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President Irro Highlights Somaliland's Peace, Recognition Efforts and Infrastructure Progress, Hence Urges World to Engage as a Sovereign Partner

-My administration has moved on from making commitments to presenting evidence of what it has achieved with a year and a half, he says



-We seek partnership, and not dependency; We seek investment, not charity, he emphasized

By M.A. Egge.

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed

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Treasury Takes Budget Planning to the People, as Erigavo Hosts Landmark 2027 National Budget Consultation



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Republic of Somaliland's Ministry of Finance has launched a major public consultation as part of process for the preparation of the

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Bank of Somaliland, World Bank Launch SPRING Reform Project to Modernize Financial Sector



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Historic Peace Deal Ends Long-Running Clan Conflict in Western Somaliland



Mohamoud Walaaleye

A landmark peace agreement has been reached in western Somaliland, bringing an end to a long-running conflict between two

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Presidency Minister: Israel's Recognition Gives Somaliland a Powerful Ally Against External Threats

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland Minister of the Presidency, Hon. Khadar Hussein Abdi, has declared that Israel's recognition of Somaliland has provided the nation with the backing of a major global power, strengthening its security and deterring countries that, he said,



have sought to undermine Somaliland's sovereignty, peace, and independence. Speaking on the significance of Somaliland's growing relationship with Israel, the minister described the recognition as a strategic

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Justice Minister Pledges Stronger Protection for Vulnerable Citizens, Highlights Nationwide Legal Reform



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland's Minister of Justice, Hon. Yoonis Ahmed Yoonis, has reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to protecting vulnerable and disadvantaged

citizens who require assistance in accessing justice, legal services, and the courts.

Speaking as a guest on the "Talk

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President Irro Highlights Somaliland's.....



By M.A. Egge.

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi "Irro" has the international Community that included diplomats, international organizations and development partners that his government has made significant progress in restoring peace, strengthening national institutions, expanding infrastructure and reducing electricity costs; while calling for deeper international engagement with Somaliland as a responsible and capable sovereign partner. Addressing a gathering of ambassadors, heads of missions, representatives of international organizations and development partners in Nairobi on Friday, President Irro said his government had moved from making commitments at the beginning of its tenure to presenting evidence of what it has achieved during its first year and seven months in office. "When I addressed many of you in this very forum shortly after assuming office, our government was only beginning its work," the President said.

He underscored, "Today, I return not merely to restate those commitments, but to report on the progress we have made, the challenges we continue to confront, and the partnership we seek as we move forward."

Peace and demobilization

The President placed peace and national reconciliation at the top of his government's priorities, highlighting the restoration of peace in eastern Somaliland.

He said approximately 6,000 militia members had voluntarily surrendered their weapons and entered a government-led demobilization and military integration programme.

The President announced that the process had now been successfully completed, with the former combatants now well trained and integrated into the Somaliland National Army.

He also pointed to a separate conflict between two major communities that, had been brought under control through sustained government engagement, traditional leadership and inclusive dialogue.

A government-sponsored reconciliation conference in

Geerisa was cited as an example of Somaliland's longstanding approach of resolving disputes through dialogue, consensus and mutual respect.

"Peaceful stability remains the foundation upon which every other national objective must rest upon," Irro said, adding that the conclusion of the conference had produced positive results aimed at consolidating peace in the region. From four priorities to a broader development agenda

When his government first assumed office, President Irro said it identified four strategic productive sectors as key drivers of economic development: livestock, agriculture, fisheries and renewable energy. However, he said implementation had demonstrated that these sectors could not achieve their full potential without modern infrastructure.

The government's development priorities were therefore expanded to include investment in roads, water, energy, healthcare, education and communications.

"These are the essential pillars upon which sustainable economic transformation depends," he said. The President reiterated his government's position that Somaliland is seeking partnership rather than dependence.

"We seek partnership, not dependency. We seek investment, not charity," Irro told the gathering, emphasizing that Somaliland wanted relations based on mutual respect, shared interests and common responsibilities.

Israel recognition hailed as historic milestone

One of the most significant developments during his administration, President Irro said, was Israel's recognition of Somaliland on 26 December 2025. He described the decision as a historic diplomatic milestone and an affirmation of what Somaliland had built and defended over more than three decades.

"For the people of Somaliland, this was not merely a diplomatic milestone," he said. "It was the affirmation of reality they had defended, sustained and strengthened over more than three decades."

Irro acknowledged that the international response had been mixed, with some countries

welcoming the development while others expressed reservations.

Nevertheless, he said Somaliland would remain firm in its belief that its statehood should be recognized on the basis of what it has demonstrated, including democratic governance, peaceful transfers of power, functioning institutions, responsible security and regional stability.

"Recognition is not the conclusion of our journey," he said. "It is the natural consequence of what Somaliland has consistently demonstrated."

President Irro conditions the resumption of talks with Somalia President Irro also addressed Somaliland's relationship with Somalia, saying his government remained committed to pursuing what he described as a Somaliland-led solution to the conflict in the eastern through dialogue, reconciliation and national consensus.

At the same time, he accused Somalia's federal government of increasingly destabilization by interference in Somaliland's internal affairs.

He argued that Mogadishu should focus on the political, security and humanitarian challenges confronting its own citizens rather than externalizing its quagmires.

Irro acknowledged that international partners continued to encourage renewed dialogue between Somaliland and Somalia, but argued that previous negotiations had produced agreements that were not subsequently implemented.

