



RESTORE SOMALIA FOUNDATION

**2nd Annual
Peace and Sustainability
Forum 2023:
Youth Leadership Report**

Held on October 12th, 13th & 14th, 2023

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Objectives of the Forum.....	3
Guest Speakers.....	5
Event Participants.....	12
Deliverables.....	12
Panels, Presentations, and Deliberations.....	13
Panel: Security and Governance	
Key Speakers: Rachid Abdullahi Mohamed, Amb Mohamed Sheikh, Prof Omar Dalxa.....	13
Panel: Health and Well-being	
Key Speakers: Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed Abdi, Shukri Nuradin.....	13
Panel: Youth and Identity	
Key Speakers: Nimcan Aidid, Prof Mohamed Haji Mukhtar.....	14
Panel: Youth and Peacebuilding	
Key Speakers: Abdimalik Sheik, Hussein Haji, Dr. Ismail Osman Muhudin.....	14
3-Day Forum Discussion Summaries.....	15
Day 1: Barbaar (Youth).....	15
Day 2: Politics, Development, and Education for All (with a Focus on Girls).....	15
Day 3: Celebrating Youth Initiatives.....	16
Key Takeaways.....	17
Questions to Consider.....	19
A Special Thank You.....	20
Annex 1: Forum Schedule.....	21
Annex 2: Participants List.....	26
Annex 3: Youth Leadership Forum Photos.....	27

Introduction

The Restore Somalia Foundation (RSF) hosted the 2nd Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum - Youth Leadership on October 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2023, in Cairo, Egypt. This forum focused on youth leadership and empowerment, bringing together participants from various countries, including the USA, Canada, UK, Turkey, Somalia, Australia, and Kenya.

The Youth Leadership Forum 2023 is a flagship initiative of RSF, strategically aligning with the goal of improving social outcomes and indirectly contributing to economic outcomes. This transformative event aims to empower individuals aged 18 to 30, addressing key social challenges and catalyzing community-driven discussions, educational workshops, and guest speaker lectures on critical topics such as poverty eradication, food security, education, work, inequalities, climate change, and leadership for peacebuilding.

During the three-day event, the forum sessions provided an inclusive approach, ensuring that underrepresented groups such as women, and youth had a platform for meaningful participation, education, and empowerment. These efforts aim to create a supportive environment that addresses the unique challenges faced by these groups, promoting their integration, education, and well-being within the broader community.

Objectives of the Forum

1. **Empower Youth Leadership:** To provide a platform for young individuals to discuss, learn, and share ideas on critical social issues and leadership for peacebuilding.
2. **Foster Community Engagement:** To bring together diverse voices and ensure underrepresented groups have a platform for meaningful participation, education, and empowerment.
3. **Promote Sustainable Development:** To align the forum's discussions with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the 2030 agenda in the context of Somalia, fostering understanding and collaboration.
4. **Strengthen Diaspora Collaboration:** To encourage the diaspora community's involvement in Somalia's development and bridge the gap between the diaspora and local Somali youth.
5. **Showcase Best Practices:** To present successful models and strategies from other regions and countries that can be adapted to Somalia's context, particularly in empowering youth and fostering sustainable development.

6. **Create Positive Change:** To foster sustainable development in Somalia through activities that bring together the diaspora community and the local community.
7. **Provide In-Depth Understanding:** To offer participants a comprehensive understanding of Somalia's current situation and the SDGs from the 2030 agenda.

The forum was designed to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of Somalia's current situation and the SDGs from the 2030 agenda in the context of Somalia. It also served as a forum to bring knowledgeable Somali youth from around the world together to interact and build bridges. The sessions provided the framework for wider discussions on how the diaspora community can contribute to the development of Somalia and what can be done to bridge the gap between diaspora and local Somali youth. The three days were filled with lively discussions and presentations, not only during the interactive sessions but also around meal times.



Guest Speakers

Dr. Ismail Osman Muhudin

Presentation Topic: Youth and Politics

Role: Speaker

Dr. Ismail Osman Muhudin provided a historical perspective on the role of youth in Somalia's independence and their current political involvement. He began by discussing the significant contributions of youth during Somalia's struggle for independence, highlighting their courage, determination, and leadership. Dr. Ismail then transitioned to the present, discussing how today's political decisions impact young people's lives and the importance of their participation in politics.

