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## Ministry of Finance Postpones GST Tax Implementation as Government Reaches Agreement with Business Fraternity

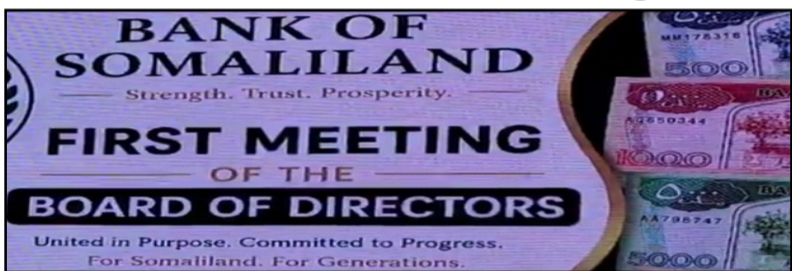


*It is necessary to provide additional time to address raised concerns and complete the remaining work, Minister Hassan said*

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## Bank of Somaliland Board Approves 2026–2028 Strategic Plan



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Board of Directors of the Republic of Somaliland's Bank has officially approved the Bank's Mid-Term Strategic Plan for 2026–2028, marking a

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Mohamoud Walaaleye

In a significant step toward institutional reform, the Republic of Somaliland's Minister of Justice Hon. Yonis Ahmed Yonis successfully wrapped up a high-

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## Somaliland launches establishment of first ever major water desalination project



By M.A. Egge

Somaliland launched the construction of the first ever major seawater desalination project in the country at coastal town and district of Zeyla. In essence it is marking what would

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The Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG) convened the U.S.–

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# Ministry of Finance Postpones.....



By M.A. Egge  
 The Republic of Somaliland's Ministry of Finance has postponed the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) until August 1, 2026, following lengthy discussions with business leaders over concerns surrounding the tax rollout and technical preparations. The decision was announced after a meeting lasting several hours between officials from the Ministry of Finance and representatives of Somaliland's business community. The GST was originally scheduled to come into force on Saturday, July 11, 2026. The Minister of Finance Hon. Abdullahi Hassan said that the delay was necessary after inaccurate information spread in the market that distorted from the agreement previously reached between the government and business representatives. "After considering the recommendations presented by the business committee, we found that

information circulating in the market was different from what had been agreed. This made it necessary to provide additional time to address the concerns and complete the remaining work," Hassan said during a press conference in Hargeisa. The minister praised the role of the business community in Somaliland's development, saying traders were not opposed to government policies but were partners in nation-building. "Business people are among those who have helped build this country. They are not against government or national development; they are indeed contributing to it. We have listened to the concerns of the public and the business community, and we have agreed to postpone the GST implementation until August 1, 2026, so that technical issues can be resolved," he added. The Chairman of the Somaliland Chamber of Commerce, Jamal Aideed, said business leaders had

formally requested the government to delay the GST launch to allow more preparation time. Aideed explained that confusion had emerged due to incorrect information circulating in the market and confirmed that the tax would now be introduced on August 1, 2026. "After detailed discussions and analysis, both sides reached an understanding. The GST sales tax proposal has been significantly streamlined from its original form, and we agreed on the revised approach," Aideed said. "We requested the government to postpone the GST implementation that was scheduled for July 11, and the new date has been set for August 1." The government and business representatives said the postponement period will be used to complete technical preparations, improve communication and public rapport, and ensure a smoother introduction of the GST system.

# Somaliland launches establishment...

indeed be one of the country's most significant investments in water infrastructure to address chronic water shortages. The project was officially inaugurated during a groundbreaking event led by the Minister of Water Resources Development Hon. Mohamed Abdimalik Ahmed, that was also graced by government officials, engineers and local community representatives. Located along Somaliland's Gulf of Aden coastline, the planned desalination facility is expected to convert seawater into potable water, providing a sustainable source of clean drinking water for Zeila and surrounding communities in the district that have long faced severe water scarcity due to recurrent droughts and limited freshwater resources. The initiative forms part of the government's broader strategy to strengthen water security, expand access to safe drinking water and build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Speaking at the ceremony, Hon. Abdimalik said the project represents a long-term investment in Somaliland's development, noting that access to reliable water supplies is essential for public

health, economic growth and sustainable development. He noted that the President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Iirro) had decided that Zeila would host Somaliland's first seawater desalination facility. Minister Ahmed emphasized that the initiative would move swiftly beyond the groundbreaking stage, with construction expected to begin promptly. Once completed, the plant is expected to provide the residents of Zeila with a dependable supply of clean, safe drinking water, helping to address the area's long-standing water challenges. He added that the project forms part of a broader national strategy by the Ministry of Water Development to expand seawater desalination technology to other regions of Somaliland. He pointed out that priorities would be given to communities experiencing chronic water shortages and harsh climatic conditions, with the goal of ensuring sustainable access to clean water across the country. Hon. Abdimalik said the desalination plant is expected to reduce dependence on seasonal water sources and expensive water bowser transportations while

supporting future population growth and economic activity in the western coastal region. Government officials described the project as one of the largest investments in Somaliland's water sector and said it reflects increasing efforts to modernize critical infrastructure through innovative technologies. The Zeila water project comes as Somaliland continues to expand investments in water supply systems, dams, boreholes and climate-resilient infrastructure to improve access to clean water across the country. Further technical details, manner of desalination whether thermal or pressurized such Reversed Osmosis (RO) was not revealed. Similarly, the project's production capacity, construction timeline and associated arrangements, were not disclosed during the groundbreaking ceremony. Once completed the desalination plant is expected to become a key component of Somaliland's long-term water security strategy, providing a dependable freshwater source for coastal communities while supporting regional development initiatives.

