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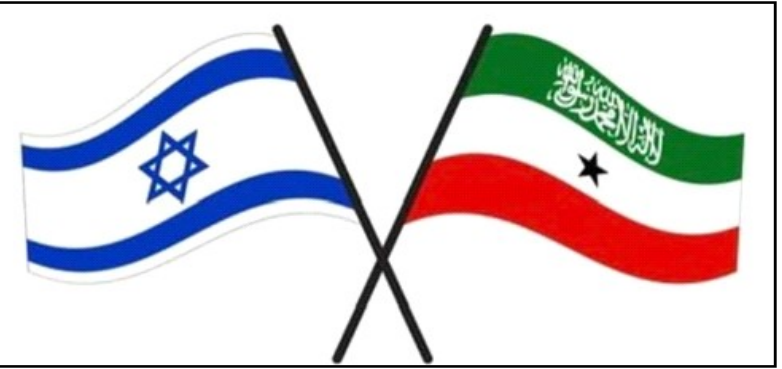
Israel Weighs Historic Recognition of Somaliland Amid Red Sea Crisis

"Somaliland offers Israel a forward operating environment in one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints," the INSS assessment states



Mohamoud Walaaleye
A major new policy paper from Israel's influential Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) is urging the government to move quickly toward diplomatic recognition of the Republic of Somaliland, describing the Horn of

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Somaliland Coast Guard Recognized as Leading User of IORIS Platform at Manila Meeting



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Somaliland Coast Guard has been praised as one of the most active and effective agencies in utilizing the Indian Ocean Regional Information

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Drought situation in the country dire as human and livestock plight worsen



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Finance Minister Meets World Bank Delegation to Accelerate NAGAAD Infrastructure Project in Hargeisa



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Somaliland, Mr. Abdillahi Hassan Aden, today held high-level talks with a senior delegation from the World Bank to fast-track the implementation of the

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Somaliland Central Bank Unveils Ambitious 2026–2028 Strategic Plan to Lead National Financial Markets



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Taiwan's Central Sky International Secures Historic Quarantine License in Somaliland, Ushering in New Era for Global Livestock Trade



In a landmark development for East African agribusiness, Taiwan-based Central Sky International Trading Co. has been granted Somaliland's first national-level livestock quarantine license, clearing the way for an 88-hectare

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Somaliland Ports Authority: Only Somaliland Can Implement ECTN in Its Ports – Somalia Has No Authority



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The General Manager of the Somaliland Ports Authority, Mr. Ali Dirie Ahmed, has announced that only the Republic of Somaliland has the legal and practical right to implement the

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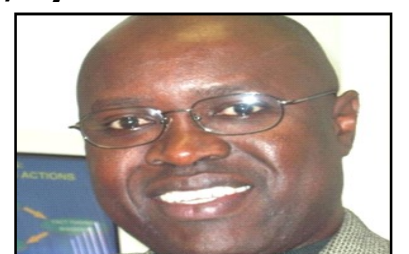
Somaliland Government to Hold National Road Safety Conference in Hargeisa



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OP-ED | The Unrecognized State: Somaliland's 30-Year Stand Against Africa's Iron Law of Borders, By Wafula Okumu

Somaliland's 30-year quest for recognition exposes the limits of Africa's rigid colonial-border doctrine and challenges the



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Somaliland is an asset, not a diplomatic problem; Time global policy reflects that reality-Lord Darroch



When assessing potential partners in fragile regions, policymakers typically ask: can this government maintain

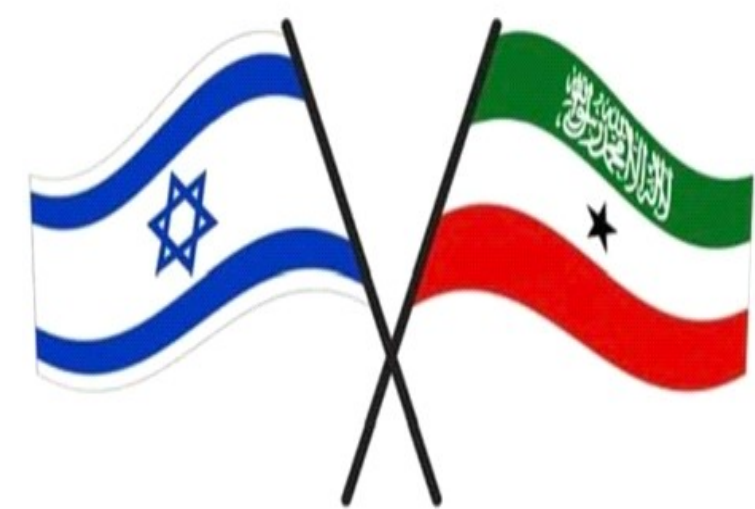
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Inside

Somaliland's Minister of Local Government Launches Landmark Decentralization Conference in Berbera

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Israel Weighs Historic Recognition.....



Africa state as a potential “strategic breakthrough” for Israeli security in the Red Sea.

The report, titled “Tel Aviv Signals New Direction: Somaliland Recognition on the Table,” argues that escalating Houthi attacks on international shipping since late 2023, combined with Iran’s growing influence in the region, have made Somaliland’s strategic location and relative stability indispensable to Israel’s defense posture.

“Somaliland offers Israel a forward operating environment in one of the world’s most critical maritime chokepoints,” the INSS assessment states. Its 850-kilometer Gulf of Aden coastline and the UAE-upgraded deep-water port at Berbera are seen as ideal platforms for intelligence collection, naval logistics, and drone operations aimed at countering Iranian arms smuggling to Yemen’s Houthis.

The document highlights Somaliland’s stark contrast with

neighboring Somalia: regular democratic elections, a functioning central government, low crime. It notes that Somaliland has cooperated with the UAE and Western partners to dismantle al-Shabaab and ISIS cells, earning praise as a rare stable outlier in the region.

