

Civil Society Voices: Recommendations for the May 2013 London Conference on Somalia

INTRODUCTION

On 7 May 2013 the Federal Government of Somalia and the UK Government will co-host a second international conference in London on Somalia. Focusing on a broad range of themes – political progress, security, judicial reform, sexual and gender-based violence, and financial management and accountability – the conference will provide space for the international community to offer its support and assistance to the Somali government in each of these areas.

There continues to be a perception amongst many Somalis that decisions which directly affect their lives are driven by an international agenda, and involve little local consultation. The resulting lack of ownership contributes to a sense of alienation from decision-making processes, which serves to perpetuate conflicts in Somalia.

This briefing summarises the results of two consultations about the themes of the conference organised in two areas of Somalia by platforms of non-state actors supported by Saferworld: in Garowe by the Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA) and in Mogadishu by the Somalia Southern and Central Non-State Actors platform (SOSCENSA).¹ A range of non-governmental organisations (NGO) representatives, business

leaders, professionals, youth and women groups and religious and traditional elders drawn from across Puntland and southern and central Somalia participated in the consultations. While the consultations should not be considered exhaustive, they provide a credible sample of the range of concerns and recommendations stemming from civil society.

Participants in the consultations made a number of recommendations to the Federal Government of Somalia, the regional Somali authorities, and the international community. These are presented below, under each thematic area.

In all discussions, participants stressed the principles of fairness; open and constructive dialogue between the regions and the Federal Government; equal participation between the centre and the regions, and between men and women; and respect by both the regions and the centre for the Provisional Constitution.

Saferworld believes the consultation reinforced three fundamental issues which should inform the whole of the conference:

1. Supporting civil society and public participation
2. Building trust between groups, including between the centre and the regions
3. Continuing support to the regions, to bottom-up state building, and to peace processes.

As well as summarising consultation discussions and recommendations for each theme of the conference, this briefing provides more detail on the three fundamental issues above.

¹ PUNSAA held its consultation between 5-7 April 2013 in Garowe; SOSCENSA held its consultation between 9-10 April 2013 in Mogadishu. Each platform consultation involved 30 participants, of which at least 30% were women drawn from across Puntland and southern and central Somalia. SOSCENSA and PUNSAA are two of the three non-state actor platforms Saferworld supports across Somalia and Somaliland. The third is the Somaliland Non-State Actor Forum (SONSAF). The platforms are comprised of a broad range of actors whose voices are not often heard in the international policy arena, including local business leaders, the media, traditional elders, professional associations, as well as women's, religious, and youth groups. They have diverse geographic, clan, and sector representation. The platforms aim to analyse and engage with decision-making at international and national level.

POLITICAL PROGRESS: The Federal Agenda

“The Federal Government does not act as the central government of the whole of the country... [and] the regional administrations do not respond or communicate with the central government.”

Participant at the PUNSAA consultation

Across the consultations, participants generally did not feel that there were good relations between the regions and the Federal Government. Participants across the two consultations described the relationship between the two levels of authority as “chaos”, “low”, and in some cases as “non-existent” and expressed concern at the delay in establishing the framework for the implementation of the formal relationship between the regions and the centre. Participants in both Mogadishu and Garowe questioned – and in some cases seriously doubted – the Federal Government’s commitment to implementing the federal system provided for under the Provisional Constitution.

In both consultations some participants were concerned that a failure to discuss future governance structures, including federalism, could cause, exacerbate, or contribute to a renewal of clan-based or other conflicts. In Garowe participants generally saw this as a priority and many generally favoured the federal structure in the Provisional Constitution. Others – in both consultations – were more concerned about the lack of dialogue on the formal relationship between the centre and regions. Many in Mogadishu explicitly opposed federalism and wanted to reopen discussions about the form this relationship would take in the future, citing the same risks of renewal of clan-based or other conflicts.

Most participants, regardless of their position on the federal structure provided for in the Provisional Constitution, felt that discussions and communications between the regional and federal authorities needed to be strengthened and that broad-based consultation on the governance structure should take place.

Some participants linked concerns regarding the possible return to wider conflict to the national and regional security situation and the continued reliance and existence of clan-based militias. Many participants raised concerns about the ease with which these militias could be armed or could otherwise acquire weapons, because of the temporary easing of the arms embargo (see below, **Security**).

