2019 Summer Dialogues Summit

Sustainable Social Reconciliation and Democracy for Somalia.

25th - 27th August 2019
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Building on the success of the 1st summer dialogues, which was not a simple event to hold, the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit took a lot of planning, coordination and support to successfully hold it and realize the intended impact.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we want to extend our sincere appreciation to all the people who have played a role in the organization and management of this high-level event. The 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit drew more than 200 attendees who included among others; Federal Government Officials, Federal Member States’ Officials, Academics and scholars, civil society, development partners and members of the general public.

The Puntland Ministry of Interior, Federalism and Democracy, as the lead behind this year’s successful conference, expresses its appreciation and thankfulness to all the delegates and event participants including; the President of Puntland H.E Said Abdullahi Deni, the Puntland Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization, Hon. Mohamed Dhabanacad, the Former Prime Minister of Somalia H.E Ali M Geeddi, the Ministers of Interior from the South West and Hirshabelle states for gracing the event. Much appreciation goes out to all the speakers, presenters, panellists and all the intellectuals who presented papers and engaged in the discussions as well as the participants that made this event a success.

Special thanks go to the Ministry of Interior, Federalism and Democratization (MoIFAD) and the Somali Stabilization Fund (SSF) for providing all the support needed to make the event a success. Further thanks go to Puntland State University for hosting the event.

We want to acknowledge the role played by the members of the media and civil society that played a deep interest in this summit. We cannot forget SIDRA’s team for planning, coordinating and managing this event; your dedication is much appreciated. Maamuus Event Management for handling the proceedings and all people who worked on the conference.

Guled Salah Barre
SIDRA Executive Director
Image 1: H.E Said Abdullahi Deni arrives to officially open the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit
KEY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS/ PROCEEDINGS

The 2nd Annual Summer Dialogues Summit on the theme “Sustainable Social Reconciliation and Democracy for Somalia” brought together policy makers, researchers, academics, business community, religious and traditional leaders and civil society to debate and provide evidence based policy recommendations for attaining of viable social reconciliation and tangible democracy for Somalia. This year’s event highlights were:

01.

The 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit was held on 25th – 27th, August 2019 under the theme of “Sustainable Social Reconciliation and Democracy for Somalia”.

02.

200 participants took part in the 3 day conference. The participants included among others; officials from Puntland Government, delegates from the Federal Government of Somalia and the federal member states, members of the civil society, academia, media and members of the general public.

03.

The 2nd Summer Dialogues included; 4 Keynote addresses/ Speeches, 7 paper presentations and discussions and 7 panel discussions. They all centred on sustainable social cohesion for Somalia and democratization.

04.

Both traditional and new media played a tremendous role in creating visibility and raising interest in the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit thus allowing all Somali and non-Somali communities: local, national, regional, continental and global to engage with the summit through different media channels.

05.

The 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit communiqué was developed and disseminated to the public. Subsequently an event report has been compiled to capture the event proceedings and it will be published after finalization.
Image 2: H.E Said Abdullahi Deni takes a family photo with some of the key male participants and organizers of the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit.

Image 3: H.E Said Abdullahi Deni takes a family photo with some of the key female participants in the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit.
KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 2nd SUMMER DIALOGUES SUMMIT

01. Tangible social reconciliation for Somalia, a country fast recovering from prolonged political, civil, economic and social instability forms the foundation base for restoring and strengthening unity, togetherness and dignity among the Somali people. This sets the ground for consensus decision making in all aspects of life, a fundamental aspect of democracy.

02. Failure to complete the draft constitution and other federal laws has led to endless confusion and inconsistencies thus weakening State powers. It is therefore crucially important to accelerate the completion of the constitution and other pending laws through a transparent and all inclusive process to fast track rule of law, democracy and national unity, peace and prosperity.

03. Youth extremism is traumatic and devastating. An act that is affecting both the youth and the general Somali public. It needs to be addressed with a comprehensive plan from all levels. There is therefore a call to hold a National Somali conference to seriously analyze the problem, its impact and find practical solutions to the root causes of extremism in Somalia especially among the youth.

04. A one-man one-vote election is the only way Somali citizens can get accurate representation and accountability from their elected leaders. It is crucial to implement such a voting model. Puntland is in the process of being the forerunner in holding such an election there by setting an example for the rest of Somalia.

05. Whereas it is important for Somalia to have regular, timely, free and fair elections, the mode of election should be on the basis of political agreement reached at by all concerned bodies especially the Federal Government (both Government and Parliament) and the Federal Member States.

06. It was agreed to form a technical civil society committee to advise the parliamentary committee drafting the Somali election law.

07. Justice is the basis for the existence of any nation. Therefore, it is essential to pay much focus on the development of justice within the Country. It is also agreed to call upon all Somali people to refrain from the effects of civil war, return any visible and confiscated property and also seek forgiveness from one another in all Somali communities for the nation to move forward to sustainable reconciliation, peace, democracy and prosperity for all.
The Summer Dialogues Summit is commended and a request is made to SIDRA Institute to maintain and sustain the hosting of such a solution yielding dialogue. It is also requested to share the event outcomes with the public and concerned stakeholders.
INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND

The Annual Summer Dialogues Conference is an annual high-level forum organized in Somalia during the summer period. The first Summer Dialogues Forum was held in August 2018 when Puntland was celebrating 20 years of semi-autonomous existence. One of the key aspects discussed during the first summer dialogues were the challenges of conflict on Somalia and how reconciliation can be realized. It was noted that having dialogues on Somali challenges is vital to the generation of knowledge and ideas aimed at Somalia’s post conflict society transformation. The initiative for this event is aimed at bringing together policy makers, researchers, academics, business community, religious and traditional leaders and civil society to debate practical solutions to Somalia’s challenges and acting as a platform for developing home-based evidence-backed policy recommendations for state transformation.

Image 4: left to right: Mr. Guled, the former Prime Minister of Somalia, the president of Puntland, the Minister of Interior and the Vice President follow the proceedings of the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit

The 2nd Summer Dialogues was held on 25th – 27th, August 2019 under the theme of “Sustainable Social Reconciliation and Democracy for Somalia”. This year’s event explored the issues of achieving sustainable social reconciliation and promoting democratic governance in Somalia such as trust building, opening channels of dialogues, consensus building, encouraging collaboration, state building, democracy, and rule of law. The Conference debated the current political situation of the country and the role in which social reconciliation could play in breaking the current impasse between the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States.

The major issues that were discussed included:

(1) Social reconciliation to restore trust, provide opportunities for dialogue about past atrocities and promote social healing.
(2) Promoting democratic governance.
(3) Political commitment to achieve inclusive politics in order.
(4) Promoting economic development and growth to achieve sustainable social reconciliation.
Leading Somali academics and researchers presented papers on the topics of

(1) Leading from Conflict

(2) The first attempt of democratization in Puntland: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned

(3) Health and Gender, the Neglected Determinants of Sustainable Peace

(4) Youth Radicalization: Causes, Consequences and Potential Solutions

(5) Federalism and Decentralization

(6) The Role of CSOs in democracy and social reconciliation

(7) Role of Business in Political Reconciliation

Panel discussions were held on:

(1) Sustainable Social Reconciliation for Somalia
(2) Puntland Democratization Process: Challenges and Opportunities:
(3) The role of Democracy in sustainable social reconciliation
(4) The search for an agreed practical Electoral Model for 2021 Somali national elections
(5) Economic Development and Growth as a tool to promote sustainable social reconciliation
(6) Restorative Justice for Somalia
(7) Youth, Conflict & Development: Breaking the Cycle of Violence
KEYNOTE ADDRESSES/SPEECHES

1.1 Welcoming Remarks Executive Director of SIDRA

Guled Salah

Guled Salah thanked all dignitaries in attendance and those following the event from all over Somalia. These include among others; H.E the President of Puntland, Officials from Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States, Think Tanks, academicians, women groups, youth groups, civil society organizations and people of all corners of Somalia.