# Bank of Somaliland.....

significant milestone in the institution's efforts to strengthen the country's financial sector and support sustainable economic development. The meeting, which was attended by the Governor of the Bank, Abdinasir, the Deputy Governor, Hamse, the Director General, Yasin, and members of the Bank's Board of Directors, culminated in the endorsement of the three-year Strategic Plan, which sets out a comprehensive roadmap focused on enhancing monetary and financial stability, advancing financial sector development, accelerating digital transformation, strengthening institutional capacity, and promoting effective governance across the Bank's operations. The approval reflects the Bank's strategic vision to modernize the financial system by adopting innovative technologies, improving regulatory and supervisory frameworks, and fostering a more resilient and inclusive financial

ecosystem capable of meeting the evolving needs of citizens, businesses, and investors. Speaking on the significance of the decision, the Bank Governor Abdinasir emphasized that the Strategic Plan will guide its priorities and initiatives over the next three years, ensuring greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability while reinforcing confidence in Somaliland's financial sector. The Board's endorsement reaffirms the Bank of Somaliland's commitment to building a modern, resilient, and inclusive financial system that supports sustainable economic growth, financial inclusion, and long-term prosperity in the Republic of Somaliland. Implementation of the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan is expected to commence immediately, with the Bank working closely with government institutions, financial sector stakeholders, development partners, and the private sector to achieve its strategic objectives and strengthen Somaliland's economic future.



# Somaliland Justice.....

level two-day Development Summit in Nairobi today, bringing together key stakeholders to accelerate the transformation of Somaliland's justice system. The summit, led by Somaliland's Minister of Justice, convened senior officials including the Somaliland Ambassador to Kenya, Ambassador Dr Mohamed Abdullahi Omer, directors-general and heads of all major justice sector institutions, alongside representatives from partner nations and prominent international organizations. Over the intensive two days, participants conducted a thorough review of the landmark resolutions adopted during the wider Somaliland Justice Conference previously organized by the Ministry. Deliberations centered on practical strategies to deepen international cooperation, unlock technical and financial support, and fast-track the modernization of courts, prosecution services, correctional facilities, and legal aid mechanisms across Somaliland. Officials emphasized the need to



elevate service delivery standards, enhance judicial independence, digitize case management, and build capacity among justice professionals to meet the demands of a growing, aspiring nation. The Nairobi gathering is expected to yield concrete action plans and new partnership frameworks that will bolster Somaliland's ongoing efforts to establish a transparent, efficient, and accessible justice system — a cornerstone for lasting peace, economic development, and democratic governance in the Horn of Africa.

# "Recognition Belongs to All....."

has said that the pursuit of international recognition for Somaliland is a national cause shared by all Somalilanders and should not be claimed by any individual, political party, or group. Speaking after returning to Somaliland on Wednesday, Mohamed Kahin Ahmed stressed that the quest for recognition transcends political differences and represents a collective national aspiration.

He said Somaliland would warmly welcome recognition from any country willing to extend it, adding that the nation would gladly accept such recognition whenever it comes.

"We will accept recognition from whoever is willing to recognize us," he said.

"Recognition is a national cause that belongs to all of us. It is not owned by the government, Kaah, KULMIYE, or Waddani. We all share responsibility for pursuing and achieving recognition together", he



added.

The KULMIYE chairman also noted that Somaliland does not expect recognition from countries it considers hostile to its interests.

Calling for national unity, Mohamed Kahin Ahmed urged political parties and the wider public not to politicize the recognition issue or use it to advance partisan agendas. He emphasized that international

recognition would be a victory for the entire nation rather than for any single leader, party, or administration.

"Recognition is a national achievement that belongs to all Somalilanders," he said, urging citizens and political stakeholders to stand together in defending and advancing the cause on the international stage.

# Somaliland to Rehabilitate Key Burao–Oog.....

has announced plans to begin the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the vital Burao–Oog highway following a two-day inspection tour of Somaliland's eastern regions.

Leading a delegation, the Director met with regional authorities in Togdeer and Saraar to discuss infrastructure priorities and assess the condition of one of the country's most important transport corridors. As part of the visit, the delegation conducted an on-site inspection of the Burao–Oog road, which has deteriorated significantly and requires extensive reconstruction and maintenance. The Director received technical briefings from regional officials and engineers carrying out assessments of the road's condition.

Speaking during the tour, Mohamed



Farah Abdi confirmed that the Somaliland Road Development Agency is preparing to launch rehabilitation works on the highway. He urged regional administrations and communities living along the route to cooperate fully by removing any obstacles that could delay or

hinder the implementation of the project.

The delegation also met with residents of the Burao valley and Beer areas, where recurring flooding has repeatedly damaged sections of the road. Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between local communities, engineers, and the Road Development Agency to develop a lasting solution to the flooding problem and ensure the timely completion of the road project.

The planned rehabilitation of the Burao–Oog highway is expected to improve transport, enhance connectivity between eastern and central Somaliland, and support trade and economic activity across the Horn region.

# SL-SAG-PRESS RELEASE: U.S.–Somaliland.....

Somaliland Strategic Partnership Summit on June 25, 2026, at The Westin Tysons Corner, drawing policymakers, scholars, security professionals, business and faith leaders, and members of the Somaliland diaspora. At its close, participants adopted a Summit Conclusion, a Summit Declaration, and a Call to Action, urging the United States to extend formal recognition to the Republic of Somaliland. The day was held under the theme "Recognition Restored: Building the U.S.–Somaliland Strategic Partnership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

Speakers traced Somaliland's history, sovereignty, and democratic record; assessed its strategic position on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, including a virtual expert panel with Dr. Jamal Ali Hussein, Mohamed Yasin Olad, and Rageh Omaar; and examined the legal path to recognition presented by the

Somaliland Recognition Institute, with Charles Kotuby in person and Ambassador David Carden by video. Afternoon sessions addressed partnership opportunities — the Berbera Corridor, rare-earth and critical minerals, and strategic resource partnerships — and a dedicated session led by Rabbi Michael Freund and Joel Rubin on advancing the U.S.–Somaliland partnership, building on the State of Israel's recognition of Somaliland. The adopted Declaration states that recognition of Somaliland would be "restored, not created" — the restoration of a sovereignty recognized by more than thirty-five states in 1960 — and calls on the President, the Congress, and the Government of the United States to extend formal recognition and open full diplomatic relations. It frames recognition as a strategic investment rather than a concession, citing access to the deep-water Port

of Berbera and Somaliland's counterterrorism and maritime-security record.

