



## United Nations Security Council: Jubaland Crisis

by *Levente Kardkovács*

### What is the Security Council?

The Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six original organs of the United Nations. Its members, responsibilities and powers are all defined in Chapter V of the United Nations Charter. The primary goal of the council is to maintain peace and security in the world, one of the main objectives laid out in 1945 when the United Nations was created.

### What can the Security Council do?

In order to maintain international order and stability the Security Council can apply different measures. It encourages states to attempt to resolve any disputes that could threaten international peace and security through peaceful means (e.g. negotiation, judicial settlement, regional arrangements), and can call upon them to use such means. Parties may refer to the Security Council if they fail to settle their dispute. The Council will discuss the matter if it deems it likely to disturb international peace and security, and it may recommend ways to resolve the conflict, taking into account any settlement agreement that has been reached by the parties before. If a peaceful resolution proves to be impossible, then the Security Council may intervene directly in various ways. Examples in escalating order: Economic sanctions, severance of means of

transport and communications, ceasing of diplomatic relations, demonstrations, blockades, authorising a peacekeeping mission and direct military action. The Council shall only turn to more severe interventions if the less severe options fail to achieve peace.

### Who is the Security Council?

The UNSC consists of five permanent members (P5) - Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom and the United States - and 10 non-permanent members (NP10) elected for two-year terms, taking into account their geographical distribution. The current non-permanent members are Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Panama, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Somalia.

### How does the Security Council function?

Each member of the Security Council has one vote. The UNSC requires 9 affirmative votes on procedural matters and 9 affirmative votes, including concurring votes from all 5 permanent members on all other matters. A party to a dispute shall abstain from voting. Resolutions passed by the Security Council are binding for all UN member states (the only organ of the UN for which this is the case).





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### Security Council Resolution 2767: The situation in Somalia

On the 27th of December 2024 the UNSC adopted a resolution on the situation in Somalia by a vote of 14 in favour, none against and with 1 abstention (the United States). The resolution focuses on the involvement of the African Union in regional peacekeeping, welcoming a new peacekeeping force, the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), replacing previous, similar missions (AMISOM, ATMIS), and its cooperation with a new UN peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS), replacing the previous one (UNMOS). The missions will be funded jointly by the UN and the African Union. The reason for the continued presence of forces in Somalia is the threat to regional and international peace and security posed by Al-Shabaab, a jihadist terrorist organisation, allied with Al-Qaeda, which controls significant amounts of territory in the Southern regions of the country, and to a lesser extent the presence of ISIL (Da'esh), a terrorist organisation associated with the Islamic State. The resolution emphasises the transitional nature of the missions, that is the fact that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) will eventually have to be the one responsible for regional security (though the

transition missions have been ongoing for nearly two decades, so progress has been steady but slow), and also for the protection of human rights in the region. The situation is complicated by the fragmented nature of Somalia. In the North the territory Somaliland has been de facto independent for decades, and does not accept the constitution of Somalia (though it has not been internationally recognised as a sovereign state). After the FGS amended the country's constitution early last year, Puntland (another one of Somalia's Federal Member States (FMS)) has also declared independence from the FGS. The federal state of Jubaland in the South followed suit, after the FGS declared the election of the Jubaland president null and void. Since then there have been clashes between the forces of the FGS and Jubaland's forces. The FMS see the amendment of the constitution as an attempt to centralise power in the hands of the president of Somalia. It also aimed at changing the election system towards universal suffrage, which was welcomed by the resolution. The members of the UNSC have called for diplomacy and cooperation between the FGS and the FMS, as the escalating tensions are being exploited by Al-Shabaab which has made some territorial gains since the adoption of the resolution, and the security situation is deteriorating.

