



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

Letter to the members of the Somali Diaspora (No. 1)

Nairobi, 28 May 2008

As-Salaamu Alaikum,

I last wrote to you all before the first Somali talks in Djibouti which took place from May 10 – 16 2008. In view of your tremendous contribution to Somalia's economy and support and involvement in Somalia, I felt it was my duty to continue to keep you updated on current progress.

I was extremely pleased by the widespread, positive reaction from the Diaspora to the first phase of the Djibouti talks which demonstrated your commitment to peace, security and stability.

I am writing to you all once again on the eve of the second meeting to demonstrate the importance that I attach to the views of the Diaspora, both from the young and older generations.

I have noted that when it comes to discussing peace in Somalia, many countries look to the past and emphasize only conflict and fighting. They have not noticed that the attitude of Somalis is changing. Of course there may be problems on the way but they can be overcome. I would like to point out that during the last talks, the Somali parties attended on time, with the limited number of participants requested and issued a responsible statement at the end.

These achievements are only the beginning. The process may create strains in some circles of Somali society but peace should prevail between brothers, depending on the wisdom and patriotism of Somalis both inside and outside the country.

This upcoming gathering in Djibouti will have two components:

1. Phase two of the talks which will again have a restricted number of Somali participants and be of limited duration starting on May 31.
2. Visit of the UN Security Council to Djibouti from June 2 - 3. I had invited the Security Council members to visit Mogadishu to see the situation in Somalia for themselves but I regret they were unable to come due to the insecurity. Instead they will be visiting Djibouti to talk to the Somali parties, civil society and other stakeholders about the current situation.

This is part of their extended tour of Africa which will also take in countries such as Sudan, Chad, Congo and the Ivory Coast.

As previously, I am sure as patriotic Somalis, you will provide us with full support for reconciliation in your country which is crucial for the success of your peacemaking work.

Yours Faithfully,

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah