

Somali's Foreign Policy Vision after Transitional Government: An Assessment of 2015 Policy

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Abstract

In December 2015, Somalia's political leadership developed a robust foreign policy that advances the needs and interests of the Somali people. The Ministry of foreign affairs and investment promotion has designed a broad foreign policy framework that takes into account the critical elements needed for the development of a successful and productive foreign policy. The current paper will investigate, analyze and synthesize the content of the Somali's foreign policy and collect data from parliamentarians, Diplomatic members, coup-ambassadors, minister's esp. of foreign affairs, people working with embassies using questionnaire method.

The data was examined using descriptive statistics through SPSS data analysis software and presented in tables and charts through Microsoft Excel with conceptual interpretation.

Keywords: Diplomatic Relations, Foreign policy, Sanctions, Governmental institution.

1. Introduction

Throughout the past decades, Somalia have been learned that possession of abundant material sources, i.e. power in the traditional sense, or as perceived by realism or liberalism, does not automatically convert into successful, effective and legitimate, foreign policy. How such a situation can be explained or, better, understood and which lessons can be learned, has become an underlying question in political, as well as academic discussions and publications.

when analyzing foreign policies of numerous "small states" (in fact, the majority of countries in the world can be denoted as "small"), some of which have recently become rather active and successful on the international scene, a focus on non-material factors or means/goals rather than material factors or sources of foreign policy is useful and telling.

The paper will portray, from this point of view, the foreign policy of one of such countries – Somalia. Somalia undeniably belongs to the category of small countries – perhaps not as for the size of its territory but its geopolitical position, its economics as Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the earth. Furthermore we can categorize Somalia as small country due to its foreign policy of "neutrality", traditionally disregarded by "powers" and highly contested. Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa, adjacent to the Arabian Peninsula. It is bounded by the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden to the east, by Kenya to the southwest, by Ethiopia to the northwest, and by the republic of Djibouti to the north.

Strategically located where the mouth of the Red Sea enters the Indian Ocean, it has historically been seen as a very significant and strategic country in the area (Lewis, 1980). Somali society is essentially a homogenous people, as they predominantly speak one language, have the same culture and following the same religion; Islam.

In April 1960 in suddenly decision the British permitted its Somali territory to become independent within days of the Somali Italian colony independence. Regardless of their political and economic disparity, the Somali political elite of both territories formed one nation without clear political agenda and power division.

As a result on July 1 1960, these two Somali territories 4 (Italian Somaliland and British Somaliland) become independent and subsequently created the first Somali Republic. When the two territories joined together as an independent state, their legislatures convened a historical meeting to elect a President who would in turn elect his own Prime Minister who also selected his own cabinet. Somalia was played great role of African independence in the 1960s, Somalia was one of the great hopes in Africa revolution for independence; of course, and then there was tremendous optimism about Africa as a whole.

There had been the great wave of African independence in 1960. Somali foreign policy was focused the African interest before the national interests. Intervening allots of diplomatic files and intervention relations with other colonized territories. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Somalia's become socialist government abandoned

alliances with its former partner the Soviet Union due to fallout over the Ogaden War. Because the Soviet Union had close relations with both the Somali government and Ethiopia's then new communist regime, they were forced to choose one side to commit to.

The Soviet shift in support to Ethiopia motivated the Siad Barre government to seek allies elsewhere. It eventually settled on the Soviet Union's Cold War rival, the United States. Slowly Siad Barre turned towards the West and the United States, and we were slow in agreeing to his requests for aid, but in the end we did so. People began to argue in Washington that Somalia occupied a very strategic position (Oliver Ramsbotham, 1999).

The US had been courting the Somali government for some time on account of Somalia's strategic position at the mouth of the Bab el Mandeb gateway to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Somalia's initial friendship with the Soviet Union and later military support by the United States enabled it to build the largest army on the continent (Jackson, 2001).

The Federal Government of Somalia was established on August 20, 2012, concurrent with the end of the TFG's interim mandate (Somalia Report, 2012). It represents the first permanent central government in the country since the start of the civil war. On September 10, 2012, the new Federal Parliament also elected Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the incumbent President of Somalia.

The election was welcomed by the U.S. authorities, who re-affirmed United States' continued support for Somalia's government, its territorial integrity and sovereignty. ⁵ In January 2013, the U.S. announced that it was set to exchange diplomatic notes with the new central government of Somalia, re-establishing official ties with the country for the first time in 20 years. According to the Department of State, the decision was made in recognition of the significant progress that the Somali authorities had achieved on both the political and war fronts.

