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At CFR, President Irro Puts Somaliland's Strategic Position at the Heart of U.S. Engagement



President highlights recognition, Berbera Port and Somaliland's role in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden security

M.A. Egge.

President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro has used a high-profile appearance at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in New York to outline Somaliland's case for international recognition while highlighting its strategic location

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Somalilanders Rally Outside UN Headquarters in New York, Call for International Recognition



By M.A. Egge.

A large rally by Somaliland citizens and members of the Somaliland diaspora from the United States and Canada was

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Somaliland Parliament Calls for UN Membership in Joint Resolution Backing President's U.S. Diplomatic Mission



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The two Houses of the Parliament of the Republic of Somaliland have jointly endorsed President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi's ongoing diplomatic mission to the United States and the United Nations, calling for Somaliland's

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A Day to Remember: Somalilanders Rally at the United Nations for Recognition -SL-SAG



Mohamoud Walaaleye

September 23, 2026, will be remembered as an important day in Somaliland's long journey toward international recognition. Somalilanders from across the United States and the wider diaspora gathered in New York City, directly outside the United Nations, to raise one clear and peaceful message before the international community: Somaliland deserves recognition and a rightful place among the community of nations. The Somaliland Recognition Rally took place at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, directly opposite United Nations Headquarters, during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly. The rally brought together Somalilanders and friends of Somaliland in a public demonstration of unity and determination.

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Taiwan expanding cooperation with Somaliland

Lin highlights collaboration in healthcare and talent development



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Somaliland Parliament Approves Landmark Diplomatic Missions Act, Strengthening Foreign Service Framework



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Somaliland's Minister of Justice, Hon. Yonis Ahmed Yonis, has praised President

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At CFR, President Irro.....

along the Gulf of Aden and near the Bab el-Mandeb. Speaking at an event titled “A Conversation with President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi of Somaliland,” President Irro discussed Somaliland’s history, its political development since 1991, regional security, maritime trade, investment opportunities and prospects for closer cooperation with the United States. The President placed particular emphasis on Somaliland’s location at the intersection of major maritime routes connecting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and wider international markets. He said the Bab el-Mandeb is one of the world’s important maritime passages and noted that security threats and attacks on commercial vessels have disrupted shipping, increased insurance costs and created wider concerns for international trade. Against that backdrop, President Irro presented Somaliland as a potential partner in efforts to strengthen maritime security and regional stability. Berbera at the center of the strategic argument President Irro highlighted Berbera Port, describing it as a modern deep-water port that has undergone major investment by DP World, with investment reaching \$442 million. He said the port’s location could create opportunities for the United States in trade, maritime security and strategic cooperation, while also pointing to the Berbera Economic Zone as a potential platform for investment, commercial activity and employment. The President also highlighted the Berbera–Ethiopia trade corridor, describing it as an opportunity to connect Berbera Port with major regional markets. He said Somaliland’s marine and mineral resources also offer areas for further investment and exploration, and called on U.S. companies and international investors to examine opportunities in the country. Somaliland’s case for recognition A central part of President Irro’s address focused on Somaliland’s demand for international recognition. He recalled that Somaliland gained independence from Britain on June 26, 1960, before entering into a union with Somalia five days later. According to the President, the union had distinctive political and legal circumstances and ultimately became unsustainable. He cited the political pressures and abuses experienced by Somaliland during the period of Siad Barre’s rule as part of the historical background to Somaliland’s decision to restore its independence in 1991. President Irro said Somaliland is not seeking the creation of new borders but the restoration of the territorial



status it held at independence. He also referred to the African Union fact-finding mission of 2005, saying its report recognized the distinctive historical circumstances surrounding Somaliland. A state built since 1991 The President outlined Somaliland’s political and institutional development since 1991, pointing to its constitution, courts, currency, security institutions, police, coast guard and other government bodies. He also highlighted Somaliland’s experience with elections and peaceful transfers of political power between successive administrations.

potential long-term and reliable partner for the United States in a strategically important part of the Horn of Africa. Taiwan partnership President Irro also discussed Somaliland’s relationship with Taiwan, noting that the two sides established official relations in 2020. He said cooperation has expanded into areas including healthcare, education, trade and investment, describing Taiwan as an important partner in Somaliland’s international engagement. He even mentioned as concerns, his interior was practically in Taiwan to cement the bond further. A strategic message to the United



President Irro argued that these developments form an important part of Somaliland’s case as it seeks international recognition. He said recognition would have implications beyond diplomacy, potentially facilitating cooperation in security, economic development, finance, trade and investment. Security cooperation with Washington The President also emphasized the potential for closer security cooperation between Somaliland and the United States. He said Somaliland has worked for decades to maintain security across its territory and coastline and could contribute to efforts to protect maritime routes in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. With commercial shipping facing security threats in the region, President Irro said Somaliland was prepared to play a role in efforts to protect maritime security and the uninterrupted flow of international trade. He presented Somaliland as a

States The CFR appearance brought together the main elements of President Irro’s foreign-policy message: Somaliland’s historical claim to statehood, its pursuit of international recognition, its strategic location and its potential role in regional security and economic connectivity. The President urged U.S. stakeholders to consider Somaliland through the lenses of geography, maritime security, trade and strategic cooperation, emphasizing its position along the Gulf of Aden and close to the Bab el-Mandeb. He said Somaliland seeks deeper cooperation with the United States and wants to become a reliable partner contributing to stability, maritime security and economic development in the wider Horn of Africa and Red Sea region.

Somaliland Parliament....

admission as a full member of the United Nations. In a joint resolution adopted by the House of Elders and the House of Representatives over the week, Parliament expressed its “full and unanimous endorsement” of the President’s engagements in Washington, D.C., and New York, including meetings with the U.S. executive and legislative branches, foreign policy institutions and representatives of UN member states. The resolution comes as the President visits Washington and New York during the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, alongside a gathering of Somaliland citizens and supporters outside UN Headquarters in New York on September 23. Parliament Makes Direct Appeal for UN Membership A central provision of the resolution calls on the UN General Assembly and Security Council to admit the Republic of Somaliland to membership of the United Nations under Article 4 of the UN Charter. Parliament argues that Somaliland is a “peace-loving State” that meets the criteria for statehood under international law and has demonstrated its ability and willingness to fulfil the obligations of the UN Charter. The resolution bases its position on Somaliland’s history, territorial boundaries, institutions and record of self-government, while asserting that Somaliland’s restoration of independence is not a claim of secession but a resumption of sovereignty it says it exercised before the 1960 union with Somalia. Citing Somaliland’s 1960 Independence and Legal Claims The joint resolution recalls that Somaliland became independent from the United Kingdom on June 26, 1960, before entering into a union with Somalia. It invokes the principle of *uti possidetis juris*, references the International Court of Justice’s 1986 *Burkina Faso v. Mali* judgment, and cites the African Union’s Constitutive Act and the 1964 Cairo Declaration concerning the preservation of inherited African boundaries. The document also points to the African Union’s 2005 fact-finding mission to Somaliland, highlighting its description of Somaliland’s case as “unique and self-justified in African political history.” Parliament further cites international legal instruments concerning self-determination, including the UN Charter, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and UN General Assembly resolutions 1514 and 2625. The resolution also references the International Court of Justice’s 2010 advisory opinion on Kosovo, particularly its finding that general international law contains no applicable prohibition on declarations of independence. Statehood and Democratic Record The two Houses argue that Somaliland has continuously demonstrated the characteristics of statehood described in Article 1 of the Montevideo Convention, citing its permanent population, defined territory, functioning government and capacity to conduct relations with other states. The resolution points to Somaliland’s multiparty political system, currency, passport, flag and security institutions, as well as what it describes as peaceful electoral transfers of executive and legislative authority. It also highlights the constitutional referendum of May 31, 2001, and Somaliland’s successive presidential,

parliamentary and local elections as evidence of its commitment to constitutional government and political pluralism. Parliament says Somaliland’s peace and institutional development have been achieved largely through an indigenous reconciliation process combining constitutional institutions with the stabilizing role of traditional leadership. Maritime Security Highlighted The resolution also places Somaliland’s role in regional security at the centre of its case for international engagement. Parliament cites the Somaliland Coast Guard’s efforts against piracy and organized crime along the coastline, as well as cooperation with international counter-piracy forces operating in the Gulf of Aden. It describes Somaliland as a stable actor positioned along a critical maritime corridor for international shipping and stresses the territory’s strategic importance at a time of heightened regional security concerns. Appeal for Deeper International Engagement Beyond the UN membership appeal, Parliament calls on the United States and other international partners to deepen direct diplomatic, economic, security, development and parliamentary engagement with Somaliland. It urges governments, regional organizations and international institutions to assess Somaliland according to what it describes as its particular historical and legal circumstances, original boundaries, democratic record, institutional capacity and sustained self-government. The resolution also calls on Somaliland’s citizens, political parties, constitutional institutions, traditional leaders, civil society organisations and diaspora communities to maintain national unity, institutional discipline and a coherent national message in pursuing international recognition. Message of Peace and Good-neighbourly Relations The joint resolution stresses that Somaliland’s diplomatic campaign is directed against no state or people. Parliament reaffirmed Somaliland’s commitment to peaceful diplomacy, democratic governance, international law, regional stability and mutual respect, while stating that Somaliland seeks peaceful and good-neighbourly relations with all neighbouring states. The resolution instructs that the document be formally transmitted through parliamentary and diplomatic channels to the UN Secretary-General and President of the General Assembly, the UN Security Council, the African Union, IGAD, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the Commonwealth, the United States government and Congress, and the governments and permanent missions of UN member states. The Parliament further appealed for Somaliland’s “distinct legal status, democratic record and legitimate aspiration for international recognition” to receive what it described as objective, principled and favourable consideration. The resolution was adopted at a joint sitting of the House of Elders and the House of Representatives. It was signed by Muse Haji Abdi Duale, Speaker of the House of Elders; Said Mire Farah, Acting Speaker and First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; Abdinasir Adan Beegsi, Secretary General of the House of Elders; and Abdirisak Said Ayanle, Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

Somalilanders Rally Outside.....



held Thursday outside the United Nations headquarters in New York, with delegation of senior government officials notably fronted by Parliament Speaker Prof. Yasin Faratoon joining the gathering. Held at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza directly outside the UN headquarters, the rally brought together the Speaker of the House of Representatives, members of the Somaliland government and members of the Somaliland community in North America to publicly express their political aspirations and call for international recognition of the Republic of Somaliland.

Participants carried and waved the Somaliland flag and directed their message toward world leaders and government delegations gathered in New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

“We came here to express our feelings. We will continue making appeals,” Speaker of the House of Representatives Yasin Haji Mohamoud Hiir (Faratoon) said during the rally.

The demonstration presented the Somaliland recognition issue as a national aspiration of the people extending beyond the government or any single political organization. Participants highlighted decades of efforts to build peace, stability, democratic institutions and a functioning state.

“We are seeking rights that we are entitled to,” Somaliland’s Minister of Defense said.

