



Foreign Policy of Somalia

December 2015



The Federal Republic of Somalia

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION**





The Coast line of Somalia

DECEMBER 2015
FOREIGN POLICY
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

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Acronyms

AU – African Union

AL – Arab League

AMISOM – African Union Mission to Somalia

COMESA – Common Market for East and Southern Africa

CITES – Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species

EAC – East African Community

IGAD – Intergovernmental Authority on Development

GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council

MEAs – Multilateral Environment Agreements

MDGs – Millennium Development Goals

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization

OIC - Organization of Islamic Cooperation

OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

UN – United Nations

Foreword by the President



I am very happy to endorse this statement of the Foreign Policy of the Federal Republic of Somalia, which outlines Somalia's Foreign Policy and highlights its underlying beliefs and values, main sources and pressures, guiding principles, objectives and core priorities, strategies and implementation framework.

The Foreign Policy is based on two main principles. The first is Democracy. Lack of respect for democratic principles in the past is what led to widespread poor governance and breakdown in the rule of law in Somalia. It is now accepted that poor governance has been one of the major causes of the collapse of Somalia's socioeconomic development

The second principle, which follows directly from the first, is the empowerment of people and their inclusion in their national development journey and ambitions. Due to increased levels of poverty, social isolation and lack of political representation during our difficult recent history, the Somali people, particularly the youth, who are two thirds of our population, became vulnerable to political and religious manipulation and even misguidedly accepted policies and practices despite the fact that they were harmful to their long-term interests.

Therefore, improving security, reducing poverty, creating economic opportunities and opening the political and social space for the inclusion of the people in the decisions that will determine their future, is the surest way of empowering our people to be responsible for their own destiny. Employment creation is one of the cornerstones of this policy and strategy as it is the best route to social inclusion, economic empowerment and freedom for all Somali citizens. It is for this reason that our Foreign Policy is placing investment promotion on top of the development agenda.

To achieve these objectives, the Somali Government will create an enabling environment in order to encourage domestic, Diaspora and foreign investors. Without investment the desired growth will not take place and without growth our national goals of achieving a secure, stable and economically prosperous Somalia will be even more challenging.

Finally, it is crucial to remember that sustainable development is about people and in particular, the youth who are the main agents of development. Therefore, whilst our Government, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion, is tasked with implementing the policy measures spelt out in this Foreign Policy document, the success of these policies and their collective and interlinked objectives lies with all of us.

In this connection, I would like to urge all Somali citizens to work very hard in whatever capacity and role, towards achieving the goals and following the principles set out in the policy document. This way, we will succeed in making Somalia a prosperous nation, a proud place to live in, an excellent regional neighbor and an effective and valued international policy actor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hassan Sheikh Mohamud', written in a cursive style.

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud
President of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Preface by the Prime Minister



The creation of this formal statement of Somalia's Foreign Policy is a landmark achievement for our nation. It is the first time since the collapse of the state that Somalia has set out in this way the fundamental objectives and principles of its Foreign Policy. The Policy provides a broad-based framework for Somalia's foreign relations and diplomatic engagements within a contemporary globalized environment.

The Policy outlines the evolution of our foreign relations engagements with our partners over the past two and half decades within the context of our civil conflict. This Policy paper charts a new path for Somalia's engagement with the international community of nations with a strategic direction aimed at the achievement of the collective aspirations of the Somali people, bearing in mind the critical role played by Foreign Policy in meeting priorities and protecting and promoting national interests.

The objectives of our Foreign Policy are informed by our common aspiration for a peaceful, united and prosperous Somalia as set out in the Constitutional principles of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Somali Vision 2016 and the Economic Recovery Plan. Through our Foreign Policy, Somalia seeks to promote and safeguard national, regional and international peace and security and protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity. As a country, we will continue to support the work of regional, international and multilateral organizations in finding lasting solutions to conflict and terrorist activities for a free and secure world.