Across the consultations, many participants observed low levels of confidence in other groups, clans, and other authorities. Saferworld was concerned about this apparent existence of a trust deficit across multiple groups and authorities. All authorities in Somalia and the international community need to take this potential trust deficit seriously and take urgent steps to address it. Participants’ concerns are tied to a lack of transparency in governance decisions, communication, and cooperation. Concerns are also linked to hostilities tied or linked to clan membership, which in many cases has been created, sustained, or reinforced by the armed conflict in Somalia. This lack of confidence at the societal level underlines the need for the government to restart efforts towards a genuine national reconciliation process.

The perceived lack of communication and cooperation between the Federal Government and Puntland authorities led to many in Garowe expressing fears about Puntland’s position. A number of participants also complained that Puntland was not adequately represented at the national level, citing examples such as the lack of diplomatic representation and a lack of leading civil service positions, the allocation of which they said should be equally shared between regions.

Regardless of the structure, there was considerable disagreement between participants in the two consultations about the priority level given to the process of agreeing governance arrangements between the different levels of authority. In Garowe participants strongly recommended this process be prioritised; in Mogadishu most participants disagreed, citing the security situation as the key priority for the government. They pointed to the extreme weakness of the Federal Government and questioned whether it would be able to enter into negotiations when it is still unable to carry out basic governance functions, because it does not have full control of the country. However, in both consultations participants did generally agree that conflict risks were attached to a failure to improve the current relationship between the Federal Government and the regions, and many emphasised that the Federal Government needs to respect the Provisional Constitution’s articles.

As such, they generally agreed that steps needed to be taken to create structures to improve communication and coordination, including through the creation of a Boundaries and Federation Commission and an Inter-state Commission for coordination between the two levels of government, which are provided for under the Provisional Constitution. No steps have so far been taken by the government to establish either body.

Participants also reiterated the need for the creation of federal, regional, or other governance structures to lie within the regions themselves. They stated that this needs to be a bottom-up state-building process,

so that regions are able to discuss and agree on their own governance arrangements and facilitate the Federal Government, rather than a top-down imposition of statehood by the Federal Government or members of the international community.

Most participants across the consultations agreed that efforts around national reconciliation should be resumed and expanded, particularly to deal with low levels of confidence within and between communities, regions and authorities. Some participants said that this process needed to be a key feature of re-establishing effective governance across the country – raising concerns that the process of reconstituting the state would fail if reconciliation did not happen. Many felt that reconciliation had been deprioritised by the Federal Government.

In Mogadishu participants emphasised that the Federal Government had to prove itself capable of conducting the fundamental tasks of governance and providing basic services to people.

In both Garowe and Mogadishu participants felt that the international community needed to both monitor closely and support the relationship between the centre and the regions, and work with both the federal and regional authorities to do so. However, there was a difference in emphasis, with participants in Garowe stressing the need for international engagement at the regional level, while those in Mogadishu reiterating the need for the international community to strengthen the role of the central government.

Participants across both consultations signalled their willingness and intention as civil society to support federal and regional governments to build the relationship between the centre and the regions, particularly in terms of sharing information about the state-building process with the Somali public. They highlighted the need for broader public participation (including specifically women and minority groups) across Somalia on issues of federalism, reconciliation, and state building.

Key recommendations

- **The Federal Government should prioritise reconciliation and publicly set out its plans for how it intends to conduct and support this process. This should involve consultation with civil society and the broader public.**
- **Regional authorities should have a defined role in national decision-making processes.**
- **The Federal Government and international community should provide space and support for civil society to facilitate broad public outreach and consultation on issues around state building, including discussions and consultations on federalism and national reconciliation.**

- **The Boundaries and Federation Commission and the Inter-state Commission should be established as soon as possible with necessary funding and support from the Federal Government, regional authorities, and international community.**

SECURITY

“Security cannot be from the government or the clan alone. It needs to come from both.”

Participant at the SOSSENSA consultation

At both consultations – especially in Mogadishu – most participants continued to feel insecure, despite relative improvements in their security. They noted the continued presence of al-Shabaab in large areas of the country and their ability to carry out attacks in areas under the control of the government, including Mogadishu.

Participants reiterated that a lack of cooperation between the regions and central government affected the provision of adequate security and further hampered the ability of the security services, which at the moment have little capacity to respond to incidents of insecurity. They recommended greater coordination between the centre and regions and local authorities.

