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Title: Challenges and prospects of Somalia-frontline states alliance against Al-Shabaab:

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Abstract

The failed state of Somalia has been a major problem of regional and continental security of Africa and beyond. For the past decades the UN, AU and other members from the international community have devoted countless resources and efforts to restore Somalia's rule of law order, breaking an anarchical cycle that has devastated the state. However, that could have not been done without the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Furthermore, AMISOM has gained political momentum as the structural body actively takes part in processes of reconciliation, elections and federalization of Somalia. Nevertheless, the lack of military power and support from the local communities continues to challenge AMISOM security mission in Somalia. Additionally, over the past months, Somalia's neighboring Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya have collectively established a military offensive mechanism against Al-Shabaab in southern and central Somalia. Using operational analysis model, this paper will focus on the challenges that new frontlines are facing; and the lessons that can be learned in respect to other regional security threats posed by the extremists in sub-region of the continent such as the Sahel, the eastern central and northern Africa.

Finally, the author argues that new frontline offensive against Al-Shabaab has led to much territory being conquered by security agencies in Somalia. On one hand, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya's defense and intelligence forces are coordinating with their Somalia counterparts on military operation rather than AMISOM which has required bureaucratic operation from the members of AMISOM or the African Union at large. On the other hand, the new offensive has also shown that, self-organized local militia is significantly contributing to the success of frontline states' military operation against Al-Shabaab in Somalia.

Keywords: Somalia, military operation, AMISOM, frontline states, Al-Shabaab.