Guled briefly explained the process of the 2nd Summer Dialogue. He said, “It comes as a follow up recommendation for the first summer dialogue summit that was held in 2018” He mentioned that as observed by researchers, many research reports and analyses worth huge sums of money have gone unnoticed and unrecognized. “As a think tank institution, we thought that such forums could be more engaging, productive and consistent with the social behaviours.” he said.

Image 5: The former executive director of SIDRA giving his welcoming remarks to the delegates and participants of the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit
“The first Summer Dialogues Forum was held in August 2018 when Puntland was celebrating 20 years of semi-autonomous existence. One of the key aspects discussed during the first summer dialogues were the challenges of conflict on Somalia and how reconciliation can be realized” he reflected. He added that through SIDRA’s experience, it was noted that having dialogues on Somalia’s challenges is vital to the generation of knowledge and ideas aimed at Somalia’s post conflict society transformation.

He mentioned that the planning for the 2nd Summer Dialogues of 2019 started in back in October of 2018 when concept notes were developed, revised and submitted to several prospect funders of the summit. Calls for papers were also sent out to encourage scholars, academicians and thinkers alike to submit papers that would add extra value to the event and 7 were selected from a pool of research papers basing on pre-set criteria.

SIDRA also invited panellists from all over Somalia and Diaspora to discuss, analyse and provide valuable insights for policy makers and government officials. The panellists were drawn from people with diversified expertise on the thematic coverage of the discussion. Guled revealed that the outcome of this conference was to be utilized by all relevant stakeholders and would pave way for realistic solutions to sustainable reconciliation and the democratisation of Somalia.

He concluded by saying that the aim of such a platform is to bring together policy makers, researchers, academics, business community, religious and traditional leaders and civil society to debate practical solutions to Somalia’s challenges as well as acting as a platform for developing home-based evidence-backed policy recommendations for state transformation and that the 3rd Summer Dialogues Summit is already in early planning phase.
1.2 Remarks from the former Prime Minister of Somalia

HE Ali M Geeddi

Professor Mohamed Ali Gedi thanked the Ministry of Interior of Puntland and SIDRA for putting together such a high-level dialogue platform and choosing a very concrete and timely thematic discussion point. He said that the theme of the dialogue is vastly researched and many authors have written large volumes of literature regarding sustainable social reconciliation and democracy.

“I remember in 2007 more than 3,000 Somali participants attended the national reconciliations and the outcome was a full book of recommendations and ideas worth spreading and deliberating so that greater consensus could be reached at all levels.” he recalled.

Prof. Gedi stated that such an event is highly needed and Somalis are a single family that shares much and should reconcile at all costs without looking into the differences amongst themselves. He raised the concern that whatever came out of the 2007 reconciliation conference was not really disseminated and shared with the public and he said that he feared that even the outcome of the 2018 summer dialogues was not widely circulated to reach a greater audience.

He revealed that the five core contested issues between the Federal government of Somalia and its Federal Member States should be reconciled. He emphasized that “we should consider priority rather than sticking on our political differences. I am passionate about the reconciliation process in Somalia and hope our political leaders will agree on terms so as to end the deadlock.”
He added that dialogue is very crucial for healing the society and promoting their unity for greater good of this great nation. He urged scholars and researchers to invest in research since it will bring understanding of key social dynamics that prevents social reconciliation and enhancement of democracy through inclusive and broad-based manner. He urged the parties involved in such dialogue forum to bring together not only elites but also clan leaders so that such forums can be a platform to induce new mindsets to the old generation and it is tantamount to invite them for contribution.

He explored on the need to strengthening social healing process and in his remarks he eluded that you can’t treat the wound if you don’t press it hard to bring out the buss and germs and so similarly he mentioned that Somali people should dig deep the problem and address the root cause.

He finally urged the technical and political committee of the constitutional reform to reconcile and used a scenario where he expressed there should be commitment and willingness from all involved parties. He eluded the Somali wisdom “Owr daba go;an” In his concluding remarks he mentioned that Somalis shall not wait for external parties to solve their problems and should rather accept one another as the way of addressing existing differences and reconcile for the whole betterment of this nation.
1.3 Remarks from Puntland Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization

Hon. Mohamed Dhabanacad

The honourable acknowledged the dignitaries for their time and acceptance to the invitations from the Ministry. He also recognized the think tanks, Non-State actors, media and academicians. He also appreciated Puntland State University for hosting the summer dialogue summit for second time in a row.

The Minister accredited the support of SIDRA in organizing such a high-level event and for the previous summer dialogues summit that yielded concrete outcomes during Puntland’s 20th Anniversary. Major recommendations would translate into new strategies for the government and currently the democratization process is on board.

Image 7: Hon. Mohamed Dhabanacad, the Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization following the proceedings of the 2nd summer dialogues summit

The Minister mentioned that following the 1st summer dialogues in 2018, the ministry of interior initiated the democratization process and this was evident in April 2019 when the ministry conducted consultative sessions on democratization. A policy brief entitled “Puntland Democratization process” was developed and disseminated to key stakeholders.
Ministry of interior with the support of SIDRA was deeply engaged in the democratization process and analysed on how to use the available human resources so as to strengthen and road map a concrete democratization process for Puntland.

The Minister remarked on key strategies the ministry set in place to enhance public engagement and participation both in the federalization and democratization process. He mentioned that the Ministry developed key communication strategies to reach the wider public through dissemination of information sheets, airing radio messages and dramatization.

The minister explained the efforts made by the Ministry to seek international development partners and that at an early stage, the ministry received pledges and commitments from the partners.

He mentioned that the dialogue summit is at a momentum when the president has instituted the electoral committee in the first few months of his government thus a clear indication that the government is committed and willing to support the ministry fulfil its mandate. He finally welcomed all participants and requested full participation so that tangible results can be achieved for practical implementation at national level.
1.4 Official opening remarks by the President of Puntland State of Somalia

H.E Said Abdullahi Deni

The President acknowledged the entire dignitaries, delegates from the federal member states, representatives from the FGS, diplomats, politicians, think tanks, academicians, civil society organizations and the media. The president stated that social reconciliation is very crucial issues highly needed by all Somalis. He said “Reconciliation is the foundation pillar for mutual trust, peace building and state building.” He urged all we should reconcile with one another from grass root level to political level.

The president emphasized the need for practical and concrete action instead of conducting workshops, missions, press statement and seminars that will not bring anything fruitful. H.E President Said Abdullahi Deni also stressed on the need to establish the institutions that should preserve and oversee the agreements made by the parties. The president said, “The constitution should be the guiding document so that we don’t get stray from our course and their strict measures against any party that violets the agreed social contract stipulations”
H.E Said Abdullahi Deni pointed out that Federal Government and Federal Member States should face the reality and address the contesting issues deeply as the best mechanism to achieve a harmonized and agreed upon pact. He urged that supremacy of law should be above all and finalizing all protocols and acts that the constitution points out. The president mentioned that on behalf of Puntland government, he is ready to implement the outcome of this conference and the entire consensus reached during the 3-day discussion. He also urged that outcome should clearly figure out the responsible part and effective accountability system should be enforced.

