

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the United Nations Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia

Press Release

United Nations welcomes Extraordinary Session of Parliament in Baidoa

Baidoa (26 February 2006) – The United Nations has welcomed the first sitting of the Transitional Federal Parliament inside Somalia taking place today in Baidoa.

“This is a very positive development we are witnessing here today,” said acting Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator Christian Balslev-Olesen. “It is a significant window of hope for peace and reconciliation that has not been seen by Somalis during the past 15 years, and we are privileged to be present and to support the process.”

The United Nations is providing logistical support to transport the Members of Parliament to Baidoa; sitting allowances; rehabilitation of, and equipment to the Parliament facility, rehabilitation of and equipment to the President’s, Prime Minister’s and Speaker’s offices; police stipends and provision of water and sanitation services.

The Extraordinary Session of Parliament has been supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission (EC), Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

For more information, please contact:

Sandra Macharia, Information Officer, UNDP Somalia

Tel: (254 20) 4183640/2; Fax: (254 20) 4183641; Email: sandra.macharia@undp.org