In pursuing the country's socio-economic and political interests, Somalia will promote sub-regional and regional integration and cooperation emphasizing intra-African trade as the cornerstone for Africa's socio-economic and political unity and economic and social progress. Through economic diplomacy, Somalia will continue to strengthen and consolidate its trade and investment links with traditional partners while exploring new trade and investment partners in order to expand access for Somali products to foreign markets.

At the same time we will work closely with investors and create the best possible investment environment to encourage and increase Foreign Direct Investment in Somalia. Through this Policy, we seek to extend our engagement and partnerships with the Somali Diaspora in order to draw on their skills and expertise for national socio-economic development.

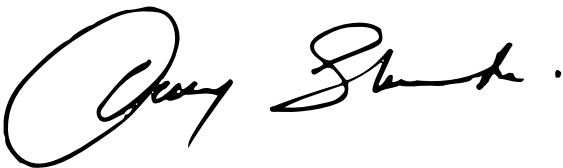
As a country with vast natural resources, we will focus on contributing to sustainable management of environmental challenges, such as climate change, ocean and air pollution, ozone layer depletion and resource degradation.

Our precious culture will be used to promote mutual understanding at the national, regional and international levels to promote positive and sustainable economic activities and trade relations especially through mutually beneficial cultural exchanges. The outlined Policy will continue to shape Somalia's interaction and engagement with the outside world in order to maximize the benefits from its diplomatic engagement at all levels.

The effective actualization of our Foreign Policy demands a synchronized multi-sectorial approach across all levels of government. To this end, all Public Institutions, Ministries, Departments and Public Agencies whose functions and responsibilities in one way or another impact our foreign relations are expected to work diligently with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion to make this Policy a reality.

We also attach great importance to engagement, dialogue, and coordination with the private sector and non-state actors in relations to formulating and implementing the nation's Foreign Policy.

Finally, in making public this Policy the Federal Government of Somalia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to an open and participatory policy process. This approach will help to ensure that necessary measures are put in place to effectively promote the interests of Somalia and her nationals in its foreign relations and diplomatic engagements.



Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke
Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia



Statement by the Minister Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion

A window of opportunity is now open to Somalia in the form of gains in security, renewed international engagement and political reconciliation and it must not be allowed to close ever again. Seizing the opportunity to end Somalia's many years of conflict will require economic recovery, improved security, justice and better international relations. This means delivering quick tangible benefits to communities to alleviate poverty, build trust in Government, both internationally and domestically, and encourage social cohesion and integration.

It also means starting to lay the foundations for sustainable development, through strengthening state capacity and legitimacy, identifying long-term infrastructure priorities, putting in place more sustainable management of natural resources, building systems for the regulation and delivery of services and improving economic and social relations with neighboring countries and international partners.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion of the Federal Government of Somalia is tasked with the pursuit of the nation's Foreign Policy and Investment Promotion goals. In accordance with the constitutional principles of the Federal Government of Somalia it is also responsible for the overarching objectives of protecting, promoting and advancing the nation's interests abroad. The Vision driving our Foreign Policy agenda is the quest for a peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Somalia while our Mission is to protect and promote Somalia's interests, values and people, and to contribute to creating a just, peaceful and equitable world through innovative, active and open diplomacy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion has developed this Policy to guide our foreign relations and diplomatic engagements with our partners internationally. The Policy is underpinned by determination to preserve the country's sovereignty, promote universal peace and security, and foster better relations with our neighbors, the rest of the African continent and the world at large. In this regard, we will continue to consolidate and strengthen our foreign relations and diplomatic engagements with other countries as well as international and multilateral organizations at the regional, continental and global levels.

This Policy is anchored on five interlinked policy areas of diplomacy, namely: Peace and Security, Diaspora, Socioeconomic Development, Sustainable Environment, and Cultural Promotion and Preservation.

The Peace and Security Policy seeks to consolidate Somalia's legacy in promoting peace and stability as necessary conditions for development and prosperity in countries within the region.

The Diaspora Policy recognizes the importance of channeling the diverse skills, expertise and potential of the large Somali community living abroad and facilitating their integration into the national development agenda.

