



Official Launch of Gurmada *Qaran* and the National Dialogue Forum

Jazeera Hotel, Mogadishu, Somalia



28 SEPTEMBER 2026



*“A national movement rooted in
selfless service and shared responsibility.”*

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
1P1V	One person, one vote
CESCR	UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JIPS	Joint IDP Profiling Service
JOSP	Jowhar Off stream Storage Programme
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIEBC	National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNHCR	UN Refugee Agency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 28 September 2026, Gurmad Qaran convened its official launch and a National Dialogue Forum at Jazeera Hotel in **Mogadishu, Somalia**. The event brought together approximately **150 participants**, including representatives of government and opposition, civil society, traditional leadership, academia, professional communities and other stakeholders. The gathering provided an opportunity to **introduce the movement and discuss the political, institutional and social challenges facing Somalia**. The Forum was structured around **two complementary components: The Official Launch of Gurmad Qaran and the National Dialogue Forum**. The Official Launch formally introduced Gurmad Qaran, its vision, mission and its broader national objectives, while the National Dialogue Forum provided a platform for **evidence-based research, policy dialogue and practical perspectives on key national issues**. The program featured **four (4) explanatory presentations** on Gurmad Qaran and its vision, **five (5) research presentations, two (2) panel discussions** and **Ten (10) Remarks from guest and Stakeholder**, bringing together diverse perspectives to promote informed discussion, knowledge exchange and constructive national dialogue on Somalia's political, institutional, security, social and governance priorities.

This report records the principal presentations, discussions and proposals raised during the event. It recommends that Gurmad Qaran develop a practical follow-up plan, establish expert working groups, publish accessible policy papers, widen public participation and monitor progress against clear outputs. The launch should be regarded as the beginning of a longer process rather than the conclusion of the movement's work.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Inclusive National Reconciliation and Political Dialogue:** Somalia's political and social challenges require a genuine and inclusive process of **national reconciliation, consultation, dialogue and consensus-building** among political and social stakeholders.
- 2. Accountable Institutions and the Rule of Law:** Strengthening **transparent, accountable, and trusted institutions**, alongside respect for the rule of law and citizens' rights, remains essential for legitimate and effective governance.
- 3. Inclusive and Consensus-Based Political and Electoral Processes:** **agreement**, with greater participation of women, youth, civil society, scholars and other relevant stakeholders, while supporting the gradual realization of **one-person, one-vote elections**.
- 4. Security, Public Resources and Social Protection:** Sustainable stability requires strengthened **national security institutions**, responsible management of public resources, stronger safeguards against corruption and misuse of public assets, and protection of public land and the rights of internally displaced persons.

Acknowledgement

We extend our deepest gratitude to **Halimo Ismail (Yarey)** for the important role she played in ensuring the successful convening of the official launch of the **Gurmad Qaran Movement and the National Dialogue Forum** in Mogadishu. Her dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts throughout the preparation and implementation of the event were invaluable. We particularly recognize her efforts in welcoming participants, coordinating activities, and addressing challenges as they arose. Her willingness to step forward and support the team contributed significantly to making this important gathering a reality.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to **Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Osman** for his leadership, steadfast support, and commitment to the vision of Gurmad Qaran and the National Dialogue Forum. His contribution to advancing national unity, reconciliation, and constructive dialogue has been valuable to the movement's mission.

Our sincere gratitude goes to **Shoki Hayir** for his generous hospitality, hosting, and logistical support, which helped create a welcoming environment for participants and facilitated the smooth running of the event.

We also appreciate **Liiban Shirwac** for his valuable technical assistance and commitment to ensuring the effective coordination and delivery of the forum's activities.

We also thank **Shamso Shegow** and **Mohamed Isak** for facilitating the official opening session and welcoming participants to the forum.

Finally, we extend special appreciation to **Said Arafat** for his outstanding contribution to the technical and organizational development of the forum, including developing the conference themes, structuring the agenda, coordinating participants, and supporting the overall preparation and implementation of the event.

We sincerely thank everyone who played a part in this important national initiative. Their collective efforts reflect a shared commitment to reconciliation, unity, and constructive dialogue for a peaceful and stronger Somalia.

Introduction

On 28 September 2026, the **Gurmad Qaran Movement** was officially launched at Jazeera Hotel in Mogadishu, Somalia, marking the establishment of a new intellectual and civic platform focused on contributing to Somalia's national renewal. The launch took place alongside the **Gurmad Qaran National Dialogue Forum**, which brought together representatives from government, political groups, civil society, traditional leadership, academia, the professional community and other national and international stakeholders.

The establishment of Gurmad Qaran comes at a time when Somalia continues to face political, institutional, security and social challenges that have affected national progress and public

confidence in state institutions. The movement was established in response to the need for a forward-looking approach grounded in capable and responsible leadership, accountable governance, the rule of law, public trust and a shared national purpose. Its vision is to contribute to a united and prosperous Somalia where citizens' rights are protected, institutions are strengthened and the rule of law provides the foundation for public life.

The National Dialogue Forum served as the first major public platform for Gurmad Qaran to present its vision and engage a broad range of Somali stakeholders in an open and constructive discussion on the country's future. The forum focused on key national issues, including reconciliation, political dialogue, governance, institution-building, electoral processes, national security, public resources and citizen participation.

Rather than focusing only on the challenges facing Somalia, the forum also sought to promote practical discussion on possible ways forward. Research presentations, expert contributions and panel discussions provided participants with an opportunity to share evidence, experience and different perspectives. The discussions highlighted the need for meaningful consultation, responsible leadership, informed decision-making and cooperation in addressing national differences and building a more stable and inclusive political future.

The official launch and National Dialogue Forum therefore marked both the introduction of Gurmad Qaran and the beginning of a broader process of sustained national engagement. By bringing together Somali expertise, public dialogue and policy thinking, the forum created a foundation for continued consultation and collaboration on Somalia's long-term governance, stability and development. This reflects Gurmad Qaran's commitment to open, knowledge-based national dialogue and to contributing to a shared and sustainable future for the Somali people.

Forum objectives

The National Dialogue Forum aimed to:

1. **Introduce Gurmad Qaran** and present its vision, mission and role in Somalia's national renewal.
2. **Facilitate inclusive national dialogue** on Somalia's political, institutional, security and social priorities.
3. **Promote evidence-based policy discussion** by bringing together research, expertise and diverse national perspectives.
4. **Identify practical pathways for national progress** through dialogue, consultation, cooperation and continued stakeholder engagement.

Forum design and approach

The forum was designed as a **one-day programme** with two closely connected components: the **official launch of Gurmad Qaran** and the **National Dialogue Forum**. This structure allowed the

organizers to formally introduce the movement while providing a separate space for substantive discussion on national issues.

