



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE 0038/2008

UN Special Representative for Somalia: “A new page of Somalia history is now open”

Nairobi, 29 December 2008—President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed has now formally announced his resignation from office, effective today, in a statement before the Parliament and cabinet members present in Baidoa. UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, said in response to the President’s decision that “a new page of Somalia history is now open.

“Indeed President Yusuf has taken his courageous decision on his own and in total independence. I have no doubt that members of his family, his friends and allies support this decision,” Mr. Ould-Abdallah said. “It is my understanding that this is the first time in Somalia modern history that a President has decided to leave office peacefully. It is a patriotic and courageous decision.”

Mr. Ould-Abdallah called upon the Somali people within and outside the country to support the President in these historic moments. “I also invite them to take this opportunity to rise above their differences. Time is for unity and solidarity.”

The leaders must support the Djibouti peace process, Mr. Ould-Abdallah said, and work closely with all their international partners and indeed amongst themselves. “The IGAD, AU, LAS, OIC, the EU and the UN stand ready to put an end to Somali long suffering in cooperation with Somali leadership and its people. ‘Affa Allah A’nn Ma Salaf’ God forgives the past.

“I am very pleased by the organized manner in which the President has resigned. I also take note with great appreciation of the manner in which the Speaker-Interim President, the Prime Minister and Shaikh Sharif and other eminent patriotic Somali from all backgrounds are meeting in Mogadishu and Baidoa to address the new subnation,” Mr. Ould-Abdallah said.

“Time is now for Somali friends to help the country and for the spoilers to stop their destructive behaviour.”

For more information please contact: Susannah Price / Donna Cusumano,
Public Information Officers, UN Political Office for Somalia (Nairobi, Kenya) Tel: +254 20 762
1192/1625 or +254 733902020/737400133
Please visit: www.UN-Somalia.org