



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOMALI CHARCOAL**  
**Speech by the Deputy Prime Minister**  
**Place: Mogadishu, Somalia**  
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**Excellency Ministers of the Federal Government of Somalia**

**Excellency Ambassadors**

**Members from the Academia**

**International Partners**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Brothers and Sisters**

It is a great honor to be here with you today and to join you on this important conference that brought together expertise of different background from many different sectors. I want to thank the UNDP, UNEP and FAO for sponsoring this important conference on Charcoal. The presence of so many of us here today, some from Academia is a clear indication that there is a positive interest amongst international community to combat climate change and environmental problems associated with the unsustainable charcoal production.

On behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia I am also pleased to welcome you all on this important conference on sustainable Charcoal reduction and delighted to see wider participation from Federal Line Ministries, Ministers from Federal Member States, UN agencies and International Community.

I would also like to thank our donor partners, EU, Italy and Sweden in particular, for their participation and initial contribution to the program.

## **Excellencies;**

The Federal Government of Somalia has embarked on a dynamic path of political and economic renewal after a protracted civil strife and political turmoil. The tremendous changes that the country has experienced in recent years demonstrate the power of commitment to move the country forward- a commitment by Somali leaders to meet their people's aspirations for a better future, and that better future begins with developing and protecting our environment for future generations

## **Excellencies;**

Just to put the charcoal problem into a historical context

### **1. Background**

- The ban of charcoal export was in place prior to the civil war as a result of an executive decree issued by the late president Barre. (The First Decree issued by the revolutionary council in 1969). In 1969 Somalia was one of few countries that acknowledged the causal effect of charcoal production, and now almost 40 years later we are gathered here to address how to tackle the same charcoal issue which is a national threat to our Eco-System and environmental.
- At the request of the Somali Government, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2036 (2012) which seeks international cooperation to ban illegal exports of Charcoal from Somalia.
- The revenue of charcoal has benefited Al Shabaab and finances its terrorism operations in Somalia as well as the region.
- As a government, we expressed our concerns to the countries in the Gulf to seek alternatives for their consumption of charcoal, and support us eliminate the export of charcoal from Somalia. As a result, the Saudi Government enforced the UN Security Council Resolution 2036 and banned import of charcoal from Somalia.
- The Federal Government of Somalia and the Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range and Directorate of Environment, office of the Prime Minister, is committed to reducing the charcoal consumption by identifying sustainable sources of energy to overcome the environmental degradation and reverse the impending threat against Somalia's fragile ecosystems.
- The Ministry will also reaffirm its commitment to adopt new measures by regulating charcoal industry and supporting sustainable charcoal reduction in Somalia.

With that, the Federal Government of Somalia will support the outcome of this important conference, and let me reiterate our unconditional support of this program; we must ensure that the program objectives are met and that;

- 1) The program supports Federal Government of Somalia as well as countries in the Horn of Africa and the region to produce pertinent legal instruments and strengthen enforcement mechanisms at national, regional and local levels;
  - 2) Promote alternative sources of energy to reduce local charcoal consumption;
  - 3) Provide alternative livelihoods to the Charcoal Value Chain Beneficiaries (CVCBs) involved in the charcoal production and trade; and,
  - 4) Country wide reforestation and afforestation to regain the productive potential of the environmentally degraded lands.
- The Federal government considers this flagship programme an important priority which is expected to clear the way for more restorative environmental programmes to increase support and reduce domestic charcoal consumption.
  - As pastoral society, over 80% of Somali populations depend on the livestock and that demonstrates the huge importance of the ecosystem to both livestock and people across the country.
  - We need a holistic response to address the issues of charcoal in Somalia. Both demand and supply side have to be tackled. This can only happen by providing alternative sources of livelihoods to the people involved in the production of charcoal and expanding alternative sources of energy to reduce domestic use. At the regional level, we need action from the countries that are allowing charcoal from Somalia to enter in their territories. The UN Security Council Resolution is very clear on the extensive damage that is happening to Somalia because of illegal Charcoal Trade. We need cooperation to implement UN Security Council Resolution and ensure the environmental, economic and human losses that happen because of illegal charcoal trade are curbed

Finally, our resolve is firm to reverse this Environmental catastrophe faced by Somalia, and with the support of the Somali people and International community, we will consolidate our resources and human capital and are committed to achieve the core objectives of the program.

Clearly, we understand the difficult road ahead in our journey to make Somalia a better place for all. But with the resilience of our people and leadership, we are driven to continue the march until we fulfill the common aspirations we share as a nation. We will

not relent in this struggle to combat against charcoal production and I am confident that the Somali people will come out of this as the triumphant.

Thank You