The demonstrators called on the international community, particularly the United Nations, to listen to the aspirations of the people of Somaliland and consider the Somaliland question in light of developments on the ground, the wishes of its people, its historical experience, legal considerations and the strategic significance of the region.

The rally also served as an opportunity for Somalilanders in North America to present their

message directly to the international community at a time when world leaders and senior government delegations are converging on New York for the UN General Assembly. The public gathering reflected the diaspora’s support for Somaliland’s political aspirations while emphasizing the country’s experience with peacebuilding, state formation and democratic governance.

President Irro had earlier met with Somaliland diaspora representatives in Washington during his visit to the United States, accompanied by senior members of his government.

The New York rally comes as Somaliland continues its diplomatic campaign for international recognition, with its supporters seeking greater international attention to the territory’s political status and its long-standing claim to separate statehood.

Somaliland Expands Digital.....

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland has completed another stage in the rollout of its **Somaliland Financial Management Information System (SLFMIS)**, as government officials and World Bank-backed project staff concluded an 18-day implementation programme in Tog-Wajaale.

Officials from the **Ministry of Finance and Economic Development** and the **Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development**, together with staff from the World Bank-funded **SERP Project**, took part in a workshop marking the completion of the third phase of SLFMIS implementation. The meeting, held at the office of the **Tog-Wajaale District Commissioner**, concluded the implementation activities and formally handed over the system to the government institutions and departments involved in the programme.

SLFMIS is being introduced as part of Somaliland’s efforts to modernize

the management of government financial information. The system is designed to improve the integration and sharing of financial data, strengthen transparency and make financial management operations more efficient.

The third phase, which was recently launched, is scheduled to extend the system to **24 government entities**, comprising **five districts under local government, seven water agencies, six hospitals and six universities**.

The expansion represents another step in the government’s efforts to strengthen digital systems for managing public financial information and improve coordination among institutions. Officials expect the implementation of SLFMIS to enhance government institutions’ capacity to manage and share financial data while supporting the broader modernization of **public financial management in Somaliland**.

A Day to Remember:.....

Organizers had secured a permit for the gathering, which was deliberately held on the doorstep of the institution that represents the international community. A Historic Moment for Somaliland

The significance of today extends beyond the rally itself.

For the first time during his presidency, H.E. President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi “Irro” was present in New York during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week, placing Somaliland’s president and Somaliland’s national cause in the center of the world’s most important annual diplomatic gathering.

While Somaliland remains outside the formal membership of the United Nations, the presence of its president in New York, alongside an organized Somaliland diaspora mobilization immediately outside UN Headquarters, created a powerful visual and diplomatic moment: Somaliland was making its case both through diplomacy and through the voice of its people.

President Irro’s New York engagements followed an intensive diplomatic effort in Washington, where he met with American policymakers and presented Somaliland’s case for stronger U.S.–Somaliland relations. During the week, he also met Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon. According to Somaliland’s presidency, their discussions included regional security, maritime trade, economic development, technology, agriculture and investment. Israel’s recognition of Somaliland in December 2025 has also changed the diplomatic context surrounding Somaliland’s campaign. Israel became the first UN member state to formally recognize Somaliland, and Somaliland has subsequently sought to build on that development by engaging other governments and international institutions.

The Voice of the Diaspora

Today’s demonstration also demonstrated the continuing importance of the Somaliland diaspora.

For decades, Somalilanders living abroad have carried the message of Somaliland’s history, democratic development, peace and aspirations for recognition to governments, legislatures, universities, think tanks, media organizations and international institutions. Today, that voice was heard at the gates of the United Nations itself.

The message was peaceful, direct and unmistakable:

Somaliland is here. Somaliland is ready. Somaliland seeks recognition.

The rally was not simply a gathering of people carrying flags. It represented a generation of Somalilanders who believe that their history, sacrifices, democratic institutions and aspirations should be understood and considered by the international community.

From Washington to New York

Today’s events follow an active period of diplomatic engagement by President Irro and Somaliland representatives in the United States.

President Irro’s visits included meetings with members of the U.S. Congress and policy discussions concerning recognition, security, trade, investment and Somaliland’s strategic position along

the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. He also addressed the Hudson Institute in Washington, presenting Somaliland as a potential strategic partner for the United States in the Horn of Africa.

The New York rally therefore represents another chapter in a broader campaign: from Washington’s policy institutions to New York’s diplomatic center, Somaliland’s case is increasingly being placed before American and international audiences.

A Message to the International Community

Somaliland’s aspiration for recognition dates to its restoration of independence in 1991. Somaliland maintains its own elected government, institutions, security forces, currency and political system and has continued to argue that its history and political development warrant a distinct international status.

At the same time, Somaliland’s strategic location has become increasingly important to international discussions about the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea maritime security. Its location near the Bab el-Mandeb, together with the development of Berbera Port, has made Somaliland increasingly relevant to discussions about trade, shipping, security and regional economic connectivity.

Today’s rally therefore carried two messages simultaneously:

Recognition is a question of Somaliland’s political future — and partnership with Somaliland is also a question of regional security, economic opportunity and international cooperation.

A Day of Unity

September 23, 2026, should also be remembered as a day when Somalilanders from different backgrounds, regions and communities came together around a common national aspiration.

The Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG) recognizes the commitment of the Somaliland diaspora, Somaliland’s representatives, community organizations, young people, women, elders, professionals and friends of Somaliland who participated in today’s historic mobilization.

The road to international recognition remains a diplomatic process, and today’s demonstration does not itself constitute a change in the recognition policies of the United States or the United Nations. The United States continues to recognize Somalia’s territorial integrity, including Somaliland.

But diplomacy is built through sustained engagement, public awareness, relationships and persistence.

Today, Somalilanders demonstrated that they will continue to make their voice heard.