The programme combined **thematic presentations, research findings and moderated panel discussions**. Four presentations focused on Gurmad Qaran, its vision, mission and areas of engagement, while five research-based presentations examined key national issues relevant to Somalia's political and institutional development.

Two panel discussions provided an interactive platform for participants to respond to the presentations, exchange views and examine the issues from different perspectives. The discussions were intended to encourage critical reflection, practical recommendations and broader stakeholder engagement rather than one-directional presentations.

The forum adopted a **participatory and dialogue-oriented approach**, allowing participants from different sectors and backgrounds to contribute to the discussion. The combination of research, expert perspectives and open discussion was intended to connect evidence and experience with broader national debate and identify areas for continued engagement.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The **Gurmad Qaran Official Launch and National Dialogue Forum** formally commenced with an official opening session designed to establish the purpose, tone, and significance of the gathering. The opening was facilitated by **Shamso Shegow and Mohamed Isak**, who welcomed all participants, acknowledged the distinguished guests and introduced the programme and key activities planned for the day.

The forum brought together a broad range of Somali stakeholders, including government representatives, political leaders, traditional elders, religious scholars, academics, civil society representatives, professionals, community leaders, development partners, and other national and international stakeholders. The diversity of participants reflected the Forum's commitment to creating an inclusive platform where different perspectives can be heard and where issues of national importance can be discussed openly and constructively.

The official opening provided an opportunity to establish a shared sense of purpose among participants and to emphasize the importance of dialogue, mutual respect, national responsibility, and collective action in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing Somalia.

1. Recitation of the Holy Qur'an

The programme began with a recitation from the **Holy Qur'an**, providing a sincere and respectful beginning to the gathering. The recitation reflected the central place of Islam in Somali society and recognized the importance of faith, moral values and spiritual guidance in public life.

The inclusion of Qur'anic recitation at the beginning of the Forum also served as a reminder of the values of justice, honesty, responsibility, compassion, peace, and respect for others. These principles are particularly relevant to a national dialogue focused on strengthening trust, responsible leadership, social cooperation, and the common good.

The recitation created a calm and reflective atmosphere before the formal proceedings began. It encouraged participants to approach the discussions with sincerity, respect and a sense of responsibility toward the Somali people and the future of the country.

More broadly, beginning the programme with the Holy Qur'an demonstrated that the Forum recognizes the importance of Somalia's cultural and religious values while seeking constructive solutions to national issues.

2. Somali National Anthem

Following the Qur'anic recitation, participants stood for the **Somali National Anthem**, marking the formal national character of the gathering.

The National Anthem represented Somalia's national identity, sovereignty, unity and shared sense of belonging. Its inclusion at the beginning of the Forum served as an important reminder that, despite differences in political views, professional backgrounds, regions, or areas of expertise, all participants share a common national identity and a collective responsibility toward Somalia.

The anthem also helped establish a strong sense of national unity and patriotism. It reinforced the idea that national dialogue should focus on issues of common interest and should contribute to building a peaceful, stable, united, and prosperous Somalia.

By placing the National Anthem immediately after the Qur'anic recitation, the opening connected two important dimensions of the gathering: **faith and national identity**. Together, they established a respectful and dignified foundation for the discussions that followed.

3. Gurmad Qaran Video Presentation

Following the formal opening, participants were presented with a **video introducing Gurmad Qaran, vision, mission and areas of work**. The presentation provided participants with a clear overview of the initiative and explained the context and purpose behind its establishment.

The video highlighted the key principles and ideas that underpin Gurmad Qaran, including **responsible leadership, good governance, accountability, the rule of law, public trust, national unity and constructive national dialogue**. It also provided an opportunity for participants to better understand the initiative's aspirations and the role it seeks to play in contributing to Somalia's national development and future.

The video presentation helped establish a common understanding among participants before the Forum moved into its substantive discussions. It provided the necessary background for the dialogue and encouraged participants to consider how different sectors of Somali society can contribute to addressing national challenges and advancing shared national priorities.

Detailed program breakdown

Opening Remarks



Ali Haji Warsame
Former Minister of Education,
Puntland State

In his opening remarks, **Ali Haji Warsame** warmly welcomed all attendees to the Gurmad Qaran Official Launch and National Dialogue Forum.

He described **Gurmad Qaran** as a national movement rooted in *selfless service, mutual support, and a strong sense of national responsibility*. He emphasized that it is **not** an initiative belonging to a particular individual, group or political interest, but rather a space in which everyone who genuinely loves the country and cares about the wellbeing of its people can contribute. The movement seeks to bring together citizens with different backgrounds and experiences around common national values and priorities.

He further emphasized that the strength of Gurmad Qaran comes from the participation and commitment of ordinary citizens, community leaders, professionals, scholars, political actors and others who are willing to contribute positively to Somalia's future. He encouraged all participants to see the Forum as an opportunity to listen to one another, build trust, and work together beyond differences for the greater good of the nation.

In concluding his remarks, **Ali Haji Warsame** reaffirmed the importance of **patriotism, service, solidarity and collective responsibility** in addressing Somalia's challenges. He emphasized that **Gurmad Qaran is open to everyone who genuinely wants to see Somalia become a better, more peaceful, united and prosperous country**, regardless of their background or position. He called on all those who love Somalia and care deeply about its people to take part in the national effort, contribute their knowledge and experience and support initiatives that promote unity, peace, good governance and a better future for generations to come.

THEME ONE: OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE GURMAD QARAN MOVEMENT

Gurmad Qaran: The Journey from Vision to Civic Action

The first main theme of the Forum focused on the **official launch of the Gurmad Qaran Movement**, under the theme “*Gurmad Qaran: The Journey from Vision to Civic Action*.” The session introduced the movement’s origins, purpose, values, key areas of work, and its journey from a shared vision toward practical civic action.

The session was presented by **Abdirahman Dahir Osmaan, Aisho Gelle Diiriye, Halimo Ismail Ibraahim and Abdelkarim Abdirahman Hassan**, who shared the movement’s experience, key milestones, current work and future direction.

Key Focus Areas

- **Origins, Vision and Core Values:** Why Gurmad Qaran was established, why its work is relevant now and the vision, mission, and values guiding the movement.
- **National Challenges and Civic Responsibility:** Key challenges facing Somalia and the role citizens can play through informed participation, dialogue and collective responsibility.
- **Journey, Achievements and Civic Action:** Gurmad Qaran’s development, major milestones, research, policy engagement, and civic initiatives.
- **Partnerships and National Outreach:** Engagement with communities, professionals, institutions, and other stakeholders through consultations, partnerships and national outreach.
- **The Road Ahead:** Gurmad Qaran’s priorities for continued civic engagement, broader participation, stronger partnerships, and practical action for Somalia’s future.