The 13-point Call to Action commits participants to mount a robust recognition campaign; to engage think tanks, allied organizations, and political action groups to lobby Washington; to convene a larger Summit each year; to stand up a permanent U.S.–Somaliland working group; and to advance trade, the Berbera Corridor, the bilateral U.S.–Somaliland partnership, and sustained diaspora advocacy, with measurable follow-up.

About SL-SAG: The Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group, based in Ashburn, Virginia, advances recognition of the Republic of Somaliland and a strategic partnership between Somaliland and the United States.

# Somaliland's Ruling Party.....



## Goth Mohamed

Hirsi Ali H. Hassan, the Chairman of Somaliland's ruling political party, WADDANI, has convened a high-level consultative and information-sharing meeting with a distinguished group of Somaliland academics and professionals who are alumni of various universities across India.

The closed-door session, held in the capital, underscores the party's commitment to leveraging the vast intellectual capital of the diaspora returnees—particularly those specializing in critical fields such as medicine, engineering, information technology, business administration, and public policy—to drive the nation's ongoing development agenda.

## Strengthening Governance Through Expertise

According to party sources, the meeting centered on integrating the technical expertise of these Indian-educated elites into the government's existing policy frameworks. As the ruling party, WADDANI is focused on translating its electoral mandate into tangible results, and Chairman Hassan emphasized that these professionals represent a "brain trust" whose exposure to India's rapidly advancing economy and technological ecosystems could be instrumental in accelerating Somaliland's journey toward self-reliance, economic diversification, and improved public service delivery.

Discussions specifically addressed how to modernize the national healthcare system, upgrade information technology infrastructure, and revise educational curricula to align with global labor market demands. The Chairman reiterated that the administration is committed to moving beyond rhetoric and actively embedding skilled nationals into state institutions.

## A Strategic Shift from Campaigning to Governing

Having secured leadership, the WADDANI administration is now under pressure to deliver on its campaign promises. This meeting signals a deliberate shift from electoral politics to performance-driven governance. Political analysts view the engagement as a clear signal that the ruling party intends to build a technocratic, merit-based

administrative culture, reducing reliance on traditional patronage networks and instead prioritizing competence and innovation.

Chairman Hassan framed the session as part of a broader national dialogue, stating that Somaliland's quest for international recognition and economic takeoff depends heavily on how effectively it utilizes its homegrown talent. He called on the intellectuals to move beyond passive observation and become active partners in co-authoring the country's next phase of development.

Tapping into the Indian Alumni Network

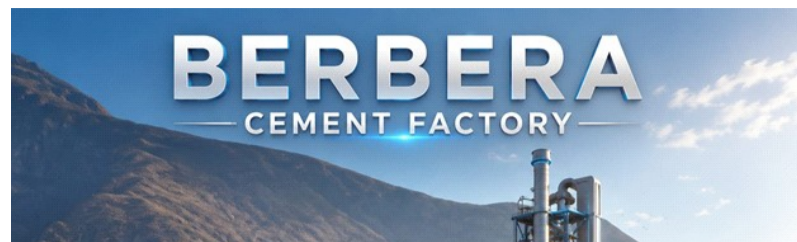
India has long been a premier destination for Somalilanders seeking affordable, high-quality tertiary education. Over the decades, thousands have graduated from Indian institutions in fields that are often critically undersupplied in the Horn of Africa. However, many of these highly qualified individuals have historically faced underemployment or have been lost to brain drain. During the meeting, the alumni voiced their expectations for structured government programs that would absorb their skills, particularly in public health, urban planning, and digital governance.

## Formation of a Presidential Advisory Council

Sources familiar with the discussions revealed that the gathering concluded with a mutual agreement to formalize a standing advisory council composed of these Indian-educated experts. This proposed body would function as a non-partisan think-tank attached to the presidency, providing actionable, data-driven insights on economic resilience, foreign direct investment, and infrastructure megaprojects.

In his closing remarks, Chairman Hirsi Ali H. Hassan reaffirmed the ruling party's unwavering commitment to transparent and inclusive governance. He assured the professionals that their recommendations would not gather dust but would be fast-tracked into actionable executive policies, reinforcing the administration's pledge to build a peaceful, prosperous, and internationally recognized Somaliland—a vision now being shaped not just by politicians, but by the brightest minds the nation has produced.

# Berbera Cement Factory: The Foundation of Somaliland's Industrial Future



By Engineer Ahmed Abdi Abdullahi Cybersecurity Director and Expert | Representative of the Somaliland Waddani Party (Governing Party) in Minnesota, USA

For decades, the abandoned Berbera Cement Factory has stood as a silent reminder of Somaliland's untapped industrial potential. Once envisioned as a cornerstone of economic development, it has remained dormant while Somaliland has relied almost entirely on imported cement to build its homes, schools, hospitals, roads, ports, and cities.

Today, Somaliland has an opportunity that previous generations could only imagine. Berbera has evolved into one of the Horn of Africa's most strategic ports. The Berbera Corridor is opening trade with Ethiopia and the wider region. Construction is accelerating across Somaliland and Somalia, and demand for cement continues to rise. Yet nearly every bag of cement used in this growth is imported.

This is more than an economic paradox, it is a missed opportunity. With an estimated investment of around **US\$100 million**, Somaliland can transform the Berbera Cement Factory into a modern integrated cement plant capable of producing approximately **one million tons annually**. Such a project would not simply restart an old factory; it would lay the foundation for Somaliland's industrial future.

