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# **Trends and Opportunities in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Somalia**





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**United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and  
UNDP Country Office in Somalia  
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation**

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

The Federal Republic of Somalia is located in the strategically crucial Horn of Africa on the eastern edge of Africa, adjacent to the Red Sea, Suez Canal and key commercial waterways. Somalia has consistently sat at the center of great power, due to geopolitical interests in the region since the Cold War period.

Somalia is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east and Kenya to the southwest. Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland, about 3,200 kilometers. Climatically, hot conditions prevail year-round, with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall.

Somalia has a population of around 10.8 million; 75 percent of the populations are youth below 30 years old. The official languages of Somalia are Somali and Arabic, both of which belong to the Afro-Asiatic family.

The two-decade-old conflict in Somalia, following the fall of the last functional Somali Government in 1991, resulted in a huge collapse of the country's political, civil and economic institutions. The country is plagued by a severe lack of basic economic, institutional set-up and social statistics. The security situation remained volatile in some controlled towns, political infighting and violence regularly targets civilians by Al-Shabaab, despite positive commitments and policy developments from the Somali government.

Somalia's economy is dominated by the informal sector and is predominantly based on agriculture and livestock, which accounts for about 65 percent of the GDP and employment of the workforce.

In terms of security, Somalia is currently experiencing positive political and security developments, as well as the commitment of the international community to find sustainable resolutions of the protracted crisis in the country.

As defined by the United Nations, South-South cooperation is "a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how and through collective actions including partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia and the private sector for their individual and/or mutual benefit."

It's a tool to support and facilitate political and economic integration and to promote financing for development. The growing importance and relevance of South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been affirmed by all developing countries since the 1970s.

Complementing South-South cooperation initiatives is a Triangular Cooperation (TC), which is defined as "collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems, as well as other form of support."

Against this background, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States Regional Centre in Cairo and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation launched a joint initiative titled "Unleashing the Potential for South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Development in the Arab States Region." The initiative is aimed at responding to three priority areas, which are (i) institutional capacity development for the effective coordination and management of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SS&T Cooperation); (ii) promotion of home-grown mechanisms and solution for inclusive cooperation in the Arab States region; and (iii) support through Resident Coordinators Offices (RCOs) and UNDP in the Arab States Region in mainstreaming SS&TC in their programming processes and strategic partnerships.

Somalia faces tremendous difficulties in implementing its development priorities, which is largely rooted in challenges emerging from the institutional breakdown and fragmentation of Somali society following the collapse of the Somali government in 1991. The huge potential in the country as well as the benefits of the well-established key stakeholders, such as private sector and civil society organizations, together with the commitment of the international community can bring about substantial opportunities towards unleashing the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Somalia and beyond. It became imperative that a participatory stocktaking exercise and policy dialogue on South-South cooperation in the Federal Republic of Somalia have been initiated with the support of the government and UN.

## Strategy and Objectives

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) is guided by the strategic framework, 2014-2017. That is aimed at achieving key goals: 1) creation of a necessary policy environment that enables both legislative and executive leadership of member states to make informed decisions, policies and strategies, as well as programme initiatives that give effect to mainstreaming support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation on a global and UN system-wide basis; 2) to enable all partners in South-South and Triangular Cooperation to meaningfully engage in, support and scale up more self-initiated, self-managed, self-funded and self-sustained South-South and Triangular initiatives; and 3) creation of an institutional environment to enable member states, the UN system and other partners to effectively initiate, manage, coordinate and implement South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives.

As confirmed by the Nairobi outcome document, "South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit." These guiding principles significantly increased the growing interest among Somali's Federal Government of how the role of South-South cooperation can be played, which has become more urgent in light of 25 years of civil conflict and the current positive political and security developments, as well as the commitment of the international community to find a sustainable resolution of the protracted crisis in Somalia.

