



## **Report to Congress on Potential Areas for Improved United States Engagement with Somaliland**

### **Section 7019(e) of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026 (Div. F, P.L. 119-75) and House Report 119-217**

This report examines potential areas for improved United States engagement with Somaliland. The United States recognizes the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, which includes the region of Somaliland. Within that framework, the United States maintains a positive, constructive relationship with Somaliland and continues to explore additional opportunities for engagement with Somaliland authorities.

#### **1. Security Cooperation**

The Horn of Africa's security environment remains complex, with ongoing violent extremist threats and regional disputes. Somaliland's strategic location near Yemen and the Bab al-Mandab Strait positions it as a potential partner on shared security interests, including freedom of commercial and military navigation from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. It is also geographically positioned to potentially assist with efforts to monitor and counter violent extremist organizations, particularly connections between Houthi terrorists and al-Shabaab, al-Qa'ida's largest and wealthiest affiliate.

AFRICOM has regular engagements with Somaliland authorities and is exploring areas for potential cooperation.

## **2. Diplomatic Engagement**

Embassy Mogadishu conducts regular, periodic visits to Somaliland to engage on matters of mutual interest, including security cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and economic issues. U.S. government travel to Somaliland is subject to the same security requirements as the rest of Somalia, necessitating the use of non-commercial aircraft and other resource intensive security measures. Embassy Mogadishu coordinates closely with AFRICOM to take advantage of U.S. military resources where available.

## **3. Trade and Investment**

Somaliland authorities have encouraged U.S. investment in minerals and outlined priorities in infrastructure, trade, and economic growth.

Somaliland's ports represent potential alternatives to other congested regional facilities. The ongoing development of the Berbera airport and seaports into a trade and transportation hub for Somaliland and landlocked Ethiopia could create increased opportunities for U.S. investment infrastructure, exports, and other commercial opportunities. However, regional security concerns and the dispute over Somaliland's status, including its refusal to cooperate with national authorities, present challenges for investment, banking, and trade.