Keynote Address: Gurmada Qaran movement and Its Origin



**Presenter: Abdirahman
Dahir Osman**
*Former Minister of Education,
FGS*

In his keynote address, **Abdirahman Dahir Osman** explained the origins of the **Gurmada Qaran Movement** and the circumstances that led to its formation. He said the movement emerged in response to the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland**, and the strong concern and disappointment that the agreement created among many Somalis.

He explained that the situation prompted a number of Somali scholars, professionals and individuals with long experience in serving the Somali people to reflect on the need for a national civic movement that could contribute to protecting the country and its people. From these discussions, the idea of establishing a movement emerged one that would serve the national interest without being tied

to any particular political group, seeking personal financial gain, or pursuing a separate political agenda.

Minister Abdirahman emphasized that **Gurmada Qaran was established as a movement committed to the protection and wellbeing of Somalia and its people**. He described it as an independent civic platform that seeks to serve the country and contribute to the interests of future generations.

He clarified that Gurmada Qaran does not exist to support the government or to serve as an instrument of the opposition. Rather, the movement seeks to maintain its independence and focus on what it considers to be in the **national interest**. Its purpose is to contribute to safeguarding the country, supporting its people, and creating a better future for generations to come.

Keynote Address: Our Identity, Shared Purpose, and Future Direction



**Presenter: Aisho Gelle
Diiriye**
*Former Chairperson of ICRIC;
Former Member of Parliament
and Minister, Puntland State*

In her keynote address, **Aisho Gelle Diiriye** explained who the members of Gurmada Qaran are, what brings them together, and the future they hope to build through the movement. She emphasized that Gurmada Qaran brings together people who share a common concern for Somalia and a desire to contribute to the country's future.

She made it clear that the members of the movement are **not seeking political positions or roles in government**. Their focus, she explained, is on serving the country and helping protect it from divisions and prolonged political disagreements. She stressed that Gurmada Qaran seeks to place the national interest above political differences and personal ambitions.

Aisho emphasized that the movement's central purpose is to help Somalia move toward a more stable and positive future. She expressed the hope that Gurmada Qaran can contribute to guiding Somali society toward a **better future, a stronger country, and improved opportunities for future generations**.

She concluded by stressing that what brings the members of Gurmada Qaran together is their shared commitment to Somalia and its people. Their aim is to work collectively, beyond political differences, to support a future in which the country is more united, peaceful, and capable of meeting the needs and aspirations of its people.

Keynote Address: Driving Solutions and Social Reconciliation in Somalia



**Presenter: Halima Ismail
(Yarey)**

*Former Chairperson, National
Independent Electoral
Commission (NIEC)*

In her keynote address, **Halima Ismail (Yarey)** presented the mission of the Gurmada Qaran Movement as part of a broader effort to find constructive solutions to Somalia's national challenges and strengthen social reconciliation. She emphasized the need for Somali society to address its differences through dialogue, understanding, and cooperation rather than allowing disagreements to deepen existing divisions.

She explained that **social reconciliation is an important part of building a stable and united Somalia**. In her view, lasting progress requires communities and citizens to rebuild trust, listen to one another, and find common ground on issues that affect the country as a whole. Gurmada Qaran seeks to contribute to this process by creating space for civic engagement, dialogue, and collective reflection.

Halimo highlighted that the movement's mission is not limited to discussing national problems but also to encouraging citizens to become part of the search for practical solutions. Through dialogue, consultation, and cooperation, Gurmada Qaran aims to bring different voices together and support efforts that promote social cohesion, national understanding, and a shared vision for Somalia's future.

She stressed that **Somalia's future requires collective responsibility and a willingness to move beyond division**. Gurmada Qaran, she explained, seeks to contribute to that process by supporting reconciliation, strengthening civic participation, and encouraging Somalis to work together toward a more peaceful, united, and stable society.

Keynote Address: National Challenges and Civic Responsibility



**Presenter: Abdelkarim
Abdirahman Hassan**
*Scholar-Activist & Wardheer
News Founder*

In his keynote address, **Executive Chairperson of Gurmada Qaran, Abdelkarim Abdirahman Hassan**, discussed Somalia's long history of political instability and the major challenges that continue to affect the country. He reflected on the collapse of the Somali state, the efforts made toward national reconciliation, and the establishment and development of federal member states over the past decades.

He noted that, more than 35 years after the collapse of the state, Somalia continues to face serious challenges related to fragility, weak institutions, governance, and social development. He referred to international measures such as the **Fragile States Index** and the **Mo Ibrahim Index** as important indicators for understanding Somalia's progress and remaining gaps. He also highlighted corruption, weaknesses in social services, limited institutional capacity, and the failure to fully uphold the rule of law as issues that continue to slow the country's development.

The keynote also addressed the impact of climate change and its effects on Somali communities, livelihoods, displacement, and national development. The speaker raised the broader question of why Somalia has fallen behind many other countries despite the potential and resources of its people. He linked this situation to weaknesses in governance, accountability, social cohesion, and the implementation of laws and national institutions.

The Road Ahead

In discussing **The Road Ahead**, Abdelkarim explained how Gurmada Qaran intends to respond to these challenges as a national civic movement. He emphasized that the movement's response should focus on bringing Somali people together, strengthening national unity, and encouraging citizens to place the common national interest above division and personal interests.

He highlighted the need for better and more responsible leadership, including a fair and credible process for selecting national leaders. He also stressed the importance of genuine accountability, where leaders and public institutions are answerable for their decisions and actions.

He concluded by emphasizing that Somalia's recovery requires collective effort, responsible leadership, respect for the rule of law, stronger institutions, and meaningful participation from citizens. Gurmada Qaran, he explained, seeks to contribute to this process by promoting unity among Somali people, supporting responsible leadership, and encouraging real accountability as part of the country's path toward a more stable and better future.

Theme Two: National Dialogue

Panel Discussion 1: Somalia's Transitional Period, Elections and Comparative Electoral Systems



The second theme of the Forum started a panel discussion on **Somalia's Transitional Period, Elections, and Comparative Electoral Systems**. The session brought together experienced former public officials, a constitutional expert, researcher and political and security analyst to discuss Somalia's political transition, electoral experience and the different models that could inform the country's future electoral system.

Panelists: Ms. Halima Ismail (Yarey), Mr. Mohamed Mukhtar, Mr. Aden Ismail, Mr. Ahmed Abbas

Moderator: Ahmed Sanwilwilo

Panel contributions:

Ms. Halima Ismail (yarey)

Former Chairperson, National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC)

Halimo (Yarey) spoke about the most practical way for Somalia to move beyond its current political situation and reach an electoral arrangement that can be implemented across the country. She argued that reaching a political agreement on the type of election may not be the hardest part. Political leaders can sit together and agree on an electoral model, but the real test comes afterwards: **how to put that agreement into practice.**

She also stressed that the time needed to prepare for and hold elections can be a much greater challenge than agreeing on the electoral model itself. An election is not something that can be organized overnight. It requires lengthy technical preparations, substantial financial resources, skilled personnel, and careful planning. For Somalia, the question is therefore not simply which

electoral system leaders should choose, but whether the country has the time, resources, and technical capacity to implement it successfully across the country.

