



# SONSA Bulletin



JULY

Civil Society Monthly  
Newsletter

2025



## Somali Republic Celebrates 65 Years of Independence - July 1, 2025

On the 65th anniversary of the Somali Republic's founding, Osman Moallim, Chairperson of the Somali Civil Society (SONSA), congratulated Somalis both inside the country and abroad. He honored the bravery and sacrifices of freedom fighters and called for renewed commitment to unity, peace, and development. Moallim expressed hope that the Somali flag will continue to fly high as the people work towards a brighter future.



## Somali Civil Society Advances National Dialogue on Social Media Risks - July 6, 2025

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA) participated in a National Policy Consultation Meeting on Managing Social Media Misuse, organized by the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and opened by H.E. Daud Aweis Jama. The meeting included government officials, digital rights activists, social media influencers, telecom representatives, and civil society members.

Participants discussed key risks of social media misuse and how to balance freedom of expression with preventing harmful content. They reviewed legal gaps and defined roles for government, civil society, and telecom agencies.

Focus areas included combating misinformation, hate speech, defamation, and malicious content. SONSA reaffirmed its commitment to collaborate on policies protecting digital rights and online safety.



## Somali Civil Society Validates UNDP Report on Digital Infrastructure - July 9, 2025

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), through its ReCIPE Project Team, attended a two-day workshop organized by NIRA Somalia to present and review the UNDP evaluation report on Somalia's public digital infrastructure. The workshop included the UNDP Model Governance Framework for the Digital ID System and discussions on safe Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

Key highlights were the presentation of the Governance Framework assessment for Digital Legal Identity Systems and Somalia's DPI, alongside NIRA's Strategic Plan for 2025–2029. The event aimed to foster inclusive dialogue, knowledge sharing, and validation of strategic directions for advancing Somalia's digital identity and DPI agenda.





### **Somali Civil Society Participates in 3rd East Africa Development Forum in Mogadishu - July 10, 2025**

The Somali civil society, led by the Chairperson of SONSA, Osman Moallim, actively participated in the long-awaited National Dialogue Forum launched by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The forum brought together key political and social stakeholders, including former leaders, civil society groups, and other important actors, to engage in meaningful discussions on the country's critical priorities.

In his opening remarks, the President reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusive dialogue as a vital pathway to finalize constitutionally mandated priorities. He underscored the importance of this national platform in ensuring that all voices are heard.



### **Somali Civil Society Observes Secondary School Exam Marking in Banadir - July 12, 2025**

Today, Somali civil society, led by the Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), participated in an oversight visit to monitor the marking of secondary school exams in the Banadir Regional Administration. Education-focused civil society groups within the SONSA platform were formally invited to observe the process, aiming to promote transparency and accountability.

Prof. Hussein Iman represented SONSA at the event, underscoring the vital role of civil society in ensuring good governance and integrity within Somalia's education system. The monitoring visit was part of broader efforts to strengthen public trust and improve educational standards.



### **Somali Civil Society Joins IGAD Civil Society Forum for Peace in Nairobi - July 11, 2025**

Members of the Somali civil society, led by SONSA Chairperson Osman Moallim, participated in the launch of the three-day IGAD Civil Society Forum for Peace workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 9 to 11 July 2025. Organized by IGAD's Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Unit, the event provided a regional platform empowering civil society organizations to promote peace and security across the IGAD member states.

Maj. Gen. Habtamu Tilahun, Head of the PCRD Unit, officially opened the workshop on behalf of Director Commander Abebe Muluneh, underscoring its significance in fostering collaboration among civil society actors to advance regional peace and stability.



### **Somali Civil Society Honors Finance Minister Bihi Iman's African Leadership Award - July 17, 2025**

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), led by Chairperson Osman Moallim, participated in "The Night of Honoring the Success of Minister Bihi Egeh," organized by the Somali Bankers Association. The event celebrated Somalia's Federal Minister of Finance, Hon. Bihi Iman, who received the African Finance Ministers award from African Leadership Magazine at the Africa Summit in London.