## Building Wealth Instead of Importing It

Every nation that has successfully industrialized has learned one essential lesson: lasting prosperity comes from production, not merely consuming.

Somaliland is fortunate to possess abundant limestone deposits suitable for cement production, a strategic deep-water port, improving transport infrastructure, and access to growing regional markets. These are advantages many countries spend decades trying to create. Somaliland already has them.

Yet every year, millions of dollars leave the country to purchase cement manufactured elsewhere. Those imports create jobs abroad, generate tax revenues for foreign governments, and strengthen industries outside Somaliland. Imagine if that value remained at home.

A modern cement industry would keep wealth circulating within the national economy. It would support local businesses, strengthen the Somaliland Shilling through

reduced import dependence, generate government revenue, and create a manufacturing base capable of serving both domestic and regional markets.

## A Catalyst for Economic Transformation

The true value of a cement factory extends far beyond cement itself. Large-scale industrial projects create ecosystems.

A modern Berbera Cement Factory would stimulate investment in mining, engineering, transportation, logistics, equipment maintenance, construction, packaging, laboratory services, financial institutions, vocational education, and manufacturing. It would encourage entrepreneurs to establish businesses that support industrial production while creating opportunities for thousands of Somalilanders.

Direct employment at the factory would be only the beginning.

Thousands more jobs would emerge throughout the supply chain, from quarry workers and truck drivers to engineers, accountants, mechanics, electricians, suppliers, and service providers.

The economic multiplier would reach nearly every sector of the economy.

For Somaliland's young population, this represents more than employment. It represents careers, skills development, and hope.

## Berbera: The Industrial Gateway of the Horn of Africa

Berbera's future should not be limited to being a transit port.

It should become an industrial city. The combination of a world-class port, expanding logistics infrastructure, access to regional markets, and modern manufacturing creates an opportunity that few cities in East Africa possess.

A successful cement industry would attract complementary industries, including steel fabrication, precast concrete manufacturing, ceramics, construction materials, industrial packaging, and engineering services.

Industrial development attracts additional industrial development. That is how economic clusters are created.

Instead of exporting raw opportunities, Berbera can export finished products manufactured by Somaliland's own workforce.

## Moving Beyond Ownership Disputes

The greatest obstacle to reviving the Berbera Cement Factory is not engineering.

It is politics.

For years, debates over ownership, land rights, historical claims, and competing interests have delayed meaningful progress. These issues deserve to be addressed fairly and transparently—but they should not prevent Somaliland from pursuing a project that serves the national interest.

Rather than allowing the factory to become another source of division, Somaliland should make it a symbol of national unity.

One possible approach would be a public-private ownership model in which the Government of Somaliland retains a substantial strategic stake in recognition of its responsibility for the land, limestone reserves, quarry rights, and public infrastructure.

Somaliland businesses, institutional investors, members of the diaspora, and ordinary citizens could participate through a unified investment vehicle, giving the public a direct ownership interest in one of the country's most important industrial assets. International strategic partners could provide technology, operational expertise, and additional capital while remaining minority investors.

Such a model would ensure that control remains rooted in Somaliland while encouraging broad participation from across society.

Most importantly, it would help move the conversation away from clan politics and toward national development.

The Berbera Cement Factory should belong to the future of Somaliland—not to the divisions of its past.

## A National Investment

The proposed investment of approximately US\$100 million may seem ambitious.

In reality, the greater risk is failing to invest.

Every year of delay means more imported cement, more foreign currency leaving the economy, more jobs created elsewhere, and more opportunities postponed.

Industrial projects are never inexpensive.

Neither is economic stagnation. History shows that nations willing to invest in productive industries create stronger economies, greater resilience, and higher living standards for future generations.

Somaliland should aspire to do the same.

## The Time Is Now

Somaliland has demonstrated remarkable resilience, stability, and determination despite extraordinary challenges. The next chapter should be defined not only by peace and democratic governance but also by industrial growth and economic self-reliance.

The Berbera Cement Factory offers

# Turkey's Military Shift Raises Alarm: Why Somaliland Must Prepare for a New Strategic Reality



Reports emerging on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2026, that Turkish F-16 fighter jets carried out airstrikes near the city of Baidoa mark a development that cannot be ignored. The operation signals what appears to be a new phase in Turkey's engagement in the Horn of Africa—one in which military power is being used more openly to advance strategic interests.

Although Baidoa lies within Somalia and outside Somaliland's borders, the implications extend far beyond the immediate location of the strikes. When viewed alongside the strong rhetoric that has repeatedly emerged from Turkish leaders following the Somaliland-Israel understanding in December 2025, as well as Turkey's continuing activities in Somalia, today's events raise important questions about the future security environment facing Somaliland.

According to Dr. Abdiweli Abdilahi Sufi, the former Minister of Technology and a member of the opposition Kulmiye Party, Somaliland must carefully assess the significance of these developments. He argues that the latest military action should not be seen as an isolated event, but rather as part of a broader strategic posture that could have consequences for the wider region.

For years, Turkey has presented its policy in the Horn of Africa as one centered on Islamic solidarity, humanitarian assistance, diplomatic engagement, and regional cooperation. Today's reported military operation, however, is viewed by the author as evidence that Ankara has moved beyond that narrative and is increasingly willing to project hard power in pursuit of

its regional objectives.

From this perspective, the reported strikes near Baidoa serve as a warning that the Horn region's strategic landscape is changing. The concern is not limited to a single military operation but to the possibility of a broader security challenge that Somaliland may eventually have to confront.

These developments, the author argues, require Somaliland to adopt a long-term strategy based on vigilance, military readiness, national resilience, and the protection of its strategic interests. Preparing for future challenges means strengthening defensive capabilities, fostering national unity, and ensuring that institutions are equipped to respond to an evolving regional security environment.