H.E Said Abdullahi said, “Garowe is ready to host a dialogue for the most contested issues such as Mogadishu status.” He emphasized that it is significant to discuss in depth and find solutions. He also mentioned that the issue of Somaliland should also be considered and proper representation of representatives should be consulted. The president expressed the need for social mobilization and engagement if a comprehensive reconciliation is to be achieved. He requested from the participants to disseminate the message they grasp from the dialogue and promote social healing process at community level.

The president while addressing on Puntland democratization process said, “We are committed to fasten and harness the election commission process and provide enabling environment and we are sure that nobody will lose but much more we will leave a legacy behind” He added, “It will lead to development, peace and prosperity across the country”. Addressing the issue of cultural competition at the global level the president said, “There is competition in terms of culture and we should rebrand our strong Somali culture.”

He noted that the Somalis are one single family and promote their unique identity as a whole. The President welcomed and applauded the reconciliation conferences in Adado, Hobyo, Dhuusamareeb and Kismayo. He reprimanded the FGS to be very considerate in manning this reconciliation process.

The president concluded by advising that concrete outcomes were expected from the dialogues and that was practical and realistic to implement. H.E Said Abdullahi Deni said, “I would like to congratulate Ministry of Interior and SIDRA for the commendable high-level organization of this event” He said, “Thank you all and the summit is officially open”
Former Vice President of Puntland, Mr. Gaagaab a member of the Federal Constitutional Review Committee endorses the importance of the summit’s theme.

The former Prime Minister of Somalia HE Ali M Geeddi settles in for the summer dialogues summit discussions.
Image 11: President Deni pays close interest in the proceedings of the 2nd summer dialogues summit discussions.
2.1 Presentation One: Leading from Conflict

Dr. Abdurrahman Sulub

Overview

The presentation highlighted the key leadership strategies and qualities essential during crises and conflict. It presented a brief description and definition of three distinctive leaders. It put across three types of leader during crises namely; A demagogue Leader, a manager leader, mediator Leader. He emphasized that leaders are key and integral part of the solutions and problem during conflicts and trying times. The presentation finally called upon key stakeholders to work collaboratively with the leaders so as to attain common objective.

Key Discussions Points

The presentation clearly distinguished the difference between demagogue leader, manager and mediator. A demagogue Leader: A demagogue or rabble-rouser is a leader who gains popularity in a democracy by exploitation, prejudice and ignorance to arouse the common people against elites, whipping up the passions of the crowd and shutting down reasoned deliberation.
A manager leader: Is a type of leader who works, strives, and enforces all actions for the sole interest of a particular group, sect, political affiliates, interest groups and individuals and finally mediator leader was defined as a connector between the parts and skeletons of and enhancing legitimacy of their existence.

He also presented the core value of a mediator leader that encompasses characteristics of a mediator leader. Dr. Sulub summarized the following as the key features of a mediator leader; integral vision, system thinking, presence, inquiry, conscious conversation, dialogue, bridging, innovation.

As he was explaining systems thinking he said it is all about understanding and working with complexity and chaos. It’s the antithesis of reductive, linear thinking, which results in solid and marginalized outcomes when applied to a business or problem-solving context. This is why so many of the best leaders are natural systems thinkers; they are always seeking to see how parts fit within a complex whole and looking for the interconnectedness of issues and elements within a system.

In his presentation he mentioned that systems thinking approach are more flexible and divergent in their solution zing around issues that they face; as a result, outcomes don’t lead to unintended consequences or transfer the issue to someone else. A conscious conversation creates a safe space for people to open up and share their experiences. The presentation outlined the need for a strong leadership and commitment from all levels of leaders whether federal and state level.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the presentation;

1. Commitment and affirmative leadership from the current leaders of Somalia is indispensable to bring together the Somali people to the talking table and map local based solutions to address the current challenges.

2. Religious and traditional leaders should be engaged in order to promote confidence building and social healing process of the Somali people. Existing structures should be reinforced to work on the state building and peace building process.

3. Youth, women and marginalized communities are nonetheless very important and should be engaged meaningfully and lessons learnt from youth peace building initiative in some parts of Somali shall be reckoned.

4. Now more than ever, the country needs international support for peace building, state formation, building government institution and establishing some essential service delivery mechanism in core areas such as health, education and other social amenities.

5. Dialogue alone would not be sufficient. Without concrete objectives, debates between players with very different views of the country could widen the gaps. In contrast, efforts to devise and implement actions that were concrete and practical made cohabitation between different communities possible.
2.2 Presentation two: The first attempt of democratization in Puntland: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned

Dr Mohamed Hassan Shimbiralaaye

Overview

The presentation was based on key lessons learnt from the first attempt of democratization in Puntland. It highlighted the opportunities that existed, challenges encountered and lessons learnt and its applicability for the current Transitional Puntland Election commission. The presentation was based on what measures the 2012 electoral commission achieved the steadfast and unwavering support they received from Puntland government and the international development partners. It also signalled the absence of public awareness and misconception of the newly formed political associations.

Key Discussions Points

Mohamed Hassan Barre, the first chairperson of Transitional Puntland Electoral commission gave brief history of Somali democratization process. He highlighted that Somalia took the conventional election system after independence. The Somali Youth League won the first elections and formed a unified government.

Mohamed briefly talked about the Somali electoral system and stated that the 1968 elections, the legislative assembly enacted one electoral law (Law No 13 of 6 June 1968: Political Elections and
Local Council Elections) to govern both the council and general elections”. The new law was similar to the legislation that governed previous elections. He also mentioned that the second general election for the legislature took place in 1959.

Referendum: The electoral commission succeeded to get collated referendum for the provisional constitution of Puntland. The constitution is the one that currently guides Puntland State of Somalia and furthermore established political association: There were several political associations who were formed to participate at the district level election process and pick the 3 highest political associations and move to political parties however Ignorance of the majority of the population paused a threat; during the 2012 and 2013 were not familiar, had less information and were completely ignorant about the process.

Misconception of the Political Associations- Many elites and technocrats misunderstood the political associations and were in dilemma on whether the international community will provide support in form of monetary. Available equipment and resources: TPEC identified more than 1000 polling stations, 5000 voter registrars, 500 national experts, 15 regional experts ready to implement the process. The good point is all the facilities are still available

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the presentation;

1. **Value of electoral process and popular support**: There is greater understanding of the democratization process and are now enjoying popular support from the religious, traditional, youth and women groups and the entire civil society organizations.

2. **Readiness from the key stakeholders**: Both the national and international actors are ready to support now. The government has shown committed and should seek all sorts of support to realize the goal is achieved. Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy (BUILD) aims to support electoral and political processes across Somalia by fostering increased citizen participation; building the capacity of election management bodies (EMBs) and other relevant government bodies to administer credible elections; and supporting the development of issue-based and viable political parties.

3. **Empowering the new electoral committee**: The newly established electoral body should be supported holistically moral, financial, technical and societal level. Despite the existence of previous infrastructure and equipment, the electoral commission needs both dedicated funds and technical support to deliver their mandates.

4. **Good governance is critical for democratization process**: And should go hand in hand with the public outreach and awareness campaigns. To pursue social mind-set change and enhanced public engagement, there is should series of awareness campaigns on good governance, delinking corruption from the public mind-set and other necessary programs.

5. **Harmonization**: The government should harmonize any existing conflicting laws prior to the enforcement of the process.
Overview

The presentation focussed on a key neglected determinant of sustainable peace that is health and gender in the perspectives of conflict prone and war tone countries. The presentation stressed the wider scope of being healthy encompasses not only physical fitness but also social fitness and thus it is related to gender equality and health outlooks. The presentation summarized key achievements made by women in peace building process and notably it stressed on seniors from Colombia, Rwanda and even the Somali women initiatives.

