



## United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

For Immediate Release

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### **SRSB urges full support for new Somali Government**

New York, 13 March 2009 - The UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, has congratulated the new Somali Government on the progress made in the past month and encouraged it to continue working towards peace and stability.

“President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the Speaker and Prime Minister have demonstrated responsible leadership in all fields and the unity Government is now functioning from the capital,” said Mr. Ould-Abdallah. “I am pleased by the number of patriotic Parliamentarians who have returned to Mogadishu to start their work. Both branches of the administration need concrete diplomatic and material assistance.

“The Council of Ministers has met a number of times and passed important measures, including on the implementation of Sharia Law.

“All these developments will not only help the move towards normality inside the country, but will also help secure Somalia’s image and reputation abroad. There is now absolutely no excuse for any Somali to continue plotting to destroy more Somali lives.”

Mr. Ould-Abdallah said that planning was underway for the next meeting of the High Level Committee, which was tasked to look at issues including political cooperation and justice and reconciliation. He added that there would also be a meeting of the Joint Security Committee shortly.

“I am happy to see a vast majority of Somalis working together for the first time in many years to take the primary responsibility for their own future,” he said. “The international community must do its part to fully support the new Government. This help is not needed at some point in the future, but right now. There is no alternative to supporting this administration, and through it, the people.

“President Ahmed has received offers of support from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, the US and elsewhere and this is extremely encouraging. Somalia is now fully back on the international agenda and will be discussed at the Security Council on 20 March and at the upcoming League of Arab States Summit in Qatar.”

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