From Hargeisa to Washington, from Berbera to New York, and from Somaliland to the global diaspora, the message remains consistent: Somaliland is ready for recognition. Somaliland is ready for partnership. Somaliland is ready for its place in the international community.

September 23, 2026 — a day Somalilanders will remember.

Source: Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG) Washington, D.C.



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Middle East Eye's Somaliland Coverage Faces Questions Over Ownership, Politics and Editorial Direction

The latest criticism of Somaliland's President following his appearance at a U.S. think tank has opened a broader question: Is Middle East Eye reporting on Somaliland as an impartial media outlet, or is it reflecting a political position shaped by its ownership and editorial worldview?

President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro was recently criticized by Middle East Eye after speaking at a U.S. research institution about Somaliland's strategic importance and its case for international recognition. But according to politician Ali-Khadar Hassan Osman, the criticism should not be viewed simply as conventional journalistic scrutiny. "Middle East Eye is not an impartial news outlet; it is a political platform driven by particular interests," Osman argues.

The distinction matters because the disagreement goes beyond one article or one interview. Somaliland's growing diplomatic relationship with Israel has placed the nation at the intersection of two highly sensitive political questions: Somaliland's pursuit of international recognition and the wider Middle East debate surrounding Israel and Palestine. For Osman, that intersection provides important context for understanding Middle East Eye's coverage.

Ownership and editorial questions

Osman points to the ownership structure of Middle East Eye, arguing that it raises legitimate questions about the outlet's editorial orientation.

According to UK corporate records cited by Osman, Jamal Awn Jamal Bessasso, described as a Dutch-Palestinian businessman, holds more than 75 percent of the shares and voting rights in MEE Limited, the UK-registered parent company of Middle East Eye.

Osman argues that this ownership structure deserves consideration when assessing the outlet's coverage of Somaliland, particularly since Somaliland's diplomatic engagement with Israel has become a central issue in its foreign-policy debate.

His argument is not that ownership alone proves editorial bias. Rather, he contends that when ownership, political outlook and editorial direction appear closely connected, readers should examine the resulting coverage with greater scrutiny.



"Expecting such an outlet to provide entirely impartial coverage may be unrealistic," Osman argues.

A clash of political narratives

The dispute also reflects a wider clash between competing political narratives.

Somaliland has increasingly presented its strategic location along the Gulf of Aden, its maritime position near the Bab el-Mandeb and its potential role in regional security as part of its argument for closer relations with major international powers. Its engagement with Israel has added another dimension to that diplomatic strategy.

For Middle East Eye, however, the relationship between Somaliland and Israel has been treated through a markedly different political lens, according to Osman. He argues that the outlet's coverage reflects opposition to Somaliland's decision to pursue a diplomatic path that differs from prevailing political positions in the region. In this reading, the controversy is not simply about President Irro or his appearance at a Washington think tank. It is about a larger disagreement over Somaliland's foreign-policy direction.

Beyond one article

Osman says Middle East Eye has for years portrayed Somaliland negatively and argues that its recent criticism should therefore be examined within that broader editorial pattern.

He maintains that the outlet's choice of headlines, framing and issues reflects more than ordinary journalistic disagreement.

"Somalilanders have the right to examine Middle East Eye's coverage with caution and skepticism," he says.

That does not mean every criticism published by Middle East Eye should automatically be dismissed. Nor does it mean that every report supportive of Somaliland should automatically be accepted as objective.

Rather, Osman's argument is that readers should consider the interests, ownership and political context surrounding any media organization when assessing its coverage.

Who is reporting—and from what perspective?

At the heart of the controversy is a question that applies far beyond Somaliland: Can journalism remain completely separate from the political and ideological environment surrounding the institution that produces it?

For Somaliland, this question has become increasingly important as its international campaign enters a more consequential diplomatic phase.

The country is seeking recognition while simultaneously expanding relationships with states and institutions whose interests do not always align with established regional positions. That inevitably produces criticism, competing narratives and intense scrutiny.

Osman argues that Somaliland should therefore respond to criticism with evidence rather than simply accepting the narrative presented by any particular media organization.

In his view, Middle East Eye's coverage should be read in that context—not as an unquestionable account of events, but as one interpretation shaped by its own editorial and political environment.

"Middle East Eye is not simply reporting on the President of Somaliland," Osman concludes. "It is reacting to Somaliland's independent decision to pursue its own diplomatic interests."

For Somaliland, the lesson is straightforward: in an increasingly contested information environment, the question is not only what a media outlet reports, but also who owns it, what perspective it brings, and how its coverage should be independently assessed.

Author: Ali-Khadar Hassan Osman

From Banking Expertise to Institution Building: Professor Eid Ali Ahmed's Strategic Contribution to Somaliland's Financial Sector

Mohamoud Walaaleye

From banking halls in Somaliland and the United Kingdom to strategic planning at the highest levels of financial institutions, Professor Eid Ali Ahmed has built a career around banking, finance and institutional development—experience that the Somaliland Institute of Banking & Finance (SLIBF) says has contributed significantly to the development of its strategic direction. The Institute has formally commended Professor Eid for his contribution to the review, refinement and strengthening of its five-year Strategic Plan for 2025–2029, recognizing the expertise, time and professional experience he brought to the process.

The recognition reflects a wider body of work in which Professor Eid has been involved in strategic planning and institutional capacity-building within Somaliland's financial sector.

A Strategic Planner for Somaliland's Financial Institutions

Professor Eid's contribution to Somaliland's financial institutions predates his work with SLIBF.