Dr. Ismail encouraged youth to actively seek involvement in decision-making processes, emphasizing that their voices are crucial for shaping policies that reflect their needs and aspirations. He shared practical advice on how young people can advocate for their inclusion in political spaces, stating, "If you are not invited to the decision-making table, ask to be invited and keep on asking until it is given to you." Dr. Ismail's presentation underscored the importance of political engagement for youth to influence policies and shape their future, inspiring many to take a more active role in governance.

Isaak Mohamud Mursal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Somalia

Presentation Topic: Youth in Today's World

Role: Speaker

Deputy Minister Isaak Mohamud Mursal delivered a powerful speech complementing the forum and Restore Somalia Foundation's efforts in connecting the Somali diaspora to their country of origin. He began by highlighting the demographic reality that more than 75% of Somalia's population is youth, making them the nation's most valuable resource. Deputy Minister Isaak Mohamud Mursal stressed the importance of investing in youth both within Somalia and in the diaspora, arguing that such investments are crucial for the country's socio-economic development.

The Deputy Minister praised the work of the RSF in fostering connections between the Somali diaspora and their homeland. He emphasized that the youth are not only the future but also the present, playing a vital role in shaping the current

socio-political landscape. Deputy Minister Isaak M. Mursal's speech was a call to action for immediate and strategic investments in youth to harness their potential and drive Somalia's development forward. His message resonated with the audience, highlighting the urgency of empowering youth to ensure a prosperous and stable future for Somalia.

Prof. Mohamed Haji Mukhtar

Presentation Topic: Barbaar (Youth)

Role: Speaker

Prof Mohamed Haji Mukhtar delved into the historical and contemporary roles of youth in Somali society. He began by providing a historical overview of the concept of youth (Barbaar) in Somali culture, discussing how young people were traditionally viewed and their roles in society. Prof Mohamed contrasted these historical perspectives with the current situation, highlighting the changes and challenges that youth face today.

Prof Mohamed emphasized the critical contributions of youth to Somalia's independence and their continued importance in the nation's development. He discussed the need for ongoing support and empowerment to ensure that youth can actively participate in nation-building. Prof Mohamed's presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the evolution of youth roles, highlighting the importance of understanding historical contexts while addressing contemporary challenges. His insights underscored the need for policies and programs that support youth as key agents of change in Somali society.

Shukri Nuradin

Presentation Topic: How to Overcome Unemployment

Role: Speaker

Shukri Nuradin shared her personal journey of overcoming unemployment after graduating with a bachelor's in business administration from a university in Somalia. She began by discussing the challenges of finding employment in a competitive and limited job market, highlighting the widespread issue of youth unemployment in Somalia. Shukri spoke candidly about her struggles with depression and financial difficulties during her job search, providing a relatable and inspiring account of resilience.

Shukri also discussed the pivotal role her parents played in encouraging her to pursue entrepreneurship. She shared how their support and belief in her potential motivated her to start her own small marketing company online. Shukri's story underscored the importance of entrepreneurial skills and the need for support systems to help young people navigate employment challenges. Her presentation served as an inspiration to many, demonstrating that with determination and support, youth can overcome obstacles and achieve success in their professional lives.

Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed Abdi

Presentation Topic: Health

Role: Speaker

Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed Abdi focused his presentation on the health challenges facing Somali youth and the broader community. He began by outlining the current state of healthcare in Somalia, highlighting the disparities in access to medical services and the prevalence of health issues such as malnutrition, infectious diseases, and mental health disorders. Dr. Farah emphasized the need for a comprehensive healthcare strategy that prioritizes preventive care, public health education, and the development of healthcare infrastructure.

Dr. Farah also stressed the importance of youth engagement in health advocacy. He pointed out that young people can play a pivotal role in promoting healthy lifestyles and raising awareness about health issues within their communities. By empowering youth to become health advocates, communities can benefit from a more proactive approach to healthcare. Dr. Farah's presentation highlighted the interconnectedness of health and overall societal development, emphasizing that a healthy youth population is fundamental to achieving sustainable development goals.

Rachid Abdullahi Mohamed

Presentation Topic: Youth Civic Rights and Role in Security

Role: Speaker, Panel: Security and Governance

Rachid Abdullahi Mohamed's presentation centered on the critical importance of youth in the realm of civic rights and security. He began by elucidating the concept of civic rights, emphasizing that these rights are fundamental to ensuring that young people can fully participate in society. Rachid stressed that understanding and exercising these rights is crucial for young individuals to contribute to their communities effectively. He highlighted the various ways in which youth can engage

in civic activities, from voting and community service to participating in local governance and advocacy.

