

## Republic of Finland

### Position Paper for the Historical Security Council

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#### I. Rising Tensions in Somalia and Surrounding Member States

The Republic of Finland has spectated with enthusiasm the progression of decolonization in the African continent since the creation of the Special Committee on Decolonization on November 27, 1961, following the approval of General Assembly Resolution 1654 (XVI).<sup>1</sup> Noting with deep regret, The Republic of Finland has been alarmed by recent developments, particularly in the region surrounding the Horn of Africa. In the last decade, the world has seen many devastating events unfold in this region, such as the Ethiopian Civil War<sup>2</sup> and famine, the Garissa<sup>3</sup> and Wagalla<sup>4</sup> Massacres against ethnic Somalis in Kenya, and more recently, the current ongoing civil war in Somalia which began in 1988. The Republic of Finland is particularly concerned about the allegations of the violation of human rights, as defined by the UN Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup> that the Barre regime has engaged in ethnic cleansing campaigns against the Northern Isaaq clans, Southern Hawiye clans, and other political or civil citizens of Somalia who have been deemed a threat to the regime, as reported by the African Watch Committee, a branch of Human Rights Watch, in their extensive 268-page report titled “Somalia A Government At War with Its Own People.”<sup>6</sup>

Alongside the civil unrest happening within Somalia,<sup>7</sup> the international community has seen a crisis of an estimated 400,000 Somali refugees, many of whom have fled to neighboring member states of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. This has, in turn, sparked a new challenge for the neighboring member states, many of which cannot support such an influx of refugees. Recalling the crisis of Somali Refugees, the Finnish Red Cross is working tirelessly to transport Somali refugees into Finnish society,<sup>8</sup> as well as expand Finnish programs to allow for an easier transition of asylum seekers through family reunification programs.

With concern, the Republic of Finland recommends a two-step attempt to calm the tensions within Somalia, as well as a recommendation regarding the refugee crisis outside of Somalia; with the ongoing allegations of Human Rights violations, Finland recommends that the Human Rights Council consider opening an investigation into the matter, sending in independent but qualified professionals on behalf of the UN to collect data, testimonials, and record of military operations of the Barre regime against the Somali National Movement (SNM). Secondly, if violations are found, Finland recommends that the Security Council discuss a resolution allowing for a peacekeeping operation to take place, to ensure that no ethnic cleansing or other human rights violations take place while respecting Somali sovereignty in dealing with rebel and terrorist organizations. With the Finnish government's work and through the Finnish Red Cross, Finland is determined to help as many refugees as possible and invites all willing Member States to do the same. The Republic of Finland hopes to help as many Somali refugees as possible to find a new home.

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<sup>1</sup> Special Committee on Decolonization: <https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/about>.

<sup>2</sup> Ethiopian Civil War: <https://youtu.be/QWFW-ZcnONM>.

<sup>3</sup> Garissa Massacre: <https://www.ictj.org/media/5456>.

<sup>4</sup> Wagalla Massacre: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2014/2/27/kenyas-wagalla-massacre-30-years-later>.

<sup>5</sup> UN Declaration of Human Rights: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

<sup>6</sup> Africa Watch Somali Report: <https://cja.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Africa-Watch-Somalia-A-Government-at-War-with-its-Own-People-Jan-1990.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Why Somalia is a Failed State: <https://youtu.be/SR7bBecFQak>.

<sup>8</sup> Historical Efforts by Finnish Red Cross (Translation done through Google translate): [https://www.punainenristi.fi/tyomme/historia/1990-luku/?\\_gl=1\\*\\_xylsci\\*\\_up\\*MQ..\\*\\_ga\\*MzkwNzkwNjcyLjE3Mjg4Njg3MTU.\\*\\_ga\\_FMVLRNR4HM\\*MTcyODg2ODcxNC4xLjAuMTcyODg2ODcxNC4wLjAuMA](https://www.punainenristi.fi/tyomme/historia/1990-luku/?_gl=1*_xylsci*_up*MQ..*_ga*MzkwNzkwNjcyLjE3Mjg4Njg3MTU.*_ga_FMVLRNR4HM*MTcyODg2ODcxNC4xLjAuMTcyODg2ODcxNC4wLjAuMA).

