

Conference Report

“The Role of Youth, Civil Society, and Media in Good Governance and Peace”

Afrik Hotel, Mogadishu

6 April 2026

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About EAIPG

The East African Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG), founded in 2019, is a non-profit research and policy center dedicated to promoting critical thinking, scholarly publishing, and intellectual dialogue. EAIPG provides a platform for discussions on peacebuilding, governance, and conflict resolution across East Africa and beyond. Through research, conferences, and training initiatives, the institute seeks to contribute to sustainable peace and accountable governance in the region.

Acknowledgments

The East African Institute for Peace and Governance (EAIPG) extends its sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, partners, and participants who contributed to the success of this conference. Special appreciation goes to our academic and institutional partners including Somali Non-State Actors (SONSA), Jubbaland Non-State Actors Association (JUNSA), South West Non-State Actors (SOWENSA), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Hirshabelle State, the Federal Government of Somalia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Somali Academy of Science, Culture and Arts, the Federation of Somali Journalists (FESJ), Mogadishu University, Radio Himilo, Risaala Media Corporation, Muwaadin Platform, TTN Television, Somali Bureau of Standards (SOBS), and many other institutions and individuals who participated in the event. We also recognize the dedication and commitment of the EAIPG team whose efforts made the successful organization of this conference possible.

Executive Summary

The conference focused on the “Role of Youth, Civil Society, and Media in Good Governance and Peace”, emphasizing the importance of these three sectors in Somalia’s ongoing state-building and nation-building processes.

During the years of civil war in Somalia, civil society organizations, traditional elders, religious leaders, and private institutions played a crucial role in filling the vacuum created by the collapse of public institutions. These actors provided essential services such as education, healthcare, and social support to communities.

Youth were among the most affected groups during the conflict. While they represented the majority of the population, many young people were exploited by warring factions and used as fighters. At the same time, they remain a critical force for rebuilding the country and shaping its future.

The media also played a complex and often contradictory role during the conflict period. While it served as an important source of information and public awareness, it also sometimes contributed to misinformation and political polarization.

Experts at the conference emphasized that youth, civil society, and the media can play a pivotal role in strengthening democratic governance and promoting sustainable peace, particularly during this transitional period when uncertainty surrounds the upcoming electoral process.

Previous Events

- **1st Annual Peace Conference (20–21 August 2024, Nairobi):** Attended by approximately 100 participants from five continents, focusing on peace and governance in the Horn of Africa.
- **1st Annual Migration Conference (20 April 2025, Nairobi):** Co-hosted with the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Migration, Returns, and Children’s Rights (OSPE), attended by 50 participants, focusing on migration challenges and opportunities.
- **2nd Annual Peace Conference (27–28 August 2025, Nairobi):** Held at Amara Gardens Hall and brought together more than 40 experts, academics, policymakers, and practitioners from Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, the UK, and other regions.
- **EAIPG** has also conducted numerous capacity-building workshops, symposiums, and training programs.

Conference Panels

- The Role of Youth in Participating in Good Governance and Peace: Neglected or Undermined?

- Civil Society as a Driver of Peace and Accountable Governance
- Media in Somalia: Assessing Its Role in Peacebuilding and State Formation

Recommendations

- Strengthening collaboration among youth organizations, civil society groups, and media institutions to promote nation-building, state-building, and democratic governance.
- Promoting accountability and transparency in government institutions. Civil society organizations and the media should play a watchdog role by monitoring public institutions and exposing corruption and misuse of power.
- Expanding political space for youth participation. Somalia's population is estimated to be over 70% under the age of 35, yet young people remain underrepresented in political decision-making processes.

Conclusion

The conference highlighted the critical role that youth, civil society, and the media can play in advancing good governance and sustainable peace in Somalia. Participants emphasized that inclusive political participation, responsible media engagement, and active civil society involvement are essential for strengthening democratic institutions and promoting national stability.

As Somalia continues its state-building process, empowering these sectors will be vital for building a more peaceful, accountable, and inclusive future.

Pictures of the Conference



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Kaalinta Dhallinyaradda, Bulshada Rayidka iyo Saxaafadda ee Dowlad-Wanaagga iyo Nabadda.

The Role of Youth, Civil Society and Media
in Good Governance and Peace

Monday 6th April 2026

📍 Venue: Afrik Hotel **➤ Time: 3-6PM**



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Mr. Osman Muhiadin Moallim (Shatah),
Chairperson of Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA)

Keynote Speaker



Panel One:
The Role of Somali Youth in participating Good Governance and Peace. Neglected or Undermined?



Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamud
Researcher and Recent Graduate



Abdiaziz Hussein
Researcher and Recent Graduate



Ifrah Hussein Mohamud
Director of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Hirshabelle State



SAHRA AHMED
MODERATOR



Najma Omar
SECRETARY GENERAL SEN SOMALI YOUTH



Abdirizak Ali Elmi
Senior PVE and stabilization advisor at Ministry of youth and sports (MOYS)



Ayan Mohamed Abdullahi
Director of Youth Development, Ministry of youth and sports



Abdifitah Ali Farah
Chairman, Jubbaland Non-State Actors Association (JUNSA)



Ismail Yusuf Osman
Chairman, Somali Academy of Science, Culture and Arts



Mohamed Abdikadir Daud (Stanza)
Somali Poet, Novelist and Anthropologist



Ahmed Mohamoud
Researcher and Lecturer at the political science of City University



Mohamed Yusuf Adan
Lecturer and Policy Researcher

Panel Two:
Civil Society as a Driver of Peace and Accountable Governance



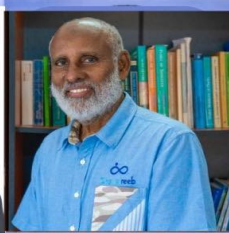
Farah Bashir
Researcher and the Founder of Muwaadin Platform
Moderator



Aweys Hassan Mohamed
Media and communication Expert



Farah Omar Nur
Secretary General, Federation of Somalia Journalists FESQJ



Abdi Mohamed Ahmed Baafu
Chairman of Dhaxalreeb



Dr. Mowliid sh Mohamed
Chairman of TTN Television



Mohamed Abduwahab
Secretary General Somali Media Association

Panel Three:

Media in Somalia: Assessing Its Role in Peacebuilding and State Formation



Dr. Ridwan Hassan Abdi
MODERATOR



Welcoming Remarks

“The Role of Youth, Civil Society, and Media in Good Governance and Peace”

Good afternoon distinguished guests, respected panelists, and participants,

It is my great honor to welcome you to this important program organized by the **East African Institute for Peace & Governance**. Today, we gather to reflect on the **role of youth, civil society, and media in promoting good governance and peace**.

These three pillars are essential in **shaping accountable leadership**, strengthening democratic values, and **fostering lasting peace in our society**. This platform offers us an **opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences and identify practical solutions**. I encourage all participants to actively engage, contribute insights, and build meaningful connections that will drive **positive change** in our communities.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive session.

Anwar Abdifatah Bashir
Executive Director