## Objectives of Stocktaking

- Identify relevant South-South cooperation frameworks, objectives, conditions, patterns, successful practices and challenges at the level of national coordination authority, individual line ministries, relevant civil society and private sector institutions, as well as UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Somalia and other triangular cooperation players;
- Analyse shared and individual strengths and challenges of various players towards effective promotion of South-South cooperation and identify possible synergies;
- It is expected that the increased understanding of SSC will inform key stakeholders assisted by UNOSSC and its partners, thus enabling effective implementation as well as unleashing the potential of the country;
- The exercise does not assess in detail all the key government institutions; as such, assessment was not possible for reasons of limited access and security.



National consultations on SSC stocktaking with eight federal line ministries-jazeera hotel, Mogadishu.

## Stocktaking Process and Methodology

The stocktaking exercise responds to four overarching principles based on information derived during several key meetings with the stakeholders. The stocktaking was conducted following a consultative and transparent approach and made use of the following methods and tools: (i) a desk review of literature, including the official documents; (ii) a survey questionnaire to get responses from the relevant stakeholders; (iii) semi-structured interviews with key resource persons and stakeholders; (iv) direct observation during the mission to Somalia, namely Mogadishu; and (v) meetings with the representatives of the Government and UN agencies represented in Somalia. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the following tasks were carried out:

- A questionnaire was sent out through the UNRC office in Somalia and government national focal point in order to collect qualitative and quantitative data and analyse trends and opportunities in SS&TC;
- Desk review of the current national institutional and policy frameworks for SS&TC in Somalia was conducted;
- Nine consultative meetings with relevant national stakeholders from the government institutions, private sector, civil society organizations, academia and the UN Country Team (UNCT) were held, awareness-raising and the prospects of the scope and types of SS&TC activities have been discussed and areas of cooperation were identified based on the exchange of models and elaboration from the stakeholders.

## I. THE ROLE AND OVERVIEW OF THE STAKEHOLDERS IN SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

### A) SOMALIA'S CURRENT SITUATION AS AN ADVANTAGE FOR SETTING INSTITUTIONAL AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN FAVOUR OF SSC

The prolonged period of conflict and insecurity in Somalia over the last 30 years, with intense fighting, population displacement, humanitarian crises and lack of centralized governance structure negatively affected the collapse of the states and created an absence of civil institutions and weak domestic capacity.

The concept of South-South cooperation in such a conflict environment is lost amid these challenges, despite the fact that Somalia was the lead country in the course of the Non-Aligned Movement in the 1960s. However, Somalia is one of the 25 member states that founded the Non-Aligned Movement in September 1961, as a result of the Bandung Asian-African Conference in 1955, which laid the building blocks<sup>1</sup> of the Movement.

The new reality on the ground, in particular, the positive political and security situation, as well as the absence of an aid coordination entity, allowed active donors in the country to coordinate their efforts under a forum of international support to Somalia, which includes the Somalia Donor Group, UNCT and the NGO Consortium, in addition to other key active donors, such as the European Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The new Government has recently established an aid coordination unit under the Ministry of Finance, in order to strengthen its capacity to engage with partners and to map donors' activities to ensure alignment; synergies and complementarity of interventions are underway.

Efforts intensified through many initiatives at all levels - national, regional and international - culminating recently in the Busan New Deal and Good International Practices and Engagement in Fragile States. The consensus of these initiatives include: a) completion of the 2011 fragile states principles monitoring survey in Somalia in line with the New Deal;<sup>2</sup> b) sustaining momentum in the political process; and c) the need for a long-term approach for state building, economic development and an enabling environment for private sector investment.

Local NGOs, private sector and federal and transitional government entities received tremendous financial support and assistance from non-traditional donors, Islamic NGOs and other agencies. This support significantly contributed to health, education and other key sectors, but unfortunately the origin of this support were not known, as well as no available data and statistics were exist.

<sup>1</sup> <http://mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?20349/History+and+Evolution+of+NonAligned+Movement>

<sup>2</sup> The "New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States" was developed to better manage risks, increase the use of country systems, and increase the predictability of aid. It is a fresh way of approaching a country's transition out of fragility, which used in Somalia. <http://new-deal.so/>

## B) INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Major funding institutions’ support comes from the UN and the African Union. In 2010, UN political support came through the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, UNSOM, is the first UN political mission based in Somalia since 1994, and on 1 January 2014, the UN in Somalia was structurally integrated.

