

Ihsanoglu: Somalia reached a Critical Turning Point

The Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu said that Somalia, today, has reached a critical turning point. In his statement at the Second Istanbul Conference on Somalia which was held on the 1st of June 2012 in Istanbul. He commended the steadfastness and resolve of the Somali stakeholders led by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) with the support of its international partners for their perseverance which has led to the attainment of significant milestones like the Kampala Accord, the adoption of the Roadmap, the Garowe I and II Principles, the London Conference as well as the Representative Constitutional Assembly convened recently in Mogadishu. Ihsanoglu reiterated OIC's stated position that there should be no further extension of the transitional period, He stressed that the August deadline is realistic and must therefore be sacrosanct.

The Secretary General called upon the Somali stakeholders and the international partners along with OIC to strengthen their unity against spoilers by sending a strong message to them while at the same time encouraging the TFG to continue its outreach efforts to create space for those genuinely interested in joining mainstream politics. He referred to OIC's efforts in assisting the reconciliation process explaining that since the exploratory contacts made with some moderates in the insurgency, the initiative has stalled and has not made progress. On the humanitarian aspect of Somalia, the Secretary General highlighted that the lives of millions of weak and vulnerable people, continues to be at risk. "The future of Somalia can only be secured through an enduring international partnership" he clarified.

Ihsanoglu stated that the OIC will focus on the relocation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their villages and homes as a means of promoting sustainable development in the country. In this regard, he revealed that 10,000 out of the 100,000 IDPs in Mogadishu have already been re-settled; pointing out that the OIC is presently in consultation with the TFG to launch socio-economic development programs for women and youth empowerment."