

## **Communiqué**

Representatives of traditional authorities and religious leaders of Somalia, in their quest to contribute to sustainable peace, held a meeting from 24-26 June 2011 in Entebbe, Uganda. They discussed the follow up to the Kampala Accord and deliberated on the role of traditional leaders to support the peace process. The meeting was facilitated by the African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace and UNPOS.

The group expressed concern about the continued suffering of the people of Somalia as a result of the ongoing conflict and drought. They appealed to the political authorities to embrace all opportunities for sustainable peace and called upon the International Community to provide timely humanitarian assistance to those in need.

In keeping with Somali tradition, the elders and religious leaders proposed the establishment of a permanent structure of Somali traditional elders and clan leaders (Guurti) in South-Central Somalia. The Guurti will seek to reconcile communities and, as and when appropriate, between institutions. It will also assist the Transitional Federal Institutions in their outreach and reconciliation activities. They requested UNPOS and the International Community to advise and assist them in organizing a meeting in Mogadishu of clan leaders, elders, religious and women's leaders in the near future to further discuss the establishment of this Guurti.

The group recognized that traditional elders of Somaliland and Puntland have already established a Guurti in their regions. It looks forward to benefit from the experience of Somaliland and Puntland in establishing their respective structures and, in the medium term, to cooperate with them with the view to initiate a permanent dialogue among all traditional elders of Somalia to promote reconciliation among all communities.

Entebbe, 26 June 2011