The responsibility for such preparation, he contends, does not rest solely with the government. Political parties, the media, academics, intellectuals, traditional leaders, and every sector of society have a role to play in building a unified national response. Only through collective awareness and coordinated planning, he argues, can Somaliland effectively prepare for the strategic and security risks that may emerge from Turkey's evolving policies in the Horn of Africa. Whether today's reported military action represents the beginning of a lasting shift or a single episode, the author concludes that Somaliland cannot afford complacency. The changing regional landscape demands careful observation, strategic planning, and national preparedness in the face of an increasingly uncertain future.

an opportunity to diversify the economy, strengthen domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependence, create thousands of jobs, attract investment, and position Berbera as a leading industrial and logistics hub for the Horn of Africa. Future generations will not ask whether the opportunity existed.

They will ask whether we had the

vision and courage to seize it. The limestone is already beneath our feet.

The port is already open to the world. The market is already waiting. The investment can be found. What Somaliland needs now is the collective will to build—not just a cement factory, but the industrial foundation of a stronger, more prosperous nation.

# SOMALILAND STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP · SL-SAG- Summit Conclusion, Declaration & Call to Action

*This document records the conclusions reached at the U.S.–Somaliland Strategic Partnership Summit, sets forth the Declaration adopted by its participants, and issues the Call to Action to which they have committed. It is drawn directly from the proceedings of the day — the historical and legal case for recognition, the strategic assessment of Somaliland's position in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the bilateral U.S.–Somaliland partnership, and the concrete opportunities for trade, security, education, and development that the Summit examined.*

## Part I Summit Conclusion

### A Synthesis of the Day's Proceedings

On June 25, 2026, supporters of the Republic of Somaliland — policy analysts, scholars, security professionals, business and faith leaders, and members of the diaspora — convened at The Westin Tysons Corner in Falls Church, Virginia, under the auspices of the Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group. They came to answer a single question with new urgency: how the United States and Somaliland, together with the State of Israel, should build a strategic partnership equal to a changed world. The Summit's deliberations converged on a clear conclusion. The case for recognition is no longer merely a matter of historical justice; it is a matter of present strategic interest for the United States — and the moment to act is now.

#### 1. Who Is Somaliland — The Historical and Democratic Foundation

In its opening session, the Summit established that Somaliland's claim rests on documented facts. British Somaliland attained sovereign independence on June 26, 1960, and was recognized by more than thirty-five countries before voluntarily entering a union with the former Italian Somaliland, which was never perfected in law. The restoration of Somaliland's sovereignty in 1991 returned it to its internationally recognized 1960 borders. In the thirty-five years since, Somaliland has built a constitutional government, held repeated competitive elections, peacefully transferred power, established an independent currency, and maintained durable internal security — achievements presented by Dr. Ali Duale and the Session I panel, moderated by Safia Hashi, which included Anab Ali and Ayan Ismail. The panel discussed the democratic process and the role of women. Ayan Ismail, a candidate for parliament in Somaliland, addressed the challenges women face in participating in the political process.

#### 2. Why Somaliland Matters Now — The Strategic Imperative

Across both parts of its second

session, the Summit reached an unambiguous strategic assessment. A presentation by Fuad Ismail made the case in the first part. Somaliland sits astride one of the world's most consequential maritime corridors — the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the approaches to the Bab el-Mandeb — at a moment when freedom of navigation can no longer be taken for granted, and the security of global trade is contested. The deep-water Port of Berbera is a strategic gateway; Somaliland's counterterrorism and maritime-security record is proven; and the contest for influence in the Horn of Africa is already underway. In the second part, moderated by Burhan Adam, the distinguished panel of Dr. Jamal Ali Hussein, Mohamed Yasin Olad, and Rageh Omaar — a highlight of the Summit — brought exceptional depth and rigor to this assessment, concluding that an unrecognized, unanchored Somaliland is a strategic liability the West cannot afford, while a recognized, partnered Somaliland is an asset of the first order.

3. The U.S.–Somaliland Partnership  
A dedicated session led by Rabbi Michael Freund and Joel Rubin focused on building upon the State of Israel's recent recognition of the Republic of Somaliland. The summit called for exploring mutually beneficial opportunities and advancing a U.S.–Somaliland partnership grounded in stronger diplomatic and economic ties, expanded business-to-business engagement, and a shared strategic vision for security and stability in the Red Sea region.

#### 4. What Opportunities Exist — The Partnership Agenda

In its third session, led by Dr. Osman Shiekh Ahmed and Bob Marro, the Summit turned to the concrete agenda of mutual benefit. Participants identified trade and investment through the Berbera Corridor; rare-earth minerals, energy, and critical minerals cooperation; strategic resource partnerships; cross-sector economic cooperation; and diplomatic and interfaith partnership as the pillars of a durable U.S.–Somaliland relationship. The guiding question throughout was practical and reciprocal: what is in it for Somaliland, for the United States, and for international partners alike. The Washington lobbying keynote by Dr. Saad Sheik Osman Noor, Somaliland's former U.S. representative, and Steven Goodman's account of a recent visit to Somaliland grounded that agenda in the realities of advocacy and engagement.

5. The Legal and Institutional Case  
The Summit heard from the Somaliland Recognition Institute, presented by Charles Kotuby and joined by Ambassador David Carden, which established the legal framework enabling international

recognition. Additionally, Badri Jimale traced the origins of the e-visa regime imposed by Somalia on travelers bound for Somaliland, and the real harm it does — an attempt by Mogadishu to assert control over entry into a territory it does not govern, sowing confusion for visitors and investors and undercutting Somaliland's ability to manage its own borders. Set against Somaliland's functioning institutions and capacity to conduct its own affairs, the contrast made the point on its own: Somaliland is not a proposition on paper, but a working state, and the e-visa imposition is a reminder of why recognition matters in practice.

