



# PROGRESS REPORT

## GSD: TOWARDS A UNIFIED SOMALI DIASPORA COMMUNITY

THIS REPORT SHOWCASES THE PROGRESSION OF GLOBAL SOMALI DIASPORA, FROM ITS INCEPTION IN 2014 TO ITS MOST RECENT EVENTS IN 2020. THE REPORT IS PRESENTED IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGY, STARTING WITH THE MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION.

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# FORWARD



I am very pleased to write this foreword for the progress report of GSD's achievements in the last 7 years written by Ahmed Tohow, the Vice-Chair of GSD's Board of Directors.

Since the foundation of GSD in Istanbul, back in 2014, the organisation has made several particularly notable achievements, including many international conferences and local events. As a result, new opportunities are opening up for GSD and we have a very exciting future.

GSD now has representatives around the world including the US, Canada, Australia, Africa, Asia, and several European countries including UK, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy and Denmark.

The report reflects all the international and local events that GSD was engaged in over the last 7 years and will provide a clear insight into the progress of the organisation. To organise these events, GSD has partnered with a range of partners including Yunus Emre Institute, SOAS, University of London, Anti-Tribalism Movement, African Foundation for Development and Hormuud Telecom Foundation, to name a few.

GSD has been successful over the years in providing a platform that brings together the Somali diaspora, including its professionals, practitioners, businesses, international institutions, government, and civil societies, to discuss issues concerning the Somali community and Somalia.

A good example is the Somali Diaspora Conference held at SOAS, the University of London, that explored challenges, opportunities, and solutions for the UK-based Somali community. However, the recommendations offered at the end of the conference could be beneficial to the worldwide Somali diaspora.

As a result of this successful conference, GSD, SOAS, University of London, ATM and AFFORD, have already discussed the possibility of organising a regular annual conference in the UK. Similarly, other GSD branches across the globe may also replicate these events in their own countries.

In summary, I believe it has been a good 7 years for GSD. We are satisfied with the significant achievements of our organisation. We are eagerly looking forward to the years ahead.

**Jawaahir Daahir**

**GSD Chair**

# INTRODUCTION

Global Somali Diaspora (GSD) is a global not-for-profit organization working to bring together and mobilize members of the Somali Diaspora for positive action. GSD advocates and promotes the full integration of Somali Diaspora communities within their host nations while also remaining connected to their cultural heritage. Work is also undertaken by GSD to encourage members of the Somali Diaspora to contribute to efforts promoting peacebuilding, reconciliation, reconstruction and development in their homeland of Somalia.

Established in 2014 by participants of an international Somali Diaspora conference convened in Istanbul, Turkey, today GSD has representatives from Somali communities around the world including the US, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark as well as other countries in Africa and Asia. It is a foundational belief of GSD that a connected and unified Somali diaspora offers opportunities to meet the challenges of their host countries, while also playing a strong and positive role in the rebuilding of Somalia.

## MISSION STATEMENT

GSD has been established to advocate, implement, and support projects, programs and initiatives that advance the cultural and social development of Somali diaspora communities, as well as make a positive contribution to the rebuilding of Somalia.

## VISION

To empower members of the Somali Diaspora to realize its full potential while also empowering them to contribute to the building of harmonious, cohesive, educated, informed, harmonious, creative, powerful, and prosperous communities both in their host nations and their homeland of Somalia.

## OBJECTIVES

- To mobilize, organize and empower Somali communities living in the diaspora.
- Provide a platform to improve communication and ties between members of the global Somali Diaspora and serve as a focal point of action and advocacy on issues of importance to their communities.
- To promote the language, culture, and heritage of the Somali people.
- To enhance the capacity and skills of young Somalis living in Somalia and the diaspora.
- To contribute to the development and rebuilding of Somalia.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF GLOBAL SOMALI DIASPORA

The Global Somali Diaspora (GSD) was established as the result of a series of consultations and meetings that took place among members of various Somali Diaspora communities. These discussions continued during an international Somali Diaspora conference that took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 21-22 June 2014. It was during this conference that more than 100 delegates from around the world - including community representatives, academics, professionals, community representatives and activists - agreed to create a unified Somali diaspora organization and elected an interim executive leadership and two boards - Board of Advisors and Board of Directors - as well as leaders of national chapters. The new name chosen for this organisation was the Global Somali Diaspora (GSD).

