

U.S. Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya

Press Release

January 31, 2009

The Election of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed

The United States Government congratulates Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed on his election as president of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government. President Sharif has been a strong proponent of the Djibouti Process and has worked diligently on reconciliation efforts in Somalia. We urge President Sharif to reach out to the broad spectrum of Somalis who reject violence and extremism in forming a new government.

We encourage all Somalis to support the President and his government and urge members of the Somali leadership to concentrate on security and good governance in this transitional period. The United States looks forward to cooperating with President Sharif and his broad-based government on these efforts to establish democracy and achieve peace in Somalia.

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