



Statement on National Unity and Reconciliation

By The Somalia Strategy Forum

Introduction

Somalia Strategy Forum defines unity and reconciliation as the consensual practice of Somali citizens who have common nationality, who share the same religion, culture, languages, mutual respect, and equality. SSF maintains that attaining unity and reconciliation among all Somalis will require change on the part of Somali society and willingness to transform Somalia into a free tribal tolerance zone. The aim of this project is to contribute toward increased national unity and reconciliation through an improved understanding of how ordinary Somalis perceive and respond to efforts to engage in dialogue. **Somalis need to meet together.** The unity and reconciliation process is guided by the following principles:

- ☞ **Tribal tolerance**
- ☞ **Striving** to heal one another physically and psychologically from the wounds of the past as we build our future with interpersonal trust based on truth telling, repentance, and forgiveness.
- ☞ **Combating** any form of divisionism and discrimination.
- ☞ **Promoting** the spirit of Somali identity and put national interest first instead of favors based on clan and region of origin.
- ☞ **Preparing** and coordinating a national program for the promotion of national unity and reconciliation.

- 🌀 **Putting in place** and developing ways and means to restore and consolidate unity and reconciliation.
- 🌀 **Striving** for self-determination and promotion of unity.
- 🌀 **Promoting** interdependence and synergy.

Somalia Strategy Forum will implement these principles by bringing Somalis together within their communities throughout the world. Meeting together helps us to know where we have reached as a country and reflect on what we are supposed to do to achieve our goals. These meetings should be held in all countries where Somalis reside so that they can participate in the reconstruction of their country. Somalis need to speed up the process of building a prosperous and peaceful country by stepping up efforts to promote unity and reconciliation. **We are witnessing a new era in Somalia.** We need to make a new record of togetherness, tribal tolerance, and mutual respect.