Key Discussions Points

Dr. Amina introduced her topic and mentioned that the social determinants of health (SDH) are the conditions, in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems. She elaborated on the core understanding of the gender perspective, peace, conflict and state building. She highlighted that all these elements interact and affect one another.
The key impacts she mentioned included Direct impact: Mortality and morbidity and Indirect impact which fall under the following categories; break down of health and social infrastructure, breaches of medical neutrality, stress, distress and disease: mental health problems in the social setting rather than through individual counselling, creation of vulnerable groups especially women and children, loss of livelihood; malnutrition, food insecurity among others.

The abrupt shift to monetary economy, formal education and modern technology played a key role in restructuring gender relations to the disadvantage of women. These imbalances are not only an obstacle to the country’s development but constitute a form of social injustice. It is imperative to our lawmakers, policy makers and implementers to have an objective and correct analysis of the gender question in order to design appropriate corrective policies and programmes.

The question of gender equality in our society needs a clear and critical evaluation in order to come up with concrete strategies to map the future development in which men and women are true partners and beneficiaries. My understanding of gender is that it is an issue of good governance, good economic management and respect of human rights” (Paul Kagame 1999).

Key Messages

The following key messages were derived from the presentation;

1. Demographic, economic, and cultural shifts to allow women to claim rights and exercise power through: Women need to have more influence over the decisions that affect their lives. In even the most conservative societies, feminists and gender advocates have been able to forward more equitable policies and outcomes.

2. Strengthen women organizations both formal and informal and create supportive environments for participation in politics. The international community can better support women’s political leadership by investing in women’s education and economic assets, their organizations and their political apprenticeship; focusing on political systems and not just elections; and supporting locally led and problem-driven response.

3. Empower health workers to act as peace brokers- Important drivers of women’s political power and influence include improved access to education and material assets, more equal and inclusive politics, strong women’s movements and women being effective political operators.

4. Build strong health sector and capacities of human rights- National and international responses to women’s health issues tend to be fragmented and limited in scope. Identifying mechanisms to foster bold, participatory leadership around a clear and coherent agenda for action will be critical to making progress. The involvement and full participation of women and women’s organizations is essential. The significant advances in women’s health achieved in some places indicate that it can be done. The interventions are known and the resources are attainable.
5. Adopt UNSCR 1325, which offers a framework for demanding women’s inclusion in peace processes. SCR 1325 has four key thematic areas: participation, protection, prevention, and mainstreaming of a gender perspective. This publication focuses on participation. It aims to provide an easily accessible ‘how to’ reference, in the form of operational guidelines for key actors, to enhance the participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes.
2.4 Presentation Four: Youth Radicalization: Causes, Consequences and Potential Solutions

Hussein Ladane – PhD Candidate in Peace, Governance & Development, United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE)

Overview

The presentation on youth radicalization: causes, consequence and potential solutions explored that radicalization is undermining Somalia’s peace, stability and development prospects. Religious extremism in the country has also become pertinent security concern for the region and for the world over. The presentation talked about how young, uneducated Somalis who never left the country and their well-educated Diaspora peers – who grew up in an affluent life in the west – have both become foot soldiers and suicide bombers for Somalia's extremist insurgency, Al-Shabaab.

Key Discussions Points

He also expressed that the failure by mainstream Islamists to counter the Al-Shabaab narrative, widespread unemployment, destructive external actors’ policies, presence (and ineffectiveness) of an African Union force in Somalia (AMISOM) among others had rendered Al Shabaab a potent and powerful destabilizing force in Somalia.

Mr Hussein provided; the weak governance and state fragility, political injustice, social injustice, economic injustice, injustice in the court systems and the presence of foreign troops in the country as the root causes of youth radicalization in Somalia. He went on to suggest Unemployment, Excessive force and lack of respect for human rights by SNA and AMISOM, Limited knowledge of
Islam among the youth, Poor & unregulated education system and Absence of forceful ideological push-back (Counter-narrative) as the key contributors to youth radicalization in Somalia.

The presentation explained the radicalization process and identified that the vast majority are influenced by general grievance and are not using violence while smaller group are susceptible for violent messages and could end up using violence one day while the last group- a smaller portion use violent to express their political belief.

In terms of key intervention strategies are categorized into three distinctive levels according to the presentation namely primary with more general intervention and is resource oriented these interventions are either developmental or humanitarian interventions. The secondary level is specific problem-oriented intervention such as Countering violent extremis and finally the tertiary stage is known as the treatment oriented and is much concerned in law enforcement and specialist interventions.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the presentation;

1. Reform current executive institutions to make them inclusive, accountable and transparent, so as to perform the core functions of the state while specifically focusing on public service delivery and addressing the deep-rooted collective and individual grievances against government policies and practices, which are mainly attributable to prevailing social, political, legal and economic injustices across the country. This will allow citizens to develop grassroots initiatives to promote peace, security and development.

2. AMISOM exit strategy- While AMISOM and its international partners have sacrificed human and financial resources to restore peace and security in Somalia, which the majority of Somalis appreciate; it has become obvious to all parties that AMISOM can never be a substitute for Somalia’s defence forces. Therefore, there should be a clear and well-thought out timeline for AMISOM’s eventual exit strategy.

3. Youth-focused programming- Since one of the principal contributors to youth radicalization, piracy, and migration is unemployment, there must be a robust campaign to develop youth-focused programming starting with the establishment of vocational schools to provide education for unskilled youths who need technical training to empower them to earn income and become an internal resource for the reconstruction and development of Somalia.
2.5 Presentation Five: Federalism and Decentralization

Shamso Sh Hassan

Overview

The presentation highlighted on the history of federalism in Somalia and the notion of decentralization and power devolution that comes with the federal systems of governance. The presentation acknowledged the key different modalities of federalism. It also basically covered the central features of federalism, the need for such systems and how it should be applied as conflict resolution mechanism. It summarised the key triggers, challenges and prospects of federalism in Somalia.

Image 15: Shamso Sh Hassan discusses the key points and messages from her presentation on Federalism and decentralization for Somalia

Key Discussions Points

Ms. Shamso began by saying that, “Almost all contemporary nations demonstrate some level of decentralized social, political and governance structures”. She added that federalism is a distinct form of decentralization. She noted that prior to independence, Somalia’s social, political and governance structure was highly decentralized but after independence Somali constitutions established a centralized and highly hierarchical state structure where central governments-controlled power and resources. Some of the charters she cited were; the 2004 Transitional Charter and the 2012 Provisional Constitution.
She provided several noteworthy state structures such as unitary, federal and confederations. She said that in unitary states, the central government hierarchically controls power and resources and that even in unitary states, services may be decentralized, and power may be delegated or devolved. She gave examples such as; Djibouti, Eritrea, Uganda, Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt. She described Transnational Confederations as an association or league of sovereign states with limited powers to achieve specified and common goals.

Shamso added that the states retain their full sovereignty and may unilaterally withdraw from the confederation and that the common government does not have any direct connection to the people of each state. She gave East African Economic Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union. She lastly defined the Federal state/federalism as a system where sovereignty is divided between at least two levels of government, who exercise autonomous constitutional power over the same territory and people and that the different levels of government are not accountable to each other, but rather each is accountable to the people.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the presentation;

1. Pre-Independence -Somali social, economic and political governance structures was highly non-centralized. Post-independence Somali constitution established a centralized and highly hierarchal state structures where central government-controlled power and resources.

2. Public information and knowledge- It is viable that the key stakeholders should work on key strategies to increase the knowledge of Somali citizens concerning federalism since this form of governance has perfect opportunities.