Since its inception, the GSD has worked to support and advocate on behalf of Somali communities and their members living across the Diaspora. Each national GSD chapter has worked to actively engage with local Somali communities, regardless of clan affiliation, to address their needs, interests, and any other issues of concern. This has included organizing local events and workshops, empowering members of their communities to transfer skills and investment back to Somalia, organizing humanitarian relief in response to natural disasters and terrorist attacks as well as participating in various national, regional, and international conferences.

# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2020

## INTERNATIONAL ONLINE SUMMIT, 28TH - 29TH OF NOVEMBER 2020

### *People and Environment: Challenges and Opportunities*

The overall aim of the conference was to create a platform that allows the discussion of the most current issues concerning the Somali people, both in Somalia and in the diaspora.

For the 2020 annual summit, the focus was on two themes:

- The environment: how to protect and better manage the natural resources, so that we may become resilient against disasters
- The 'Somali people:' how to enable and enrich the dialogue between locally based Somalis and those in the diaspora, ensuring synergy and finding ways of working together

The conference sought to take a solution-oriented approach, as it ran morning and afternoon workshops that addressed practical issues, such as equality and diversity within Somalia's labour force, managing expectations and misunderstandings amongst youth and employers, economic opportunities that bring together investors, as well as creating spaces to network and exchange knowledge.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GSD's annual conference in 2020 was held virtually on 28th - 29th of November. The event received over 34,000 views across our multiple streaming platforms (Facebook live, Instagram live and YouTube streaming), reaching many countries around world. Delegates were able to ask their questions live and interact with one another.



**GLOBAL SOMALI DIASPORA**  
INTERNATIONAL ONLINE SUMMIT

**PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT:  
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**NOVEMBER 28 - 29 2020**  
9:00-18:00 GMT, ONLINE

**WATCH US LIVE**

Global Somali Diaspora 2020 Conference  
GlobsomDiaspora | @GlobSomDiaspora

GSD GLOBAL SOMALI DIASPORA YUNUS EMRE ENSTITÜSÜ

## COVID-19 WORKSHOPS, 2020



In response to the COVID-19 crises, GSD decided to produce digital workshops so that the international Somali community was aware of the dangers associated with the pandemic. We focused on ways to reduce the rate of infection and death within the Somali diaspora community and dispel misinformation. The sessions covered Somali communities in 14 COVID-19 affected countries including the UK, USA, Australia, Somalia, Kenya, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Netherland, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and Germany. Each session had an on average of 800 viewers. Also, more people were watching the replay after the live session ended.

## SOMALI ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARDS, MARCH 2020



GSD Chair, Jawaahir Daahir, was invited to speak about the ways the Somali diaspora can contribute to the construction and sustainability of Somalia, as well as presenting an award to the winner of the Women's SME Award at the Somali Annual Business Awards, March 2020.

## MEETING WITH THE SOMALI MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN LONDON, 2020



GSD representatives, Bazi, Mandekh and Jawaahir, met with the Somali Minister of Education in London and discussed GSD's role in supporting the development of educational programmes in Somalia.



# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2019

## SYMPOSIUM IN MOGADISHU, DECEMBER 2019



A GSD Symposium took place on 16 -17 December 2019 in Mogadishu, Somalia. The objective of “GSD in action Mogadishu” program was to put in practice recommendations from GSD International Conference (GSDIC) that took place on 14 -17 June 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Istanbul conference emphasised the need for GSD to create solution-based awareness at local level about key pressing issues of concern such as:

- Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship: One of the greatest asset Somalia has is a high proportion of youth population. Failure to channel their energy and enthusiasm to country’s development will lead them to be a liability to the country and the world at large.
- Environmental Degradation: Somalia has experienced worst draught and flooding in recent years. Creating awareness of practical ways to deal and prevent flooding and draught is necessary.
- Citizenship: Understanding the rights and responsibilities of the citizen. The understanding of citizenship was badly damaged by the civil war and was highly diluted. There was a need to detox the bad thoughts out the youth’s understanding of citizenship.
- Genuine Collaboration between Diaspora and locals. Somali diaspora and locals are complementary in their strength and weaknesses. Combined they may achieve advances which neither could alone. This was to move from Solo efforts to collective effort between them.



