

# **A Week in the Horn**

## **13<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

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### **News in brief**

#### **Ethiopia**

Ethiopia has achieved the Millennium Development Goal to cut the mortality rate for children under the age of five ahead of the 2015 deadline. A UNICEF report published on Friday (September 13) said it has reduced child deaths by more than two thirds over the past 20 years. In 1990, 204 children in every 1,000 died before the age of five; by 2012 the rate had dropped to 68, a 67% fall.

Ethiopia celebrated its New Year' Day, 2006 Ethiopian Calendar, on Wednesday, September 11. The President of the Federal Democratic Republic, Girma Woldegiorgis, conveyed hopes that the year would be a year of peace and prosperity for all Ethiopians. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes all Ethiopians and Ethiopian-born foreign citizens a prosperous New Year., and hoped it would be a year in which Ethiopia's efforts to bring lasting peace and stability in the region would succeed. (See article)

Ethiopia's religious leaders urged Ethiopians to uphold peace and support the country's efforts in national development in their New Year messages for 2006 (Ethiopian Calendar), noting that upholding the ongoing peace and national development endeavors in the upcoming new Ethiopian year should be the concern of all

The annual meeting of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank) opened in Addis Ababa on Monday (September 9). Ethiopia's State Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Ahmed Shide, said the Bank was a key development partner in helping the private sector in Ethiopia and in the region.

Dr. Tedros met and held talks with the Special Envoy of Kazakhstan, Mr. Barylбай Sadykov on Thursday (September 12). Kazakhstan is planning to open an embassy in South Africa and in Addis Ababa to expand relations with Africa.

## **Djibouti**

Djibouti President, Ismail Omar Guelleh, officially launched the construction of the Damerjog livestock port in Arta district and the multipurpose Doraleh port on Sunday (September 8). (See article)

A World Food Program Emergency Food Security Assessment in Djibouti said it expects to provide emergency food assistance for 2,000 people and Food for Work projects for another 60,000. The number of people classified as severely food insecure in rural areas has fallen by nearly half from last year.

Somali Prime Minister, Abdi Farah Shirdon, met Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh in Djibouti on Saturday (September 7) during an official visit to Djibouti. Discussions covered bilateral relations, Somalia's security situation, trade and development of its economy. Djibouti troops are deployed under AMISOM in Belet Weyne.

## **Kenya**

The trial of Kenya's Deputy President, William Ruto, and former Radio Presenter Joshua Sang at the International Criminal Court at The Hague, opened Tuesday (September 10). Both are charged with murder, forcible population transfer and persecution, during post-election violence in 2007 that led to the death of over 1,000 people and displacement of 600,000. They deny the charges.

President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria, on a State Visit to Kenya last week, signed agreements on Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic Passports and the Memoranda of Understanding on Double Taxation, Promotion and Protection of Investments, Cooperation in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Tourism, Trade and Investment and on Oil and Gas. The two sides also agreed to set up a Nigeria-Kenya Bi-national Commission to deepen cooperation and fight trans-border crimes, human trafficking, maritime insecurity and piracy.

A UNESCO satellite project in Kenya has found two major aquifers in Turkana County in north west Kenya with estimated reserves of 200 billion cubic meters of fresh water. The find could significantly increase Kenya's water reserves and transform the lives of the population in the arid and semi arid areas around Lake Turkana which witnessed the worst drought in 60 years in 2011.

## **Somalia**

Dubai hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Counter-Piracy Conference (September 11-12) under the theme: Countering Maritime Piracy: Continued Efforts for Regional Capacity Building. (See article)

The EU and Somalia hosted conference in Brussels on Monday (September 16) will approve a "New Deal Compact" to help Somalia "continue on the path to re-building a fragile state and healing a divided nation." (See article)

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud completed his first year in office this week (See article)

Mr. Nicholas Kay, Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Somalia, briefed the UN Security Council on the Secretary-General's latest report on the situation in Somalia on Thursday, September 12. (See article)

The Leader of the Interim Jubba Administration, Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed Islam “Madobe” suffered minor injuries from a suicide car bomb attack on Thursday (September 12) carried out in Kismayo by Al-Shabaab.

Two top foreign Islamist militants, Omar Hammami al-Amriki and Osama al-Britani, from the US and the UK, are reported to have been killed by Al-Shabaab fighters this week. Al-Shabaab had been searching for the two since they left the group earlier in the year.

Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon returned to Mogadishu on Wednesday (September 11) after visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Djibouti and Yemen.

The European Commission said on Monday (September 9) that it would be providing another 124 million Euros for the African Union’s AMISOM forces in Somalia to enable it to accomplish its UN mandate "to carry out active peace support operations across Somalia."

A religious leaders' conference in Mogadishu which ended on Wednesday (September 11) issued a series of Fatwas against Al-Shabaab. It was denounced as a “strayed group” that had no place in Islam. Its use of violence was condemned and told it should repent of Allah for its errors and its criminal acts. The Government was a Muslim government and it was illegal to call it “apostate” or fight against it.

Barclays Bank (UK) said it would delay the closure of three money transfer company accounts until the end of the month, but international NGOs called for Barclays to wait for a year to allow governments and banks to agree on regulations to keep the flow of remittances open while addressing money laundering concerns.

## **South Sudan**

South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir has appealed for assistance to alleviate the suffering and devastation caused by recent flooding which has affected over 220,000 people in several states, including Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and parts of Eastern Central Equatoria. He said the Government was setting aside 7 million South Sudanese Pounds to help but more was needed.

Thabo Mbeki, Head of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) met with South Sudan President Salva Kiir in Juba at the weekend, to discuss outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan.

## **Sudan**

United Nations Secretary General Ban ki-Moon has called for a consultative forum at the ministerial level to take place in New York on September 27, to coincide with the anniversary of the Cooperation Agreements signed between Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa last year.

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## The year in Review – 2005 Ethiopian Calendar

Ethiopians on Wednesday (September 11) celebrated the first day of the New Year of 2006 (Ethiopian Calendar) and looked back on a year in which the nation had to come to terms with the unexpected death of the late Prime Minister Meles on 20 August 2012, and in which his successor Hailemariam Desalegn has taken over the reins of power as Prime Minister and been elected as Chairman of the ruling Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front. The sudden passing away of the late Prime Minister Meles gripped the country with a deep grief. The anniversary of his death was commemorated last month with a series of activities throughout the country and among Ethiopians in the Diaspora. In Addis Ababa the occasion was marked by the inauguration of the Meles Zenawi Memorial Park and the ceremony was attended by over 800 invited guests including President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia and Vice-President Edward Ssevandi of Uganda as well as Prime Minister Hailemariam, ministers, regional state presidents, academics and international friends and colleagues of the late Prime Minister. The Meles Zenawi Foundation was proclaimed by the House of Peoples' Representatives in January and formally established on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, at a ceremony attended by regional leaders and other dignitaries. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving and advancing the legacy of Meles' lifelong commitment to peace, justice, economic development, good governance, and democracy for the Ethiopian and African peoples.

The year also marked the launching of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)/ African Union (AU) on 27 January 2013. The AU has adopted the theme "Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance" for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn was elected chairperson of the African Union during the 20<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January. The OAU/AU Anniversary Summit in May adopted the Declaration of the OAU/AU 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in which African leaders committed themselves to achieve the AU goals of an integrated and prosperous Africa, at peace with itself and with the world; an Africa whose development is driven by its own citizens and which is a significant player on the world stage. The leaders also pledged to translate the provisions of the declaration into action in their different countries. Prime Minister Hailemariam at the conclusion of the summit noted that the Declaration was a clear "testament to our resolve to make the 21<sup>st</sup> century an African century."

During the past year saw the issues of utilization of the Nile Waters and the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was high on the agenda of the Nile Basin countries, in particular Egypt and Ethiopia. Aggressive and negative statements against Ethiopia and the Dam made by Egyptian officials and politicians caught the attention of the international community. There were fears that Egypt might be headed towards an unwarranted conflict with Ethiopia. However, Ethiopia's carefully moderate response and its way of handling the issue, culminating in a meeting between Ethiopian Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom and the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt Mohamed Kamel Amr, successfully defused any tensions. At the conclusion of the their meeting, the two Foreign Ministers, following the recommendations of the International Panel of Experts, agreed to immediately initiate consultations between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, on how to move forward with the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, including the different studies to be carried out.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister assured his Egyptian counterpart that "the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which will be used for power generation purposes, is being built in a way that addresses Egypt's water security concerns." Both Ministers agreed to take into account the developmental interests of Ethiopia as well as the water security concerns of downstream

countries. Sudan subsequently made it clear it accepted Ethiopia's view of the value of the GERD for the downstream countries.

