

Conclusions on Somali youth round table – 15/05/2013- Mogadishu

The role of youth in peace building and reconstruction of Somalia was discussed during the two phased roundtable event ably facilitated by two Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) namely IIDA and CRD. Somali panelists drawn from youth organizations, private sector, NGOs, umbrella organizations (CSO coalitions), the Chamber of Commerce & Industry provided an excellent analysis of issues affecting youth and their potential role in peace building and reconstruction of Somalia. The panelists stressed on the link between unemployment and insecurity; and economic skills development and employment creation. Youth's potential to bring and deepen the fragile peace; and the need for a holistic approach to youth programming were also discussed. The plenary session following the roundtable presentations managed to interrogate the definition of youth in the Somali context and possible investment opportunities in Somalia.

Key recommendations that have emerged from the round table discussions included:

- Somali youth and CSOs should be involved in peace conferences whenever they happen. Experience has shown that the Somali youth have unparalleled conflict resolution capacities;
- Expand vocational training and employment opportunities for the Somali youth especially young women. Carryout labour market surveys to determine marketable vocational courses;
- Explore Public Private Partnerships that focus on economic skills development and loan schemes that enable youth to start business;
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry to facilitate Somalia based investment conferences involving Somalia and the EU member states;
- Set-up a youth enterprise fund capturing contributions from donors, businesses and the private sector; and
- Allocate NGO and UN in-country jobs to young Somali professional as they are often locked out on the basis of inadequate experience.