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CSOs Conclude Review of Somali Provisional Constitution and Mogadishu's Status - September 1, 2025

In Mogadishu, Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA), through the Gole-Kaab Project, concluded a review session on the Somali Provisional Constitution and key legislative frameworks, focusing on the status of Mogadishu. The event brought together traditional elders, women, youth, academics, research institutions, government representatives, and civil society organizations. Discussions centered on the long-standing debate over Mogadishu's political status and the need for inclusive constitutional arrangements that reflect the rights of its citizens.

Civil society leader Mama Duniya Mohamed Ali opened the forum, calling on the Federal Parliament to deliver a fair solution for Mogadishu after years of stalled negotiations. Representing youth voices, Omar Abdirahman Maow, Chairman of Banadir Youth, urged parliament to secure long-awaited representation for the region in the constitutional process.

The dialogue highlighted strong demands for equity, inclusivity, and consensus, reinforcing civil society's commitment to advancing reforms that protect the voices of all communities.



Somali Civil Society Engages in National Conciliation Barometer Validation - September 8, 2025,

Somali civil society, led by Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA), participated in the seventh and eighth National-Level Validation Workshop on Conciliation Barometer Data in Mogadishu. The two-day event was organized by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation as part of the data validation process, and co-facilitated by SeeD Cyprus, Dhaxalreeb, PDRC, and How to Build Peace. The workshop aimed to review and validate reconciliation data through collaborative discussions with civil society and other key stakeholders.

Participants examined indicators of state-level data collection, the methodology of the HeshiisBeeg concept, and the objectives and cultural relevance of reconciliation. The SONSA team engaged through group work, evidence-based recommendations, and proposals for innovative tools, including digital media, to support stabilization. The workshop is connected to the National Reconciliation Framework, launched in April 2024, which seeks to address historical grievances, strengthen trust, and promote long-term social cohesion in Somalia.



Somali Civil Society Participates in Launch of National Rural Development Strategy - September 10, 2025

Members of Somali civil society led by SONSA Chairperson Mr. Osman Moallim, joined the launch of the National Rural Development Strategy preparation process.

The event, organized by the National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS) of the Federal Government of Somalia, marked the beginning of a coordinated national effort to strengthen rural development. The strategy seeks to bring together government institutions, civil society, and local communities in addressing long-standing challenges faced in rural areas.

In his remarks, the SONSA Chairperson stressed the importance of collective action to ensure meaningful change in rural communities. He emphasized priority areas including expanding access to basic social services, fostering investment in agricultural financing, and rebuilding essential infrastructure to support livelihoods.

By launching the strategy, NCRDS signaled a crucial step toward achieving durable solutions that can improve living standards in rural regions. The process is expected to serve as a foundation for sustainable development, inclusive participation, and transformative progress across Somalia's rural communities.



Somali Civil Society Contributes to National Transformation Plan Deliberations - September 16, 2025

Somali civil society participated in the Pillar Working Group meetings convened by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia. The sessions form part of the drafting process for the National Transformation Plan 2025–2029, which is designed to shape the country's development priorities over the next five years.

Bringing together representatives from the federal government, federal member states, the United Nations, development partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations, the meetings provided a platform for wide-ranging input into Somalia's future policy direction.

Civil society representatives contributed actively to the discussions, focusing on issues central to governance and stability. These included inclusive politics, reconciliation, the rule of law, human rights, stabilization, access to justice, and efforts to counter violent extremism.

The deliberations also emphasized the importance of sustainable economic transformation, particularly in areas such as food security, climate-resilient infrastructure, energy access, information and communication technology, and job creation. The contributions highlighted civil society's role in shaping a framework aimed at fostering long-term stability, development, and resilience across Somalia.



Somali Civil Society Participates in Annual Parliamentary Engagement Conference in South Africa - September 17, 2025

Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA), led by Chairperson Osman Moallim, took part in the fifth Annual Conference of Parliamentary Engagement and Monitoring Organizations (PEMOs), held in Pretoria, South Africa. The gathering, held under the theme “Getting Back on Track: Renewing the Dialogue Between Legislatures and Civil Society,” brought together parliamentary engagement organizations from across Africa. Participants shared oversight experiences, exchanged lessons, and explored opportunities for strengthening cooperation between parliaments, civil society, and citizens.

