

Somaliland background briefing, 2015

SOMALILAND

Historical Background:

Somaliland was formerly the British Somaliland Protectorate (1884-1960) and, after five days as an independent country, on 1 July 1960 it formed a union with the former Italian Trust Territory of Somalia

[Redacted]

Somaliland unilaterally declared independence from Somalia in 1991, during the collapse of the Siad Barre Government. Somaliland has its own political system, has held democratic elections, and has its own police force and defence force

[Redacted]

the London Conference in February 2012, which ‘recognised the need for the international community to support any dialogue that Somaliland and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) or its replacement may agree to establish in order to clarify their future relations’

[Redacted]

HMG Policy on Somaliland

The UK’s policy on the recognition of Somaliland is well known. Somaliland is not recognised by us or any other country, although UN resolutions generally refer to Somaliland as a ‘regional administration’. UK policy has long been that the Somali people themselves should determine the future relationship between Somalia and Somaliland, and that their neighbours and other African countries should take the lead in recognising any new arrangements.

[Redacted]

Last autumn, the UK opened an office in Hargeisa on a trial basis. UK Ministers routinely engage with their Somaliland counterparts, including the Prime Minister meeting President Silanyo before the Somalia Conference

[Redacted]

Meeting briefing, 5 January 2016

[Redacted]

TWEET

- “Pleased to meet new Somaliland Foreign Minister today. UK and Somaliland share historic and productive relationship.” [Add photo if possible]

[Redacted]

You may have met in the margins of the 2014 Somaliland Trade and Investment conference

[Redacted]

BACKGROUND

- 1) The autonomous zone of Somaliland (approx 3.5 million people) is a comparatively stable and democratic entity in a deeply unstable region. The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors to Somaliland and benefits from an unrivalled bilateral relationship.

[Redacted]

- 1) Somaliland is not recognised as an independent state by us or any other country. We consider it is for the Somali people themselves to determine the future Somalia-Somaliland relationship; while their neighbours and other African countries should lead the way in recognising any new arrangements.

UK policy has been to encourage dialogue between Somalia and Somaliland

[Redacted]

President Ahmed Mahmoud Silanyo took power in July 2010, in a transition free from violence. Presidential and Parliamentary elections were set for May 2015, but these have been delayed

[Redacted]

Somaliland is in dispute with Puntland over the regions of Sool and Sanaag. Somaliland's claim is based on the old British Protectorate border; Puntland claims the area based along the clan lines of the Darod who inhabit the region. An escalation of violence remains possible, particularly in the run up to the election, as Somaliland register voters in those areas

[Redacted]

Somaliland ended its de facto moratorium on the death penalty last spring

[Redacted]

In December 2015 a Somaliland policeman was convicted of the murder of his commander and sentenced to death

[Redacted]

Foreign Secretary visit briefing, June 2016

[Redacted]

1. The **UK played a leading role** in the establishment of the New Deal Compact. In 2012-13 the UK and EU hosted high-level conferences in London and Brussels to coordinate international support.. Donors pledged £1.6bn and spend has exceeded this by 33%. Donors also agreed to a Somaliland Special Arrangement in recognition of Somaliland's autonomous status.

[Redacted]

Meeting briefing, 2016

[Redacted]

Steer: an informal meeting to maintain contact and express appreciation for the work she has done to raise FGM as an issue and champion women's rights more broadly, including political rights; all priority areas for the UK.

[Redacted]

Points to make:

1. **Express appreciation** for the work she has done to raise FGM, women's rights and political participation; all key UK priorities
2. **Set out UK support:**
 - At the Girl Summit in 2015, the UK and international partners committed to try and end female genital mutilation (FGM) in a generation.
 - DFID SNaP: We have committed **£10 million over four years** to enable communities in Somalia to challenge social practises that harm women and girls, including female genital mutilation, and to support women's participation in decision-making across Somalia. The programme will work at the community level to support dialogue to challenge embedded views, and at the government level through laws and policies.
 - Research into enabling factors for women's political participation – **thank her for her engagement** and participation in this
3. **Seek her views on** how the UK should engage politically to increase women's political participation and end FGM/ violence against women and girls:
 - a. Does the revision of the electoral law provide an opportunity to finalise the quota? What are the prospects and how can the UK support?
 - b. What constructive role can the media play and should UK support this?
4. **Raise concerns** over delay to Parliamentary elections and rumours of delay to Presidential elections – we do not consider the drought a pretext for delay. **Seek her views** on how the UK can best support elections to go ahead.

