

Communiqué of the Mombasa conference, 7-11 December 2009

After long deliberations and intense discussion on all the above important points, at the conclusion of the Mombasa conference the participants:

- Condemn the tragic incident of December 3rd, 2009 in which graduating medical students and their parents, professors of Benadir University, journalists, Government Ministers and others were killed or injured while attending a momentarily joyous graduation ceremony in Shamo Hotel, Mogadishu. This barbaric action is alien to the Somali culture and the Islamic religion. Suicide bombing is a crime against humanity and those responsible for the planning and the execution of this horrendous act should be brought to justice, no matter how long it takes. The conference appeals to the Somali people and the international community for support for the Benadir University.
- Denounce the continuing culture of impunity in Somalia and urge the UN Office for Human Rights and other international bodies to set up an investigative commission.
- Call on the international community to alter its policy towards Somalia and to develop and support genuine institutional building and to implant the seeds of good governance.
- Recognize the difficult environment in which the Transitional Federal Government operates while also expressing concern about the slow progress in establishing the necessary state institutions and systems and call on the TFG to build the necessary basic state institutions in order to restore rule of law in the country.
- Encourage the TFG to actively seek and develop human capital so that the civil service can become effective in bringing good governance to all the regions in Somalia.
- Appreciate the AMISOM's important contribution towards keeping the peace in Mogadishu but express concern about AMISOM's use of excessive force and the consequent large civilian casualties.
- Condemn strongly the use of violence as a means to a political end as currently practiced by Alshaab and Hizbul Islam.

- Recognize the invaluable contribution and selfless sacrifices made by media professionals and urge all stakeholders to respect and protect their vital role in the reconstruction and the recovery of the Somalis state.
- Recognizing that piracy can only be defeated by uprooting pirate camps in the mainland and by deterring idle youth from joining the pirates, the conference participants urge the international community to provide local administrations where piracy is rampant with logistical support, Youth engagement programs, and job creation through infrastructure building. The conference also expressed its concern regarding the continuing looting of Somali marine resources and dumping of toxic waste in Somali waters.
- Recognize the exceptional contribution that women make towards peace and development in Somalia and urge the government to respect the constitutional rights of women for participation in all levels of government. In order to enhance the role of women in different sectors of society, women are also encouraged to unite with a common vision.
- Recognize that the contribution of Somali communities abroad (diaspora) is critically important to the development and sustainability of the livelihoods of millions of Somalis in the country but express serious concern about financial contributions to warring factions in Somalia.
- Appreciate the active participation at the conference of the Somali business community from Somalia, the region and abroad, and calls for their active engagement in peace and the reconstruction of Somalia
- Encourage the development and institutionalization of local and regional administrations in Somalia.
- Urge the Youth groups to form a united front in order to better contribute to the development of their country.
- Urge all participants at the Mombasa conference to fulfill their responsibility to brief and mobilize their respective communities and constituencies in Somalia and abroad on the proceedings and outcomes of the conference in order that the vision for sustainable peace in Somalia may be realized.

Done on 11 December 2009

Mombasa, Kenya