

presentation by saying “with our people’s entrepreneurship skills, and the help of the international community, a more modern Somalia can be resurrected within a foreseeable future.

Regarding the question of peace, Mr. Elmi reminded the participants that “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. If Somalis want to aspire to any enviable status, they have to trust themselves, and give peace a chance.”

Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations that came out from the conference.

The international community, including Canada must:

- react quickly to the external aggressions that are destabilizing Somalia’s peace;
- ensure a more effective implementation of the embargo on arms to Somalia;
- support and guide Somalia’s governance structure in place to push forward the peace process and development;
- encourage and strengthen recovery zones to maintain their peace, and continue to support their development;
- develop special funding for Somalia’s peacebuilding and reconstruction;
- promote peace, good governance and human development as a central focus of international aid;
- strengthen the capacity of local NGOs by developing partnership linkages with Canadian and international NGOs.

The New Transitional Government must:

- continue peace dialogue among Somalis without creating any further conflicts;
- encourage the private sector and civil society to continue their support for Somalia’s peace and development;
- develop good foreign policy, which attracts investment, and facilitate repatriation of Somali professionals;
- appeal to the Somali diaspora for further contribution to peace and investment for the development of the country.

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