

**SOMALI DOMESTIC BROADCASTING
MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT – MIGS**

Feb 21 – March 12 2012

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**HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:**

(Source: Radio Bar-Kulan, Nairobi, Kenya, In Somali, 1600 GMT Feb 23rd, 2012)

- Somalia is still recovering from an extreme drought that put millions of civilians in a state of famine and has left just as many displaced in their own country.
- Unfortunately, numerous humanitarian aid agencies have been facing a great amount of difficulty and disruption in their efforts to distribute aid to civilians, and this has mainly been caused by the hard-line Islamist group, Al-Shabaab.
- Most recently, the terrorist group has shut down four different aid centres in Kismaayo, a southern port town in Somalia.
- The group has not given any reasoning behind their decision to shut down these centres.
- Residents in these areas have reported to Radio Bar-Kulan that it was through these aid centres that they received all their food.
- All the aid was delivered through them and without them being operational, all aid to civilians in need in Kismaay is completely halted.

(Source: Radio Gaalkacyo, Gaalkacyo, Somalia, 1015 GMT, March 12, 2012)

- Facing already difficult working environments, humanitarian agencies in Somalia are constantly faced with opposition and problematic barriers that make it difficult to provide aid for those in need.
- Recently, your humanitarian aid agencies operating in Somalia were shut down.
- The United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), Relief International and the Somaliland Family Health Association (SOFHA) were all banned from continuing any operations in the region of Galmudug.
- The agencies were shut down by the regional administration due to them "failing to assist drought-affected."
- The deputy health minister of Galmudug, Abdullahi Mohamad Hasan, held a news conference in which he addressed the issue, claiming that the humanitarian aid agencies were not distributing food and medical assistance to drought and famine victims.
- Hasan states: "We decided to ban these organizations from the regions because a number of them are doing nothing for residents. Some offices are corrupt, while others mismanage necessary projects."
- Agencies in these areas have also faced abductions of aid workers, and constant threats and

disruptions, causing many to pull out of the region entirely.

- None of the aid agencies have commented or made statement as of yet.

INTERNAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: Somali Puntlandpost website, Somalia, Feb 21, 2012)

- Kenyan and Ethiopian forces are still both in Somalia, assisting and supporting the Transitional Federal Government, and local militias in their fight against AL-Shabaab, Islamist extremist group.

- As clashes between both sides continue, Al-Shabaab official, Mukhtar Roboow, aka Abu Mansur, recently spoke during a ceremony for Al-Shabaab fighters held in the town of Baydhabo, located in southwest Somalia.

- He addressed the crowd, and stated that Al-Shabaab will continue to fight and defend itself against all opposing forces.

- Mukhtar Roboow accused the foreign troops from both countries, and the international community as a whole for causing increased instability and decreasing security in Somalia.

- He pledged that Al-Shabaab, which has recruited and trained new fighters, will fight to regain areas that were previously captured by the Transitional Federal Government, Kenyan and Ethiopian forces.

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS:

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Feb 21, 2012)

- Most recently, forces from both the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) and Ethiopia ousted

Al-Shabaab fighters from five of their different strongholds in the southern regions of Bay and Bakool, Somalia.

- The allied forces captured Yurkud, Garas Amerika, Buhol Bashir, Kurtele and Qansas Omame.

- The Governor of Bay Region, Abdifattah Muhammad Ibrahim (Gasey), confirmed the reports, stating that, "We have started our operations today and this morning we moved from our base in Luuq forcing Al-Shabaab to vacate their positions from one village to the next. After they vacated the areas, we moved in and we are now pursuing them. We are going to pursue them until they leave all of Gedo, Bay and Bakool regions."

- In order to maintain security in the recently captured towns, meetings were held with the elders in the different areas, and some soldiers will remain in the area in order to work closely with locals to protect the town, identify and halt any causes of insecurity.

- The Transitional Federal Government vowed to continue ousting Al-Shabaab, and are targeting the entire Bay, Bakool, and Gedo regions specifically, and plan to do so in the coming week.

