ISSUE BRIEF


ABSTRACT

Since the removal of President Siad Barre in 1991, the situation in Somalia has deteriorated. Over the last two decades, the crisis has evolved from a civil war characterized by clanism and ‘warlordism’ to a crisis that today involves transnational crimes, human trafficking, piracy and extremism. In addition, international terrorism is reported to be actively supported by al-Qaeda through Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam. The resultant state failure has created a humanitarian catastrophe of immense proportion resulting in a huge number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in neighboring countries. The crisis in Somalia continues to threaten not only the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa but is now assuming a more global dimension.

Several efforts, including the signing of 13 peace agreements have been facilitated by various bodies such as the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to restore peace, law and order in Somalia, but have failed. In 2005, the Transitional Federal Charter was adopted and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) established, following the conclusion of the Mbagathi round of talks in Kenya. The TFG was given five-year tenure with key transitional tasks, including reaching out to all Somali stakeholders in order to broaden the scope of dialogue and reconciliation among all Somalis. In furtherance of the Transitional Federal Charter and tasks, the Djibouti peace process evolved, leading to the signing of the Djibouti Agreement between the TFG and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) in 2008.

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1 The Transitional Federal Charter which was and adopted in August 2004 stipulates certain tasks the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) has to carryout by the end of the Transitional period. Transitional period which was originally for five years, was extended by parliament after the signing of the Djibouti Agreement until August 2011. The transitional tasks are those that the new Somali government has to complete by the end of this period.