The Socioeconomic Development Policy aims to realize robust and sustained national economic development so as to secure the nation's well-being and prosperity.

The Sustainable Environment Policy acknowledges Somalia's enormous stake in the sustainable management of its own natural resources, understanding that its policies have regional and global linkages.

The Cultural Policy aims to use culture as a vital tool in international relations especially through the use of cultural heritage and endowments as platforms of our foreign engagement and to connect the Somali Diaspora to their home.

In line with our policy objectives of securing and advancing the interests of the Federal Republic of Somalia abroad, the Government has established and will continue to establish Embassies in partner nations and appoint Consulates and honorary embassies. In order to sustain this momentum and to engage effectively with the rest of the world, we will continue to strengthen and consolidate our diplomatic presence and strengthen our representation abroad with strategic partner countries and multilateral agencies around the world.

The overall goal of this policy is a Somalia once again contributing to the progress of its nation, its region, and the world through the promotion and enactment of international norms and goals that further security, stability, economic progress and sustainable development. In an age of globalization, we realize we must effectively play our part to forge new paths and policies, and contribute ideas to the progress of mankind.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion intends to develop a three-year strategic plan to assist the realization of its priorities through effective implementation of specific policy strategies. This Policy will be subjected to regular reviews to ensure it remains relevant to the rapidly changing domestic and global environment.

This Policy was developed through consultation and with the participants who play a key role in Somali politics, society, and Foreign Policy. I would like to thank all those who contributed to its development and subsequent finalization, especially members of the Ministry staff.



Abdusalam Omer

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion

Overview

The essential purposes of Somalia's Foreign Policy are to ensure the country's security, territorial integrity and sovereignty; to promote the well-being of its people; and to promote peace and harmony through non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and through unity within its own borders. Somalia's foreign policy is firmly rooted in the values of Islam, democracy and sustainable development.

Somalia has begun a process of reconstruction, development and democratization. Parallel to the emerging partnership between Somalia and the international community, Somalia's foreign relations have been undergoing major changes. The Government has a proactive policy to strengthen and consolidate its relations with the international community, inter-regional institutions, including the African Union and the Arab League.

Somalia, a Muslim nation in East Africa, is determined to take its place on the world stage, to be a bridge between Africa and the Middle East, and also to be a full participant in engagement between the Islamic world and Western pluralistic democracies. Somalia recognizes the difficulties of such an undertaking. But the nation is determined and, with the support of international partners, it can achieve its goals through a multilateral, cooperative and confident Foreign Policy.

Policy Context

Somalia's long struggle for liberation from colonialism, military dictatorship and civil conflict have shaped its Foreign Policy. The founders of the Republic highlighted the long-lasting link between national independence and humanity's larger freedom, equity and the indisputable right to a shared heritage.

Somalia assumed its place as a sovereign state and actor in international relations on gaining independence in July 1960. Somalia's Foreign Policy is guided by a strong belief that its own future is inseparable from the stability and security of its environment. Unfortunately, this stability and security have been undermined by a coup d'état in 1969, by an undemocratic regime that lasted 21 years and then by more than two decades of civil war and terrorism.

Today the nation is moving to a pluralistic and democratic system. To strategically place the country in the international arena, the framers of Somalia's Foreign Policy have charted a pragmatic approach informed by principles that have stood the test of time. This approach is aimed at ensuring that Somalia can forge mutually beneficial partnerships.

Globalization has led to the emergence of international social and economic systems that have both positive and negative effects. While offering new economic opportunities especially in the fields of science, technology and communication, globalization has led to tough competition for capital flows, shrinking market access and economic marginalization of many developing economies.

Effective responses to these challenges require an appropriate Foreign Policy direction. As the world has globalized, security threats have emerged that are far removed from the classical model of inter-state conflict. Somalia has experienced these threats directly: terrorism that imperiled the very existence of the nation, organized crime, piracy, drug and human trafficking, proliferation of small arms, and money-laundering, among others.

These threats have compelled Somalia to establish new anchors for the conduct of its foreign relations. Combating the scourge of domestic and international terrorism has become a crucial feature of Somalia's internal and external relations and its strategic partnerships.