- Gen Abdikadir Shaykh Ali Dini, who is the TFG's chief commander of the Armed forces, urged locals in the targeted regions to remain calm, and cooperate with forces as they liberate them

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from the terrorist group, Al-Shabaab.

- Analysts believe that these will be important strategic achievements for the TFG if successful.

(Source: The People, Nairobi, Kenya, Feb 22, 2012)

- The Kenyan government has recently announced that it will begin the process to remove troops from Somalia.

- They have been fighting alongside the forces of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, but are now exiting the Somalia because they have at this point, "done their utmost to combat the Al-Qa'idah-linked militia in southern Somalia."

- However, the KDF will join AMISOM once they receive approval from the Security Council. The Kenyan government will also deploy forces along different borders around Somalia in order to decrease any external threats.

- With the withdrawal of the Kenya Defence Force (KDF) from Somalia, an increase in funding for African Union (AU) troops in Somalia will be needed.

- US special representative to Somalia, James Swan, brought attention to this issue and urged that an increased force in Somalia was needed in order to continue with the efforts to oust Al-Shabaab, and although the United States would continue supporting the mission financially, there will be an urgent need for donors to aid in covering the increasing expenses.

- Swan stated, "With troop increase, the donor community will be faced with tens of millions in additional bilateral costs to train and equip the new forces. Hence, we must be realistic about the costs of an expanded AMISOM, and about the urgent need for new, significant donors to help cover these expenses."

(Source: Shabelle Media Network website, Mogadishu, Somalia, Feb 23, 2012)

- Reports have surfaced that Al-Shabaab officials have begun to flee Somalia by boat.

- For the second day in a row, ships have been docking at the Kismaayo Port in southern Somalia.

- Using these ships, officials from Al-Shabaab Islamist groups are suspected of using them to flee to Yemen.

- The group has recently faces intense pressure from Kenyan and Ethiopian forces, along with local forces from the Transitional Federal Government and Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a in numerous regions around Somalia.

- They continue to lose their strongholds on several areas that they were formerly in control of, and the opposition against them seems to be overwhelming.

- Many residents say that these challenges are what have driven the group to joining Al-Qa'idah; their only hope of support.

(Source: Jowhar website, Mogadishu, Somalia, 0000 GMT, Feb 27th, 2012)

- As many areas around Somalia are being captured by allied forces, it was announced that Ethiopian forces will also be exiting Somalia soon.

- As foreign troops leave Somalia, AMISOM and Somali armed forces will be responsible for

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taking over the regions that have been captured from Al-Shabaab, maintaining security, and continuing the mission to completely oust the terrorist group from Somalia.

- The plan is to continue with the mission until AMISOM troops are deployed in every part of Somalia, and armed forces be reconstituted. At that point, Ethiopian troops will pull out of the country.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somalia news website, Feb 29th, 2012)

- As Al-Shabaab forces become increasingly desperate, and seem to be succumbing to the attacks by TFG, Ethiopian and Kenyan, the measures they are taking in order to maintain stronghold in Somalia are also becoming increasingly desperate.

- The most recent attempt to gain fighters and members has been to demand that all females who are unmarried and able to fight, join the jihad in combat against allied forces.

- Shaykh Fu'ad, a senior Al-Shabaab leader addressed all females during a rally in Kismaayo urging all young females to support Al-Shabaab.

- He stated the following during the rally: "I know you girls believe you cannot fight, but that is just a mere excuse. If circumstances force you to fight, you have to fight. During prophet's time, women were nursing the injured soldiers. Who are you that you cannot nurse. Girls, stop hesitating and go for war."

- Recruiting, often forcibly, has begun, not only for positions as fighters, but as cooks and wives for Al-Shabaab militants.

- There have been major concerns regarding these demands made by Al-Shabaab. Many women and parents are appalled, but also voiced their fears of trouble if they do not comply. There is no choice involved.

- The negative ramifications of females joining this jihad would be extreme. Women would subject themselves to, "extreme violence, labour exploitation, rape, forced marriages, or worse."

