



H.E. Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, Prime Minister of Somalia's
Closing Statement at the 21st ICG Meeting on Somalia
Djibouti, 5-6 February, 2012

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

Our Djibouti meeting here at the ICG has been a success and with all your assistance and contributions, the final outcome has exceeded our expectations. I thank you all for that. I also commend UNPOS leadership and staff for their hard work and dedication and especially for the innovative working group discussions model that helped focus our attentions on the key issues.

Essentially, three issues that demanded our urgent and utmost attention are (1) how to end the transition in a timely manner and also think through all the key legal and political strategies that need to be put in place, and (2) to mobilize immediate resources – political, financial and moral support – for the implementation of my government's reconciliation and stabilization plan for the newly liberated areas, and (3) to find together a common platform on issues as we go forward to the London conference.

I am very pleased that we have found common ground on all of these issues. We have together identified key tasks to be initiated very soon on the selection of the Constituent Assembly and also legal procedures to be put in place for the selection of the next parliament. I have instructed my people to finalize some of these processes at the Garowe 2 conference in the middle of this month.

The focus on the way forward in the newly liberated areas has given us the opportunity to get your feedback and inputs into the TFG policy and strategy on reconciliation and stabilization in these areas. It seems we are all on the same page: We cannot allow a vacuum. Now is the time to act, now is the time to take strong steps to consolidate security, to reconcile different factions and create local administrations in the newly liberated areas. We cannot fail in this, or we will waste the golden opportunity provided to us by TFG, AMISOM, Kenyan and Ethiopian forces. And even worse, we will end up having to deal with the return of Al-Shabaab or warlords or other new conflicts.

As we leave here today and look forward to the London Conference, let us be guided by the concepts I mentioned yesterday. Somalia and the Somali people need legitimacy, accountability and commitment. Let us bring a unity of purpose to the months ahead and make sure that all new ideas are calibrated with the existing processes of the Kampala Accord, the Roadmap and the Garowe Principles.

My sincere thanks again to the Djibouti government for hosting us. I look forward to the day we can host an international contact group meeting in Somalia. Let me express my appreciation for the recent UNPOS relocation – we welcome your staff and your office to Mogadishu. We hope to welcome even more of you soon. Until then, my friends, thank you again for your participation and your support.

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