Reflecting on Somalia's past experience, Ms. Halimo observed that the 2012 electoral process was less affected by corruption than some of the processes that followed. She encouraged participants to draw lessons from these experiences when considering the way forward. She also emphasized that any agreement on elections should not be limited to a small group of senior political leaders. It needs a broader foundation, with meaningful consultation involving other stakeholders. In her view, a lasting agreement must be both politically acceptable and practically achievable, with a clear understanding of how it will be carried out.

Mr. Mohamed Mukhtar

Former Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, FGS

Mohamed Mukhtar discussed the differences between the electoral models proposed by Somali politicians and the model presented by Gurmada Qaran. He noted that four models had come from political actors, while another had been put forward by civil society, including Gurmada Qaran. He welcomed this contribution, observing that electoral debates in Somalia are often dominated by politicians, with limited space for ideas from other parts of society. In his view, Gurmada Qaran had brought a different perspective to the discussion rather than simply repeating the positions over which politicians have been disagreeing.

He also acknowledged the realities of Somali politics, where clan dynamics cannot easily be separated from the electoral process. Against this background, he described Gurmada Qaran's proposal as a realistic approach that could help stakeholders find common ground and move towards an agreed electoral arrangement. He particularly praised the model for clearly addressing **the time required to hold elections**. While some proposals put forward by political parties could take years to implement and demand substantial financial resources, he argued that Gurmada Qaran's approach gives greater consideration to the time and practical conditions needed to organize elections. He presented this as a useful contribution to finding a way forward that stakeholders can collectively accept.

Mr. Aden Ismail

Security and Political Analyst

Mr. Aden Ismail explained that the main difference between **Gurmada Qaran's electoral model and those proposed by other opposition groups lies in the question each seeks to answer**. Rather than focusing only on what is technically possible, Gurmada Qaran asks a broader question: what kind of electoral arrangement can offer a way out of the political deadlock and bring Somali stakeholders to an agreement? He argued that the country needs a model that takes political realities into account while creating room for progress, rather than remaining trapped between competing positions.

The model he presented offers a middle path between relying entirely on the traditional clan-based electoral system and attempting to introduce a full one-person-one-vote election before the

necessary conditions are in place. It retains a role for clan structures in the initial selection of candidates but then opens the final choice to eligible voters within constituencies, regardless of clan. The proposal outlines two possible ways of selecting candidates before the wider constituency vote, while also providing for at least one-third female representation.

Mr. Aden also highlighted the need for credible institutions to make the model work. His proposal calls for independent electoral commissions, coordination between federal and state authorities, and a clearer legal framework for managing the process. It also addresses the election of the Upper House and the presidency, with the aim of reducing political uncertainty and last-minute bargaining. Overall, he presented Gurmad Qaran's proposal as a practical route towards broader public participation one that recognizes Somalia's current constraints while helping the country move gradually towards universal suffrage.

Mr. Ahmed Abbas

Governance & Constitutional Affairs Specialist

Mr. Ahmed Abbas spoke about the **importance of the Constitution** in shaping Somalia's electoral process and resolving disagreements over how elections should be conducted. He stressed that reaching an agreement requires more than political negotiations; the process must also earn broad acceptance among the Somali people. He also argued that Somalia needs to move beyond an electoral system centered on individual candidates and gradually develop a system based on political parties, with the long-term goal of achieving one-person-one-vote elections. In his view, this transition requires an agreed approach that reflects the country's realities and gives the public a meaningful role in choosing its leaders.

He further emphasized that the Constitution is the foundation of a functioning state, establishing the principles and rules that guide public institutions and the exercise of political power. For this reason, he argued that decisions about elections must be grounded in the Constitution and the rule of law. Building a credible electoral system, he suggested, requires not only agreement on the model itself but also a shared commitment to constitutional principles and a political process that the Somali people can trust.

Panel Discussion 2: National Dialogue Leadership, Good Governance and Reconciliation: The Path to Renewal



Panelists: Dr. Abdurahman Baadiyow, Mr. Abdi Ahmed Baafo, Mr. Ali H. Warsame, Mr. Dayib Sh. Ahmed, Ms. Sahra Mohamed Ahmed

Moderator: *Shoki Hayir*

The second panel brought together scholars, former government officials, researchers, and civil society representatives to examine the challenges facing Somalia's statehood and the role of leadership, good governance and national reconciliation in overcoming them. The discussion focused on the relationship between citizens and the state, respect for the Constitution and the rule of law, public trust in leadership, and the need for meaningful participation by women and the wider community.

The panel also explored how Somalia can move beyond repeated political disagreements and turn public discussions into practical solutions. Speakers returned to a common question throughout the session: what kind of state does Somalia need, and what must its leaders and citizens do to build one that serves the public fairly?

Dr. Abdurahman Baadiyow

Scholar activist and Author

Dr. Baadiyow argued that one of Somalia's underlying problems is a limited public understanding of statehood and what a modern state is supposed to represent. He observed that some Somalis view the institutions and political systems adopted from Western countries as being in conflict with their religion and cultural traditions. In his view, this perception reflects a deeper challenge in reconciling the idea of a modern state with the foundations of Somali society, particularly Islam and clan identity.

He explained that statehood rests on three basic elements: citizens, laws, and elected leadership. A functioning state must establish clear rules, define the relationship between government and the

people, and ensure that leaders exercise authority within an agreed legal framework. He expressed concern that Somalia's current political direction has moved away from these foundations.

Dr. Baadiyow also placed Somalia's experience within the wider African context. He noted that many African countries have faced similar difficulties, yet several have found ways to address their political challenges and strengthen their institutions. He questioned why Somalia continues to struggle to resolve problems that other countries have managed to overcome. In his assessment, Somalia has yet to establish a form of statehood that consistently responds to people's real concerns in ways that reflect their cultural and religious values.

Mr. Ali H. Warsame

Former Minister of Education, Puntland State

Mr. Ali identified constitutional legitimacy as one of Somalia's most persistent political challenges. He argued that respect for the law is often among the first things to break down when political leaders approach the end of their terms. Instead of allowing constitutional procedures to guide the transition of power, leaders may seek extensions, create uncertainty and renew political confrontation.

He also pointed to the recurring disputes between the Federal Government and Federal Member States, arguing that these disagreements cannot be resolved sustainably without clear rules that define the powers and responsibilities of each level of government. When the Constitution is ignored or interpreted according to immediate political interests, disagreements become harder to manage and confidence in public institutions suffers.