Primary Aim, Guiding Principles and Key Objectives of Somali Foreign Policy

The primary aim of Somali foreign policy is to protect and promote the nation's interests and values. In a wider context, these interests and values include peace, unity and prosperity throughout the world. The Federal Republic of Somalia pursues its Foreign Policy within the African integration process, in cooperation with its neighbors in East Africa, and as a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Somalia seeks to encourage an international environment oriented toward the development of political and economic cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit. The joint identification and management of threats to regional and global security is as important as resolving conflicts through political and peaceful means. Somalia recognizes the value of pursuing peaceful ends to conflict because the country has experienced the immense suffering of internal strife and war.

Implementation of Somalia's Foreign Policy and the conduct of its international relations are to be guided by the following general principles:

- Promotion of national, regional and international peace and security
- Promotion of commercial and economic activity for sustainable development
- Effective participation in multilateral diplomacy
- Implementation of obligations regarding international treaties and conventions

The key specific objectives of Somalia's Foreign Policy are the following:

- Protection of Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- Advancement of the sustainable economic prosperity of the country and its people
- The promotion of Somalia as an international investment destination and a strategic hub for African and global trade
- Mobilization of national, bilateral and multilateral resources for Somali-led development
- Promotion of sub-regional, regional and continental economic integration with Somalia as an active and respected member of the East African Community

- Provision of services for the Somali Diaspora and utilization of the presence of Somali people throughout the world to promote the interests of their motherland in constructive ways for all concerned
- The return home of Somali refugees in a peaceful and structured manner and reversal of the illegal flow of migrants from Somalia
- Enhancement of the cultural identity of the Somali people
- Active encouragement of peace and security through the promotion of Somalia as a neutral venue for dialogue and mediation
- Promotion of Somalia's national image abroad through public diplomacy about its constructive, peaceful and cooperative policies and intentions

Somalia's Foreign Policy addresses five interlinked areas:

1. Peace and Security Policy.
2. Socioeconomic Development Policy.
3. Diaspora Policy.
4. Sustainable Environment Policy.
5. Cultural Policy.

Peace and Security Policy

Somalia's Peace and Security Policy is grounded in the understanding that peace and stability are indispensable conditions for the development and prosperity of Somalia, its neighbors and the world as a whole. Tied to this is the belief that Somalia's own security, stability and economic wellbeing depend on the stability of the sub-region, Africa, the Arab World and the rest of the world.

The key aims of this Policy are to:

- Advocate conflict resolution by peaceful means
- Join forces with other Arab and African countries to strengthen the conflict prevention, management and resolution capacity of regional institutions, including the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union (AU)
- Support peace efforts by the African Union, the Arab League, the United Nations, and regional and international peace-building institutions
- Establish conflict analysis and prevention capacity nationally and in the region through all other existing national and regional institutions

In pursuing these Policy goals, Somalia will draw on its experiences in mediation, conflict resolution and peace-building. Somalia will also work closely with neighbouring countries and institutions that are involved in peacekeeping on the continent. These include the International Peace Support Training Centre and East African Standby Force Command.

Economic Development Policy

Somalia's peace and stability is linked to its socioeconomic development and prosperity and that of the region. Robust economic engagement is indispensable to secure Somalia's sub-regional and continental overall economic growth and stability.