According to the Institute's Director, Dr. Fatah Al-Rahman Abd Allah Mohamed El-Safi, Professor Eid was the expert who prepared the first Strategic Plan of the Central Bank of Somaliland.

Professor Eid was appointed an adviser to the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland by its former Governor, Dr. Ali Abdullahi Dahir, on April 27, 2023. The appointment letter highlighted his extensive knowledge of banking operations and international financial systems.

Dr. Ali also cited Professor Eid's previous work on the Central Bank's strategic planning, which became an important reference point in efforts to strengthen the institution's organizational capacity and long-term direction.

That experience later positioned Professor Eid to contribute to the development of SLIBF, where his role extended beyond technical advice to reviewing and strengthening the Institute's strategic framework.

Strengthening the Institute's Five-Year Roadmap

The initial concept and draft of SLIBF's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan were prepared by the Institute's senior management, particularly the Director and Deputy Director.

The draft was subsequently presented to Professor Eid for technical review and professional input.

According to Dr. Fatah, Professor Eid examined the document from the perspective of strategic planning, institutional capacity-building and financial-sector development, recommending changes intended to make the plan more comprehensive and responsive to the Institute's needs.

His contribution included reviewing the Institute's vision, mission, strategic objectives, operational objectives, priority activities and performance indicators.

One important element of his input was strengthening the mechanisms through which the Institute could measure progress toward its strategic objectives and assess expected results.

Professor Eid also contributed to strengthening the plan's **PEST analysis**, examining the political, economic, social and technological factors that could influence the Institute's future operations and strategic direction.

Decades of Banking and Financial Experience



Professor Eid's contribution to strategic planning is rooted in a career spanning banking, finance, accounting and development management.

He received higher education in the United Kingdom and the United States and developed professional experience across several banking institutions.

His banking career included Grindley's Bank and Somali Commercial Bank, followed by experience with Barclays International Bank in the United Kingdom. He later held senior responsibilities at City Bank in Saudi Arabia, including work within its Credit Department.

That combination of banking experience and academic training in finance, accounting and development management has provided the professional foundation behind his involvement in institutional planning.

From the Central Bank to the Banking Institute

For SLIBF, Professor Eid's contribution represents more than the revision of a strategic document.

Dr. Fatah described his experience in strategic planning and institutional capacity-building as an important resource for developing financial institutions in Somaliland.

The Institute says Professor Eid's previous work on the Central Bank's Strategic Plan provided valuable experience that could be applied to the development of SLIBF's own long-term roadmap.

On August 13, 2026, Dr. Fatah presented Professor Eid with a certificate of appreciation, formally recognizing his contribution to reviewing, improving and strengthening the Institute's Strategic Plan.

The recognition placed particular emphasis on his technical knowledge, professional experience and practical recommendations.

Building Institutions Beyond Individual Projects

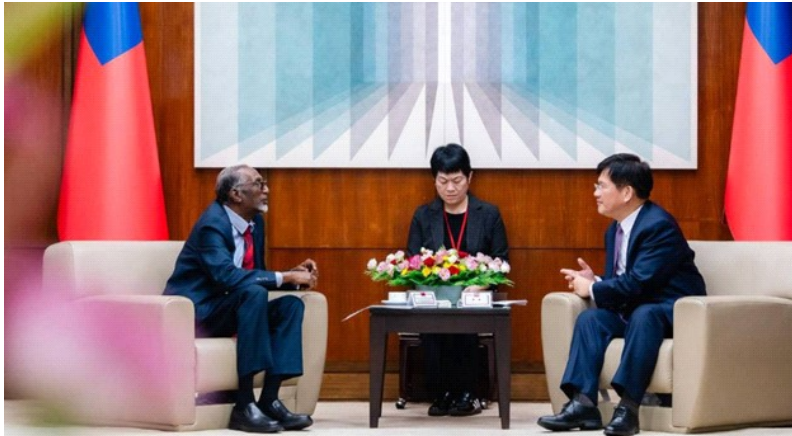
Professor Eid's work illustrates a broader dimension of financial-sector development: institutions require not only qualified personnel and financial resources, but also clear strategies, measurable objectives and systems capable of translating long-term ambitions into institutional action.

Through his involvement with the Central Bank and subsequently with SLIBF, Professor Eid has contributed his expertise to precisely that area—helping financial institutions define where they are going, how they intend to get there and how progress can be measured.

For the Somaliland Institute of Banking & Finance, his contribution to the **2025–2029 Strategic Plan** has now been formally acknowledged.

For Professor Eid, the recognition adds another chapter to a professional career built around banking expertise, strategic planning and institutional development.

Taiwan expanding cooperation with Somaliland



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung welcomed a four-member delegation led by Somaliland's Minister of Interior and National Security, Abdalle Mohamed Arab, on Wednesday. Lin said Taiwan is promoting bilateral cooperation in areas such as coast guard affairs, healthcare, and talent development, according

to the foreign ministry. He said the two countries share a strong friendship and hoped to visit Somaliland in the future to deepen ties. Minister Abdalle emphasized that since establishing mutual representative offices, bilateral relations and cooperation have continued to expand. He said

Taiwan's assistance in healthcare, education, and security has greatly benefited Somaliland. He also hoped for closer cooperation to gain broader international support and more diplomatic recognition. During a luncheon on Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Wu said Somaliland should serve as a model for Taiwan's engagement with East Africa. He added that the nation should share its strengths to contribute to Somaliland's development. Taiwan launched a seed industry development project and opened an agricultural demonstration and training farm in Somaliland on Tuesday. The project will run through 2030 and aims to strengthen food security and climate resilience.