"The management of civil aviation and airspace remains a clear and contemporary example," he said.

The President urged international partners to go beyond simply encouraging dialogue and press Somalia to comply with agreements already reached.

"Dialogue requires mutual respect, implementation of commitments, and confidence that agreements will be honoured," he said.

Major road projects gather momentum

The President said Somaliland's infrastructure programme was continuing to expand, with much of the financing coming from domestic resources.

He cited the Borama-Baki Road and Hargeisa-Balligubadle Road as major projects approaching completion.

Construction is also continuing on the Lowya'ado-Zeyla-Borama corridor, with support from development partners.

He said expansion work in Hargeisa-Inna Guuha was also progressing, while the government had commenced two additional strategic projects, including the Burao-Oodweyne-Hargeisa corridor and the Erigavo-Mayd road.



"These projects are vital for our national cohesion, regional commerce, and economic inclusion," Irro said.

He added that Somaliland was prepared to contribute significantly to the financing and implementation of major national infrastructure projects.

Electricity prices cuts as government targets affordable power

Energy was another major component of the President's address.

For years, Somaliland has faced some of the world's highest electricity tariffs, creating obstacles for industrial development, private investment and household welfare. Irro said his government had already reduced electricity costs in the country's principal urban centres from approximately 80 cents to 59 cents per kilowatt.

In Berbera, he said tariffs had fallen to as low as 20 cents per kilowatt, largely as a result of investment in renewable energy.

The administration's goal, he said, is to expand affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity throughout Somaliland and bring national electricity costs closer to the Berbera model before the end of its current term.

Deep groundwater: Somaliland seeks advanced expertise

Water security, the President said, remains one of Somaliland's most serious long-term challenges.

In several areas along the country's southern frontier, groundwater reserves are believed to lie more than 600 metres underground, requiring advanced geological and technological expertise to locate and assess.

"We therefore seek partnerships with institutions and countries possessing the technical capabilities necessary to unlock this resource," Irro said.

He also highlighted the importance of cooperation with the Royal Norwegian Embassy regarding findings from a Norwegian-supported study on deep groundwater resources in Somaliland.

The government, he said, wants data specifically relating to Somaliland to remain available for future national water planning.

Hargeisa Group Hospital targeted for transformation

Healthcare was another area highlighted by the President as a major national priority.

He said thousands of Somaliland citizens travel abroad every year to obtain specialist medical treatment, placing heavy financial pressure on families and the national economy. The government therefore aims to transform Hargeisa Group Hospital into a modern national referral facility capable of delivering high-quality specialist treatment inside Somaliland.

"This is not simply an investment in healthcare," Irro said. "This is an investment in dignity, self-reliance, and national resilience."

'We have returned with evidence, not a longer list of requests'

In his concluding remarks, President Irro sought to frame Somaliland's international engagement around achievements rather than appeals for assistance. "We have not returned to Nairobi today with a longer list of requests," he said. "We have returned with evidence."

He cited the peaceful integration of former militia members into the national army, the resolution of conflicts through dialogue, strengthened democratic institutions, the progress toward international recognition, road construction, declining electricity prices and modernization of healthcare facilities.

"Evidence of roads under construction are vivid. Electricity is becoming more affordable. Hospitals are being modernized, and national development is advancing through our own commitment and resources," he said.

The President reaffirmed Somaliland's commitment to peace, responsible governance, regional stability and constructive international engagement.

He ended with a direct appeal to Somaliland's international partners: "Engage with Somaliland not as an extension of another political entity, but as a responsible and capable sovereign partner ready to continue our shared objective of peace, security, prosperity, and sustainable development."

"Together, let us build partnerships founded not on assumptions, but on achievements; not on aspirations alone, but on demonstrated commitment," President Irro said. He concluded by thanking the diplomatic and international development community and invoking blessings for Somaliland and its international partnerships.

Justice Minister Pledges.....



to Your Party” programme hosted by the **Waddani Party**, Minister Yoonis outlined the Ministry’s broad responsibilities and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen Somaliland’s justice system and improve access to legal services for ordinary citizens.

The Minister emphasized that one of the Ministry’s key responsibilities is supporting people who cannot easily afford or access legal assistance, particularly vulnerable

justice, including the **judiciary, police, and prosecution services**, helping to ensure greater coordination among the different arms of the justice system.

Minister Yoonis also spoke about the extensive work currently underway within the Ministry, stressing the importance of strengthening justice institutions and ensuring that citizens can access fair and effective legal services.

His remarks come amid continued efforts by Somaliland’s justice authorities to improve the delivery of justice and ensure that vulnerable members of society are not left without protection or access to the courts.

The Minister’s message placed particular emphasis on the principle that **access to justice should not depend on a person’s wealth or social standing**, with the Ministry expected to continue working toward a justice system that serves all citizens.

members of society who need help navigating the courts and other justice institutions.

“The Ministry of Justice connects all justice services across Somaliland,” Minister Yoonis said, underscoring the Ministry’s role in coordinating the country’s wider justice sector.

He explained that the Ministry serves as a link between the various institutions responsible for delivering

Treasury Takes Budget Planning.....

2027 National Budget, bringing government officials, community representatives, academics and civil society actors together in Erigavo to ensure public participation in national financial planning.

The high-level consultation meeting, held at Sanaag University, was organized by the Ministry of Finance in partnership with the university administration and focused on strengthening the role of citizens in shaping government spending priorities and development plans.