6. The Human Foundation — Education and the Next Generation  
Through the impeccable story of the Abaarso School and its impact, presented by its founder, Jonathan Starr, from a high school in Somaliland to student admissions to the world's leading universities and higher education institutions, and a presentation on youth skill development by Qania Ismail, the Summit underscored that Somaliland's greatest asset is its people. A generation is being educated and prepared to lead, and the partnership the Summit envisions must invest in that human foundation and development.

#### 7. The Strategic Moment — Why Today, Not Tomorrow

In the Strategy Moment, through the impressive panel of Dr. Kayse Farah, Yasin Abdi, and Abdirazik Jama, moderated by Burhan Adam, the Summit confronted the question of timing directly. Participants concluded that a narrowing window for first-mover advantage now exists; that the United States must secure its influence before strategic competitors commit irreversibly; that recognition aligns with current U.S. strategic priorities; and that the costs and risks of continued delay are mounting. The diaspora's momentum must now be converted into policy outcomes through durable, institution-to-institution ties. The conclusion of the day was therefore not a request for sympathy, but a summons to action.

## Part II Summit Declaration

*Adopted by the Participants · June 25, 2026*

We, the participants in the U.S.–Somaliland Strategic Partnership Summit, gathered by the Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group in Falls Church, Virginia, on the twenty-fifth day of June, 2026 — having weighed the historical record, the legal foundation, the democratic achievement, the partnership now opening with Israel and the United States, and the strategic necessity of recognition — adopt this Declaration:

**Recalling** that Somaliland won its full independence from the United Kingdom on June 26, 1960, within borders drawn by international treaty,



and was recognized by more than thirty-five nations — the United States among them — before it entered a union with Somalia that was never lawfully ratified;

**Affirming** that the restoration of Somaliland's independence in 1991 returned a sovereign people to borders the world already knew, and that for thirty-five years Somaliland has met every test of statehood — a settled population, a defined territory, a working government, and the capacity to deal with other nations;

**Recognizing** that Somaliland has built and held together, without recognition and without much outside help, a constitutional democracy with competitive elections, peaceful transfers of power, its own currency, professional security forces, a free press, and protection for human rights that are rare in its neighborhood;

**Mindful** that Somaliland stands at a place of real strategic weight — on the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the approaches to the Bab el-Mandeb — at a moment when freedom of navigation and the safety of global trade have become vital concerns for the United States and every maritime nation;

**Welcoming** the historic recognition of the Republic of Somaliland by the State of Israel, a milestone that affirms Somaliland's standing among nations and opens the way for others to follow;

**Resolved** to promote and advance a strong and enduring U.S.–Somaliland partnership — a framework for diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation in the service of regional stability and shared prosperity;

**Noting** the legal groundwork for recognition laid by the Somaliland Recognition Institute, and the proven record against terrorism and at sea that makes Somaliland a partner of the first order;

**Convinced** that the window of opportunity is narrowing, and that the price of further delay — strategic, economic, and moral — grows heavier with every passing month; Now, therefore, we declare:

1. **Recognition restored, not created.** Recognizing the Republic of Somaliland means restoring the sovereignty that the

world already acknowledged in 1960. It is not secession, and it sets no precedent for instability. The legal case is finished; what is left is the will to act on it.

2. **We call on the United States to recognize Somaliland now.** We ask the President, the Congress, and the Government of the United States to extend formal diplomatic recognition to the Republic of Somaliland without further delay, and to open full diplomatic relations between our two nations.

3. **Recognition serves American interests.** This is not a favor to Somaliland. It is a sound investment for the United States — securing access to the Port of Berbera, anchoring a dependable partner along a contested coastline, strengthening counterterrorism and maritime security, and denying an easy advantage to America's competitors in the Horn of Africa.

4. **We affirm the U.S.–Somaliland partnership.** We welcome Israel's recognition and commit to deepening the U.S.–Somaliland partnership in diplomacy, commerce, security, and direct business ties.

5. **Partnership in every domain.** We commit to a relationship that spans trade and investment through the Berbera Corridor, energy and critical minerals, maritime security cooperation, technology, education, and health — all built for lasting, mutual benefit.

6. **The democratic record is the qualification.** Somaliland has earned recognition by what it has done: peace built by its own people, elections the world can trust, power handed over without bloodshed, and a generation raised to lead. We place that record before the world as the answer to every doubt.

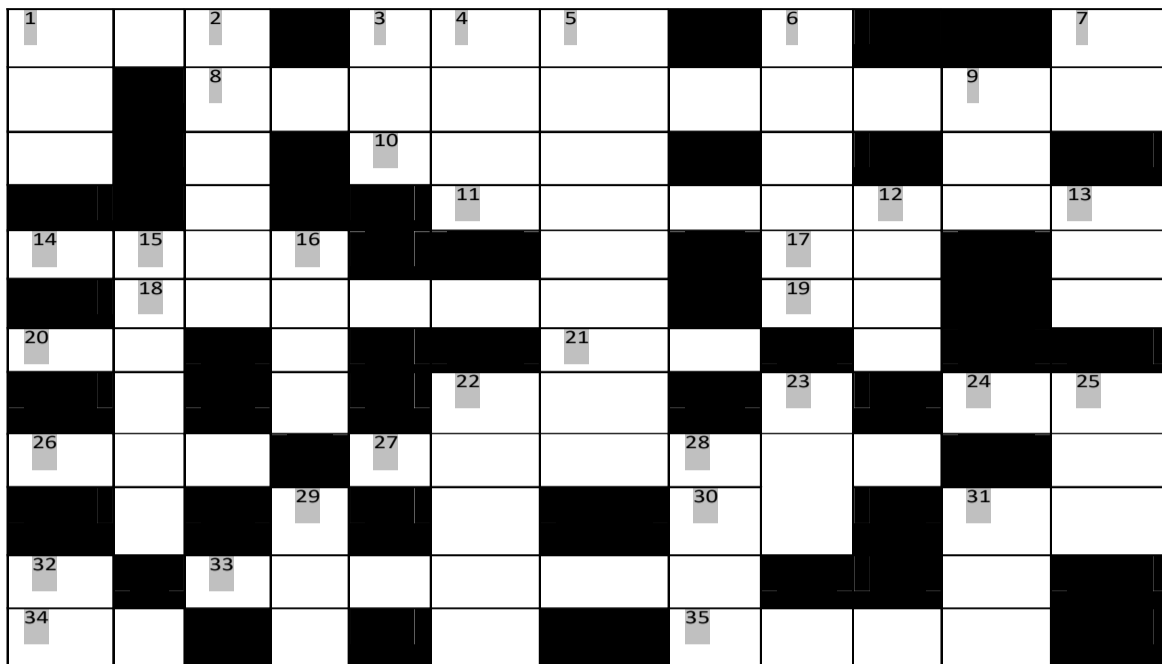
7. **The moment is now.** The time to engage is today, not tomorrow. First-mover advantage is real, and it does not wait. History will remember those who saw the moment — and those who let it slip away.