## WELCOMING RECEPTION FOR THE TURKISH FIRST LADY, 2019



GSD organised a high-profile meeting with the Turkish First Lady, Emine Erdoğan, and key stakeholders in the Somali diaspora, December 2019

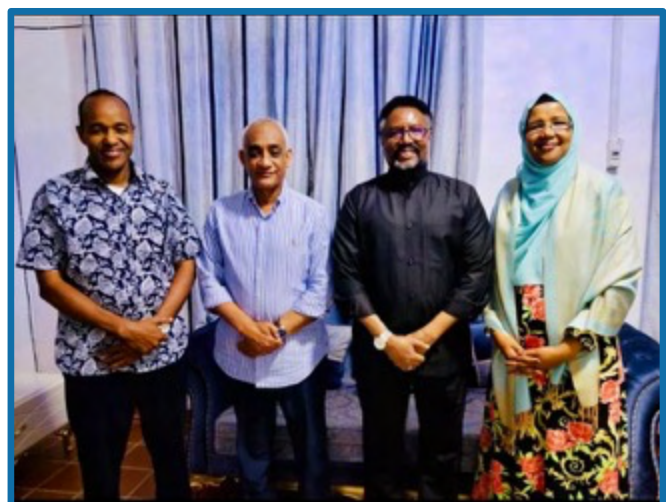
## JAWAAHIR SPEAKS AT THE MOGADISHU BOOK FAIR, 2019



As it has done every year, GSD participated in the Mogadishu Bookfair in 2019. Our Chair, Jawaahir Daahir, took part as a speaker, author, and moderator of one of the sessions.

## CHAIR'S MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN MOGADISHU, AUGUST 2019

GSD Chair, Jawaahir Daahir, met with the Prime Minister, key stakeholders, international community representatives, diplomats, and other leaders, in preparation for the GSD symposium in Mogadishu, December 2019.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 14<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019

### *Youth, Reconciliation, Business and Environment: Challenges and Opportunities*

The conference brought together over 150 distinguished Somali delegates, from all areas of public life, including high-ranking politicians, diplomats, renowned academics, Islamic scholars, civil society leaders and established professionals from the private and public sectors. Themes addressed in the conference derived from some of the most pertinent and pressing issues facing the global Somali population, from business and entrepreneurship to youth and social responsibility. Keynote speakers and panellists engaged in widespread knowledge exchange with the audiences and shared their expertise, while also providing ways in which certain issues are to be tackled. There were also workshops and other collaborative events that maximised engagement among the audience, participants, and delegates. Entertainment was provided by famed Somali poets and musicians, while exhibitions to showcase the diverse creativity of the Somali culture and tradition were also central to the event.

### **Key Achievements:**

- Brought together over 150 key diaspora stakeholders, policy makers, civil society organisations, international and government institutions, and Somali members of business and private sectors from across the world
- Facilitated panel discussions, keynotes, and practical workshops to network, learn, collaborate, and tackle some of the biggest issues facing Somalia and Somalis worldwide
- Enabled platforms for collective action and consolidated efforts and opportunities for Somalis to unify on key issues



# PHOTOS FROM GSDIC IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 2019



## **TURKISH AIRLINES HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**



GSD had a very productive meeting with the Turkish Airlines team at their headquarter in London, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We discussed ways in which Turkish Airlines could support GSD's upcoming international conference in Istanbul.

## **OFFICE OF THE SOMALI PRESIDENT, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019**



Dr Yusuf Sheikh Omar, GSD Board Member, met with Amina Said Ali, Chief of Staff, and Hussein Ladane, Director of Social Affairs at the Office of the President of Somalia. The talk focused on the relationship between Global Somali Diaspora and the Office of the President.

## **MEETING WITH HORMUUD TEAM IN LONDON, 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**



Jawaahir Daahir, GSD Chairwoman, and Dr Yusuf Omar, GSD Board Member, met with Hormuud's senior staff while they were visiting the UK, and talked about strengthening the relationships between GSD and Hormuud.