The move is expected to grant the Somali government access to new sources of development funds from American agencies, Turkish and other countries as well as international bodies like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, thereby facilitating the ongoing reconstruction process.

In December, 2015 Somali ministry of foreign affairs developed first foreign policy of its kind since the collapse of central government of Somali in 1991. Ministry of foreign affairs has developed this policy to guide the foreign relation and development with other international institutions and nations. The base of the Somali Foreign Policy is to determine and safeguard the country's sovereignty, promote peace and maintain security. Furthermore, the policy relies on better relation with other neighbor's countries, the rest of the African countries and world at large. The policy document divided into five different and interrelated policies in the areas of the diplomacy these included namely; Peace and security, Diaspora Policy, Socio-Economic development, Sustainable Environment and cultural promotion and preservation. we will discuss further the content of these sub-policies.

2. Review of Somali Foreign Policy

The Main objective of the Somali foreign policy was to secure and move forwards the interests of the Federal government of Somalia abroad to contribute the progress of its nations, its region and the world through the promotion and enactment of international values and norms that contributes security, stability, economic progress and sustainable development.

2.1 Somalia Policy context

Somalis long struggle for liberation from colonialism; military dictatorship and civil conflict have shaped its foreign policy. The founder of the republic highlighted the long-lasting link between national independence and humanity larger freedom, equity and the indisputable

Somali assumed its place as a sovereign state and actor in global reactions on gaining independence in July 1960. Somalia's foreign policy is guided by strong belief that its own future is inseparable from stability and security have been undermined by a coup d'état in 1969, by the undemocratic regime that lasted 21 years and the by more than two decade if civil war and terrorism.

Today the nation is moving to pluralistic and democratic system. To strategy place the country in the international arena, the framers of Somali's foreign policy have charter a pragmatic approach informed by

principle that have stood the test of time. This approach is aimed at ensuring that Somalia can forge mutually beneficially partnership.

2.2 Peace and security policy

Somalia's peace and security policy is grounded in the understanding that peace and stability are indispensable conditions for the development and prosperity of Somalia. Its neighbors and the world as a whole, tied to this belief that Somalia's own security, stability and economic wellbeing depend on the stability of the sub-region, Africa, the Arab world and the rest of the world.

Advocate conflict resolution by peaceful means

Join forces with others and African countries to strengthen the conflict prevention, management, and resolution capacity of regional institutions, including the inter-governmental authority on development (IGAD), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and African Union (AU)

Support peace efforts by African Union, the Arab League, the United Nations, and regional and international peace-building institutions

Establish conflict analysis and prevention capacity national and in the region through all other existing national and regional institutions.

2.3. Economic development policy

Somalia's peace and stability is linked to its socioeconomic development and prosperity and that the regional continental overall economic growth and stability.

- Increase capital flow to Somalia from Diaspora and others
- Encourage domestic productions for local market and export, as well as investment by Somalia enterprises within the region.
- Boost the country as a desired destination for foreign direct investment, and also as destinations of financial markets
- Explore new sources of affordable and appropriate technology
- Promote fair trade and equitable bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements.
- Promote international standards of trade certification to enable Somali business to thrive in a regulated global economy.

2.4. Diaspora policy

Somalia recognizes the huge and largely untapped potential of Somalis abroad to contribute to the country's development. The Diaspora policy seeks to harness the diverse skills, knowledge, expertise and resources of Somalis abroad and facilitate their integration into the national development agenda.

Provide effective and responsive consular services

Facilitate the participation of Somalis abroad in national reconstruction and development

Develop unified advocacy programs for Somali interests

Explore the concept of creating a social development fund to enable the Diaspora to tangibly contribute to Somalia's rebirth

Promote access by Somalis to the international labor market

Utilize Diaspora skills for local institution development

2.5. Sustainability environment policy

The Policy of foreign affairs and investment promotion promotes sustainable economic growth and investments to ensure that the ongoing migrant crisis can be ended. The policy promotes international environmental standards and laws. Following are the main objectives of the Policy:

- Promote compliance with national, regional and international environment laws, regulation, standards, and others appropriate operational procedure and guidelines
- Promote the integration of environmental management into national and regional economic activities, include agriculture and relate areas.
- Promote research to encourage innovation and reduce adverse environmental impacts
- Encourage public dialogue, awareness and knowledge creation on environment matters through national, regional and international forums
- Encourage responsible foreign investment

2.6: Culture policy

Somali foreign policy encourage concept of cultural diplomacy between the countries; support exchange of cultural partnership. The following are the main policy section objectives:

- Respect and recognized cultural diversity and heritage
- Promote cultural exchange and partnership with other Cultures
- Promote global intercultural dialogue
- Promote arts policy by recognizing the role Somalia party and arts
- Promote sports and policy programs for the youth
- The pursuit of these goals will inform diplomatic engagements.
- They will father guide the country as it pursue its vision of become peaceful,
- Prosperous and global comparative while promoting sustainable development.

