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Somaliland Diaspora Communique Sets Out Bold National Agenda to Harness Diaspora Engagement



The conference called for investment and development projects in cities outside the capital to create new economic opportunities and strengthen national cohesion

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Somaliland Finance Minister Leads Talks to Deepen Denmark Development Partnership



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland's Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Aadan, held a high-level meeting with Denmark's Ambassador to

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National media policy will articulate free, independent and responsible professionalism, Minister Barkhad Batuun underpins



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Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Government of the Republic of Somaliland has strongly condemned an attack targeting two vessels owned

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Çavuşoğlu's Somaliland Regret: Turkey "Missed a Historic Strategic Opportunity" by Betting on Somalia

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Former Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has reportedly acknowledged that Turkey made a major strategic miscalculation by placing its political and diplomatic weight behind Somalia while overlooking Somaliland, a nation



whose strategic importance has grown dramatically in recent years. Çavuşoğlu's remarks point to what he described as a costly failure to properly assess the realities on the ground and recognize the enormous strategic value of Somaliland's

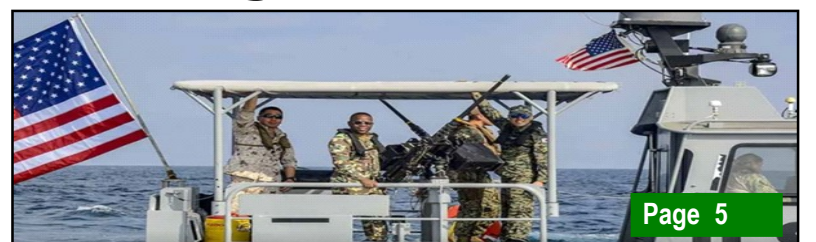
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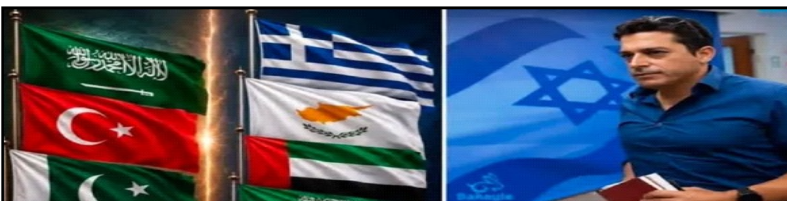
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Somaliland Diaspora Communiqué.....



By M.A. Egge.

In perhaps the largest and broadest well-organized weeklong assembly yet, the 2026 Somaliland Diaspora Conference has called for a major transformation in the relationship between Somaliland and its citizens abroad; urging the government and diaspora communities to move beyond reliance on remittances and occasional gatherings toward a structured national partnership centered on investment, expertise, diplomacy and long-term development.

The conference brought together the Government of the Republic of Somaliland, diaspora communities, business leaders, professionals, investors, civil society organizations, local governments and other stakeholders to discuss the future of cooperation between Somaliland and its diaspora around the world. Held across Hargeisa, Borama and Burco, the conference opened with sessions in Hargeisa on August 2 and 3, followed by a session in Borama on August 4 and another in Burco on August 6. It concluded with a dinner ceremony in Hargeisa.

Organizers said taking the conference beyond the capital allowed discussions to reflect both national development priorities and the specific needs of Somaliland's regions.

From remittances to strategic partnership

At the heart of the conference was a call to redefine the role of the Somaliland diaspora.

Participants recognized the diaspora's substantial contribution to Somaliland through investment, knowledge, professional expertise and international advocacy. But they also acknowledged that the diaspora itself is changing, particularly as second- and third-generation Somalilanders grow up abroad.

The conference therefore called for a new relationship that goes beyond individual assistance and remittances and develops into a structured national partnership capable of delivering lasting benefits to both Somaliland and its diaspora. The shared vision adopted by participants is of "a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Somaliland" in which citizens at home and abroad work together for national development.

Under that vision, the diaspora is

described as an indispensable part of Somaliland's past, present and future, with contributions extending beyond money transfers to include knowledge, skills, innovation, diplomacy and international networks.

The conference also emphasized the need to create meaningful avenues for second- and third-generation Somalilanders abroad to remain connected to their country and contribute to its development.

Diaspora investment fund proposed

One of the most significant proposals emerging from the conference is the development of a Diaspora Investment Strategy as part of Somaliland's wider national investment framework.

Participants also proposed exploring the establishment of a Diaspora Investment Fund to channel diaspora resources into strategic development opportunities.

The conference called for government action to remove barriers related to travel, entry into Somaliland, finance and administration that could discourage diaspora members and investors from returning or investing in the country.

It further urged the strengthening of banking and financial systems, improved access to reliable investment information, and the creation of simpler and more transparent systems through which the diaspora can engage with Somaliland.

Priority areas identified for diaspora investment include economic infrastructure, energy, agricultural production and businesses capable of generating employment and driving economic growth.

Turning diaspora expertise into national capacity

The conference also placed heavy emphasis on the knowledge and professional expertise of Somalilanders abroad.

Professionals, entrepreneurs, academics, technology specialists and young members of the diaspora are expected to play a greater role in transferring knowledge, skills and experience to Somaliland.

Participants proposed creating mechanisms that would allow second- and third-generation Somalilanders abroad to maintain regular connections with the country through skills exchanges, business

partnerships and innovation initiatives.

The conference specifically identified health, education, technology, energy, natural-resource development, business and government institutional development as areas where diaspora expertise could be systematically deployed.

Development agenda to extend beyond Hargeisa

The conference also issued a call for a more geographically balanced development model.

Participants said diaspora engagement and development partnerships should reach all regions and districts of Somaliland rather than becoming concentrated in Hargeisa.