With support from the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the Somali civil society delegation actively contributed to discussions on building trust and fostering more accountable governance. Their participation emphasized the importance of inclusive dialogue between legislative bodies and community actors in Somalia. By engaging with peers from across the continent, Somali representatives were able to highlight their oversight experiences while also learning from comparative practices in other African countries.

The event underscored the role of civil society in promoting transparency and accountability as Somalia continues its journey toward more inclusive and participatory governance.



Somali Civil Society Engages in Training on Public Budgeting and Human Rights September 17, 2025

Somali civil society members, including representatives from Somali Non-State Actors (SONSA), participated in a three-day training on public budget analysis from a human rights perspective in Mogadishu. The sessions, held from 15–17 September, brought together 20 parliamentarians from the Federal Parliament and Federal Member State assemblies. Organized by the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Mission in Somalia in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development, the training aimed to strengthen the integration of human rights considerations into national and state-level budgeting processes.

The initiative, supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations, provided parliamentarians with practical skills and tools to promote inclusive, transparent, and accountable public finance decisions. Civil society representatives engaged both as participants and facilitators, contributing perspectives rooted in community needs. Their involvement underscored the importance of ensuring that budgeting processes reflect human rights obligations and prioritize equitable service delivery.

The training marked a step toward advancing people-centered governance and reinforcing Somalia’s commitments to transparency and accountability in public administration.



Somali Civil Society Highlights State-Building and Reconciliation Support Program - September 18, 2025

Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA), the umbrella body for Somali civil society, officially launched the State-Building and Reconciliation Support Program (SRSP) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initiative is designed to strengthen citizen participation and civil society engagement in Somalia's ongoing state-building and reconciliation processes. It provides a platform for inclusive dialogue and nationwide engagements aimed at reinforcing collaboration among civic actors and institutions.

The launch event was opened by SONSA Chairperson Osman Moallim, who emphasized the program's role in uniting Somali civil society and fostering collective contributions to governance and peace-building. Abdirahman, Chairperson of PUNSAA, also welcomed the project, expressing optimism that it will amplify civil society's role in shaping Somalia's future.

Several member organizations endorsed the initiative, describing it as a significant step toward building cohesion within the sector and ensuring the voices of communities are central to national decision-making.

The SRSP launch marked an important milestone in advancing inclusive governance and reconciliation efforts in Somalia.



Somali Civil Society Participates in Digital Readiness Assessment Workshop - September 18, 2025

The Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) ReCIPE team joined a national workshop on digital readiness assessment organized by the Ministry of Communications and Technology with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The event brought together civil society representatives, ICT professionals, and government institutions to examine Somalia's digital readiness and set priorities for a more inclusive digital transformation. UNDP's Digital Readiness Assessment provides a snapshot of the country's digital ecosystem and is intended to guide evidence-based policymaking that advances the Sustainable Development Goals while ensuring no communities are left behind.

The workshop highlighted the importance of collaborative planning in shaping Somalia's digital future. Participants discussed how improved digital capacity can strengthen service delivery, expand access to information, and create opportunities for innovation and growth. The initiative aligns with the ReCIPE Project, co-funded by the European Union and led by Oxfam Ireland, which is implemented in Somalia by SONSA.

Through this effort, Somali civil society is working to promote digital rights and ensure human rights remain central to the country's digital transformation agenda.



Somali Civil Society Hosts Workshop on Digital Rights and Disability Inclusion - September 20, 2025

Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on 20 September 2025 in Mogadishu to support the creation of targeted policy briefs on digital rights, focusing on social media governance and disability inclusion. Held at the Jazeera Palace Hotel, the event was officially opened by Abdifatah Ibrahim of Oxfam Somalia, who underscored the importance of collaboration in advancing rights-based and inclusive digital policies. The workshop reflected growing efforts to ensure that Somalia's digital transformation is guided by frameworks that are inclusive, accountable, and responsive to community needs.

The gathering brought together a wide range of participants, including civil society organizations, private sector representatives, academia, lawyer associations, research institutions, disability networks, government stakeholders, youth interns, and social media influencers. Through focused group discussions and presentations, participants contributed insights to Somalia's Draft National Policy on Managing the Risks of Misuse of Social Media (2025–2030).

