

RENMUN VIII

The Restoration of Serenity



March 4th & 5th 2023

Chair Report

The Somali Civil War

Chair Introduction

Greetings delegates!

Welcome to RENMUN VIII's Security Council! We are Charmaine, a year 12 student at Diocesan Girls' School and Rohan, a Grade 12 (Year 13) student at Hong Kong International School. We are so delighted to be your chairs of the Security Council for RENMUN VIII this year.

As an advanced committee, we will hold you to a higher standard of debate. You are therefore advised to research beyond the two chair reports to give yourself a more holistic view of your country's situation and stances on the two respective topics. We expect delegates to come to the conference well-prepared to facilitate a more productive debate throughout the two days. We hope delegates are able to understand and learn the complexity of the two long-standing conflicts while also remembering to have fun at the conference.

If you have any questions about the topics or procedures, feel free to approach any one of us. Happy preparation and see you all soon!

Best regards,

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Topic introduction

In 1988, as a result of President Siad Barre's brutal regime, clan rivalries, losing the Ogaden War to Ethiopia, and Islamic nationalism, the First Somali Civil War broke out, ending on 27 January 1991 with the toppling of Barre's regime by the United Somali Congress (USC), and the disputed independence of Somaliland. Throughout the 1990s, the United Nations intervened in fragmented Somalia militarily through the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) and through humanitarian aid under the United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I). Particularly, the United States led the international effort during this time period but failed to apprehend the Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction leader Mohamed Farah Aidid. Throughout the 2000s, the Transitional National Government (TNG) gave way to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), whilst fighting between the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism (ARPCT) and the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) broke out. The ICU then splintered into smaller groups, with the main splinter group being al-Shabaab, an Islamic jihadist military group allegiant to al-Qaeda. Additionally, the Islamic State-affiliated group Islamic State in Somalia (aka Wilayat al Somal) has established itself in the region. Presently, the Federal Government of Somalia, allied with the United States and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), is fighting against these two terrorist groups, who have occupied large swathes of the country.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
[Federal] Government of Somalia (GS)	The internationally recognised government of Somalia and the replacement for the Transitional Federal Government. It controls most of the country but is frequently attacked by groups such as al-Shabaab.
al-Shabaab	An Islamic jihadist militant group allegiant to al-Qaeda that occupies large swathes of Somalia. It often carries out terrorist attacks in government-held areas, increasingly in the capital Mogadishu.
Islamic State in Somalia (ISS), aka Abnaa ul-Calipha or Wilayat al Somal	A militant group affiliated with the Islamic State that operates in Somalia. It maintains a small territory in northern Somalia but continues to

	wreak havoc throughout the country. It is the declared enemy of al-Shabaab, as both groups seek to be the most prominent jihadist group.
African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)	Created by the African Union, ATMIS is a peacekeeping mission operating in Somalia. ATMIS consists of troops from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, and Djibouti.
[Mohamed] Siad Barre	The third President of the Somali Democratic Republic. His rule became increasingly authoritarian and oppressive and was toppled from power by the United Somali Congress (USC).

Background Information

Fall of Siad Barre's Government (1978 - 1992)

Although initially popular due to his attempts at modernisation and his control over the Somali region, Siad Barre's popularity plummeted after losing the Ogaden War to Ethiopia and he became increasingly authoritarian. After exploiting clan hostilities, the government removed all members of the Isaaq clan from power, prompting the northern territory of Somaliland to start a war for independence. This was followed by a genocide of the Isaacs after the Somalia National Movement (SNM) guerrilla group launched an offensive against the government. The Isaaq Genocide drew international condemnation and caused the Somali government to be cut off from Western aid, which it was heavily reliant on. This greatly damaged the Somali economy and caused a mass military desertion by the Somali army. Eventually, one of the major rebel groups, the United Somali Congress (USC), captured the capital Mogadishu, sending Barre into exile. Even though fighting ceased in 1992 after conflict erupted between factions in the USC, Barre's absence left a massive power vacuum that needed to be filled.

The United Nations Enters the Fray (1992-1995)

In 1992, the United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I) was created by orders of UN Security Council Resolutions 733 and 746. The primary goal of UNOSOM I was to provide humanitarian aid to the Somali people after the ceasefire. Later on in the year, United Nations Security Council Resolution 794 was passed, creating a coalition of UN peacekeepers called the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) which would provide security as UNOSOM I did its work. In 1993, the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II). Unlike UNOSOM I, UNOSOM II was a military campaign in the south of

the country against the Somali National Alliance (SNA), a political group composed of rebel groups that opposed Siad Barre. However, after incurring heavier and heavier losses, the UN eventually pulled out of Somalia in 1995.

Foundation of the TFG and Conflict with the ICU (2006-2009)

In 2000, the Transitional National Government (TNG) was founded, paving the way for the Transitional Federal Government's (TFG) establishment in 2004. In 2006, the US-backed ARPCT confronted and initially lost to the ICU, which gained control over much of the south of the country. However, after aid from Ethiopia and the African Union, the TFG eventually defeated the ICU, becoming the official government of Somalia.

Status Quo

Today, the largest threats that the Somali government faces are al-Shabaab and the ISS, both of which wreak havoc across the country, increasingly in Mogadishu. Currently, despite both the African Union and the United States' involvement, the military conflict appears to be going nowhere, with casualties only increasing as time goes on. Geographically, Somalia is of great strategic importance. Being located in the Horn of Africa, much of the world's oil passes past Somalia. Thus, power falling into the hands of terrorists could be devastating.

