

Communiqué

1. In the spirit of the Djibouti Agreement, the Somali Business Community (SBC) held a workshop in Djibouti from 21 to 22 March 2009 to brainstorm on ways in which it could assist in creating job opportunities and employment for the youth. The SBC based in Somalia, Djibouti, Dubai, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, as well as youth and women's associations attended the workshop. In that context, the delegates:

- a) recognized that creating decent work for the people of Somalia, particularly the youth, is a high priority for the achievement and consolidation of peace and reconciliation.
- b) discussed the challenges and constraints encountered in the development of entrepreneurship, and made constructive proposals for creating an environment that is conducive to job-creation and youth employment.
- c) exchanged experiences on the role members of the business community play in their respective geographical areas.
- d) agreed to establish a follow-up committee to design and implement a strategy that would lead to the development of entrepreneurship. The committee, which is composed of representatives from the Somali Business Councils, Women and Youth Associations and the United Nations, will be responsible for, *inter-alia*:
 - i. developing and implementing Job Opportunities and Youth Employment strategy;
 - ii. proposing project documents focusing on the development of youth employment;
 - iii. mobilizing, monitoring and managing available resources allocated to the implementation of the youth employment strategy; and,
 - iv. assisting with the development of capacity building institutions.

2. As a gesture of support to the Somali peace process and commitment to job-creation, the SBC decided to support short term youth employment and requested the Steering Committee to provide within 30 days concrete projects to be funded.

3. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) organized and supported this meeting with the facilitation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNDP.

Djibouti, 22 March 2009