Their recommendations highlighted the importance of disability-inclusive approaches, the promotion of safe online spaces, and aligning digital rights with Somalia's broader governance and development objectives.



Somali Civil Society Marks International Day of Peace - September 21, 2025

On 21 September 2025, Somali civil society commemorated the International Day of Peace by calling on all sectors of society to take collective responsibility in advancing stability and reconciliation. Civil society representatives emphasized that sustainable peace in Somalia requires the active participation of government, opposition groups, and citizens alike. They noted that a secure and hopeful future for the nation can only be realized when all stakeholders contribute to peace-building with genuine commitment. The occasion served as a reminder of the importance of unity and dialogue in addressing the country's ongoing challenges.

This year's commemoration carried the global theme "Act Now for a Peaceful World," which underscores the urgency of mobilizing for peace in times of turbulence and uncertainty. Somali civil society highlighted the need for concrete action that goes beyond rhetoric, focusing on inclusive engagement, reconciliation, and efforts to build trust among communities.

By aligning with this international theme, they reaffirmed their dedication to fostering long-term stability and ensuring that peace remains a central pillar in Somalia's path toward sustainable development.



Somali Civil Society Participates in Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa - September 25, 2025

Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) took part in the second day of the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2025, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 24–26 September. The continental gathering brings together a broad range of stakeholders to examine pressing issues around digital rights, internet governance, and the protection of civic space.

The forum serves as a platform for sharing experiences and strategies on how to safeguard online freedoms while advancing inclusive participation in Africa's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Somali representatives engaged in discussions on cybersecurity, civic engagement, and equitable access to an open and secure internet. Their contributions ensured that Somalia's perspectives and challenges were reflected in wider debates on digital transformation across the continent. The forum highlighted the value of collaboration between civil society, governments, and private sector actors in shaping frameworks that protect rights and expand opportunities.

By participating, Somali civil society reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening advocacy for a free, safe, and inclusive internet that underpins democratic governance and human rights in Africa.



Civil Society Debate on Provisional Constitution Highlights Concerns Over Timing - September 26, 2025

A televised debate titled “CSOs Review the Somali Provisional Constitution and Key Legislative Frameworks” was held under the Gole-Kaab Project at Universal TV in Mogadishu. The event concluded successfully, with participants contributing actively through reflections, questions, and analysis of Somalia's ongoing constitutional review. The discussion provided a platform for civil society to engage with guest panelists and address issues central to the amendment process.

Many participants focused on Somalia's current political context, questioning whether the government's limited remaining mandate allows sufficient space for meaningful constitutional reform. Several raised the need for broader public consultations, inclusive dialogues, and outreach campaigns to secure consensus and legitimacy around any proposed amendments. Concerns were also voiced that pressing ahead under current conditions could heighten constitutional disputes rather than resolve them.

The debate reaffirmed civil society's vital role in ensuring that governance reforms are inclusive and transparent, emphasizing its responsibility in safeguarding Somalia's democratic future and strengthening dialogue among stakeholders.



SONSA Shares Insights on Cybersecurity at FIFAfrica 2025 - September 26, 2025

SONSA actively participated in the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFAfrica) 2025, held over three days in Windhoek, Namibia.

The gathering brought together digital rights advocates, policymakers, and civil society leaders from across the continent to advance internet freedom and inclusive digital governance.

SONSA co-hosted a session with partners including Oxfam Somalia, Oxfam Ireland, Mzalendo, and Access Now, focusing on data protection and cybersecurity in Africa.

During the session, SONSA Project Coordinator Ahmed Hussein Iman presented Somalia's digital rights journey. He highlighted the establishment of the Data Protection Authority while underscoring the challenges of implementation. He also outlined the Cabinet's approval of a Cybercrime Bill in August 2025, noting it awaits parliamentary debate and assent.

Ahmed further stressed the urgent need for Somali civil society advocacy to encourage government ratification of the African Union's Malabo Convention, which he described as critical to strengthening data privacy, building public trust, and safeguarding online spaces for citizens, journalists, and human rights defenders.



SONSA Concludes Engagement at FIFAfrica 2025 with Calls for Action - September 26, 2025

SONSA concluded three days of engagement at FIFAfrica 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, with renewed calls to strengthen digital rights protections in Somalia and across Africa.