## MEETING WITH H.E. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF SOMALIA IN LONDON, 8<sup>TH</sup>

FEBRUARY 2019



Jawaahir Daahir and Dr Yusuf Omar met H.E. Somali the Deputy Prime Minister, in London, and discussed a range of issues, including how the Somali federal government can engage more effectively with the Somali diaspora, GSD's upcoming Istanbul conference and how they may contribute. We built on clear understanding of the importance of working together in addressing challenges in the diaspora and homeland, as well as increasing diaspora investment in Somalia.

## SOMALI DIASPORA CONFERENCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UK

*One day conference held February 15th, 2019, at SOAS, University of London*



The British Somali community is one of the largest black and ethnic minority groups in the UK. The community is diverse and complex, yet the general public know very little about them. Being reliant on mainstream media, which inflates issues such as terrorism, famine and piracy, the average British citizen may form negative images.

The community is often described as 'hard to reach and difficult to understand.' The misconception of the community, a limited understanding of its specific challenges and needs, related to education, employment, mental health, immigration and legal issues, youth identity crises, housing and so on, can influence policymakers, service providers and the wider British community in negative ways. Such misunderstandings and misconception have disadvantaged the community from gaining adequate access to the British mainstream. Alongside settlement and social integration difficulties, the dysfunctional politics and power struggle happening in Somalia have also harmed the function and coherence of the community in the UK.

This conference aimed to explore challenges, opportunities, and solutions in four main areas:

- 1. Social integration:** Youth identity, cultural adaptation, language as a tool of social integration, identity and belonging.
- 2. Education and employment:** School performance, community tuition, access to higher education, parent-school relationships, unemployment, barriers to employment, employment/unemployment impact on social integration and community upward mobility.
- 3. Security, transnationalism, and homeland engagement:** Transnational security, community business and transnationalism, finance, remittance, and money transfer.
- 4. Health, housing, and wellbeing:** Mental health and emotional wellbeing, healing, trauma, diet, physical and social wellbeing.

The conference brought together academics who specialise in Somali studies, particularly in the diaspora. We also brought together community practitioners and service providers who represented diverse voices and experiences. The combination of academics, community members and practitioners put forward unique ways to address these challenges. Besides gaining knowledge about the community, the conference was a good platform for networking and collaboration among those involved and interested in community affairs, or willing to understand the community from different perspectives or academic findings.

Achieved outcomes for participants:

- Increased knowledge of challenges facing Somali-British community in UK in the four main areas specified in the concept note.
- Gained an excellent understanding of effective ways to address community needs and challenges from a variety of community perspectives and academic findings.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of how to utilize the opportunities available for the community in UK.
- Increased collaborative work between Somali diaspora UK, policy makers and service providers.
- Establishing connections which will build networks that enable participants get access to expertise, skills, knowledge, and resources.
- Online publication of conference proceedings.

Organised by Global Somali Diaspora (GSD) in partnership with Anti-Tribalism Movement (ATM), African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) and Department of Development Studies, SOAS University of London. Hosted by the Centre for African Studies (SOAS). Coordinated by Dr Yusuf Sheikh Omar, Board Member of GSD and a Research Associate at SOAS, University of London.

## DELEGATES AT THE GSD CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 15TH, 2019,



Keynote speakers included H.E. Abdi Aynte the former Minister of the Somali Federal Government, and current UN Director of Strategic Partnerships. Abdi Aynte is one of the key founding members of Global Somali Diaspora.

The education panel was moderated by Adam Matan, Managing Director, Anti-Tribalism Movement, based in London



The “Security and Economic” panel was moderated by Onyekachi Wambu, Executive Director, Foundation for African Development, based in London



## SOMALI-TURKISH DIASPORA RELATIONSHIP FORUM

*Yunus Emre Institute's (YEI) London branch, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

GSD organized a community consultation forum in partnership with the Yunus Emre Institute. This event brought together key community leaders, including academics, professionals and businesspeople from both the Somali and Turkish communities, in the UK, to discuss how diasporic communities can better work together. While the event was a success, it also served to highlight the very close and strong nature of the ties between Somalia and Turkey, as well as the enduring friendship of their peoples.