Rather than immediate full recognition, which could provoke sharp backlash from Somalia and the African Union, the INSS recommends a cautious, multi-stage approach modeled on Israel’s successful quiet partnerships with Azerbaijan and the UAE before the Abraham Accords.

The report also stresses the need to coordinate with Ethiopia, which signed a controversial January 2024 memorandum granting it access to Berbera in exchange for a pledge to recognize Somaliland—the first such commitment by an African state.

The paper argues that carefully managed engagement, backed by the United States and Gulf allies, could redefine Israel’s standing in Africa and secure vital trade routes that carry 12 percent of global commerce and roughly 30 percent of Israel’s own imports.

The INSS calls for an inter-ministerial task force to be formed by December 2025 to finalize a concrete roadmap. Sources familiar with the discussions say the paper has already been circulated at senior levels in the Prime Minister’s Office, Foreign Ministry, and IDF Planning Directorate.

While no official government response has been issued, diplomatic observers note that quiet Israeli-Somaliland contacts have intensified since 2022, including reported visits by Israeli technical teams to Berbera airfield and growing coordination on counter-terrorism intelligence.

If implemented, recognition of Somaliland would mark Israel’s most significant diplomatic initiative in sub-Saharan Africa in decades and could accelerate a broader realignment of Red Sea security architecture involving the United States, UAE, Ethiopia, and potentially Kenya and Djibouti.

For now, the ball appears to be in Israel’s court—and the clock is ticking as Houthi drones and missiles continue to menace one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes.

Somaliland Coast Guard Recognized.....



Sharing (IORIS) platform during the 3rd IORIS Steering Committee Policy Board and Working Groups Meeting in Manila, Philippines.

Deputy Commander Col Khadar Mohamed Isse, accompanied by senior officers, represented Somaliland at the conference, which focused on strengthening maritime and port security through coordinated regional information exchange.

Throughout the proceedings, the Somaliland Coast Guard was repeatedly highlighted for its successful and proactive use of the IORIS platform.

In his address, Col Khadar emphasized the critical role of the Somaliland Coast Guard in maritime domain awareness, regional cooperation, and safeguarding Somaliland’s territorial waters and the Gulf of Aden.

He attributed these achievements to the vision of President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, who has prioritized enhancing the capabilities and international standing of the Coast Guard.

Under the leadership of Admiral Ahmed Hure Hariye, the Somaliland Coast Guard continues to gain recognition for its professionalism and active contribution to regional maritime security.

Finance Minister Meets World Bank



ambitious NAGAAD Project, a major World Bank-funded initiative aimed at transforming Hargeisa’s urban infrastructure.

The minister was joined by the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Mohamed Hassan Saleban, and senior officials from the Hargeisa Local Government.

During the several-hour meeting held at the minister’s office, both sides reviewed in detail the project’s execution framework, operational roadmap, implementation timeline, and the phased rollout of its components. Key focus areas include the construction and upgrading of roads, bridges, and

essential public services across the capital.

The two parties reached a firm agreement to expedite all preparatory work to ensure the NAGAAD Project launches on schedule.

Notably, the project will cover all districts within the Greater Hargeisa municipality, delivering widespread improvements to the city’s infrastructure and living standards.

The NAGAAD Project marks a significant step in Somaliland’s ongoing partnership with the World Bank to drive sustainable urban development and economic growth in the capital.

Taiwan’s Central Sky.....

(approximately 120 football-field-sized) state-of-the-art quarantine and export hub just outside Berbera Port.

The announcement, made following high-level meetings in Hargeisa, received direct endorsement from Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, who described the project as “a pivotal step toward building a transparent, modern, and globally competitive livestock supply chain.”

Somaliland remains one of the largest live-animal exporters in East Africa, shipping hundreds of thousands of cattle, sheep, goats, and camels annually – primarily to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman. However, tightening international health and traceability requirements have made large-scale modernization essential.

Central Sky’s new facility will introduce:

- A fully digital livestock identification and end-to-end traceability system
- Automated health screening and quarantine management platforms
- Renewable energy and closed-loop bio-circulation systems for sustainability

Once fully operational, the hub is projected to handle up to one million head of livestock per year. The company has already signed binding offtake agreements with several of the Gulf region’s largest meat processors and abattoir groups.

“This is far more than an export project,” said Alyne Chen, General

Manager of Central Sky International. “We are exporting an entire standards-based, traceable, and transparent ecosystem that benefits Somali pastoralists, Gulf buyers, and everyone in between. It also brings jobs, training, and lasting infrastructure to local communities.”

The investment is being structured by Taipei-based Headwater Capital, which plans to launch an offshore fund to attract additional Asian and Middle Eastern institutional investors into Africa’s fast-growing agri-supply chain sector.

Strategically located adjacent to the rapidly expanding Berbera Port – which has seen major upgrades backed by DP World and other partners – the quarantine zone positions Somaliland as an increasingly important logistics gateway between Africa, the Gulf, and Asia.

Despite Somaliland’s ongoing lack of international recognition, the deal underscores growing private-sector confidence in the republic’s stability and economic potential. Industry observers say the project could serve as a replicable model for modernizing livestock trade across the wider Horn of Africa, dramatically improving disease control, transparency, and market access.

For Taiwan, the initiative represents a new form of “enterprise-driven economic diplomacy,” leveraging private investment and technology to forge durable partnerships in strategically important regions.

Construction of the first phase of the quarantine hub is expected to begin in early 2026, with initial operations slated for late 2027.

Somaliland Ports Authority: Only Somaliland.....



