

- scarcity of professionals and skilled people, and the struggle for survival for those few available professionals; and
- mismanagement and/or lack of sincere, capable, and responsible administration.

Dr Osman Salad concluded his presentation with a few recommendations addressed to the Somali people, the future Somali Government and the donor community. Dr. Osman proudly stated that the Somali community should trust that we have ample natural resources. Therefore he said: “we need to improve our skills, perfect our professions, and raise awareness that we need good governance. Without it, no country can develop its resources.” He also urged all Somalis in the diaspora to collect as much data and documents in their respective fields as possible, and allocate them for a national use and reference.

He added: “In the hope of establishing a federal government in Somalia, this government:

- should trust the constituent states / regions to develop the natural resources of their respective territories;
- should also develop good foreign policy, which attracts investment, and facilitate repatriation of Somali professionals;

The international community should:

- help Somalia morally and materially to recover from the civil war and to establish good governance;
- contribute to the development of the most needed natural resources, water, and continue to support the stable regions to develop their natural resources.”

Mr. Mohamed Elmi presented a paper on “Somalia’s Private Sector: the Role of the Media and Communication”. At the beginning, Mr. Elmi briefly explained how Somalia’s telecommunications and media sector were totally controlled by the previous government, and how “the telephone system was less technologically advanced than what it is today. The accessibility to the public was limited and it wasn’t that affordable either”. One positive outcome of the civil war is the privatization of the media. Mr. Elmi argued that the privately owned media has been very active lately in Somalia, and freedom of speech and press have never been better. In comparison, during the dictator’s era, there were no more than two to three government controlled papers in the whole country. In contrast, at the present there are more than a dozen private daily newspapers in Mogadishu alone, and many more in the rest of the country. Some are weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly and so on. Their quality, circulation, taste and target groups are different.

In addition, there are several privately owned FM and SW radio stations in the country and also at least 3 private TV stations; one in Hargeysa and two in Mogadishu.

Mr. Elmi also discussed the role of the media in peacebuilding. As he put it, “the media helps the exchange of ideas where it becomes conducive to the peace process”. Mr. Elmi concluded his