Rachid also discussed the significant role that youth play in maintaining and enhancing security within their communities. He pointed out that when youth are informed and engaged, they can act as watchdogs against injustice and corruption. Furthermore, Rachid emphasized that involving young people in security discussions and decision-making processes is essential for creating policies that reflect the needs and realities of the younger generation. By empowering youth with knowledge and opportunities to participate, societies can harness their potential to drive positive change and ensure a more secure and just environment.

Amb Mohamed Sheikh

Presentation Topic: Investing In Tomorrow's Leaders

Role: Speaker, Panel: Security and Governance & Youth

Amb Mohamed Sheikh's presentation highlighted the necessity of investing in the next generation of leaders to secure a prosperous future. He began by discussing the various challenges that youth face today, including limited access to quality education, economic opportunities, and political representation. Amb Mohamed underscored that addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort to invest in youth development programs that focus on education, mentorship, and leadership training.

Amb Mohamed shared successful models from other countries where strategic investments in youth have led to significant social and economic advancements. He argued that similar approaches could be adapted to the Somali context to empower young leaders. By providing resources and opportunities for youth to develop their skills and talents, Somalia can build a cadre of capable leaders who are prepared to tackle the nation's challenges. Amb Mohamed called for both government and private sector support to create an enabling environment where young leaders can thrive and make meaningful contributions to society.

Prof. Omar Dalxa

Presentation Topic: Bridging the Gap between Youth and Elders

Role: Speaker, Panel: Security and Governance

Prof Omar Dalxa explored the generational divide between youth and elders, emphasizing the need for mutual understanding and collaboration. He began by

discussing traditional Somali values and the respect historically accorded to elders. Prof Omar noted that while these values remain important, there is a growing need to incorporate the perspectives and aspirations of the younger generation. He highlighted the potential for intergenerational initiatives to foster dialogue and cooperation, ensuring that both youth and elders can contribute to community development.

Prof Omar shared examples of successful projects that have bridged the generational gap, such as mentorship programs and community forums that bring together youth and elders. He emphasized that such initiatives not only enhance mutual understanding but also leverage the strengths of both groups. Elders bring wisdom and experience, while youth bring innovation and energy. By working together, communities can create a more cohesive and resilient society. Prof Omar's presentation underscored the importance of intergenerational solidarity in building a unified and forward-looking community.

Nimcan Aidid

Presentation Topic: Concept of Somaalinimo

Role: Speaker

Nimcan Aidid discussed the concept of Somaalinimo, or Somali identity, and its significance in fostering unity and national pride. He began by sharing personal stories and experiences from Somaliland, illustrating how identity plays a crucial role in community cohesion and individual empowerment. Nimcan emphasized that understanding and embracing one's cultural heritage is essential for fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. Nimcan pointed out that in a diverse nation like Somalia, promoting a shared identity can help overcome regional and ethnic divisions.

Nimcan's presentation also highlighted the importance of inclusivity in building a strong national identity. He argued that Somaalinimo should not only reflect traditional values but also adapt to the modern realities and aspirations of all Somalis, including women, youth, and marginalized groups. By fostering an inclusive national identity, Somalia can create a sense of unity and solidarity that transcends individual differences. Nimcan's insights resonated deeply with participants, emphasizing the power of a shared identity in overcoming divisions and building a stronger, united Somalia.

Abdimalik Sheikh

Presentation Topic: Youth Drivers of Change

Role: Speaker

Abdimalik Sheikh's presentation, spoke about the crucial role of youth as drivers of change in Somalia's development, politics, and economy. He began by emphasizing the need for youth to be more engaged and involved in these areas, warning of the risks if they remain marginalized. Abdimalik pointed out that the energy and innovation of youth are vital for progress and that failing to engage them could lead to disenfranchisement and vulnerability to extremist influences.

Abdimalik Sheikh shared examples of how youth can drive positive change, from grassroots community projects to participation in national politics. He highlighted the importance of creating platforms and opportunities for youth to voice their opinions and contribute to decision-making processes. His call to action was clear: youth must be welcomed at decision-making tables to drive meaningful and sustainable change. His presentation underscored the potential of youth to transform their communities and the nation, provided they are given the support and opportunities to do so.

Eng. Hussein Haji

Presentation Topic: Youth in Peacebuilding

Role: Speaker

Eng. Hussein Haji, hailing from Australia spoke about the pivotal role of youth in peacebuilding efforts. He began by discussing the unique perspectives and energy that young people bring to peace processes and conflict resolution. Eng. Hussein highlighted successful youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, showcasing examples from various regions where youth have made significant contributions to restoring and maintaining peace.