Somaliland Justice Minister Hails Pres Irro's U.S. Visit as Boost for Global Diplomacy

Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Irro) for his diplomatic outreach during a several-week working visit to the United States, describing the trip as an important step in advancing Somaliland's international engagement. Minister Yonis said President Irro used the visit to bring Somaliland's voice to key platforms of international politics and diplomacy, while presenting the country's interests, its pursuit of international recognition and its strategic importance in the region. During the visit, President Irro held meetings with U.S. officials, lawmakers, politicians, academics and members of the wider American community. The engagements, Hon. Yonis said, provided an opportunity to highlight Somaliland's position and present its case to influential figures and institutions in the United States. The Minister described the President's visit as part of efforts to expand Somaliland's international relations and strengthen its role on the global stage. He said the outreach also reminded the international community of



Somaliland's established state institutions, democratic system, peace and stability, and its readiness to cooperate with other countries on the basis of mutual interests. "The efforts being led today by President Irro lay the foundation for opportunities tomorrow," Yonis said. However, he stressed that progress in foreign policy also depends on support at home, national unity and a commitment to placing the public interest above political differences. Hon. Yonis praised Somaliland citizens who stood behind the President and supported his

working visit to the United States. He called on the government, opposition, civil society organizations and the public to share responsibility for protecting peace and stability and for demonstrating to the international community that Somaliland is a confident nation committed to its future. "Our unity is our strength, and our togetherness is the path to success," the Minister said. He concluded by calling for continued national solidarity in support of Somaliland's interests. "Long live Somaliland."

Somaliland Foreign Minister Backs Diaspora Rally for International Recognition at UN

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Aden Bakaal, has praised Somaliland citizens in the United States for peacefully demonstrating outside the United Nations headquarters in New York, saying the rally reflected the unity and longstanding aspirations of the Somaliland people.



Somaliland Parliament Approves Landmark Diplomatic Missions Act, Strengthening Foreign Service Framework



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland has officially approved the National Diplomatic Missions Act, marking a significant institutional milestone for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The legislation follows an extended effort by the ministry to establish a unified legal framework for governing Somaliland's diplomatic missions and strengthen the institutional foundations of its foreign policy. In August 2025, Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Aden presented the draft Diplomatic Missions Act to the House of Representatives, outlining the ministry's work on the legislation and emphasizing its importance to the country's diplomatic operations. He formally appealed to lawmakers to approve the proposed law. Although Somaliland has maintained diplomatic and commercial missions across Africa, Europe, Asia and North America for decades, its foreign service had previously operated without a single parliamentary-approved law comprehensively defining the administrative and legal framework for those missions. The newly approved legislation establishes a comprehensive legal framework governing the operation

of Somaliland's embassies, consulates, commercial offices and permanent missions abroad. The Act also sets out procedures for the appointment of ambassadors, including eligibility requirements for candidates, as well as compliance provisions designed to align diplomatic appointments and operations with ministry policies and international diplomatic norms. In addition, the law defines the organizational structures of Somaliland's foreign missions, specifying the statutory roles, administrative classifications and legal protections applicable to diplomatic personnel. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the passage of the legislation as the resolution of a longstanding institutional gap. "The passage of this law means the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has overcome a major structural challenge that has impacted diplomatic work throughout Somaliland's existence," the ministry said in an official statement. The approval of the Act provides Somaliland's foreign service with a formal legislative framework for managing its overseas missions and diplomatic personnel, bringing greater structure to the administration and execution of its foreign policy.

The minister expressed his appreciation to the participants, who gathered to reaffirm their call for the Republic of Somaliland to receive full international recognition and take its place within the international community. In a statement published on his X account, Minister Abdirahman Dahir Aden Bakaal said the rally reflected what he described as Somaliland's longstanding national aspiration and the commitment of its people to pursuing international recognition. He said Somaliland citizens seek to play a meaningful role in the international community and to secure what he described as

the place the country deserves. The minister also said he was pleased to stand alongside Somaliland citizens who gathered outside the UN headquarters, describing their demonstration as a peaceful and united expression of support for Somaliland's pursuit of international recognition. The rally brought together Somaliland citizens from the United States and the wider North American diaspora outside the UN headquarters, where participants displayed Somaliland flags and voiced their call for international recognition.

THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed

1				2		3		4		5	
		6	7								
8						9					
		10									
11						12			13		14
				15	16		17	18		19	
	20		21						22		
23			24				25				
	26	27									28
29						30		31			
					32						
33						34				35	

- ACROSS
- 1 Therefore
- 3 have enough money.
- 6 Wait for
- 8 Being as
- 9 Escaping
- 10 Quantity used on papers
- 11 Eye or lookout
- 13 damaging/opposite of good
- 15 Municipal
- 19 Towards
- 20 Speech
- 23 Go off
- 24 Ocean
- 25 Change or control
- 26 Upon
- 29 Shouts or cracks
- 30 Ticket or meal
- 32 Salaries
- 33 Crash
- 34 Reddish
- 35 Remain
- DOWN
- 1 Secure
- 2 not available in short forms
- 3 breakfasted
- 4 Stand facing
- 5 Repetition
- 7 Calendar week
- 10 Rootle
- 12 amount in cash
- 14 Puppy
- 15 Stairs
- 16 Drink
- 17 Juvenile
- 18 Ending
- 20 Shortly
- 21 BEING AS
- 22 Occasions
- 27 Surname
- 28 Family tree
- 29 Witnessed
- 30 Far away
- 31 Reddish