Reflecting on the discussions, SONSA emphasized that the forum provided an inspiring platform that brought together diverse civil society, digital rights advocates, and policymakers to shape frameworks for a safer and more inclusive digital environment.

SONSA Project Coordinator Ahmed Hussein Iman reiterated the importance of ratifying the African Union's Malabo Convention and adopting laws that prioritize digital rights, enhance trust, and ensure safe online engagement. He cautioned that Somalia's digital transition is progressing too slowly, stressing the need for stronger political will, robust legal frameworks, and regional cooperation. Ahmed urged policymakers, civil society, and international partners to turn commitments into action and implement digital governance measures that protect vulnerable groups.

The closing reflections underscored Somali civil society's readiness to continue advocating for rights-based digital transformation and to translate continental dialogue into tangible protections for communities at risk.



Somali Civil Society SONSA Commemorates International Day for Universal Access to Information – 28 September 2025

Somali civil society, under the leadership of Somali Non-State Actors (SONSA) through the Gole-Kaab Project, joined the global community in commemorating the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

Access to information goes beyond governance. It is about peace, accountability, and transparency. A genuine democracy cannot function without informed citizens. When information is withheld, it fuels abuse of power; when shared openly, it builds trust and enables communities to take part in decisions that shape their lives.

This year's global theme, "Ensuring Access to Environmental Information in the Digital Age," highlighted the importance of making environmental data — such as climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and disaster risks — accessible to all. Without such access, communities cannot adequately prepare for the future, safeguard their rights, or contribute to building sustainable peace.

Access to information is both a constitutional guarantee and an international right. Protecting it is essential to Somalia's democratic future, empowering citizens to participate meaningfully in decision-making, while ensuring that transparency, accountability, and peace remain central to governance and development.



Somali Civil Society Observes Opening of the 7th Plenary Sessions of the House of the People – 29 September 2025

On 29 September 2025, members of Somali civil society observers attended the official opening of the 7th Plenary Sessions of the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, under the Gole-Kaab Project. Their participation reflects the continued commitment of civil society to engage in and monitor Somalia's democratic processes.

The opening ceremony was officiated by H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, alongside the Speaker of the House of the People, H.E. Hon. Adan Mohamed Nur (Madobe), the Speaker of the Upper House (Senate), H.E. Abdi Hashi, and the two deputies of Somalia's bicameral Federal Parliament.

This opening session marks a key moment in Somalia's democratic journey, highlighting the role of civil society in promoting accountability, transparency, and inclusive governance. Observers emphasized the importance of such forums as platforms for strengthening civic oversight and ensuring that parliamentary processes remain open and participatory.

In his address to the bicameral parliament, H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud underscored his commitment to engage with stakeholders who are not currently part of the ongoing political process signaling the importance of inclusivity and dialogue in shaping Somalia's political future.



Somali Civil Society Attends As Country Chapter East African Civil Society Summit 2025 – Nairobi, Kenya, 29 September – 1 October 2025

Somali civil society, led by SONSA Executive Director Mr. Mohamed Aded Ali, attended the East African Civil Society Summit 2025 held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 September to 1 October. The summit was organized by the East African Civil Society Organizations Forum (EACSOF).

The Summit brought together over 400 delegates representing civil society, government institutions, academia, the media, development partners, and the private sector. Participants engaged in high-level discussions to advance regional integration, governance, economic growth, and sustainable development across the East African Community.

The 2025 Summit, themed “Innovating Regional Integration: Advancing Governance, Economic Growth, and Social Inclusion in the Digital Age,” highlighted the role of technology and innovation in shaping East Africa’s future. Key areas of focus included digital transformation, economic resilience, governance and democracy, climate change, and youth and gender inclusion.

In his intervention, SONSA Executive Director Mr. Mohamed Aded Ali emphasized the importance of regional CSO integration, collaboration, and partnerships to strengthen the collective voice of civil society in advancing peace, democracy, accountability, and people-centered governance. The Summit opened with a strong call for inclusivity, transparency, and innovation, with leaders such as Ms. Lilian Alex, CEO of EACSOF, and Mr. Sirili Akko of GIZ, underscoring the critical role of good governance, gender equality, digital transformation, and human rights in building a more inclusive and sustainable East African region.