Eng. Hussein Haji emphasized the need for more structured support and opportunities for youth to engage in peacebuilding efforts. He discussed the barriers that young people often face, such as lack of resources, training, and access to decision-making platforms. Eng. Hussein called for comprehensive strategies to empower youth as peacebuilders, arguing that their involvement is essential for fostering long-lasting peace and stability in Somalia. His presentation underscored the importance of viewing youth as partners in peace rather than passive beneficiaries, highlighting their potential to drive positive change and build resilient communities.



Event Participants

The 2nd Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum - Youth Leadership brought together a diverse group of participants from various sectors. This included senior government officials, experts from academic institutions, representatives from research organizations, private sector leaders, civil society members, development partners, NGOs, representatives from UN agencies, and the media. The broad range of participants ensured a comprehensive dialogue that encompassed multiple perspectives and expertise, fostering a rich and inclusive discussion environment.

The event provided a platform for meaningful interactions and networking among participants, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices. The presence of such a diverse group of stakeholders also underscored the collective commitment to addressing the challenges faced by Somali youth and exploring collaborative solutions. The forum's inclusive approach ensured that the voices of all participants were heard, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement in the discussions and outcomes.

Deliverables

The deliverables of the 2nd Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum - Youth Leadership included a concluding statement summarizing the panel discussions, a communiqué document outlining the key outcomes of the forum, and a comprehensive forum report. These deliverables captured the insights, recommendations, and action points derived from the event, providing a roadmap for future initiatives and collaborations.

The concluding statement reflected the consensus reached during the panel discussions and highlighted the key themes and priorities identified by the participants. The communiqué document served as a formal record of the forum's main conclusions and proposed actions, offering a clear framework for follow-up activities. The comprehensive forum report provided a detailed account of the presentations, discussions, and outcomes, ensuring that the valuable contributions of all participants are recognized and can be built upon in future endeavours.

Additionally, the forum produced multimedia materials, including video recordings, interviews with key speakers, and participant testimonials. These resources enriched the documentation and helped share the forum's messages with a broader audience. The combination of written and multimedia deliverables ensured effective dissemination and utilization of the forum's insights and recommendations.

Panels, Presentations, and Deliberations

Panel: Security and Governance

Key Speakers: Rachid Abdullahi Mohamed, Amb Mohamed Sheikh, Prof Omar Dalxa

The Security and Governance panel focused on the role of youth in civic rights and security. Rachid Abdullahi Mohamed emphasized the necessity for young people to understand and exercise their civic rights to effectively contribute to their communities. Amb Mohamed Sheikh highlighted the need to invest in future leaders through education and mentorship, providing strategies for effective youth leadership development. Prof Omar Dalxa discussed bridging the gap between youth and elders, stressing the importance of intergenerational dialogue and cooperation.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Empowerment through Civic Education:** Emphasizing the need for comprehensive civic education programs to empower youth.
- ❖ **Investment in Youth Leadership:** Advocating for strategic investments in youth leadership development.
- ❖ **Intergenerational Cooperation:** Encouraging dialogue and cooperation between youth and elders to strengthen community bonds.

Panel: Health and Well-being

Key Speakers: Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed, Shukri Nuradin

The Health and Well-being panel addressed the health challenges facing Somali youth and strategies to overcome unemployment. Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed discussed the disparities in healthcare access and the importance of preventive care and public health education. He highlighted the role of youth in health advocacy and the need for improved healthcare infrastructure. Shukri Nuradin shared her personal journey of overcoming unemployment, emphasizing the importance of self care, and mental health.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Improved Healthcare Access:** Emphasizing the need for better healthcare services and infrastructure.
- ❖ **Youth Health Advocacy:** Encouraging youth to advocate for health policies and engage in community health initiatives.
- ❖ **Entrepreneurial Support:** Highlighting the importance of entrepreneurial skills and support systems for youth employment.

Panel: Youth and Identity

Key Speakers: Nimcan Aidid, Prof Mohamed Haji Mukhtar

The Youth and Identity panel explored the concept of Somaalinimo (Somali identity) and its significance in fostering unity and national pride. Nimcan Aidid discussed the importance of understanding and embracing one's cultural heritage to foster a sense of belonging and purpose. Prof Mohamed Haji Mukhtar delved into the historical and contemporary roles of youth in Somali society, highlighting the need for ongoing support and empowerment to ensure their active participation in nation-building.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Cultural Heritage:** Emphasizing the importance of understanding and embracing cultural heritage to foster unity.
- ❖ **Youth Empowerment:** Highlighting the need for ongoing support and empowerment of youth in nation-building.
- ❖ **National Pride:** Promoting a shared identity to overcome regional and ethnic divisions.

