

SOMALIA GOVERNMENT

Party Portrait

Somalia has been mired in internal conflict for more than 15 years, with limited central government control in that time. Free and fair elections in early 2017 and a peaceful transition of power are a positive sign. But the continued threat of Al-Shabab and frequent terror attacks in the capital, Mogadishu, suggest the country will continue to face significant challenges in the future. Somalia's government is dependent on external partners such as the African Union, Kenya and the UN to maintain internal security, and has formed productive alliances with Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. It has a hostile relationship with Iran.

Key Interests

- Provide domestic security and neutralize al-Shabab
- Build the capacity of its armed forces, leveraging overseas military assistance
- Build and strengthen the economy and reduce vulnerability to famine

Sources of Leverage

Political - Somalia remains a major source of migrants and refugees to Europe and Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia and Yemen

Regional Strategy

Somalia has sought to capitalize upon Saudi Arabia – Iran rivalry in Africa by partnering with Riyadh in exchange for military and economic assistance. Mogadishu has cut off ties with Tehran in order to consolidate its status as a firm Sunni ally, accusing Iran of support for Islamic groups in Somalia such as al-Shabab.

Powerful Individuals

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed; Prime Minister Omar Abdirad Ali Sharmarke

Potential Negotiation Moves

Limited options for negotiation moves beyond its own borders, given restricted economic, military and geopolitical capacity. Somalia is largely focused on neutralizing the threat posed by al-Shabab and, to a lesser degree, by international piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Internal Conflicts

Al Shabab continue to pose a major threat to the security of Somali citizens, government assets and resources in Mogadishu and beyond, and to critical infrastructure. Somali "pirates" have the potential to disrupt trade through the Gulf of Aden.

Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, AU, OIC, UN

Allies

DJIBOUTI, EGYPT Government, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA

Partners

EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, UAE, UNITED STATES, TURKEY, CHINA

Rivals

N/A

Adversaries

ERITREA, IRAN

Active Armed Opponents

SOMALIA Al-Shabaab

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

UNITED STATES, EUROPEAN UNION, TURKEY, JAPAN, CHINA, FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, RUSSIA, KUWAIT, UAE