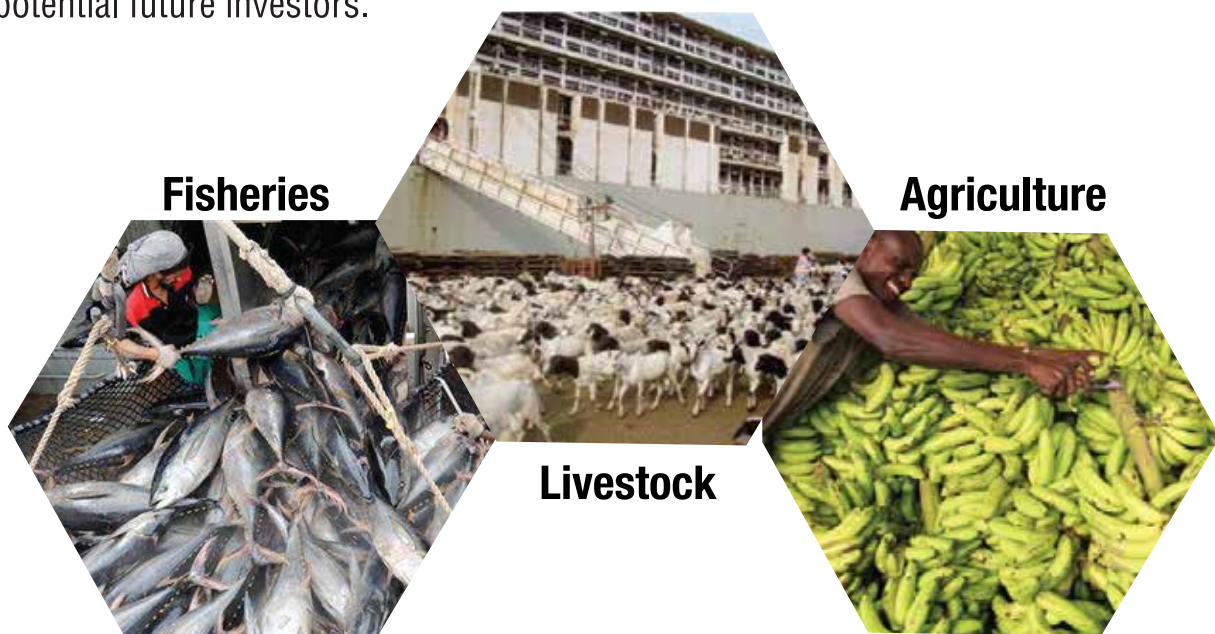
The key aims of this Policy are to:

- Increase capital flow to Somalia from the Diaspora and others
- Encourage domestic production for local markets and export, as well as investment by Somali enterprises within the region
- Boost the country as a desired destination for Foreign Direct Investment, and also as a destination of financial markets
- Explore new sources of affordable and appropriate technology
- Promote fair trade and equitable bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements
- Promote internal standards of trade certification to enable Somali businesses to thrive in a regulated global economy.

Somalia has abundant natural resources and great potential in human resources, including its Diaspora population which has wide-ranging skills and knowledge. With the right policies, solid government and sustainable growth strategies along with improved security it has the potential to become a world leader in agriculture, marine resources, energy, minerals and tourism.

This is where Foreign Direct Investment will play a crucial role in Somalia's ability to accomplish its goals and realize a successful transition from a nation in need of humanitarian aid to a developing and prosperous country. The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia aims to create a transparent and conducive environment for foreign investors.

SomInvest will be the foreign investment promotion office. It will be responsible for the promotion and facilitation of investment, including the provision of information for existing and potential future investors.



Diaspora Policy

Somalia recognizes the huge and largely untapped potential of Somalis abroad to contribute to the country's development. The Diaspora policy seeks to harness the diverse skills, knowledge, expertise and resources of Somalis abroad and facilitate their integration into the national development agenda.

The key aims of this Policy are to:

- Provide effective and responsive consular services
- Facilitate the participation of Somalis abroad in national reconstruction and development
- Develop unified advocacy programs for Somalia's interests
- Explore the concept of creating a social development fund to enable the Diaspora to tangibly contribute to Somalia's rebirth
- Promote access by Somalis to the international labor market
- Utilize Diaspora skills for local institutional development



Sustainable Environment Policy

Somalia, like its neighboring countries, believes that the environment and natural resources are precious assets upon which a country's sustainable development depends. Somalia recognizes its enormous stake in the management of its own natural resources, those of the region and the world. A strong orientation toward environmental issues is therefore a distinct feature of Somalia's Foreign Policy.