Panel: Youth and Peacebuilding

Key Speakers: Abdimalik Sheik, Rashid Abdullahi Mohamed, Dr. Ismail Osman Muhudin

The Youth and Peacebuilding panel focused on the critical role of youth in peacebuilding efforts. Abdimalik Sheik discussed the unique perspectives and energy that young people bring to peace processes and conflict resolution. Rashid Abdullahi Mohamed emphasized the need for youth engagement in Somalia's development, politics, and economy, warning of the risks if they remain marginalized. Dr. Ismail Osman Muhudin provided a historical perspective on the role of youth in Somalia's independence and their current political involvement.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Youth as Peacebuilders:** Emphasizing the importance of empowering youth as peacebuilders to foster long-lasting peace.
- ❖ **Engagement in Development:** Highlighting the need for youth engagement in development, politics, and economy.
- ❖ **Political Participation:** Encouraging youth to actively seek involvement in decision-making processes.

3-Day Forum Discussion Summaries

Day 1: Barbaar (Youth)

Day 1 of the 2nd Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum - Youth Leadership focused on the concept of Barbaar, exploring the evolution of youth roles in Somali society. The discussions delved into the traditional perceptions of youth and how these have transformed over time. Historically, Somali youth were often marginalized, not allowed to speak up, or participate in decision-making processes. This session highlighted the significant shift in societal expectations and the increasing recognition of youth as vital contributors to community development.

The forum also examined the challenges faced by diaspora youth compared to those in Somalia, such as language barriers and cultural differences. It emphasized the importance of platforms like this forum to bridge these gaps. The day concluded with elders giving motivational speeches, recounting impactful past youth activities to inspire the current generation to take active roles in their communities.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Evolution of Youth Roles:** Recognition of the historical marginalization of youth and the need for continued advocacy for their involvement in decision-making.
- ❖ **Diaspora Engagement:** Identification of language and cultural barriers as key challenges and the importance of forums to bridge these gaps.
- ❖ **Inspirational Legacy:** Emphasizing the importance of learning from past youth activities to inspire current and future generations.

Day 2: Politics, Development, and Education for All (with a Focus on Girls)

Day 2 was dedicated to exploring the intersections of politics, development, and education, with a particular focus on gender inclusivity. The sessions underscored the critical role of education in empowering youth, especially girls, and how political engagement can drive sustainable development. Participants discussed the barriers to education that girls face and the importance of creating inclusive educational opportunities to ensure no one is left behind.

The discussions also highlighted the role of youth in political processes and development initiatives. The speakers emphasized that young people need to be actively involved in politics to influence policies that affect their lives.

The day concluded with a call to action for governments and communities to invest in youth education and create environments that encourage political participation and leadership among young people.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Education for Girls:** Highlighting the importance of inclusive educational opportunities and addressing barriers faced by girls.
- ❖ **Youth Political Engagement:** Emphasizing the need for youth involvement in politics to drive meaningful policy changes.
- ❖ **Development Initiatives:** Recognizing the role of youth in development and the importance of investing in their education and leadership skills.

Day 3: Celebrating Youth Initiatives

Day 3 was dedicated to celebrating the innovative and forward-thinking initiatives led by youth. Five young individuals, including two from Somalia, one from Australia, one from Turkey, and one from Cairo, presented their projects and ideas. These presentations showcased the diverse ways in which youth are contributing to peacebuilding, education, and economic development.

Two presentations focused on youth in peacebuilding, highlighting successful strategies and initiatives that young people have implemented to foster peace in their communities. Another presentation detailed a literacy educational program that has been running for five years in Baidoa, demonstrating the long-term impact of sustained educational efforts. One speaker discussed the concept of a unified Somalia, including Somaliland, emphasizing the importance of national unity. The final presentation was about a self-initiated online business and strategies to overcome unemployment, providing a practical example of youth entrepreneurship.

Key Outcomes:

- ❖ **Youth in Peacebuilding:** Showcasing successful youth-led peace initiatives and their impact on community stability.
- ❖ **Educational Programs:** Highlighting the success of a long-running literacy program in Baidoa and its benefits for local communities.
- ❖ **National Unity:** Emphasizing the importance of a unified national identity, including the integration of Somaliland.
- ❖ **Youth Entrepreneurship:** Demonstrating the potential of youth entrepreneurship in addressing unemployment and fostering economic independence.

