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ORAL STATEMENT

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Somalia

Mr. President,

We share the key human rights concerns highlighted in the Independent Expert's report.

In addition to the Independent Expert's benchmarks for human rights progress, Amnesty International set out [a ten-point human rights agenda](#) for the Government of Somalia in November last year. This included, among others, prioritising the protection of civilians in conflict, strengthening accountability and judicial reforms and respecting the right to freedom of expression. We are concerned by the overall failure of the Federal Government of Somalia to improve the human rights situation in the country and meet the requirements of the UN benchmarks and our ten-point recommendations.

The escalation of armed conflict between Al-Shabaab and the Somali authorities, with the support of allied regional and international forces, continues to have a devastating impact on civilians. All parties to the conflict including international actors continue to commit violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

In Somaliland, [the conflict in Las Anod town](#), led to civilian casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure including hospitals, schools and residential homes, and massive displacement.

Impunity is at the heart of such conflict-related violations in Las Anod and across the country. We continue to call for the protection of civilians; for investigations into all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law; to ensure accountability for those responsible; and to secure reparation for victims.

Lastly, the government must end all harassment and attacks against journalists and ensure that the right to freedom of expression and media freedom is enjoyed by all.

Thank you, Mr. President.