



EAST AFRICAN INSTITUTE
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**The Office of Special Presidential
Envoy for Migration, Returns, and
Children's Rights(OSPE)**

1st Annual Migration Conference (AMC)

Report

THEME OF THE YEAR:
**SECURING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
FOR MIGRATION IN SOMALIA**



Sunday
20TH April 2025



Venue
Nairobi





Table Of Contents

Introduction	01
Opening session	02
Conference objectives	04
Conference Themes and Presentations	05
Background Context	09
Key Outcomes and Takeaways	10
Conclusion and Way Forward	11
Annexes	12

THEME OF THE YEAR:
**SECURING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
FOR MIGRATION IN SOMALIA**



Introduction

The 1st Annual Migration Conference, held on 20 April 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, marked a pivotal step toward establishing a sustainable and inclusive migration governance framework for Somalia. Jointly organized by Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Migration, Returns, and Children's Rights (OSPE) and East Africa Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG), this landmark event convened key national and international actors to engage in evidence-based policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. The conference's overarching theme, "Securing Sustainable Solutions for Migration in Somalia," reflected a shared vision for a Somalia where migration is safe, orderly, and beneficial to development.

Participants represented a diverse cross-section of Somali society and international stakeholders, including government ministries, foreign missions, civil society organizations, academic institutions, humanitarian and development agencies, diaspora professionals, youth networks, and media representatives. This inclusive and participatory approach highlighted the whole of government and whole of society commitment required to address migration challenges in Somalia.



Opening Session



H.E. Ambassador Jabril Ibrahim Abdulle
Somali Ambassador to
Kenya



Ambassador Mariam Yassin Haji Yussuf
Special Presidential Envoy for Migration,
Returns, and Children's Rights



Dr. Anwar Abdifatah Bashir
Executive Director of
EAIPG

The conference commenced with an inaugural address by H.E. Ambassador Jabril Ibrahim Abdulle, Somali Ambassador to Kenya. He underscored the urgency of coordinated migration governance in Somalia and the role of youth and diaspora communities in fostering national development. Ambassador Jabril Abdulle called for regional and global solidarity with Somalia in managing migration as a cross-cutting issue linked to peace, security, and development.

Ambassador Mariam Yassin Haji Yussuf, Special Presidential Envoy for Migration, Returns, and Children's Rights, highlighted the evolution of OSPE, its mandate, and its key achievements. She spotlighted Somalia's National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), return and reintegration frameworks, and the protection of migrant children. Her remarks framed the conference as a springboard for collaborative action, rooted in national ownership and global partnerships.

Dr. Anwar Abdifatah Bashir, Executive Director of EAIPG, emphasized the importance of a systemic, data-informed approach to migration governance. He pointed to Somalia's youthful population as both a challenge and an opportunity and called for inclusive and forward-looking policies.

The event also featured
remarks from

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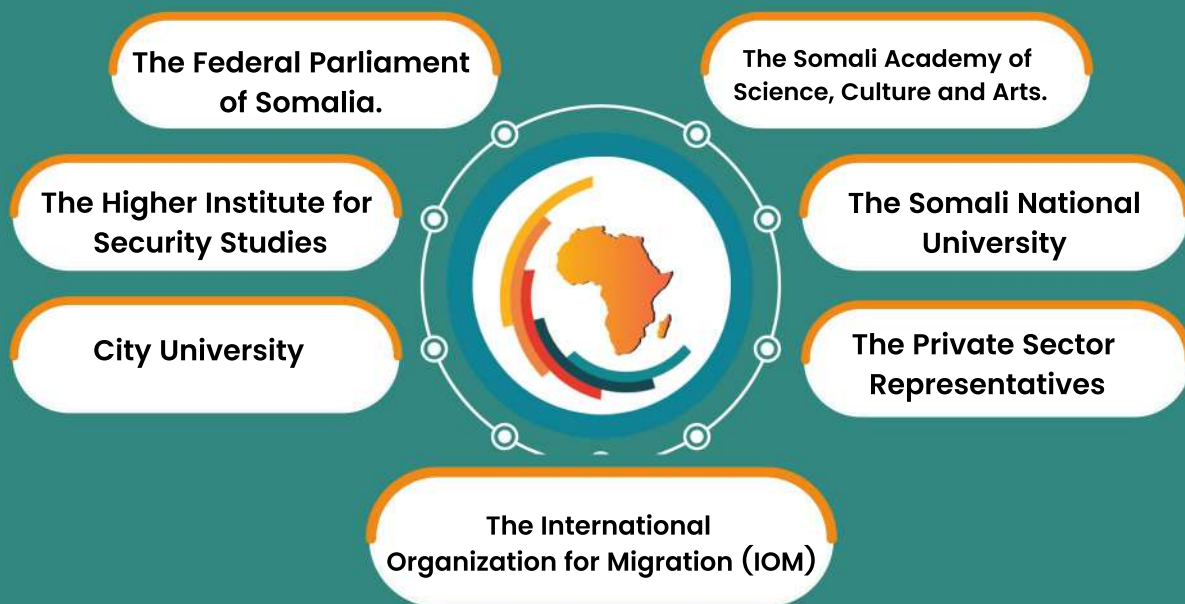


Mixed
Migration
Centre



These speakers reinforced the role of multi-actor collaboration in achieving safe, humane, and dignified migration outcomes.

