A provisional constitution was adopted on 1 August by the Constituent Assembly. The transitional president endorsed the national security and stabilization plan on 8 August. The plan, reportedly, has broad buy-in at local levels. Related institutions—including regional- and district-level security committees—are in the process of being established. However, discussions on key provisions relating to government decentralization, federalism, and resource-sharing have been deferred until the posttransition period. Similarly, there was a formal suspension of discussion on issues such as legislation governing elections, political parties, and the Somali economic zone until after the transition.

In September 2012, the new federal parliament was established. The subsequent election of Hassan Shaikh Mohamoud as the new president went relatively smoothly, though there were some reports of efforts to buy and coerce votes. SRSG Mahiga was vocal in speaking out about the attempted bribery and the importance of a legitimate
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An assassination attempt on President Mohamoud only two days after he took office underlined the continued fragility of Somalia’s political process. Nevertheless, in October Somalia’s parliament approved a prime minister, further cementing the political gains in 2012. The new government, which includes two women, was sworn in on 15 November.

UN Strategic Review

In light of the end of the transition period in Somalia, the UN is in the process of a comprehensive review of its strategy and presence in Somalia. This strategic review process, which is guided by the authorities’ needs, is expected to be completed by 31 January 2013.

The process seeks to establish a common understanding of the challenges and identify opportunities to ensure a common approach among UN entities in Somalia. It also seeks to develop options on the future configuration of the AU-UN partnership in Somalia. The review will include conflict analysis as well as an assessment of the political, security, economic, and governance factors and issues relating to the delivery of basic services and the reestablishment of rule of law.

Conclusion

With the recent gains in security coupled with the end of the transition period, Somalia has entered a period of positive momentum. Security is improving in the capital and beyond. Business owners and investors are slowly returning, and concrete political gains have fostered a sense of optimism in Mogadishu. However, despite significant security gains, al-Shabaab continues to remain a serious threat, and the security achievements have to be consolidated by an expeditious political response. In this regard, the consolidation of government control in areas outside the capital,

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Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (continued)

could begin to alleviate root causes of piracy, including poverty and lawlessness onshore. A new prison facility funded by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) accepted its first detainees at the end of March 2012, helping to improve Somalia’s capacity to prosecute pirates. However, given the small number of legal professionals, along with limited resources and a dangerous security environment, increasing Somalia’s ability to domestically tackle the judicial aspects of piracy will be a long-term endeavor. As a result, regional efforts will continue to be crucial. The new Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC) in the Seychelles, funded by Britain, will help in this effort by enabling the international community to target piracy kingpins and financiers and fight impunity.

Though attacks were down in 2012, pirates are already adapting their tactics to international pressure, a threat that could reverse the successes of the past year. Pirates acquired sophisticated weaponry, including mines and shoulder-held missile launchers, some smuggled out of Libya after the fall of the Qaddafi regime, and have also increased their operations farther off the coast of Somalia to avoid naval forces. Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea is also increasingly threatening international security, and could lead to an overstretching of limited antipiracy resources. The success of the past year is not irreversible. Addressing the root causes of piracy, continuing maritime efforts, and bolstering onshore mechanisms will be necessary to ensure continued progress.