The initiative is part of the government’s commitment to transparency and public accountability, in line with the Public Financial Management Law No. 75/ 2025, which encourages broader stakeholder participation in the national budgeting process.

The meeting brought together representatives from different sectors of society, who presented recommendations and proposals aimed at addressing local development priorities and ensuring that the 2027 budget reflects the needs of communities across Somaliland.

Leading the Ministry of Finance delegation was Minister of Finance Hon. Abdullahi Hassan Aden, accompanied by the Ministry’s Director General Mr. Mohamed Hassan Saleeban and senior officials from various departments. Other senior officials attending included Deputy Auditor General Mr. Mustafe Ahmed Mahmoud, Sanaag Regional Governor Mr. Mahmoud Rage Ibrahim, Erigavo District Local Government Secretary Said Omar Aabi, Sanaag Regional Secretary Mahmoud Abdi Osman, and Sanaag University President Ibrahim Duale Hussein, alongside other



government representatives and distinguished guests.

Citizens Bring Development Priorities to Budget Table

During the hours-long discussions, participants exchanged ideas, recommendations and proposals covering a range of issues affecting the region and the country’s wider development agenda.

The Ministry of Finance officials welcomed the contributions from community representatives, saying the recommendations would be carefully considered during the preparation of the government’s 2027 budget estimates.

Participants praised the Ministry for opening a platform that allows citizens and civil society groups to directly contribute to national financial decision-making.

“We appreciate the opportunity provided by the Ministry of Finance for communities to share their views and participate in shaping the national budget,” attendees said.

Government Reaffirms Commitment to Transparency and Accountability

Senior Ministry officials emphasized that public consultation has become an important part of Somaliland’s approach to improving governance, strengthening accountability and ensuring that government resources

are directed toward national priorities.

The annual consultation process gives citizens an opportunity to influence budget planning before final approval, marking a shift toward greater openness in public financial management.

The Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for preparing the national budget, increasing domestic revenue and managing government expenditure, said the engagement reflects the government’s commitment to building stronger cooperation between state institutions and the public.

A Step Toward Inclusive Development

The Erigavo consultation is part of a wider nationwide effort to involve communities in the preparation of Somaliland’s annual budget.

Observers say the initiative represents progress toward stronger institutional governance, improved transparency and increased public confidence in the management of national resources.

By bringing budget discussions closer to citizens, the government aims to ensure that development priorities are shaped not only by institutions in the capital but also by communities across Somaliland’s regions.

Presidency Minister:.....

milestone that would deliver long-term political and security benefits for the Republic of Somaliland. He stressed that the recognition should be safeguarded and defended.

“Israel’s recognition has enabled Somaliland to gain the support of a major power that it can rely on. There will no longer be any individual or other countries rushing in to pressure us or leave us isolated. Therefore, Israel’s recognition will greatly benefit Somaliland in many ways,” Khadar Hussein Abdi said.

The minister further claimed that several powerful countries opposed to Somaliland’s existence had developed plans aimed at weakening our nation and destabilizing the peace and security it has maintained over the years.

According to Khadar, the conflicts that erupted in Somaliland’s eastern and western regions were not isolated or accidental incidents but were part of a broader strategy orchestrated by forces opposed to Somaliland’s statehood. He said the government had successfully confronted those challenges through peacebuilding initiatives that remain ongoing.

“The intention was to surround Somaliland from all sides, weaken it, and eventually force it to go to Mogadishu in a vulnerable position.



What happened in the eastern and western regions was not a coincidence—it was a planned effort and part of strategies pursued by countries opposed to Somaliland’s existence,” the minister stated.

The remarks underscore the Somaliland government’s view that its diplomatic partnership with Israel has enhanced its geopolitical standing while reinforcing its efforts to preserve stability and advance its longstanding quest for international recognition.

Although Somaliland operates as a self-governing state with its own institutions, it continues to seek broader international recognition of its sovereignty. The government has increasingly highlighted strategic partnerships with foreign allies as central to strengthening its diplomatic position and national security.

Historic Peace Deal



brotherly communities residing in the Awdal and Seel regions.

The breakthrough was achieved at the Samawade Peace Conference, held in the Geerisa area of Awdal Region, where traditional leaders, government officials, and community representatives gathered for three days of intensive dialogue aimed at restoring harmony and stability.

The conference was led by Somaliland’s Minister of Interior and Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, and brought together members of the Guurti (Elders’ Senate Council), cabinet officials, regional administrations from Awdal, Seel, and Saahil, clerics, traditional elders, and delegations representing both sides of the dispute.

Under the historic agreement, the parties committed to permanently end hostilities, safeguard peace, resolving future disputes through

dialogue, and ensuring that anyone who threatens the security and stability of the area faces severe legal action.

As part of efforts to safeguard the agreement, 62 respected elders from both communities were sworn in to oversee its implementation, promote reconciliation, and strengthen peaceful coexistence among the people.

Minister Abdalle reaffirmed the government’s commitment to fully implementing the agreement’s provisions, warning that no individual or group would be allowed to undermine the newly established peace.

The agreement has generated renewed optimism among communities across western Somaliland, marking a significant step toward rebuilding trust, restoring brotherhood, and securing lasting peace and stability in the region.

U.S. Recognition Could Trigger a Global Diplomatic Domino Effect, Says Michael Rubin



Mohamoud Walaaleye

American foreign policy analyst Michael Rubin has argued that formal recognition of Somaliland by the United States—or even by just a handful of countries—could become the catalyst for a rapid wave of international recognition, describing the nation’s quest for statehood as approaching a historic turning point.

