A L I Y A
X U K U U M A D D A F E D E R A A L I G A A H

WASAARADDA AMNIGA QARANKA

XAFIISKA WASIIRKA

Ref: WAQ/XW/00146/14

14 November 2014

Re: International Focal Point - Department of Counter-Terrorism & Maritime Security

The Department of Counter-Terrorism & Maritime Security of the Ministry of National Security has been recently established in order to coordinate all maritime issues within the Federal Government of Somalia (that is internally between relevant government departments and externally with all our federal states), it is also intended to be the primary point of contact with the international community and our neighbors in the region.

After recent meetings with several International Stakeholders and the Federal Government's internal National Maritime Coordination Committee (NMCC), we have found that the development of a National Maritime Resource and Security Strategy has been at a standstill due to many actors in Mogadishu claiming to have a stake and be the authority for this issue, which has confused our international partners and significantly delayed work and assistance that we truly need. The international community accepts that the authority for Maritime Security decisions and approvals must be the Ministry of National Security, and the Department of Counter-Terrorism & Maritime Security and the Somali Government accepts that Maritime issues span many government departments not just Security (Foreign Affairs, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Justice and particularly Defence) and commits to working together under the NMCC. The Director of the Maritime Security Department will be the National Focal Point for Maritime Security & Counter Piracy as envisaged under previous maritime coordination mechanisms. The new National Focal Point will take over the responsibilities from the Director General at the Ministry of Fisheries forthwith.

The Federal Government of Somalia recognizes some of the complex issues in the maritime arena and is committed to working closely with our federal states (including interim administrations) and with Somaliland (as discussed in London and Ankara) and recognizes the utility of coordination mechanisms between our government, our regions, our neighbors and the international community.

Therefore, in the interest of our fledgling Maritime Security development, we feel it is appropriate that the ministry, particularly the Department be made responsible to coordinate all activities on Maritime

Security issues. Therefore, we request that the Director of the Maritime Security Department be made the National Focal Point for Maritime Security & Counter Piracy.

Within Somalia we have the need for a range of maritime forces to secure and police over 3000 nautical miles of coast and our newly declared EEZ. We still face the scourge of piracy and now the growing threat from transnational maritime crime coming from outside and attempting to use our sovereign territory for criminal acts. Maritime Policing is a key requirement of the Federal Government and our regional governments as is Maritime Defence to prevent Al-Shabaab and others being reinforced from the sea, the supply of arms and ammunition and for activities such as charcoal exports recently subject to UN Sanctions. We are committed with International help to building a Maritime Police force (both Port and inshore policing) under this ministry, a Coastguard/Navy under the Ministry of Defence and to cooperating with International Maritime Forces operating off our Coast under UN Security Council authority.

We sincerely hope in this way that we are demonstrating this governments commitment to work closely with our international partners to build Somalia's Maritime Security Forces (both Federally and Regionally) and set the conditions to end the criminal activity of Piracy and other maritime crimes and create the environment for development of our national economic resources with legal fishing and the exploration of gas and oil within our seas.

We ask the International Community through the CGPCS, the UN, the EU (through EUCAP NESTOR, ATALANTA and the MASE Programme), CMF and other bi-lateral donors to support our efforts to build a secure maritime environment. We are fully committed to cooperation and through this notice a new coordinated approach from the Somali Federal Government working closely with our Federal States, Regional Administrations and neighbors.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

H.E. Gen. Khalif Ahmed Ereg
Minister of National Security



Distribution:

Chair of the CGPCS, UNSOM, UNODC, EU REP, EUCAP NESTOR, ATALANTA, CMF