



Communiqué of the Bulsho Trust International Conference on the Situation in Somalia’s Security Transition, Inclusive Politics, and Economic Development

The International Conference on the Situation in Somalia organized by Bulsho Trust on August 12-13, 2023, in Ohio, USA, (referred to in this communiqué as “the Conference”) centered on the themes of Security Transition, Inclusive Politics, and Economic Development in Somalia. The Conference brought together a diverse group of participants, including current and former political leaders, security experts, professionals from academia, and international institutions.

The Conference commenced with an engaging discussion on the pressing issue of security and the ongoing war with al-Shabaab in Somalia. Distinguished speakers and experts from various fields shed light on the strategies and challenges in countering terrorism while ensuring the safety and well-being of Somali citizens.

1. Security Situation in Somalia:

The Conference began with a comprehensive discussion on Somalia’s security challenges, particularly in dealing with the al-Shabaab insurgency. The Conference commended the Somalia Federal Government’s diligent endeavors in combatting al-Shabaab. However, it also emphasized the importance of peaceful resolution of political and security challenges in general. The Conference also recognized the need for a comprehensive approach that goes beyond military interventions. It emphasized the importance of addressing socio-economic issues, promoting good governance, and ensuring the protection of human rights. Distinguished speakers discussed strategies and challenges in countering terrorism while ensuring the safety of Somali citizens. Additionally, the drawdown of African troops (ATMIS) from Somalia was thoroughly examined, highlighting the importance of a smooth transition and the need for sustainable security measures.

The conclusions included:

- Support the ongoing government campaign against al-Shabaab and urging Somali citizens to contribute to this effort.
- Recognition of the importance of peaceful conflict resolution within the country.
- Encouragement for a comprehensive approach beyond military intervention to end the prolonged conflict, addressing socio-economic needs, promoting good governance, and safeguarding civilians during operations.
- Acknowledgement of the ongoing transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to Somali Security Army (SNA) and commandment their respective roles.

2. Inclusive Politics in Somalia:

The topic of inclusive politics took center stage, emphasizing the significance of inclusive governance and political participation in Somalia. Participants deliberated on strategies to foster unity, strengthen democratic institutions, and ensure representation of all segments of society. The Conference served as a platform for exchanging innovative ideas and best practices to overcome political divisions and build a more inclusive political landscape.

The Conference highlighted the importance of involvement of diverse segments of society in governance and political processes with the aim of fostering unity, strengthening democratic institutions, and ensuring representation for all.

The conclusions included:

- Support for the regular National Consultative Forum and encouragement of efforts to engage Puntland in these discussions.
- Recognition of the significance of inclusion of diverse voices including women, youth and other civil society members in the decisions about Somalia's future.
- Encouragement of greater inclusivity in the review process of the Provisional Constitution.
- Call on the FGS to address national issues, including the situation in Laas Caanood.

3. Economic Situation in Somalia:

The second day of the Conference shifted focus to economic development and debt relief in Somalia. Esteemed economists, financial experts, and policymakers engaged in discussions about strategies to alleviate Somalia's debt burden and promote sustainable economic growth. The importance of international cooperation, investment, and trade partnerships to stimulate economic development was underscored throughout the sessions. Participants explored various avenues for economic revitalization, including the promotion of key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure development, and private sector engagement. The Conference provided an opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and identify actionable steps to unlock Somalia's economic potential.

The conclusions included:

- Recognition of the importance to increase domestic tax revenues and modernization of customs and tax code by the FGS and its member states.
- Support for increase of international cooperation, investment, and trade partnerships to stimulate economic development. The Conference commended the government's efforts to conclude the HIPC process and urged development of inclusive plans for Somalia's post-HIPC era.
- Encouragement of Somalia's efforts to join the East African Community and greater general regional integration.
- Support for avenues of economic revitalization, including the sectors of agriculture, infrastructure, and private sector engagements.

In conclusion, the first Bulsho Trust International Conference on Somalia concluded with a collective commitment to continue the support of Somalia's journey toward peace, security and economic prosperity. Participants acknowledged the complex challenges the country faces, while expressing their optimism for the potential of a positive change through collaboration, shared responsibility and sustained international assistance. The Conference also concluded on a positive note, with participants reiterating their commitment to peace, stability, and development in Somalia.

Finally, it was agreed that similar Conferences would be organized periodically to monitor progress, reassess priorities, and adapt strategies to address the evolving dynamics in Somalia.



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