Speaking during a public forum hosted by Hargeisa Debates, Rubin said Somaliland’s three decades of democratic governance, peace and institutional development have created a compelling case that is becoming increasingly difficult for the international community to ignore.

The event brought together senior government officials, diplomats, academics, civil society representatives and international guests to discuss Somaliland’s international recognition campaign, regional security, Red Sea geopolitics, economic reforms and relations with global powers.

Opening the forum, officials from Somaliland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised Hargeisa Debates for creating an important platform for informed public dialogue and described Rubin as a long-time advocate whose research and commentary have helped raise Somaliland’s profile internationally. They also highlighted the Horn of Africa’s growing strategic importance as global powers intensify competition across the Red Sea corridor.

Recognition Nearing a Tipping Point

Rubin told participants that Somaliland’s diplomatic campaign may be nearing a decisive breakthrough.

“There comes a tipping point that if the United States recognizes Somaliland—or frankly if two or three other countries do—then I think there will be almost weekly news of another country recognizing it.”

According to Rubin, many governments already privately acknowledge the strength of Somaliland’s legal and political

case but remain reluctant to become the first to act.

He argued that once a major power or a small group of countries breaks the diplomatic barrier, international recognition could accelerate rapidly.

Democracy Is Somaliland’s Strongest Argument

Rubin stressed that Somaliland’s greatest case for recognition is not diplomatic lobbying but its own governance record.

“If Somaliland is a democracy and increasingly successful while Somalia remains a kleptocracy and failed state, no one is going to voluntarily return to that arrangement.”

He urged international policymakers to judge Somaliland based on present-day realities rather than outdated political assumptions.

Rubin further argued that Somaliland’s internationally recognized colonial-era borders provide a solid legal foundation for sovereignty and rejected claims that recognition would destabilize the Horn of Africa.

Instead, he said, acknowledging Somaliland’s statehood would contribute to long-term regional stability by recognizing an already functioning democratic state.

Red Sea Competition Creates New Opportunities

Much of the discussion centered on the rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape surrounding the Red Sea, where competition among the United States, China, Turkey and other regional powers continues to intensify.

Rubin said Somaliland is uniquely positioned to benefit from these developments because of both its strategic location and its democratic credentials.

He encouraged Somaliland’s leadership to continue strengthening diplomatic engagement while presenting the country as a reliable security and political partner.

Diaspora Has a Critical Diplomatic Role

Rubin also called on Somaliland’s global diaspora to focus their efforts on explaining Somaliland’s history

and achievements rather than exporting domestic political disputes abroad.

“Somaliland politics belong in Somaliland.”

He encouraged Somalilanders living overseas to educate policymakers, researchers and the wider public about Somaliland’s democratic success story and strategic importance.

“When people understand the historical justice of Somaliland and what it could mean for American national security and partnerships, they are often convinced.”

Recognition Alone Will Not Guarantee Prosperity

While optimistic about Somaliland’s diplomatic prospects, Rubin cautioned that recognition by itself would not automatically bring economic success.

He urged authorities to prepare now for the post-recognition era by implementing key economic reforms, reducing monopolies, strengthening financial regulations and improving cybersecurity protections for Somaliland’s widely used mobile money system.

According to Rubin, completing these reforms before recognition would make Somaliland more attractive to international investors and allow it to integrate more smoothly into the global financial system.

He also praised Somaliland’s democratic institutions, transparency and political maturity, arguing that decades of isolation had unexpectedly enabled the country to build resilient institutions and diversify its economy rather than becoming dependent on a single strategic asset.

Warning Over Regional Security Threats

The forum also addressed mounting regional security concerns, including reported cooperation between the Houthis and militant groups, the transfer of drone technology and the security implications of Somaliland’s growing international partnerships.

Rubin acknowledged the seriousness of those threats and

Bank of Somaliland,.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Bank of Somaliland and the World Bank on Wednesday launched the SPRING Project, a reform initiative aimed at strengthening the central bank’s institutional capacity, modernizing financial regulation, accelerating digital transformation, and expanding financial inclusion.

The project was officially inaugurated by Bank of Somaliland Governor Abdinasir Ahmed Abdi, who was joined by Deputy Governor Hamse Khaire, Director General Yasin Alas, the SPRING Project Coordinator, and a delegation of World Bank officials.

The initiative marks a new phase in Somaliland’s financial sector reform agenda and is expected to support improvements in financial laws, regulatory frameworks, institutional governance, and digital financial services.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Governor Abdinasir said the project would reinforce the Bank’s

institutional capacity and contribute to building a stronger, more resilient financial system capable of supporting the country’s long-term economic development.

He thanked the World Bank for its continued partnership, describing the institution as a key development partner in advancing reforms within Somaliland’s financial sector.

World Bank representatives reiterated their commitment to supporting the Bank of Somaliland’s modernization efforts, saying the SPRING Project would help strengthen financial institutions, improve regulatory systems, promote digital innovation, and broaden access to financial services.

The launch reflects the Bank of Somaliland’s broader strategy to align its operations with international standards, strengthen financial sector governance, and foster a more inclusive and resilient financial system.

said Somaliland’s leadership is already working closely with international partners behind the scenes to strengthen national security.

“If you simply stand down and let the Houthis grow more powerful, eventually they are going to try to bully or attack Somaliland because fundamentally there’s an ideology at play that can’t simply be negotiated away.”

He emphasized the importance of maintaining strong security partnerships as instability continues to affect parts of the wider region.

