



THE TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA (TFGRS)

TEXT OF THE INTERVENTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY HON. ABDULLAHI SHEIKH ISMAIL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA.

Excellencies,



I have the honor to address this highly important gathering of distinguished representatives from Asia and Africa to mark the Jubilee commemoration of first Asian-African Conference of 1955.

On the very onset of my intervention, allow me to express deep thanks to the Indonesian Government for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to my delegation and the esteem shown to my country.

In the same tune, I avail my self of this opportunity to congratulate the co-chairs and initiators of this historic Asian-African Foreign Ministers Conference and the preparatory committee set up for the motiration and excellent work they have accomplished to facilitate our task.

It is beyond any doubt that this gathering takes place when the world is witnessing new challenges different from those prevailing at the time of our historic Bandung Asian-African Conference of 1955, when decolonization was at the centre of our main concerns and Cold War was at the epics of ushering threatening dangers driving humanity to the brinks of a new catastrophe.

The principles then adopted have in no way lost their importance today. On the contrary, they have been and remain an aspiring source in modern international relations and have contributed to the emergence of new concepts and values in shaping a new world order for over half a century based on mutual respect of each others sovereignty, recognition of the inalienable rights of all oppressed peoples to freedom, self-determination and independent path of socio-economic development.

Equally significant and historic was the impact the Bandung Conference had on world affairs since it laid down the fundamental concept of positive neutrality and unleashing the non-aligned movement; which enormously contributed to world peace, preventing global confrontations, in the interest of promoting international cooperation and safeguarding mankind survival and peaceful co-existence.

It is our wish that our meeting will generate renewed commitment towards the lofty principles of Bandung, consolidating the links between Asia and Africa under a new vision that again will motivate the developing nations of the globe to dedicate to a world peace, free of any uncaring self centism, arbitrariness in world affairs and among family members of the whole international community, in contravention to positive norms and principles of international law.

Hence, a new correlation of epi-centres of international power balance to promote peace and international cooperation should be thought in the interest of peace and international security within the framework of the United Nations, making its ongoing reform process, a cardinal point to enhance democratic internationalism of common interest and respectability, opening the door for a greater participatory role in the United Nations decision making system and in all its spheres of international responsibility and action.

Knowing that the world cannot be a place of all equal superpowers, the Asian-African Summit should thoughtfully ponder on how to revive or remodel the non-aligned movement, in the perspective of a Cold War aftermath and new challenges facing humanity, which might be called the New Millennium Non-Alignment World Order (NEMINAWO), to have an effective common voice in matters of international security, regional stability, development and world affairs. The one voice strategy could balance the current deadly insulences that the world is suffering from.

Asia and Africa should also keep in their list of priorities the sustained development of their peoples, and the democratization of their respective political systems in full observance of fundamental human rights for freedom and social progress; since political stability, democracy and development are interlocked and together constitute inseparably the pillars of prosperity and gateway to integrate in the globalization era of this new millenium.

Asia and Africa should also find ways and means to tackle issues, which impair peaceful development of our societies, denying our peoples, the right to a dignified life and political evolution based on democratic principles and socio-economic progress.

It is without doubt that we need an exchange of experience of our nation-building drives, but let me say that Africa is the one which needs more to benefit from the Asian example of development, while Asia needs to benefit from the open economic space of Africa.

Somalia is ready to transform its geographic space for a common Asian-African economic and trade development, opening its sea coast of 3300 km long for open economic free investment zones and cross-border free trade export/import zones to contribute to the common economic growth of all.

In a world of free enterprise and competition, Asia could be the best partner of Africa; and Africa should know that development needs hard work. Interdependency needs political and economic growth credibility. Both Asia and Africa should know that, political prominent global role, lies on sustained growth and democracy, since generally our masses could not be deprived of their rights in obtaining political and economic progress in the name of undelivering ideology of any type or cooperation.

Here, the adoption of a solidarity political program to prevent internal conflicts and promote sustainable peace and economic growth in areas where civil war became prone is highly important to minimize the culture of sheer dependency and overcome situations of pathetic powerless observers status.

We cannot handle crisis by letting it dive to the deepening limits of genocide, mass starvation, cronic armed conflicts, causing regional instability and creating safe-havens for breeding international terrorism in the face of international indifference, despite all analytical logicalities and common sense conclusions. Such an attitude has to be totally redressed or abandoned.

In this context, Somalias' case is a glaring example of a degenerated civil war conflict without proper attention for over 14 years, as well as inadequate failing responses, from time to time even when some little attention hardly made available.

Though at present we have succeeded to establish our national state institutions after two years long process of reconciliation, under the auspices of IGAD, yet the pacification of the country needs the collective support of the international community; and for that matter the active solidarity of Asia and Africa in support of our own efforts.

In this respect, we express thanks and appreciation for the understanding and support shown by the African Union and Arab League to the plight of our people and their willingness to come on our side at this critical

conjecture of our history, so that we succeed on the road of recovery and achieve lasting peace. It is our utmost concern to free our people from the shackles of fear, anarchy, chaotic disorder, massive starvation and insecurity, which are crippling all aspirations to regain quick normal life and restore law and order, including consolidation of institutional legality, resulting from the IGAD sponsored reconciliation process in Kenya.

We thank IGAD, AU, Arab League, and EU for assisting the reconciliation process in Somalia, by demonstrating keen attachment to the paramount need for restoration of peace, security and normalcy to Somalia.

Asian-African countries should join efforts together to undertake a common peace stabilization mission in Somalia. Our efforts need to be supplemented so that they can produce the desired fruitful results and the achievements of reconciliation process could be put on an irreversible course.

A package of economic reconstruction for Somalia should be part of this peace stabilization program and initiatives in this sense should be envisaged as part of a comprehensive plan to the Somali Rescue Appeal in which both continents should show spirit of partnership and commitment.

Our appeal to this assembly is to show firmness in supporting the new legality just established, as a constitutional framework and legitimate base, endorsed, as outcome of the national reconciliation process, to salvage Somalia and take it out of its current debacles.

The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia will spare no effort in deepening the reconciliation process upto grass-root level and will devote to the restoration of the required security environment so as to enable our people to conduct peaceful normal life, free of any hostage-like intimidation and bondage; under general lawlessness and civil war atrocities and crimes.

May your clear message be a source of hope to Somalia, to its new institutions and to all segments of its people; as a sign of determination that Asia and Africa are committed to come to the rescue of this plagued nation and we strongly urge the conference to reflect this heart emanating call of ours in its decisions and resolutions, establishing an emergency ad-hoc follow-up Asian-African interstate committee (EFAAIC) to make it achievable, with a well defined timetable.

Before concluding allow me to express sentiments of solidarity and deep condolences to the people of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives who have suffered from the devastating Tsunami natural disaster, which caused untold pain and destruction to the lives and properties of the brotherly peoples of these nations and to their national economies, without

having any mercy to Somalia's already impoverished coastal populations, adding new devastations to old miseries caused by the civil war.

Thank you

Contac: Xoghaynta Wafdiga Wasiirka Airmaha dibedda.,
Jakarta – Indonesia | Email: somalideleg@yahoo.com

Faafin: SomaliTalk.com | April 21, 2005