Electronic Cargo Tracking Note (ECTN) system in its ports, and that any claim by Somalia to impose such a system is legally void. In an official statement published today on the Somaliland Ports Authority’s Facebook page, the Authority declared: “Only the Somaliland Ports Authority can implement the ECTN system in the Republic of Somaliland. Somalia’s decisions have no authority here.” The statement confirmed that the Authority is in the final stages of

preparation and will launch its own independent ECTN system across all Somaliland ports in the very near future. Explaining the legal basis for this position, the Ports Authority invoked the internationally recognized Port Jurisdiction Rule and key provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO): Ports are internal waters governed exclusively by the authority that

exercises effective territorial sovereignty and administrative control (UNCLOS Article 2). No state or entity may impose regulations on a port it does not control. Under IMO Port State Control, vessels calling at any port must comply only with the regulations of the authority that actually administers that port, whether de facto or de jure. The statement emphasized that the “port authority is territorially based and cannot be overridden by political claims lacking physical control”. The Government of Somaliland is “solely responsible for the administration of its ports and territorial waters,” the Authority concluded. The Somaliland Ports Authority is finalizing its own independent ECTN system and, God willing, will soon implement it in its ports.” Shipping agents, freight forwarders, and importers are advised that only the Somaliland-issued ECTN will be valid and enforceable at Berbera and all other ports of the Republic of Somaliland.

Drought situation in the country dire as human.....



By M.A. Egge
The prolonged and repeated drought sweeping across the country has worsened, putting the situation of both human and livestock in peril. This has once again been asserted at the weekly cabinet meeting. It is worth noting that earlier in the week, on Monday, the VP H.E. Mohamed Abdi aw Ali made a strong statement to the nation underscoring the dire situation while noting that the plight of both human and livestock were perilous. The adoption of the national youth policy was voted for overwhelmingly at the session. Impending famine and more issues put on focus at the 42nd session of the council of cabinet ministers meeting included the national economic situation, internal security, priority national policy planning, livestock etc. Chaired by the President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi

Irro, the general agenda as per the presser by Presidential spokesman Hussein Deyr was as follows: –
1. National Security Briefing
The Minister of Interior and National Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, reported that the overall security situation across the country remains stable and calm, with no threats posing significant risk to the state.
2. Revenue and Economic Update
The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Adan, informed the cabinet that national revenue collection from January to October is progressing in line with the 2025 budget projections. He added that the 2026 national budget has been fully prepared and will soon be submitted to the cabinet for debate and approval. The minister also highlighted productive meetings held in Dubai aimed at strengthening bilateral

cooperation in economic infrastructure and improving national revenue systems.
3. National Drought Situation
The Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments, Sheikh Abdullahi-Bashe Dahir Jama—also a member of the National Drought Relief Committee—warned that drought conditions are worsening across all regions, calling for an urgent nationwide relief effort to support affected households.
4. Livestock Export Conditions
The Minister of Livestock and Rural Development, Dr. Omar Shu’ayb Mohamed, emphasized the need to modernize livestock export systems and infrastructure, describing livestock as the backbone of Somaliland’s economy. He noted that the ongoing drought has negatively affected both the number and quality of livestock, urging the government to adopt a national plan to protect the remaining herds.
5. Public Health Situation
The Minister of Health Development, Dr. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, reported a slight decline in measles, whooping cough, and malaria cases, attributing the improvement to ongoing preventive campaigns. He also notified the cabinet that an extremely fatal disease known as the *Marburg Virus* has been detected in the neighbouring country of Ethiopia, and the ministry has begun preparedness and monitoring efforts—particularly in border areas—to safeguard public health.

Somaliland Central Bank Unveils.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland has successfully concluded a high-level workshop to finalize its Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2026–2028, marking a pivotal step toward positioning the institution as the undisputed leader of the country’s financial and economic markets. Held in Hargeisa, the workshop brought together the Bank’s senior leadership, including Governor Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi, Deputy Governor Hamse Kheyre, the Director General Yasin Alas, and a team of local and international financial experts – the first time the Central Bank has partnered with a global consultancy firm. Governor Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi declared that the new strategy is designed to transform the Central Bank into a modern, powerful institution capable of effectively steering Somaliland’s financial sector. “We want our Central Bank to have full authority and capacity to lead the nation’s financial and economic markets,” he told participants. He revealed that the past ten months have been dedicated to diagnosing challenges, building technical and financial resources, and forging international partnerships that will support the Bank’s transformation. Deputy Governor Hamse Khaire described the workshop as a defining moment, stating: “Today

we are answering fundamental questions: What kind of central bank does Somaliland need, and how do we build a world-class institution that meets international standards while serving our national development goals?” The three-year strategic plan places strong emphasis on:
• Strengthening governance and transparency
• Enhancing regulatory and supervisory powers over financial institutions
• Expanding modern financial services across the country
• Deepening international cooperation and knowledge transfer
• Driving sustainable economic growth and financial stability
Participants praised the Bank’s clear vision and its commitment to adopting best global practices. The Director General stressed that the strategy will equip the Central Bank with cutting-edge tools and expertise to efficiently oversee the rapidly evolving financial landscape of Somaliland. The successful completion of the workshop signals a new era of institutional strength and ambition for the Central Bank, with officials expressing confidence that the 2026–2028 plan will play a central role in achieving long-term economic prosperity and stability for the nation.