Expanding Support in Washington

Discussing U.S. policy, Rubin said Somaliland has made significant progress in building relationships across Washington, including with Congress, the executive branch and American strategic institutions.

He encouraged Somaliland to continue broadening bipartisan support while maintaining engagement with policymakers and think tanks that shape U.S. foreign policy.

Rubin argued that geopolitical

realities are creating new opportunities for Somaliland’s recognition campaign and that international engagement with Hargeisa has expanded steadily over the past decade.

A Future Built on Reform and Democracy

Throughout the discussion, Rubin repeatedly emphasized that Somaliland’s long-term success will depend not only on international recognition but also on preserving democratic governance, strengthening institutions and continuing political and economic reforms that distinguish it from instability elsewhere in the Horn of Africa.

The forum concluded with organizers thanking Rubin, government officials, diplomats and participants for what they described as one of the most substantive public discussions to date on Somaliland’s diplomatic future, regional security and evolving role in the changing geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa.

Somaliland Opens 7th Diaspora Week to Boost Investment, Unity, and Global Advocacy



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Republic of Somaliland has once again turned the spotlight on one of its greatest national strengths—its global diaspora. With the official launch of the 7th Somaliland Diaspora Week in Hargeisa, the government reaffirmed that Somalilanders living abroad are not merely supporters from afar but indispensable partners in the country's democratic journey, economic transformation, and international aspirations.

The five-day national conference, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, opened with a powerful message: Somaliland's future will be built through stronger collaboration between the government and its citizens across the world.

A National Gathering of Leaders and the Diaspora

The opening ceremony was graced by H.E. President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (Irro), Speaker of the House of Representatives Yasin Haji Mohamoud, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdirahman Dahir Aden, Hargeisa Mayor Eng. Abdikarim Mohamed Farah (Wiiwaa), WADDANI Party Chairman Hirsi Ali Haji Hassan, cabinet ministers, the Ambassador of Taiwan, business leaders, members of the Somaliland diaspora, and numerous distinguished guests.

Their attendance reflected the importance the Somaliland government places on strengthening ties with its citizens abroad and integrating their expertise into the country's development agenda.

A Conference with a New Vision
Welcoming participants, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Abdirahman Hassan explained that this year's conference marks a significant departure from previous editions.

Rather than being confined to one city, the 2026 Diaspora Week will be held across Hargeisa, Borama, and Burao over five days, creating broader opportunities for engagement between diaspora

communities, government institutions, local businesses, and regional administrations.

He emphasized that the conference is designed to generate practical ideas for enhancing cooperation between Somaliland and its diaspora while creating an environment that encourages investment and long-term partnerships.

Importantly, he noted that diaspora affairs should never be viewed as the responsibility of a single ministry. "Many government institutions are participating in this Diaspora Week Conference. The objective is to demonstrate that diaspora affairs are not the responsibility of one ministry or one department alone. Rather, they are a national priority requiring coordination and cooperation at both national and local levels."

Recognizing a Historic Contribution
The Director General praised the Somaliland diaspora for its unwavering commitment throughout every stage of the nation's modern history.

Whether during the liberation struggle, the peacebuilding process, post-war reconstruction, state-building, or the establishment of Somaliland's democratic institutions, Somalilanders abroad have consistently stood alongside their homeland.

He described the diaspora as a community that has never lost its connection to the country, regardless of where its members now live.

President Irro: "You Are Not Guests"
President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (Irro) delivered the day's most memorable messages by reminding participants that the diaspora remains an inseparable part of Somaliland.

Expressing his appreciation to everyone who attended the conference, he thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and particularly its Diaspora Department for organizing the event.

Addressing Somalilanders living abroad directly, the President declared:

"I thank all members of the diaspora who have attended this conference. It gives me great pleasure to participate in this important

gathering organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, especially the Diaspora Department. To our diaspora, I say: You are not guests." The statement drew attention to the government's intention to treat diaspora engagement as an enduring partnership rather than an occasional consultation.

The Diaspora's Golden Chapter President Irro stressed that Somaliland's modern history cannot be written without acknowledging the extraordinary sacrifices and support provided by its diaspora. He recalled that during the liberation struggle they served as the nation's primary source of assistance, and after Somaliland restored its independence, they became a lifeline for displaced families and communities rebuilding their lives.

"The Somaliland diaspora occupies a golden chapter in the modern history of our nation. During the liberation struggle, they were our primary source of every kind of support. After we regained our freedom, when many people were displaced, it was their assistance and solidarity that helped sustain the nation."

The President also encouraged Somalilanders abroad to expand their investments at home, emphasizing that economic participation remains one of the most effective ways to strengthen national development.

Foreign Minister Highlights the Diaspora's Strategic Role
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdirahman Dahir Aden praised the Ministry's Diaspora Department for successfully organizing the conference and expressed gratitude to President Irro for his steadfast support in ensuring its success.

He described the Somaliland diaspora as one of the country's greatest strategic assets.

According to the Minister, Somalilanders abroad contribute far beyond family remittances. They play a vital role in financing infrastructure, stimulating economic growth, promoting investment, advocating internationally for Somaliland's recognition, and defending the

Somaliland, U.S. AFRICOM Deepen Defense Partnership Following High-Level Talks in Germany



Mohamoud Walaaleye

A high-level Somaliland delegation led by Minister of Defense Hon. Mohamed Yusuf Ali has concluded strategic talks with senior officials of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) at the command's headquarters in Germany, marking another step in the growing security engagement between Somaliland and the United States.

