

World G18 Somalia



*The Diaspora community working
with all Somalis for a better Somalia*

A message to all Somali leaders participating in the London Conference on Somalia (23 February 2012)

We draw your attention to an omission in the final communiqué agreed at the London Conference on Somalia. Members of the Somali Diaspora worldwide which is widely agreed provides the largest component of international aid to Somalia expected the final communiqué to include reference to the important work of the Diaspora. This omission is surprising as the final communiqué followed the structure of the widely leaked draft document, refining in detail the key decisions taken by delegates. To our surprise, the section in the draft document relating to the Diaspora did not appear in the final communiqué.

This omission is regrettable as all are urging for greater cooperation and partnership between the international community and the Diaspora. While this omission continues, it will be difficult for such vitally useful cooperation to develop. It is important that reference to the Diaspora is added in some manner to the Final Communiqué, perhaps in the form of an Addendum. World G18 Somalia proposes the following text and seeks the support from all Somali leaders participating in the London Conference on Somalia.

[Reinsert text in draft document] We recognised the important role played in Somalia by the diaspora and by civil society, which are critical actors in the political, economic, security and humanitarian affairs of Somalia. Although attendance at the conference was reserved for governments and international institutions, Somali views, including those of the diaspora, were sought in advance of the event.

[Add new text] *We recognized and admired the scale of continuing diaspora aid to Somalia, much of which is precisely targeted, successfully implemented and which is closely monitored. In this work, the diaspora has gained expertise and importantly strengthened its links with national, regional and local leaders. We agreed to review how we can work more closely with the diaspora on projects in which this knowledge and local links will be invaluable to their successful implementation. We agreed to examine how such cooperative programmes can be encouraged, reviewing and removing administrative obstacles within our own support programmes which might hamper their successful implementation.*

[Reinsert text in draft document] Looking forward, we agreed to work together with Somali diaspora communities and civil society to help shape a better future for Somalia.

Contact

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