### **Panel discussion:**

From right Dr Yusuf Sheikh Omar, GSD Board Member, Jawaahir Daahir, GSD Chairwoman, and Dr Mehmet Karakus from Yunus Emre Institute.



Dr Yusuf Sheikh Omar delivering his paper on 'Somali Diaspora - Turkish Relations' during the forum.

## AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY IN UK, JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2019



Jawaahir Daahir and Dr Yusuf Omar had very successful meeting with H.E. Umit Yalcin, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in UK. They discussed the relationships between Global Somali Diaspora and Turkish community in the UK and beyond. The Ambassador was very welcoming and engaging.

# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2018

## HERITAGE CONFERENCE, DJIBOUTI, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>- 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018



Former GSD Executive Director, Zahra Shirwac and Dr Yusuf Omar, had a meeting with the late Somali Minister, H.E. Abdirahman Hosh Jibril, during the Heritage Conference in Djibouti, and talked about GSD's potential role in mobilising Somali diaspora to get involved in the constitutional development of Somalia.

## TURKISH-SOMALI PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE: STEPPING FORWARD, 1<sup>ST</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2018



Jawaanir Daahir and Dr Yusuf Omar, from GSD, were invited as speakers to the conference. After the conference, they met with Professor Ali Sheikh, General Director of the East African Association for Research and Development (DAD) and discussed future partnerships and collaboration.



Jawaahir Daahir had also had meeting with young Somali women during the Turkish-Somali Partnership Conference.



Jawaahir Daahir and Dr Yusuf Omar met H.E. Ambassador Gamal Hassan, Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, during Turkish-Somali Partnership Conference.

## BOOK LAUNCH AT SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, NOVEMBER 2018



GSD in partnership with SOAS University of London, Anti-Tribalism Movement and LooH Press organised a book launch at SOAS November 2018. The book was entitled "Tale of a Boon's Wife Written by Fartumo Kusow.

## MEETING WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, ILHAN OMAR, APRIL 2018



Dr Yusuf Omar, GSD Board Member met with Minnesota State Legislator, now U.S. Congresswoman, Ilhan Omar. They briefly talked to about the potential to take part in GSD's International conference in 2019.

# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2017

## SOMALIA'S LONDON CONFERENCE, MAY 2017

On 11 May 2017, the UK hosted a major international conference in London, to accelerate progress on security sector reform, build on the international response to the ongoing drought and humanitarian crisis, and agree the new international partnership needed to keep Somalia on course for increased peace and prosperity. Jawaahir Daahir spoke at the conference.



## PUNTLAND TV, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2017.

Jawaahir Daahir and Dr Yusuf Omar organised an online forum through Puntland TV and focused on the role of Somali diaspora in rebuilding Somalia.



## GSD AUSTRALIA, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017



This mini event, organized by the GSD Australian chapter, brought together members of the community to discuss issues around youth, family, inter-generational barriers and the challenges of raising children in a 'Western' environment. The event also highlighted the efforts given by the Somali diaspora to support the drought-affected families in Somalia, in addition to the

general support given towards rebuilding their homeland. The keynote speaker at this event was Jawaahir Daahir, the Chairwoman of GSD. It was attended by many locally based professionals from among the Diaspora community living in Australia.

## FUNDRAISING ON BEHALF OF ZOBBE BOMBING VICTIMS, 2017



On October 14, 2017, a massive truck bomb exploded in Zobbe Square in Mogadishu. This horrific attack killed more than 500 innocent civilians including students, small business owners and other ordinary people who were going about their daily lives. Given the scale of the devastation and the number of casualties, many Somalis have called this attack Somalia's '9/11.' The GSD not only issued an official

statement condemning the sickening attack but also organized a campaign to advocate on behalf of its victims and raise funds for their support. The GSD provided an important and valuable forum for the mobilization of this campaign across multiple diaspora communities which resulted in the donation of food, clothing, and other forms of relief - for the benefit of victims and their families. GSD national chapters also organized public demonstrations and undertook other activities to demonstrate their anger at al-Shabaab for having committed such an appalling atrocity.

# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2016

## GSD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (GSDIC), MOGADISHU, SOMALIA, AUGUST 13-15, 2016



To date, the most ambitious international conference organized by the GSD in Somalia was held in Mogadishu in 2016. Bringing together policymakers, businesspeople, and representatives of civil society organizations from both the diaspora and Somalia. The conference was also attended by representatives of international organizations, including the United Nations. Participants in this landmark event engaged in a series of

workshops and discussions on issues affecting Somali communities living in the diaspora, as well as examining investment opportunities in Somalia.

This built upon the success of an earlier conference convened in the Somali capital by GSD in August 2015 titled: “A Showcase of Somali Diaspora Success”. The previous event had brought together entrepreneurs, intellectuals and representatives from small and medium-sized businesses who shared their stories, ideas and experience operating in Somalia and overseas. This was done to encourage greater involvement by members of the diaspora in the development of their homeland. The 2016 GSDIC was an event completely led by Somalis for the benefit of Somalia and the international Somali diaspora. The conference provided what was at the time a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss and identify collective strategies required to deal with the challenges facing their communities, both in the homeland and in the diaspora.



## GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH MALAYSIA, JUNE 2016



Launch of the Malaysian chapter of GSD in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Photo: From the left former ED Abdi Barud, Malaysia Chapter, Dr Abdulahi Ali and Mowliid.

## MOGADISHU BOOK FAIR, 2016



The annual Mogadishu Book Fair promotes literacy, the pursuit of knowledge as well as highlighting Somali culture. GSD has participated in the event's organisation and may of our members we at the fair in 2016. A notable feature of which is a high regard for poets and their work. Since its beginnings in 2015, this event has attracted both Somali and foreign intellectuals, authors, scholars, playwrights, poets, musicians, and other professions eager to display their latest work and showcase their talents.





## **GSD ADVOCACY: DROUGHT CAMPAIGN, 2016**

In 2011 and then again in 2016 Somalia was struck by severe drought which resulted in food insecurity, as well as the death of many cattle, goats, and camels on which the livelihoods of many Somalis depend. In response to these crises the GSD organized a campaign which mobilized more than 30 other Somali organizations to support communities living in drought affected regions. This campaign was successful in helping to raise millions of dollars among Somali Diaspora communities, whose members gave extremely generously, and supported efforts to provide food and support to Somalia.



## **GSD WITH TURKISH COUP SURVIVORS IN AUSTRALIA, 2016**



GSD with the Somali community in Australia, supporting Turkey Coup victims

## GSD SOMALI REFUGEE ADVOCACY, OCTOBER 2016



From the right: former GSD Executive, Abdi Barud, and a UNHCR delegate.

# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2015

## GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 2015



Launch of the Australian chapter of GSD in Melbourne, Australia. Keynote speakers, front row from the right: former GSD Executive Director, Abdi Barud with H.E Mehmet Kucuksakalli, former Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Australia, and Mr. Mohamed Atosh.



GSD Launch Keynote Speaker H.E Mehmet Kucuksakalli former Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Australia



Former GSD Executive Director Abdi Barud and GSD Australia chapter members and its volunteers

## GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, SOMALIA, JANUARY 2015



Launch of the Somali chapter of GSD in Mogadishu, Somalia.  
GSD board member Lul Kulmiye giving a speech at the GSD Mogadishu launch

## GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, USA, FEBRUARY 2015



Launch of USA chapter of GSD in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

From the right well-known Somali singers, Ahmed Naji Sa'ad and Ahmed Ali Igal and other musicians, during Minnesota launch



From the right: GSD Board member Eng. Jibril Afyare giving award to Ahmed Naji Sa'ad at GSD USA launch in Minnesota.

## **GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, CANADA, MARCH 2015**



Launch of the Canadian chapter of GSD in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

## **GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, SWEDEN, NOVEMBER 2015**



Former GSD Executive on the podium at the podium during the launch of the GSD chapter in Stockholm, Sweden.

## **GSD AND SOMALI OFFICE OF DIASPORA AFFAIRS - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, KIGALI, RWANDA, JANUARY 2015**

The conference held, in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, in 2015, was organized under the title of 'Diaspora Policy Consultation'. The initial idea for this conference originated with the Somali government's Office of Diaspora Affairs. In addition to the participation of members of GSD, other attendees included representatives from the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and hosted by officials from the Government of Rwanda. Focussed on issues of interest to, or impacting, the Somali diaspora, the conference also looked into the role it plays in the development and reconstruction of their homeland. The discussion also

focused on the topic of the Somali government's policy towards the diaspora, including how to encourage its members to return and live, work and invest in their homeland. The conference also aimed to explore ways in which the global Somali Diaspora can be mobilised for national reconciliation and dialogue. Kigali was specifically chosen as a venue because of Rwanda's civil war and the enormous role its diaspora played and continues to play in rebuilding that country.