The Somaliland delegation included the Commander of the Somaliland Coast Guard, Brig Gen Ahmed Hurre Hariye, as well as Senior Advisor Farah Ahmed Habuush and scholar Abdulaziz Ahmed.

During the meeting, both sides held extensive discussions on strengthening bilateral defense and security cooperation. The key agenda items included expanding defense collaboration between Somaliland and the United States, as well as enhancing joint efforts to

improve maritime security in the strategically important Horn of Africa and across international waters.

The talks underscored the importance of closer coordination on regional security challenges, particularly in safeguarding maritime routes and promoting stability in one of the world's most strategically significant regions.

According to the Somaliland delegation, the meeting concluded with a mutual understanding and a joint agreement to advance cooperation in the defense sector. The agreement reflects a shared commitment to strengthening security ties and expanding collaboration on issues of mutual strategic interest.

The engagement with AFRICOM comes as Somaliland continues to deepen its international security partnerships and highlight its role as a reliable contributor to peace, maritime security, and regional stability in the Horn of Africa.

country's national interests on the global stage.

From Remittances to Investment
Unlike many conferences focused primarily on ceremonial speeches, the first day of the event placed significant emphasis on practical policy discussions.

Participants took part in two major panel discussions addressing key development challenges:

- **How diaspora contributions can be transformed into a long-term strategic framework for sustainable national development.**

- **How remittances sent by Somalilanders abroad can increasingly become productive investments that create businesses, jobs, and economic growth within Somaliland.**

The discussions encouraged participants to apply the professional expertise, education, innovation, and international experience they have gained abroad toward transforming Somaliland's

economy and society.

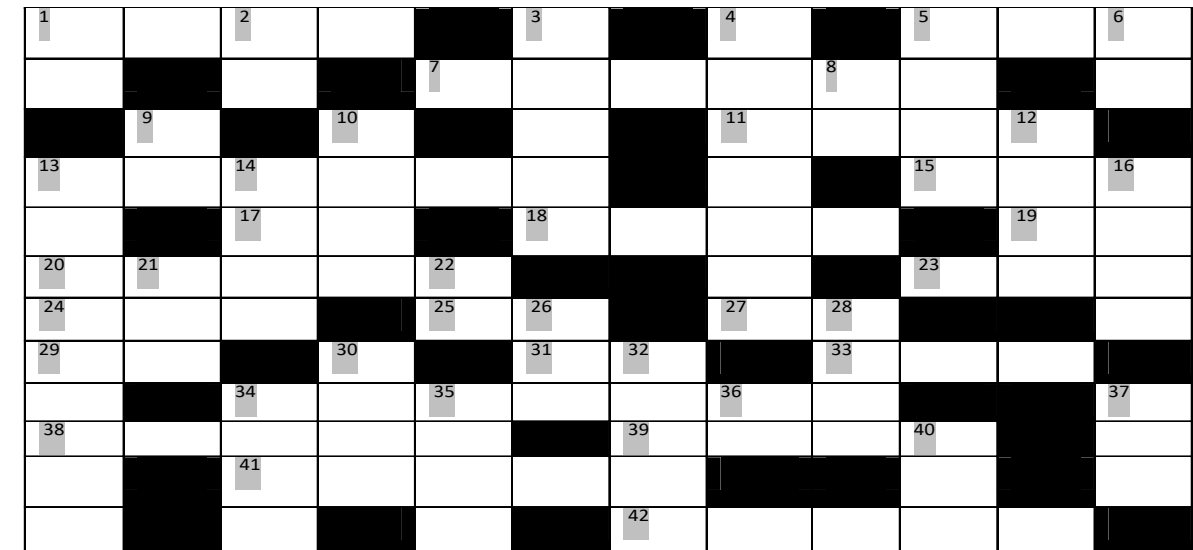
Building the Next Chapter Together
The first day concluded in an atmosphere of optimism and constructive dialogue, setting the stage for further discussions during the remaining days of the conference in Hargeisa, Borama, and Burao.

As Somaliland continues pursuing economic development and greater international engagement, the 7th Somaliland Diaspora Week reflects a broader national vision—one in which the diaspora is recognized not only for its past sacrifices but also as a central partner in shaping the country's future.

The conference sends a clear message that Somaliland views its global citizens as an enduring pillar of nation-building, whose investment, advocacy, expertise, and commitment remain essential to the Republic's continued progress.

