**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Somalia,**

**38th Session, May 7, 2021**

The United States warmly welcomes the Somali delegation.

We recommend that Somalia:

1. Resolve its electoral crisis, continue dialogue, exercise maximum restraint to avoid inflaming tensions, and avoid further unilateral actions that will destroy progress made;
2. Promote freedom of expression by preventing harassment, intimidation, beatings, bribes, and arbitrary arrests of independent journalists;

1. Create a national action plan to end conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, working with the United Nations to re-introduce the draft sexual offences bill of 2018; and

1. Strengthen enforcement of the legal right to a fair and public trial by strengthening protections for an independent judiciary and ending the use of corrupt military court systems for accused civilians.

We welcome President Farmaajo **(Far-MAH-joe)** and Parliament’s House of the People’s return to the September 17, 2020 agreement. With Prime Minister Roble **(ROE-blay)** overseeing the electoral process, including security arrangements, the United States encourages all parties to meet immediately without preconditions and engage in a collaborative and transparent manner. We stand ready to support elections as soon as possible.