



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

TFG, UNPOS and OHCHR sign agreement on human rights

Mogadishu, 11 May 2012 – A technical cooperation agreement on assistance to Somalia in the areas of human rights was signed earlier today by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

Prime Minister Abdiweli Ali Mohamed who presided over the ceremony talked about the Government's commitment to enhancing the capacity of its institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights while he noted that the constitutional process is in line with these principles. "The proposed constitution has full compliance of socio-economic and cultural rights, civil and political rights and all fundamental rights of our citizens. We want our constitution to be a prime example of Islamic countries' constitution".

The OHCHR Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation, Mr. Anders Kompass, congratulated the efforts of Somalia and noted that Somalia had to demonstrate its willingness to abide by its human rights obligations, particularly in the area of fighting impunity. "The Government has to investigate human rights violations, including the killings of assassination attempts against MPs, Ministers, journalists and ordinary citizens" Mr. Kompass noted.

Talking on behalf of UNPOS, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Peter de Clerq stressed the importance of international cooperation noting that the "responsibility of the states is stated in the very founding document of the United Nations, the UN Charter."

The Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed on behalf of the TFG by the Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Reconciliation Abdurahman Hosh Jubril, was developed at the request of the TFG to formalize and strengthen cooperation in seven thematic key areas identified by Somalia:

1. Signature, ratification and implementation of international human rights treaties;
2. Protecting and promoting the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, internally displaced persons and journalist;
3. Strengthening the rule of law and the administration of justice;
4. Building institutional capacity to promote and protect human rights;
5. Raising awareness about human rights through media;



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6. Advancing economic and social rights; and
7. Facilitating effective cooperation with Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council;

The MOU has been conceived in a collaborative spirit and the technical assistance will be delivered in a manner that ensures national ownership, participation, transparency and the inclusion of relevant stakeholders. An annual Action Plan will be developed jointly by the parties to prioritize and defend specific activities in the agreed thematic areas.

Human rights abuses and lack of protection have been at the heart of the challenges Somalia has experienced in the past decades. The Human Rights unit of UNPOS has been working in the country to support among others integration of human rights standards into the constitution, outreach and reconciliation, compliance of justice and corrections sectors with human rights and integration of human rights, standards and principles into humanitarian action.