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE MATTERS

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Somalia, March 11th, 2012)

- On December 21st, 2011, troops from the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, alongside Ethiopian troops and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, ousted Al-Shabab from Beled Wayne; a region of Somalia that had been under the control of Al-Shabaab Islamist extremist group for a long time prior.

- Once allied forces gained control of the region however, there had been continued disagreements in regards to who will govern the town.

- After months of discussions held between TFG officials and regional elites and elders, an agreement has finally been reached, and a new administration in the Hiiraan Region, located in central Somalia, has officially been declared by the government.

- A ceremony which was attended by government ministers, MP's, intellectuals and elders in Mogadishu, Somalia, named the president of the Shabelle Valley Administration (SVA), Abdifattah Hasan Afrah, as the TFG provisional chairman in Hiiraan.

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- During the ceremony, Afrah addressed the attendees: "A heavy responsibility was assigned to me, but I will carry out my duties as expected if Allah allows me. I urge the people of Hiiraan to cooperate with the new administration and work for the security of the region."
- The new, and first administration in four years, was highly welcomed, with hopes that it will end the instability of the region.
- The TFG plans to create new administration in newly captured regions of Somalia in order to prevent the return, and decrease the influence of Al-Shabaab throughout Somalia

OTHER

PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: SomalieReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Somalia, March 4th, 2012)

- It has been reported that journalist, Ali Ahmad Abdi, a journalist, was shot and killed in a targeted killing in Israack, Gaalkacyo, located in Puntland.
- He was killed by three masked and armed men while walking back to his hotel around 10:20 pm.
- Police arrived to the area later that night, and are now investigating. No one has been detained as of yet.
- Ali Ahmad Abdi was an extremely active journalist who worked in the Mudug Regions of Somalia, working for both Radio Gaalkacyo and Puntlandi.com.
- Journalists in Somalia are constantly the targets of these assassinations, and are often at risk of threats, imprisonments, and torture.
- Jama Muhammad Ahmad stated that security operations and efforts will be increased in order to find and capture the murderers, and will begin investigations immediately.
- Ali Ahmad Abdi is the fourth journalist murdered this year in Somalia.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Somalia, March 4th, 2012)

- One of the most independent radio stations in Somalia, Codka-Nabadda (Voice of Peace) was recently shut down by police in Boosaaso, in northeast Somalia after the station aired a fight that occurred between Puntland and Al-Shabaab forces.
- Police entered the radio station and seized most of the equipment used for broadcasting. After leaving the station, police went to the residence of the station director, Akwe Abdullahi, and detained him in a central prison.
- Abdijamaal Usman Muhammad, who is Puntland's deputy minister of security, held press conference in order to explain the reasoning behind the closure of the station. He stated that, "they aired false news which has no basis and can bring chaos in disrupt the harmony of Boosaaso and the whole Puntland. It is not acceptable for a local radio station to air false news which was created and spread by a 'terrorist group'."
- The Puntland administration is known for threatening, arresting and detaining reporters, and has previously banned operations of several media sources including Universal TV and Somali Channel.

- They have also warned remaining stations not to broadcast any news regarding the fighting between any groups in the region.
- No comment was made regarding the re-opening of radio Codka-Nabadda.

SPECIAL COVERAGE: LONDON CONFERENCE ON SOMALIA PRIVATE MEDIA REPORTS

(Source: UN Integrated Regional Information Network, Nairobi, Kenya, Feb 21, 2012)

- As the upcoming conference in London approaches, the war torn Somalia is the main topic of discussion, and analysts say that this conference could, "mark a turning point in the country's quest for peace and stability."
- The conference, which will be hosted by David Cameron, the UK Prime Minister, will be attended by Somalis across the country and the diaspora; will include representatives from both Somaliland and Puntland, for the first time, and 44 other nations, the Arab League, and the United Nations.
- Due to past failures, and the lack of progress and outcome to come out of past conferences, there has been a lot of scepticism around this conference, and much debate in regards to whether it will prove helpful, and result in effective strategies that will be implemented and genuinely affect Somalia positively.
- However, there is hope this time around as Somalia is currently and actively making efforts towards change with the help of foreign troops. Many find that this conference is happening at the perfect and necessary time, and has been considered a "major push" towards the direction of peace and stability.
- It allows for an opportunity to restore faith in internationally led peacemaking, international coordination, and a successful state-building process.