Almost all participants agreed that the police and armed forces continued to lack the training, equipment (particularly vehicles), and logistical support needed to carry out their duties. Many raised concerns at the low number of women service members, particularly in the police. For many women, the lack of female personnel increased their reluctance to seek out the assistance of the security services, particularly with regard to sexual and gender-based violence. Many also felt that there were no uniformly applied selection criteria, meaning that, in many cases, individuals are recruited to the police and security services on the basis of their clan.

There was considerable disagreement within the Puntland consultations about the role of the police and armed forces in providing security. Some participants alleged that both the police and armed forces contributed to insecurity, including by asking for bribes and establishing roadblocks. This, they said, was due to the fact that they had not been paid. Some described the number and composition of the police and armed forces as adequate, but felt they were lacking logistical support and training, and were vulnerable themselves to attacks from al-Shabaab and criminal groups, including pirates.

With regard to the armed forces, participants across the consultations raised concerns about the continued

existence of clan militias, and the reliance of authorities upon these militias. Many participants felt that the police and armed forces periodically engaged in clan conflict or otherwise acted in defence of the interests of their clan, and raised concerns that these dynamics would be integrated into the national armed forces as they were. They discussed the need for the vetting of individuals to ensure that they had the appropriate skills and training to be integrated into the armed forces, as well as to assess whether there were allegations of abuse which needed to be investigated prior to their incorporation into the armed forces.

Opinions on clan militias were mixed. On the one hand, participants repeatedly stated that they felt they could not always seek protection from members of the police or armed forces who belonged to a different clan. On the other hand, participants also admitted to relying on their clan and members of the police or armed forces who were members of their own clan for protection.

Because of frequent violations of the arms embargo, weapons have long been available in Somalia. However, there was still broad concern about the changes to the UN arms embargo from participants, particularly from those in Garowe. Many participants there felt that while the armed forces and police (in Puntland and nationally) were based around clan allegiances, it was inappropriate to relax the arms embargo as it would, in their opinion, inevitably lead to more weapons in the hands of clan militias not authorities. They pointed to the high number of weapons in the hands of civilians and clan militias – used as a means of protection, but also becoming a security risk. Many expressed their concern about the risk of renewed conflict between clans because of improved access to weapons and questioned the level of consultation which took place at regional level prior to the Security Council's decision.

As part of improving security, participants in Garowe noted that the general public needed to be disarmed. However, this would need to happen concurrently with improvements to the security situation (assessed as both objective improvements and people's perceptions) to ensure that any disarmament initiatives do not inadvertently result in increased insecurity or instability.² Participants also repeatedly stated – with strong emphasis in Garowe – that the security services as a whole needed to be balanced in terms of clan in order to reduce perceptions of partiality or manipulation and increase public confidence.

² As they have done in, for instance, the Karamoja region of northern Uganda and South Sudan – see, <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/downloads/pubdocs/Karamoja%20conflict%20and%20security%20assessment.pdf> and <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/view-resource/637>

Key recommendations

- **The Federal Government and regional authorities should establish an oversight body to monitor the police and armed forces, independent of both and involving civil society and ensure the involvement of civilians in the oversight of the police as envisaged in the Constitution.**
- **The Somali authorities should make particular effort to increase their recruitment of female personnel to operational and community-facing roles**
- **The federal and regional governments should ensure security services are paid on time/**
- **The Federal Government should immediately establish weapons control and management systems**
- **Donors to AMISOM should insist that command and control structures within AMISOM ensure respect for international humanitarian law and commitment to the protection of civilians, and ensuring the monitoring and transparent investigation of and retribution for abuses to improve greater accountability.**

JUDICIARY

“If you visit some of the districts and ask them ‘What’s the judiciary?’ they don’t know. If you ask them how they solve their problems, they tell you they use traditional methods.”

PUNSAA delegate

Participants in both consultations felt that the formal judiciary remained weak and absent from many areas of the country, and that most people, including consultation participants themselves, continued to rely on traditional legal systems. They highlighted the necessity of respecting traditional and religious legal systems, both *xeer*³ and *shari’a*, during discussions about the redevelopment of judicial systems in all regions of the country.