Somalia is also a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which was established in 1986 to encourage cooperation among member states in East Africa. Military and political support was given to Somalia from the international community since the collapse of the state. In addition, the country received significant official development assistance (ODA) from the international community from 2003-2013; the below graph illustrates the trends in ODA.

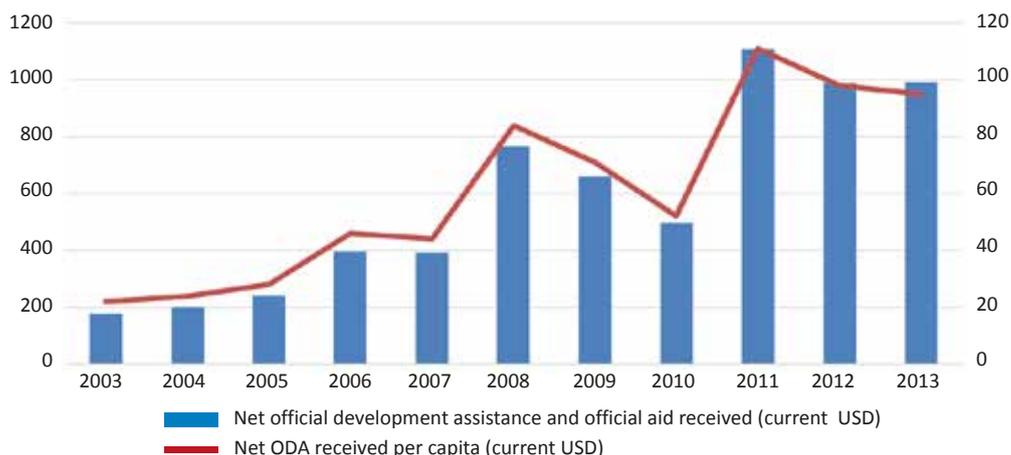


Figure 1. Trends in Official Development Assistance, 2003-2013. Source: World Bank - UNDP

## C) MAJOR FUNDING INSTITUTIONS

The Somali Compact is devoted to the principles of partnership between Somalia and the international community, established in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) was agreed between the partners as a centre of the New Deal partnership to enhance the delivery of effective assistance to all Somalis. The SDRF will bring together several funds (“windows”) under common governance arrangements (the UN, the World Bank and the African Development Bank and the Special Financing Facility).

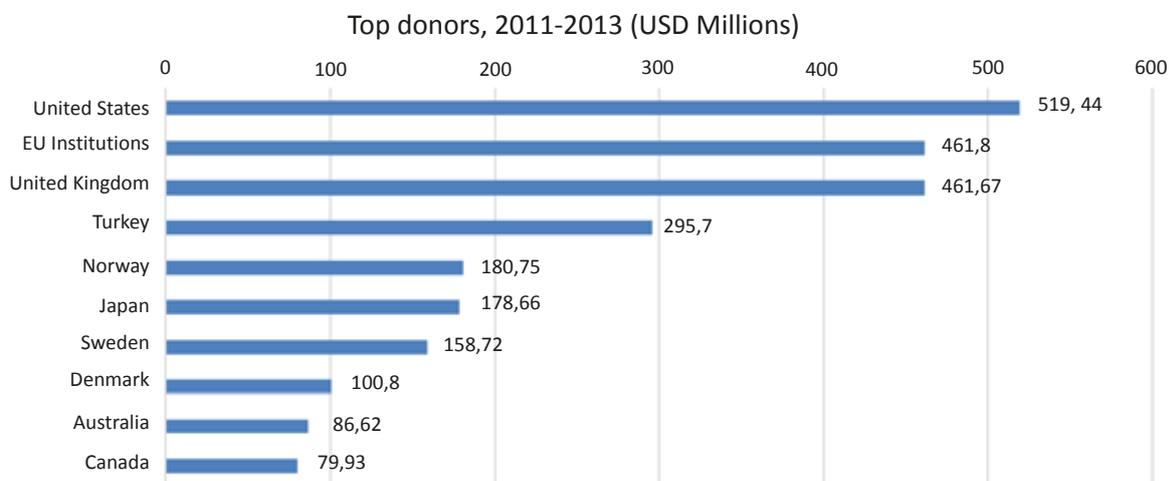


Figure 2. Major funding institutions to Somalia (US\$ million). Source: World Bank

