

## **International Contact Group on Somalia Communiqué**

January 30, 2008

The International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia met at the headquarters of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa in advance of the AU Summit to review the political, security, and humanitarian situation in Somalia. The ICG welcomed the positive developments since its last meeting in Rome, including the appointment of Prime Minister Nur "Adde" Hassan Hussein, the appointment of a new Cabinet under the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the relocation of the TFG to Mogadishu, the release of detainees by the TFG, and the deployment of a battalion from Burundi under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The ICG emphasized the need for all Somalis to remain focused on the transitional process leading to national elections in 2009. The ICG welcomed the commitment of Prime Minister Hussein to renew the TFG's efforts towards inclusive political dialogue and to resume the transitional process as outlined by the Transitional Federal Charter. The ICG urged the TFG to build off the achievements made during the National Reconciliation Conference by developing and implementing a roadmap for the remainder of the transitional period leading to multi-party, free and democratic elections in 2009. The ICG urges all Somali stakeholders, including members of the opposition interested in seeking a long-term political solution, to participate in a political process and distance themselves from extremist elements seeking to undermine a successful process through violence. The ICG expressed full support the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the AU Special Envoy in their joint efforts to enhance international engagement in Somalia and the search for a sustainable solution.

The ICG also expressed its concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Somalia, while welcoming the efforts of the new TFG administration to work closely with the international community and United Nations to facilitate humanitarian access and ensure effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. The ICG takes note of the presentation by Prime Minister Hussein of the TFG's Priority Plan of Action, which should serve as the basis for a single roadmap for international engagement, and reiterates its willingness to help build the capacity of the TFG in this regard. The ICG stressed the need for all parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure protection of civilians. The ICG condemned the killing of three humanitarian aid workers earlier this week, as well as the killing of Somali journalists, and calls on all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers and the media.

Recognizing the importance of security and stability in the humanitarian and political situation in Somalia, the ICG calls on troop contributing countries to expedite the deployment of additional troop contributions and on other partners to provide further donor support. The full and timely deployment of AMISOM and the strengthening of Somali security institutions will help create the conditions for Ethiopia's withdrawal from Somalia. The ICG joins the AU in calling for urgent planning and deployment of a United Nations mission in Somalia to take over from AMISOM once their next mandate comes to an end. The ICG also welcomed the efforts of friendly countries in the region and donor community to train a professional and representative Somali security force.