

KENYA NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION

READOUT FOR THE PRESS

7 February 2008

At 8:30 this morning, Kofi Annan, the Chair of the Panel of Eminent Personalities, met with Louis Michel, EU Commissioner for Development, to discuss support for the work of the Panel.

At 10:00, the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation began its seventh session, with the two other Panel members also in attendance—former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and former South African First Lady Graca Machel.

The discussion focused on Agenda Item 3, How to Overcome the Current Political Crisis. The topic is a crucial one, and proved divisive at times, but the talks proceeded in a good spirit, moving more slowly than in previous sessions but moving steadily ahead.

In a relatively short period, the Dialogue and Reconciliation team has made considerable progress and talks will resume tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

In between the morning and afternoon sessions, the three Panel Members met with a delegation of IGAD Foreign Ministers, which was in the country to express their solidarity with the people of Kenya and to express their support for the work of the Panel.

* * *