Addressing the question of how citizens can learn to respect the state, Mr. Warsame emphasized that respect for government cannot be demanded from the public alone. It must also be demonstrated by those in power. Citizens need laws that apply fairly to everyone, institutions that operate within their legal mandates, and leaders who are held accountable for their decisions. In his view, a culture of constitutional respect must begin with those entrusted with public authority.

Mr. Abdi Ahmed Baafu

Founder and Director, Dhaxalreeb

Mr. Baafu identified leadership as one of the major challenges holding Somalia back. He argued that political leaders have too often placed personal or political interests ahead of the needs of the population. When those entrusted with public responsibility fail to serve the public interest, they contribute to confusion, deepen divisions, and make it harder for the country to move forward.

He stressed that Somalia needs leaders who can bring people together, build agreement, and guide the country through its political difficulties. He also challenged the assumption that political systems fail simply because they have been adopted from elsewhere. Many countries use institutions and governing arrangements developed beyond their borders, yet those systems can function when they are supported by accountable leadership, effective institutions, and respect for the law. For him, the more important question is not where a system originated, but how it is applied and whether it serves the people.

On the question of restoring public trust, Mr. Baafo argued that the government must demonstrate fairness in its treatment of citizens and make justice a visible part of public life. Security is also essential. People are unlikely to trust institutions that cannot protect them or apply the law fairly. Rebuilding confidence, therefore, requires more than public statements: it requires a government that acts justly, provides security, and shows through its conduct that it is working for the people.

Ms. Sahra Mohamed Ahmed

Chairperson of African Women Leadership in Somalia

Ms. Sahra emphasized that women are a central part of Somali society, yet their contribution to resolving the country's political and social challenges remains insufficiently recognized. Despite the difficulties Somalia has experienced over the years, women have not always been given the space they need to participate meaningfully in decisions about the country's future.

She argued that building an inclusive state requires women to be represented across public institutions and to have a genuine role in shaping policies and national priorities. Participation should not be limited to formal representation or the fulfilment of a quota. Women must also be able to contribute to discussions, influence decisions, and take part in efforts to resolve the issues affecting their communities.

Ms. Sahra also stressed that genuine national dialogue cannot succeed if large sections of society are left outside the process. It requires people from different backgrounds to participate and take responsibility for finding solutions together. She encouraged Somalis not to wait passively for political leaders to resolve every problem, but to organize, engage, and contribute to the process themselves. In her view, a more inclusive political culture must be built through active public participation and a willingness to listen to voices that have too often been overlooked.

Mr. Dayib Sh. Ahmed

Writer, Researcher & Political Analyst | Regular Contributor to WardheerNews

Mr. Dayib invited participants to consider what Somalis have in common despite their political and social differences. He argued that the problems affecting the country are often greater than the issues dividing its people. At the heart of many of these challenges, he suggested, is the question of statehood and whether citizens and government institutions properly understand their responsibilities towards one another.

He emphasized that citizenship should be understood as a relationship involving both rights and duties. Citizens need to understand what they are entitled to receive from the state, while the state must fulfil its responsibilities towards them. This includes providing security, administering justice, respecting the law, and delivering the public services that people have a right to expect. Where this relationship breaks down, frustration grows and the legitimacy of public institutions is weakened.

Mr. Dayib also raised a concern about the way Somalis discuss their national problems. Although people frequently speak about the country's difficulties, he observed that they do not always

engage in sustained, honest dialogue about how to resolve them. Political disagreement is often expressed openly, but meaningful conversations about shared solutions remain limited. He called for more serious national discussions that move beyond repeating the problems and focus instead on identifying practical ways forward.

Presentations

As part of **Theme Two: National Dialogue**, five presentations were delivered on important national issues affecting Somalia's development, governance, public assets, and society. The presentations provided participants with an opportunity to examine key challenges, share evidence and experience, and discuss possible solutions.

Presentation 1: Bridging Tradition and Democracy: Position paper on a Hybrid Electoral Model: A Transitional Pathway to One Person, One Vote



Presenter: Aden Ismail
Security and Political Analyst

Mr. Aden presented Gurmada Qaran position paper which establishes a comprehensive transitional framework designed to resolve Somalia's political deadlock following the May 15, 2026 constitutional mandate lapse. The analysis recognizes that while a full one-person-one-vote (1P1V) system remains unfeasible due to prevailing security, logistical, and institutional barriers, clinging solely to a traditional clan-quota model traps the nation in political stagnation. To break this cycle, Mr. Aden introduces a pragmatic hybrid electoral model that leverages the incremental expansion of Somalia's elections since 2012, redirecting progress away from merely adding elite delegates toward grassroots public participation.

To operationalize this model for the House of the People, the presentation outlines two distinct pathways that retain clan identity as an initial screening layer before introducing civic constituency voting. Under Option I, traditional elders and social delegates select top candidates via a secret ballot at the sub-clan (Jifo) level, who then advance to an open constituency election where all verified permanent residents vote regardless of clan. Alternatively, Option II permits open intra-clan competition for all interested candidates before narrowing down to the top three vote-getters for the public constituency vote. Both pathways strictly enforce a minimum one-third quota for female representation and establish specialized federal oversight for Somaliland and Banadir's 17 districts.

Finally, the framework defines a synchronized operational structure and governance reforms to ensure electoral integrity. It calls for federal and state bodies to form fully independent electoral commissions through non-executive means, convening in joint sessions to elect a single unified leadership and draft cohesive electoral laws. Furthermore, the model proposes robust institutional safeguards for the Upper House and dictates that the presidency be elected by a fully quorate parliament bound by pre-declared coalitions, thereby eliminating last-minute political deal-making and securing a stable stepping stone toward universal suffrage.

Presentation 2: Somalia's Water Sector at a Crossroads: From Water Insecurity to National Water Security



Presenter: Najib Ahmed Ali

*Technical Advisor, Ministry of
Energy and Water Resources
(MoEWR)*

Mr. Najib Ahmed Ali opens by establishing that water is central to Somalia's national stability, peace, public health, and long-term economic resilience. Despite being partitioned into nine major hydrographic basins, these natural resources suffer from severe environmental degradation due to uncoordinated land use and a historical lack of centralized regulatory oversight. Highlighting global benchmarking data (SDG 6), the presentation points out that Somalia scores only 34% in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) significantly behind regional peers like Rwanda and Uganda—reflecting weak institutional capacity, fragmented policies, and poor cross-sector coordination.

The presentation exposes stark operational and access inequities across the country. While 71% of the population has access to basic water, 13% still rely on water trucking, and only 29% have access to safe, treated water. Furthermore, 69% of citizens must pay for water spending an average of 7.5% of their monthly household income on basic supply with regions like Bakool and Sool experiencing the lowest access rates and highest reliance on unimproved surface water. Climate modeling projections further compound these challenges, predicting significant increases in annual river discharge anomalies across the Shebelle and Juba rivers, which heightens the risk of catastrophic flood events.