Some participants argued for the harmonisation of the traditional systems into the judicial system; others said the system had to ‘learn from’ traditional conflict resolution systems in order to create a system rooted in the Somali context. However, across the platforms, many participants stressed the need for the judiciary

³ Xeer or Somali customary law. The *xeer* is a customary code and procedure founded upon contractual agreement, and denotes a body of explicitly formulated obligations, rights and duties. It binds people of the same treaty (*xeer*) together and defines their collective responsibility in external relations with other groups (Lewis 1961: 161).

to expand into all areas of the country as soon as possible so that “all people are the same under the law”. Many participants expressed their own strong support for traditional legal systems and felt that these must be strengthened at the same time.

Most participants felt that the relationship between the police and judiciary was/is often poor; this further reduced the public reliance on, and confidence in, the judiciary because few cases reached the formal courts. Participants generally criticised the number of judges and lawyers available for cases as inadequate; of special concern was the situation in Garowe, where threats, attacks, and killings of judicial personnel had significantly reduced capacity within the judicial system. The security needs of the judiciary were raised repeatedly by participants in both consultations, with questions on how judges could make difficult decisions without adequate protection. They also raised concerns about security in the courts themselves. These concerns were borne out days after the consultation when a suicide attack on the court buildings in Mogadishu killed 30 people, including lawyers and a regional court judge.

As with the security services, the lack of female staff within the judiciary and legal services was highlighted. Recommendations focused on the need to ensure that judicial personnel were adequately trained, ensuring that the long-term rebuilding of the judicial system should also involve improving the legal education offered in Somalia's universities. They also suggested that personnel be recruited under fixed and transparent standards and that current judges needed to be vetted.

Many spoke about issues of corruption in the judiciary. One participant in Garowe stated that his trust in the system depended on the type of case they were handling: “[i]f the case is small and you face injustice from the courts, then you can pay the prize [a bribe], but when the case is huge and needs a handful of money to influence, and you cannot influence it, then you will have a tough time.” Some also spoke of concerns about political influence in the courts and emphasised the need to create structural independence from the government. In Mogadishu participants reiterated the need to guard the formal separation of responsibilities between the courts and their senior personnel and the Ministry of Justice or other involved executive bodies. Other participants described the need for judges and judicial personnel to be free from corruption in all aspects of their lives and for vetting to take place to remove individuals who were guilty of engaging in corrupt practices.

In Garowe it was stressed that they wanted local courts for pirates, with pirates captured on international waters being returned to Puntland for trial.

Oversight mechanisms were seen as a key plank in the reform agenda, with participants in PUNSAA's

consultation recommending the swift creation of the Federal Judiciary Services Commission and other bodies provided for under the constitution. Many participants reiterated the recommendations of the national conference on judicial reforms, which took place in April 2013. Participants reiterated the need for federal institutions to carry out these tasks within the timeframe decided in the communiqué from the judicial reform conference.

This communiqué recommended the urgent establishment of the Federal Judiciary Services Commission, the Federal Constitutional Court, federal courts, and the Independent Human Rights Commission, while also recommending that the Somali Federal Parliament pass necessary legislation, including laws establishing federal judiciary organs and a special committee mandated with facilitating the judiciary reform process.

Key recommendations

- **Federal and regional authorities should implement the recommendations following the national judicial reform conference in April 2013, including establishing the Judicial Services Commission and developing a strategy for the expansion of the judiciary into all areas of the country.**
- **Federal and regional authorities should introduce more mobile courts to increase access to the formal justice system in remote areas.**
- **The judicial system should be separated from other parts of government, with parliament passing legislation to formalise the division of responsibilities.**
- **Federal court structures provided for under the Provisional Constitution should be established and adequately staffed and resourced. Recognise that both formal and traditional systems of justice have a potentially valuable role to play in Somalia. While neither are without their weaknesses, both should be considered during efforts to reform, rebuild, and enhance access to justice.**
- **The international community should support civil society in providing legal aid services across the country.**

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“Who will be here to hear us?”

Participant at the PUNSAA consultation

During the consultations, participants raised concerns regarding multiple forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including female genital mutilation, human trafficking, and forced and early marriage, as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence. Most participants agreed SGBV was widespread.

Participants in both consultations mentioned women and girls living in camps for internally displaced persons and in rural areas as particularly at risk, emphasising the prevalence of sexual violence, including rape. Participants in Garowe also said they felt there were high levels of SGBV in rural areas, and that men with mental disabilities were also at risk of sexual violence. Participants in Mogadishu raised concerns that women were only considered to have been raped where there had been multiple perpetrators and often not where there was only one perpetrator.

