



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

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High Level Consultative meeting which aims to revive dialogue forges ahead

Nairobi, 11 April 2011 – Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General Augustine P. Mahiga today said that he is confident that the High Level Consultative meeting scheduled to take place 12 and 13 April in Nairobi will have a positive outcome, paving the way forward for a follow up meeting in Mogadishu as proposed by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

“Many of the participants have already arrived in Nairobi. In some of the preliminary meetings I have had, I think I can safely say that we are united in our intention to see an outcome that will be beneficial to the peace process and all Somalis.

“There has been much speculation in the media as to the reason for this consultative meeting, but as I have previously stated, the over all aim is to revive dialogue so that the peace process regains momentum. No peace process can move forward without dialogue,” Ambassador Mahiga said.

He said he expected that the Somali participants in the consultative meeting will share their experiences—accomplishments as well as the obstacles and challenges with which they are faced as the end of the current transition moves to a close. Members of the international community and the United Nations will listen and share their plans for assisting the Somalis. The meeting will be a forum for an exchange of information, which should lead to a constructive consultation, the Ambassador said.

The consultative meeting will also lay the ground for a follow-up meeting to take place later next month in Mogadishu, as requested by the TFG, and is expected to further talks and initiatives on peace-making and state-building.

“The bottom line is that this initiative is in keeping with the spirit of the Djibouti Agreement which is to bring together all stakeholders to secure a political settlement for a durable peace and stability in Somalia,” Ambassador Mahiga said.