To address these vulnerabilities, Mr. Najib outlines strategic policy pathways centered on infrastructure resilience and proactive governance. Citing national infrastructure screening data, he highlights that out of 7,517 strategic water sources nationwide, 586 (affecting over 1 million users) face high or very high flood risks, particularly in top-priority districts such as Jowhar, Afgooye, and Belet Weyne. The policy brief calls on the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to implement major strategic initiatives such as the Jowhar Offstream Storage Programme (JOSP), deep groundwater exploration, and river basin restoration to transform recurring climate crises into long-term water security and national development.

Presentation 3: Public Land Transfer and Forced Eviction: Protecting Public Assets and Citizens' Rights



Presenter: Said Mohamed Ahmed
Researcher

Said Mohamed Ahmed's research employs a doctrinal legal approach combined with a comprehensive desk review of key primary legal texts and secondary field data to evaluate public asset transfers and forced evictions in Mogadishu. The national legal framework analyzed includes the Provisional Constitution of Somalia, the National Eviction Guidelines, Regulation No. 137 of 2023 on Public Property and Asset Management, and Law No. 42 of 2025 regarding Internally Displaced Persons. These domestic instruments are examined alongside international standards such as the Kampala Convention, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,

and CESCR General Comment No. 7—and secondary data compiled from government communications, media reports, and international organization publications like EUAA, OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, JIPS, and NRC.

By contrasting real-world government practices against mandatory statutory procedures, the study assesses compliance with established 10-step asset transfer and 8-step eviction protocols. Lawful transfers require legal status verification, registration, institutional approvals, minimum value appraisals, competitive bidding, entries in the Somalia Financial Management Information System, and revenue deposits into the Treasury Single Account. Similarly, lawful evictions must be a last resort supported by genuine consultations, a 60-day written notice, court orders, property protection, and alternative housing. However, empirical findings across case studies—such as Buulisiya, Yaqshid, Horseed/Tarabuunka, the Somali National University Faculty of Health Sciences, Sargaduuda, Kalluunka, Fililbin, and Warlaliska reveal widespread non-compliance, characterized by a lack of formal approvals, transparency, and revenue logging, alongside forced evictions carried out without judicial orders or notice, as seen in the violent September 2025 Siiney evictions.

These unlawful practices have produced severe humanitarian and economic consequences across Mogadishu, causing secondary displacement, disrupted livelihoods, shelter loss, acute water/sanitation shortages, impaired health and education access, and over US\$ 5.9 million in social infrastructure damages (over US\$ 4.6 million in 2022 and US\$ 1.3 million in 2025). To resolve these critical issues, the report outlines key policy recommendations for the Federal Government of Somalia, calling for an immediate moratorium on irregular public property sales, full disclosure of past transaction records and financial proceeds, and strict enforcement of the National Eviction Guidelines, Law No. 42 of 2025, and international protocols to guarantee due judicial process, advance notice, and suitable alternative housing before any future displacements.

Presentation 4: Challenges Facing Somali Youth: Economic Issues, Social Barriers, and the Role of Youth in National Renewal



**Presenter: Ahmed
Abdirahman Osman**
Researcher and Economist

Ahmed sanwilwilo presentation examines the multi-dimensional economic, social, and structural challenges facing Somali youth, within a country where over 81.5% of the 15.5 million population is under 35 years old. Highlighting that nearly 400,000 young people enter the labor market annually, the study draws on data from the Heritage Institute, UN agencies, and the World Bank to demonstrate persistent youth unemployment rates ranging from 35.5% up to 70%. These economic difficulties are further exacerbated by an economy heavily reliant on external aid and low-productivity informal sectors, alongside critical structural barriers such as a mismatch between

university curriculum and labor market needs, weak governance, and widespread nepotism where 44% of surveyed individuals report job distribution based on clan or political ties rather than merit.

The report further details the severe social ramifications stemming from prolonged instability, economic hardship, and limited opportunities. Somali youth face high risks of secondary displacement, mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, increased vulnerability to recruitment by armed groups, and dangerous irregular migration (*tahriib*). Limited access to sustainable livelihoods delays youth independence and undermines trust in public institutions. Additionally, while unregulated social media poses cultural and security challenges, it also presents an underutilized opportunity for creative expression and skill-building if properly harnessed.

To overcome these barriers, the presentation advocates for strategic interventions and policy reform centered on expanding labor-intensive public works, aligning education with market demands, and opening financial channels such as microfinance and Islamic banking for young entrepreneurs. It urges the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States to formulate a comprehensive national strategy for youth employment and transparent hiring practices. Ultimately, the study calls on universities to align training with national needs and encourages young Somalis to leverage technology, build peer enterprises, and actively participate in state-building and national decision-making processes.

Presentation 5: Analysis of Somalia's Crisis Through History, Trauma, and Moral Philosophy



**Presenter: Dayib sh
Ahmed**

*Writer, Researcher & Political
Analyst | Regular Contributor to
WardheerNews*

Dayib proposes a fundamental paradigm shift in understanding Somalia's protracted state failure. Rather than relying on prevailing narratives of self-blame that ask "**What is wrong with us?**", Dayib argues for shifting the question to "**What happened to us?**". By moving away from internalized guilt, the presentation analyzes how the 1991 state collapse violently dismantled the social contract forcing citizens into a Hobbesian reliance on clan reliance for basic survival and highlights the critical distinction between private religious piety and the secular, administrative performance required to run public state institutions.

To explain how systemic violence and political corruption persist within a deeply religious society, the analysis incorporates psychological and neurobiological frameworks. Utilizing Albert Bandura's Theory of Moral Disengagement, it details how actors cognitively justify harm, obscure agency, minimize consequences, and devalue political opponents to engage in unethical practices like nepotism or embezzlement without violating their self-image. Furthermore, drawing on Dr. Bruce Perry's trauma neurobiology, the presentation explains how decades of persistent violence, loss, and injustice have induced a state of collective hyper-vigilance and mistrust, causing individuals and institutions to prioritize immediate survival over long-term social trust and planning.

To transcend these historical and psychological wounds, the analysis applies Immanuel Kant's deontology, arguing that understanding the empirical causes of behavior does not excuse present corruption. Under Kantian ethics specifically the Categorical Imperative and the principle of human autonomy leaders retain rational moral agency and must be held accountable to universal duty, rule of law, and objective institutional performance regardless of past trauma. The paper concludes with a four-pillar roadmap for national renewal: rebuilding a central, protective sovereign state to replace clan reliance, actively countering cognitive mechanisms of moral disengagement, establishing trauma-informed reconciliation, and enforcing strict, Kantian standards of leadership accountability.

Remarks from guest and Stakeholder



**Prof. Mohamed Omar
Dalha**

*Former Deputy Speaker of
Parliament, FGS*

Prof. Dalha reflected on the role of intellectuals when a country goes through a period of crisis and instability. He noted that when states face serious political and social challenges scholars and professionals can help society find a way forward by offering knowledge, honest analysis and practical solutions.