Key Takeaways

- ❖ **Empowerment through Civic Education:** Comprehensive civic education programs are essential for empowering youth to engage actively in their communities. These programs should include workshops, seminars, and educational materials that teach young people about their rights, responsibilities, and the importance of participation in civic activities. By understanding their role in society, youth can become more proactive in contributing to governance and community development.
- ❖ **Investment in Youth Leadership:** There is a critical need for strategic investments in youth leadership development. This includes creating mentorship programs, providing leadership training, and offering scholarships for higher education. By investing in the next generation of leaders, we ensure that they have the skills and confidence to drive positive change within their communities and beyond.
- ❖ **Improved Healthcare Access:** Enhancing healthcare services and infrastructure is crucial, particularly in underserved areas. This includes building more clinics, providing mobile health services, and training healthcare professionals to address the specific needs of youth. Access to quality healthcare is fundamental to the overall well-being and development of young people.
- ❖ **Youth Health Advocacy:** Youth should be encouraged to advocate for health policies and engage in community health initiatives. This can be achieved through youth health councils, peer education programs, and partnerships with health organizations. Empowering youth to take charge of their health promotes a culture of wellness and prevention.
- ❖ **Entrepreneurial Support:** Providing entrepreneurial skills and support systems is vital for addressing youth unemployment and fostering economic independence. This includes offering business training programs, providing access to micro-financing, and creating startup incubators. By supporting youth entrepreneurship, we can stimulate economic growth and innovation.
- ❖ **Cultural Heritage and National Pride:** Understanding and embracing cultural heritage is crucial for fostering unity and a sense of belonging. Initiatives that promote cultural education, traditional arts, and community celebrations can help youth connect with their roots and develop a strong national identity. A shared cultural heritage can bridge divides and promote national unity.

- ❖ **Youth as Peacebuilders:** Empowering youth as peacebuilders is essential for fostering long-lasting peace and stability. This involves training young people in conflict resolution, negotiation skills, and community mediation. By involving youth in peacebuilding processes, we can harness their energy and innovative ideas to create more resilient communities.
- ❖ **Youth Engagement in Development:** Engaging youth in development, politics, and the economy is crucial for sustainable progress. This includes creating platforms for youth participation in policy-making, encouraging youth-led initiatives, and ensuring that young people are represented in decision-making bodies. Youth engagement ensures that development strategies are inclusive and reflective of the needs of the younger generation.
- ❖ **Political Participation:** Encouraging youth to actively seek involvement in decision-making processes ensures their perspectives are included in policy-making. This can be achieved through youth councils, leadership programs, and advocacy training. Political participation empowers youth to influence policies that affect their lives and communities.



Questions to Consider

As we move forward from the 2nd Annual Peace and Sustainability Forum - Youth Leadership, it is crucial to reflect on the discussions and insights gained over the three days. To ensure the effective implementation of the forum's recommendations, we must address several key questions. These questions are designed to guide our efforts in empowering youth, fostering sustainable development, and promoting peace and unity in Somalia.

1. How can we create more inclusive and effective civic education programs to empower youth?
2. What specific strategies can be implemented to invest in youth leadership development?
3. How can we facilitate better cooperation and dialogue between youth and elders in our communities?
4. What are the most critical healthcare needs of Somali youth, and how can we address them?
5. How can we support youth entrepreneurship and ensure they have the necessary resources to succeed?
6. In what ways can we promote and preserve Somali cultural heritage to strengthen national identity?
7. What are the best practices for engaging youth in peacebuilding efforts, and how can these be adapted to the Somali context?
8. How can we ensure that youth have a voice in political decision-making processes?

