



## ORAL STATEMENT

### **NEW SOMALIA GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE HUMAN RIGHTS**

UN Human Rights Council (HRC)  
Fifty-first session  
12 September – 7 October 2022

Mr. President,

Amnesty International shares the key human rights concerns highlighted in the report of the Independent Expert on Somalia. We are concerned by the overall failure of the federal government of Somalia to improve the human rights situation in the country against the seven benchmarks for human rights progress set out by the Independent Expert last year.

The election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in May presents an opportunity for the new administration to address many of the country's pressing human rights challenges. Amnesty International notes the goals and activities presented by the new government including security, justice, reconciliation, economic and social development, and calls on it to explicitly include improving the human rights situation in the country as a priority.

The armed conflict between the Somali authorities with support of allied regional and international forces against the armed group Al-Shabaab, continues to have a devastating toll on civilians. All parties to the conflict including international actors must ensure protection of civilians. The government should also mobilize resources including by seeking international support and assistance to mitigate the current climate change induced humanitarian crisis.

Lastly, the new government must demonstrate its commitment to addressing the serious human rights challenges in the country by finalizing the establishment of the Somalia National Human Rights Commission and by ensuring that it is independent, effective, and fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr President.