



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE 003/2009

SRSG praises work on new Government of National Unity for Somalia

Nairobi, 20 January 2009: - The UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, has praised the work of the High Level Committee, comprising delegates from the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, which is currently meeting in Djibouti to discuss expanding the Parliament and forming a Government of National Unity. Representatives of the international community are also in Djibouti.

“This is a key moment for Somalia and it is extremely important to get it right, after almost two decades of violence” said Mr. Ould-Abdallah. “The Committee members are working responsibly to ensure there is a fair process which should lead to the election of a new Head of State. We hope that this new leader will be able to attend the forthcoming IGAD meeting and the African Union Summit.”

Last October the TFG and ARS agreed on the outline of forming a Government of National Unity and enlarging the Parliament and the principles were endorsed by the Transitional Federal Parliament.

“I will be in Djibouti shortly to discuss the final arrangements with all Somali delegates, leaders and their friends,” said Mr. Ould-Abdallah. “I would like to thank the TFG, ARS and all Somalis for their patience at this critical time. This is a delicate process. All participants are confident that it will succeed and help bring more stability to Somalia.

“Indeed Somalis themselves know the importance of unity and the danger of divisions, as it states in the Holy Koran: *‘And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after clear proof had come to them ...’* (S-3-V 105).

“As always, I would like to recognize the positive role of the IGAD Chair, Secretariat and member states and that of the African Union and the development partners of Somalia in the current progress towards stability in Somalia. I also would like to thank the Djibouti Government for its continuing hospitality and support.”

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