3. Utilization of existing structures- According to the key features of federalism two priority issues are at stake at the first instance and the establishment of mechanism for intergovernmental cooperation and dispute resolution.

4. Federal states formed through aggregation are intended to enhance common market and defence – functional reasons and that all forms of decentralization, federalism brings governance and development closer to the people. She added that federalism allows preferences, matching and empowering local communities, and therefore good governance.

5. Federalism can help limit authoritarian centralization of power as member states can join to resist centralizing temptations of the national government. The prospects of federalism in Somalia, from the perspective of pre-and post-independence Somali social and state structures. She added that risks of federalism in Somalia, in terms of disintegration and causing further divisions among communities and clans.
2.6 Presentation Six: The Role of CSOs in democracy and social reconciliation

Ahmed Muse, PUNSAA

Overview

The presentation by Puntland Non-State Actors Association representatives provided an overview of Civil society history and their role after the collapse of the central government in 1991. The presentation remarked that CSOs played a number of important roles and filled the governance vacuum and as well as provision of vital service. The presentation also declared the role of the non-state actors in peace building, social reconciliation and democratization process. It also mentioned the effective role of supporting the government while perceiving their observatory role in all round issues that affect the public.

Key Discussion Points

He said that even since the return of a functioning central government in 2012, CSOs have continued to demonstrate their value as facilitators, advocates, election observers and innovators.” He continued that, “Civil society has the capacity to serve a number of key functions in service of democracy and good governance in peace building scenarios. For instance, civil society is envisaged as one of the pillars of any democratic structure, and thus is a principal institution in restoring and consolidated democracy.”

He gave the following arguments for the Role of CSOs in democracy and social reconciliation in Somalia. He said that civil society facilitates participatory local governance mechanisms and is a critical sector in peace building. He added that CSOs help to build bridges between various sectors.
of society. The involvement of a diverse set of local groups helps provide a sense of ownership of such a delicate endeavour.

On democratization, Mr. Ahmed said that CSOs are a key pillar of the democratization agenda as they support and play a role in rebuilding trust within in the society because they enhance local participation and ownership of the democratizations process. On reconciliation, Mr. Ahmed said that civil society check on political corruption, inefficiency, and illegitimacy of the state this is because democracy depends on checking the power of the state by disseminate power and influence amongst a range of cross-cutting civic organizations.

Mr. Ahmed gave the following roles of CSOs in electoral processes: play a key role in voter information and education activities, in particular in encouraging broader participation and turnout and participate in electoral processes through domestic non-partisan election monitoring, enhancing the transparency of the electoral process and public confidence in the credibility and legitimacy of an election.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the presentation:

1. **Humanitarian and service delivery principle**: CSOs believe that the first things to attend to are to respond to any humanitarian crises that exists and prevails in their location. Tangible progress was made by CSO in carrying out humanitarian intervention to address social needs.

2. **Complementary or alternative modes of governance**: CSOs may provide complementary (or even alternative) governance structures where the state is weak, incapacitated, or indifferent to its people’s needs. Here, their role is actually twofold. They often play a key role in delivering a certain number of public goods and basic social services, reaching the poorer sectors of the population, providing socio-economic opportunities, and enhancing the national capacity.

3. **A key pillar of the democratization agenda**: Support to CSOs is part of the democratization agenda. In particular, CSOs contribute by providing a link between state and citizens, producing information and ideas, promoting democratic values, encouraging open debate, pushing for social, economic, and political change, and building social capital.

4. **An effort to rebuild trust in the society**: As they sponsor activities that can build bridges across divided societies, CSOs participate in the effort to (re)build trust within and between communities, as well as to reestablish the state-society relationship and renegotiate a social contract.

5. **Civil society as a check on political corruption, inefficiency and illegitimacy**: CSOs can play an important role as a check on the state. Democracy depends on checking the power of the state by disseminate power and influence amongst a range of cross-cutting civic organizations.
Overview

The presentation on the role of business in political reconciliation uncovered the real difference on business perception according to Somali and at the global level. It illustrated that the Somalis undermined the essence of the business and tied it to greedy perception and resource hungry mentality. The presentation looked at the key roles of business community in the Somali context in the absence of strong government institutions. The presentation as well pinpointed the role of the business community not only in service delivery but in peace building and reconciliation process.

Key Discussions Points

Mr. Ali first defined a business as an activity of making money by producing or buying and selling products (goods and services). He also added that a private activity or enterprise for profit is a business community stands for combination of businesses for profit or for public good. Mr. Ali said that Somalis’ perception of business owners is that they are blood-suckers and greedy. “They are blind opportunists and unethical and only focus personal gain against common good” he added.

Mr. Ali continued to give a brief background of Somalia and its conflicts. He said that Somalia is a blessed country with its homogeneous people in religion, language, physical features and shared history. He added that it is however cursed in abundant resources with their culture of clannism,
division, in-depth nepotism and individualism.

The root causes of conflict suggested by Mr. Ali were among others; identity issues, war culture, external influences, struggle over power and resources, and a lack of social, economic and political infrastructure. As solutions to conflict in Somalia, he argued that the focus should be on civic engagement, good governance and communication, among other solutions like involving outside actors like Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, as well as international actors like the United Nations and the United States.

Mr. Ali said that the known traditional peace makers in Somalia include among others; Business community, Women, Elders, Islamic scholars, civil society and Diaspora. Perhaps the most important of all of these as stated by Mr. Ali is the Somali business community which has played an important role in Somalia’s recent troubled history: at some points hindering efforts at reconciliation by financing warlords and their militias; at others working with local activists and NGOs seeking to establish peace.

Key Messages

The following key messages were derived from the presentation;

1. Mind-set change of the public- The business communities provide job opportunities for youth and security personnel who have social and economic dimensions as well indirect rehabilitation of gunmen and support small traders. The business communities should carry out mass awareness campaigns to seek the full support of the public and change the stereotype and stigmatized biased messages against them.

2. Zakat for social reconciliation peace building programs: They also invest in many community programs which in turn contribute in the peace building such as social community support like Zakat required of them by Islam. The program can be linked to the Islamic debates and religious scholars can provide a religious Fatwa on the applicability of the initiative.

3. Business Sector Participation in Reconciliation- many businesses fund or contribute in local peace and reconciliation initiatives, it is imperative to be allowed or included in the peace dialogue participation.” He gave an example of the Galkayo Peace Initiative and Mogadishu Bakara security partnership.

4. The Businesses community of Somalia should play the following roles: meeting responsibilities of functioning government (water, electricity, and telecommunication). Social services provision has also become the domain of the private sector (schools, universities and hospitals in Somalia, supported by diaspora or national and international NGOs but almost all charge fees).
3.1 Panel Discussion One: Sustainable Social Reconciliation for Somalia

Panellists: Professor Ali M Geeddi, Deqo Col-ujoog, Dr Abdurahman Badiow and Jaamac Cigaal

Moderator: Guled Salah

Overview

The panel discussion focused on the need transmitting the understanding of social reconciliation and the need for it. It also highlighted the key obstacles hindering viable social reconciliation in Somalia. The panel discussion similarly signalled the need for strengthening unity, trust and brotherhood between the key actors and how to change civil war tribal narratives and be replaced with peaceful social co-existence and tolerance among other significant approaches to social reconciliation.

Key Discussions Points

Social reconciliation was paramount issue to address the problems of Somalia and it was agreed that social reconciliation is very crucial and dialogue should start while burying the difference. The failure of past attempts should not deter out search for common ground and peaceful coexistence.
Understanding the root causes, core problems and effects of each conflict before reconciling is very essential. Key emphasis was put on addressing the root causes which include competing interests, social injustice, unequal access to resources and power struggle. Mind-set change is a key tool to address proper reconciliation process since most people misunderstand that in the absence of war there is peace. The real scenario is that people feel grievance based on the key root causes of conflict and once the volcano erupts it is unstoppable.