In his remarks, Moallim congratulated Minister Bihi on the significant achievement, attributing it to the Ministry's dedication to fighting corruption and advancing financial reforms. He noted that despite Somalia's low corruption ranking, the award signals meaningful recovery and ongoing progress.





## SOMALIA NON-STATE ACTORS (SONSA)

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## Somali Civil Society Raises Concerns Over Land Sales and Election Transparency in Banadir - July 19, 2025

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA) has expressed serious concern over recent government sales of public lands historically used for schools, health centers, and markets. These sales have displaced vulnerable families and disrupted children's education. SONSA also voices alarm regarding the lack of transparency and insufficient public awareness surrounding the ongoing voter registration process for Banadir's upcoming local council elections.

SONSA urgently calls on both federal and Banadir authorities to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of displaced residents, ensure fair and transparent election procedures, and rebuild public trust in the governance process. The organization highlights the critical need for inclusive dialogue and accountability to protect community welfare and uphold democratic integrity in the region.



## Somali Civil Society and Elders Engage in National Dialogue on AML, Conflict, and Humanitarian Relief - July 22, 2025

The Somali civil society, led by traditional elders and the Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), took part in a crucial meeting hosted by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation. The gathering focused on raising awareness about anti-money laundering (AML), counter-terrorism financing, and addressing recent conflicts in the Galgaduud region.

Deputy Minister Hon. Abdihakim Hassan Ashkir and the Ministry's Director General attended the event. Elders expressed concerns over ongoing instability in Galgaduud and called for the federal government's active role to peacefully establish the SSC-Khatumo administration.

The meeting also spotlighted the severe humanitarian crisis in drought-affected areas of Awdal, particularly Lughaye and nearby villages. In a joint appeal, the Ministry and civil society urged Somali citizens and international partners to support emergency relief efforts and assist vulnerable communities.



## Somali Civil Society Partners with IESG to Support Local Elections - July 22, 2025

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), led by Chairperson Osman Moallim, held a productive meeting with the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) at UNTMIS. The meeting aimed to explore ways for civil society to expand its role in the upcoming local council elections through awareness campaigns and civic education.

Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between civil society and IESG to jointly support the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) in enhancing public understanding and ownership of the electoral process.

This partnership emphasizes a shared commitment to fostering inclusive, transparent, and community-driven elections, promoting broad public participation, and advancing democratic governance in Somalia.





**Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA)**

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#### **BAAQ KU AADAN DAGAALKA MAANTA KA DHACAY MAGAALADA BALADXAAWA**

**Muqdisho 22<sup>th</sup> July 2025;** Dallada Bulshada Rayidka ee SONSA waxa ay aad uga xun tahay dagaalka maanta ka dhacay magaalada Baladxaawa kaas oo u dhaxeeyey ciidamada dowladda federaalka iyo ciidanka maamul goboleedka Jubbaland dagaalkas oo sababey dhimasho, dhaawac iyo barakac dadka rayidka ah. Waxa aan ilaah uga baryeynaa intii ku dhimatay naxariistii janno in uusiyo inta ku dhaawacanteyna caafimaad degdeg siiyo.

Runtii waa wax laga xumaado sii socoshada khilaafka siyaasadeed ee u dhaxeeya dowladda federaalka iyo dowlad goboleedka Jubbaland iyada oo aan ogsoonahey in aysan aheyn markii u horeysey oo laysku adeegsado iska hor imaad ciidan. Bulshada Rayidka waxa ay ka digeysaa isku day kasto oo laysku dayo in khilaafka siyaasadeed lagu xaliyo dagaal laysku adeegsado ciidamada dowlada ee heer federaal iyo mid maamul goboleedba.

Bulshada Rayidka waxa ay soo jeedineysa in khilaafka siyaasadeed ee u dhaxeeya dowladda federaalka iyo dowlad goboleedka Jubbaland lagu xaliyo gogosha wadhadalka siyaasadeed ee soo bilaabatay 16 Juun ilaa iyo hadane ka socda magaalada Mogadishu, lagana qaado caqabada ku gudban sidii xalwaara loogu gaari lahaa khilaafkan Siyaasadeed.

