



**Fourth Assembly of International Trustees - Reception
Evening Address by Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim
Addis Abeba, Ethiopia**

Thank you for joining us here this evening, to mark the occasion of Africa Humanitarian Action's Fourth Assembly of International Trustees.

Our esteemed board has come from near and far in order to lend their time and experience to supporting AHA in its endeavours. We do so because we believe in their mission; to provide effective humanitarian assistance to alleviate human suffering, building on the strength of African people to solve African problems.

Thus it is my great honour this evening to announce the fruition of what began as the seed of an idea within AHA, and has since grown to gather regional and international support. This is a historic moment to launch the African Centre for Humanitarian Action, otherwise known as ACHA.

ACHA has established itself as an organization that unites and strengthens African civil society organizations through stronger partnership, increased learning and improved advocacy. Ultimately it is the vulnerable communities whom we work to assist, that will benefit from having stronger and sustainable African institutions.

The organization's growth during these past three years has been supported by many people in this room, as well as by six full-time staff, four of whom worked on a voluntary basis for the entirety of their contracts. Thanks in large part to the work of these volunteers, ACHA's four key areas of service have been established and activities are now underway.

Service areas include; Advocacy & Representation; Information & Knowledge Management; Research & Dissemination; & Technical



Assistance & Service. Through these areas of service, ACHA is contributing to the growing momentum of an African renaissance within the humanitarian sector. I invite you to connect with ACHA's staff members tonight to learn more about the exciting initiatives that they are currently spearheading.

In closing, I would like to encourage each of you to take action to support ACHA's valuable work. You are here tonight because you are active in the promotion of human security and human dignity across this continent. Together we can contribute meaningfully to restoring Africa's ownership of humanitarian efforts and ensure that sustainable solutions are found to the challenges facing the continent.

Thank you for your attention. Please enjoy the evening.

5 February 2008