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Ergada Joogtada ah ee Qaramada Midoobay

Permanent Mission of the Somali  
Republic to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY:

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI REPUBLIC

AT

THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 September 2005

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Mr. President, Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments

Distinguished Representatives:

His Excellency Koffi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations;

It gives me great pleasure to address this August Assembly of World Leaders and present our sincere congratulations to you on your well deserved election. We are confident that you will guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion. Let me also commend your predecessor for the able manner with which he conducted the work of the assembly during his presidency.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to convey first and foremost, on behalf of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia our sincere condolences to the President and People of the United States of America and in particular to the populations living in the Gulf Coast, where a ferocious hurricane has killed and displaced thousands of people, destroying cities and infrastructures, causing untold hardship and suffering.

We are indeed happy and encouraged by the overwhelming support and international solidarity extended to the victims of this tragedy and hope that the distressed families will regain normal life as soon as possible.

The Somali people truly associate themselves to the anxieties and pain experienced by the people of the United States and we feel that our human solidarity could be considered as the most valuable expression of compassion and moral help.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the United Nations in its 60th Anniversary celebrations and express our renewed confidence and commitment to this world body as it stands to work for international peace and the progress of humanity.

We also commend our organization for the tireless and invaluable contribution it has made towards the attainment of sustainable peace and socio-economic development, as well as upholding the political right of all people, irrespective of race, gender, social status and beliefs.

Of course nobody can deny that set backs and general disappointments were unavoidable in the history of the United Nations and certain expectations were not fully accomplished, but the ideals remain in tact and valid as its first day of inception.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The world is still ravaged by conflicts, political misperceptions and poverty which still need to be addressed so that harmony, understanding, and equitable sharing of resources and can be actualized in the interest of world peace and unprejudiced international cooperation.

The recognition of the right of the Palestinian people for a state of their own, along side Israel, and a peaceful Middle East Region are still fundamental aims to be achieved so strengthen world peace and security.

In this new Post Cold War era, internal conflicts are replacing inter-State confrontations in International Affairs and any new situation demands a fresh approach, so is the need for a new outlook in order to have sustainable regional and international stability.

Poverty and underdevelopment cannot be disassociated from the increased international tension and conflict which afflicts the political stability in various parts of the world, thus poisoning normal relationship between nations, since boundaries are pointless in this age of global interaction.

There can be no human security unless this reality of inter-connectedness is taken into proper consideration in all our policy and decision making processes.

Today, the balance of rational reasoning is the only source of guarantee to international security rather than relying on the imbalances of force.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The reform of the United Nations is one of the crucial ways to face all of these new challenges of this new Millennium by making our organization more Democratic, transparent, efficient, and capable to respond to the diverse aspirations and concerns of the different components of the International Community, at Continental and Regional levels.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me know turn to the current developments in my home country, Somalia. The conflict situation which prevailed in Somalia for the past 14 years is attributed basically to the failure of adequate international response.

It is a matter of public domain that the up surge of civil war has led to a total collapse of our national institutions and infrastructures with all, drastic consequences and grave implications for the stability of the region and international peace and security, as well.

I'm not here to dwell at length on the causes of the conflict, but on its costs and consequences, since evil could originate imperceptible man made tragedies and circumstances.

International political indifferences and sense of inertia have characterized the conduct of the International Community which has aggravated the civil war and allowed unabated human suffering and environmental destruction to continue. What the Somali people desired and still deserve is active engagement of the International Community and not abandonment or surrender of hope.

The past is past with all its sorrows but the repercussions of forgotten International obligations are still present. The International Community shall contribute to the revival of our State and to stand by our side in our efforts to rebuild our nation rather than indulging in trivials.

And it is here, where great minds and principled commitments have to have a synergy to help the Somali people overcome their political and human debacle, rather than assuming a pathetic or passive attitude.

In this context, however we cannot forget the critical role of IGAD member States, the African Union, the IGAD partners' forum, the European Union, the Arab League, and the United Nations in providing support and encouragement for the Somali National Reconciliation process which was held in Kenya for almost 3 years.

At this juncture, allow me to express our deep gratitude to the Kenyan Government and people for hosting the Somali National Reconciliation Conference. We thank our brothers in Kenya and all the neighboring countries for also sheltering thousands of Somali refugees in their territories throughout these years of turmoil and conflict.

Moreover, as special tribute goes to His Excellency Koffi Annan, for his tireless endeavors to bring the Somali conflict to an end and for all the humanitarian aid that has been provided during all these years of unrest and civil strife.

The culmination of all these efforts resulted in the establishment of a Transitional Federal Government whose delegations in this summit is guided by His Excellency Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

As we speak now the new State Institutions are operating from within Somalia, from Jowhar temporarily, the provincial capital of the lower Shebelle region, situated only 90 kilometers from Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia.

The Transitional Federal Government is actively engaged in producing a conducive political and security climate and is committed to establish operational offices in the capital, and in other parts of the country, as an essential part of its political obligation to reach out to the entire population and promote broad-based grassroots reconciliation.

The Transitional Federal Government is committed to the strengthening and consolidation of the Transitional Federal Institutions, as a pillar of democratic governance, without condoning, at the same time, the use of domestic differences of

opinion to undermine the achievements of a 2 year long reconciliation process and with a view of perpetuating anarchy and chaos.

However, direct dialogue will be our key instrument to promote inter-institutional cooperation, without sacrificing the aspirations of our people and no group will be ever denied to have their independent political platform within the context of normal and acceptable parliamentary and constitutional traditions.

We feel that stability of Somalia should not solely be the work of the Somalis as wickedly propagated or oftenly repeated. Though the responsibility of past failure is partly ours, the International Community has no excuse in distancing itself regardless of whatever situation prevails.

It is therefore, our firm belief that they should come to fully support our efforts in this crucial institutional consolidation process, so as to fully restore peace and stability for the sake of nation building and reconstruction of our country, knowing that everything has to start from scratch.

The absence of a firm support to regain Somalia back into the fold of the International Community and making it stable will only play into the hands of International terrorism and those who promote the continuation of an environment of chaos and lawlessness.

In conclusion, the Transitional Federal Government finds this podium as the appropriate stance to launch a vibrant appeal to the members of the International Community to come to the aid of Somalia with all their determination and resources to help our people overcome 14 years of civil war and consequent deterioration in all spheres of life, which will not only be contributive in safeguarding regional stability but also that of the International Community as well.

The Transitional Federal Government strongly urges the United Nations to support the current IGAD/AU efforts in sending a peace stabilization mission to Somalia in order to help restore peace and security and prevent reoccurrence of hostilities and violence again, so that the transition period will be instrumental in establishing the democratic society and long lasting peace.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen;

If the values of solidarity have to prevail as far as Somalia is concerned, then we sincerely hope and urgently call upon the International Community to act swiftly with no more wait and see attitudes which could produce an undesired slide back rather than forging ahead toward stability and institutional consolidation.

In the name of our people, men, women, children, elders, displaced families and our deprived young generations, I strongly appeal before this August Assembly and hope that our plea will be heeded in all humble consciousness.

Thank you.