There was some disagreement among male participants at both consultations, with some stating that they believed cases of SGBV were rare. This was strongly disputed by the female participants and some male participants. The perception gap would suggest, however, that there remains much work to do in encouraging and facilitating full and frank discussions of this issue, particularly with men, and to position SGBV not solely as a women's rights concern but a significant human rights concern with society-wide impacts.

In Mogadishu participants raised the role of the armed forces and militias in committing SGBV, raising concerns at the lack of command and control and accountability mechanisms to prevent them from committing such acts. Indeed, this problem has reportedly been acknowledged by the Somali President, who was quoted by Associated Press as stating: “The few among the security forces who rape and rob our citizens must be fought and defeated just like Shabaab.”⁴ However, they also emphasised that a uniform did not in itself provide identification, highlighting that it was “easy” to acquire a uniform in Mogadishu.

In both consultations, participants pointed to high rates of unemployment, low levels of education, and drug-use as other reasons behind SGBV. In both places, participants also pointed to generalised insecurity, which provided opportunities for such

abuses to be committed, and the lack of investigation and accountability measures, which allowed perpetrators to go unpunished.

Participants in both consultations noted the failure of the police and judiciary to investigate and punish perpetrators and linked this to poor governance and leadership, resulting in weak institutions and a structural inability to deal with cases of SGBV within those institutions. One Garowe participant said: “This is a situation where the victim does not get the justice they deserve and the perpetrator is not punished, and in the process, many other perpetrators have joined and feel free to commit crimes.”

In Garowe some participants stated that the attitude of the executive was a key challenge, stating that they simply did not take the issue seriously. This, they said, created the conditions for SGBV to be committed with impunity, as institutions did not treat these issues with the seriousness they deserved. This led to lower levels of reporting. Female participants across the consultations reiterated the difficulties women continued to face even when they were willing to report cases of SGBV. They acknowledged the impact of the imprisonment of a woman who alleged she had been raped by members of the security services and said this had further limited the space for women to acknowledge and report such attacks against them. However, in Mogadishu, some participants felt that the government had been increasingly outspoken about the issue and that this has had an impact on the situation.

The need to respect traditional legal systems was again emphasised; however, participants felt the onus was clearly on the state to improve its investigation and accountability structures and to create an environment in which women felt safe and confident to report instances of SGBV. Participants also identified the need to ensure the adequate provision of services to survivors of SGBV, including men, women and children. Participants identified that civil society has a key role to play in providing such services at a time when the state remains relatively weak.

Key recommendations

- **The federal and regional authorities should work with civil society to better record statistics on the number of reports of SGBV made to the police, traditional elders, NGOs, and other bodies.**
- **Regional and federal authorities should ensure existing laws criminalising SGBV are applied and update the criminal codes to ensure the criminalisation of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.**
- **Civil society should organise and coordinate on public awareness campaigns to sensitise**

⁴ *Displaced Somalis suffer cycle of sexual violence*, BBC News, 10 April 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22090662>

communities – particularly men – on the effect of SGBV and increase outreach efforts, including to remote or rural areas.

TRANSPARENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In both consultations participants felt that financial management remained poor. In particular, they felt authorities lacked transparency in all aspects of their financial management, from budgeting processes, to allocation of resources including donor funds, to accountability and auditing mechanisms. This lack of transparency and local ownership was seen as a concern for civil society. Civil society saw a role for itself in supporting authorities to better communicate with the public regarding their finances and budgeting processes.

All participants reiterated the need to combat corruption effectively and end the embezzlement of public funds. This included by working with parliament to create new legislation to more effectively criminalise and punish perpetrators and by vetting the staff responsible for financial management, as well as those they were overseeing.

In Garowe participants felt that any direct budgetary or other assistance allocated to Somalia must be fairly allocated throughout the country and not held and spent by the centre alone. Participants in Mogadishu felt that funds should be allocated via the Federal Government, but acknowledged the current capacity and corruption challenges which stood in the way of such aspirations. Participants in both consultations reiterated the need for the international community to hold all authorities accountable for the funds they received and how they were spent.