Potential Clashes

al-Shabaab's Control Over the Country

The terrorist group al-Shabaab controls large swathes of territory in the south of the country and continues to wreak havoc on the rest. Despite being the stronghold of the GS, Mogadishu has been increasingly targeted by al-Shabaab, with bombings and sieges in civilian areas becoming all the more frequent. Despite troops from ATMIS and the United States aiding the Somali Army, fighting against al-Shabaab is largely in a stalemate, with the terrorist group not short on manpower or funds. In order to resolve the Somali Civil War, delegates must address al-Shabaab's control and power, and whether to pursue military or diplomatic action.

Clans vs. the State

Both culturally and politically, clans play a huge role in Somalia. The majority of people in Somalia value the interests of their clan more than those of the country, causing Somali politics to be bitterly divided and stagnant in progress. Specifically, politicians from rival clans are sceptical of each other's policies and hesitant to implement anything that could benefit a clan other than their own. This makes collaboration between clans, regional governments, and the federal government difficult but is imperative to end the Somali Civil War. For example, clan militias are

often independent entities and remain so despite calls to be integrated into the federal forces. Delegates will need to address the roles clans play in Somali politics and how the interests of the clans can be balanced with those of the government to address the larger issue.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
Somalia (Federal Government)	The Federal Government of Somalia seeks to end this conflict, which has persisted and shapeshifted for decades, once and for all. Alongside the United States and ATMIS, it has desperately waged war against al-Shabaab and the IS, but internal conflict and formidable foes have plagued it for many years. Military action remains Somalia's primary solution to end the war, but other solutions, particularly diplomatic ones, are beginning to present themselves.
United States	The United States is a major military ally of Somalia, providing airstrikes, drones, intelligence, and training to Somalia. Whilst former President Donald Trump pulled out US ground forces in 2021, current President Joe Biden accepted a request from the Pentagon to redeploy troops in May 2022. As a part of the US's War on Terror, Somalia remains a key interest in American eyes, and the United States wishes to support the Somali government in their fight against terrorism.
Ethiopia	Historically, relations between Ethiopia and Somalia have been rocky. In 1977, Siad Barre's regime fought Ethiopia in the Ogaden War and lost. Since then, territorial disputes have occurred. However, Ethiopia has been supportive of the federal Somali government in its fight against terrorism, sending troops to fight off al-Shabaab and the ISS. Stability in Somalia is of great importance to Ethiopia, as

	terrorism in the region poses a threat to it.
United Kingdom	Whilst not as involved as the United States, the United Kingdom is still invested in Somalia. The United Kingdom has expressed its solidarity with the federal Somali government's legitimacy and territorial claims and has provided famine aid.
Turkey	Turkey has strong relations with Somalia, having invested in multiple development projects in Somalia. Additionally, Turkey has conducted joint training with Somali troops and has constructed a military base in Somalia, where Somali troops are trained.
Italy	Whilst originally its conqueror, Italy shares much warmer relations with Somalia in the present day. Not only has Italy reaffirmed its support for the federal Somali government, but has trained Somali police and soldiers through the European Union Training Mission Somalia (EUTM Somalia).

Possible Solutions

Diplomacy With al-Shabaab

With the current conflict in a stalemate, some analysts have suggested attempting to make peace with al-Shabaab through means such as granting al-Shabaab leaders government positions. Whilst this may seem preposterous, many government positions in Somalia are held by former al-Shabaab members, so a large-scale compromise may not be too far-fetched. However, this solution is sure to cause some internal strife within Somalia and countries that fear terrorism may object to this solution.

Furthering the Conflict

Another possible solution is continuing the fight against terrorism through military means. This encompasses a wide variety of possible actions, such as more foreign troops, more advanced aid, etc. However, the main risk of this solution is the toll this will take on Somali citizens. Stricken by war for decades, ramping up the conflict may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Past Actions

[UNSC Resolution 733](#): Permitted humanitarian aid, called for an arms embargo

[UNSC Resolution 746](#): Reaffirmed UNSC Resolution 733, continuation of humanitarian work, uphold the ceasefire put in place, encouraged cooperation in the region.

[Further List of Resolutions](#)

Guiding Questions

- What major players in Somali politics are hindering the government's ability to address the issue? How can these major players be dealt with?
- To what extent does al-Shabaab have control over Somalia? How severe are attacks outside of their areas of control?
- Is tribalism helping or hurting the government's efforts? How can this be resolved?
- Which foreign countries have interests in Somalia? How can they help more? How can they be convinced to help more?
- What threat does al-Shabaab pose to neighbouring countries? How are those countries assisting in the fight? Can they do more?
- Should al-Shabaab be dealt with through military means or diplomatic means? What are the pros and cons of both? Ultimately, which proves to be the best for Somalia?
- How can the United Nations as a whole aid Somalia?

Bibliography

- [UN Resolutions](#)
- [Somali Civil War \(The Organization for World Peace\)](#)
- [A New Approach to Conflict Resolution in Somalia \(The Organization for World Peace\)](#)
- [The Significance Of Turkey's Overseas Military Bases](#)
- [Somalia: What Went Wrong? \(Menkhaus\)](#)