



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

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SRSG welcomes Somali business community's support for peace process

Nairobi, 20 March 2009 - The UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, has welcomed the initiative by Somalia's business community to convene a brainstorming session/forum on "Job Opportunities and Youth Employment" in support of the Djibouti Peace Process.

"I am very pleased that members of the business community are stepping up to the plate and offering their experience and expertise to develop a strategy for establishing job opportunities for the younger generation," he said. "This is a significant contribution to the peace and reconciliation process. Creating jobs gives the young hope for the future. This is key to putting an end to the cycle of conflict and violence that is associated with the young generation."

The two-day forum will take place in Djibouti on 21 and 22 March. It will be facilitated by UNPOS with technical support provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO), for which Mr. Ould-Abdallah expressed his appreciation. "ILO Somalia has very good experience to share in advocating for decent work. I'm very pleased that they have decided to contribute their technical support to this event."

Mr. Ould-Abdallah said that the Somali business community's contribution would help strengthen the social dialogue between the Government, the private sector and the Youth. The meeting will include members of the Government, youth representatives, local NGOs, development partners, UN agencies and business people from Africa and the Middle East.

"Somalis are a resourceful people. I have the utmost confidence that investing in Somali youth will have the greatest returns for stability," Mr. Ould-Abdallah said.

**For more information, please contact: Susannah Price / Donna Cusumano,
Public Information Officers, UN Political Office for Somalia (Nairobi, Kenya)
Tel: +254 20 762 7132 / 7133 or +254 733902020 / 737400133
Please visit: www.UN-Somalia.org**