



Sample Position Paper

Committee: Security Council

Topic: The Puntland-Somaliland Dispute

Country: South Africa

As evidenced by a State of Emergency being declared in Somalia, the ongoing dispute between Puntland and Somaliland over the territories of Ayn, Sanaag and Sool has exceeded any hope of remaining an internal disagreement of power. This dispute has escalated to a degree at which third parties such as the Dhulbahante or Al-Shabaab are exploiting this situation for their own gain. The conflict is a direct result of complex ties with Somalia's history and has been building up for decades, since the very creation of Somaliland in 1960. The Somalian government has been severely weakened by these confrontations and thus fails to pressure any of the involved parties into decisive resolutions.

South Africa has provided refuge to over 32,000 Somalian refugees and thus is highly affected by the conflict and prioritizes participating in the resolution of this dispute. While South Africa has generously offered these refugees free movement, jobs and other services, it also recognizes that it is not a long-lasting solution and wishes to assist fulfilling the desire of many Somalis to return to their soil once stability has been returned to Somalia. Unemployment and poverty are not uncommon among South Africans and unfortunately, Somali refugees have faced the brunt of these conditions both economically and socially. South Africa fears not only for the Somalis hiding from the war at their doorstep but the dangers and complications they will find elsewhere. Since 2012, South Africa has sought to help Somalia's peace process by establishing formal relations with Somalia and providing 100 million Rand in aid with the hopes of helping strengthen the new government. The South African delegation affirms that external monitoring and help is essential to creating the bases of a possible long-lasting peace in Somalia.

In light of the growing severity of the situation, South Africa strongly urges for a humanitarian truce to be declared. Furthermore, South Africa suggests that the nations of Puntland and Somaliland each form their own independent states. Diplomatic talks with President Farmaajo of Somalia, leading members of the African Union, Ethiopia and other neutral party members of the Security Council, as well as representatives of the UN peacekeeping force should be arranged. In hopes of a successful discussion, South Africa would like to stress that trade relations should be maintained or introduced, especially in relation to Somaliland, so that the hope of a symbiotic development can still be maintained for the future. The delegation of South Africa also requests for the demilitarization of Tukaraq. While South Africa does sympathize with the UN and fellow council member's previous apprehension to legitimize these two states' self-proclaimed independence, it understands this was done so in hopes of a peaceful unity between these states that is a far cry from the occurrences that have demanded our attention. South Africa encourages other member states to support the African



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Union Mission in Somalia (ANISOM) as this organization provides much needed short-term relief to the people that have been caught in the crossfire of this conflict.