He said that **Gurmad Qaran comes at a time when Somalia needs its intellectuals more than ever.** The country needs scholars, professionals and responsible leaders who can look beyond political divisions, understand the deeper causes of national problems, and help develop solutions based on knowledge and the national interest.

Prof. Dalha stressed that the role of intellectuals should not stop at discussion. They also have a responsibility to contribute to reconciliation, public awareness, policy thinking and national

development. He encouraged Somali scholars and professionals to use their experience and knowledge to help address the challenges facing the country.

He concluded by emphasizing that Somalia's future depends on the choices made today. Building a better future for the next generation requires responsible leadership, informed citizens, constructive dialogue, and a willingness to work together. In this context, he viewed Gurmad Qaran as a timely platform for bringing people together around ideas, responsibility, and service to the country.



**Dr. Abdurahman
Abdullahi Baadiyow**

Scholar-Activist & Author

I warmly welcome the work of **Gurmad Qaran** and the effort it is making to address the problems facing our country.

I appreciate the way the initiative has taken responsibility for speaking about things that are going wrong in our society. It is also encouraging to see intellectuals, academics and people with leadership experience coming together to think about how we can correct these problems and move beyond the situation we are in today.

For me, this is not just something to observe from a distance. I would like to be part of the work that Gurmad Qaran is doing. I have already expressed my interest in contributing to its efforts and I remain ready to take part in the activities and discussions it is leading.

Somalia needs people who are willing to think honestly about our problems and work together on practical solutions. I hope Gurmad Qaran can provide a space where Somali intellectuals, academics, and community leaders can come together, exchange ideas, and contribute to the future of the country.



Hon. Abdirahman Aynte
*Former Minister of Planning
and International Cooperation,
FGS*

I strongly welcome the emergence of **Gurmada Qaran** and the kind of national conversation it is trying to create. For many years, political debate in Somalia has largely revolved around one question: who should hold power and who should lead the country. Gurmada Qaran is bringing a different question to the table **how can we build a better country for our people?**

That is an important shift. The purpose is not to seek political positions or personal interests. It is about asking what we can do, as a society, to help Somalia become more stable, more prosperous, and better prepared for the future.

What makes Gurmada Qaran particularly interesting is the range of people involved. It brings together academics, professionals, intellectuals, and others with experience and a genuine interest in the country's future. Their participation can help broaden the national debate beyond the political class. Somalia needs a wider conversation

one that includes ideas, knowledge, experience, and practical solutions. Our national discussions should not be limited to politicians competing over leadership and power.

I believe Gurmada Qaran can contribute to opening that space and encouraging more Somalis to think seriously about the kind of country we want to build and the future we want to leave for the next generation.



Mr. Mohamed Adan Kofi
*Former Director General,
Immigration and Naturalization
Directorate of Somalia*

Kofi warmly welcomed the meaningful discussions and the work presented by **Gurmada Qaran** during its launch event and first national conference. He praised the initiative for creating a space where important issues facing Somalia can be discussed openly and where people can come together to consider ideas beyond the political disagreements that have shaped much of the country's public debate.

He said that the discussions and activities presented by Gurmada Qaran have the potential to make a valuable contribution to Somalia and to give the movement a wider role in the country's future. He expressed hope that Gurmada Qaran can become a source of guidance and new ideas for the Somali people, while helping to open a different path in national politics one based on broader thinking, constructive debate,

and a willingness to consider alternatives to the divisions and political disagreements that have continued for many years.



Dr. Ali Omar Abati

Dr. Abati spoke about the many challenges facing Somalia and the difficulties that continue to affect the country and its people. He particularly highlighted the long-running political disagreements and competition among political actors, noting that national discussions have often been dominated by disputes over power and leadership while many of the deeper social, economic, and institutional problems remain unresolved. He stressed the need for a broader national conversation that looks beyond political competition and focuses on how Somalia can address its challenges and move forward.

In this context, Dr. Ali Omar Abti welcomed **Gurmada Qaran** as an initiative that can contribute to this wider national effort. He said that Gurmada Qaran is among those from whom the Somali people expect ideas, leadership, and practical contributions toward helping the country overcome the difficulties that have held it back. He emphasized that this responsibility should not belong to politicians alone, but should also involve academics, intellectuals, professionals, community leaders, and other citizens who can contribute their knowledge and experience to finding solutions for Somalia.



Ms. Aisha Siyaad
*Representative, Women
Organization*

Aisha Siyaad said she had been following **Gurmada Qaran** closely for some time, particularly the statements and positions it has shared on the major political and social issues facing Somalia. She warmly welcomed the initiative and its effort to create a different kind of national discussion, one that brings people together to think about the country's future rather than focusing only on political disagreements. As a Somali woman, she said she was encouraged to see an initiative that creates space for broader participation and gives different sections of society an opportunity to contribute.

She noted that although Gurmada Qaran was initially established by a relatively small group of people, its purpose is something that can be embraced by many more Somalis. She expressed her support for the movement and said that Somali women should stand alongside it and play an active role in its activities. She hopes women will make a meaningful contribution to the movement, bringing their experiences, ideas, and perspectives to the wider effort to address Somalia's challenges and build a more stable and prosperous future.



Said described **Gurmad Qaran** as a voluntary effort aimed at serving Somalia and its people. He welcomed the commitment of those involved and noted that similar community-based work has been carried out in Banadir, creating an opportunity for people and groups with experience in different parts of the country to work together. He said that Gurmad Qaran's effort to bring together people from across Somalia provides a basis for cooperation and for developing practical initiatives that respond to the needs of communities.

He encouraged Gurmad Qaran to strengthen cooperation with existing community initiatives and to make its work broader and more practical. He stressed that while meetings and discussions are important, the country also needs action that reaches communities and addresses real problems. He urged the movement not to become limited to conferences or statements, but to develop concrete programmes and activities, remain committed to its work, and continue bringing people together around practical efforts that serve Somalia and its people.



Diini warmly welcomed the vision of the **Gurmad Qaran movement**, particularly its effort to bring Somali academics, intellectuals, professionals and other people with knowledge and experience together. He said that Somalia needs a stronger space for these people to exchange ideas, discuss the challenges facing the country, and think about practical ways to overcome the situation. He viewed Gurmad Qaran as an opportunity to bring intellectual contributions into a national discussion that has often been dominated by political interests and divisions.

He emphasized that academics and intellectuals have an important role to play in Somalia's future and that their contribution should not remain limited to universities, research, or private discussions. The country needs a movement that recognizes their knowledge and creates a clear space for them to contribute to national affairs and the search for solutions. He welcomed Gurmad Qaran's efforts in this direction and expressed hope that it will continue bringing Somali intellectuals together and strengthening their contribution to the country's future.