In August, a highly successful meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Ministerial Forum opened in Addis Ababa. The meeting attended by senior US officials as well as a Congressional delegation and agreed on the need for enhanced political dialogue between US and Africa, the reauthorization of AGOA for at least another 15 years, capacity building to generate private sector engagement, increased trade and market access, encouragement of US investment in Africa and to uphold AGOA preferences for items exported from Africa.

Other major meetings during the year, in addition to the AU Summits in January and May, included the second annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa was held in Addis Ababa in October on the theme of "Advancing Knowledge, Policy and Practice in Climate Change and Development." Those attending, who included the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Carlos Lopez, the President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Donald Kaberu and the Deputy Secretary General of World Meteorological Organization, Jeremiah Langossa, heard the Prime Minister stress that Africa must remain focused on the mechanisms to address adaptation and mitigation.

In April, the second meeting of the Tana High level Forum on Security in Africa took place at Bahr Dar on Lake Tana, on the theme of "Security and Organized Crime in Africa." The first meeting of the Forum a year earlier had been on "Managing Diversity and State Fragility"

Last month, a three day national conference on the theme of striving to realize Ethiopia's Renaissance through strengthening the value of religious coexistence and respecting constitutional provisions was held in Addis Ababa. The meeting aimed to promote a culture of peaceful coexistence and underline support for peace, democracy and development, enhance knowledge of the Constitution's religious provisions, define the role of youth and women in sustaining tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and underline the country's age-old religious respect and tolerance. It was followed by a massive demonstration of several hundred thousand people of Addis Ababa to show their strong opposition to radicalism and demonstrate their condemnation of fundamentalism and terrorism.

The Government has been involved in mediation efforts between Sudan and South Sudan, hosting the summit in September last year at which Presidents Omar Al-Bashir and Salve Kiir signed the September Cooperation Agreements and again in March this year when they agreed on modalities for their implementation. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom visited both Khartoum and Juba. To assist the political process in Somalia, Ethiopia hosted talks between the authorities in Mogadishu and political groups in Kismayo to help mediate the recent Jubbaland agreement between the Somali Federal Government and the Interim Jubba Administration, described as an historic agreement.

The Prime Minister offered to hold talks at any time and any place with President Isaias of Eritrea during the year, but the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea's latest report in July meticulously documented Eritrea's internal political dynamics and its destabilizing activities within the region as a whole and particularly its affiliation with Somali spoiler networks including Al Shabaab. The report gave a comprehensive and devastatingly detailed account of Eritrea's continuing efforts at destabilization in the region.

In March, the Government unveiled an Ethiopian Human Rights Action Plan which will be implemented alongside the Growth and Transformation Plan over the next three years in a bid to further strengthen the observance of human rights and freedoms in the country. The Government's commitment to fight corruption was underlined during the year by a number of

high profile arrests carried out by the Federal Ethics and Anticorruption Commission. These included the Director-General of the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority and his deputy, along with a number of high profile entrepreneurs and other individuals.

During the year, a multitude of infrastructure development projects were launched. These included the Addis Ababa Light Rail project, the construction of a new railway between Addis Ababa and Djibouti, and the signing of a US\$1.6 billion agreement of telecom expansion with China's Huwawi and ZTE to expand telecommunication facilities, as well as continuing progress in expanding road coverage. In neighboring Djibouti a related project was the launching of the construction of a new port at Tadjourah which will be used for the export of potash from Ethiopia. The government continued its emphasis on export development and the country collected US\$3.08 billion from exports during the year, though this was less than expected.

Ethiopia clinched its place among the top ten African Football teams who will play for the 2014 World Cup playoffs, even though the Ethiopian football team, the Walia Antelopes, was docked three points by FIFA for fielding a suspended player in an earlier match. This was the first time Ethiopia has reached the World Cup play offs. Earlier in the year, it reached the finals of the African Cup of Nations after thirty one years.

