



Partnerships, Peace, and Prosperity

A Statement Calling for a New Foreign Policy for Somalia

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Introduction

Somalia's political leadership needs to develop a robust foreign policy that advances the needs and interests of the Somali people. To assist in this, the Somalia Strategy Forum has designed a broad framework that takes into account the critical elements needed for the development of a successful and productive foreign policy. This approach emphasizes diplomacy, negotiation, and compassion. Somalia should be aware of its commitment to its neighbors and the international community concerning regional peace, stability and human security for all. To achieve these goals, we recommended opening the lines of communication, forming partnerships, and cultivating dialogue. Relying on these tools of engagement will allow the Somali Government to pursue effective, balanced, and wide-ranging ties with the international community.

A guiding principle of Somalia's foreign policy should be justice in dealings between states, including the necessity of respecting the principle of non-interference in the sovereign affairs of other nations. Somalia should also be committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes and should back international institutions to reinforce the rule of law and the implementation of conventions and treaties.

One of the core issues of Somali foreign policy should be the development of closer ties with its neighboring countries and globally.

The Guiding Principles of Somalia's New Foreign Policy

- ☪ Securing greater stability in the horn of Africa by strengthening the role of diplomatic missions abroad and promoting peace, trade, and regional economic inter-dependence.
- ☪ Securing greater security and freedom through constructive multilateral engagement, emphasizing creative approaches and cooperation to regional and global issues rather than confrontation and conflict.
- ☪ Wiping the state clean of all recriminations of past action by Somalia and its neighbors.
- ☪ Somalia can help build confidence within the East African Community by hosting an annual cabinet level conference for peace and stability.
- ☪ To ensure greater coherence between domestic and international goals, Somalia should align federal entities and domestic policy with Somalia's foreign policy and international obligations.
- ☪ Support national development with priority on economic development, as set out in the Five-Year development plan.
- ☪ Proactive engagement diplomacy in surrounding countries.

Application of These Principles

- ☪ Somalia will not wait until a crisis to react, but instead will act proactively to foster political stability in the region.
- ☪ Somalia will host a cabinet-level conference between neighboring countries for peace and stability in the region each year.
- ☪ The government will enhance the country's global standing by strengthening the role of diplomatic missions abroad.
- ☪ The positive image of Somalis abroad should be enhanced through cultural activities.
- ☪ Cooperation with the public and private sector of US, Turkey, European Union & Arabic League member-countries should be increased with a special emphasis on economic, social, and cultural relations.

Somalia-United States Foreign Policy

The Somalia–US relationship will be one of the most important partnerships that Somalia develops. Somalia–US foreign policy should, among other goals, allow Somalia to leverage US experience in building democratic institutions and fostering economic development, combined with Somali expertise of history and cultural institutions

- ☪ The United States and Somalia will share a close, long-standing, and multifaceted relationship, predicated on a broad convergent strategic alliance in Africa and globally.
- ☪ Somalia will enjoy strong economic and political ties with the US.
- ☪ We recommend that a US–Somalia Free Trade Agreement be drafted as well as a Somalia Strategic Framework Agreement.
- ☪ The relationship should focus on areas such as Capacity Building, Rule of Law, Sustainable Economic Development, Information Technology, Sustainable Agriculture Development, Health Sector Development, Education, and counterterrorism.
- ☪ Bilateral relations will remain stable and positive.

International Organizations

- ☪ Somalia should stand for multilateralism within the United Nations system.
- ☪ Somalia should support responsible and serious efforts aimed at reforming the United Nations and its principal organs, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, as well as other specialized agencies and development programs.
- ☪ In addition, Somalia should support strengthening and developing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.
- ☪ We once again underscore the critical role of the United Nations in the peaceful resolution of existing conflicts, in peacekeeping operations, and preventive diplomacy and in promoting the culture of peace and international cooperation.