

UAE Counter Piracy Conference

Statements by Heads of Delegation Session

Intervention of the United Arab Emirates

H.E. Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for being present today at this important public-private Counter-Piracy Conference.

Since we met here last year in April, the international community has made significant progress in fighting piracy in the region, both on land and at sea.

In particular, public-private cooperation in countering piracy has improved, and I am excited about the new initiatives being taken by the global maritime industry, on the occasion of this second UAE Conference.

As we speak, business and economic life is returning to Mogadishu. Expatriate Somalis are returning to their country's capital to start new lives. Trade between Somalia and its regional neighbours, and with the UAE in particular, is booming. This is indeed a historic moment, and we can be optimistic about the future.

But we must also ensure that this peace dividend on land and political progress in Somalia translates into security at sea.

In this respect, the UAE comes here with a key message: the international community must ensure that Somalia is supported to develop the requisite capacity to enforce maritime safety and security within its territorial waters. It is only through increasing Somali ownership in this regard that a long-term solution can be achieved.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce the UAE's new commitment to provide support to Somalia in this central area.

I reiterate the new financial commitment of US\$1,000,000 to support maritime security capacity building in Somalia, to be managed through the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. We are confident that this important international financial vehicle could become a new focal point for funds to be donated towards the development of Somalia's maritime security capacity.

This commitment is made as part of a larger commitment the UAE will make to comprehensively support the development of the Somali Coast Guard, following the 20 August end of the transition and formation of a permanent central government, with a new constitution. This commitment is the UAE's response to a specific request from the Somali leadership.

In coordination with Somalia's leadership and with our international partners, the UAE will provide equipment, training, and other support required to make the coast guard a viable national agency for the maintenance of maritime safety and security off the coast of Somalia.

The UAE's support will include boats and communications equipment, and facilities, such as a central operating station in Mogadishu.

This significant commitment reflects the UAE's support to the current historic developments in Somalia. It also represents the confidence of the states of Somalia's neighbourhood, and the international community, in the capacity to ensure that Somalia and its people are once again able to enjoy peace, stability and prosperity; and to ensure that Somalia once again be at the centre of a historic and thriving regional economy.

Thank you.