

UN holds Somali conference in Istanbul

16:30, May 22, 2010

(R to L) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed shake hands during the United Nations' Somalia conference in Istanbul, Turkey, May 22, 2010. The United Nations' Somalia conference opened here on Saturday.

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UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and delegates from 55 countries attended the conference.

The UN chief made a speech at the opening ceremony. He said, " Somali pirates are one of the world's greatest crisis."

Speaking about the conference, he said, "This is a clear sign of our commitment and solidarity with the people of Somalia at a time when they need our support."

"This is another sign of Turkey's willingness to take up the most serious international problems," he added.

The UN chief noted the conference is held to help the Republic of Somalia to develop, and there have been regional and international efforts to reverse the situation.

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