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Somaliland is a bulwark against terrorist organizations. In the last 10 years, 40 Somaliland civil servants were assassinated in Lasanod- the regional capital of Sool, Somaliland. The targeted officials are judges, law enforcement officials, elected city council members, and local political party leaders. The culprit of these targeted assassinations is ISIL who cross into Somaliland across its porous border with Somalia. The terrorists are determined to derail Somaliland's democratization processes.

The latest assassination of Cabdifataax Cabdillaahi, a Wadani Party official comes at a time when Somaliland voter registration began for the upcoming presidential elections. The aim is to destabilize Somaliland and create a power vacuum which enables terrorist organizations to roam freely. ISIL's strategy is to trigger local inter-communal conflict, leading to significant destruction and loss of life and hostilities among communities that co-settle in pastoral areas. Local peace is essential to the ability of these communities to cope with the recurrent drought.

Somaliland has been pursuing a strategy of reconciliation and democratization for the past three decades, particularly in the Eastern regions bordering Somalia. Somaliland needs the international support for its efforts to prevent any sort of insecurity that will create opportunities for terrorists to thrive. We urge the International Community to support local stabilization and reconstruction of the Eastern regions. The Somaliland government has established a local and regional administration in the Eastern regions, which are the targets of ISIL destabilization. The deployment of Somaliland security forces is essential to the stability of the Eastern regions.

Somaliland has well developed mechanism of conflict resolution, whereby the traditional leaders of Somaliland have played a leading role in the country's reconciliation and stability. We urge the Somaliland government to continue its strategy of reconciliation and dialogue to all who are willing to take part in Somaliland peace building process.

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