The resolutions call for stronger decentralization, greater empowerment of local governments, equitable access to public services and expanded economic infrastructure.

Particular emphasis was placed on roads connecting the regions and airports serving major cities.

The conference also called for investment and development projects in cities outside the capital to create new economic opportunities and strengthen national cohesion.

Stronger institutions and digital government

Governance and public services formed another major pillar of the conference resolutions.

Participants emphasized the need for strong government institutions capable of delivering effective services to citizens and maintaining efficient relations with the diaspora.

The resolutions call for greater cooperation and coordination among government institutions, expanded access to government services across the country and stronger decentralization at both local and central levels.

The conference also placed emphasis on digital governance, cybersecurity and government data management, while calling for stronger systems supporting Somaliland's sovereignty and international relations.

Regular communication and consultation between the government and citizens at home and abroad was also highlighted.

The conference further called for improvements to immigration systems, entry procedures and digital public services so that diaspora members, investors and visitors can receive efficient and reliable services while Somaliland's sovereignty is safeguarded.

Health, education and youth placed at center of development

The conference identified diaspora cooperation as a potential driver of improvements in essential public services.

In healthcare, the resolutions call for stronger infrastructure, referral



systems, medical equipment, digital health services, workforce development and improved healthcare quality throughout Somaliland.

Education and vocational training were also identified as key areas for expanded cooperation and knowledge exchange.

The conference additionally called for greater participation by women and young people in leadership, business, innovation and public service.

Diaspora described as Somaliland's bridge to the world

Beyond development and investment, the conference placed a strategic emphasis on the diaspora's international connections.

Participants described Somaliland's diaspora as a strategic bridge between Somaliland and the international community, pointing to its professional, political, academic and commercial networks.

The resolutions call for stronger cooperation between government institutions, Somaliland's offices and representatives abroad, and diaspora communities.

They also call for the establishment of international partnerships, expansion of Somaliland's economic and diplomatic relations, greater investment and stronger advocacy for Somaliland's interests on international platforms.

From occasional meetings to permanent cooperation

A further key outcome was the call to institutionalize the relationship between the government and the diaspora.

The conference said diaspora participation should no longer be limited to occasional events and sporadic meetings, but should instead become sustained, structured and institutionalized cooperation.

Participants proposed permanent mechanisms for government-diaspora collaboration and stronger coordination of diaspora affairs across government institutions.

The resolutions also call for national priorities, investment opportunities and development programs to be communicated to the diaspora regularly and transparently.

Another proposed mechanism would identify, document, connect and mobilize Somaliland diaspora

experts and professionals so their expertise can be used more effectively.

The conference also called for continuous monitoring of the implementation of its resolutions.

"One united national community"

In its concluding declaration, participants affirmed that Somalilanders living inside the country and abroad constitute one united national community and share responsibility for the country's development.

They agreed that the traditional perception of the diaspora should give way to recognition of the diaspora as a strategic partner whose financial resources, knowledge, skills and international networks can make a significant contribution to national development and the livelihoods of Somaliland's people.

The participants said the future relationship should be built around cooperation, shared responsibility, productive investment, knowledge exchange and people-to-people engagement, with the objective of producing tangible and measurable results and promoting shared prosperity and inclusive development.

A call to turn resolutions into action

The conference concluded with a direct appeal to the Somaliland Government, diaspora communities, businesses and national institutions to translate the resolutions into concrete action and measurable results.

The communiqué makes clear that the success of the conference will ultimately depend not on the resolutions themselves, but on whether they can be converted into functioning investment mechanisms, stronger public services, effective diaspora engagement, knowledge-transfer programs, regional development and expanded international partnerships.

The communiqué was formally adopted following the 2026 Somaliland Diaspora Conference.

The conference's overarching message is clear: Somaliland's diaspora is being called upon not simply to send money home, but to invest, innovate, transfer knowledge, build international partnerships and become an institutional partner in the country's long-term national development.

Israel Warns of 'Dangerous'.....



“very dangerous and very troubling development,” warning that closer cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Turkey could have serious strategic consequences for Israel. Chikli said Saudi Arabia had previously maintained a position of strategic balance, noting that Riyadh already had a defense agreement with Pakistan. However, he argued that closer alignment with Turkey—described by him as being in direct confrontation with Israel—could

significantly alter the regional balance. “This is a development that is very, very bad for us, for Israel,” Chikli said, warning that tensions could escalate across the Mediterranean and on the Syrian front with potentially serious consequences. In response, the Israeli minister called for Israel to strengthen its strategic partnerships with Greece, Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates

and Somaliland, highlighting the importance of expanding alliances amid shifting geopolitical dynamics in the region. Chikli’s remarks underscore Israel’s growing focus on building a network of regional and international partnerships as competition and strategic alignments intensify across the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Horn of Africa.

Somaliland Finance Minister Leads.....



Somaliland and Somalia, Steen Sonne, in talks focused on strengthening development cooperation and accelerating projects designed to deliver tangible benefits to communities across Somaliland. The meeting highlighted Denmark’s continued support for Somaliland’s development agenda, with discussions covering decentralization, democracy, institutional strengthening, local government development and economic infrastructure. A major focus was Denmark’s support for the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) and projects being implemented through the fund, including road construction and development, the development of Mayd Port, and the establishment of enclosures and other infrastructure projects. Minister Abdillahi thanked Denmark for its sustained development assistance, stressing that SDF-funded projects are playing an important

role in strengthening Somaliland’s economic infrastructure and expanding essential services for communities. He also underscored the government’s commitment to ensuring that development projects are implemented efficiently and in line with their approved objectives, while delivering measurable and lasting results for the public. The Minister said Somaliland is prepared to take all necessary measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, quality and project impact, emphasizing that development resources must be managed effectively and sustainably. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the Minister to bid farewell to Mathias, the former Head of Danida Somaliland, whom he thanked for his service and contribution to strengthening development cooperation between Somaliland and Denmark. Minister Abdillahi also welcomed

Camilla, the new head of Danida Somaliland, wishing her success as she assumes her new responsibilities. For his part, Danish Ambassador Steen Sonne commended the Somaliland Government’s commitment to national development and closer cooperation with Denmark. The Ambassador praised the progress achieved by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, particularly in public financial management and the implementation of development projects, and reaffirmed Denmark’s commitment to maintaining its development partnership with Somaliland. The meeting concluded with both sides emphasizing the need to deepen cooperation, accelerate ongoing development projects and ensure that development assistance translates into sustainable, effective and tangible benefits for the people of Somaliland.

