



Transitional Federal Institutions and support the continuation of the transitional political

the Transitional Federal Institutions and agree on a roadmap for the remainder of the transitional process. Unfortunately, due to the lack of participation from key opposition figures – despite repeated invitations from the Congress managers and encouragement from the international community – the Congress has not yet fully achieved these objectives. However, there were some positive outcomes from the NRC, and we have encouraged the TFG to continue to reach out to key stakeholders and to implement the conclusions of the Congress in good faith and in keeping with a continued process of dialogue and reconciliation. In moving forward with the transitional process, all transitional committees appointed by the TFG must be fully inclusive of all key stakeholders, including those who may not have participated in the Congress. We are again calling on all players in the transitional process to join and participate in a non-violent political process that will ensure a successful roadmap to 2009.

More immediately, we must have a ceasefire among all armed groups in Somalia to establish a framework for longer-term security sector reform and isolate extremist elements that are able to exploit the current environment. The level of violence must be reduced, if not for the sake of the political process then for the sake of the innocent civilians who continue to suffer injury and death at the hands of extremist elements who continue to resort to armed conflict in pursuit of their individual agendas.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia is a grave one. USAID is spearheading our aid efforts and we're working closely with the United Nations and the international community to optimize those efforts. We have provided approximately \$24.5 million to date in fiscal year 2008 (which only began on October 1) in humanitarian assistance to the UN and international agencies and NGOs to provide life and livelihood saving

assistance to internally displaced persons, host communities, agrarian and pastoralist populations in all regions of south central Somalia. Between FY 2007 and FY 2008, we have also provided approximately \$59 million in food aid to vulnerable Somalis through the distribution networks of CARE and the UN World Food Program. We will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with the donor community to ensure an effective response to Somalia's dire humanitarian needs.

In closing, I'd like to share with you a recent example of our engagement with key figures in Somali society. I hosted an Iftar dinner in Nairobi on September 30 and nearly 80 people accepted the invitation. We had several notes afterwards from guests who said that many of the people under the tent seated at the tables were people who would not ordinarily share a meal together. We take some hope from events like this. By the same token, we were struck when a speaker

We understand that this is an ongoing process, and that we have not reached the end. Along with our regional and international partners, the United States will remain

Drafted: J Yates, SE Somalia/Nairobi

Cleared: AF/E: SHamilton ok  
AF/E: NGarey ok  
PA: LMiller ok  
AF/PDPA: GGarland ok