Previous Answer

S ¹	O			N ²		A ³	F	F ⁴	O	R ⁵	D
T		A ⁶	W ⁷	A	I	T		A		E	
A ⁸	S		E			E ⁹	S	C	A	P	E
B		R ¹⁰	E	A	M			E		E	
L ¹¹	O	O	K			S ¹²			B ¹³	A	D ¹⁴
E		O		S ¹⁵	T ¹⁶	A	T ¹⁷	E ¹⁸		T ¹⁹	O
	S ²⁰	T	A ²¹	T	E	M	E	N	T ²²		G
G ²³	O		S ²⁴	E	A		E ²⁵	D	I	T	
	O ²⁶	N ²⁷		P			N		M		T ²⁸
S ²⁹	N	A	P	S		F ³⁰	A	R ³¹	E		R
A		M			W ³²	A	G	E	S		E
W ³³	R	E	C	K		R ³⁴	E	D		B ³⁵	E

Taiwan launches Somaliland seed development project



Taiwan has launched a seed industry development project and opened an agricultural demonstration and training farm in Somaliland. Speaking at the farm's opening ceremony Sunday, Taiwan Representative Allen C. Lou said Taiwan and Somaliland are working together to strengthen farmers' capabilities through demonstrations, training, and technology transfers. The project will run through 2030 and aims to strengthen food security and climate resilience, according to the Taiwan Representative Office in Somaliland. The office said the two sides were "sowing seeds of friendship, growing a sustainable future together." "This project will establish a seed quality management system, strengthen testing and inspection capacities, and improve seed production techniques," the Taiwan International Cooperation and

Development Fund said. The fund added that these efforts would help Somaliland advance toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger. Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Wu said in June that bilateral cooperation spans agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, and other areas. Wu described Somaliland as Taiwan's first major partner in East Africa and said the relationship could serve as a model for broader engagement across the continent. Last year, President Lai Ching-te met Somaliland Foreign Minister Abdirahman Dahir Adam and pledged to deepen the partnership. Lai said authoritarian regimes had intensified efforts to suppress Taiwan's and Somaliland's international participation. He said the two sides should work together to demonstrate the resilience of democratic alliances and their commitment to shared values.

Somaliland Livestock Ministry Moves to Unlock Bank Financing for Pastoralists and Traders

Mohamoud walaaleye
The Ministry of Livestock Development and Rural Development of the Republic of Somaliland has opened talks with banks operating in Somaliland on expanding financing and financial services for the livestock sector, in a move aimed at strengthening investment and livestock trade. The meeting, chaired by Minister of Livestock Development and Rural Development **Hon. Omar Shucayb Mohamed**, focused on ways to improve access to suitable banking services and financing opportunities for pastoralists, livestock traders and livestock cooperatives. The discussions examined how greater access to financial resources could support livestock production, strengthen commercial activities and create new opportunities for businesses operating across the sector.



The Ministry and the participating banks also discussed the role of financial institutions in the **2026 Livestock Trade Fair**, with the event expected to provide a platform for strengthening connections between banks, livestock businesses and potential investors. The Ministry described the engagement as a step toward easing access to financing and broadening financial services available to pastoralists and livestock traders. The initiative is intended to encourage greater investment in the livestock industry while supporting the wider development of Somaliland's livestock economy.

“SLIBF Was Established to Build Human Capital in the Financial Institutions Sector” Dr. Fatah

Interview: “SLIBF Has Trained More Than 600 Professionals Within Two Years”

The Somaliland Institute of Banking and Finance (SLIBF) is a national educational and training institute specializing in banking, finance, and insurance, and is affiliated with the Central Bank of Somaliland. The institute plays an important role in developing the knowledge, professional skills, employability, and leadership capabilities of employees working in the country's banks and financial institutions. It combines high-quality education, professional training, internationally recognized certifications, and short-term programs designed to develop and strengthen the capacity of employees in financial institutions. Established in 2024, SLIBF has, within a short period, implemented academic programs, professional training courses, and internationally recognized certification programs. The institute was established to address the national need for specialized knowledge and skills in banking, finance, and insurance. It offers Master's programs, Professional Diplomas, professional certifications, and specialized training programs, including programs related to Islamic finance. Since its establishment, SLIBF has trained hundreds of professionals, contributing to the development of the workforce and strengthening the capacity of Somaliland's financial institutions. The institute has also established partnerships with international organizations, including the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI). During the first half of 2026, it also obtained accreditation for three Executive Professional Master's programs. The Director of the Somaliland Institute of Banking and Finance, Dr. Fatah Al Rahman Abdullah Mohamed Elsafi, spoke to Dawan Newspaper during the newspaper's visit to the institute's headquarters in Hargeisa, discussing the progress and aspirations of SLIBF. He also provided detailed information about the establishment of the institute, the reasons behind its creation, its achievements, and its future plans. When asked about the main purpose of establishing the Somaliland Institute of Banking and Finance and when it was founded, Dr. Fatah responded: “The Somaliland Institute of Banking and Finance (SLIBF) is an educational and training institute that is part of the government and is affiliated with the Central Bank of Somaliland. It was established as a strategic initiative of the Central Bank to serve as its academic and training arm in the fields of banking and finance.

The institute was officially recognized by the National Commission for Higher Education on July 7, 2024, and was officially launched on September 8, 2024. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by the former Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Ali Tahir. The institute officially began its first academic and professional programs in December 2024. The institute was established to serve as a national institution specializing in professional education, training, and capacity development for employees in banking, finance, and insurance. “The role of the institute is not limited to providing training courses. It aims to develop the knowledge, professional skills, competencies, and leadership capabilities needed to support the development of Somaliland's financial sector. The institute offers a range of academic, professional, and training programs, including Master's degrees, Professional Diplomas, internationally recognized professional certifications, and short-term training programs. The institute also partners with international professional organizations, particularly the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI). These partnerships, together with the institute's academic and professional programs, are intended to align its education and training with international academic and professional standards while maintaining Islamic principles and professional ethics. Therefore, SLIBF plays an important role in the Central Bank of Somaliland's efforts to develop human capital and institutional capacity within Somaliland's banking and financial sector.”