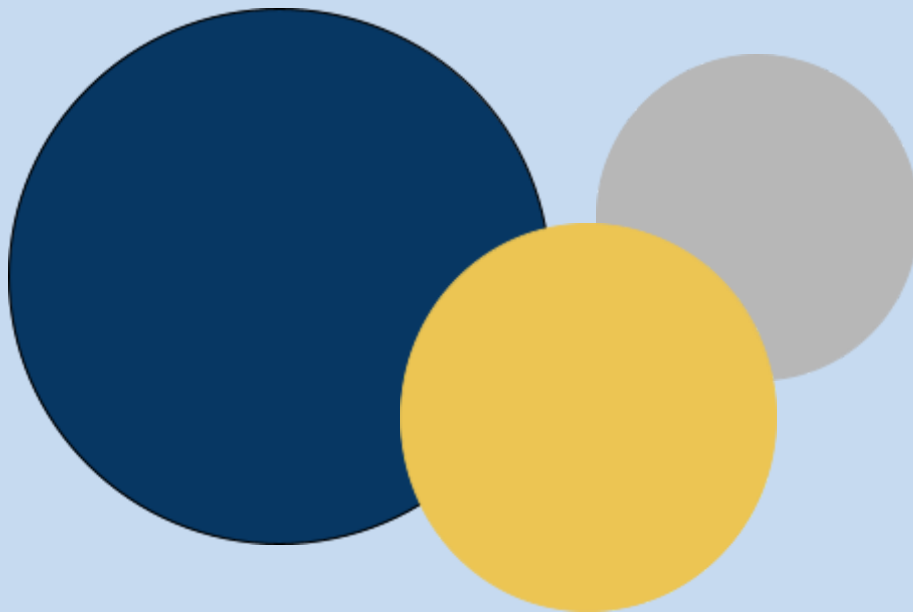
By considering these questions, we can develop targeted strategies that address the unique challenges faced by Somali youth. This reflective process will help us refine our approaches, ensuring that our initiatives are inclusive, effective, and sustainable. Engaging with these questions will also enable us to build on the momentum generated by the forum and drive meaningful progress in our communities.

A Special Thank You...

Restore Somalia Foundation is particularly grateful for the support received for the three-day forum. We thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia for their collaboration, participation, and addressing the Somali youth. We also extend our gratitude to our generous donors for their contributions and for supporting RSF's mission. A special thank you goes to our guest speakers for their commitment and time, and to our relentless youth volunteers from around the world for their hard work. RSF would also like to express its thanks to its board advisors for their continuous support and encouragement. Lastly, we thank wholeheartedly the Somali community in Cairo, Egypt, for their warm welcome and participation.

We also appreciate the efforts of the organizing committee, whose meticulous planning and execution ensured the success of the event. Their dedication to creating a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among youth, experts, and community leaders was instrumental in achieving the forum's objectives. The tireless work of our logistics team, who managed all the behind-the-scenes details, allowed the event to run smoothly and efficiently.

Additionally, we acknowledge the media partners who helped amplify our message and extend the reach of the forum's discussions. Their coverage ensured that the insights and recommendations from the event reached a broader audience, fostering greater awareness and engagement with the issues addressed. The collective efforts of all involved have laid a strong foundation for future initiatives aimed at empowering Somali youth and promoting sustainable development in Somalia.



Annex 1: Forum Schedule

Youth Leadership Forum

Cairo, Egypt

October 12 – 14, 2023

DAY ONE: October 12, 2023	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration
Opening Session: Youth Leadership Forum Process	
9:00 – 10:45 am	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hani Mohamed - Executive Director of International Relations <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anisa Adan <p>Keynote address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor Mohamed Haji Mukhtar
10:45 – 11:00 am Coffee Break	
Session 1: Barbaar (Youth) - Understanding Youth Roles	
11:00 - 12:30 pm	<p>Session 1 will explore the traditional and contemporary roles of youth in Somali society. It will highlight the historical marginalization of youth, their evolving societal roles, and the increasing recognition of their contributions to community development. This session aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how youth can actively participate in and shape their communities.</p> <p>Presenter: Professor Mohamed Haji Mukhtar</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mohamed Sheikh Isak - Ambassador of Somalia to South Africa ● Rashid Abdullahi Mohamed - Former Minister of Defence of Somalia ● Prof. Mohamed Omar Dalha - Former Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Somalia ● Dr. Isamil O. Muhudin

	Open discussion
12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch Break and Prayer	
Session 2: Bridging the Gap Between Diaspora and Local Youth	
1:30 - 3:00 pm	<p>Session 2 will examine the challenges faced by Somali youth in the diaspora compared to those in Somalia, including language barriers and cultural differences. It will focus on strategies and initiatives to bridge these gaps, fostering better understanding and collaboration between local youth and those in the diaspora. This session aims to create a unified approach to youth empowerment and community development.</p> <p>Presenter: Deputy Minister Isaak Mohamud Mursal</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shukri Nuradin Madow ● Dr. Isamil O. Muhudin ● Professor Mohamed Haji Mukhtar ● Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed Abdi <p>Open discussion</p>
DAY TWO: October 13, 2023	
Opening Session: Youth Leadership Forum Process	
9:00 - 9:30 am	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abdimalik Sheikh <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anisa Adan
Session 3: Politics and Development	
9:30 - 10:45 am	<p>Session 3 will discuss the critical intersection of politics and development, emphasizing the role of youth in political engagement and sustainable development initiatives. It will explore how young people can influence policy-making, drive socio-economic progress, and address development challenges. This session aims to inspire and equip youth to take active roles in shaping the future of Somalia through political and developmental avenues.</p>