Participants across the consultations spoke of the need for authorities to develop effective taxation policies in order to reduce reliance on international aid and develop internal revenue streams. Mogadishu participants also raised concerns about effective customs duties and collection systems. In Garowe participants spoke of a disorganised taxation system which allowed for the abuse of power. Participants in both consultations reiterated the need for formal structures and regulation of the distribution of funds collected across government ministries and bodies and between federal and regional authorities. This should be accompanied by effective auditing and accountability mechanisms. Many participants also spoke of the need to effectively oversee and regulate the private sector, including by developing labour policies.

Key recommendations

- **The federal and regional authorities should develop equitable and transparent taxation policies and collection mechanisms.**
- **All financial personnel should be vetted, including those currently in positions of financial management, auditing, or oversight.**
- **Federal and regional budgets should be published and made available to the general public.**
- **The international community must continue to prioritise and demand transparent financial management, but must insist that this information flows towards the general public as well as to themselves.**

CONCLUSION: CROSS-CUTTING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LONDON CONFERENCE

The diversity of views and recommendations which came out of the consultations reiterates the need for substantial and systematic engagement with civil society on the Somalia reconstruction, peacebuilding, and development agendas. In particular, the Federal Government, regional authorities, and international community must do more to:

1. Support civil society and public participation
2. Build trust between the centre and the regions
3. Continue support to the regions and bottom-up peace processes.

Supporting civil society and public participation

Throughout both consultations many participants spoke of their desire to be engaged in processes of discussing and determining solutions to the many challenges across Somalia, emphasising the need for local responses to local problems.

The Somali authorities and the international community must do more to ensure that they conduct genuine consultations and involve civil society and the public – including specific outreach to traditionally marginalised groups, such as women and minority clans.

There should also be meaningful and specific consultations on issues of security and justice in particular, noting that security is such a priority concern for most participants in the consultations. If the Somali authorities and international community are to be effective in addressing insecurity and helping to build a more stable and resilient society, it must be directed to understanding and meeting the

security needs of the people themselves. Doing this requires involving people in decisions about security, justice, and governance provisions, facilitating and supporting gender sensitive security and justice sectors, making an effort to understand the different needs and perspectives of men, women, boys, and girls in undertaking reform and reconstruction.

Success requires buy-in to their plans, and generating this buy-in will start by involving civil society in the development of those plans as well as their implementation. There must be more effort to create space for this to happen and there must be more support for frank and open civil society input and discussion, as well as resources and support to allow civil society to play a role in disseminating information more effectively to the Somali people.

Building trust between the centre and the regions

Participants repeatedly stressed principles of fairness and equality throughout the consultation. In doing so (and in discussions about coordination and communication between the Federal Government and regional and local authorities) many participants displayed a low level of confidence in the centre, the regional authorities, and other communities which should be urgently examined by the authorities and the international community. Trust in the authorities at both regional and federal level is crucial for local buy-in to reform plans, and without it such plans are likely to encounter serious resistance and difficulties. Lack of trust at a wider societal level raises serious concerns about the sustainability of peace; the authorities and international community must urgently begin a transparent and genuine process of national reconciliation.

Efforts should involve increasing civil society and broad public participation in decision making – including minority and other vulnerable groups such as women and minority clans. This will also require credible efforts to establish a national reconciliation process as well as genuine consultations on the implementation of the federal system. In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, this must include the empowerment of women's rights organisations to participate in decision-making processes on peace and security issues.

Continuing support to the regions and bottom-up peace processes

In many areas of discussion there were clearly divergent views. This was particularly evident on the issue of federalism and the political process and between participants from the regions and participants from Mogadishu. The authorities need to do more to improve communication between the centre and regions and share information about their

decisions and their decision-making processes to build local level buy-in and support on the future governance arrangements of the country.

The international community must remain responsive to the significant differences in needs and concerns across Somalia. It should ensure that it continues to interact directly with regions and authorities, particularly Puntland. The needs and gaps are different across regions and the international community needs to work with authorities to effectively and appropriately respond to these.

The Federal Government and international community must offer support to inclusive bottom-up peace processes and state-building; and the international community should facilitate dialogue between those engaged in these processes and the Federal Government, in order to contribute to a sustainable and legitimate authority in the eyes of the Somali people.

About Saferworld

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. We work with local people affected by conflict to improve their safety and sense of security, and conduct wider research and analysis. We use this evidence and learning to improve local, national and international policies and practices that can help build lasting peace. Our priority is people – we believe that everyone should be able to lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from insecurity and violent conflict.

We are a not-for-profit organisation with programmes in nearly 20 countries and territories across Africa, Asia and Europe.

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