



Somaliland Non State Actors Forum (SONSAF)

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PRESS RELEASE

Somaliland Non State Actors Forum fully Supports the Somaliland government on the dialogue between Somaliland and Somalia , which is considered as the appropriate path through which Somaliland can achieve its cherished rights and international recognition as a sovereign state.

24 June, 2012

Hargeisa – The Somaliland Non State Actors Forum (SONSAF) has today fully supported the Somaliland government on the progress of the dialogue process between Somalia and Somaliland, which is expected to move into the second phase soon, entailing a face-to-face meeting between the Presidents. SONSAF reported and confirmed its contribution of ideas and advice to the dialogue process since the conclusion of the London Conference of February, 2012.

In a press conference held in the Forum's office today, SONSAF affirmed that they welcome the dialogue between Somaliland and Somalia and believe that this dialogue is in the interest of Somaliland and the aspirations of its people. SONSAF stressed that fact that there is no evidence of harmful consequences for Somaliland in the progression of the dialogue process up-to now.

SONSAF urges the Somaliland Government to broaden consultations in the preparation for the upcoming phases of the dialogue process and to conduct in depth analyses of the possible pitfall and risks that can harm Somaliland's sovereignty, as well as, the dialogue process.

SONSAF welcomed the negotiations between Somaliland and Somalia over their future relationship and reiterated the Forums contribution to the Somaliland government's preparation for the London Conference in February, 2012. Similarly, SONSAF gave full support to the outcome of the Conference, particularly, article 6 (*The Conference recognized the need for the international community to support any dialogue that Somaliland and the TFG or its replacement may agree to establish in order to clarify their future relations.*)



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SONSAF would like to clarify and reassure the people of Somaliland that point 8 of the **Chevening Declaration** (*Reiterated their support for ending the Transition in Somalia*) from the preparatory meeting does not carry any risk for Somaliland but instead essential for authenticity of Somaliland's anticipated final outcome of the negotiations, since a more legitimate and non-transitional government in Somalia is a more valid and legally bound partner in the negotiations.

SONSAF urges the Somaliland public to cautiously follow the dialogue process and contribute their suggestions and ideas to the government in order to help achieve nationally desirable outcomes from the these negotiations and refrain from spoiling the dialogue process so that we can find out how far it can advance.

This press conference, which was held at the SONSAF office in Hargeisa, was attended by the different sections of the Somaliland non state actors that include civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders, youth, professional organizations, media, elders and the business community.

Endorsed by all members of SONSAF

Adam Haji Ali Ahmed

SONSAF Chairperson