From the above graph it is clear that the United States, EU institutions and the United Kingdom were the top funding institutions to Somalia from 2011-2013, followed by Turkey, as a funding partner from the South.<sup>2</sup>

### **Turkey and Somalia as a paradigm of South-South Cooperation**

Turkey's engagement in Somalia is historical and attributed to cultural ties, following three visits by President Erdogan to Somalia in August 2011, January 2015 and then a recent significant and strategic visit to Mogadishu in May 2016 (during which this stocktaking exercise took place). This visit can be considered a major breakthrough in the development cooperation between Turkey and Somalia, with nine cooperation agreements signed between the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Republic of Turkey in key sectors.

Turkish humanitarian and technical development assistance to Somalia exceeded \$400 million. Many development projects in various areas such as health, education, livelihood creation, municipal services and infrastructure have been completed. A hospital in Mogadishu, with 200 in-patient capacity, was opened in January 2015. The hospital is one of the largest and most modern hospitals in the region. As well, the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) launched several projects in all regions of Somalia in education, health, agriculture and infrastructure and water management.<sup>3</sup>

## **D) NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS**

### **The Government**

To effectively implement its foreign policy, Somalia is guided by many principles and beliefs that its own future is inseparable from the stability and security of its environment. Key principles are:

- a) promotion of national, regional and international peace and security; and
- b) effective participation in multilateral diplomacy.

During the stocktaking consultation and as one of the key elements of Somalia's multilateralism objectives, the concept of South-South cooperation has been strongly expressed by all stakeholders. Somalia showed high interest in engaging in SSC in accordance with its multilateralism objectives.

Somalia is recovering from 25 years of internecine civil war, comprehensive state institutional collapse and persistent insecurity. Since September 2012, Somalia has had its first non-transitional government, which is the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), comprised of six federal member states and the capital of Mogadishu.

South-South cooperation falls under the Department of Arab and Islamic Cooperation, at the Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The director of the Arab and Islamic Cooperation has been designated a national focal point for South-South cooperation in Somalia. The concept of South-South cooperation in Somalia has been supported and facilitated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC, through the regional advisor for UNOSSC for the Arab States.

In accordance with the terms of reference for the stocktaking exercise for South-South cooperation in Somalia, the mission was conducted from 26 May to 2 June 2016 and carried out by the regional advisor for SSC for the Arab states.

### **The Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations**

Since 1991, after the collapse of the state and destruction of the social protection, strong private sector and civil society organizations have emerged and to some extent have performed functions of a state. The two non-state actors seemed to have filled some empty spaces.

Accordingly, there has been an increase in private sector activity in the past few years; the contribution of remittances from the diaspora and investments by businessmen are behind this boom.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/relations-between-turkey-and-somalia.en.mfa>

In the livestock sector, Somalia (through businessmen) exported 3 to 3.5 million animals each year, along with animal products, hides and skins. Somalia was significantly affected by the ban on livestock imports imposed in September 2000 by some Arab States, and accordingly the number dramatically dropped. The consequences of this ban in terms of financial cost annually are estimated at \$120 million.

The private sector significantly contributed to the economic boom through establishing key infrastructure and services sectors, such as telecommunications and electricity. Given that the physical infrastructure will take a long time to rebuild, private Somali companies have leapfrogged landline telecommunications by directly investing in mobile technology. As a result, Somalia has inexpensive, high-quality mobile phone services, supposedly the cheapest in Africa. In this regard, nobody can deny that the private sector made a large and a significant contribution in providing education services from kindergarten to university level, with all education services provided by the private sector (except the Somalia National University), health services, water and sanitation, electricity, communication, money transfer (remittance) and other social services. In the telecommunications sector, which is solely owned by private interests, there are 11 licensed operators whose networks cover the whole country. The biggest names are Somali Telecom, Golis, Nation Link and Hormund Telecom (with sales of \$40 million a year).

