



**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



With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian Cooperation

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2008

INTERNAL SESSION – PART 1

(SOMALI CIVIL SOCIETY AND DIASPORA SCHOLARS WITH SOME INVITED ITALIAN-EUROPEAN NGOS)

VENUE: HOTEL TURNER

9:00 Welcoming Remarks Nino Sergi
Conference Overview and Modalities Abdinur Sheikh Mohamed

10:45 Coffee Break

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

11:00 **Evolutions and experiences of the Somali Civil Society Organisations**

Evolution of the Somali Civil Society Organisations: Abdi Farah
Challenges and experiences: Abdullahi M. Shirwa
The Columbus experience: Abdinur Sh. Mohamed
Moderator: Khadija O. Ali

12:00 **Develop and plan a shared vision and strategies common to Somali civil society organizations on dialogue and peace**

- Assess the constraints in the Somali peace processes;
- Discuss and identify a possible role of the Civil Society in creating an environment conducive to promote peace and to strengthen and consolidate the Public Institutions;
- Develop coordination and partnership between the Somali civil society in Somalia and the Diaspora Scholars and Activists with the view to strengthening dialogue and peace in Somalia;
- Strengthen the Somali Civil Society: towards the Constitution of the National Forum of the Somali Civil Society.

13:30 Lunch

15.00 Group Discussions

17:00 Group reports

18:00 – 19:00 Drafting of the first component of the Rome Statement of Somali Civil Society.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6TH 2008

INTERNAL SESSION – PART 2

(SOMALI CIVIL SOCIETY AND DIASPORA SCHOLARS WITH SOME INVITED INTERNATIONAL NGOs AND SCHOLARS)

VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM, FONDAZIONE BNC, VIA DI VILLA ALBANI 20

Promoting Dialogue and Peace in Somalia

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

- 9:00 - 9:45 Summary and Headlines of the 1st Day conference
- 9:45 - 10:30 **An Italian Experience: the Third Sector Permanent Forum**
Vilma Mazzocco & Maria Guidotti
- 10:30 – 11:45 **Part 1 – The Somali Civil Society in the context of the current crisis**
- Panelists: Abdullahi Shirwa The current humanitarian crisis
Omar M. A. “Dhagey” Human rights issues
Abdi Farah Mohamed The plight of migration to Yemen
Moderator: Abdinur Sheikh Mohamed
- 11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break
- 12:00 – 13:30 **Part 2 – Peace-building in Somalia**
- Panelists: Khadija O. Ali The Challenges of post-conflict Peace-building
Marian Mohamud Hagi Community-based Peace-building
Abdi M. Kusow Civil Society and Peace-building
Moderator: Buri Hamza
- 13:30 – 14:15 Lunch
- 14:15 – 15:45 **Part 3 – The Challenges facing Somali Women Activists and the “Somali Women Agenda”**
- Panelists: Shukria Dini Challenges facing Somali Women in P.building
Maryan Yusuf Sheikh Role of Women in Peace-building
Amina Hagi Elmi The Somali Women Agenda
Moderator: Abdi M. Kusow

THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2008

PUBLIC SESSION - CONFERENCE ROOM, UNICEF - VIA PALESTRO 68

DEBATE AMONG SOMALI AND ITALIAN-EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETIES

- 08:45 **Registration**
11:30 Coffee Break
13:30 Lunch Break
- 9:00 **Discuss Somali civil society's evolution and experiences, shared vision and common strategies with Italian and European NGOs and interested actors**
- Somali civil society's evolution and experiences
 - Somali civil society's shared vision
 - Somali civil society's common strategies
- Barlin H. Ali
Mohamed Ahmed Jama
Giorgio Zucchello
Willem Johann De Regt
Debate
Moderator: Osmad Mohamed Gaal
- 12:00 **Developing partnerships and co-operation among Somali Civil Society, Italian-European NGOs and private sector**
- 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.
- Maryam Yusuf Sheikh
Abdi Ali Raghe
Mohamed Aden Sheikh
Paolo Dieci
Ovidio Jacorossi
Abdi Isamil Samatar
Debate
Moderator: Nino Sergi
- Mainardo Benardelli, Head of Humanitarian Aid Unit, MFA - Italian Cooperation
Sergio Marelli, President of Italian NGOs Association
- 17:00 **Closing Session**
- 20:00 **Dinner with the Somali Community of Rome**

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2008

PUBLIC SESSION - CNEL, SALA PARLAMENTINO - VIA DAVIDE LUBIN 2, ROMA

08:45 Registration

THE PROSPECT FOR RECONCILIATION IN SOMALIA AND THE ROAD TO DURABLE PEACE

09:30 Greetings by Antonio Marzano, CNEL President, National Economic and Labor Council

09:45 Introduction and Welcome: Nino Sergi, Chair

I. The role of the Civil Society

Osman Jama
Hodan Cisse
Mohamed Aden Sheikh
Buri Hamza
Mohamed Ali Ahmed 'Kalay'
Mohamed Ahmed Jama
Abdi Ali Rageh
Discussant: Mario Raffaelli, Italy's Special Envoy to Somalia – The role of Somali Civil Society seen from an external perspective
Moderator: Shukria Dini

11:45 Coffee Break

II. The role of the international Community in strengthening Somali Civil Society in promoting dialogue and peace

Patrizia Sentinelli, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy
Stefano Manservigi, Director General, DG Development, EC
Moderator: Armando Sanguini, Sub-Saharan Africa DG and Prime Minister's Special Counsellor

14:00 Lunch Break

III. The "Rome Statement of the Somali Civil Society"

Khadija O. Ali

17:00 **Closing Session:** Nino Sergi, Abdullahi Shirwa.