THT Puzzle

Prepaired by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



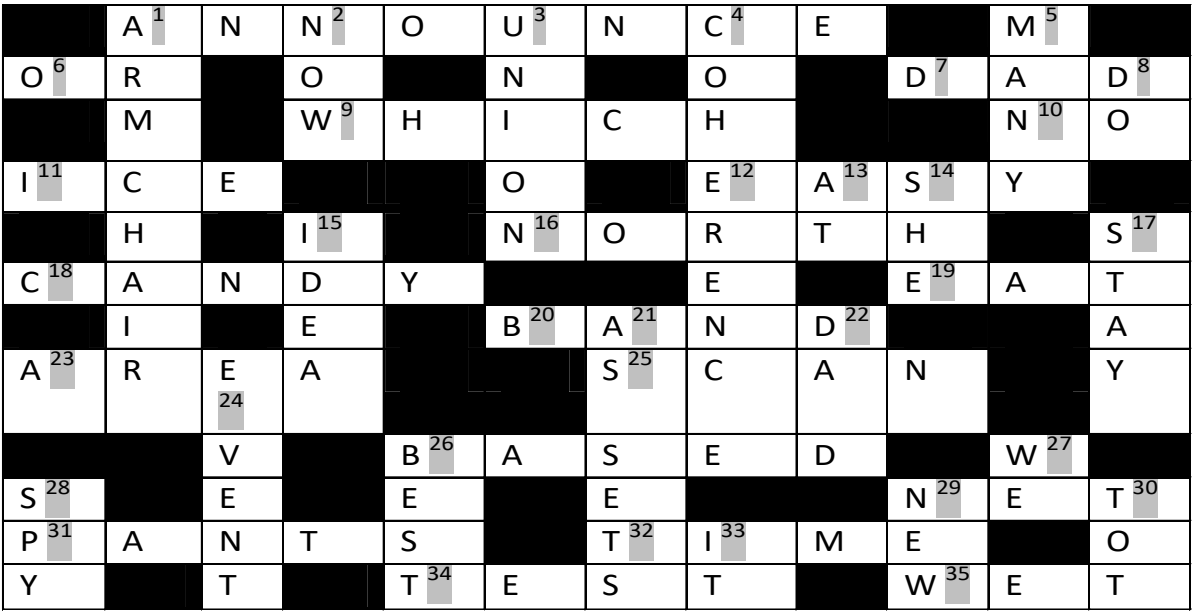
ACROSS

- 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



Somaliland Celebrates Its Global Community as President Irro Opens Diaspora Week

The inauguration of the Republic of Somaliland's Diaspora Week by President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro has been welcomed as a landmark initiative aimed at deepening ties between the Republic of Somaliland and its global diaspora.

In a tribute issued following the launch, Yonis Hassan Abdi Khaire, a politician from the Waddani Party, praised President Irro's leadership, describing the initiative as a significant milestone that recognizes the enduring contributions of Somalilanders living abroad.

According to Khaire, the national event underscores the indispensable role the Somaliland diaspora has played in nation-building, economic growth, humanitarian assistance, diplomatic engagement, and the continued defense of Somaliland's sovereignty on the international stage.

He said President Irro's decision to establish a dedicated national week reflects a strong commitment to acknowledging the sacrifices, patriotism, and unwavering support of Somaliland communities across the world. The initiative, he noted, also demonstrates the President's vision of fostering closer cooperation and greater national unity between citizens at home and abroad.

Khaire emphasized that for decades the diaspora has served as a



cornerstone of Somaliland's resilience through financial investment, professional expertise, advocacy, and community support. By formally honoring these contributions through an annual national event, he said, the government has affirmed the diaspora as an essential partner in shaping Somaliland's future.

He further commended President Irro for what he described as visionary leadership, expressing hope that Somaliland Diaspora Week will strengthen national cohesion, encourage deeper collaboration between the homeland and its overseas communities, and inspire future generations to contribute to the country's continued development and international aspirations.

The launch of Somaliland Diaspora Week marks a new chapter in the government's efforts to enhance engagement with Somalilanders around the world, recognizing their longstanding role in supporting the nation's progress and development.

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

The Future of Global Governance: Lessons from the Horn of Africa — President Irro's Op-Ed

By H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, the President of the Republic of Somaliland.

Partnerships of this nature are most successful when they are founded upon reciprocity rather than dependency. African countries increasingly seek relationships that recognize their agency, expertise and capacity for leadership. They wish to contribute to shaping international agendas, not merely respond to them. Europe, with its longstanding commitment to multilateral cooperation and democratic governance, is well placed to cultivate such partnerships.

Somaliland's own aspirations reflect this approach. Our objective is to deepen engagement with partners who value stability, transparency and responsible governance. We believe cooperation is strongest when it is grounded in mutual benefit, shared strategic interests and respect for local ownership.

A New Compact Between Europe and Africa

For much of the post-Cold War era, relations between Europe and Africa were frequently framed through the language of development assistance. That approach reflected the priorities of its time, particularly where humanitarian crises, conflict and poverty demanded immediate international attention. While development cooperation remains an essential component of the relationship, it is no longer sufficient to define it. Africa today is increasingly characterized by rapid urbanization, technological innovation, expanding consumer markets and a young population that will play a decisive role in the global economy over the coming decades. The question facing both continents is therefore not simply how Europe can assist Africa, but how Europe and Africa can prosper together through long-term strategic partnership.

The Horn of Africa illustrates this transformation particularly clearly. Situated at the intersection of Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean, the region is becoming an increasingly important hub for maritime trade, logistics, energy infrastructure and digital connectivity. Investments in ports, transport corridors and telecommunications are reshaping patterns of commerce that extend far beyond the region itself. These developments should not be viewed solely through the prism of geopolitical competition. They also represent opportunities to build more resilient supply chains, expand regional trade and create sustainable economic growth that benefits both African and European

partners.

A more mature partnership therefore requires a corresponding shift in mindset. Successful cooperation between Africa and Europe should increasingly be measured not by the volume of aid disbursed but by the quality of investment mobilized, the strength of institutions supported and the opportunities created for businesses, entrepreneurs and young people on both continents. Public finance will continue to play an important catalytic role, particularly in fragile contexts, but long-term prosperity will depend upon creating environments in which private capital, innovation and regional enterprise can flourish.