Major destinations for livestock exports from Somalia include Yemen, Oman, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Egypt. Despite the tremendous role played by the private sector and NGOs, they are seen as a challenge to government legitimacy since they are the sole providers of basic services to the public since the collapse of the central government of Somalia. The private sector has also established and manages two electricity companies, Bandir Electric Power, owned by BECO, and Mogadishu Power Company.

On the other hand, both private sector and NGOs have adapted to the lack of rule and order, denying the government a role and responsibility. This situation has created big challenges to the current government. A platform of policy dialogue should be created to bring both the Government and private sector to discuss the scope of cooperation and the mutual obligation for each party to achieve a great deal of mutual understanding and harmony and to reach common objectives.

South-South cooperation happened through the economic activities "Export" carried out by the private sector with the Arab states and neighboring countries and through aid and grants received by civil society organizations donated by Arab and Islamic countries. Yemen, Kuwait, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are the main importing countries for livestock and other commodities.

#### **UNDP/UNCT consultative meeting**

In the framework of the national stocktaking, the consultation commenced on 29 May 2016 with a briefing with UNDP Acting Deputy Country Director-Programme. UNDP Somalia showed strong interest and commitment towards supporting South-South cooperation in the country. They also showed successful practices with partner countries from the South, namely from Africa and Asia in the area of rule of law; justice corrections and police. In its efforts to promote SSC in the country, UNDP is taking concrete steps to integrate SSC in its current work plan.

With the support of the UN RC office and UNDP in Somalia, a consultation with the UN agencies in Somalia has been organized by the RC office at UNSOM, connected with VTC to Nairobi. Representatives from UNDP, WHO, UNSOM, OCHA, DPO and three representatives through VTC from Nairobi participated. A brief presentation on the trends and opportunities in advancing SS/TC in Somalia was presented. Pertinent questions and comments from UN agencies were received and clarification was made.

## II. TRENDS AND PRACTICES IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

### Agriculture and livestock

Agriculture remains the key sector for the economy of Somalia. It is characterized by three subsectors: nomadic pastoralism, rain-fed farming and irrigated farming. Rain-fed farming contributed significantly to the total cultivated area by 90 percent, practiced by small-scale farmers.

On the other hand, Somalia's economy has been dominated by livestock trade and crop production, which substantially contribute to livelihood development. Sixty-seven percent of the population lives in rural areas and depends on their livelihoods on these two sectors, according to the World Bank. It estimates that agriculture contributes 60 percent of Somalia's GDP (2016 data on Somalia, agricultural sector survey); it also represents 80 percent of its employment and 90 percent of exports.

Yet the sector faces key challenges: low productivity; both farmers and pastoralists are very vulnerable; a weak capacity; poor policies and strategies; and lack of suitable crop varieties.

South-South cooperation can be a major opportunity for Somalia through the joint IFAD-UNOSSC Initiative for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS) in the Arab States and the ECIS, as well as the new dynamic and support of the Islamic Development Bank to the initiative. The ongoing knowledge exchange workshops under the joint initiative can also be a platform for Somalia to enhance and develop this productive sector.

### Fisheries and marine resources

Somalia enjoys the longest coastline on the Indian Ocean in Africa, more than 3,300 kilometres. The coastline has characterized Somalia as a large fisheries resource, available through its Exclusive Economic Zone. The potential for growth of the domestic fisheries is high and avails opportunities in generating new jobs and other work related to fisheries.

A huge potential of tropical tuna species could generate high incomes, as well as revenue from foreign licenses estimated at \$6 to \$8 million.

Unfortunately, due to the security situation in the country, the current state of marine resources is unknown; the seasonal abundance was estimated to be between 120,000 and 200,000 tons.



As the sector constitutes the third-largest exports in Somalia and fisheries employed some 30,000 people full time and 60,000 part-time workers, including traders, the sector needs capacity-building and training in institutions managing fisheries, as well as research and training opportunities. Such capacity can be provided by Gulf countries like Kuwait, which has a comparative advantage in the fisheries sector; currently the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation is negotiating with Kuwait in this field. The current Joint IFAD-UNOSSC initiative on food security and agricultural development will be an opportunity for Somalia to join.

