

Call for Papers: Bulsho Trust Conference on Somalia's Road to Stability

“Somalia: Building Electoral Consensus for Political Stability”

Bulsho Trust is organizing an international conference to discuss the growing political impasse in Somalia and to provide a forum for inclusive dialogue on electoral options that can unify the country and avert a looming constitutional crisis. The conference which will take place in Columbus, Ohio, on September 6–7, 2025, will bring together a diverse set of stakeholders invested in Somalia's future.

Somalia is at a critical crossroads. As the timeline for electoral processes becomes increasingly uncertain and key constitutional questions remain unresolved, the risk of political fragmentation grows. Without a broadly accepted electoral roadmap, the vacuum could be exploited by terrorist groups, deepen mistrust among political actors, and further delay the country's progress toward peace, democratic governance, and security. This conference seeks to bring together leaders from the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States, opposition leaders, political organizations, civil society actors, diaspora leaders, Somali intellectuals, and representatives from the international community. The goal is to create a constructive platform for dialogue that fosters mutual understanding, identifies feasible electoral frameworks, and reinforces national unity.

The conference features high-level panels, roundtable discussions, and workshops centered on:

- A Menu of Electoral Options: Identifying viable, inclusive, and constitutionally sound models and timelines.
- Federal Government/Federal Member States Cooperation: Strengthening intergovernmental consultations on elections and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- The role of civil society and diaspora in building political consensus.
- Preventing the security fallout of political deadlock and safeguarding democratic institutions.
- Role of the international community in averting a political vacuum and sustaining years of democratic and security gains in Somalia.

Call for Participation:

All interested stakeholders are invited to submit an *Expression of Interest* and an *abstract of no more than 500 words* detailing their proposed contribution to the conference. Topics should align with the theme and focus on practical solutions, consensus-building strategies, or lessons from comparative contexts.

Please send abstracts and expressions of interest and requests for letters of invitation to: khadra@bulshotrust.org and copy jibrilmo@gmail.com.

Submission Deadline: August 30, 2025.