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Somalia, Feb 22, 2012)

- A document was recently leaked and published by the Somalia Report website, and it included the agenda for the conference on Somalia.
- The main focuses of the conference will include the following: "The underlying causes of instability, as well as the symptoms (famine, piracy, and terrorism). We the international community, agreed: to inject new momentum into the political process; to strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and help Somalia develop its own security forces to help stability at a local level; and to step up action to tackle pirates and terrorists."
- More specifically, the conference will devise plans to tackle the many issues affecting Somalia.
- Politically, the main issues include ensuring that the TFG mandate ends in August 2012, as planned, and no extensions are made regarding creating a representative government.
- There will be great focus on security and justice, both essential factors in future development and successful political process.
- Piracy and terrorism, which have plagued Somalia for decades, are of main concern as well. These problems have crippled the country, disallowing any progress and development from occurring. In order for short and long term success in the country, both piracy and terrorism have

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to be controlled and decreased drastically.

- Stability and Recovery are also of the main topics to be discussed during the conference. In order to stabilize the country and aid in recovery, the international community will continue its involvement in Somalia, and continue its efforts alongside the Somali people.
- Humanitarian issues, which will be discussed in a separate meeting, are still of high concern as Somalia has just faced a devastating crisis, and is still emerging from the extreme drought and famine in the country.
- The last main topic to be covered is that of International coordination; a key component to the improvement in Somalia. The International Contact Group on Somalia (ICG), will continue progress and to engage countries that will "drive progress in support of UN, AU, and IGAD efforts."
- For full report, visit SomaliaReport.com

(Source: SomaliaReport.com, US-Registered Somali news website, Feb 24th, 2012)

- The following is a copy of a report titled, "London conference: Final Communique." It was published after the conference by SomaliaReport.com
- The report contains the details regarding the issues discussed during the one day conference in the UK, and the results and plans that were agreed upon by the end of the conference in regards to Somali's political, social, and economic future.

"1. The London Conference on Somalia took place at Lancaster House on 23rd February 2012, attended by 55 delegations from Somalia and the international community.

2. We met at a key moment in Somalia's history. Somalia is emerging from the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. African and Somali troops have pushed [Somali Islamist] Al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu and other areas. The transitional institutions come to an end in August 2012, and the people of Somalia want clarity on what will follow. The situation remains precarious, and in urgent need of support from the international community.

3. Decisions on Somalia's future rest with the Somali people. The Somali political leadership must be accountable to the people. The international community's role is to facilitate Somalia's progress and development: our strength is in unity and coordinated support to Somalia. We noted the importance of listening to and working with Somalis inside and outside Somalia, and welcomed their engagement in the run-up to this conference.

4. The conference focused on the underlying causes of instability, as well as the symptoms (famine, refugees, piracy, and terrorism). We, the international community, agreed: to inject new momentum into the political process; to strengthen AMISOM [African Union Mission in Somalia] and help Somalia develop its own security forces; to help build stability at local level; and to step up action to tackle pirates and terrorists.

Political:

5. We agreed that the transitional federal institutions' mandate ends in August 2012. There must be no further extensions. We welcomed the agreements that chart the way towards more

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representative government: the Transitional Federal Charter, the Djibouti Agreement, the Kampala Accord, and the Roadmap. We welcomed the progress represented by the Garoowe Principles, endorsed the priority of convening a Constituent Assembly, and emphasized that the Assembly must be representative of the views of the Somali people of all regions and constituencies, and that women must be part of the political process. In line with Garoowe II, we agreed to incentivise progress and act against spoilers to the peace process, and that we would consider proposals in this regard before the Istanbul Conference in June.

6. The conference recognized the need for the international community to support any dialogue that [breakaway Republic of] Somaliland and the TFG [Transitional Federal Government of Somalia] or its replacement may agree to establish in order to clarify their future relations.