## Education

Education is also among the sectors that have been significantly affected by the civil war in Somalia. All education sector infrastructures have been destroyed, as well as education institutions and the system.

The war created a big gap in public education services, and the private sector has filled the gap. More than 14 education umbrellas have been founded by the private sector.

Current indicators show improvements in gross enrolment rates in primary education, and despite the challenges faced by the country, enrolment reached 55 percent, of which 62 percent are boys.



Initial information stated that in 2016 the ratio of those enrolled in secondary education are 36 percent girls and 64 percent boys. The educational process is very complicated, given a shortage in basic infrastructure, lack of qualified teachers and increasing number of children out of school.

The current momentum accompanied by the Sustainable Development Goals and the opportunities provided by SSC mechanisms and platforms, workshops, meetings and EXPO might promote and mobilize resources and partnerships in advancing the educational process in Somalia.

## III. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

### CHALLENGES

Somalia faces critical obstacles for creating conducive conditions for sustaining peace, stability and development and for rebuilding the state and institutions. Behind most of these problems is the collapse of the state and governance structure and insecurity.

The results of the national consultative meetings and the survey identified the following challenges:

- Despite the positive political and security developments on the ground, led by the current Federal Government, the security situation is very fragile;
- Sturdy and urgent efforts are needed in restoring the capacity of institutions, communities and putting in place effective and accountable governance structures;
- Appropriate policies and coordination mechanisms for sustainable key institutions are required;
- Lack of awareness among the majority of stakeholders about the SSC concept and its opportunities was attributed, according to the stakeholders, to the prolonged civil war and collapse of the states;
- Lack of government financial and human resources significantly contributed to the inability of the country to take an initiative and engage actively in South-South and Triangular Cooperation, therefore ownership and leadership are not quite feasible.
- Significant deterioration in the civil institutions and weakness of human resources during the past two decades have critically affected the trends of SSC.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The consultative meeting with a prominent government official confirmed that the ongoing consultation on the national development plan, as well as the current national consultation of the stocktaking exercise of South-South cooperation for Somalia will be adopted as real mechanisms for peacebuilding in the country.

The existence of the well-established private sector and civil society organizations, which have been built throughout the three decades to fill the gap in vital sectors and services, may significantly contribute and create balance in the current situation, as well as enhance the concept of public/private partnerships within the framework of SSC.

The positive development in the country and the strong commitment of the international community to build a new partnership based on the country's priorities and leadership will provide a solid advantage and opportunity for Somali decision-makers addressing many of the challenges that face the country.

With the support of the international community, in particular through UNDP country programmes, Somalia witnessed significant progress in the federalization system based on the Somali compact that articulates Somalia's peacebuilding and state-building goals from 2014-2016. The most important political development in the country is the restructuring of governance around a federal system. Somalia went through a series of transitional governments between 2000 and 2012, which were mandated to federalize the country.

The year 2012 marked the end of the transition, whereby a provisional constitution was adopted, accordingly the priorities in 2016 are:

- 1) the formation of federal states through peaceful reconciliation;
- 2) the finalization and adoption of the Constitution; and
- 3) preparation for national elections in 2016.

Therefore, Somalia will benefit from an opportunity to address these issues through knowledge-exchange as provider for SSC with neighbouring countries in East Africa, as well with post-conflict states in the Arab and African countries.

### Domestic and International Resources Mobilization

#### a) Remittances

The situation in Somalia and the collapse of the state mobilized important resources from the diaspora's remittances, with a unique and efficient remittances-transfer system established as one of the best such systems in the continent. Using the Somali money transfer system, often referred to as "hawala," the "hawala" companies facilitate quick money transfers and business transactions between Somalia and the rest of the world. This has enabled easy remittances of funds and allowed businessmen to operate efficiently, and it has encouraged the private sector to contribute to the development of the country during the last three decades.

The Somali diaspora is estimated to entail 1 to 1.5 million people. Over the last two decades and the civil war, the diaspora has been critical in helping people in Somalia survive a conflict situation in which food insecurity, massive unemployment, lack of public services and exclusion from global banking, postal and law enforcement networks have presented additional challenges. Remittances alone are estimated at about \$1bn-2 billion a year in Somalia, a figure that does not take into account the vital role the diaspora contributing to the provision of basic services such as health care, education and water, as well as infrastructure and enterprise. Beside the financial transfers, the diaspora is involved in sending in-kind assistance (books, medical supplies, machinery, etc.), as well as technical support provided in-person.

