



DIALOGUE ON SOMALI CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONAL UNITY



HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON

COMPLETING SOMALIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL VISION



PANEL DISCUSSION

NATIONAL UNITY AND REBUILDING SOMALIA'S CITIZENSHIP

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SOMALI CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONAL UNITY

The groundbreaking conference on the constitution organized by BulshoTrust emphasized the importance of Somali Citizenship and National Unity. Bulsho Trust is an independent policy research and action institute focused on preventing violent conflict, building peace, and promoting sustainable development in the Horn of Africa [1]. A panel of experts discussed both topics, particularly the various challenges currently facing the federation and the state. Federalism is the optimal strategy for Somalia to achieve a political settlement among Somali clans and a practical solution to the national unity [2].

Two former ministers and academicians participated in the discussion. Challenges included how to break the cycle of the failed state, strengthen national identity, and limit the divisive influence of the international community and the international NGOs. Somalia has suffered from foreign interventions [3].

The panel highlighted the external threats facing Somalia, particularly the strategy of annexing seaways or seizing the country's resources including ports and airports. The panel also discussed the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Ethiopia and Somaliland in January 2024, which threatens Somalia's unity and territorial integrity. The panel agreed that Ethiopia, with the support of the UAE, poses an existential threat to Somalia. Ethiopia has successfully engineered the Balkanization of Somalia, which has furthered the UAE's interests in the Horn of Africa region [4].

The panel stressed the importance of national unity to counter foreign interferences. These interventions aim to achieve geopolitical objectives and focus on economic, security, and political affairs. The subversive roles of foreign countries cause tensions between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States. These tensions exacerbate relations between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States, as the Federal Government faces immense pressure from local governments. Foreign states exploit Somalia's political instability to pursue their geopolitical goals, primarily targeting the country's strategic economic assets. Since the collapse of the military administration in 1991, Somalia has struggled to establish a unified government [5].



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In conclusion, the panel emphasized the importance of national unity to protect the country from foreign interferences. It urged the government, at both the federal and the regional levels, to strengthen the unity of the nation. It also recommended the Federal Government to exercise caution in managing the National Citizenship, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive national identity system.

Reference

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Panelists:

Dr. Mohamed Abdi Hashi, former Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy
Dr. Hamid Masheye, former State Minister of Foreign Affairs
Prof. Hasan Kaynan, former Professor at the Somali National University
Prof. Abukar Warsame, Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Moderator:

Dr. Abdirizak Hashi