Çavupoğlu’s Somaliland.....

location. Situated along the Gulf of Aden and close to one of the world’s most important maritime corridors, Somaliland has increasingly emerged as a strategic focal point for regional and global powers seeking access, partnerships and influence in the Horn of Africa. According to Çavupoğlu, Turkey missed a significant opportunity by failing to recognize Somaliland and instead investing heavily in Somalia. He suggested that Ankara’s support for Somalia did not produce the strategic returns Turkey had expected, while Somaliland—despite its stability, strategic geography and growing international relevance—was largely neglected. The former minister’s assessment highlights the changing geopolitical calculations surrounding the Horn of Africa. What was once dismissed by some governments as a peripheral nation is increasingly being viewed through the lens of ports, maritime security, trade routes and great-power competition. A Strategic Bet That May Have Gone Wrong Turkey has invested heavily in Somalia over the past decade, developing extensive political, military and economic ties with Mogadishu. Ankara has presented its engagement as a long-term strategic partnership. But Çavupoğlu’s reported criticism raises a fundamental question: Did Turkey place its strategic bet on the wrong side of the Horn of Africa? Somaliland’s position on the Gulf of Aden gives it direct proximity to the Bab el-Mandeb, one of the world’s most critical maritime chokepoints linking the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. That geography has become increasingly valuable as international powers compete for influence across the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the wider Horn of Africa. Israel’s Recognition Changes the Equation The debate has gained even greater



significance following Israel’s full recognition of Somaliland, a development that has dramatically altered the diplomatic landscape surrounding Hargeisa. The recognition by a nuclear-armed and technologically advanced state has given Somaliland a major geopolitical boost and underscored its growing importance on the international stage. For countries that previously dismissed Somaliland or treated its political aspirations as secondary, the new reality presents a difficult strategic calculation. Somaliland is no longer simply asking the international community to recognize its political aspirations. Its strategic geography, maritime position and expanding international partnerships are increasingly making it an actor that major powers cannot easily ignore. Those Who Dismissed Somaliland Are Now Recalculating Çavupoğlu’s reported remarks therefore come at a particularly significant moment. Countries that once underestimated Somaliland are increasingly being forced to reconsider its strategic value, while governments that overlooked Hargeisa may now find themselves questioning whether they missed an opportunity that could have had long-term geopolitical significance. For Somaliland, the emerging picture is increasingly clear: the nation that some once dismissed as strategically insignificant is becoming one of the places where the next chapter of competition for influence in the Horn of Africa may be written.

Somaliland Condemns.....

by the United Arab Emirates, expressing its full solidarity with the UAE government and people. In a statement, Somaliland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said it firmly rejects any action that threatens the security and safety of international maritime navigation or undermines the freedom of trade. The ministry stressed that the safety of international shipping lanes is vital to regional stability and the uninterrupted flow of global commerce, particularly in a strategically important maritime region. Somaliland also underscored the importance of respecting international law, describing



adherence to international rules as essential to maintaining regional peace, protecting maritime security, and ensuring the continuity of international trade. The statement reflects Somaliland’s broader emphasis on maritime security and its growing engagement with regional and international partners on issues affecting the stability of the Red Sea and surrounding waterways.

National media policy will articulate free, independent and responsible professionalism, Minister Barkhad Batuun underpins



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Information Hon. Barkhad Jama Hirsi Batuun has underpinned the fact that the purpose of the National Media Policy, is to establish a free, independent, responsible and professional media capable of responding to the needs of society and fulfilling the national aspirations of Somaliland.

The minister whose docket also holds the Culture and national guidance portfolios and is officially the government’s spokesperson, stated that the media policy would play a major role in promoting understanding and connectivity between the press, members of the public and government institutions, while serving as a cornerstone for strengthening national security and protecting the good morals of the society.

Hon. Barkhad Batuun made the sentiments as he gave brief to the 71st weekly session of the cabinet, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland, chaired by the Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland and Acting President, H.E. Mohamed Ali aw Abdi, was held on Wednesday at the Presidency.

Health issues and security affairs were the other main issues in the day’s itinerary.

According to a presser from the Presidency, factors highlighted and focused on during the cabinet meeting was generally as follows; -

1. General Security situation of the Country

The Minister of Interior and National Security of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Abdallah Mohamed Arab, briefed the Council of Ministers on the overall security situation in the country, stating that, in general, security in the Republic of Somaliland is stable and

peaceful, and that there is no widespread unrest or instability in the regions of the Republic of Somaliland.

The Minister informed the Council of Ministers the ongoing efforts to strengthen peace, social coexistence and national security in the Awdal and Seel regions, stating that a delegation of Ministers and senior government officials had been on a working visit to the western regions of the country, where they were carrying out efforts to accelerate the Peace and Reconciliation process among the communities.

The Minister stated that the brotherly communities living together in the Awdal and Seel regions have strongly expressed their desire for peace, coexistence and lasting stability, demonstrating that a lasting solution can be achieved through dialogue and social consensus.

