

## **Mombasa Declaration of the Principles of Peace**

More than 180 members of the Somali civil society, consisting of Somali civic actors, diaspora groups and business leaders, gathered in Mombasa between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2009, and adopted the following Principles of Peace.

### **I. Terror shall never be used as political means**

Terrorizing civilians shall never be justified as a political vehicle to advance a political agenda at the cost of the Somali people. Radicalization is neither part of the Somali culture and tradition nor their way of life.

### **II. Security is a right, not a privilege**

Public safety and individual security are rights not privileges. A citizen's life, liberty and freedom of expression shall not be infringed upon.

### **III. Islamic Sharia shall be a source of laws**

The Islamic law has been a towering moral authority among the Somali public, and thus shall be a source of the law of the country, complimented by international legal obligations, including but not limited to International Human Rights Law and the Geneva Convention.

### **IV. Strengthening existing institutions**

In order to end the state of the permanent transition in Somalia, existing institutions achieved through local and regional efforts should be recognized, preserved and built upon.

### **V. A paramount need for leadership**

The Somali people shall nurture a leadership based on a vision that can inspire change, in order to end the state of a permanent transition.

### **VI. A need for a government that embodies national vision**

The Somali government shall be inclusive, democratic, competent, accountable and above all, reflective of a national vision, that enables building the capacity of transitional institutions that are vital for the healthy recovery process.

### **VII. Unhindered access to the delivery of humanitarian efforts**

The “slow genocide” of the Somali people in the country and outside is intolerable: to protect the sanctity of life, and to assist the vulnerable, all parties should provide unhindered access to the delivery of humanitarian efforts by both local and international organizations.

**VIII. Protection of the environment for sustainable livelihoods**

Exploitation of Somali natural resources (such as charcoal production, over-grazing, toxic dumping and over-fishing) endangers the Somali people’s future. Protection of the environment should be prioritised by all stakeholders in order to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

**IX. Ending the culture of misappropriating public funds**

Funds intended for the transitional institutions or other groups should never be misappropriated, mismanaged or misused for unintended purposes.

**X. International community should commit to systems, not individuals**

The international community should not anoint individuals over institutions. It should support priorities identified by the Somali people. Relocation of “exiled” internationally-supported Somali programs back to Somalia should be addressed within the framework of an active international policy change towards Somalia.

**XI. Accountability for human rights abusers**

Those responsible for heinous crimes shall be held accountable for their actions. The international community shall assist the Somali people in ending the culture of impunity.

**XII. The sanctity of the Somali culture**

The Somali culture, including poetry, music, literature and language is an essential part of our national identity. Therefore, it shall be protected, and shall never be infringed upon.

*Done on 11 December 2009  
Mombasa, Kenya*