### **Somali Civil Society Condemns Deadly Clashes in Balad-Hawo, Calls for Dialogue - July 22, 2025**

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA) strongly condemned the deadly clashes in Balad-Hawo between federal government forces and Jubbaland State forces, which caused civilian casualties and displacement.

SONSA emphasized that political disputes should never escalate to armed conflict. SONSA also called on Somali leaders to immediately engage in dialogue, de-escalate tensions, and prioritize peace and national unity to protect civilians and foster stability across the country.



### **SONSA Welcomes First Cohort of Student Interns from Mogadishu University - July 24, 2025**

Today, SONSA Executive Director Mohamed Aded formally welcomed the first group of final-semester Social Work student interns from Mogadishu University. This marks a key milestone in the institutional partnership between SONSA and the university.

The interns will gain practical experience in civic education, human rights, advocacy, governance engagement, research, and community development. The structured internship combines academic learning with real-world exposure, empowering youth to actively participate in Somalia's civic processes.



### **Somali Civil Society and NIEBC Strengthen Collaboration on Voter Registration - July 23, 2025**

Today, the Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), led by Chairperson Osman Moallim, met with the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC), chaired by Abdikarim Ahmed Hassan. The discussion centered on the ongoing voter registration process and challenges ahead of local council elections.

Osman Moallim emphasized civil society's critical role in raising public awareness and called for the Commission to hold weekly public briefings to enhance trust and transparency. SONSA offered its Election Situation Room (ESR) to support election monitoring and public engagement.



### **SONSA and EFASOM Explore Collaboration to Boost Education Advocacy - July 26, 2025**

The Executive Director of the Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA) met with the leadership of the Education for All Somalia (EFASOM) organization to discuss potential collaboration opportunities. The positive meeting focused on expanding SONSA's engagement beyond politics, state-building, and peace, into the education sector.

Both parties expressed strong commitment to joint advocacy efforts aimed at increasing public budget allocations for education. They emphasized leveraging existing networks and partnerships to strengthen their impact. A key priority is advocating for inclusive education access, especially for vulnerable Somali children.





## **SONSA Concludes Two-Day Capacity Building Workshop for Civil Society on Governance and Policy - July 28 & 29, 2025**

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), under the GoleKaab platform, successfully concluded a two-day Capacity Building Workshop focused on government decision-making and policy review. Opened and closed by SONSA Chairperson Osman Moallim, the workshop convened senior civil society leaders and student interns for interactive discussions, scenario analyses, and role-play exercises.

The final day emphasized citizen-centric governance, highlighting civil society's role in oversight, accountability, and engaging the public as key players in decision-making processes. Participants developed actionable plans to strengthen advocacy, policy influence, and public participation.

This workshop marks a significant milestone in enhancing civil society's capacity to contribute effectively to democratic governance and policy shaping in Somalia, empowering stakeholders to promote transparent, inclusive, and responsive governance.



## **National Forum Advances Inclusive Public Participation in Somalia's Budget Planning - July 31, 2025**

A National Forum co-organized by Mogadishu Forum and SONSA gathered government officials, economic experts, and civil society leaders to enhance public involvement in national budget planning. SONSA Chairperson Osman Moallim opened the event, stressing inclusive dialogue.

Panelists included parliamentary committee members, Ministry of Finance officials, and experts like Prof. Yahye Amir. Key issues discussed were limited civil society engagement, poor public access to the Annual Financial Accountability Report, and the need for greater transparency and collaboration.

Participants were encouraged to engage actively in all budget stages and advocate for citizens' priorities.



## **SONSA Hosts Forum on Inclusive Digital Rights and Somali National Disability Strategy - July 31, 2025**

The Somali Civil Society Network (SONSA), in collaboration with partners, organized an important event focused on promoting inclusive digital rights for persons with disabilities and advancing the Somali National Disability Strategy. The forum aimed to ensure alignment between the National Disability Strategy and inclusive digital policies, referencing key international frameworks such as the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

SONSA emphasized that digital transformation must prioritize accessibility and inclusion for all, particularly persons with disabilities. Participants shared impactful reflections underscoring that digital inclusion goes beyond legal obligations—it is a fundamental human right that must be realized through concrete policy action and advocacy.