ensure compliance with safety and traffic standards.
8. Meeting between the Cabinet and the WADDANI Ruling Party
The Minister of Presidential Affairs, Hon. Khadar Hussein Abdi, reported on a crucial meeting held between the cabinet and the ruling WADDANI party, which focused on strengthening coordination, improving communication with supporters, and advancing the party’s political agenda. He described the meeting as one that was quite productive and unifying.
9. Approval of the National Youth Policy
The Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Ahmed-Yasin Mohamed Farah, together with the Attorney General, Ali Bashe Mohamed, briefed the cabinet on the National Youth Policy previously distributed for review. Following discussion, President Abdirahman Irro called for a vote. All 37 cabinet members present voted in favor, with no objections or abstentions whatsoever.
6. Upcoming High-Level Development Forum
The Minister of Planning and National Development, Hon. Kaltun Sheikh Hassan Abdi, announced that her ministry will host a High-Level Development Coordination Forum, where priority national development projects will be presented. The event will bring together the Somaliland government, local institutions, development partners, donors, and international agencies to discuss investment, cooperation, and acceleration of key economic and social infrastructure projects.
7. New Procedures for Vehicle Plate Removal and Vehicle Modifications
The Minister of Transport and Road Development, Hon. Osman Ibrahim Nuur (Afgaab), briefed the cabinet on newly introduced regulations governing vehicle plate removal, garages management, and vehicle modifications. Under the new rules, vehicle alterations will only be approved after a full technical inspection to

Somaliland Government to Hold National.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Government of Somaliland has announced a major two-day National Conference on Road Safety and Solutions to Traffic Accidents, scheduled to take place in Hargeisa on 25–26 November 2025.

The conference, organized by the Ministry of Transport and Roads Development, aims to find lasting solutions to the country’s persistent road traffic accident crisis, which officials describe as one of the nation’s biggest disasters.

Speaking at the announcement, Minister of Transport and Roads Development Osman Adan Afaab said vehicle accidents continue to claim hundreds of lives and cause

widespread injury and property damage every month.

“Traffic accidents are among the worst calamities affecting Somaliland. Despite all our efforts, we have not yet seen any significant reduction. The main causes are known: the driver and the vehicle,” Minister Afaab said.

He emphasized that the upcoming conference will deliver comprehensive and final solutions to issues related to roads, driving behaviors, and vehicle standards, adding that data has been collected in collaboration with road security agencies and experts.

Minister Afaab urged all citizens, professionals, and experts with

ideas or expertise on reducing road accidents to attend and contribute, describing the issue as “a matter of life and death for the Somaliland people.”

Colonel Mohamed Ige Ideere, Commander of the Somaliland Traffic Police Force, revealed the latest official statistics, noting a slight improvement compared to last year.

“This year, we recorded 6,409 traffic accidents across the country, down from 7,618 in the previous year. However, the human and material cost remains devastating: 164 people lost their lives, 4,454 were injured, and 2,925 vehicles were damaged or destroyed,” Col Ideere said.

The commander stressed that accidents are caused by three main factors: the driver, the vehicle, and the condition of the roads.

The conference is expected to bring together government officials, traffic police, road engineers, vehicle inspectors, religious and traditional leaders, and members of the public to develop an actionable national strategy to drastically reduce road traffic deaths and injuries in Somaliland.

Somaliland’s Minister of Local Government Launches Landmark Decentralization Conference in Berbera



A major technical conference on the implementation of Somaliland’s Decentralization Governance System was officially opened in the port city of Berbera, marking a significant milestone in the country’s efforts to bring essential public services closer to citizens at the district level.

The two-day event, organized by the Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development, was inaugurated by Minister Hassan Ahmed Duale. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Minister emphasized that decentralization is not a contest for power between central and local authorities, but a strategic reform designed to

streamline and accelerate the delivery of critical services.

“Decentralization is about efficiency and proximity,” Minister Duale said. “It ensures that education, healthcare, clean water, and security are managed and delivered directly at the local level, rather than waiting for slow decisions from the capital.”

The Minister revealed that a recent inspection tour of Berbera District showed that both education and health services have already reached commendable standards, describing them as a model for other regions.

Senior officials present at the conference, including the Governor

of Sahil Region, the Mayor of Berbera, and the Director General of the Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development, unanimously endorsed the decentralization policy. They stressed that transferring authority and resources to local governments will enhance transparency, accountability, and community participation while reducing bureaucratic delays and the over-concentration of power in Hargeisa.

Governance experts participating in the conference highlighted that effective decentralization will empower districts to respond swiftly to local needs and foster grassroots development.

“This is a historic step toward building a more responsive and people-centered administration,” one expert remarked. “When services are managed locally, citizens see tangible results faster, and trust in government grows.”

The Berbera conference is expected to finalize the technical and legal framework for rolling out decentralization across Somaliland’s regions in the coming years.

The government of Somaliland has reaffirmed its strong commitment to the policy, describing it as a cornerstone of its vision for equitable development and efficient public service delivery nationwide.

Somaliland Launches Major Initiative to Boost Date Palm Production and Combat Pests

Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Government of Somaliland has taken a significant step toward revitalizing one of its most valuable agricultural resources with the launch of a high-level national workshop aimed at enhancing date palm production and establishing sustainable pest management practices.

The workshop was officially opened on Tuesday in Hargeisa by the Minister of Agriculture Development, Hon. Mohamoud Ege Yusuf, who described the initiative as a cornerstone of the government’s agricultural agenda.

“This effort to develop date palm production is among the major priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture,” Minister Yusuf said in his opening remarks. “Under the leadership of the ‘Unity and Progress’ administration, increasing national production remains at the very top of our agenda.”

The two-day strategic meeting, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), brought together deputy ministers, senior technical officials, regional cooperative leaders, and date palm farmers from across Somaliland, particularly from the key producing regions of Marodi-jeh and Awdal.

A major highlight of the opening session was the announcement by the Director of Plant Protection at the Ministry, Ms. Faysa Mohamed Rage, that comprehensive national data collection on date palms is now 98% complete. The survey is expected to provide the foundation for evidence-based planning and targeted interventions.

FAO Country Representative Ms. Amina welcomed the progress and reaffirmed her organization’s commitment to the sector. “We are delighted to support this vital initiative,” she said. “FAO is actively working to mobilize additional funding specifically dedicated to strengthening date palm production in Somaliland.”