Prof. Hassan Sa'id
*University Professor & Higher
Education Specialist*

Prof. Hassan welcomed the establishment of Gurmad Qaran, emphasizing the importance of bringing together scholars, intellectuals, and experienced professionals at a time when Somalia is searching for lasting solutions to its challenges. He noted that people with knowledge and experience have an important role to play in helping the country navigate its difficulties. Their contribution should go beyond identifying problems; it should also involve offering thoughtful ideas, helping resolve disagreements, and finding practical ways to move the country forward.

He welcomed Gurmad Qaran as a platform through which these voices can contribute to national recovery and reconciliation. He expressed hope that the movement would draw on the knowledge and experience of its members to encourage constructive dialogue, address the roots of the country's problems, and help Somalis find a common path towards a more peaceful and stable future.



**Mr. Yusuf Hussein
Gama'diid**
*Former Minister of Public
Works and Reconstruction, FGS*

Mr. Yusuf Hussein Gama'diid observed that Somalia's political landscape is marked by deep differences in views between the government and opposition groups. He argued that, while political disagreement is part of public life, the scale of these divisions makes it necessary to create spaces where competing sides can engage in meaningful dialogue and work towards a shared understanding. He stressed the need for civic movements that can help bridge these divides, encourage reconciliation among political actors, and keep the country's wider interests at the center of discussions.

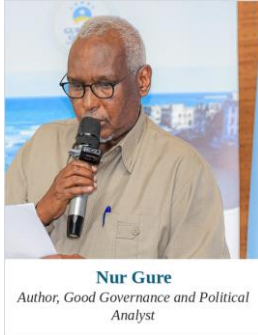
He warmly welcomed Gurmad Qaran and expressed support for its efforts to contribute to resolving the country's political challenges. He viewed the movement as an opportunity for members of society to play a more active role in bringing Somali leaders closer together and promoting solutions that serve the public interest. He also welcomed its commitment to dialogue and encouraged it to continue contributing to reconciliation, national unity, and the search for a way forward for Somalia.

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

National Dialogue Forum – Gurmud Qaran

Mogadishu, Somalia | 28 September 2026

A Vision for a Lasting National Solution



At the closing session of the National Dialogue Forum, Nur Gurre, a member of Gurmud Qaran, read the official communique, outlining the forum's key principles and proposals for addressing Somalia's political challenges. The communique reflects Gurmud Qaran's commitment to national unity, accountable leadership, the rule of law, inclusive dialogue, and a lasting political settlement that serves the interests of the Somali people.

Gurmud Qaran presents this communique as a statement of the principles and priorities emerging from the National Dialogue Forum. Recognising the political, institutional, and social challenges facing Somalia, the forum emphasises the urgent need for national consultation, responsible leadership, reconciliation, and a renewed commitment to the public interest.

The following eight pillars outline a shared vision for strengthening Somalia's unity, restoring public trust, protecting citizens' rights, and laying the foundations for lasting peace and sustainable development.

The Eight Pillars

- 1. A United Somalia:** To safeguard Somalia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the unity of its people.
- 2. Accountable Leadership:** To promote competent, transparent, and responsible leadership that serves the people and responds to their needs.
- 3. Genuine Accountability:** To strengthen accountability mechanisms within government institutions and ensure that public officials are answerable for their decisions and actions.
- 4. The Rule of Law:** To uphold the rule of law, protect citizens' rights, and ensure equal treatment under the law.
- 5. Transparent Governance:** To establish a governance system based on justice, transparency, and fairness in order to restore public trust in state institutions.
- 6. Inclusive Consultation and Dialogue:** To promote a sustained culture of consultation, national dialogue, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in pursuit of a broad-based national agreement and a peaceful political settlement.
- 7. Protection of Immovable Property and Land Rights:** To enforce and protect national legal frameworks governing immovable property and land ownership, prevent abuse and unlawful appropriation, and uphold the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in accordance with applicable national laws and relevant international standards.
- 8. Essential Social Services:** To strengthen governance and investment in essential social services, particularly water, healthcare, and education, to improve public well-being, build resilience, and promote sustainable development.

Closing Statement

Gurmud Qaran calls upon Somalia's political leaders, traditional elders, religious scholars, intellectuals, civil society organisations, women, youth, and all concerned citizens to embrace dialogue, reconciliation, and collective responsibility in addressing the country's challenges.

The forum affirms that a lasting solution to Somalia's political challenges requires mutual understanding, accountable leadership, respect for the rule of law, and a genuine commitment to the national interest.

National Unity • Reconciliation • National Salvation

Issued in Mogadishu, Somalia, following the National Dialogue Forum convened by Gurmud Qaran on 28 September 2026.

CONCLUSION

The Gurmad Qaran Official Launch and National Dialogue Forum, held on 28 September 2026 at Jazeera Hotel in Mogadishu, marked an important step in introducing Gurmad Qaran as a civic movement committed to national dialogue, reconciliation, responsible leadership, and the future of Somalia. The gathering brought together people from different professional, political, academic, and social backgrounds, creating an opportunity to exchange ideas, reflect on the country's challenges, and consider the responsibilities that Somalis share in shaping their nation's future.

Beyond the formal launch, the Forum provided a space for reflection on the relationship between leadership, citizenship, public institutions, and national progress. The presentations and discussions demonstrated the importance of informed public debate and the need to create opportunities for Somalis to engage with difficult national questions in a respectful and constructive manner. They also reinforced the understanding that lasting progress cannot be achieved through political agreements or institutional measures alone; it requires public trust, responsible leadership, active citizenship, and a willingness to work across differences.

For Gurmad Qaran, the Forum represents the beginning of a continuing process rather than the completion of an objective. Maintaining the interest generated by the gathering will require sustained engagement with participants, communities, professionals, scholars, and other stakeholders. It will also require the movement to remain open to diverse perspectives, encourage evidence-based discussion, and ensure that future activities respond to the concerns and aspirations expressed by the Somali people. The ideas raised during the Forum should continue to inform dialogue and provide a foundation for further civic engagement.

The success of this initiative will ultimately depend on its consistency, credibility, and contribution to the national interest. Gurmad Qaran has an opportunity to support a civic culture in which disagreement does not prevent cooperation, public responsibility takes precedence over narrow interests, and national challenges are approached through dialogue and collective effort. This requires patience, transparency, and a clear commitment to serving the public good.

Finally, Somalia's future is a shared responsibility that extends beyond any single movement, institution, or political group. Building a peaceful, united, and accountable country requires the continued participation of its citizens and the willingness of its leaders and institutions to act in the national interest. The Forum has provided a starting point for that continued engagement. Its lasting significance will be determined by how effectively the spirit of dialogue and shared responsibility established in Mogadishu is carried forward into future discussions and practical civic action.

