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Mission Permanente De la République de Djibouti
Auprès de L'office des Nations Unies
Et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

الدم ببعوثية الدائمة لجمهورية جيبوتي
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى
سوي سراج نيف

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STATEMENT OF H.E MR. MOHAMED-SIAD DOUALEH
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI
AT THE OCCASION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
OF SOMALIA

*ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW*

GENEVA

3 MAY 2011

Mr President,

At the outset Djibouti would like to very warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Somalia led by her Excellency State Minister Zahra Mohamed Ali Samatar and thank her for the presentation of its national report. We'd also like to seize the opportunity to congratulate the delegation of Somalia for the seriousness and dedication it has demonstrated in drafting the report in very difficult circumstances and the extensive consultations it has engaged in both with civil society and other stakeholders. We are grateful for the meaningful background information on the Somali situation provided for its helps in same way to come to grasps with the extraordinarily challenging environment in which the Transitional Federal Government endeavours to fulfil its responsibilities in the promotion and protection of human rights. We wish to thank the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the support extended.

Indeed, the TFG faces the mammoth task of re-establishing the rule of law of two decades of a prolonged conflict, rebuild state institutions, the police, the armed forces and a devastated educational system that has deprived generations of young Somalis of the right to education. As a result, they have often fallen prey to the manipulation of those armed non state actors who massively and systematically recruit children as soldiers. We are appalled by the information provided in the report that children are forcefully recruited in areas controlled by Al Shabbab and that parents are led to believe that it pays to rebel. We congratulate the Government for the swift actions it has taken to address the matter, in particular the issuance of strict guidelines prohibiting the recruitment into the armed forces and the engagement with traditional leaders.

We have taken note of the extraordinary challenges facing the TFG in the fulfilment of its missions and wish to reiterate our position that Somalia needs an integrated approach that encompasses the political, security and programmatic dimensions. Somalia needs the financial, technical and political support of the international community as it struggle to achieve peace, and restore a functional government in control of its territory. The current progress made in the fight against extremism requires the strongest support of both African Union and the UN for the promotion and protection of human rights are inextricably linked to progress made on the political and security front.

Thank you Mr President.