Participants will focus on practical measures to increase both the quantity and quality of dates, improve post-harvest handling, expand market access for farmers, and introduce environmentally sustainable methods to control pests that have long threatened yields.

The workshop underscores Somaliland’s determination to transform its date palm sector from a traditional crop into a commercially competitive industry capable of contributing significantly to food security, rural employment, and export earnings.

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OP-ED | The Unrecognized State: Somaliland’s 30-Year Stand.....

African Union to confront a political and legal reality it can no longer ignore. For over three decades, a quiet, stable democracy has flourished on the Horn of Africa, a beacon of peace in a region synonymous with chaos. This nation, Somaliland, has its own currency, its own army, its own elected government, and its own passport. Yet, in the eyes of the world, and crucially, in the eyes of the African Union (AU), it does not exist. Somaliland’s story is not one of a typical secessionist movement. It is a profound legal and political anomaly, a direct challenge to the African continent’s most sacred, yet most problematic, doctrine: the principle of *uti possidetis juris*—the iron law that perpetuates colonialism on African borders. The dilemma is stark. On one side stands the AU, fearing that recognizing Somaliland will open a “Pandora’s Box, unleashing a wave of border revisionism and fragmentation across the continent. On the other side is a fully functioning, self-governing state that claims it is not breaking a border but merely restoring one—the distinct boundary of the former British Somaliland Protectorate, which existed before a disastrous, flawed union with the former Italian Trust Territory of Somalia in 1960.

breached the very constitution it sought to uphold. The failure to properly formalize the union was a symptom of a deeper incompatibility. The two territories had inherited vastly different legal, judicial, and administrative systems from their respective colonial masters, Britain and Italy. The attempt to merge these disparate systems, along with the imposition of a highly centralized, unitary political system, disregarded the decentralized governance models, such as the traditional *xeer* system, prevalent in the north. This political mismatch quickly devolved into marginalization and, eventually, brutal military suppression. The military dictatorship that seized power in 1969 focused its wrath on the northern regions (Somaliland), leading to a devastating civil war in the 1980s. The systematic bombing of cities like Hargeisa by the central government remains a scar on the national memory. Following the collapse of the central government in 1991, Somaliland declared the restoration of its independence on May 18, 1991. Since then, Mogadishu has not exercised any administrative control over the territory. *The Case for Statehood: A De Facto Reality* Somaliland’s argument for recognition rests on two pillars: its compliance with

recognized colonial boundary, not a revisionist claim. This makes Somaliland a unique case, distinct from irredentist or sub-state secessionist movements that seek to redraw existing lines. *The Cairo Resolution and the precedent problem* The AU’s reluctance to recognize Somaliland is rooted in its interpretation of the 1964 Cairo Resolution, which is the legal foundation for the inviolability of colonial borders. The resolution states that all member states “pledge themselves to respect the borders existing on their achievement of national independence.” The original intent of the resolution was pragmatic: to prevent interstate conflicts arising from irredentist claims, such as Somalia’s own historical claims on the territories of its neighbours. It was not explicitly designed to preclude internal boundary adjustments or the dissolution of a failed union, especially one where the internal border was itself a former international colonial boundary. Yet, the AU has adopted a maximalist interpretation, treating the resolution as a blanket prohibition on all border changes—often incorrectly termed the “intangibility principle.” This interpretation

membership. This is the political hurdle that Somaliland must clear, even with its strong legal and historical case. *A path forward: criteria for exceptionalism* The continued denial of recognition is not a defence of the *uti possidetis* principle, but a perpetuation of instability and an obstacle to regional integration. The AU must develop a policy framework that addresses cases of state failure and the restoration of colonial boundaries without undermining the core principle. A criteria-based approach for exceptional cases of state dissolution and re-establishment of colonial borders is the most pragmatic path forward. This approach would allow the AU to acknowledge the reality of Somaliland’s *de facto* statehood while simultaneously safeguarding the continent against widespread fragmentation.

The criteria for such exceptional recognition could include the following. First, an obligation to restore a boundary existing at independence if the claim is based on the re-establishment of a distinct, internationally recognized colonial boundary that existed before the formation of the failed union. This is the unique legal hook that separates Somaliland from other secessionist movements.

Second, if there is a protracted state failure where the parent state (Somalia) has demonstrated a prolonged and irreversible failure to exercise effective sovereignty and administrative control over the territory for a significant period (e.g., three decades).

Third, if the aspiring state demonstrates a sustained record of peace, stability, democratic governance, and respect for human rights. Somaliland has held multiple successful presidential and parliamentary elections, a stark contrast to the instability in Mogadishu.

Fourth, if the aspiring state formally renounces any irredentist claims on the territory of its neighbours, thereby affirming its commitment to the existing colonial borders it seeks to restore.

The Geopolitical Chessboard

The debate over Somaliland is no longer confined to the halls of the AU. The geopolitical landscape is shifting, and major global powers are increasingly engaging with Hargeisa, driven by strategic interests.

countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates. The US government, for instance, has shown a growing willingness to bypass Mogadishu and engage directly with Hargeisa on security and development matters. Congressional actions and the establishment of a US presence in the capital suggest that external actors are losing patience with the AU’s rigid stance. This external engagement, while beneficial to Somaliland, puts pressure on the AU to either adapt its policy or risk having its norms circumvented by international actors who prioritize stability and strategic access over adherence to a decades-old, arguably flawed, legal doctrine.

A chance to strengthen the AU

The case of Somaliland is a litmus test for the AU’s ability to evolve and adapt its foundational principles to modern realities. It is not a typical secessionist movement; it is the consequence of a failed political union and the restoration of a distinct colonial boundary.

The AU’s rigid adherence to a maximalist interpretation of the Cairo Resolution, while understandable in its goal of preventing fragmentation, ignores the unique legal and historical facts of the Somaliland case. By adopting a nuanced, criteria-based approach, the AU can acknowledge the reality of Somaliland’s *de facto* statehood without opening the feared “Pandora’s Box.”

