

- Mr. Mohamed Elmi Managing Partner of HornAfrik Media Inc, Mogadishu Somalia.
- Mohamed Dalmar former official of the Central Bank in Somalia and currently a Settlement worker in Ottawa.
- Mrs. Zaynab Aden and Mr. Ahmed Haji Jama (Speakers of the Friday Morning Session, within Somali diaporra communities)

Themes

This conference was divided into three sessions: Friday morning, Friday afternoon and Saturday.

The theme of the **Friday morning session** was “the Cry of the Somali Civil Society for Peace”. It was an informal session, and the intention was to provide a platform for Somali participants to discuss among themselves about their varying views of the rebirth of the Somali Transitional Government. The expected outcome was for participants to seek possible solutions for strengthening the peace process in Somalia.

At the opening of the morning session, Ms. Idil Salah, a co-founder of Som-Can Institute for Research and Development (SCIRD) and the co-chair of the session, set the tone of the conference by highlighting the Somali diaspora’s previous contributions and the urgent need of their continuing support to the peace process. In her remarks, Ms. Idil Salah reminded the participants that the reason that “we as a Somali Diaspora are all here is to identify Somalia’s political challenges and take part for the reconciliation and the reconstruction of the country”.

In conclusion, she stated that "this conference is neither a recognition nor a reward to any one, or region. “It is a forum for a healthy dialogue among Somalis that have different opinions regarding the current political achievements and the “Rebirth of Somali State”. The expected outcome of this session was for the participants to provide recommendations that could help the advancement of the peace dialogue among the opposing groups and the New Transitional Government. Ms. Salah, then invited Mr. Yusuf Dhabaryare, a member of the Executive Board of SCIRD, and the co-chair of the session, to the platform. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ahmed reiterated how the role of the Somali Diaspora in the peace process is inevitable. He said, “the time has come for all of us to work together in the search for creative and innovative tools that would hopefully prevent another conflict and bring a sustainable peace in Somalia.

After that, Mr. Yusuf welcomed the keynote speaker of the morning session, Mr. Ahmed Dahir Shell who was the co-chair of Somali Technical Committee: The Somalia National Peace Conference in the Republic of Djibouti.

In his speech, Mr. Shell stated that it was the cry of Somali civil society for peace which speeded up the Somali National Peace Conference to achieve a tangible solution. Before the Arte Peace Process, as a member of Somali Intellectual Forum, he started working for peace at the grassroots. Everywhere we go, he said, we expressed the danger that regional or clan divisions could pose to the unity of the Somali nation. It took us twenty months to advocate peace and inform most Somalis inside the country. He reminded the participants “the policy that many suggested as a solution to