



**Promoting Dialogue and Peace in Somalia:
Building Capacity and Strengthening
the Somali Civil Society**

**An International Conference
of the Somali Civil Society Organizations,
Italian and European NGOs**

Rome, Italy

February 5th – 8th, 2008

Sponsored by:



**ITALIAN NGOs' ASSOCIATION
SOMALIA GROUP**

with



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2008

INTERNAL SESSION – PART 1

(SOMALI CIVIL SOCIETY AND DIASPORA SCHOLARS ONLY)

Workshop-style
Group Discussions on Dialogue and Peace-Building in Somalia

THE SOMALI CIVIL SOCIETY AND ITS POSSIBLE ROLE TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND PEACE

Develop the “ **Statement of the Somali Civil Society** ”

WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2008

INTERNAL SESSION – PART 2

(WITH SOME SELECTED INTERNATIONAL NGOs AND SCHOLARS)

Promoting Dialogue and Peace in Somalia

**The State of Civil Society in Somalia and the Current Humanitarian and Civil Crisis:
challenges and perspectives**

Part 1 – The Somali Civil Society

Part 2 – Conflict and post-Conflict, Media, Community needs

Part 3 – The Challenges facing Somali Women Activists and the “Somali Women Agenda”

Part 4 – Business Community and its influence on Dialogue and Peace-building

THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2008

VENUE: Conference Room, UNICEF
Via Palestro 68, Rome

PUBLIC SESSION

JOINT SOMALI CIVIL SOCIETY, DIASPORA SCHOLARS AND EUROPEAN NGO'S

- 9:00 – 11:30 **Discuss Somali civil society's shared vision and common strategies with Italian and European NGO's.**
- Present the "Rome Statement of the Somali civil society" to the Italian and European NGOs
 - Define a shared path in the perspective of strengthening the Somali Civil Society and its social and economic role and promoting dialogue and peace in Somalia
- 11:30 – 11:45 Coffee-Break
- 11:45 – 13:30 **Developing partnerships and co-operation among Somali Civil Society, Italian and European NGOs**
- Discuss the current cooperation and identify its weaknesses and strengths
 - Strategize ways of strengthening cooperation with the European and international NGOs' to foster dialogue and Peace-building and to respond to the present humanitarian, social and political crisis
 - Identify the priorities to present to EU, Italian and European Institutions and International Community in order to realize common immediate actions.
- Institutional and international Speakers:**
Alain Giorgio M. Economides, DG Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CONCORD, European NGO Confederation
VOICE, European Voluntary Organizations in Cooperation in Emergencies
Sergio Marelli, President, Associazione Ong Italiane
Vilma Mazzocco e Maria Guidotti, Third Sector Permanent Forum, Italy
- 13:30 – 14:30 Lunch/Break
- 14:30 – 17:00 **Develop the "Statement of the partnerships and cooperation between the Somali civil society organizations and the European and Italian NGOs"**

NB: The names of the Panellists will be decided in next days (in accordance with the European NGOs participation)

Dinner with the Somali Community of Rome

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2008

VENUE: **CNEL, “Parlamentino”**
Via Davide Lubin 2, Roma

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

9:00 – 13:30 and 14:30 – 17:30

11:30 *Coffee Break*

13:30 *Lunch Break*

9:30 Greetings by Antonio Marzano, CNEL Pres., National Economic and Labor Council

The Prospect for Reconciliation in Somalia and the Road to Durable Peace: The Role of the Civil Society Organizations

Abdi Kusow
Hodan Cisse
Mohamed Adan Sheikh
Osman Jama
Italian NGO
European NGO
Moderator: Shukria Dini

Institutional Speakers:

Patrizia Sentinelli, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy
Stefano Manservigi, Director General, DG Development, EC
Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, UN SRSG for Somalia (?)
Nicolas Bwakira, African Union Representative for Somalia
Armando Sanguini, Sub-Saharan Africa DG and Prime Minister's Special Counsellor
Elisabeth Barbier, EU Presidency for Somalia
Mario Raffaelli, Italy's Special Envoy to Somalia
Jean-Christophe Belliard, EU Council, Personal Envoy of Javier Solana for Somalia
Greetings of the Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein, Somali Transitional Federal Government (w.f.c.)

Building Bridges – Developing Networks for Peace in Somalia

Somalia perspective: Mohamed Ali Ahmed “Kalay”
European perspective: European NGO & Osman M. Gaal

Advocacy, Future Activities and Recommendations

Presentation of the “Rome Statement of the Somali Civil Society”

17:30 **Closing Session**