7. We condemned terrorism and violent extremism, whether perpetrated by Somalis or foreigners. We called on all those willing to reject violence to join the Djibouti peace process. We agreed to develop a defectors' programme to support those who leave armed groups.

8. We emphasized the urgency of Somalia funding its own public services, and using its assets for the benefit of the people, as well as tackling corruption. We welcomed the progress that has been made in establishing a Joint Financial Management Board [JFMB] to increase transparency and accountability in the collection and efficient use of public revenues, as well as international development aid, and which will help strengthen Somali public financial management institutions. A declaration by the initial members of the JFMB is at Annex A.

9. Respect for human rights must be at the heart of the peace process. We called for action to address in particular the grave human rights violations and abuses that women and children face. We emphasized that journalists must be able to operate freely and without fear. Civilians must be protected. We called on the Somali authorities to take measures to uphold human rights and end the culture of impunity. We agreed to step up international efforts including through the UN human rights architecture.

Security and Justice:

10. We agreed that security and justice were essential both to a successful political process and to development. Better security could only be achieved sustainably in parallel with better justice and the rule of law.

11. We expressed gratitude to those countries whose troops had served as peacekeepers and paid tribute to the achievements and sacrifices of AMISOM and other forces. We welcomed joint planning by the UN and African Union [AU] and reiterated the importance of effective command and control. We welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2036, which expands AMISOM's mandate and raises the troop ceiling. We encouraged AMISOM to ensure the protection of civilians. We encouraged partners, especially new donors, to contribute to funding for AMISOM, including through the EU [European Union].

12. We agreed that, over time, Somalis should take over responsibility for providing their own security and develop their own justice systems to deal with the threats to their security and

improve access to justice. We noted that Somalis themselves must decide what security and justice arrangements they need.

13. We acknowledged the good work under way in supporting the Somali security and justice sectors. We agreed that we would build an international framework of partners in order to bring much needed coordination and focus to those efforts, underpinned by a set of principles at Annex B, and working closely with the UN's Joint Security Committee.

Piracy:

14. We reiterated our determination to eradicate piracy, noting that the problem requires a comprehensive approach on land as well as at sea. We expressed our concern that hostages in Somalia are being held longer and with more use of violence. We welcomed the work of the Contact Group on piracy off the coast of Somalia. We also welcomed the success of international military efforts, and remain committed to such efforts with robust rules of engagement and sufficient force generation. We agreed that piracy cannot be solved by military means alone, and reiterated the importance of supporting communities to tackle the underlying causes of piracy, and improving the effective use of Somali coastal waters through regional maritime capacity-building measures. We welcomed those initiatives under way and agreed to coordinate and support such initiatives better. We called for full implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the adoption of an Exclusive Economic Zone. We look forward to reviewing progress including at the Piracy Conference in the UAE in June.

15. We welcomed the efforts of partners in industry against piracy, and called for greater take-up of Best Management Practice on ships. We welcomed current work on international guidance on the use of private armed security companies.

16. There will be no impunity for piracy. We called for greater development of judicial capacity to prosecute and detain those behind piracy both in Somalia and in the wider region and recognized the need to strengthen capacity in regional states. We welcomed new arrangements, which enable some states and naval operations to transfer suspected pirates captured at sea for trial by partners across the Indian Ocean region, and if convicted, to transfer them to prisons in Puntland [northeastern Somalia] and Somaliland which meet international standards. We noted the intention to consider further the possibility of creating courts in Somalia recognized in dealing with piracy.

17. We reiterated our determination to prosecute the kingpins of piracy. Recognizing work already undertaken, we agreed to enhance coordination on illegal financial flows and to coordinate intelligence gathering and investigations. We noted the establishment of a Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecutions Intelligence Coordination Centre in the Seychelles.