Recognizing Somaliland as an exceptional case—one that affirms the original colonial boundaries rather than violates them—would strengthen the AU’s credibility, reward stability and democracy, and provide a constructive solution to a long-standing political and legal anomaly on the continent. The continued denial of recognition is not a defence of the *uti possidetis* principle, but a perpetuation of instability and an obstacle to regional integration. It is time for the AU to choose pragmatism over dogma and acknowledge the state that has already built itself.

Dr Wafula Okumu is the Executive Director of The Borders Institute

Criterion	Somaliland’s Evidence	Status
<i>Permanent Population</i>	Estimated population of 5.7 million people.	Meets Criterion
<i>Defined Territory</i>	The internationally recognized borders of the former British Somaliland Protectorate.	Meets Criterion
<i>Government</i>	A stable, functioning, and democratically elected government with effective administrative control over its territory since 1991.	Meets Criterion
<i>Capacity to Enter into Relations</i>	Maintains numerous “government-to-government dealings” with states (e.g., Ethiopia, Taiwan, UK, UAE) and international organizations (e.g., EU), including hosting consulates and liaison offices in Hargeisa.	Meets Criterion (De Facto)

The continued non-recognition of Somaliland is more than a diplomatic slight; it is a policy failure that ignores a stable, democratic reality in favour of a rigid, theoretical principle. The question for the AU is no longer if Somaliland is a state, but whether its unique circumstances justify an exceptional, pragmatic solution that could redefine the future of African sovereignty. *The Flawed Marriage of 1960* Somaliland’s claim to independence is rooted in the argument that its union with Somalia in 1960 was legally flawed from its inception and failed catastrophically in the decades that followed. On June 26, 1960, British Somaliland gained its independence. Five days later, on July 1, it voluntarily united with the newly independent Italian Trust Territory of Somalia to form the Somali Republic. This “come-we-stay” union, as legal scholars like Judge Eugene Cotran described it, was rushed, romantic, and ultimately, legally unsound. The legislative instruments intended to formalize the union were never properly enacted. The Provisional President’s decree unifying the two territories was never converted into law as required by the Constitution. As Judge Cotran noted, the key legal documents—the Union of Somaliland and Somalia Law and the Somalia Act of the Union—were never formally signed by representatives of both territories. A retroactive “Act of Union” was passed in January 1961, but this action arguably

the international legal criteria for statehood and its unique historical claim. *The Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States (1933)*, which sets the standard for statehood, requires four qualifications: a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states. Somaliland meets these criteria in practice, if not in name. Under the declaratory theory of statehood, meeting these factual and objective criteria should be sufficient, regardless of formal recognition by other states. The 1991 British commercial court ruling in *Republic of Somalia v Woodhouse Drake & Carey (Suisse) SA* further supports this pragmatic view, as the court considered the degree, nature, and stability of administrative control as a key factor in determining the existence of a government. However, Somaliland’s most powerful argument is its historical one. Its independence is not an act of secession that seeks to create a new border, but an act of re-establishing the original colonial boundary that existed prior to the failed 1960 union. This directly invokes the spirit of the AU’s own border principle. The AU’s commitment to *uti possidetis* (Latin meaning “as you possess”) is to respect the “borders existing on achievement of independence.” Somaliland achieved independence within its colonial borders on June 26, 1960. Its separation from Somalia is therefore a restoration of a

is codified in Article 4(b) of the AU Constitutive Act. Defenders of this rigid stance argue that recognizing Somaliland would set a dangerous precedent, potentially destabilizing countries with their own internal separatist movements. However, Somaliland counters this “Pandora’s Box” argument by pointing to two key precedents already set by the AU: Eritrea and South Sudan.

Case	Parent State	AU/OAU Stance	Key Distinction
<i>Eritrea</i>	Ethiopia	Recognized	Independence was based on the restoration of a distinct Italian colonial boundary and followed a prolonged war and a referendum.
<i>South Sudan</i>	Sudan	Recognized	Independence was achieved through a negotiated process and a referendum, following a comprehensive peace agreement. Sudan and South Sudan are separated by the 1 January 1956 British colonial boundary.
<i>Somaliland</i>	Somalia	Unrecognized	Independence is based on the restoration of a distinct British colonial boundary and the failure of the parent state. The lack of a negotiated settlement with Somalia is the primary obstacle.

While both Eritrea and South Sudan were ultimately recognized, the key difference for Somaliland is the lack of a negotiated settlement with Somalia. The international community tends to favour the position of the parent state, making Somalia’s assent—or at least a negotiated agreement—a likely prerequisite for full UN and AU

Somaliland’s location on the Gulf of Aden, near the Bab el-Mandeb strait—a critical chokepoint for global shipping—makes it strategically vital. Concerns over counter-terrorism, maritime security, and the competition for influence in the Horn of Africa have led to increased engagement from

(TBI), Nairobi. Kenya. The views expressed in this Op-Ed article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent The Horn Tribute’s editorial policy.