	<p>Presenter: Rashid Abdullahi Mohamed - Former Minister of Defence of Somalia</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mohamed Mustaf Haji - Secretary General Somali National Commission of Education ● Prof. Mohamed Omar Dalha - Former Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Somalia ● Nimcan Aidid - Youth Ambassador at Sonyo Umbrella <p>Open discussion</p>
<p>10:45 – 11:00 am Coffee Break</p>	
<p>Session 4: Education for All (Focus on Girls)</p>	
<p>11:00 – 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Session 4 will address the importance of inclusive education, with a particular focus on the barriers faced by girls. It will highlight strategies for ensuring equal educational opportunities for all youth, emphasizing the role of education in empowering young women. This session aims to promote gender equality in education and inspire initiatives that support the educational advancement of girls in Somalia.</p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Isamil O. Muhudin</p> <p>Q & A Session</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
<p>12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch Break and Prayer</p>	
<p>Session 5: Youth in Economic Development</p>	
<p>1:30 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Session 5 will explore the role of youth in economic development, focusing on how young people can drive economic growth and innovation. It will discuss the importance of providing entrepreneurial support, skills training, and access to financial resources. This session aims to empower youth to become active contributors to Somalia's economy and to highlight successful youth-led economic initiatives.</p> <p>Presenter: Mohamed Sheikh Isak - Ambassador of Somalia to South Africa</p>

	<p>Q & A Sessions</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
<p>DAY THREE: October 14, 2023</p>	
<p>Opening Session: Youth Leadership Forum Process</p>	
9:00 - 9:30am	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abdimalik Sheikh <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anisa Adan
<p>Session 6: Presentations by Youth Innovators</p>	
9:30 - 11:00am	<p>Session 6 will showcase innovative projects and ideas presented by young individuals from Somalia and the diaspora. These presentations will cover topics such as peacebuilding, literacy programs, national unity, and entrepreneurship. This session aims to celebrate the creativity and leadership of Somali youth, providing a platform for them to share their successes and inspire others.</p> <p>Presenter: Shukri Nuradin Madow</p> <p>Q & A Session</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:15 am Coffee Break</p>	
<p>Session 7: Growth Mindset for Socio-Economic Transformation</p>	
11:15 - 12:30pm	<p>Session 7 will focus on the importance of cultivating a growth mindset to drive socio-economic transformation in Somalia. It will discuss strategies for fostering positive behavioral and social change, highlighting the challenges and opportunities associated with nurturing a growth-oriented culture. This session aims to inspire youth and stakeholders to adopt a proactive and resilient approach to development and innovation.</p> <p>Presenter: Eng. Hussein Haji</p> <p>Q & A Session</p>

12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch Break and Prayer

Closing Session

1:30 - 3:00pm

Concluding statements:

- Prof. Mohamed Omar Dalha - Former Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Somalia

Closing remarks

- Hani Mohamed - Executive Director of International Relations

Acknowledgements and Thank You Notes

3:00 - 4:00pm

Informal Networking and Departure

Annex 2: Participants List

- ❖ Rachid Abdullahi Mohamed, Defence, Security and Political Analyst for Horn of Africa (HoA)
- ❖ Yasin Ali, Political Analyst
- ❖ Amb Mohamed Sheikh, Ambassador of South Africa, Diplomat
- ❖ Dr. Farah Mohamed Ahmed Abdi, M.D Health Specialist
- ❖ Prof Omar Dalxa, Historian
- ❖ Nimcan Aidid, Youth Activist
- ❖ Shukri Nuradin, Entrepreneur
- ❖ Isaak Mohamud Mursal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia
- ❖ Eng. Hussein Haji, Entrepreneur and Activist
- ❖ Prof Mohamed Haji Mukhtar, Historian and Academic
- ❖ Dr. Ismail Osman Muhudin, Constitution and Law Expert
- ❖ Abdimalik Sheik, Political Science Student
- ❖ Shamso Osman, Associate DDR Officer - United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)
- ❖ Mohamed Mustaf Haji - Secretary General Somali National Commission of Education



Annex 3: Youth Leadership Forum Photos