Among key issues addressed by this Policy is the effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Somalia is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As the cradle of humankind and custodian of unique flora and fauna, Somalia takes seriously its obligation to transmit humanity's inheritance to posterity. It also recognizes the urgent need to face contemporary environmental problems, such as global climate change, ozone depletion, ocean and air pollution, and resource degradation compounded by the increasing world population.

The key aims of this Policy are to:

- Promote compliance with national, regional and international environmental laws, regulations, standards, and other appropriate operational procedures and guidelines
- Promote the integration of environmental management into national and regional economic activities, including agriculture and related areas.
- Promote research to encourage innovation and reduce adverse environmental impacts
- Encourage public dialogue, awareness and knowledge creation on environmental matters through national, regional and international forums
- Encourage responsible foreign investment



Cultural Policy

The potential of Somalia's cultural heritage is enormous, and its contribution to the development, stability and security of the country should be encouraged. Over the years Somalia has continuously placed emphasis on cultural recognition and understanding as the basis for dialogue within and outside Somalia. It is through cultural activities that a nation's idea of itself is best represented. Somalia's Cultural Policy aims to increase awareness of its cultural richness and to generate interest in the country's cultural heritage.

The key aims of this Policy are to:

- Respect and recognize cultural diversity and heritage
- Promote cultural exchanges and partnerships with other cultures
- Promote global intercultural dialogue
- Promote art policy by recognizing the role of Somalia poetry and arts
- Promote sports policy and programs for the youth

The pursuit of these goals will inform diplomatic engagements. They will further guide the country as it pursues its vision of becoming peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive while promoting sustainable development.



Young Somalis in traditional cultural clothing

Somalia's Neighbors

As an independent and sovereign nation, Somalia wishes to be an equal partner with its neighbors, and seeks to be a catalyst for regional cooperation. Somalia attaches great importance to good relations with its neighbors, in particular immediate neighbors Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya as well as the other IGAD member states. Decades of armed conflict and war in the country undermined Somalia's ability to have equal, constructive relations with its neighbors: this ability is growing as peace and stability are returning.

Somalia has long-standing historical, religious, economic and social relations with its Arab League partners, in particular Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. In light of those strong positive relations, Somalia is building new strategic and security partnerships with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in particular to strengthen pre-existing economic and cultural ties.

Somalia recognizes the importance of strengthened bilateral relations, regional cooperation and enhanced multilateral engagement as fundamental components of its Foreign Policy and entry points for protecting and promoting its national interests and values.

Bilateral Relations

Somalia continues to embrace the goal of sustainable development in pursuing its Foreign Policy objectives through bilateral trade and political, environmental and cultural agreements with all countries and organizations. Priority partners include neighboring countries that have hosted a number of representatives from Somalia's business community and settled refugees and others. These countries are at the centre of Somali Foreign Policy. Somalia also seeks to enter into bilateral partnership with countries in other African sub-regions, in keeping with its Afrocentric policy, and also with Arab and Muslim countries.

Somalia recognizes the fact that all neighbors have hosted and protected large numbers of Somali refugees. In the coming months and years these communities will be returning home. To enhance peace and stability, Somalia will work with neighbors and the international community to ensure that the repatriation process is done in a structured and positive manner that enhances linkages and contributes to the improved wellbeing of all.

Lack of economic opportunity and insecurity continue to drive some Somali citizens to migrate abroad. Somalia is willing to work with others to prevent these flows and save lives. This will take time and can only be achieved by assisting the economy to grow and ensuring that services are available at home. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion will promote sustainable economic growth and investments to ensure that the ongoing migrant crisis can be ended.

The implementation of bilateral arrangements with foreign countries beyond Africa is a critical element of Somalia's Foreign Policy agenda which lays the foundation for emerging economies and economic zones. Somalia looks forward to further enhancing its relations and interactions with China and other important countries and economies of East Asia.

Somalia will further strengthen its bilateral diplomacy by establishing diplomatic missions in countries of strategic importance and exchanging high-level delegations. Furthermore, the promotion and protection of the interests of the large, worldwide Somali Diaspora will continue to inform the strengthening of bilateral relations with other countries.