On Wednesday, at the start of 2006 (Ethiopian Calendar) the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Girma Woldegiorgis, wished citizens of the country a happy new year. He hoped the New Year would bring with it peace and prosperity for all Ethiopians. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also wished Ethiopians living abroad and foreigners living in Ethiopia a prosperous New Year. The Ministry expressed hope that Ethiopians in the Diaspora would increase their support towards the country's development efforts in the year 2006. The Ministry also hoped in the New Year the country's efforts to bring lasting peace and stability throughout the region would bear fruit.

### **Somalia national conference: Vision 2016....**

Somalia's National Conference entitled Vision 2016 met for five days last week in Mogadishu (September 2-6). Convened and opened by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, it is intended to be the first of a series of national dialogues on the transition towards democratic legitimacy. The conference with more than 200 delegates, including members of parliament, regional authorities, civil society groups and experts, as well as members of the Diaspora, addressed five main themes concerning Somalia's political future. These were: a review of constitutional development, its oversight and development; options for models of federalism, reform and good governance; electoral processes and party politics; and political outreach, public engagement, reconciliation, and transitional justice.

The objective of the Conference was to advance the political process and to solicit opinions to ensure the constitutional review and implementation process, together with the process of transitioning to democratic legitimacy, is Somali-owned. And in his opening speech, the President requested those present to offer concrete proposals and recommendations that might be translated into policies that would contribute towards the review and implementation of the Provisional Constitution, the transition to democratic legitimacy, and the finalization of the Constitution by way of referendum.

The Conference recognized that the roadmap laid out in the Provisional Constitution provided concrete steps towards these objectives, and accepted the priorities outlined in the New Deal Compact for Somalia, which include advancing inclusive political dialogue, finalizing and adopting the Federal Constitution by December 2015, and preparing for and holding credible elections by 2016. It noted that the Government had fallen behind on some important political

milestones, and it also agreed that there were some areas of textual ambiguity in the Provisional Constitution. These needed to be reviewed and revised.

In the light of these factors, the Conference adopted six core principles, the first of which was that the political process should be Somali-owned, inclusive, and transparent, led by the Somali Federal Government and consistent with the Provisional Constitution. It agreed that there should be a rigorous, spirited review process of the Provisional Constitution and public legitimacy provided through a referendum. The federal system should be one that brought the government closer to the people, and safeguarded unity and stability; there should be free and fair electoral processes based on one person, one vote; a commitment to, and the promotion of, integrity and good governance; and finally a comprehensive reconciliation process that would bring about national cohesion and integration.

Following this, the Conference came up with a number of recommendations divided under the five themes and itemized these in its final Communiqué. Under constitutional development, it emphasized the urgency to review and implement the Provisional Constitution, and called for establishment of the constitutionally-mandated Constitution Review and Implementation Commission within two months, and of the constitutionally-mandated Constitutional Court within 90 days, as well as the establishment of all other institutions required to review and implement the Constitution within the same three months. It said the Government should ensure the independence, integrity, and credibility of these commissions, appoint competent commissioners with integrity, launch a comprehensive civic education campaign, develop a communication strategy for the whole process and make sure it was participatory and Somali owned.

With regard to models of Federalism and resource sharing, it recommended that the government should establish the Boundaries and Federations Commission as directed by the Provisional Constitution within 60 days., that Federal units should be based on economic viability, demographic diversity and geographic integrity in line with the framework of the Provisional Constitution., and that the process should be led by the Somali Federal Government.

For the electoral process and party politics, the Conference backed an enabling environment for multi-party politics. and therefore recommended the government establish an Independent Electoral Commission within 6 months and pass the Political Party Law within one year. It should launch a civic education program for the electoral process. Political parties must “not be based on clan, hate and/or violent extremism”, and have a national character. Other suggestions were that Parliament should pass laws regulating campaign financing based on accountability and transparency, that the international community should provide technical, political and financial support and that contingency plans should be developed in case one person one vote elections were not possible in 2016.

The fourth area covered reform and good governance and the Conference agreed the Government should promote a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability. It, therefore, recommended the establishment of five organizations: an Anti-Corruption Commission and a National Office of Ombudsman, both as directed by the Provisional Constitution (and both within 90 days); a National Human Rights Commission (within 90 days); a National Civil Service Commission (within six months: and a National Archive as a repository of information for government documentation (within one year).