**Adopted by the participants of the U.S.–Somaliland Strategic Partnership Summit, at The Westin Tysons Corner, Falls Church, Virginia, this twenty-fifth**

**Continue on Page 7**

# THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



**DOWN**

- 1 question.
- 2 confirm.
- 3 shed tears
- 4 vicinity
- 5 travelers
- 6 increasing
- 7 U'S
- 9 Have a meal
- 12 Almost immediately
- 13 Sun shine
- 15 Nearby
- 16 Simple
- 22 brain power
- 23 individual
- 25 Perceive or look
- 28 possessive pronoun
- 29 Carpet
- 31 double or single bed
- 32 Negative or nope

**ACROSS**

- 1be present.
- 3 crowns head wear
- 8 storylines.
- 10 Yeah
- 11 Support
- 14 Concern assist
- 17 Negative
- 18 Cause
- 19 Travel
- 22 be present
- 24 Remains
- 26 Furthermore
- 27 Symbols
- 30 United Nations in short forms
- 31 Be there
- 34 Atop
- 35 Stated

## Previous Answer



### National Planning Minister Chairs Third Quarterly Meeting of Somaliland Development Fund Steering Committee



By Goth Mohamed Goth  
 HARGEISA – July 8, 2026 – The Minister of National Planning and Development, Ms. Kaltun Sheikh Hassan Abdi, presided over the third quarterly meeting of the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) Joint Steering Committee (JSC) today. The high-level gathering was held at the Minister's office and attended by the Director General of the Ministry and senior officials from the SDF Secretariat. Representatives from donor partner countries participated remotely via video conference. Discussions during the meeting focused on assessing the progress of SDF-funded projects, identifying implementation challenges, and outlining measures to expedite delivery. The committee emphasized the need to ensure that all projects are completed within their designated timelines and yield the anticipated developmental impact. Members also engaged in extensive dialogue on deepening collaborative ties between the Somaliland government and its

international partners. They reaffirmed the critical importance of sustained coordination, operational efficiency, financial accountability, and accelerated execution of projects that align with the nation's strategic development priorities. The Joint Steering Committee comprises representatives from the Government of Somaliland and key donor partners, including the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, and the Netherlands. The committee is chaired by the Minister of National Planning and Development. The Somaliland Development Fund is a multi-donor pooled funding mechanism that supports the implementation of priority initiatives under the National Development Plan (NDP III). In its third phase, SDF III places particular emphasis on building community resilience to climate change, expanding economic infrastructure and essential services, generating livelihood opportunities, raising household incomes, and reducing poverty—all with the goal of fostering inclusive and sustainable growth across the country.

### UK Launches Advanced Maritime Security Training for Somaliland Coast Guard Officers

**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

The Government of the United Kingdom has launched a specialized training program for officers of the Somaliland Coast Guard and Naval Forces, reinforcing its commitment to supporting maritime security and institutional capacity-building in Somaliland. The training program has been jointly organized by the UK Government Office in Hargeisa and the Command of the Somaliland Coast Guard and Naval Forces. It forms part of a broader series of initiatives designed to strengthen the operational capabilities, professional knowledge, and technical skills of Somaliland's maritime security personnel. The program focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of the Coast Guard in safeguarding Somaliland's extensive coastline, improving maritime security, and



equipping officers with the expertise needed to address emerging security challenges in territorial waters. Officials say the initiative reflects the continued partnership between the United Kingdom and Somaliland in promoting regional stability, strengthening security institutions, and supporting efforts to protect maritime resources and ensure the safety of coastal communities. The training is expected to further enhance the readiness and professionalism of the Somaliland Coast Guard and Naval Forces as they carry out their mandate of securing the country's maritime domain.

# The Somaliland Test: Recognition, Political Reality, and International Order

Can a political entity remain outside the community of recognized states for more than three decades despite demonstrating many of the practical attributes of statehood?

For Somaliland, this question has shaped its international existence since 1991. Yet it also exposes a broader challenge within the contemporary international order. While international law has developed an extensive body of doctrine governing sovereignty, territorial integrity, and statehood, it offers remarkably little guidance on a different question: when should an enduring political reality be reflected in diplomatic recognition? Recognition is commonly portrayed as the natural consequence of objective legal criteria. In practice, however, it has always reflected an interaction between law and politics. Strategic interests, regional stability, historical precedent, and geopolitical calculation all influence recognition decisions. States remain free to determine whom they recognize, and no international institution can compel them to act otherwise.

This political discretion is both inevitable and legitimate. Yet it cannot remain indefinitely detached from political reality without raising broader questions about the coherence of the international system itself.