Regional Cooperation

Somalia sees regional cooperation and regional economic integration as the best means to reduce tension, resolve conflict and succeed in the competitive markets of the global village. An individual nation-state can survive and prosper only by participating in regional cooperation mechanisms. The models of the East African Community, IGAD and others are encouraging and inspiring ones. Strengthening them and integrating them economically is a huge but not impossible challenge. In this context, it is important to have a regional vision. Somalia works toward the attainment of that vision through serious and sustained commitment and planning.

Somalia has taken the initiative of joining the East African Community. This is an opportunity for Somalia and its neighbors to reaffirm a commitment to constructive and supportive bilateral relationships based on the principles of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, cooperation and non-interference in the internal affairs of one another.

Regional Integration

Integration, stability and trade at the regional level will continue to be a key feature of Somalia's Foreign Policy. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union (AU) and East African Community (EAC), the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are Somalia's principal opportunities for pursuing its regional Foreign Policy goals.

As a member of IGAD, Somalia will continue to play a positive role and provide active support to IGAD as an effective regional tool for confronting challenges to sustainable development in the region. Strategic interventions include mobilizing international support for IGAD to address issues of regional security and stability.

Somalia is in the process of becoming a member of COMESA. As the largest African regional economic bloc, COMESA is of strategic importance to Somalia's economic and political diplomacy. It will provide an extensive market for Somalia imports and exports and is a major source of investment opportunities.

The regional bloc is also a key player in Africa's effort to establish an extensive Free Trade Area on the continent. Somalia will continue to support the strengthening of COMESA as a leader in continental integration.

Somalia will advocate for the provisions of the AU Constitutive Act and the realization of its strategic objectives. Somalia will continue to play its role in strengthening of the AU and its institutions in accordance with the AU Agenda 2063. As a member of IGAD and future member of COMESA and EAC, Somalia supports the AU plan to boost intra-African trade and establish Africa as a pole of global economic growth.

Somalia will continue to support Africa's strategic partnerships with other regions aimed at promoting global peace and security and realizing the sustainable development agenda within the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Islamic World

Strengthening relations with the Islamic states constitutes a priority for Somalia's Foreign Policy. As a Muslim country, Somalia places special importance on its relations with all other Islamic countries. Somalia views the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as one of the best venues for pursuing solutions to many challenges, including underdevelopment (in particular, in the fields of research and education), inter- and intra- state conflicts, fanaticism, and Islamophobia.

Many OIC member states have actively committed to supporting our nation on the ground; chief among these are the Republic of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The United Nations

Somalia will promote the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter and play its rightful role in supporting the work of the UN system in the promotion of international peace and security, trade, human rights and democracy, refugee protection, sustainable development and the reform of the UN system. In this regard, Somalia will forge greater collaboration with the UN system and other international institutions and bodies.

Somalia appreciates the important role the UN has played in promoting international peace, security, stability and development. Indeed, Somalia believes the UN should play a more active role in global affairs, in particular in the fields of development, environment and international justice. To this end, Somalia supports efforts to make the membership of the Security Council more inclusive and stands by the African Union Position on the critical issues.

The member states should help the UN to address some of its structural deficiencies, including under-representation of developing nations in the influential bodies of the UN and the UN bureaucracy. Somalia also fully supports the mission and objectives of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia.

Multilateralism

Somalia will engage in South-South cooperation and similar approaches, and participate in multilateral organizations that promote international cooperation and collaboration in finding lasting solutions to global challenges. Somalia will continue to advance its overall Foreign Policy goals through robust engagement with the World Trade Organization and other efforts to create a predictable, transparent and enabling environment for fair multilateral trading. Somalia recognizes the need to clamp down on illegal businesses (drugs, weapons smuggling and piracy) and improve internal certification systems to enable greater economic links with the globalizing economy.

The European Union

Somalia attaches strategic importance to its relations with the European Union, which has been a generous and committed friend. This has been demonstrated by the acceptance by EU member states of hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers as well as through continuing long term development assistance. The nation fully appreciates the role of the EU in supporting the security sector, in providing training and capacity-building, and in financing AMISOM and many of our public institutions. Somalia is eager to establish an enduring partnership with the EU.