The final recommendations covered political outreach, public engagement, reconciliation and transitional justice and the Conference agreed the Government should initiate a comprehensive reconciliation process for national cohesion and integration. It therefore recommended the Government should engage in a dialogue with opposition groups, open a constructive dialogue



with regional administrations, continue talks with Somaliland, work towards empowering traditional elders in their role as peacemakers, and institutionalize gender equality and the representation of minorities in all government institutions. It also suggested the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Land and Property Commission, both within six months. In conclusion, the Conference added that the Government should produce a comprehensive and realistic work plan for the implementation of all these recommendations within one month, and that the Parliament should hold the government accountable for the implementation of the work plan.

President Mohamud addressed the Conference on the final day again, and promised that his government would fully implement all of the recommendations.

### **.....a difficult first year for Somalia President Mohamud....**

Only a few days after the Vision 2016 conference ended, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud completed his first year in office, on Tuesday this week (September 10), after being voted President by the members of the Parliament just a year ago. As President, he is still facing major problems of security, grappling with limited financial resources, corruption, the lack of ability to deliver services to the population and other difficulties.

His most important security problem remains the terrorist activities of Al-Shabaab which has continued to carry out terrorist attacks in Mogadishu despite the steady expansion of control by AMISOM, the growth in efficiency and competence by the Somali National Forces and the operations of Ethiopian forces and of allied militias. The most pressing political problem, despite the recent Addis Ababa Agreement between the Federal Government of Somali and the Interim Jubba Administration, remains the question of the detail and implementation of the Provisional Constitution and of the relationship between the Federal Government and the present and future components of the state.

President Mohamud originally detailed a Six Pillar strategic policy to provide for security, stability, justice, economic recovery, and service delivery to Somalia. Progress, however, has been slow. Somalia's first think tank, the Mogadishu-based Heritage Institute for Policy Studies says that public service delivery has been "practically non-existent" and there has been little noticeable progress overall towards achieving it. A major difficulty has, of course, been the critical financial constraints facing the government. A presidential spokesman emphasized that the government simply didn't have enough money; it was not "unwillingness but financial shortage."

Limited financial resources have not been the only problem; corruption in governmental institutions has also undermined the possibility of real economic recovery and development. The government has also been criticized for failing to produce strategies to help generate money outside the revenues collected from the airport and seaport in Mogadishu. It has found it difficult to collect taxes even in Mogadishu and a number of its tax collectors have been attacked and killed. For the Government much depends upon this weekend's conference in Brussels and the support that can continue to be generated there and elsewhere in the international community.

### **...a preview of the "New Deal for Somalia" conference in Brussels....**

The European Union and the Federal Government of Somali have jointly organized "The New Deal for Somalia" Conference which will be held in Brussels on September 16. The idea of this conference was raised during the visit of President Hassan Sheikh Mahmud to the European Union Commission last January. The aim of the Conference is to strike a "New Deal Compact" that



will commit both the international community and Somalia Federal Government to a range of priorities for implementation over the next three years to help rebuild Somalia.

The concept of the New Deal, proposed by the G-7 and 19 conflict-affected countries, was first adopted at the Busan Conference as a framework to help countries emerging out of conflict. The idea encompasses the achievement of various goals: legitimate and inclusive politics; security; justice; economic foundations to produce jobs; and managing revenues and delivering accountable and fair services. The principle that underpins the New Deal Framework is the understanding that gearing aid towards attaining peace is an indispensable requirement to ensuring the effectiveness of aid.

Somalia embarked on the New Deal process on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 in an event attended by representatives of the European Union, the African Union, the United Nations and the United Nations Development Program as well as representatives of partners and donors. It assigned a team run headed by the Deputy Minister of Planning, Abukar Sheikh Abdi Ibrahim, and held two days of public consultation. Discussions involved different segments of society, including members of civil society women and other groups, in a real effort to ensure that the aid structure in Somalia could become effective. Consultations covered the five areas of security, justice, public finance, job creation and inclusive politics.

The New Deal Conference will, therefore, have a pivotal role in consolidating peace and stability in Somalia. In fact, despite suicide bombings in Mogadishu by Al-Shabaab, security has already shown steady and reassuring improvement. According to the Conference press release, the New Deal will be the driver of the process. “The Brussels Conference will therefore bring together the international community and Somalia to endorse the “New Deal Compact” - a key milestone of the process- pledge support to enable its implementation and, above all, re-commit to this new political process.” An increased role by the international community has always been high on the agenda whenever the issue of consolidating the political and military gains made since the end of the transitional phase and the creation of the new Federal government of Somalia, has been raised.

