

# **U.S. State Department Report Signals Deeper Engagement with Somaliland While Reaffirming Somalia's Territorial Integrity**

## **Washington Reviews New Opportunities for Cooperation in Security, Trade, and Development**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The United States Department of State has submitted a report to Congress outlining potential areas for expanded engagement with Somaliland, highlighting opportunities for cooperation in security, diplomacy, trade, and development while reaffirming U.S. recognition of Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The report, titled **"Potential Areas for Improved United States Engagement with Somaliland,"** was prepared in response to congressional directives contained in the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations legislation. It examines how Washington can strengthen practical relations with Somaliland authorities without altering its long-standing position regarding Somalia's internationally recognized borders.

According to the State Department, the United States continues to recognize the Federal Republic of Somalia, including the region of Somaliland, while maintaining what it described as a "positive and constructive relationship" with Somaliland authorities.

## **Strategic Importance of Somaliland**

The report reflects growing American interest in the Horn of Africa, a region increasingly viewed as strategically important due to its proximity to the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and major global shipping routes. Analysts in Washington have argued that Somaliland's geographic position, relative stability, and security cooperation make it an important regional partner.

Congress previously directed the State Department to evaluate opportunities for deeper engagement in areas including:

- Security cooperation
- Diplomatic engagement
- Trade and investment
- Economic development
- Governance and democratic institutions

The new report represents one of the most detailed official U.S. assessments of Somaliland in recent years.

## **No Recognition Announcement**

Despite speculation in political circles, the report does not recommend formal U.S. recognition of Somaliland as an independent state.

Instead, it emphasizes expanded cooperation within the framework of existing U.S. policy, which continues to support Somalia's territorial integrity.

This distinction is considered significant because it signals Washington's willingness to strengthen practical relations with Somaliland while avoiding a major diplomatic shift that could affect regional stability and relations with Mogadishu.

## **Growing Congressional Interest**

The report follows increasing interest among members of the U.S. Congress regarding Somaliland's role in regional security and countering foreign influence in the Horn of Africa.

Several lawmakers have urged deeper engagement with Somaliland, citing its strategic location near critical maritime corridors and its cooperation with Western partners.

Observers say the report could lead to expanded dialogue between Washington and Hargeisa on economic development, maritime security, infrastructure, and investment opportunities in the coming years.

## **Regional Implications**

The publication of the report is likely to generate political debate across the Horn of Africa, where questions regarding Somaliland's international status remain unresolved more than three decades after it declared independence from Somalia in 1991.

While the report stops short of endorsing recognition, it clearly demonstrates that Somaliland continues to occupy an increasingly important place in U.S. strategic thinking regarding the Red Sea region and East Africa.

**By Staff Reporter  
Waagacusub Media**