2. Report on the Overall Health Situation of the Country

The Minister of Health Development of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Dr. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, briefed the Council of Ministers on the overall state of health services in the country, the Ministry’s activities and working visits he made to the Togdeer and Saahil regions, during which he assessed health needs and the proper functioning of social services.

The Minister briefed the meeting on the launching the second phase of the Better Life Programme in the city of Burao, which is providing health support and various services to 28 health facilities located in the Togdeer Region, including hospitals and maternal and child health centres.

He also noted his visit to the Saahil Region, particularly the Berbera area, where he assessed the condition of health services, existing

needs and areas requiring attention. He stated that the Ministry of Health Development has delivered CT-Scan machines to the Saahil and Sanaag regions, which will greatly contribute to the examination and diagnosis of diseases, while also meeting the healthcare needs of the Saahil and Sanaag regions.

The Minister emphasized that the Ministry of Health Development will continue to strengthen health services, develop health infrastructure and provide quality services to the regions and districts of the country, to the extent possible.

3. National Media Policy

The Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Barkhad Jama Hirsi (Batuun), briefed the Council of Ministers on the purpose of the National Media Policy, which is to establish a free, independent, responsible and professional media capable of responding to the needs of society and fulfilling the national aspirations of Somaliland.

The Minister told the Council that the Office of the Attorney General had confirmed that this policy is consistent with the National Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Somaliland.

The Minister informed the Council that the media policy will play a major role in promoting understanding and connectivity among the Press, Society and Government Institutions, while serving as a cornerstone for strengthening national security and protecting the good morals of the people of the Republic of Somaliland. Finally, the Minister requested the members of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland to read and discuss the draft text of the National Media Policy.

Somaliland central urges.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Central Bank of Somaliland has issued a strong public warning over increasingly sophisticated financial scams, urging citizens to exercise extreme caution before investing their money in schemes promising quick and unusually high returns.

Central Bank Governor Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi said Somaliland’s security institutions—including the prosecution service, police and intelligence agencies—are working jointly to combat financial crimes, with the Central Bank playing a leading role in coordinating the effort.

“We have established an office with full authority to coordinate these efforts,” Governor Abdinasir said, explaining that the institution works with relevant authorities from the initial investigation through to the final stages of prosecution before the courts.

The Governor revealed that two major financial-crime cases had emerged in Somaliland over the past year.

One involved an application known as AGGA, allegedly operated by a Chinese group over a period of seven months. The scheme reportedly affected approximately 500 citizens, with losses estimated at \$2.7 million. Five individuals were convicted in connection with the case.

A second case, known as Alpha Planet Bridge, is currently before the courts, with four people facing charges, according to the Governor.

‘There Is No Easy Money’ Governor Abdinasir warned that financial scams are becoming increasingly common partly because some members of the public are attracted to promises of making money quickly and effortlessly.

He explained that many of these schemes do not generate

legitimate profits. Instead, money paid to one participant is often taken from another, creating a cycle in which funds simply circulate without a genuine underlying business or source of income.

The Governor urged citizens to carefully investigate where they place their savings and investments, particularly when confronted with programs promising extraordinary returns simply for depositing money. He specifically warned Somaliland citizens against fraudulent investment platforms that claim, in effect, “deposit this amount and receive this much profit.”

Religious Warning Over ‘Easy Money’

Sheikh Almis Haji Yahye, who also addressed the issue, warned the public about the religious and ethical dangers associated with schemes offering effortless financial returns.

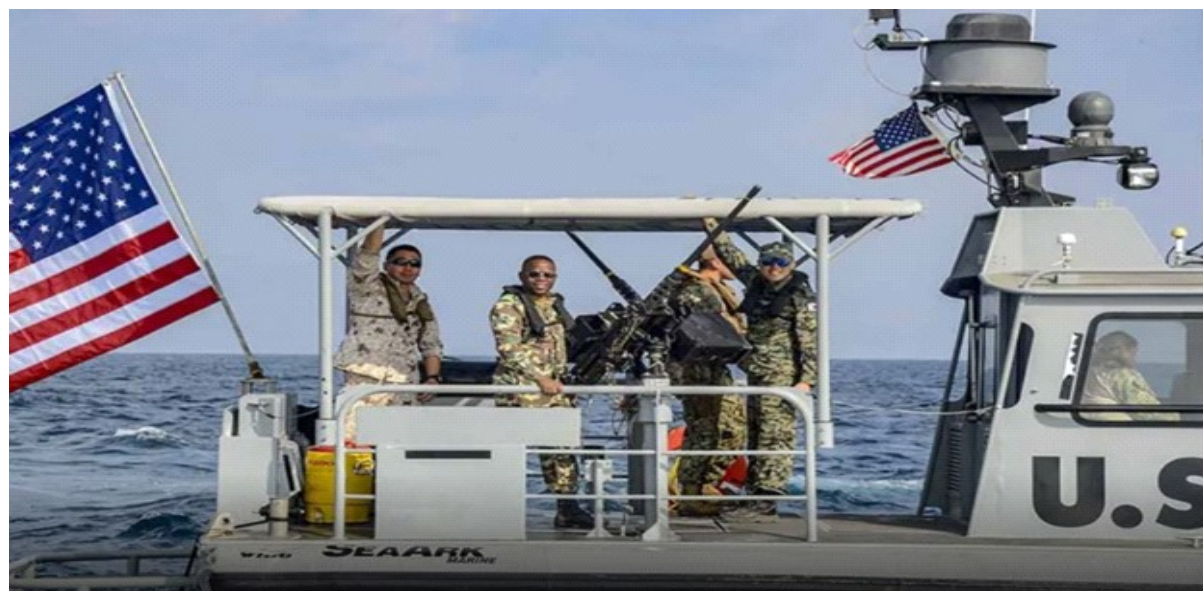
He argued that such arrangements are not legally permissible and can resemble gambling, particularly where an individual deposits money and expects to receive profits without engaging in legitimate economic activity.