The main preoccupation of the Conference on September 16 will be the hammering out of a “New Deal Compact”. This Compact is a mutually negotiated document to set the priorities, identify the financing modalities and put in place a mutually accountable framework. The draft compact will be presented by the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia. This will have been prepared in consultation with regional states. The Compact is in fact “a key political document that will define the future development of the Somali state and the establishment and consolidation of accountable institutions; a main objective will be to seek endorsement of the Compact by conference participants and to pledge support, including financial assistance, from the donor community.”

In its preparations and consultations, Somalia has shown its strong commitment to the success of the Conference. Its delegation, led by President Sheikh Mohamud, is leaving on for Brussels on Friday (September 13). Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom will be representing IGAD. The Conference is being held following the recent signing of the agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Interim Jubba Administration. The timing underlines the importance of maintaining the positive momentum created by the Ethiopian mediated agreement reached here in Addis Ababa two weeks ago.

#### **.....and a Security Council briefing on UNSOM**

On Thursday (September 12), the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, told the Security Council that he was optimistic about Somalia because “behind the

twists and turns, the crises and the standoffs, Somalia has the foundations for progress". Mr. Kay was briefing Security Council Members on the first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). He said Somalia was a country "on the brink of achieving great things, truly great things", in terms of rebuilding a shattered State and rescuing millions of people from conflict and poverty. He said "We are standing on the very edge of great success," but he added "where we stand is also precarious".

Mr. Kay said the international community was united behind the Federal Government, there were resources available to meet immediate needs and all sides were committed to compromise and non-violence, but there was still a need for focus and increased investment. He prioritized the need for progress on the constitutional review and constructive engagement with the regions. He welcomed the agreement reached on August 28 over the Interim Jubba Administration, setting out the interim governance security and economic arrangements. He said there had also been progress in the tense relationship between Somaliland and Somalia, with the agreement on shared management of airspace, and he hoped to persuade the Somaliland authorities to accept that UNSOM had a mandate there. He was also trying to improve the relationship between the authorities in Puntland and the Federal Government. He said reaching agreement on a constitution was vital, and he looked forward to another key building block of Somalia's stabilization, the New Deal Compact, due to be endorsed next week in Brussels.

Security was another central focus for UNSOM. Al-Shabaab remained a threat and the Somali military also needed strong backing to deploy and sustain joint operations with AMISOM. He said UNSOM had a good relationship with the Federal Government and with AMISOM and this had helped the new Mission to establish itself. He looked forward to working with the Intergovernmental Authority for Development.

In other areas, he noted that while piracy was on the decline, onshore networks that profited from it had not been dismantled. On the humanitarian front, he said that Somalia's 160 confirmed polio cases accounted for half the world's total, despite immunization efforts. The pull-out of Médecins Sans Frontières was a severe blow. Mr. Kay advised against large-scale repatriation of Somali refugees from neighboring countries.

The Security Council also heard from Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, who also described the overall situation as "optimistic", noting AMISOM's significant progress on both security and political fronts. He said he was particularly encouraged by the determination of the Federal Government, and the agreement with the Jubbaland Administration on the establishment of the modalities of administration and governance. He also warned of the importance of meeting continuing challenge. Al-Shabaab, he said, was still capable of destabilizing Somalia or derailing progress. It continued to train militia and maintain access to weapons.

Mr. Annadif also worried that different regions had different interpretations of the constitutional review process. He was concerned about poor Government capacity and a lack of administrative structures. Stressing the importance of military support, he said the concepts guiding AMISOM were "out of date". Support for the Somali National Forces should be examined, including the provision of force multipliers, as well as timely logistical support and training.

### **The Third Annual International Counter-Piracy Conference in Dubai**

Dubai hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> International Counter-Piracy Conference this week (September 11-12) under the theme: Countering Maritime Piracy: Continued Efforts for Regional Capacity Building. The Conference was organized by the Government of the United Arab Emirates and by DP World and Abu Dhabi Ports Company. It has been attended by over 500 delegates representing 50

countries and included the President of Somalia, the President of the Puntland State of Somalia, foreign ministers and senior government officials. Others present were representatives of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and members of the Kampala Process as well as military personnel executives of global maritime-sector companies, and leading experts.

