

the United Nation's role in the Somalia peace process and future commitments. Dr Badejo stated, "The United Nations family remains committed to the fostering of peace in Somalia."

The UN Secretary-General in his speech at the inauguration of President Abdiqassim made it clear that the conclusion of the Arta process was not the end of the peace process. His call on the TNG to work hard to bring on board those who did not participate in the Arta meeting was indicative. Dr Badejo informed us that respective operational Agencies are working on areas of support to the TNG in particular and the peace process in general.

Dr Badejo concluded his remarks by saying that "Peace is a process and not an event. The Guelleh initiative was a fundamental effort that narrowed the differences among Somalis and, more importantly, provided governance structures that could be worked with by the international community in pushing the frontiers of peace forward. President Ismail Omar Guelleh gave leadership in the achievement of a TNG that finally took Somalia out of its coma and returned it to the community of nations."

Mr. Ahmed Dahir Shell then discussed in depth about "**Somalia Peace from Within**". Mr. Shell urged Somalis to show determination and commitment and put their house in order before approaching the international community for assistance. He also requested Somalis to let bygones be bygones and together to try to strive towards the development and progress of the newly reborn state.

Bernard Taylor, Executive Director of Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) then made some concluding remarks. He stated, "Som\_Can is to be congratulated for having taken the initiative to organize this Conference. Partnership Africa Canada is happy to have been able to collaborate with Som\_Can in helping to organize it."

He added, "It's Election time in Canada and there is a lot of discussion about Canadian problems, but no one is talking about foreign policy or aid issues. We have to redress that somehow. The UNDP listing of World Development puts Canada again in the No 1 position. And Somalia? It's not even the list. If it were, it would be at the very bottom, below war torn Sierra Leone, with minimal levels of health, education and economic development, problems of landmines, fisheries being exploited by foreign fleets etc. This situation cannot continue. Somali people (especially women and children) deserve to enjoy the peace and development that can happen once the conflict ends."

He recalled that "During a visit to northern Somalia last year, it was clear that the conditions were occurring which would allow development to take place, if only the international community would react more positively. There was stability throughout the northern regions, with functioning administrations in place, despite the minimal resources. Economic activity was quite dynamic, but there were few aid programmes. It was our analysis that development assistance, through NGOs, the UN and regional administrations would help consolidate the peace process in advance of the rebirth of the Somali State. That holds true today."

He concluded his remarks by an appeal: "I urge Canadian organizations and Somali Canadians to