## II. International Security Implications of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

On June 14, 1987,<sup>9</sup> The Republic of Finland became a witness as citizens of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic began protesting the rule of the USSR through very unorthodox means.<sup>10</sup> Estonians all over the country began to spontaneously sing nationalist and folklore songs, as well as wave the Estonian independence flag, both of which have been banned throughout the Soviet Union. This reached a high point the following year, at the Tartu Pop Music Festival in May 1988.<sup>11</sup> Along with folk singing, many famous artists within Estonia contributed to this cultural event, and the Republic of Finland was impressed to see the incredible linking of hands of thousands of people being connected through hundreds of miles across all three Baltic soviet states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. This chain of events came to be known as the Singing Revolution.<sup>12</sup>

In our current year of 1990, the international community has seen the spread of nationalism from Estonia and to all the other Soviet States, ranging from the fields of Ukraine, going to the steppes of Kazakhstan, and even being found within the streets of St. Petersburg and Moscow. With the spread of Nationalism through Eastern Europe and Central Asia, The Republic of Finland stands in solidarity with the international community in welcoming potential new Member States to the United Nations; however, Finland has concerns over the economic consequences that may follow.

When President Gorbachev took office in 1985, the Soviet Union had for 20 years been in a stagnant economy.<sup>13</sup> There is not enough production while costs of living are constantly increasing. Even with such poor conditions, the USSR has been the biggest trading partner to the Republic of Finland, and it is estimated that approximately 20% of all Finnish Exports were exported to the USSR in the 1980s. Finland is also alarmed at the dangers of a collapse of the Soviet Union, as 90% of all Finnish Oil and 100% of Finnish Natural Gas is bought from the Soviet Union, and Finnish exports, particularly dealing with machinery, are specifically designed for Soviet products.<sup>14</sup>

As with the power vacuum left historically by Imperial Russia as well as Nazi Germany, Finland is wary of the instability that the absence of power and structure can create in the regions affected. Historically, the Soviet Union has kept a close eye on its citizens and has held a steady, iron hand of law and order. However, with expansions into personal freedoms, less government intervention, and potential moves for independence, Finland is aware of the rise of corruption and organized crime on local and government levels within the new Republic.<sup>15</sup>

Finland is in favor of any new Republics that desire the embrace of democracy and freedom but hopes that the Security Council will support efforts made to assist the potential new fledgling governments. These efforts should be done through the respective avenues of support, such as through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and support the investment into fair, transparent, and democratically-elected governments and administrations. These funds should also be considered in particular for the use of training for government staff, administrators, and technical schools for the students of the potential republics.

With cautious enthusiasm, the Republic of Finland hopes that these events will serve as a new chapter for the global community, ending the brutal era of the Cold War, and leading to a world of peace, cooperation, and the upholding of democratic values.

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<sup>9</sup> How did the Baltic Region Gain Independence: <https://youtu.be/w8Odlzmez68>.

<sup>10</sup> Estonia's Singing Revolution: <https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/estonias-singing-revolution-1986-1991/>.

<sup>11</sup> The Singing Revolution Explained: [https://youtu.be/Wz44Q9\\_34-4](https://youtu.be/Wz44Q9_34-4).

<sup>12</sup> The Singing Revolution: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2016/10/singing-revolution-past-present/>.

<sup>13</sup> Consequences of the Collapse of the USSR:

<https://online.norwich.edu/online/about/resource-library/consequences-collapse-soviet-union#:~:text=By%20the%20time%20Gorbachev%20took,lines%20for%20food%20were%20long.>

<sup>14</sup> The Finnish Great Depression:

<https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~egme/pp/FINLAND%20-%202011-04-17%20-%20accepted.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Post-Soviet Organized Crime: [https://demokratizatsiya.pub/archives/02-3\\_Shelley.PDF](https://demokratizatsiya.pub/archives/02-3_Shelley.PDF).