In a statement before the Conference, UAE Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said “Despite a marked decline in pirate attacks launched from the coast of Somalia over the last two years, maritime piracy remains a threat to regional security and global commerce.” Much credit for the improvement is due to international naval patrols: EUNAVFOR, NATO Operation Ocean Shield, and CTF-151, as well as efforts by China, India, Japan and South Korea, but the mandates of the international forces end next year. There is concern that the gains might be reversed unless the international community continues to engage with the government in Mogadishu to provide assistance and support. “It is only when the conditions ashore become stable and there is commerce and employment, that piracy will cease to be a threat to ships at sea,” said the International Maritime Bureau in London.

Opening the meeting on Wednesday, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said despite the progress made it was still too early for the world to drop its guard on maritime piracy. The aim of the Conference, the Minister said, was to work on ways to boost and strengthen the response of the international community to continue to combat maritime piracy. The discussions would help to intensify international efforts to build a regional capacity to eliminate piracy and send a clear message to the leaders of pirate groups and their supporters that maritime piracy will not be tolerated. The Minister said that central to the UAE’s counter-piracy strategy was recognition that the capability and capacity of countries in the region to combat piracy were varied and at different stages of development. It was therefore necessary to determine where the gaps were to allow assistance to be targeted to where it would have the greatest impact.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan emphasized that the UAE was keen on a deeper engagement with Somalia to help rid it of the scourge of piracy and on assisting further development in the country. Following on from its US\$50 million commitment to Somalia in May, the Minister said the UAE plans to open an embassy in Mogadishu, and he noted that since May, development and humanitarian assistance to Somalia had touched US\$22 million, allocated for food aid and drinking water supply. He renewed the country’s pledge to improve lives with more investments and infrastructure projects and said the UAE was keen to seek out opportunities of mutual cooperation in economic projects including areas of renewable energy, as a means to stimulate and develop sustainable energy in Somalia. Sheikh Abdullah said the UAE shared the vision of the Somali government to bring stability to the country to keep a lid on maritime piracy, adding that despite the efforts exerted by the international community, the UAE still believed that maritime piracy, especially in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean, was a serious global concern. He said “we are convinced that success in the fight against maritime piracy will be the result of unifying the efforts of the international community for capacity building in the region, addressing its roots in Somalia and other similar environments.”

Donna Hopkins, Coordinator, Counter Piracy and Maritime Security, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the US Department of State said a fall in maritime piracy from Somalia did not mean the threat has ended. She praised the UAE for taking the lead in bringing together nations to keep the pressure on the pirates while pushing ahead with development in Somalia. She said other countries should share the burden with the UAE and help provide facilities for prosecution of captured pirates, the provision of humanitarian aid for Somalia, and helping establish the rule of law and strengthening military institutions.

Somalia’s President Mohamud told the Conference that initiatives to address symptoms had helped, but addressing root causes remained an uphill task: “Instability, poverty and chaos”, he

said, “are a breeding ground for extremism and piracy.” He defined the root causes as: poverty, lack of functioning institutions in Somalia, lack of hope and opportunity for young people, and failure to address the real concern over illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste. These, he said, posed a threat to the security of Somalia, the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean, and there could not be any long-term solution without a long-term commitment to Somalia. He itemized areas in which Somalia needed assistance including the improvement of law enforcement mechanisms, upgrading of the judicial system to allow pirates to be tried in Somalia, increased intelligence sharing, provision of jobs for youth and enhancing the role of fisheries in the economy are areas which require assistance. He said Somalia’s National Strategy for Maritime Resources and Security would involve the creation of an effective coastguard and efforts to change the balance of economic incentives away from piracy.