The legitimacy of international order depends not only upon preserving legal continuity but also upon ensuring that legal principles continue to correspond with the realities they are intended to regulate. When a political entity exercises the essential functions of government consistently over an extended period while continuing to be treated as merely provisional, the burden of explanation gradually shifts. The question is no longer simply why recognition should occur, but why it continues to be withheld.

Few contemporary cases illustrate this dilemma more clearly than Somaliland.

For more than three decades, Somaliland has maintained effective territorial administration, functioning public institutions, independent security forces, competitive elections, its own currency, and the practical capacity to engage internationally in trade, security, and regional cooperation. During the same period, it has established a reputation for relative political stability within one of the world's most strategically significant and politically volatile regions.

Despite this record, it remains largely absent from the formal diplomatic architecture of international society.

Most analyses explain this paradox through debates over self-determination, territorial integrity,



African precedent, or the legal consequences of the 1960 union with Somalia. These debates remain important, but they share a common assumption: that the central question is whether Somaliland deserves recognition. This article proceeds from a different premise.

Rather than asking whether Somaliland should be recognized, it asks whether the contemporary international system possesses a coherent standard for recognizing long-standing de facto states. Current practice suggests that it does not.

Some internationally recognized states exercise only limited authority across significant parts of their territory, while other political entities have demonstrated decades of effective governance, institutional continuity, and growing regional

relevance without achieving widespread diplomatic recognition. The resulting divergence between political reality and diplomatic practice has become increasingly difficult to justify.

This article does not argue that every unrecognized entity should become an independent state, nor that recognition should follow every claim to self-government. Its argument is considerably narrower. It contends that Somaliland represents an exceptional case. After more than three decades of institutional durability, historical continuity, effective governance, and increasing strategic relevance, continued non-recognition no longer appears to be merely an exercise in diplomatic caution. It raises a more fundamental question about whether the principles

To be continue next week

## TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE



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## SOMALILAND STRATEGIC ....

day of June, two thousand twenty-six.

Adopted and affirmed on behalf of the participants by the Chairwoman of the Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group:

**Demam Rageh**  
Chairwoman, Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG)  
Date: 25 June 202

### Part III Call to Action

#### Concrete Commitments and Next Steps

A declaration is only as good as what follows it. The participants in the U.S.–Somaliland Strategic Partnership Summit commit to turning the words of this gathering into action — through the commitments below, each with an owner, a measure, and a deadline to be set as work begins.

- 1. Adopt a shared, action-oriented roadmap.** Agree on a single plan that aligns the diaspora, SL-SAG, and our partner institutions around one set of objectives and milestones, so everyone is pulling in the same direction.
- 2. Build and run a robust strategy to secure recognition.** Design and execute a comprehensive, well-resourced campaign to win formal U.S. recognition of Somaliland — with clear targets, message discipline, assigned leads, a realistic timeline, and the funding to sustain it from this Summit through to the day recognition is achieved. Coordinate with the Somaliland Government and its representative in the U.S.
- 3. Engage think tanks, allied organizations, and political action groups.** Bring research institutions, supportive organizations and entities, and political action committees into a coordinated effort to lobby the Administration and the Congress for U.S. recognition — commissioning credible analysis, building coalitions, and carrying the case directly into the rooms where policy is made. Coordinate with the Somaliland Government and its representative in the U.S.
- 4. Establish a standing U.S.–Somaliland working group.** Stand up a permanent body — built on SL-SAG, the U.S.–Somaliland Chamber of Commerce, and the Somaliland Recognition Institute — to coordinate the legal, legislative, diplomatic, and public-advocacy work between gatherings.
- 5. Advance recognition and formal diplomatic engagement.** Carry a structured campaign to the Administration, the Congress, and the relevant agencies — moving recognition from aspiration to policy and laying the groundwork for full diplomatic relations.
- 6. Advance the U.S.–Somaliland partnership.** Build out the diplomatic, economic, and business-to-business architecture of the bilateral relationship, working with the partners who helped open it at this Summit.
- 7. Pursue trade,**

investment, and the Berbera Corridor. Identify and move on concrete opportunities in trade, investment, energy, and critical minerals, and prepare the ground for American participation in the Berbera Corridor.

**8. Mobilize sustained diaspora advocacy.** Transform the energy of the diaspora into lasting policy outcomes — through organized grassroots engagement, faith-community partnerships, and sustained public diplomacy that endures beyond the Summit. Reach out and engage communities across North America.

**9. Establish a Recognition Rapid Response Team (R3).** We will build a communications capability equal to the moment: disciplined, fast, and anchored in truth. R3 will ensure clarity, accuracy, and message unity across all external engagement, strengthening credibility and preventing misinformation from taking root.

**10. Launch the 50-State Strategy, engaging every level of government.** We will activate a nationwide structure that reaches the government at every level at once. In each state, an accountable State Captain will cultivate relationships with local councils, state legislators, governors, and congressional delegations, focusing on where our community is strongest and where key committee members serve on the Foreign Affairs, Foreign Relations, or Armed Services committees.

**11. Address Somalia's e-Visa requirements on Somaliland diaspora.** In collaboration and coordination with the Somaliland Government and the diaspora, address the harms of the e-Visa, raise international awareness, and identify ways to mitigate them.

**12. Convene a larger Summit every year.** Make this an annual event — each one bigger and more consequential than the last — drawing in more partners, more decision-makers, and more of official Washington, so that the movement gains visible momentum year over year.

**13. Set follow-up commitments and timelines.** Name who is responsible for what, set milestones we can measure, and schedule the next gathering to review progress and hold one another to the promises made here.

**Adopted by the participants of the U.S.–Somaliland Strategic Partnership Summit, at The Westin Tysons Corner, Falls Church, Virginia, this twenty-fifth day of June, two thousand twenty-six.**

Adopted and affirmed on behalf of the participants by the Chairwoman of the Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group:

**Demam Rageh**  
Chairwoman, Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG)  
Date: 25 June 2026