

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA
US-AFRICA SUMMIT**

NATIONAL STATEMENT

The priority of the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia, under the leadership of H.E. The President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, includes the delivery of security, establishment of peace, as well as the complete transformation of Somalia from war-torn nation to functioning state. The challenges Somalia faces are complex and multi-faceted. Creating political stability, delivering a relevant, timely legislative agenda, building robust public service delivery, and establishing sound governance processes supported by a transparent, trusted public financial management system and a thriving private sector are critical to delivering a peaceful, prosperous Somalia.

Somalia established its first Federal Government in September 2012, following 22 years of civil strife, state collapse, violent extremism, and terrorism. Somalia is currently at a critical juncture: national reconciliation and stability are priorities for establishing peace and prosperity. At the heart of these priorities is a firm commitment to inclusivity and national dialogue in order to broker a national political settlement.

Given the security situation in Somalia, much attention has focussed on securing stability and ending violence. The Federal Government of Somalia is focussed not only on ending violence, but removing the root causes of instability and creating the conditions necessary for positive peace. Security is one means to an end: it is clear that security and state-building must be pursued concurrently. Defeating the terrorists operating in Somalia is critical. The Somali National Army and AMISOM's success in doing so thus far is undoubted. However, the sustainability of military successes is dependent on the establishment of essential government services, emergency infrastructure reconstruction, and humanitarian relief. Furthermore, these activities will be built on by the Government's 2016 Vision of establishing local governance, introducing democratic elections, and fostering economic development.

This is why the various processes, systems and tools put in place by the Federal Government of Somalia, with significant international support, to support growth from nascent to fully-fleshed statehood, are critical. Five Peace and State building Goals: inclusive politics, security, justice, economic foundations, and revenue and services, guide the planning activities of the Federal Government of Somalia and our development partners.

Progress is evident:

- Joint military offensives, conducted by the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia have liberated more than 10 regions.
- The Council of Ministers (Somalia's Cabinet) has adopted its first annual work plan. The operating budget for 2014 is double that of 2013.
- A Financial Governance Committee, consisting of representatives from the Government and the international financial institutions, has been established to plan for, monitor and report on Somalia's public financial management systems.
- Public Financial Management has been strengthened through the collective advancement of various financial governance initiatives, including the passing of the Procurement Bill, strengthening the budget process, development of a revenue framework, and establishment of governance structures at the Central Bank of Somalia.
- The Somalia Financing Facility, a direct-budget support mechanism has proven successful.

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- A National Security Council has been established as the highest forum for developing national security policy and making decisions on matters of national security.
- Diplomatic relations have been strengthened with neighbouring countries through frequent dialogue and cooperation on regional issues.
- The New Deal Compact has been launched as a framework for managing international aid priorities and programs for Somalia
- Independent National Commissions have been appointed to oversee national political and legislative processes.
- Interim administrations have been established in various regions.
- Improvements have been made in the delivery of public services, particularly through improving infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and justice institutions.

Future plans are necessarily bold, and the scale of activity consequently ambitious. Priorities where work has already commenced include:

- *Translating the New Deal Compact into program and projects to deliver on political, security and development efforts for peace and state building activities over the next three years (2014-2016).*
- *Completing a Vision 2016 framework to conduct constitutional review and implementation; reconciliation and completion of the federal system, as well as preparation of National Elections by 2016.*
- *Managing continued joint operations between the Somalia National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia against terrorists.*
- *Strengthening financial activity planning, budgeting, and plans to build a transparent public financial management system that makes possible on-budget development support, enables service delivery, revenue collection and prioritised, monitored spending.*
- *Investing in Government institutional strengthening and capacity building.*
- *Implementing a national poverty reduction strategy focused on strengthening access to health care, education and employment, as well as promoting financial inclusion and developing public infrastructure.*
- *Creating the enabling conditions for robust private-sector growth, expansion of industry and meaningful employment opportunities.*
- *Establishing extractive industry management practices that exploit Somalia's natural resources in the interest of all Somalis.*
- *Providing education, employment and engagement opportunities for youth.*
- *Reviewing and ratifying critical United Nations' Conventions.*

Somalia is building a nation state of one people, one faith, one language, founded with the mutual goals of shared peace and prosperity. Cooperation and compromise are essential. Interaction and integration based on respect are critical. Despite clear challenges, encouragingly, signs are already clear that things are getting better.

Somalia is rebuilding, and the Federal Government of Somalia, supported by Somali elders, women, families, youth and children, are committed to ensuring Somalia takes its place as a contributing member of the world community.