



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

Statement from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, on progress made in the political process

Mogadishu, 23 July 2012 – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Dr. Augustine Mahiga, today welcomed the progress that has been made in completing the selection and verification of the 825 members of the National Constituent Assembly (NCA). The 9-day NCA will convene on Wednesday this week to discuss, vote on, and adopt a new Provisional Constitution, which will provide the legal framework governing the workings of the new Somali Federal Institutions after August 2012. It will also be the basis for further constitutional refinements before it is finally adopted by a referendum.

“It is encouraging to see that progress is being made,” SRSG Mahiga said, “I urge Somalia’s traditional and political leaders to do all that is necessary to complete in a timely manner the tasks that have been entrusted to them by their people to carry Somalia forward to a new political future.”

Somalia's Traditional Leaders have spent weeks working on the selection of the 825 members of the NCA, who are drawn from all Somali clans along an agreed 4.5 formula and from a cross-section of Somali society. This work is now almost complete. The Technical Selection Committee, working with international observers, provides a level of quality assurance in the selection process has today announced that 816 out of 825 have been vetted, while 763 are registered already in Mogadishu.

The National Constituent Assembly (NCA) can now convene and begin 9 days of discussion and deliberation on the draft Provisional Constitution. The SRSG emphasised the importance of the delegate’s role in the current political process to ensure that the Somalia people have a representative voice. “The Provisional Constitution will be a pillar upon which the new parliament will build the New Somalia,” the SRSG said. “The function of the traditional Elders, the Technical Selection Committee and the National Constituent Assembly is to ensure that this process continues to be legitimate, accountable, transparent, participatory, inclusive and, most importantly, Somali-led.”

“This is a moment of optimism for all Somalis”, said Ambassador Mahiga, “This is a monumental event after several milestones in a long journey of the Roadmap. It marks significant progress towards ending the transition and providing the new political institutions for a stable and functional state in Somalia after twenty one years of political and civil strife.”