Presenters of papers come from a wide variety of institutions and backgrounds, such as



Conference Objectives

The 1st Annual Migration Conference sought to:

- **Facilitate** inclusive dialogue and inter-sectoral collaboration on Somalia's mixed migration landscape
- **Share** latest research and policy-relevant insights from national and regional experts
- **Strengthen** linkages among national institutions, diaspora, and international development partners
- **Promote** the voices and leadership of Somali youth and migrants in policy processes
- **Generate** recommendations to support rights-based, context-sensitive migration policies

Conference Themes and Presentations

The conference featured 13 presentations organized under four interrelated thematic pillars:

Migration and Economic Development



Ali Abdi Abdullahi
Examination Director at
the High Institute for
Security Studies



Sharif Mohamed Nur
Economic Policy Analyst,
National Economic Council,
Federal Government of
Somalia



Ali Mohamed Ali
Research Fellow at East
African Institute for Peace
and Governance



Sadia Mohamed
Moderator



**Panel
Discussion**

**Migration and Economic
Development in Somalia**

Youth and Migration In Somalia



Panel
Discussion

1st Annual Migration Conference (AMC)



Mohamed Abdikadir Daud

Is a published Somali poet,
novelist & anthropologist



Bravin Ondit

A Research Assistant at the
Horn International Institute
for Strategic Studies



Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamud

junior researcher & recent
graduate in political science
from Somali National
University.



Abdisalam Ahmed Sheikh

Founder and Executive Director,
Climate Governance Movement
and Research.



Ramas Ibrahim Mohamed

Moderator



Panel
Discussion

**Youth and Migration
in Somalia**

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Abdullahi Yusuf
PhD. Candidate in
Industrial Chemistry.



Bisharo Ali Hussein
Policy, Gender & Migration
Expert working with
United Nations in East
Africa



Amina Abdi
Moderator



Saim Çelik
lecturer in the Faculty of Arts
and Social Sciences at the
Islamic University in Uganda and
a PhD candidate in Conflict
Management at Nelson Mandela
University.



Panel Discussion

**Migration, Digital Media
And Diaspora**

Migration, Digital Media And Diaspora



Panel Discussion



Harnessing Migration for Resilience & Development: Data, Mobility, and Policy

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Ahmed Mohamoud Mohamed

Lecturer, independent
researcher, and senior civil
servant



Abdirisak Mukhtar Abdirahman

Independent Researcher |
Public Finance & Fiscal
Policy Expert



Dr. Shukria Mahat

Moderator



Mohamed Muhudin Ali

Director of the Center for Climate
Adaptation and Environmental
Peacebuilding at the City University
Research Institute in Mogadishu, Somalia



Abdullahi Hassan

Social Impact Data Analyst and an
MIT MicroMasters candidate in Data,
Economics, and Policy Design.



Panel
Discussion

**Harnessing Migration for
Resilience and Development:
Data, Mobility, and Policy**



Background Context

Somalia's migration landscape is characterized by mixed flows, including refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons, and economic migrants. Over three decades of conflict, recurrent drought, and socio-economic instability have led millions to migrate in search of safety, opportunity, and dignity. The absence of comprehensive legal frameworks, limited access to services, and inadequate reintegration mechanisms have further complicated

Key challenges include:

- 01** Persistent insecurity and environmental shocks
- 02** Youth unemployment and lack of vocational training
- 03** Gender-specific vulnerabilities and protection gaps
- 04** Weak data systems and limited coordination among actors
- 05** Digital misinformation exacerbating risky migration behaviour

However, the Somali government, under OSPE's leadership, has made strides in addressing these issues by initiating a National Migration Strategy, operationalizing the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), and prioritizing rights-based approaches to migration governance.

Key Outcomes and Takeaways

Institutionalization of the Annual Conference

Agreement among organizers and partners to hold the Migration Conference annually to ensure continuity and accountability.

Youth Engagement

Recognition of youth as key stakeholders and the need to integrate their perspectives in decision-making processes.

Enhanced Coordination

Commitment to strengthen collaboration between government, academia, civil society, diaspora, and international actors through the NCM.

Policy Recommendations

Practical proposals were made, including the establishment of a national migration observatory, diaspora skills mapping, and public awareness campaigns.

New Partnerships

Memoranda of understanding and informal partnerships were initiated during the event, particularly between Somali universities and diaspora-led organizations.

Advocacy and Communication

Emphasis on reframing migration as a development opportunity, not just a challenge.

Conclusion

The 1st Annual Migration Conference demonstrated Somalia's commitment to leading its migration narrative and building inclusive solutions through collaboration, evidence, and innovation. OSPE and EAIPG reaffirmed their commitment to:

- Host future conferences on a rotating basis with regional partners
- Build a Migration Knowledge Hub to support data and research sharing
- Engage the Somali diaspora in co-designing solutions
- Advocate for policy coherence across institution and sectors

The success of this conference sets a strong foundation for institutional dialogue, policy development, and long-term partnerships aimed at transforming migration into a force for resilience and development.

Prepared by

Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Migration, Returns, and Children's Rights (OSPE) and the East African Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG)

Date: May, 2025

Annexes





Photos capturing key moments, active participation, and main activities from the recent conference, highlighting its overall success and engagement.