Somalia has greatly benefited from the diaspora, and it also can be defined as an effective home-grown solution.

## **b) Resource mobilization from South countries**

In addition to the top 10 major countries (USA, EU, UK, Turkey, Norway, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Australia and Canada), Somalia has also strong ties and has benefited from SSC countries, such as China. However, cooperation between China and Somalia for the last 50 years was broad. During the last three decades, China actively participated in development of Somali infrastructure and social amenities. The 1,000-kilometre highway that was built by China is a significant example of that cooperation. China has funded and built modern hospitals in Somalia, like the Banadir Hospital; in addition, China financed construction of the biggest stadium in Somalia and schools.

Currently and after the resumption of diplomatic relations between Somalia and China in October 2014, more financial and technical resources are expected to flow from China in the key sectors of cooperation, which is business and reconstruction, in addition to other comparative advantages for both countries in knowledge-sharing and solutions.

## IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### FINDINGS

The concept of South-South cooperation has been significantly affected by the huge challenges emerging from the institutional breakdown and fragmentation of Somali society after the collapse of the government in 1991. There is, however, a push to stimulate the government to develop systems, coordination frameworks and adoption of a country system.

The main pillars of the key national priorities articulated by the Federal Government of Somalia during the consultation were: a state federal system (political and security), the upcoming election, consultation on the national development plan, the economic situation and infrastructure. The implementation process of the national plan envisages a conducive environment necessary for sustainable development, in which improvements on the political, social and economic conditions of the country are imperative and vital; this is where South-South cooperation can be consistent with the expected development of the institutional and coordination mechanisms.

As a result, the private sector and civil society organizations jointly took over and completely bridged the gap in provision of basic services in the absence of the state and its institutions throughout that period.

This tremendous work was supported by many Arab and Muslim organizations in Arab countries; therefore South-South cooperation can be seen as an advantage and opportunity in addressing most of the critical aspects of the crisis in Somalia.

The effective role played by both private sector and NGOs has had a significant impact on the consolidation of the concept of South-South cooperation in Somalia during the absence of the state. Policy space on various state institutions will be concretely addressed through constructive dialogue and partnership between the public and private sector.

The strong commitment of the international community in building new partnerships benefiting the ongoing National Development Plan and the identification of country priorities, in addition to the action plan developed by UNDP Somalia on South-South cooperation, will enhance the country's engagement in South-South policy dialogue and strategy.

The national consultation on SSC stocktaking exercise together with the ongoing development of the National Development Plan has been significantly considered by high-level Government officials as effective mechanisms for peacebuilding and conflict-prevention measurements and tools.

There are successful practices that Somalia can share with Eastern Africa and post-conflict countries, such as good practices on conflict management and prevention, federal systems and reconciliation among different clans in Somalia and the good examples of the intervention of the local civil society organizations in humanitarian and recovery works. In addition to the successful experiences of the private sector on resource mobilization through Arab countries' partnership, as well as the establishment of basic services and participation in the stabilization process in the country.

The models of Somali private sector intervention, together with the LNGOs in the most vital sectors such as agriculture, livestock, basic needs and infrastructure can form the most successful practices in laying the foundations and rules of partnerships between the public and private sectors in the Arab region. Arab states have provided huge social assistance through Islamic charities to LNGOs. Unfortunately, there is no record of the information and the database is weak.

Agriculture and livestock have comparative advantages in Somalia and the region, as they contribute 60 percent of Somali's GDP and represent 80 percent of its employment and 90 percent of its exports. Through the joint UNOSSC-IFAD Initiative for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS), the country can benefit in addressing the key challenges facing Somalia in low productivity and weak capacity, in addition to cooperation with other emerging countries like Turkey and Brazil.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The dual membership of Somalia in the African Union and the League of Arab States, like Djibouti and Sudan, can offer good opportunity and added value to the country in benefiting from both African and Arab state institutions. Therefore, the Federal Government of Somalia needs to strengthen its diplomatic ties with both institutions, as well as build strong bilateral relations with other Arab countries, such as in the Gulf, to play a dynamic and prominent role in the region and beyond.

