



## Security Council

Distr.: General  
29 January 2024

Original: English

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### **Identical letters dated 29 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to our letter dated 23 January 2024, I am writing in response to the letter dated 26 January 2024 from the representative of Ethiopia addressed to the President of the Security Council. In that letter, Ethiopia's representative is spreading disinformation, contradictory to his Government's released press statement dated 3 January 2024, on the illegal memorandum of understanding between Ethiopia and the separatist group in the northern region of Somalia "Somaliland" in an effort to divert the attention of the Council away from its intention to establish a permanent military base in Somalia as well as its subsequent declaration to recognize the "independence" of the separatist group.

The failed attempt by the Ethiopian Government to justify and legitimize the signing of the illegal memorandum of understanding as "enhancement of bilateral economic cooperation with a region in the Federal Republic of Somalia in order to secure Ethiopia access to a sea outlet based on commercial bases" is a misguided cover for violating Somalia's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Moreover, Ethiopia's claim that it has been transparent by informing the Federal Republic of Somalia and other neighbouring countries about its expansionist proclamations and actions against Somalia further substantiates its wilful disregard of the path to bilateral cooperation and its full determination to violate the Charter of the United Nations and norms of good-neighbourliness.

The Somali Government condemns and rejects Ethiopia's actions and deceptive endeavours to disguise its illegal annexation attempt of a Somali territory as a promotion of regional peace, economic cooperation, and integration.

The Somali Government reminds Ethiopia about its obligation to adhere to the fundamental norms and principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the African Union.

The Somali Government warns that such actions not only adversely impact regional stability but also constitute a dangerous precedent to the international system of sovereignty, free and independent States for all countries.

As Security Council members are poised to deliberate on this grave matter, we reiterate Somalia's position, unanimously reaffirmed by all actors concerned by the situation, that Ethiopia's memorandum of understanding with the separatists in the northern region of Somalia "Somaliland" to establish a permanent military base in



Somalia is regarded as legally null and void. Furthermore, the declaration to recognize the “independence” of the separatist group in Somalia constitutes a grave violation of Ethiopia’s obligations under fundamental principles of international law to respect Somalia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, enshrined in Article 2 of the Charter.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abukar Dahir **Osman**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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