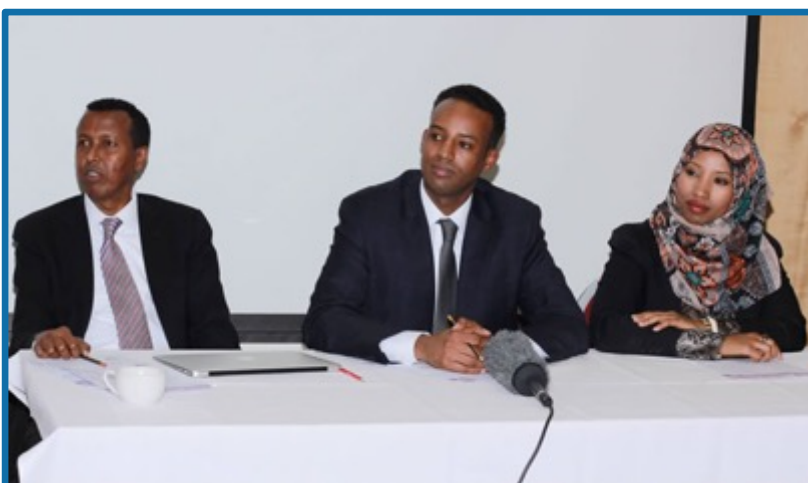


# GSD ACTIVITIES IN 2014

## INAUGURAL GSD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 2014



## GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, UNITED KINGDOM, 2014



Participants at the launch of the British chapter of GSD in London, United Kingdom.

## GSD CHAPTER LAUNCH, THE NETHERLANDS, NOVEMBER 2014



Ali Waare, Dutch Chapter Leader, at the launch event.



# SOMALI DIASPORA SUCCESS STORIES

## ILAYS ACADEMY

In 2011-2012, GSD member Abdinasir Ali Ahmed returned to Mogadishu after living in London, to establish the Ilays Academy. In 2013 the school opened, intending to provide students from Grades 1 to 12 an education that meets the highest international standard. Providing students with a quality education that will open doors to future employment and further educational opportunities for them, in Somalia and elsewhere. This kind of success has been demonstrated in the UK, United States and Canada, as the students have had no problems in meeting the standards expected of when attending classes abroad.

## AL-NUR SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

On 21 July 2005, the al-Nur School for the Blind opened in Mogadishu to meet the educational needs of Somali youth affected by blindness, sight, and other learning difficulties. This school was established by SGD member, Abdifatah Mohammed Daahir, who returned to Somalia after living in the Netherlands and provides free education to youth aged between 7 and 18 years old. Since founding the school Abdifatah Mohammed Daahir has also undertaken further studies in special education for disabled people, especially the blind. The school teaches students to use braille, which despite its use elsewhere for over two hundred years, is still relatively new to Somalia, and computers as part of their education.

## SOMALI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION



# CONCLUSIONS



GSD was founded in 2014 in Istanbul, and since that time it has opened many representative branches in multiple continents. One of the main principles of GSD is to connect, unite and mobilise the Somali diaspora to help and contribute to the rebuilding of their homeland. GSD encourages mutual respect among communities, both at home and in the diaspora.

One of the main objectives of GSD is to organize and empower the Somali communities in the diaspora, promote Somali culture, language, and heritage. Since its inception, GSD has organized several conferences including its well-attended international conferences, held in Istanbul and online, which focused on diaspora investment in Somalia. Many prominent members of the diaspora, local officials, businesspeople, and policymakers, from the Somali

government and international agencies, participated in these events. This was an entirely Somali owned and Somali diaspora led event.

After seven years' worth of notable achievements, GSD looking forward to the future, casting an eye on youth issues, social reconciliation, the environment, and Somali-Turkish business partnerships. With a sense of maturity, strong partnership approach and international engagement, GSD is able to bridge between diverse societies and has a lot to offer and contribute to rebuilding Somalia.

