



Joint Statement

EU-Somalia Partnership Dialogue ‘A sustainable, mutually beneficial partnership’

10 May 2026 in Mogadishu

The European Union (EU) and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) held a first Partnership Dialogue under Article 3 of the Samoa Agreement¹ on 10 May in Mogadishu. Under the banner of “*A Sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership*” the meeting reaffirmed the shared interests and common concerns on which the EU and the FGS aim to further deepen cooperation.

The FGS was led by Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Salah Ahmed Jama, and accompanied by several Ministers (Defence; Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Internal Security; Finance; Planning, Investment and Economic Development; Commerce and Industry). The EU side was led by EU Ambassador Francesca Di Mauro accompanied by EU Member States ambassadors and representatives from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, as well as the Mission Force Commander from the EU Training Mission-Somalia and the Head of Mission of EU Capacity Building Mission-Somalia.

The meeting highlighted the challenging context affected by the ongoing conflict in the Gulf impacting negatively the economic resilience and the local and regional security, at a time where Somalia is also struggling with drought and increased humanitarian needs. The EU side referred to the impact this new conflict is having on its own economies, and that therefore competition for attention and resources is on the rise.

The meeting covered the following four areas i) Rule of Law and Democratisation, ii) Peace and Stability, iii) Migration and Mobility, and iv) the Economic and Global Gateway Agenda.

In the area of **Rule of Law and Democratisation**, the FGS briefed on the constitutional review process. Furthermore, FGS informed about the critical ongoing talks with key political figures and entities, with a view to agreeing on next steps on the electoral agenda. The EU side stressed that as a key partner and investor in Somalia, it anticipates that all efforts be made to initiate in the coming days an inclusive and peaceful process to achieve a political agreement, so as to ensure political stability for the whole of Somalia.

Under the topic of **Peace and Stability**, the FGS updated on the latest military gains against al-Shabaab, and the Government’s vision for a self-sustained Somali security sector. The FGS also highlighted the ongoing reform efforts within the security sector aimed at strengthening professionalism, accountability, transparency, and institutional effectiveness across the

¹ Article 3 of the Samoa Agreement establishes a ‘**structured partnership dialogue**’ as a platform for regular, balanced and comprehensive exchanges among the EU, EU MS and OACPS countries across six priority areas. These dialogues are intended to generate commitments and, where appropriate, follow-up actions.

security sector. The EU side highlighted the strategic interest of Somalia from a security perspective, being at the crossroad between Asian and European maritime routes. It reaffirmed its continued commitment to support counterterrorism via the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), as well as by upgrading the Somali Security Forces (SSF) capabilities. The recent EU approval of a 75 million euros contribution to AUSSOM is testimony of such commitment.

The EU commended the FGS for the important steps taken in enhancing the capacity and professionalism of the SSF, and both sides agreed that cooperation in this area will remain a priority, while engaging other security partners in order to achieve effective coordination, and fairer burden-sharing. Stabilisation efforts in recently liberated areas need to accelerate in order to capitalise on military gains.

In the area of **Migration and Mobility**, the discussion was anchored in the comprehensive approach to migration and forced displacement management in Somalia, which addresses the root causes and key drivers of irregular migration and forced displacement, combats migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, improves data collection, promotes legal migration pathways, ensures safe and dignified returns as well as sustainable and inclusive reintegration, significant support to internally displaced persons (IDPs), and prevention of irregular migration towards Europe. Both sides agreed to hold the 3rd technical dialogue on returns and readmission at the earliest convenience, in order to identify hurdles and improve cooperation. The recent creation of a National Coordination Mechanism was welcomed as it will enhance inter-Governmental action in this area.

Under the **Economic and Global Gateway Agenda**, the parties discussed ways to increase the attractiveness of Somalia as an investment destination, notably by improving economic governance and the business environment. With a vibrant private sector fabric, EU support to skills development and access to finance for entrepreneurs is expected to deliver on job creation, especially for the youth. The EU-Somalia Business Forum planned for October will offer a concrete platform to identify opportunities for investment, partnership and private sector engagement.

In the current volatile geopolitical environment, where international rules are undermined and multilateral cooperation weakened, the EU-Somalia Partnership Dialogue was an excellent occasion to reaffirm our strong relationship, based on shared values - including the respect of the UN charter, and mutual interests, for the benefit of the Somali and European people.

The EU and FGS agreed to have the next Partnership Dialogue in twelve months from now.