The United States

Somalia considers its strategic relations with the United States to be critical to its success in overcoming the legacy of civil war and conflict, and becoming a democratic and prosperous nation living in peace and harmony with its neighbors and the world community. Its relation with the United States is multifaceted, including cooperation in the fields of security, development, civil society and education, and on regional and international issues. The United States has also welcomed Somalis fleeing conflict over the past 30 years. Today vibrant Somali communities thrive in Minnesota and other parts of the USA.

Terrorism

Terrorism is one of the results of the prolonged civil war and state collapse. It remains a primary concern for Somalia and this issue underlines the importance of regional as well as domestic stability and legitimacy. As a multifaceted phenomenon, terrorism is often conditioned by its environment. Somalia and a growing number of its international partners are convinced that terrorists receive sustained support from outside Somalia. Countries must be sincere in their support of the common struggle against terrorism. They must unite with Somalia in full conformity with the principles of international law and norms and oppose those who continue to use or support terrorism as a means of statecraft.

Terrorists often do not discriminate among their victims, as revealed by the widely varying backgrounds of victims of almost all recent terrorist attacks, including Kampala, Nairobi, Dares Salaam, London, Paris, Nigeria and Karachi. As such, it is wrong and also counterproductive to associate terrorism with a single community and faith.

The nature of terrorism demands that the international community pursue a united, determined and principled campaign against both the symptoms and the causes of terrorism. Somalia will actively engage in the fight against terrorism, including efforts to eliminate its roots. Indispensable to any such efforts will be securing the trust and support of the people by providing security and prosperity and by representing their interests and values. As a country seriously affected by terrorism, Somalia will always be a staunch supporter of global efforts to eradicate terrorism, and Somalia will cooperate closely with the international community on this issue.

Somalia embraces the broadest concept of an antiterrorist campaign, with a strong emphasis on international efforts to combat organized crime, the drug trade, trafficking in weapons and persons, corruption and funding of terrorism. The foundational document for Somalia is a compilation of the various counter-terrorism and national security laws, instructions and orders from the National Security Council of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Somalia will follow up its active participation in antiterrorist activities within the UN, AU, IGAD, European Union, Arab League, NATO, OSCE, and other organizations.

Sustainable Development

In North-South relations there is an urgent need to view global challenges as common responsibilities. This requires a partnership between the South and the North to address emerging challenges in this interconnected, globalized age. It is also vital to achieving sustainable development.

The Somali people have the energy, capacity and deep understanding of their society and economy to enable them to lead their own development in cooperation with their international partners. Indeed, development in Somalia will be at its most sustainable and most mutually beneficial when it is Somali led. Sustainable development cannot be achieved unless sufficient attention is given to protecting the environment and to promoting social justice, both domestically and globally, and to ensuring a key role for local participation.

Fortunately, there are important initiatives and mechanisms, such as the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that provide opportunities for the international community to meet its responsibilities in partnership with the developing countries. Somalia has been an active participant in the process of developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which build on the MDGs and will supersede them in 2016. Somalia's approach to sustainable development will be in line with the SDGs and their economic, social and environmental aims. Effective action to achieve the SDGs will require a combination of Somalia's own resources and those of its international partners.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

In view of the nature of modern warfare, Somalia regards the use of weapons of mass destruction as contrary to international norms. Somalia fully supports a world free of nuclear weapons. Somalia will actively participate in political processes, within international organizations and UN conventions, aimed at the gradual reduction of the number of nuclear weapons and compliance with a complete ban on chemical and biological weapons. Somalia will also actively continue to cooperate with international control regimes aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including the implementation of all of the Security Council resolutions pertaining to this matter.

Cooperation among Civilizations

A peaceful future lies not in the clash of civilizations, but in cooperation among civilizations. Somalia believes that there is no single best approach for addressing the many global challenges. Somalia is committed to pluralism, dialogue and partnership to confront all these global challenges together.

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