Currently, the government institutions lack capacities to lead SSC; therefore establishing a coordination unit for SS&TC at the competent ministry is important and needed, while the support from UNDP and other UN agencies in the areas of training and institutional development are important and necessary.

Circumstances are well suited for Somalia to benefit from the support of emerging countries and countries of the South, as well as from developed countries to improve its security situation and ensure the commitment of the international community to support the country's development priorities.

Referring to the agreement among all national stakeholders - during the consultation - on the importance of coordination among the key national players, the government must take the lead to involve all key stakeholders, namely key ministries, civil society and businessmen to advance and promote South-South cooperation, with the support and coordination with the UN agencies, namely UNDP Somalia.

The commitment of the international community to support the development priorities of the country, in addition to the ongoing process of the National Development Plan, as well as UNDP Somalia's current working plan on SSC and their commitment to support Somalia SSC should encourage and motivate the government to build strong and effective institutions that can coordinate, benefit from and combine SSC as a modality into the localization and implementation of the SDGs.

The breakthrough brought about by the private sector and civil society organizations in establishing many major basic infrastructure and services projects during the past three decades should be maintained but also requires the government to lead and initiate policy dialogue in the framework of South-South cooperation, such as the mechanism and the concept of public/private partnership.

The huge potential and untapped resources in agriculture, livestock and fisheries in the country avail enormous opportunities for Somalia in joining the UNOSSC and IFAD initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS.

### Recommendations to UNCT

- Mainstream UNDP Somalia's action plan on South-South cooperation, as well as the successful practices on the exchange of knowledge and training with neighbouring countries to all UN agencies and other partners in Somalia;
- Support government focal point efforts to establish national coordination authorities responsible for the coordination of SSC through capacity-building and institutional arrangements;
- UNCT can play a significant role in familiarizing both UN agencies and the government in existing fund mechanism for South-South, such as grants for South-South, IBSA and Islamic Development Bank.

## Annex: National consultations

In accordance with the terms of reference for the stocktaking exercise for South-South cooperation in Somalia, the mission conducted from 26 May to 2 June 2016 carried out by the regional advisor for SSC for the Arab states.

A preparatory meeting was held on 30 May with the national focal point at Mogadishu International Airport –MIA "the protected area" and followed by a consultative meeting with both representatives from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consultations addressed important issues on establishing strong civil institutions and managing internal coordination in achieving the objectives of South-South cooperation, bearing in mind the significant deterioration in the civil institutions and the weakness of human resources during the past two decades as a result of conflict and civil war in Somalia.

Two major consultative meetings were held on 31 May and 1 June. The first meeting involved eight line ministries and was chaired by the Permanent Secretary (PS) of MOPIC and attended by seven Permanent Secretaries (PS) and 40 senior officials from key ministries closely relevant to SSC.

A presentation was made by the regional advisor for UNOSSC for the Arab states under the title "Trends and Opportunities in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation in The Federal Republic of Somalia." Commitment and support by participants was highlighted and a brief history of the engagement of Somalia with SSC since the early 1960s was introduced by the government.

A bilateral meeting was held with Abdi Dirshe, PS-MOPIC, attended by senior staff from UNDP Somalia. The process and content of the national consultation and outcomes of the meeting impressed the Permanent Secretary. In his brief, he addressed the main pillars of the key national priorities in the country: the state federal system (political and security), the upcoming election, consultation on the national development plan, the economic situation and infrastructure. He assured everyone that the ongoing consultation on the National Development Plan, as well as the current national consultation of the stocktaking exercise for South-South cooperation will become real mechanisms for peacebuilding in the country.

The meeting concluded with agreement on the importance of coordination among government key ministries, civil society and businessmen, as well as the need to strengthen the institutional arrangements and capacity-building to enhance the entire coordination within the relevant government institutions to advance and promote South-South cooperation with the support and coordination of UNDP Somalia.