DEED OF COMMITMENT UNDER GENEVA CALL
FOR ADHERENCE TO A TOTAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
AND FOR COOPERATION IN MINE ACTION

I, Hassan Abshir, prime Minister of Transitional National Government of Somalia,

Recognising the global scourge of anti-personnel mines which indiscriminately and inhumanely kill and maim combatants and civilians, mostly innocent and defenceless people, especially women and children, even after the armed conflict is over;

Realising that the limited military utility of anti-personnel mines is far outweighed by their appalling humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental consequences, including on post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction;

Rejecting the notion that revolutionary ends or just causes justify inhumane means and methods of warfare of a nature to cause unnecessary suffering;

Accepting that international humanitarian law and human rights apply to and oblige all parties to armed conflicts;

Reaffirming our determination to protect the civilian population from the effects or dangers of military actions, and to respect their rights to life, to human dignity, and to development;

Resolved to play our role not only as actors in armed conflicts but also as participants in the practice and development of legal and normative standards for such conflicts, starting with a contribution to the overall humanitarian effort to solve the global landmine problem for the sake of its victims;

Acknowledging the norm of a total ban on anti-personnel mines established by the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, which is an important step toward the total eradication of landmines;

NOW, THEREFORE, hereby solemnly commit myself, and my government to the following terms:

1. To ADHERE to a total ban on anti-personnel mines. By anti-personnel mines, we refer to those devices which effectively explode by the presence, proximity or contact of a person, including other victim-activated explosive devices and anti-vehicle mines with the same effect whether with or without anti-handling devices. By total ban, we refer to a complete prohibition on all use, development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and transfer of ownership of such mines, including those in the form of prototypes.

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acquisition, stockpiling, retention, and transfer of such mines, under any
circumstances. This includes an undertaking on the destruction of all such mines.

2. TO COOPERATE IN AND UNDERTAKE stockpile destruction, mine clearance,
victim assistance, mine awareness, and various other forms of mine action,
especially where these programs are being implemented by independent
international and national organizations.

3. TO ALLOW AND COOPERATE in the monitoring and verification of our
commitment to a total ban on anti-personnel mines by Geneva Call and other
independent international and national organizations associated for this purpose with
Geneva Call. Such monitoring and verification include visits and inspections in all
areas where anti-personnel mines may be present, and the provision of the necessary
information and reports, as may be required for such purposes in the spirit of
transparency and accountability.

4. TO ISSUE the necessary orders and directives to our commanders and fighters for
the implementation and enforcement of our commitment under the foregoing
paragraphs, including measures for information dissemination and training, as well
as disciplinary sanctions in case of non-compliance.

5. TO TREAT this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in
principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms, particularly of international
humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field
practice as well as to the further development of humanitarian norms for armed
conflicts.

6. This Deed of Commitment shall not affect our legal status, pursuant to the relevant

7. We understand that Geneva Call may publicize our compliance or non-compliance
with this Deed of Commitment.

8. We see the desirability of attracting the adherence of other armed groups to this
Deed of Commitment and will do our part to promote it.

9. This Deed of Commitment complements or supercedes, as the case may be, any
existing unilateral declaration of ours on anti-personnel mines.

10. This Deed of Commitment shall take effect immediately upon its signing and
receipt by the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva which receives it
as the custodian of such deeds and similar unilateral declarations.

Done this 11th day of November 2002, at Eldoret, Kenya
HASSAN ABSHIR
prime Minister of Transitional National Government of Somalia,

ABDALLA DEROW ISAK
Speaker of the Parliament of the Transitional National Government of Somalia,

For GENEVA CALL:

ELISABETH REUSSE-DECREE
President

LARE OKUNGU
Regional Director for Africa

For THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA:

Robert HENSLER
Chancelier d'Etat

14.11.02

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