JAMHUURIYADDA SOMALILAND
WASAARADDA MAALIYADA IYO
HORUMARINTA DHAQAALAHA



جمهورية صوماليلاند
وزارة المالية والتنمية
الاقتصادية

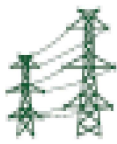
REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET DEPARTMENT

2025 Citizen's Budget Book

Revenue - Donor Grants 2

Current Donor Grants



SESRP: The World Bank is currently financing this project to ensure the Somaliland electricity sector recovery. For this the **annual budget is 228,687,584,090 SLSH**



GW4R: The World Bank is assisting Somaliland to ensure sustainable access and management of groundwater. For this the **annual budget is 11,965,058 SLSH**



BARWAAQO: The World Bank is assisting Somaliland in the sustainable development of its water resources for rural communities. For this the **annual budget is 29,750,000,000 SLSH**



SERP: The World Bank is cooperating with Somaliland to improve its public resource management. For this the **annual budget is 41,209,000,000 SLSH**

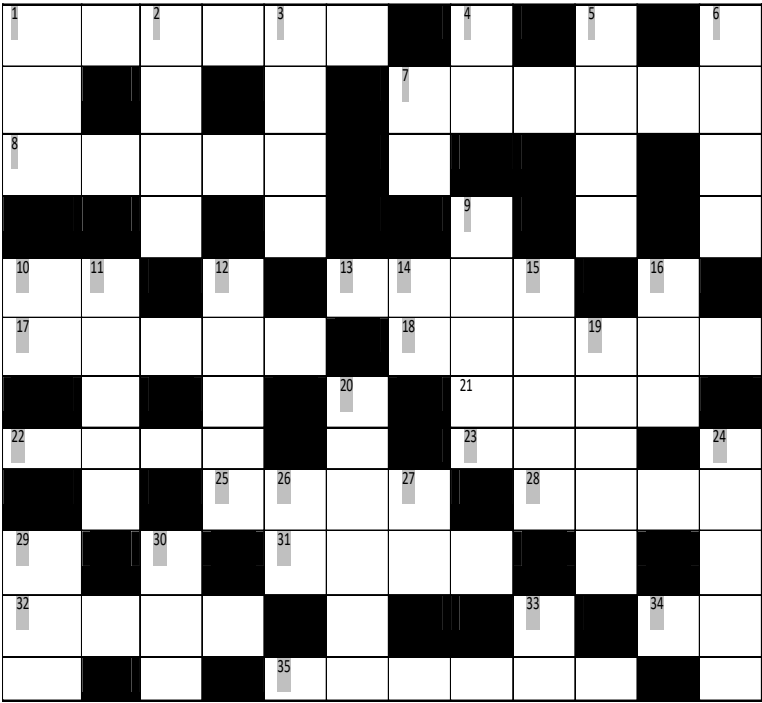
Strategic direction

A large focus of grants in Somaliland is on **ensuring inclusive and sustainable development**. The Government is delighted to see the strategic direction of investments in inclusive and **higher-quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure**. Furthermore, the Government is committed to improving **governance efficiency and effectiveness** through the use of government grants.



THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



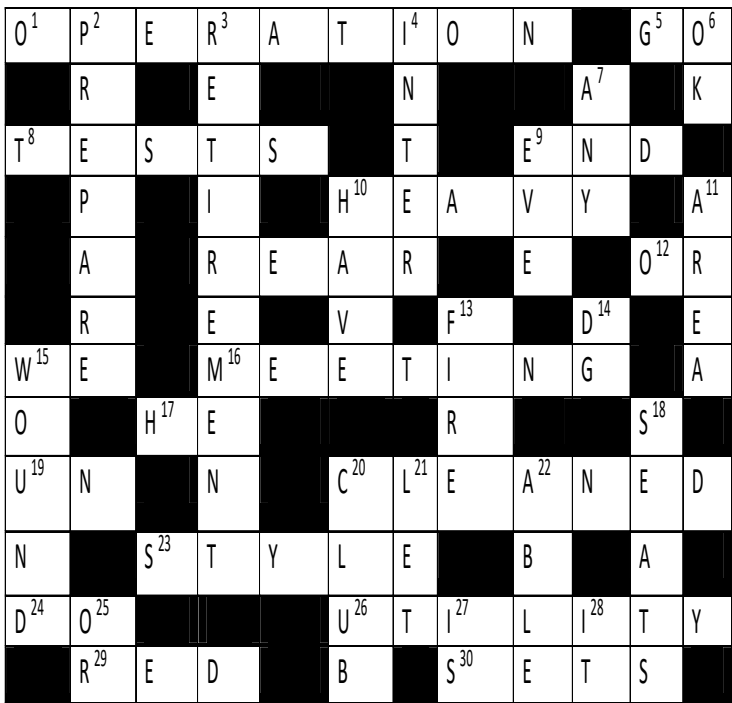
ACROSS

- 1 Reach
7 protected
8 Views
10 Pronoun
13 Currency
17 Diplomat or ambassador
18 marks
21 Comply with
22 Boat hook
23 Drink
25 Soil
28 Examine CT scan
31 Certain
32 Handled second hand
34 Run
35 Issued

DOWN

- 1 Entirety
2 Accommodation or space
3 T-shirt
4 Be there
5 Certainly
6 opposite of east
7 Thus
9 to pay reckoning for
10 Pronoun
11 Representative
12 Hardcover
14 Being as
15 Expectations
16 Key in
19 Change
20 Yearly
24 participate
26 Being as
27 DOCTOR
29 Firearm
30 Latest
33 Be present

Previous Answer



Somaliland is an asset, not a diplomatic problem;.....



