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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Date

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Press Statement

The terrorist attack in Mogadishu yesterday which claimed the lives of so many, including six parliamentarians, and wounded dozens more, has demonstrated yet again the challenge the people of Somali face in their struggle to free their country from the stranglehold of Al-Shabaab, an organization whose agenda has nothing to do with the interests of Somalia or of its people.

Al-Shabaab and its non-Somali foreign partners have continued to cause murder and mayhem in Somalia in deliberate efforts to prevent the re-creation of a functional Somali state. Last December a suicide bomber killed some of the first doctors to graduate in Somalia in over 20 years. Thousands of people, Somalis and non-Somalis alike, have died in terrorist suicide attacks as Al-Shabaab and its foreign backers have tried to destroy Somalia.

This is why it is so vital that Al-Shabaab and the terrorism it espouses is brought to an end. Ethiopia, as current Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), underlines IGAD’s full support for all measures against Al-Shabaab, and for the TFG which remains the only vehicle for the restoration of the Somali State, and for international support and legitimacy. Yesterday’s atrocity which we condemn vehemently underlines the importance of demonstrating greater international resolution and effort to contain and destroy Al-Shabaab. The Government of Ethiopia calls upon the international community to respond urgently and appropriately to the situation in Somalia as requested by the African Union Summit of the Heads of State and Government in Kampala last month.

The Government of Ethiopia, also in its capacity as chair of IGAD, would like to extend its deepest sympathy to the families of all those who died or who were injured in the cowardly and barbarous attack at the Mona Hotel in Mogadishu yesterday.

25 August, 2010

