December 15, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. State Department  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken,

We write to urge you to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia for an 18-month period. The designation of TPS for Somalia is set to expire on March 17, 2023, with a decision date fast approaching on January 16, 2023. Due to ongoing armed conflict, violence, and humanitarian crises, it remains unsafe for Somali nationals to return. In addition to the extension, we ask that the administration redesignate TPS for Somalia for those who did not meet the cut-off period of the current designation.

As highlighted by civil society organizations in their recent letter to the administration, Somalia is facing a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by protracted armed conflict.¹ The security situation in Somalia remains extremely fraught, as Al-Shabaab continues to threaten the stability and safety of Somalia. Violence is rampant, with the highest number of recorded civilian casualties since 2017 according to the UN.² An estimated 40 percent of the population, or 6.1 million people, are left hungry due to the drought and soaring inflation.³

A designation of TPS for Somalia is in line with U.S. commitments to the nation and its people. As stated by the U.S. Department of State, “The United States is committed to helping Somalia’s government strengthen democratic institutions, improve stability and security, and deliver services for the Somali people.” An estimated 400 beneficiaries are on the verge of losing their work authorization and facing deportation if the administration fails to extend the designation. Deportation would not only threaten the safety of these individuals but would also have devastating consequences for U.S.-citizen children of Somali TPS holders. Parents would have to

¹ https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/somalia
make the impossible choice of whether to leave their child behind in the U.S. or take them back to dangerous conditions in Somalia.

We request that you provide an 18-month extension for current TPS holders and expand the protections to more recently arrived Somali individuals present in the United States by redesignating Somalia for TPS. We look forward to actions from your offices prior to January 16, 2023.

Sincerely,

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Troy Carter
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

David J. Trone
Member of Congress