The discussion pinpointed appropriate social reconciliation paradigms or models and the two scenarios of Rwanda and South Africa were brought forward and it was suggested that African societies should have clear procedures through which conflicts are resolved, a phenomenon that is not intact in some parts of Africa today. In particular, there were selected individuals and groups within the society who were designated as the mediators and restorers of peace whenever conflicts went out of hand. It further considered of applying hybrid social reconciliation process to yield better results.

Gender and conflict is key alarming issue as most effects of the problem direct hit most vulnerable persons including women, elderly and children at different magnitude. Considering the impact, women can a play a very significant role in the reconciliation process. Specific focus on marginalized and vulnerable person was also acknowledged during the panel discussion.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion;

1. Reshaping the education system- Somalia’s education system should be streamlined to instil the culture of peace among the young generation. Peace education and civic education should be introduced at a tender of the Somali children’s schooling life. Moreover, peaceful coexistence, unity, social trust and brotherhood shall be mainstreamed in the whole curriculum.

2. Hybrid social reconciliation paradigms or models could be applied to find a sustainable reconciliation road map for Somalia. The hybrid applies both traditional based Somali cultures and religious based concept to promote forgiveness and social acceptance among the Somalis.

3. Reversing civil war tribal narratives- Aftermath of the 1991 Somali civil war, the warlords bombarded tribal narratives to incite the public and create hatred among the neighbouring communities which need to be challenged and replaced with peaceful social co-existence and tolerance and social mobilization and awareness is paramount and community dialogue and community conversations.

4. Regaining the lost unity and social trust- Four distinct levels of reconciliation is very crucial for regaining unity and social trust. There should be political, social, ideological and down level reconciliation. The reconciliation process Somali wish shall call upon all key relevant stakeholders and address the problem succinctly as much as possible.
3.2 Panel Discussion Two: Puntland Democratization Process: Challenges and Opportunities

Panellists: Hon. Mohamed Dhabanacad, Dr Mohamed Hassan, Zahra Jama Salah and Feisal M Warsame

Moderator: Ubah Abshir

Overview

The panel discussion went deeply into what are the key opportunities existing and what challenges are ahead so that democratization process is implemented in Puntland. The panellists presented the following opportunities which need to be maximized so that building on the available prospects it would be very realistic to achieve a democratic process in Puntland.

Key Discussions Points

Political commitment: Puntland president nominated the electoral commission in the first five months of existence of his government. The Ministry of interior, Federalization and democratization has initiated efforts to accelerate democratization process. There is widespread public support for democratization among stakeholders and the general public, who have embraced the ideas and principles of democracy on the condition that basic Islamic and Somali values are respected.

Security: Puntland enjoys a favourable security that enables the realization of one person one vote election across all regions of Puntland. The session recognized that insecurity is not a key challenge that will prevent the election process from happening. Legal frameworks: There are key legal...
frameworks including the constitutional and other acts that will provide the smooth referencing of key issues. There is the election commission act which stipulates the independency of electoral commission.

International development partners: International development partners are very much committed to support and there is already established dialogues and conversation between the government and development partners. The Ministry of Interior is committed to harmonize such efforts and map all stakeholders so that there is no duplicity in carrying the activities.

The electoral commission of Puntland will take over all logistic materials meant to be used in the failed 2013 district level elections. This equipment is still intact and will be used to in the upcoming election.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion;

1. Absence of constitutional court: The absence of a constitutional court from the election process raised serious disputes between the former TPEC and the political associations over how electoral controversies or procedural issues would be settled during the election process.

2. District Demarcation: There is growing concern on the increasing number of districts and villages with no clear boundary lines. Boundary demarcation is a critical issue for elections because they, in theory, take place at the district level. It is impossible to allocate seats and polling stations, in accordance with the constitution, when districts are not marked with clear and distinct borders.

3. Lack of Voter Registration and Voter ID Cards: The number of potential voters should be publicly estimated (in the event that a census is not possible) to avoid electoral fraud and malpractice and to allocate seats fairly according to districts. Voter ID cards are also important to know who is eligible to vote, as required by the constitution.

4. Enhanced public awareness and education-The government of Puntland in collaboration with the international partners should carry out a comprehensive public awareness and education to enhance public acceptance and understanding of the election process.

5. Successive initiatives need to be implemented including but not limited to Piloting Democratization process, Supporting the new transitional Puntland electoral commission, initiating district demarcation process, voter registration and issue of ID cards and Incorporation of lessons learnt from 2013.
3.3 Panel Discussion Three: The role of Democracy in sustainable social reconciliation

Panellists: Dr Abdirachid M Ismail, Dr Abdurahman Sulub, Amb. Abdirashid Sh Said and Sumaya Shole

Moderator: Abdelkarim Hassan

Overview

The panel discussion deeply and critically brainstormed on the best strategies Somalis could promote sustainable democratic governance, what strategies could be adopted to break the impasse between the FGS and FMS as well as how broad-based equitable democratic representation and participation could be realized. The panellist also figured out the role of democracy in social reconciliation.

Key Discussions Points

What democratic governance strategies could be adopted to help break the impasse between the FGS and FMS and complete the state-building processes such as the constitution, 2021 national elections, the Somali Federal model and sharing of power, revenues and resources.

Post-conflict democratization and reconciliation are two central processes that emerge within the transition process from civil war to sustainable peace. Past examples of transition from war to peace have revealed diverse insights on the role of these two processes on the road to sustainable peace.
Conceptual discussions regarding reconciliation have not established a cross-cutting theory and conceptualization of reconciliation within the post-conflict context. In previous scholarly research, the concept of reconciliation has been presented as encompassing three aspects of post-conflict peace-building, including psychological aspects, societal/inter-communal aspects, and political aspects and there appears to be a general confusion about its exact definition.

The absence of a clear-cut perception of what reconciliation entails in post-conflict contexts and the existence of a general terminological confusion is an introductory argument of previous studies and reports on reconciliation.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion;

1. **Democracy enhances social reconciliation:** Since the end of the Cold War democracy has been increasingly perceived as a prerequisite both for political and societal reconstruction after conflict while at the same time the promotion of democratic institutions and the holding of free and fair elections have been accepted as the main engine for sustainable peace.

2. **Linking Reconciliation to Democracy:** Reconciliation and democracy from the basis upon which sustainable peace is sought to be built is seen as the main engine that will transform past controversies into peaceful coexistence among the Somali.

3. **Legitimizing governance:** Democratic systems of government have a degree of legitimacy, inclusiveness and accountability which are needed for managing conflicting interests peacefully while political participation to democratic governance through non-violent methods paves the way for the establishment of norms that emphasize negotiation and conciliation.

4. **Developing Grass-Roots Structures for Peace:** Variously known as peace committees, peace commissions, or citizens groups, these grass-roots organizations mobilize local leaders and community members to prevent eruptions of violence and to foster tolerance. This may involve a number of tasks, such as countering rumours and exaggeration, advocating non-violent solutions to conflicts, offering peace education through community programs, and mediating between contentious groups or between groups and the government.
3.4 Panel Discussion Four: The search for an agreed practical Electoral Model for 2021 Somali national elections

**Panellists:** Abdirashid Hashi, Mohamed Ali America, Ali Haji Warsame, Mohamed Kaynaan and Khadijo Osoble

**Moderator:** Shukria Dini

**Overview**

The panellist explored on how an agreed practical electoral model could be sought for 2021 Somali national elections. The session brainstormed on key challenges such as security threats, the possibility of other agreed free and fair selection models which can garner confidence and legitimacy and finally how tailor separate electoral models to match the security and institutional capacities of the different States of Somalia could be enhanced.