security? Does it control its territory? Are its institutions functioning? Has it demonstrated stability over time? For Somaliland, the answer to each question is yes — and has been for three decades. Yet the international community continues to treat it as a complication rather than an asset. This is strategically wasteful. Having spent over four decades in diplomacy and national security, I like to think I can see when states are failing, and when, despite the odds, they are performing. During a recent visit to Hargeisa, I witnessed firsthand what the data already confirms: Somaliland has built functioning institutions, maintained effective governance, and sustained stability in one of the world's most volatile regions. Local leaders spoke with justified pride about what they have achieved without international support or recognition. Their success is measurable, sustained and strategically valuable. Yet the wider world, and especially Western governments, continue to treat Somaliland as though it were a diplomatic puzzle rather than a capable partner, opening up opportunities to others, notably China. Ignoring this success story is actively harmful to regional security and development. The Horn of Africa would clearly benefit if Somaliland were given a seat at the table — in security forums, trade initiatives, and development partnerships — based on what it has achieved. Somaliland offers precisely what the region needs most: effective security governance. Al Shabaab operates freely in southern Somalia, has launched attacks in Kenya, and has attempted infiltration across the region. It has failed completely in Somaliland. For thirty years, Somaliland's security forces have maintained control of borders, disrupted extremist networks, and prevented the governance vacuum that terrorists exploit. This success stems from accountable institutions, community engagement and professional security capacity. The example of Somaliland demonstrates that when governance works, extremism struggles to take root. The country's strategic location amplifies its value. Somaliland controls 850 kilometres of Red Sea coastline at a time when maritime

security in the region has deteriorated sharply. Berbera Port, recently modernized with \$442 million in investment from DP World, offers operational efficiency that rivals or exceeds regional competitors. The World Bank's 2023 Port Performance Index ranked Berbera ahead of Djibouti and Mombasa. Ethiopia, with 115 million people and no coastline, is building a trade corridor to access it. This represents functioning infrastructure serving a regional economy. Economically, Somaliland offers what investors claim to want: stability, predictability, and the rule of law. The population is young and entrepreneurial, with nearly 70 percent under the age of 30. Natural resources remain largely undeveloped, from minerals to fisheries to renewable energy potential, particularly solar and wind. Industrial zones in Hargeisa and Berbera provide modern infrastructure for agro-processing, textiles, and light manufacturing. Private investors and development banks have recognized this. The question is why diplomatic policy lags so far behind commercial reality. The current approach — where Somaliland is quietly engaged but officially marginalized — produces specific harms. Investor uncertainty persists despite solid fundamentals, because diplomatic ambiguity creates perceived risk that does not match actual governance quality. Security cooperation happens sporadically rather than systematically, limiting intelligence sharing and operational coordination that would benefit the entire region. Development funding flows to less effective partners based on diplomatic status rather than delivery capacity or results. Regional initiatives exclude a demonstrably capable contributor. Trade frameworks, security dialogues and development programmes operate as though Somaliland does not exist, weakening their effectiveness. The African Continental Free Trade Area, for instance, would benefit from including a territory with functioning port infrastructure and cross-border trade links, yet Somaliland remains sidelined. Perhaps most damaging, the current policy creates perverse

incentives. Territories that maintain stability receive less attention and support than those that collapse into crisis. This rewards failure and ignores success, exactly the opposite of what effective policy should do. In counter-terrorism especially, we pour billions into contexts where governance has failed, while ignoring places where it works. This approach is strategically incoherent. Engagement does not require resolving sovereignty questions or formal recognition. It requires treating Somaliland according to its actual capabilities: as a territory with effective governance and valuable strategic assets. Concretely, this means formal bilateral development partnerships based on delivery capacity rather than diplomatic status. It means security cooperation agreements that recognize Somaliland's proven counter-terrorism record and border control capability. It means private sector trade and investment frameworks that provide the same certainty offered to comparable jurisdictions. It means development bank access determined by governance quality and project viability, not by political considerations unrelated to institutional capacity. It means including Somaliland in regional forums where it has relevant expertise and contribution such as in maritime security, trade facilitation, counter-terrorism coordination. None of this requires special treatment. It simply requires treating a capable partner normally. The Berbera Port expansion demonstrates what practical engagement achieves. DP World's investment, supported by Ethiopian trade interests and regional development priorities, has created infrastructure that serves the wider Horn. This happened because commercial logic prevailed over diplomatic fiction. The same approach could apply to energy development, industrial zones, fisheries management, security cooperation, and trade policy. In a region where stability is scarce, extremism is real, and economic development is urgently needed, ignoring a proven partner is negligent. Somaliland has maintained peace while Somalia has struggled through repeated crises. It has conducted six peaceful transfers of power, whereas neighbouring states have seen coups and contested elections. It has built institutions that deliver security and services, while others have collapsed. Three decades of evidence demonstrate that Somaliland has the capacity for serious engagement. The question is how

much longer policymakers will allow diplomatic categories to override strategic reality, and what opportunities will be lost, or handed to others while they hesitate.

Somaliland has proven itself an asset. The international community should start acting accordingly. **The Lord Darroch of Kew KCMG is a current member of the House of Lords.**
theeastafican.co.ke

Somaliland Explores Agricultural Technology Partnership with Nigerian Firm FarmEASY



The Minister of Investment and Industrial Development, Hon. Said Mohamed Burale, accompanied by the Director General of the Ministry, Hon. Abdifatah Ismail Ducaale, welcomed a high-level delegation from Nigeria led by Ibrahim Maigari Ahmadu, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of FarmEASY Technologies. FarmEASY Technologies is an innovative agri-tech company that uses digital solutions to boost productivity and incomes for smallholder farmers. The company currently operates in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Rwanda. The meeting, held at the ministry's headquarters in Hargeisa, focused on exploring investment opportunities, technology transfer, and the introduction of modern agricultural solutions tailored to Somaliland's farming communities. Minister Burale highlighted the strategic importance of strengthening bilateral ties between Somaliland and Nigeria, particularly in the areas of investment and

agricultural innovation. Both sides expressed strong interest in establishing a collaborative framework that would enable joint ventures and knowledge-sharing in the agri-tech sector. The Nigerian delegation presented FarmEASY's proven digital platforms that connect smallholder farmers to markets, finance, quality inputs, and extension services — tools that have significantly increased yields and profitability in other African countries. Also present at the meeting was the Director of Investment and Research Departments of the ministry. Speaking after the discussions, Minister Burale described the engagement as "a promising step toward modernizing Somaliland's agriculture through smart technology and private-sector partnership." The two parties agreed to continue technical discussions and explore pilot projects in the near future.