Terrorism:

18. Terrorism poses a serious threat to security in Somalia itself, to the region, and internationally. It has inflicted great suffering on the Somali population. We agreed to work together with greater determination, and with full respect for the rule of law, human rights, and international humanitarian law, to build capacity to disrupt terrorism in the region, and to address

the root causes of terrorism. We agreed on the importance of disrupting terrorists' travel to and from Somalia, and on the importance of disrupting terrorist finances, and called on countries in the region to implement the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We noted that effective intelligence gathering and investigation, and support to the Somali criminal justice system, were critical to the fight against terrorism. We agreed to work with the Global Counter Terrorism Forum and other international and regional bodies to deliver this important work.

Stability and Recovery:

19. We welcomed the success in some areas of Somalia in establishing local areas of stability, and agreed to increase support to build legitimate and peaceful authorities, and improve services to people living in these areas. We acknowledged the importance of creating the conditions inside Somalia for durable solutions for the displaced that respect international laws. We agreed that such efforts should promote local and regional cohesion, and converge with the national political process.

20. We considered the implementation of the Mogadishu Recovery and Stabilization Plan important. We agreed to expand programmes to newly-recovered areas. We would focus support on enabling the delivery of immediate and sustainable benefits to ordinary Somali people: safety and security, economic opportunities and basic services. We would promote effective and accountable local administrations, and support the resolution of disputes.

21. We agreed that all support to local areas of stability should be in accordance with the New Deal for engagement in fragile states recently adopted in Busan, and build on the stabilization strategies prepared by both IGAD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Development] and the Transitional Federal Government. We endorsed a set of principles to guide international support to local areas of stability in Somalia (Annex C). We agreed to continue funding local stability through existing programmes, and noted the establishment of a new Stability Fund to which a number of us will contribute.

22. We agreed that Somalia's long-term reconstruction and economic development depended on a vibrant private sector, and that both aid and diaspora finance could develop Somalia's considerable potential in livestock, fisheries and other sectors. We noted that stability was a prerequisite for most sustainable investments in infrastructure such as electricity, roads and water systems. We looked forward to further discussion on all these issues at the Istanbul Conference.

Humanitarian:

23. The conference was preceded by a separate meeting on humanitarian issues co-chaired by the UN and the United Arab Emirates. Notwithstanding the end of the famine, participants expressed concern at the ongoing humanitarian crisis, and committed to providing humanitarian aid based solely on need. They agreed a set of conclusions on humanitarian issues and linking relief with longer-term recovery (set out in a separate document).

International coordination:

24. We agreed to carry forward work agreed at London through the International Contact Group
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on Somalia (ICG), and welcomed the ICG's decision in Djibouti to look at restructuring to become more effective. We recommended that the ICG establish working groups on the political process, security and justice, and stability and development. We noted that, within the ICG, a core group of engaged countries would drive progress in support of UN, AU and IGAD efforts.

25. We welcomed the efforts of the Special Representative of the secretary-general and the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) in facilitating progress in Somalia. We also welcomed the role of IGAD and the African Union, and the support of the League of Arab States, the European Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation [Conference]. We encouraged effective coordination between UN entities working on Somalia. While recognizing the still challenging security situation in Somalia, we welcomed UNPOS' relocation to Mogadishu and agreed that we would aim to spend more time on the ground in Somalia in order to work more closely with Somalis on the challenging tasks ahead.

Conclusion:

26. We expressed the hope that a new era of Somali politics, supported by the international community, will bring peace to Somalia. We are determined to place the interests of the Somali people at the heart of all our actions. We looked forward to the day when the situation in Somalia would have made sufficient progress for an international conference to be held there. In the meantime, we will redouble our efforts to support the people of Somalia in their search for a better future for their country."

Commentary

Even though the conference was a progressive step towards a stable future for Somalia, it is still not all that is needed. It was very beneficial that Somalia received the attention of the international community, particularly from high-level delegates around the world, but as their attention is refocused to other international issues over time, it is the responsibility of Somali's to make sure that the focus does not fade, and strides continue to be made in the country. The implementation of all the plans discussed during the conference, particularly by leaders in Somalia, is what will make a real difference. "The London conference brought together a common understanding and framework of Somalia's next steps...what is required now is a detailed plan of implementation."

The next conference is scheduled for June of this year in Istanbul, Turkey, and by then, hopefully such a plan will have been created.