**Image 21:** Ms. Shukria Din moderates the panel discussion on the search for an agreed practical Electoral Model for 2021 Somali national elections

**Key Discussions Points**

In late 2020, Somalia will hold parliamentary and presidential elections respectively. However, the country faces a dilemma. It is not sure which path to take; whether to maintain the status quo where clans share political power or move to a one person, one vote system.

According to Heritage Institute for Policy studies, Somalia is for the fifth time since 2000, is searching for an electoral model that advances the country’s democratic process. This is both a cause for celebration and a cringe-worthy setback. Discourse around electoral models indicates that the country is unfailingly pursuing a democratic path in a region where autocracy dominates body politics. At the same time, Somalia has consistently failed to shed a clan-based political dispensation and leap into universal suffrage once and for all. That is especially true for a country with democratic traditions going back to independence in 1960.
During the panel discussion the models suggested by Heritage was discussed. The Baydhabo Proposal calls for a closed list, proportional representation system, as agreed by the federal and regional governments in Baydhabo in June 2018. It calls for a competitive, party-based election to take place in the cities that are under the control of the government or member states, even if that means only 10 percent of eligible voters can participate. The Kismaayo proposal stipulates that electorates in these regions would elect both houses.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion:

1. Reconciliation and collaboration among the leaders of the different segments of society is crucial, particularly for deeply divided countries. This is particularly relevant in the context of Somalia. Horowitz argues that the more the system rewards moderates, the more it contributes to reconciliation within the competing group.

2. Failure to complete the draft constitution and other federal laws has led to endless confusion and inconsistencies thus weakening State powers. It is therefore crucially important to accelerate the completion of the constitution and other pending laws through a transparent and all-inclusive process to fast track rule of law, democracy and national unity, peace and prosperity.

3. A one-person one-vote election is the only way Somali citizens can get accurate representation and accountability from their elected leaders. It is crucial to implement such a voting model. Puntland is in the process of being the forerunner in holding such an election there by setting an example for the rest of Somalia.

4. Whereas it is important for Somalia to have regular, timely, free and fair elections, the mode of election should be on the basis of political agreement reached at by all concerned bodies especially the Federal Government (both Government and Parliament) and the Federal Member States.

5. Accelerated commitment to a one man one vote and direct elections for all representatives in Somalia is needed so as to fast track actual democracy in the country.

Inclusivity is very paramount if Somalia is to achieve actual democracy in the country. All Somali communities and people need to be included in the democratisation process of Somalia. All groups of people especially the marginalised also need to be included.
3.5 Panel Discussion Five: Economic Development and Growth as a tool to promote sustainable social reconciliation

Panellists: Mohamed Abdi, Bashir Isse, Dr. Mohamed Samatar and Asli Duale

Moderator: Mohamed Irbad

Overview

The panel postulated how economic development and growth could be geared towards promoting sustainable reconciliation, its role on free trade and social mobility. The panel session also enquired on the role of poverty, improved employment opportunities and income for better social reconciliation. Similarly, the panellist also explored how international relief and development aid could affect the warring conflicts.

Key Discussions Points

Although social justice and the advancement of peace has not yet evolved to occupying centre-stage in the corporate agenda, a significant development is that businesses are no longer averse to the idea. In recent years, there has been acknowledgement within the business sector that the credibility of its operations can be strengthened by subscribing to altruistic ideological pursuits and embracing its latent social role.

The challenge now is to promote awareness on how the notions of social justice and peace could in fact be profitable which would in turn lead to it becoming a priority in the business agenda. This would involve minimizing the risk associated with entry of businesses in war-torn areas with uncer-
tain futures. Under these circumstances, there appears a proclivity today to venture forth where a decade ago business would have feared to tread.

The need for economic prosperity or at least movement away from abject poverty and economic hopelessness is pivotal to moving towards reconciliation and peace building if the spirit of peace is to not falter and be extinguished. It is the private sector that can provide in the long-term for economic growth opportunities, jobs and wealth creation.

Conventional attitudes of the private sector towards the social sector was ‘as a dumping ground for spare cash, obsolete equipment, and tired executives, today smart companies are approaching it as a learning laboratory.’ Herein therefore lays the context for the emergence of ‘a partnership between private enterprise and public interest that produces profitable and sustainable change for both sides.

Key Messages

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion;

1. Involvement of business community in strategic manner: The need for a reprioritizing of the state agenda in the post-war situation from military aims to socio-economic and political aims.

2. Service delivery: The panellist highlighted that the business community currently offered key essential social service such as education, health, water, electricity and other priorities to be addressed by the government. In the absence of a functioning government, the business community have taken their role to provide these necessities.

3. Role of Central bank: The central bank of Somalia faces numerous challenges and is not a position to protect civilians from the problem of inflation and control of money movement. The current government of Somalia should come up with workable and realistic strategies to properly functionalize the central bank of Somalia.

4. Quality Control Mechanism: The business community have been alleged of bringing poor quality products but the most critical role to enhance quality of products and services is not operational at the government level.
3.6 Panel Discussion Six: Restorative Justice for Somalia

Panellists: Dr Mohamed Ali Farah, Dr Mohamed Ali Kalaay, Mohamed Omar and Shamso Hassan
Moderator: Dr Amina Jama

Overview

The panellist provided brief overview of restorative justice and explained that the alternative dispute resolution mechanism is a deep-rooted practice among the Somali communities. The panellist brainstormed on the applicability of the restorative justice to address the conflict in Somalia. The possibility of whether restorative justice could transform societal division in Somalia and restore confidence and trust among Somali people as well the Somali long believed theory of “Xalay dhalay”.

Key Discussions Points

Post conflict restorative justice approaches have been undertaken in a number of countries such as South Africa and Rwanda. Restorative justice comprises of formal public truth telling, confessions and asking for and granting forgiveness. It is suggested that restorative justice empowers the victims by enabling them to confront their perpetrators and allowing perpetrators to face their victims, seek forgiveness and acceptance.

Traditional restorative justice and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms have a rich history and strong social and cultural roots and legitimacy in Puntland. Most people and tribes/clans tend to refer their disputes to traditional and religious traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

Image 23: The discussion panelists share their opinions and views on Restorative Justice for Somalia with the audience members
Somali law and state laws of Puntland recognize dispute settlements outside the formal justice system in civil cases, family cases and some criminal cases. The 2012 constitution of Puntland state recognizes and strongly promotes the role of traditional and religious elders in resolving disputes and the development of traditional norms.

Restorative Justice: ‘Restorative justice’ refers to a process that, by bringing together all those affected by a crime, aims to redress the harm done to victims, and to hold offenders accountable through engaging the community. The key aims of restorative justice are (a) to repair the harm done, (b) to hold the offenders accountable for their actions by making them acknowledge their criminal behaviour, apologize to the victims and their families and (c) to involve the community in the resolution of the conflict.

Members of the community may act as facilitators and mediators in the process of resolving the conflict. Restorative justice is a response to criminal behaviour where the needs of victims, community and offenders are taken into consideration in a balanced way.

Key Messages

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion;

1. **Entry points:** The restorative process can be initiated at any stage but the following are the main entry points: at the police level; at the pre-charge stage, or prosecution level or at the post charge stage but usually before the beginning of a trial; at the court level - during trial or sentencing stage and at the correction level - as an alternative to imprisonment or a noncustodial sentence, during imprisonment or upon release from prison.