According to Sheikh Almis, earning money simply by depositing funds and waiting for returns, without a lawful and productive source of profit, is haram (religiously prohibited) under Islamic principles.

The warnings from Somaliland’s financial and religious authorities come amid growing concern over fraudulent investment schemes targeting members of the public with promises of fast and easy wealth.

The Central Bank is urging citizens to think carefully before handing over their money, verify investment opportunities and remain vigilant against sophisticated financial fraud.

Why Washington May Finally Recognize Somaliland



Samir Bhattacharya

As maritime insecurity spreads from Hormuz towards Bab el-Mandeb, Somaliland's strategic geography and the Port of Berbera give Washington compelling reasons to reconsider its longstanding position on recognition.

The meeting between Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi and Major General Claude K. Tudor Jr., commander of US Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA), to discuss security cooperation and strategic interests in the Horn of Africa suggests that United States (US) recognition of Somaliland may be increasingly likely. As the crisis in Iran and the resulting uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz continue to disrupt global trade and security, US partnership with Somaliland is no longer merely a diplomatic possibility but rather a geopolitical necessity.

As the crisis in Iran and the resulting uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz continue to disrupt global trade and security, US partnership with Somaliland is no longer merely a diplomatic possibility but rather a geopolitical necessity.

Since reclaiming its independence from Somalia in 1991, Somaliland has functioned as a de facto independent state without receiving international recognition. Despite maintaining democratic institutions, ensuring internal stability, and exercising effective control over its territory, no country has formally recognized Somaliland in prior.

This began to change when Israel became the first country to formally recognize Somaliland in December 2025. Although Somaliland previously established diplomatic relations with Taiwan and Ethiopia, neither has reached the level of formal recognition. Yet, shifting geopolitical realities in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa are creating conditions that could fundamentally increase its importance and lead Washington to recognize Somaliland as well.

Somaliland's Geographic Importance for the US

The crisis in Iran, which began over Iran's nuclear programme, has gradually transformed into a wider contest over maritime dominance across the Middle East. While Hormuz remains the centre of gravity, the conflict is steadily moving towards the Bab El-Mandeb Strait.

Bab el-Mandeb is one of the world's most strategically significant maritime chokepoints, linking the Gulf of Aden with the Red Sea. As it carries nearly 12 percent of global trade, including several million barrels of oil, any disruption in the strait would increase freight costs, insurance premiums, fuel consumption, and supply chain costs, as seen during the Red Sea shipping crisis of 2024-25.

The principal source of this threat is the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen. Over the past two years, the Houthis have transformed maritime coercion into an effective instrument of geopolitical influence. Armed with anti-ship ballistic missiles, drones, naval mines and advanced surveillance capabilities supported by Iran, the group has repeatedly targeted commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

Now, the prospect of the Houthis eventually regulating maritime traffic or imposing transit fees through Bab el-Mandeb appears increasingly plausible. Washington therefore has a strategic interest in maintaining freedom of navigation through Bab el-Mandeb. Ensuring secure access to the Red Sea, however, would require reliable regional partners capable of supporting sustained military and logistical operations. It is precisely in this context that Somaliland emerges as an increasingly attractive strategic partner.

Somaliland occupies one of the most advantageous geographic positions in the region. Stretching over 850 km along the Gulf of Aden, Somaliland overlooks one of the busiest maritime corridors connecting the Indian Ocean with the Mediterranean. Its greatest strategic asset is the Port of Berbera. Over the past decade, Berbera has undergone major modernization, transforming it into one of the most capable deep-water ports on Africa's eastern coast. The adjoining airfield, originally constructed during the Cold War, has also been upgraded and can support large military aircraft. Together, these facilities provide an ideal logistics hub for naval deployments, intelligence operations and maritime surveillance.

From an American military perspective, Berbera offers several operational advantages.

From an American military perspective, Berbera offers several operational advantages. Naval

vessels engaged in securing Bab el-Mandeb could be resupplied without relying exclusively on facilities in Djibouti. Air assets conducting surveillance over Yemen or anti-Houthi missions could operate from a location considerably closer to the theatre of operations. Moreover, a larger American presence in Berbera would diversify Washington's military footprint in the Horn of Africa at a time when strategic competition with both China and Russia is intensifying.

Somaliland as a Strategic Counterweight to China

The importance of Berbera becomes even greater when viewed alongside China's expanding regional influence. Beijing has steadily strengthened its strategic position through its military base in Djibouti, extensive infrastructure investments and deepening political engagement with Somalia.

China may use airspace restrictions as a tool to isolate Somaliland. Recently, Beijing attempted to prevent the Taiwanese president from travelling to Eswatini by restricting Taiwanese aircraft from using routes through neighbouring countries. The episode in Eswatini could serve as a warning of how Beijing may seek to use airspace restrictions to limit Taiwan's engagement with other countries. Measures including restrictions on aircraft carrying American officials, tighter visa controls and efforts to limit international engagement with Somaliland may be employed as instruments of geopolitical pressure, restricting US access to Somaliland. For the US, recognizing Somaliland could act as a counter to Chinese influence in the region in multiple ways.