Call brief, August 2016

[Redacted]

STEER

[Redacted]

The President plans to visit the UK in September and you are available to meet him.

[Redacted]

1. The UK's position on independence is well known: the future of Somalia is a matter for the Somali people to determine, and for its neighbours to take the lead in recognising any new arrangements.

2. Power in Somaliland has been peacefully transferred through four Presidential elections to date and one Parliamentary election in 2005. Joint Presidential and Parliamentary elections due in 2015 were postponed to March 2017 through a constitutional process accepted by all political parties and (reluctantly) by the international community. This is the first time a joint election has been planned.

[Redacted]

The UK is the second largest donor (behind the EU) to Somaliland's democratisation process. We have invested £2.18million in a biometric voter registration process to ensure that every Somaliander has the opportunity to vote. This is due to be completed in one month. We have also earmarked a further £1million to support the joint election.

[Redacted]

Meeting briefing, 2016

[Redacted]

Objectives

1. Recognise the achievement of Somaliland in achieving stability and functioning governance structures, and warm and historic UK-Somaliland relationship.

[Redacted]

Background

- Commonwealth. Being a state is a criteria for membership. There is no observer status or associate membership. As such, Somaliland is not eligible to join the Commonwealth. Even British Overseas Territories are not accepted as members.

Ministerial visit briefing, summer 2016

[Redacted]

CSSF 2016-2017 (at 16.6.16)	£32.83m (£14.45m non-ODA and £18.38m ODA. [Redacted] Includes £5m for Somaliland.
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[Redacted]

In terms of **governance**, an internationally recognised Federal Government has been in place in Mogadishu since 2012. There will be an electoral process this year which should be a key stepping stone towards full "one person one vote" elections in 2020. The vision for Somali state building processes is that of a federal state. Since 2012 significant progress has been made and the federal map is almost complete – the states are Puntland, the Interim Galmudug Administration, the Interim South West Administration (ISWA), the Interim Jubaland Administration, and (still under negotiation) Hiraan/Middle Shabelle (plus Somaliland which claims independence – see below).

[Redacted]

The former British Protectorate of **Somaliland** has claimed independence since 1991, but is considered one of federal states of Somalia by the FGS. No countries have recognised Somaliland as

an independent state, but many have unofficial consulates in the capital, Hargeisa. The UK's position is that it is for Somalia and Somaliland to decide their future, and for regional neighbours to take the lead in recognising any new arrangements.

Meeting briefing, September 2016

[Redacted]

BACKGROUND

The UK is now the second largest donor (behind the US) to Somaliland's democratisation process. We have invested £2.18million in a biometric voter registration process to ensure that every Somalilander has the opportunity to vote. This is due to be completed by 19 September. We have also earmarked a further £1million to support the joint election

Foreign Secretary visit briefing, March 2017

[Redacted]

Somaliland (claims independence, but not internationally recognised)

[Redacted]

CSSF 2016-2017 (at 16.6.16)	£39.2m (£19.2m non-ODA and £20.0m ODA. [Redacted] Includes £5m for Somaliland.
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[Redacted]

Meeting briefing, January 2017

[Redacted]

Somaliland's electoral process

The self-declared independent state of Somaliland announced on 25 January postponement to already delayed Presidential elections from 28 March to 10 October 2017

[Redacted]

Somaliland is not internationally recognised. HMG's position has long been that it is for Somaliland and Somalia to decide their future, and for regional neighbours to take the lead in recognising any new arrangements.

[Redacted]

Minister for Africa briefing for Somalia Conference, May 2017

[Redacted]

Somaliland considers itself independent (this status is not recognised by the international community).

[Redacted]

History of UK Engagement

- **2000-2009** Small-scale DFID humanitarian and development approach operating mainly in Somaliland and implemented largely by UN partners.

[Redacted]

The region of Somaliland claims independence, but this not internationally recognised

[Redacted]

CSSF Somalia 2017-2018	£43.5m , (including £4.5m for Somaliland): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rule of Law: £2.2m- Security Sector Reform: £23.5m- Stabilisation: £1.3m- Reconciliation: £6.4m- State Formation: £3m- Human Rights: £1.3m- Somaliland: £4.5m- Design & Delivery: £1.3m
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[Redacted]

Foreign Secretary briefing for Somalia Conference, May 2017

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Prime Minister briefing for Somalia Conference, May 2017

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DFID visit brief, 2017

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]