Responding to the Needs of Somaliland's Financial Sector

When Dawan asked Dr. Fatah about the needs and circumstances that led to the establishment of the institute and how it responds to the needs of Somaliland's financial sector, he said: “The institute was established in response to a clear need for a specialized institution dedicated to developing professional human capital for those working in Somaliland's banking, finance, and insurance sectors. As the financial sector continues to grow, institutions need employees and future leaders who possess not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills, professional qualifications, work ethics, and the ability to adapt to modern developments in banking and Islamic finance. “Before the establishment of the institute, there was a need for a specialized institution capable of bringing together,

within a single institutional framework, academic education, professional certifications, specialized training, and broader capacity development for the financial sector. The institute therefore addresses this need through three comprehensive areas of work. First: Academic education and postgraduate studies aimed at developing advanced knowledge and research capabilities. Second: Professional certifications and specialized training designed to directly respond to the practical needs of banks, insurance companies, microfinance institutions, the Central Bank, and other financial institutions. Third: Developing partnerships with reputable local, regional, and international institutions, giving Somaliland professionals access to internationally recognized practices and standards. This practical role is already evident in the institute's activities. Between 2025 and 2026, the institute trained more than 600 participants from banks, microfinance institutions, insurance companies, departments of the Central Bank, and universities. The institute also delivered 15 training programs in banking, finance, and insurance. These included financial statement analysis, motor insurance, Islamic microfinance, AAOIFI standards and Shariah, among others. Therefore, I would describe the institute's fundamental purpose as building professional human capital and strengthening institutional capacity, which are essential foundations for the development of Somaliland's financial sector.”

Major Achievements Since Establishment

Speaking about the major achievements of the institute since its establishment, Dr. Fatah Al Rahman Abdullah Mohamed Elsafi said: “Since its establishment, the institute has made significant progress, particularly considering that it is a newly established institution. One of our major achievements has been the development and implementation of various programs in specialized education, professional skills, and training. According to the 2025 Annual Report, since its establishment, the institute has trained approximately 475 professionals from banks, microfinance institutions, insurance companies, departments of the Central Bank, and university graduates. At the same time, 84 students enrolled in advanced fellowship programs, professional diploma programs, and recognized professional certification programs. “In addition, 62 students graduated from the Professional



Certificate in Banking and Finance program in December 2025. The institute has also expanded its engagement with the insurance sector, banks, microfinance institutions, and departments of the Central Bank through specialized training programs and institutional partnerships.” Dr. Fatah further stated: “During the first half of 2026, the institute trained approximately 145 professionals and implemented several important programs, including the Financial Statement Analysis and Decision-Making for Banks program, which benefited 30 employees of the Central Bank; the Motor Insurance program, attended by 38 participants from the insurance sector; the Principles of Business and Shariah Legal Standards in Modern Islamic Finance program, attended by 21 participants; and the introductory program, ‘How to Become a Certified Islamic Banker,’ which was attended by 27 participants.”

Current Students and Professional Programs

Dr. Fatah added: “Currently, the institute has 101 students enrolled in nine programs. Of these students, 67 are enrolled in two programs directly offered by the institute: Certified Islamic Banking Expert (CIBE) and Certified Islamic Insurance Expert (CIIE). Another 34 students are enrolled in seven programs offered by the institute in partnership with CIBAFI and AAOIFI. These include Executive Professional Master's programs, professional diplomas, and professional certification programs. The institute has also significantly expanded its professional certification programs in partnership with AAOIFI and CIBAFI. These programs include CIB, CSAA, CSE, CIPA, and PDSA, as well as the Executive Professional Master's in Islamic Finance.”

A New Approach to Professional Education

Explaining the institute's key achievements and developments, Dr. Fatah highlighted one of the innovations SLIBF has introduced in professional education. He noted that the institute does not merely facilitate students' access to international professional programs offered by AAOIFI and CIBAFI. Instead, it has established a dedicated academic support system designed to strengthen

students' understanding and overall learning experience. According to Dr. Fatah, this approach combines online learning with face-to-face academic support provided by experienced university lecturers, financial-sector experts, and professionals with extensive experience in banking and Islamic finance. This team of academics and professionals continuously supports students through academic sessions and review sessions aimed at strengthening their understanding of the curriculum and preparing them for professional examinations.

Challenges and Institutional Development

Dr. Fatah explained that, like any newly established institution, the Somaliland Institute of Banking and Finance has faced challenges, including financial sustainability, implementation of academic programs, raising awareness about the institute, and institutional development. He said that the institute has responded to these challenges by expanding its professional and academic programs, strengthening partnerships with financial institutions, and implementing its 2025–2029 Strategic Plan. Another significant achievement was the accreditation of three Executive Professional Master's programs during 2026.

Future Vision

Looking ahead, Dr. Fatah said the institute's vision is for SLIBF to become a national center of excellence and a recognized regional institution in banking, finance, Islamic finance, insurance, and professional development. The institute's future priorities include:

- Expanding academic and professional programs.
- Strengthening local, regional, and international partnerships.
- Developing research activities.
- Ensuring institutional and financial sustainability.
- Continuing to build the professional capacity of Somaliland's financial sector. Ultimately, the institute's vision is to become an institution that produces future professionals and leaders, supports financial institutions, and contributes to the development of Somaliland's financial sector while building a strong regional presence and establishing international professional relationships.