For the US, recognizing Somaliland could act as a counter to Chinese influence in the region in multiple ways. In 2020, Somaliland established formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan despite intense opposition from Beijing. China reportedly attempted to persuade Somaliland to reverse its decision with substantial financial incentives, yet Hargeisa defied Chinese pressure. Since then, Somaliland has increasingly aligned itself with partners such as Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and Israel, while resisting Chinese political pressure. From Washington's perspective, Somaliland represents one of the few openly pro-Western actors in a

Israel–Somaliland Partnership Brings Lifesaving Heart Care to Children



Mohamoud Walaaleye

A new chapter in the emerging relationship between Israel and Somaliland is already translating into lifesaving medical care, with the first delegation of Somaliland children returning home after receiving specialized cardiac treatment in Israel.

The development was highlighted by Save a Child's Heart (SACH), an Israeli humanitarian organization dedicated to providing lifesaving heart treatment to children from countries with limited access to pediatric cardiac care.

According to the organization, years ago, the first child from Somaliland received lifesaving cardiac treatment through SACH. Today, the recently established diplomatic relationship between Israel and Somaliland is creating opportunities for more children to receive specialized medical care. The first group of children under the new cooperation has now returned to Somaliland following a month of medical treatment in Israel, with the children described as healthier and

stronger and facing a more hopeful future.

"A new partnership is already saving lives," the organization said, expressing hope that the cooperation will bring healing and renewed opportunities to many more children.

The latest development highlights how diplomatic ties can extend beyond political and economic cooperation to areas with an immediate humanitarian impact, particularly healthcare and pediatric medicine.

For families whose children require complex cardiac treatment, the partnership represents more than diplomacy—it offers access to specialized care that can potentially transform and save young lives.

As the cooperation develops, supporters hope that more Somaliland children will benefit from advanced cardiac treatment and that the partnership will grow into a lasting bridge between the two sides in health, medicine and humanitarian assistance.

region where Chinese influence is yet to become entrenched. Economic considerations further strengthen the strategic argument. Somaliland possesses considerable untapped reserves of critical minerals and rare-earth elements, resources that are becoming increasingly important as the United States seeks to reduce its dependence on Chinese-controlled supply chains. American recognition could create opportunities for Western companies in mining, logistics and infrastructure. As Washington intensifies efforts to diversify global supply chains for strategic minerals, Somaliland could emerge as an important alternative partner.

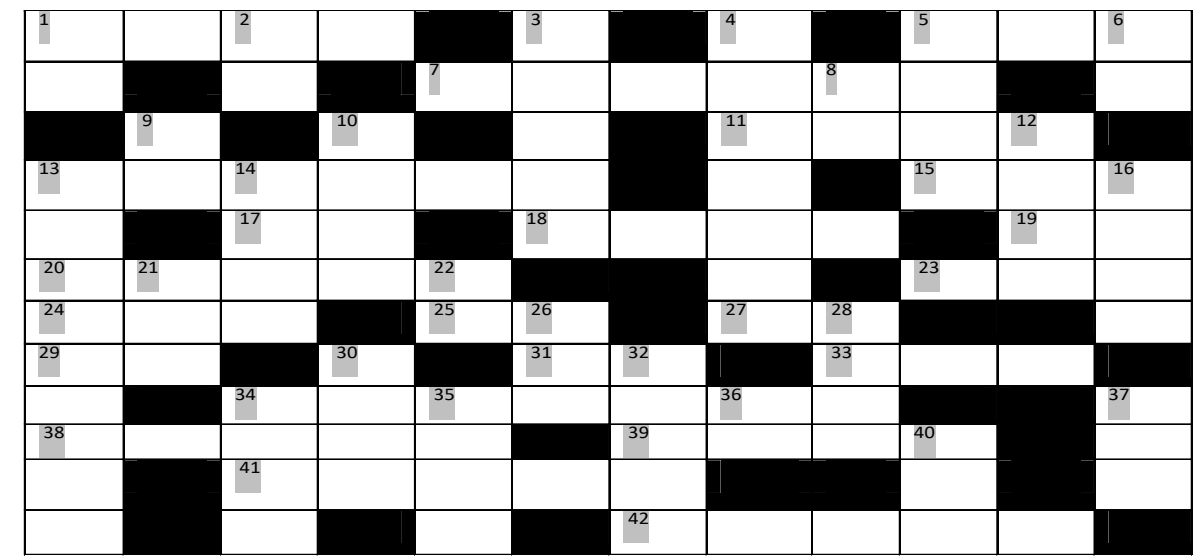
The Case for US Recognition Counterterrorism is another compelling factor. Although Somaliland is overwhelmingly Muslim, it has consistently rejected Islamist extremism. Unlike neighbouring Somalia, which continues to struggle against the militant group Al-Shabaab, Somaliland has enjoyed relative stability. For the US, this presents

an opportunity similar to previous partnerships with local forces in other parts of the Middle East. Rather than relying solely on fragile central governments, Washington has increasingly worked with capable local actors sharing common security objectives. Somaliland's security institutions and political stability make it a potentially valuable partner for counterterrorism operations across the Horn of Africa.

If the conflict surrounding Iran continues to expand westward and Bab el-Mandeb becomes the next major arena of geopolitical competition, the US will require dependable partners positioned at the centre of this emerging maritime theatre. Somaliland offers geographical advantages, political stability, military utility, counterterrorism cooperation, critical mineral potential and alignment with American strategic interests in countering both Iran and China. Given current developments in the region, US recognition of Somaliland appears increasingly likely.

THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



ACROSS

- 1 Excellent
- 5 Sun shine
- 7 detention
- 11 lunar month
- 13 Africa continent
- 15 Slate
- 18 Diving the ocean/ pool
- 19 Myself
- 20 Exchange
- 23 Not many
- 24 Reddish
- 25 upward
- 27 doctor
- 29 Want ad
- 31 U'S
- 33 Usage
- 34 Not eat
- 38 Locate
- 39 Missed
- 41 Harden
- 42 Juvenile

DOWN

- 1 Go away
- 2 Okay
- 3 daily bread
- 4 Deleted
- 5 breaks
- 6 No way
- 9 of
- 10 brain
- 12 names
- 13 fascinated
- 14 highway
- 16 newscast
- 21 Reddish
- 22 European Union
- 26 Deposit
- 28 Carpets
- 30 Reality
- 32 Stupid
- 34 Speedy
- 35 Plant seeds
- 36 Negative
- 37 Off
- 40 Load

Previous Answer

	A ¹	N	N ²	O	U ³	N	C ⁴	E		M ⁵	
O ⁶	R		O		N		O		D ⁷	A	D ⁸
	M		W ⁹	H	I	C	H			N ¹⁰	O
I ¹¹	C	E			O		E ¹²	A ¹³	S ¹⁴	Y	
	H		I ¹⁵		N ¹⁶	O	R	T	H		S ¹⁷
C ¹⁸	A	N	D	Y			E		E ¹⁹	A	T
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A ²³	R	E ²⁴	A			S ²⁵	C	A	N		Y
		V		B ²⁶	A	S	E	D		W ²⁷	
S ²⁸		E		E		E			N ²⁹	E	T ³⁰
P ³¹	A	N	T	S		T ³²	I ³³	M	E		O
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Somaliland's Renewed Diplomatic Momentum Under President Irro



Written by Yonis Hassan Abdi Khair, Somaliland Politician and Waddani Party Member

I wanted to share some insights on Somaliland's renewed diplomatic momentum under President Abdurrahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro. Since his assumption of office, the government has prioritized foreign affairs and international recognition, adopting a proactive diplomatic strategy. This includes engaging a wide range of stakeholders—governments, international organizations, policymakers, business leaders—to strengthen Somaliland's international partnerships and enhance understanding of its political identity and aspirations. Key to this approach is the

emphasis on Somaliland's strategic location along the Gulf of Aden, underscoring its role in maritime security and regional stability. Additionally, the administration highlights Somaliland's democratic record and institutional development as fundamental to its quest for broader international recognition and cooperation.

While the issue of recognition remains complex and requires ongoing patience and strategic communication, the current administration has made significant strides in expanding bilateral relationships across Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and beyond, covering trade, security, education, and regional cooperation.

Somaliland Strengthens Public Asset Accountability with Nationwide Fixed Asset Management Training

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Somaliland has launched a major training programme aimed at strengthening the management, registration, and protection of government-owned fixed assets as part of wider efforts to enhance transparency and public financial management. The training was officially inaugurated today at the Ministry's conference hall by the Director General of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Mohamed Hassan Salebaan, accompanied by the Accountant General of the Government, Hassan Muse Khalif. The initiative forms part of the Ministry's continued implementation of the National Fixed Asset Management Policy, approved in June 2020, which seeks to improve accountability and ensure government assets are properly recorded, valued, and managed. Speaking at the opening, officials emphasized that while the policy has delivered notable progress over the past several years, implementation challenges remain. Among the key issues identified are the absence of standardized fixed asset registers across some government institutions and the lack of monetary valuations for numerous public assets recorded in government financial statements. Under the national policy, all ministries, agencies, and government authorities are required to establish a Unified Fixed Asset Register and implement

standardized procedures for asset valuation, depreciation, and determining the useful economic life of government assets in line with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and internationally recognized best practices. The training brings together personnel from Fixed Asset Management Units, Procurement Officers, and Logistics Officers representing ministries, agencies, and public institutions across Somaliland. Participants are receiving practical instruction on modern asset registration, tracking, safeguarding, and management systems designed to improve the efficiency and integrity of public asset administration. According to the Ministry, the programme aims to help government institutions establish and maintain comprehensive and unified asset registers, equip staff with the technical skills required to value assets and calculate depreciation under IPSAS standards, and strengthen institutional capacity to verify assets, monitor their movement, and reduce the risks of loss, misuse, or misappropriation. Officials stressed that effective management of government assets is a cornerstone of sound Public Financial Management (PFM), contributing directly to improved transparency, stronger accountability, and more accurate financial reporting. A well-managed asset system also enables newly acquired, donated, or transferred

Iran-backed Houthi threat in Red Sea could lead to major US policy shift, analysts say

Former US general says 'The Houthis could compel a different US strategy in Africa'

By **Paul Tilsley Fox News**

As the Iran-backed Houthis step up their threat to Red Sea shipping, analysts say the U.S. could consider a major change in strategy.

Houthi attacks on ships passing through a vital chokepoint may lead Washington to cement relations with more reliable partners along Africa's coastline.

Somaliland is a pro-U.S. outpost, having reclaimed its independence from war-torn Somalia in 1991, and is offering the U.S. the use of one of the longest runways in Africa, an air base and a deep sea port on the Red Sea.

The Houthis have vowed to close the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a narrow waterway through which Saudi Arabia exports up to 7 million barrels of oil a day, now that access to the Strait of Hormuz is severely restricted. In the past month in the Red Sea, the Houthis have reportedly attacked Saudi-flagged ships, are said to have sunk an Indian commercial cargo vessel and, on Aug. 13, an Egyptian cargo ship was hit, with at least four of its crew killed.

The U.S. already has a large military base on the Red Sea in Djibouti, but this is claimed to be increasingly problematic. "China is significantly expanding its military and commercial presence in Djibouti," Edmund Fitton-Brown previously told Fox News Digital.

Fitton-Brown, the former British ambassador to the Houthis' home country, Yemen, and a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, (FDD), added, "There is a sense that Djibouti is not a reliable ally for the U.S. So Somaliland's time has probably come."