President Abdirahman Mohamed Mohamud “Farole” explained why Puntland’s 1,300km-long coastline at the crossroads of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, an international maritime corridor through which over 22,000 ships pass every year, made it vulnerable to maritime piracy, terrorism, arms smuggling, human and drug trafficking, illegal fishing, and toxic waste dumping. He said the deployment of the Puntland Maritime Police Force had disrupted piratical movements, but he said Puntland believed pirates were re-grouping. The Puntland Parliament had enacted Somalia’s first-ever Anti-Piracy Law in 2010, and since then nearly three hundred pirates had been jailed, but Puntland lacked capacity to patrol and monitor waters near the coast. President Farole called for the building up of local law enforcement capacity, reviving fisheries, registering and documenting all seagoing vessels, owners and activities; enhancing port security and providing infrastructural improvement, human resource development and equipment; and seizing all illegal and unregulated fishing vessels and any vessels responsible for any alleged toxic waste dumping. Puntland announced this week that it planned to open two maritime training schools in the coastal towns of Qaw and Eyl to boost Puntland’s fisheries industry and improve local skills as well open a fish market equipped with refrigeration in Bossaso.

### **President Guelleh launches construction of two ports in Djibouti**

Djibouti President, Ismail Omar Guelleh, officially launched the construction of the Damerjog livestock port in Arta district and multipurpose facilities at Doraleh port on Sunday (September 8). The Prime Minister of Somalia, Abdi Farah Shirdon who was on an official visit to Djibouti, participated in the ceremony and underlined that the whole region would benefit from the services provided by the new ports. Also present were Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, the former chief executive officer of Dubai’s DP World which manages the Doraleh container port, representatives from Ethiopia and South Sudan and other officials. Construction of the two ports is being funded by the China Merchants Group.

The Damerjog port, in which some US\$70 million is being invested, will provide a terminal of nearly 700 meters long which will be able to deal with up to five livestock ships at a time. It will also have a substantial transit area of five hectares to hold cattle before they are loaded. The President of the Djibouti Port and Free Zone Authority, Abubaker Mohamed Hadi, told journalists that the traffic from the port was expected to reach 2 million head of cattle in the first year. Damerjog will be exclusively dedicated to livestock exports which will originate from all round the region; and Mr. Hadi said the export earnings should amount to about US\$500 million a year. The new developments at the container port of Doraleh, the third largest in Africa, will provide multipurpose facilities to relieve the main Port of Djibouti. The total cost of US\$400 million will provide for a four km long quay with 15 berths to handle 29 million tonnes of cargo per year. The first phase of the project will develop seven berths including a roll-on/roll-off facility and six docking stations to accommodate ships with cargo of up to 100,000 tons. Mr. Hadi was quoted as saying these seven berths would be able to handle about 12 million tons of cargo a

year. The new facilities are expected to support expansion of Djibouti's growing fishing industry and increase the prospects for export. A second phase of development at the Doraleh container port is also planned next year, as well as new storage equipment and a Liquefied Petroleum Gas facility will be constructed at the Oil Terminal.

These two developments are part of extensive plans to develop Djibouti's position as a regional hub for trade to serve the growing economies of Ethiopia and the region especially in the sectors of transport and logistics. More than US\$6 billion of investment is planned over the next three years and nearly half of the funding has apparently been finalized. Projects include the development of the new free trade zone of Jabanas to complement the existing Djibouti Zone, managed by Jebel Ali zone of Dubai. This offers an environment which excludes taxes, allows 100% foreign ownership, the repatriation of foreign currency and other benefits. It hosts some 170 companies and has reached capacity with a waiting list of fifty companies. The Jabanas Zone is intended to be three times the size of the Djibouti Zone to be able to accommodate expected growth.

Numerous other investments are planned. Djibouti airport is intending to expand its capacity and cargo facilities at a cost of US\$600 million. A feasibility study is currently under way for development of a dry dock and ship repair facilities. Djibouti, of course, stands on one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. In the north of the country at Tadjourah a new port is being built to provide for the export of potash from Ethiopia; and another new port is being constructed at Goubbet for the export of minerals, particularly salt from Lake Assal. Construction is beginning this month for the new railway between Djibouti and Ethiopia. Djibouti is also committed to the production of all its energy needs through renewable sources, geothermal, solar, wind and wave energy, by 2020.

President Ismail Omar Guelleh was quoted as explaining that Djibouti's "investment plans in the short term, mostly developed in collaboration with the private sector and financed by institutions around the world, will support the expansion of the logistics, transport, fisheries, natural resources and tourism sectors". He noted that these developments would also produce new jobs and encouraged more development. He said he also wished to thank all Djibouti's partners in these projects. Their involvement, he said, underlined the country as a safe and stable candidate for investment.