***This report was compiled by***

**Ahmed Tohow**

**GSD Deputy Chairperson**

# SUPPORTERS



# ORGANISORS



**Jawaahir Daahir**



**Dr Yusuf Omar**



**Ahmed Tohow**



**Dr Idil Osman**



**Anisa Gobale**



**Jibril Warfaa**

# PRESS

## **Conference Communiqué : Global Somali Diaspora (Horusocod)**

[https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55329/conference\\_communiqé\\_global\\_somali\\_diaspora\\_horusocod.aspx](https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55329/conference_communiqé_global_somali_diaspora_horusocod.aspx)

## **Turkey Looks to Support Somali Diaspora**

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2014/06/24/turkey-looks-to-support-somali-diaspora>

## **Global Somali Diaspora: Hope of Diaspora effectiveness ahead.**

[https://www.hiiraan.com/op4/2014/jun/55362/global\\_somali\\_diaspora\\_hope\\_of\\_diaspora\\_effectiveness\\_ahead.aspx](https://www.hiiraan.com/op4/2014/jun/55362/global_somali_diaspora_hope_of_diaspora_effectiveness_ahead.aspx)

## **The Global Somali Diaspora conference starts in Istanbul**

[https://hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55290/the\\_global\\_somali\\_diaspora\\_conference\\_start\\_s\\_in\\_istanbul.aspx](https://hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55290/the_global_somali_diaspora_conference_start_s_in_istanbul.aspx)

## **Global Somali Diaspora Conference Opens in Istanbul**

[https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55287/global\\_somali\\_diaspora\\_conference\\_opens\\_in\\_istanbul.aspx](https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55287/global_somali_diaspora_conference_opens_in_istanbul.aspx)

## **Global Somali Diaspora conference day 1: Motion passed**

[https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55297/global\\_somali\\_diaspora\\_conference\\_day\\_1\\_motion\\_passed.aspx](https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Jun/55297/global_somali_diaspora_conference_day_1_motion_passed.aspx)

## **Toward A More Unified Somali Diaspora**

[https://www.hiiraan.com/op4/2014/sept/56515/toward\\_a\\_more\\_unified\\_somali\\_diaspora.aspx](https://www.hiiraan.com/op4/2014/sept/56515/toward_a_more_unified_somali_diaspora.aspx)

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

<https://www.facebook.com/papa.bayow/videos/678441925559948/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7-0Njusqlc>

<https://www.somalispot.com/threads/mogadishu-book-fair.47672/>

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2018-08/17/c\\_137398303.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2018-08/17/c_137398303.htm)

<https://lithub.com/at-the-mogadishu-book-fair-literature-is-hope/>

<https://thenewpublishingstandard.com/mogadishu-book-fair-oasis-tranquility-troubled-land/>

<https://wardheernews.com/mogadishu-book-fair-a-cause-for-celebration/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobsomDiaspora/videos/1788521611363856/>

<https://www.facebook.com/100005564148228/videos/529944267201040/?id=100005564148228>

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobsomDiaspora/videos/1789435474605803/>

[https://hiiraan.com/news4/2015/Jan/97735/somali\\_diaspora\\_conference\\_opens\\_in\\_kigali.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2S3gca\\_cZabiQeKYI-MmQ-9oZcJRX\\_Sh4n3U8n8YGjspRbAH7py8Yup5Q](https://hiiraan.com/news4/2015/Jan/97735/somali_diaspora_conference_opens_in_kigali.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2S3gca_cZabiQeKYI-MmQ-9oZcJRX_Sh4n3U8n8YGjspRbAH7py8Yup5Q)

[https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Nov/67087/gsd\\_has\\_been\\_formally\\_launched\\_in\\_netherlands.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3XfRvZaGxpAFJ5yQmtXGg2KaA\\_2ph5vwWg5WQx7QpLJS1j\\_o1s6CHoprws](https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2014/Nov/67087/gsd_has_been_formally_launched_in_netherlands.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3XfRvZaGxpAFJ5yQmtXGg2KaA_2ph5vwWg5WQx7QpLJS1j_o1s6CHoprws)