For Europe, such an approach aligns closely with its own strategic interests. Resilient African economies contribute to regional stability, reduce the drivers of irregular migration, strengthen supply chains and create new markets for trade and investment. For African countries, partnerships founded upon transparency, skills transfer and mutual benefit offer a more sustainable path to development than relationships characterized by dependency. The future of Europe-Africa relations should therefore be built less upon the language of assistance and more upon the language of shared opportunity, strategic investment and common prosperity.

From Aid to Partnership

One of the most significant shifts in international development over recent decades has been the gradual movement away from traditional donor-recipient relationships towards genuine strategic partnerships. This evolution should continue.

Development cooperation is most effective when it strengthens domestic institutions rather than substitutes for them. Sustainable economic growth depends not only on investment but also on the rule of law, transparent public administration and predictable regulatory environments. These are responsibilities that ultimately belong to national governments.

The role of international cooperation should therefore be to reinforce local capacity, encourage innovation and facilitate mutually beneficial investment. Infrastructure, education, healthcare, digital transformation and climate resilience all require collaboration across borders. Yet these initiatives succeed most consistently when national priorities and local expertise remain central to their design and implementation.

Somaliland's development has been characterized by precisely this

emphasis on local ownership. Progress has often been incremental rather than dramatic, reflecting the reality that institution-building is measured in decades rather than election cycles. While significant challenges remain, the experience demonstrates that durable governance emerges through sustained domestic commitment supported by constructive international engagement.

This lesson is relevant well beyond the Horn of Africa. As the international community reconsiders development policy in an era of fiscal constraints and geopolitical competition, strengthening capable local institutions may prove among the most valuable investments it can make.

A More Confident International Order

The future of global governance will not be determined solely by institutional reform or diplomatic negotiation. It will depend equally upon whether the international community retains the confidence to recognize successful governance, encourage democratic resilience and reward those societies that contribute constructively to regional stability.

The Horn of Africa is often portrayed as a region defined by its challenges. Yet it is also a region demonstrating remarkable resilience, entrepreneurial energy and political innovation. Its experience reminds us that peace is not simply negotiated; it is built patiently through institutions that command public trust. Democracy is not sustained through declarations alone; it is strengthened through accountable leadership and peaceful political competition. Stability is not inherited; it is earned. These lessons carry implications far beyond one region. As the international system adapts to new geopolitical realities, it must remain anchored in enduring principles while becoming more responsive to demonstrated success. Rules-based governance is strengthened—not weakened—when it recognizes those who uphold its values through practical achievement.

The future international order should therefore aspire to be more representative, more pragmatic and more attentive to realities on the ground. It should encourage cooperation between regions, support locally led institution-building and recognize that effective governance is among the most valuable contributions any society can make to international peace.

From the perspective of Somaliland, this is not simply an aspiration for our own future. It is a proposition for the future of global governance itself. The credibility of the international system will increasingly depend upon its ability to identify, encourage and partner with societies that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to peace, democratic accountability and responsible statecraft. If it succeeds in doing so, it will emerge stronger, more legitimate and better equipped to meet the complex challenges of the twenty-first century.

Recognition, Legitimacy, and the Credibility of International Institutions

One of the enduring strengths of the international system has been its commitment to principles that promote peace, stability and cooperation among nations. Respect for sovereignty, the peaceful settlement of disputes and adherence to international law remain essential foundations of global order. These principles have helped reduce conflict, facilitate economic integration and provide a common framework through which states can engage with one another. Preserving them remains in the interests of the entire international community.

At the same time, every international system must periodically confront the challenge of political change. New realities emerge, governance evolves and institutions develop in ways that were not always anticipated when existing diplomatic frameworks were first established. The resilience of international institutions depends not upon resisting every change, but upon possessing the confidence and flexibility to assess new circumstances carefully, consistently and according to the principles they were created to uphold. Continuity is essential, but so too is the capacity for thoughtful adaptation.

This broader question extends beyond any single country or region. It concerns how the international community evaluates effective governance, democratic accountability and long-term contributions to regional peace. Societies that demonstrate a sustained commitment to constitutional government, peaceful political competition and responsible administration strengthen the objectives that the international system seeks to encourage. Recognizing and supporting such achievements reinforces the credibility of international institutions because it demonstrates that responsible



governance carries tangible value within the rules-based order.

For policymakers, particularly in Europe, this presents an opportunity to consider how international engagement can continue to evolve without compromising legal consistency or political stability. A rules-based order derives authority not only from the principles it proclaims but also from the confidence with which it applies them to changing circumstances. Institutions that remain connected to political reality while maintaining fidelity to their founding values are better equipped to command international trust. In an era of profound geopolitical change, that capacity for principled adaptation may become one of the defining characteristics of effective global governance.

The experience of Somaliland illustrates why this debate matters in practical terms. For more than three decades, Somaliland has maintained relative peace, conducted competitive elections, developed functioning public institutions and contributed to security in one of the world's most strategically important regions. Regardless of differing legal or diplomatic perspectives, these achievements represent the very qualities that the international community consistently seeks to encourage: democratic accountability, responsible governance and regional stability.

As global governance evolves, there is a strong case for international partners to engage more fully with Somaliland and to give serious consideration to the question of its international recognition. Doing so would not simply acknowledge the progress of one society. It would also reinforce the broader principle that peaceful institution-building, democratic legitimacy and responsible statecraft should be recognized and encouraged wherever they are demonstrably sustained. An international order that is prepared to reward such achievements strengthens its own credibility and sends a powerful signal that constructive governance remains the surest path to international partnership.

Confidence Through Adaptation
The international order has never

To be continue next week