2. **Processes of restorative justice:** The following are three main types of restorative processes; victim-offender mediation/reconciliation, community and family group conferencing and sentencing circles. Family group conferencing is where offender, community and family members are part of a restorative process.

3. **Applicability for social reconciliation:** The panellists expressed the concern of non-practicability of its application since the problem of admittance is non-existent and this is a pre-requisite for the process to initiate.

4. **Theory of :Xalay dhalay”:** both Islamic teaching and the Somali culture encourage the principle of forgiveness and it should applied to address social grievances but there should be institutions to grant that previous injustice will not come again.
3.7 Panel Discussion Seven: Youth, Conflict & Development: Breaking the Cycle of Violence

Panellists: Dr Ahmed Hirsi, Mustafa Feyrus, Hussein Ladane and Mohamed Omar

Moderator: Mariam Dahir

Overview

The panellist provided an overview of the current youth and the interrelated issues that affect youth, their role in peace building and social reconciliation and how to better organize them in strategic manner to yield better results, synergize efforts, deliver results and provide a pool of civilized citizens that are law abiding.

![Image 24: Mariam Dahir moderates the discussion panel on youth, conflict & development: breaking the cycle of violence](image)

Key Discussions Points

According to the Population Estimation Survey for Somalia (PESS) carried out between October 2013 to March 2014, out of the total population of 12.3 percent, 45.6 percent of the Somali population was below the age of 15 and 81 percent was below the age of 35, which reveals a youthful population. Desirable changes in state development directly relate to how we develop and empower the youth who are the potential productive Labour force and the agents of change.

Fragile public institutions: The majority of public institutions are facing scarce financial and human resources. Due to the prolonged civil war, the government facilities are devastated and reconstruction is needed. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP’s): currently two persons in five are either an IDP or a returnee. Such people are living on the margins of society, with limited resources and employment opportunities.
Radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism: The Somali youth are among those who suffered from radicalization and violent extremism activities due to their vulnerability resulting from low level of education, unemployment, and the fact that during the prolonged civil war the only employment available was being an insurgent.

Patriarchal structures: provide limited opportunity for young women to partake in decision making (community, family planning, higher education, full employment). Traditional norms such as FGM increase infant and maternal mortality or lifelong health issues. In summary, a large proportion of the people (girls and women) cannot develop to their full potential.

**Key Messages**

The following key messages were derived from the panel discussion;


2. Raising employment creation and economic development: The panellist suggested development of youth needs tailored courses that market oriented and demand driven instead of providing traditional courses.

3. Improving youth participation and citizenship by supporting youth political participation so that they can be part of the decision since they are the most affected.

4. Justice and reintegration of youth in conflict with the law: To fight extremism, violence and all other forms of criminal activities, there should be diversion mechanism for youth and integrated rehabilitation programs that cater for the needs of youth.
Image 25: A member of the audience asks a question during the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit

Image 26: An audience member gives her take on subject matter under discussion during the 2nd Summer Dialogues Summit
4. District Discussions

The Ministry of Interior organized discussion forums at the district level to share the key findings from the 2019 Summer Dialogues Summit. This was aimed at replicating the success of the summit at the grassroots level through broader community outreach and engagement. This was instrumental for paving the way for the democratization process of the people of Puntland.

4.1. Democratization Process

The current government through the Ministry of Interior is prospecting to jumpstart the democratization of Puntland by restoring multi-party and direct voting democratic system of governance by 2020 piloting at the district level. The successes from the districts will be amplified to the rest of Puntland whereas the failures will be mitigated as lessons learnt and thus their repetition avoided.

Through the district discussions MOIFADFAD will use the aid of the media, Institutions of learning, Religious institutions, Traditional/community structures, research and policy support organizations to educate the masses on democracy, multi-party systems and voting rights among others to make them ready for a fully-fledged direct elections in Puntland starting from the district level.

4.2 Sustainable Social Reconciliation

In order to pave a clear path to full-fledged democracy and multi-party governance in Puntland, there is a need to fact-find and settle all grievances and obstacles that have hindered democratization in Puntland. Both internal and external mistrusts within communities, public-private institutions and peoples of Puntland need to be eradicated as they continue to bar the democratization of Puntland.

Therefore through key messages from the summer dialogues summit, an approach to win over hearts and minds of conservationists who denounce democratization and multi-party system of governance in Puntland need to be used in order to create a conducive and enabling political environment to allow for free and fair elections as it is impossible to exercise democracy without a free media, credible political platforms, and a secure environment.
Image 27: Members of the audience pay attentions to the discussions and presentation ongoing at the 2nd summer Dialogues summit

Image 28: One of the youths in participation shares her thoughts on some of the key subject matter under discussion at the 2nd summer dialogues summit
CONCLUSION

5.1 Closing Remarks

Guled Salah paid his gratitude to all the attendees that took some time from their valuable responsibilities to attend the summit in person and add value to the event. He said that he was overjoyed by the turn out and said that he hopes the next one can be even better than this one. He was proud of the success all those involved in the event had brought to it and wished all of them good luck.

The former Prime Minister of Somalia, HE Ali M Geeddi also thanked the participants, organizers, presenters and panel discussants for playing an instrumental role in the summit. He gave particular attention to the role played by SIDRA and MoI in organizing such a significant event that aims at strengthen the people of Somalia to look forward to a democratic Somalia and reconciled society.

The Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Democratization, Hon. Mohamed Dhabanacad thanked all the dignitaries who had spared time to honor the invites and attend this spectacular event. He said that it was for Somalis like them that Somalia is on the road to full-fledged recovery, national development and democratization. The minister promised that Puntland was already in preparations to roll a road map a concrete democratization process for Puntland.

The rector of Puntland State University thanked the people in attendance and commended them for all their participation and dedication to making the event a success that it was. He stated that as PSU and institution of education excellence, they are committed to the creation of platforms that bring people together to discuss the required solutions to the problems affecting Somalia. And he said that it was his pleasure and that of the entire community of PSU to host the event for the two summer dialogues and promised to continue supporting in the same way going forward.

5.2 Conclusion

The Summer Dialogues Conference is an annual high-level forum that brings together; intellectuals, political leaders, civil society, business-groups, researchers and representatives from the Federal Government and the Federal Member States to engage in dialogue on matters of national interest aimed at nation building and development for Somalia.

Every year, the dialogues give full attention and identify an important discussion topic of great significance to Somalia. Invited dignitaries present papers relating to the overall theme, debate and discuss subject matter relevant to the advancement of Somalia, interactively engage the invited participants to reach Somali relevant solutions for Somali challenges.

This year’s summit that was held from 25th to 27th August 2019 was under the theme “Sustainable Social Reconciliation and Democracy for Somalia. It was attended by over 200 participants from all corners of Somalia including delegates from the Federal Government and Federal Member States. In the course of the conference, 7 papers were presented and 7 panel discussions were held. They were all linked to how sustainable social reconciliation can be achieved as a precursor to the democratization process of Somalia. A documentary of the proceedings of this year’s Summer Dialogues will be shared with the public in the soonest time possible.
Image 29: A female member of the audience points out her views during the interactive discussions during the 2nd summer dialogues summit

Image 30: A male member of the audience shares his thoughts with the panel discussants during the interactive discussions during the 2nd summer dialogues summit
ANNEX I
PICTOGRAPHY

DAY ONE

DAY TWO

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#SummerDialogues
2019 Summer Dialogues Summit

Sustainable Social Reconciliation and Democracy for Somalia.

25th - 27th August 2019