



PUNTLAND GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

July 5, 2026, Garowe, Puntland

**Press Statement**

The Government of Puntland State of Somalia has issued this public statement to provide clarity and formally communicate its position to the concerned entities including the institutions of the Federal Government of Somalia, Somalia Federal Member States and the International governments and Partners, that Puntland State of Somalia has a constitutional and jurisdictional authorities and rights to control, manage, explore and utilize its resources. The marine and blue economic resources in the 1600km long of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden seawaters that fall along the Puntland territorial coastal lines are constitutionally owned by the People of Puntland as per Article 54 of Puntland Constitution.

Therefore, Puntland hereby reaffirms its constitutional-based decision that no foreign private nor governmental companies including SOMTURK can implement any sort of activities such as fisheries investments, coastguard or otherwise in on or by the seawaters of Puntland without prior approval and authorisation by the relevant Puntland authorities. This decision is in accordance with the Articles 44, 142, 51, 52, 53 & 54 of the Provisional Federal Constitution (2012), and Articles 4 & 54 of the Puntland Constitution. Thus far, the agencies of the Federal Government of Somalia, whose legitimate mandate has expired, has no legal authority to grant concessions and or enter an investment agreement with domestic or foreign entities which may include to the jurisdiction of Puntland's seas and land territory.

Somalia has adopted a federal system of governance, which its substances are yet subject for negotiation and settlement, so Puntland's legal view is as per the context of Articles 51, 52, 53, 54 and 142 of the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia (2012) that establish the constitutional framework governing relations between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States (FMS). Articles 51-54 establish the principles of cooperation, consultation and allocation of constitutional powers and responsibilities between the FGS and the FMS. Article 142 further provides that the FMS existing prior to the adoption of the Provisional Constitution shall continue to exercise the powers conferred by their own constitutions until the federal constitutional order is fully established and harmonised and that they must be consulted on matters concerning the federal system. Whereas Article 44 of the Provisional Federal Constitution stipulates that the FGS and FMS shall negotiate the sharing and management of the national resources.

Puntland's legal position is also supported by Article 4 of the Constitution of Puntland State of Somalia, which affirms Puntland's commitment to federal Somalia while providing that powers transferred to the Federal Government must be agreed through negotiation and reflected in both constitutions, and Article 54 of the same constitution which supports that resources in Puntland are owned by the Puntland People and the Government of Puntland is responsible for its exploitation and management . Until the federal constitutional order is fully established and harmonised, Puntland continues to exercise the constitutional powers vested in it under the Constitution of Puntland State of Somalia.

Therefore, any entity that undertakes to operate within the territorial seawaters and land of Puntland without a prior consent from the concerned Puntland authorities, shall be subject to inspection and law enforcement measures in accordance with the Constitution of Puntland State of Somalia.

Puntland remains committed to constructive engagement with the FGS, the International Partners and Governments. Puntland welcomes predictable and sustainable investments cooperation that respect Somalia's federal constitutional framework and the Constitution of Puntland State of Somalia.

This statement serves to the reaffirmation of Puntland's constitutional responsibilities in the governance, conservation and sustainable management of its resources. Puntland highly values its partnership and cooperation with International Partners and foreign investors, and remains committed to strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation founded on constitutional principles, mutual respect, transparency and the rule of law

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