Major General Ken Ekman, who retired last year from being the Department of War's West Africa Coordination Element Lead, said, in essence, the Houthis could force the U.S. into recognizing Somaliland as an independent state. "The Houthis could compel a different U.S. strategy in Africa."

Ekman said the Houthis are building up a second front in this Middle East conflict. "It distracts the U.S. and stretches our assets," he added.

"The Houthis have a strategy of their own. They are testing U.S. military ability, and are likely to pull the trigger in a major way when Iranian influence in the Strait of Hormuz wanes in leverage."

He said that recently the U.S. Africa Command, AFRICOM, has concentrated on looking at land-based threats. "To date, our Africa strategy is driven by counterterrorism missions against Islamist al Qaeda

and ISIS-linked groups based in Africa."

He continued, "These groups pose a limited and not immediate threat to the U.S. homeland. Overall, Red Sea basing to date has focused more on crisis response in East Africa, countering and competing against Russia and China."

Ekman added, "orienting a Horn of Africa strategy against the Houthis would place a premium on freedom of navigation. Somaliland is proximate and overcomes some of the limitations imposed by other regional hosts like Djibouti and Middle East partners."

Limitations and an apparent sense of frustration with Somalia, Somaliland's neighbor and rival, have been expressed in a warning from U.S. Air Force Gen. Dagvin Anderson, commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

In a recent interview with a Somali journalist, he was asked whether the U.S. was pulling out of the nation and turning its back on it.

Anderson said the U.S. has not turned its back on Somalia, having been committed to the country for several years, he noted the success of its counterterrorism group known as DANAB, which he said is "one of the most capable forces on the continent." He noted that "it was up to Somalia to sustain that force... to build it and continue to make it effective going into the future and use it as it was designed to counter terrorism."

Referring to the Somali government's apparent lack of ability to deal decisively with Islamist al-Shabab terrorists, Anderson seemingly hinted at pulling some or even all military support. "If Somalia steps up and the government steps up and takes the lead on this, we will continue to be there because there is mutual interest."

He continued, "But if we can't see that in, the political instability and political infighting continues, then it's going to be very hard for us to continue to stay engaged."

Bill Roggio, editor of the Long War Journal, said Washington is fed up with Mogadishu, but currently not enough for the U.S. to change allegiance to Somaliland.

He told Fox News Digital, "The U.S. has expressed displeasure with the Somali government's rampant corruption and internal infighting with local and regional governments, and with various clans. However, full recognition of Somaliland independence would create a major rift between the U.S. and Somalia."

Roggio didn't rule out the U.S. operating a second Red Sea base



in Somaliland, saying "U.S. forces situated at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti are far better situated geographically to deter the Houthis from shutting down the Bab el Mandeb Strait than a potential base in Somaliland. That being said,

redundancy (back up plan) is a good thing in military operations."

"The United States needs reliable partners on Africa's coastline," Bashir Goth, Somaliland Representative to the United States, told Fox News Digital.

Goth said, "Somaliland is that partner and our defense officials have been in active dialogue with AFRICOM on Red Sea security. Somaliland has the geography, the stability and the will to work closely with Washington — and will continue to do so."

Somaliland Tightens Media Regulation as Government Urges Journalists to Obtain Legal Licenses

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Republic of Somaliland's Ministry of Information and Culture has stepped up its call for media organizations and journalists to comply with licensing and registration requirements, as senior officials stress the importance of distinguishing legally accredited journalists from individuals allegedly using the media profession as a cover.

Somaliland's Deputy Minister of Information, Hon. Musa Askar Guleid, expressed appreciation to media outlets that have obtained official operating licenses and completed their registration with the Ministry.

"We thank you for obtaining these licenses and registering with the Ministry," he said.

The Deputy Minister's remarks came as the government continues efforts to formalize the media sector and ensure that media organizations operating in Somaliland meet established legal and regulatory requirements.

Meanwhile, Somaliland's Minister of Information, Hon. Barkhad Jama Hirsi Batun, emphasized the need to distinguish between journalists who operate within the law and individuals who may seek to conceal other activities under the banner of journalism.

"There must be a distinction between a journalist who has legal authorization and someone who is hiding behind journalism," Batun said.

The Minister also stressed that national security is a shared responsibility, underscoring the need for cooperation between the



media, government institutions and the wider public.

The government's position comes amid renewed efforts to strengthen regulation and professional standards within Somaliland's media sector, while licensed media organizations are being encouraged to complete the required registration and authorization procedures.

Somaliland Reviews 2026 Economic Progress Under National Development Plan

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland's Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has convened senior government officials and private-sector representatives in Hargeisa to assess progress in implementing the country's Third National Development Plan (NDP III) and chart priorities for the remainder of 2026.

The meeting, chaired by State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Ismail Mawlid Abdillahi, brought together key stakeholders for the third-quarter review session of the Economic Pillar of NDP III.

Participants included representatives from the Ministries of Planning and National Development, Trade and Tourism, Investment, and Labor and Social Affairs, as well as officials from major financial and regulatory institutions, including the Bank of Somaliland and the Somaliland Free Zone Authority.

The session focused on reviewing economic performance indicators

and measuring progress against targets set for 2026. Officials reported that the majority of planned economic initiatives have been successfully implemented, reflecting continued progress toward the government's development objectives.

The review also provided an opportunity to identify outstanding priorities and areas requiring greater attention during the remaining months of the year.

Officials agreed to maintain momentum on key economic programs and strengthen coordination among government institutions and private-sector stakeholders to ensure that the remaining objectives under NDP III are achieved before the end of 2026.

The quarterly review forms part of Somaliland's broader effort to monitor national development performance, strengthen institutional coordination and ensure that economic policies translate into tangible development outcomes.