In many ways, 2015 truly has been the year of delivery for the UN and the international community in Somalia! With strong and consistent government leadership, the generous support of our donors and the tireless efforts of UN teams, the UN MPTF is now fully operational. We have begun implementing seven new joint programmes, while bringing on-going programmes — such as the Joint Programme on Local Governance — into the MPTF. These programmes cover all five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, and represent the cornerstone of our efforts to support the New Deal for Somalia.

In short, we have much to be proud of.

As the year draws to a close, I am confident that we all agree that we cannot lose momentum now. The coming year brings with it a series of milestones that should cement the important progress that we have supported in Somalia for the past several years. While we will continue to develop and expand our UN portfolio in support of national priorities, we will also increase our focus on making the MPTF National Window fully operational, building on an initial investment from the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The forthcoming National Development Plan also stands as a prime opportunity to further anchor the New Deal and its structures — including the SDRF — into the future of a peaceful, secure and prosperous Somalia.

I look forward to continuing our joint work in 2016 to make Somalia a true New Deal success story!

— Peter de Clercq

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UN MPTF Secretariat Updates
At the 4 December donor briefing in Nairobi, the UN MPTF Secretariat and World Bank provided a briefing on Fund-Level Fiduciary Risk Management. The presentation focussed on ensuring clarity for key concepts such as fraud and corruption, and outlining the mechanisms in place across both funds to mitigate against such risk. The presentation also included an update on the internal audit and investigation modalities governing the MPTF.

Work to operationalise the National Funding Window, which is designed to channel funds directly to government entities in support of key peacebuilding priorities, continues. A Fiduciary Manual has been developed, and USD 2 million from the Peacebuilding Fund has been allocated to the window. Project design for the rehabilitation of small infrastructure in various regions is currently underway.

In addition to this pilot project for the National Funding Window, two new joint programmes are currently in the pipeline for MPTF funding: a programme on “Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods,” and a programme on public works to rebuild ministerial building. A number of existing programmes, notably under PSG 1, are being extended and expanded for 2016.

A comprehensive communication strategy for the MPTF has been developed and is under implementation.

Fund Capitalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Multi-year pledges</th>
<th>Contributions in-hand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>USD 18.5 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>USD 36 million</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>USD 25.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>USD 0.5 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Peacebuilding Fund</td>
<td>USD 10.9 million</td>
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</table>
The UNSOM/UNDP Integrated Electoral Support Group works in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MoIFA) and the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) to implement the **Joint Programme on Elections**. The Programme focuses on the establishment of the NIEC, capacity development to conduct elections and referenda, the electoral legal framework, as well as stakeholder awareness and coordination.

Three initial workshops were held in August, training staff members from the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs and NIEC Commissioners on various topics, including electoral principles, building resources in democracy, governance and elections, and the roles and responsibilities of commissioners. The NIEC’s temporary office was set up in August with support from the Joint Programme and has enabled the NIEC to operate effectively and quickly after its appointment.

Supported by the Joint Programme on Elections, the first plenary of the **National Consultative Forum** was held in Mogadishu on 19-20 October, where representatives from the federal government and parliament, emerging and existing federal member states, civil society, women and youth met to discuss how to elect members of the legislature and the executive branch when their mandates expire next year.

A series of public consultations that took place across the country on 16 and 17 November. Hundreds of Somalis participated, among them many women. Six consultations were held across Puntland, three in Jubaland, one in Baidoa, one in Adado, and one in Mogadishu for the people of Benadir, Hiraan and Middle Shebelle. An additional consultation took place for more than 700 delegates from “Somaliland” on 22 November in Mogadishu.

The second plenary of the National Consultative Forum on the 2016 electoral process opened 13 December 2015 in the Somali capital with national and regional leaders reviewing the outcome of public consultations across Somalia and within the diaspora and deliberating on the most appropriate and inclusive electoral process for 2016.

The progress made over the past several months has been a major exercise in participatory politics and a manifestation of the principal values of democracy. For the first time in decades, Somalis, within and across their own country, have had a collective say on shaping their own political future.

**Rule of Law**

In the first two quarters of 2015, a total of 5,212 clients benefited from legal aid and representation services from the **Joint Programme on Rule of Law.** In Q2, of the 822 individuals who received support in Puntland, 617 were internally displaced persons (IDPs).

According to the Garowe Prison Commander, “On a weekly basis, Puntland Legal Aid Centre (PLAC) lawyers, with support from the UN Joint Programme, pay visit to Garowe prison to help IDPs, poor and vulnerable persons who would have no chance to recruit a lawyer to represent their case before court.”

In Q1 2016, a judicial training for a group of around 30 judges and prosecutors will take place, as well as a training for around 16 Court Registrars. At the end of the training sessions, the beneficiaries will be expected to understand the principle of the hierarchy of legal norms, know the judicial organization and the court structure, be able to determine the competencies of the court in a case, to understand the role of each justice actors and the functions of traditional justice mechanisms and their relations with the formal justice system. They are also expected to be familiarized with the content of the civil code and able to apply the basic principles of civil law.

**Youth Employment**

The **Joint Programme on Youth Employment (JPYE)** kicked off in November with a training of trainers in Mogadishu. 34 young people (17 women and 17 men) from all 17 districts of Mogadishu attended the workshop. During the training, participants were equipped with various skills, such as situation analysis and city mapping, to design and plan a “One-Stop Youth Centre” in Mogadishu, which will provide a safe space for youth as well as vocational and business training opportunities for around 2,000 young people.

Throughout Q4 2015 and Q1 2016, around 1,000 short-term jobs were created for youth in Berbera and Baidoa in the first phase of a rehabilitation of urban infrastructure project. The project will start off with a feasibility study, composed of technical, social, economic and environmental impact assessments, and will be expanded to four more districts within Q1 2016. With full funding, the JP YE aims to create 1,000 sustainable jobs and 9,500 short-term jobs (5,700 rural, 3,800 urban) for young Somalis.

In Q1 2016, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund will finalize the Fund’s monitoring and evaluation framework. To support the implementation of this framework, the Secretariat will have a dedicated, full-time M&E officer, generously funded by the UNDP New Deal Facility.

The Secretariat will also continue its efforts to fully operationalize the National Funding Window. The Secretariat is completing a USD 2 million programme document with the Federal Ministry of Finance for the rehabilitation of infrastructure in Kismayo, which will be funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund through the National Window.

The first donor briefing of 2016 will take place in Nairobi in mid-January. In addition, the UN and the World Bank plan to present the Trust Fund Risk Management Strategy at a dedicated session for donors. The Secretariat will circulate further information in due course.