PRESS RELEASE 017/2010

SRSG strongly condemns suicide attack in Mogadishu

Nairobi, 24 August 2010 – The UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga, has condemned in the strongest possible terms the attack on a Mogadishu hotel today in which several civilians, including Members of Parliament, were killed.

“These callous, brutal acts, which were clearly aimed at causing maximum bloodshed to innocent people, defy rational comprehension,” said Ambassador Mahiga. “Those who are responsible for these murders are only interested in causing destruction and misery to the Somali people.

“They will not, however, succeed in their violent campaign. The Somali people are yearning for peace which they deserve and they will be heard. The peace process will continue in Somalia despite the attempts by a violent minority to disrupt it.”

Ambassador Mahiga conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the Government of Somalia and expressed his hope that the injured would make a fast recovery.

“Such violence, particularly during this Holy month of Ramadan, will only serve to increase the determination of all friends of Somalia to help bring a quick end to the conflict and to provide Somalis with hope for the future,” he said.