2.7: International relations

Somalia continues to embrace the goal of sustainable development in pursuing its foreign policy objectives through bilateral trade and political, environmental and cultural agreements with all countries and organization. Priority partners include neighboring countries that have hosted a number of representatives from Somalia business community and settled refugees on others. These countries are that the centre of Somali foreign policy. Somalia also seeks to enter into bilateral partnership with countries in other African sub-region in keeping with its areocentric policy, and also with Arab and Muslim countries.

Somalia recognizes the facts that all neighbors have and protect large number of Somali refugee. In the coming month and years these communities will be returning home to enhance peace and stability, Somalia will work with the neighbors and he international communities to ensure that the repatriation process is done in a structure and positive manner that enhance linkages and contributes to the improved wellbeing of all.

Lack of economic opportunity and insecurity continue to drive some Somalia citizens to migrate abroad. Somalia is willing to work with others to prevent these flows and save levies. This will take time and can only be achieved by assisting the economy to grow and ensure that services are available at home.

3. Methodology

The sample was consisted of 221 participants selected from the accessible population of 340. The study collected data from the ambassadors, political leaders, AMISOM members and Parliamentarians. Because these people are among, several of the largest community, which know much about Somali foreign policy after transitional government, they will be the most appropriate population of the study.

Researcher decides to use the non-probability sampling procedure particularly purposive sampling (judgmental sampling) to select the sample. Purposive sampling is a widely accepted special procedure, which is suitable when the aim of the researcher is other than getting a representative sample of an entire population, the researchers only commit use of judgment to choose cases and have a very specific resolve in mind.

The researchers collected primary data using questionnaires. The first question were asked the questioners that The Challenges of Somalia Foreign Policy after Transitional Government.

The Second question the were asked the questioners that Achievement of Somali Foreign Policy after Transitional Government.th third question were asked the questioner that The Effect of Foreign Interventions of Somalia Foreign Policy after Transitional Government.

A five point Likert scales ranging from "excellent" to "very poor" were used to assess the questioners' agreement towards statements.

The researchers analyzed the quantitative data using descriptive statistics of frequency, cross tabulation, mean, mode, median and standard deviation.

4. Findings of data analysis

4.1: The Gender, Age and Educational Background of the questioner

The table 4.1 and table 4.2 show gender, age and educational level of the questioners.

Gender: the table shows that 79.0% of the questioners were male and 21.0% were female. This clearly shows that most questioners are male.

Age: 25.0% of the questioner belonged at the age of 20-29, 37.0% of the questioners are the age 30-39, and 38.0% of the questioners are the age of above 40.

Education: 19% of the questioners are High school level, 55% of them are university level, and 26% of the questioners are other level.

Marital Status: 62.0% of the questioners were married and 38.0% were Single. This clearly shows that most questioners are married.

Occupation: 79.0% of the questioners are employed, 21.0% of the questioners are unemployed.

Table 4.1: The Gender, Age and Educational Background of the questioner

Profile of the questioner	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	176	79.0
Female	45	21.0
Total	221	100.0
Age of the questioner		
20-29	55	25.0
30-39	82	37.0
More than 40	84	38.0
Total	221	100.0
Educational Background of the questioner		
High School	41	19.0
University	123	55.0
Other	57	26.0
Total	221	100.0

Table 4.2: Marital Status of and the Occupation of the questioner

Profile of the questioner	Frequency	Percentage
Married	137	62.0
Single	84	38.0
Total	221	100.0
Occupation of the questioner		
Employed	176	79.0
Un Employed	45	21.0
Total	221	100.0

4.3: The Challenges of Somalia Foreign Policy after Transitional Government.

The first objective of the study is to examine agenda of neighboring countries, and the challenge of al-shabaab to government after transition, the study found impact of al-shabaab foreign fighters to agenda of international community in Somalia, unfaithful development of Somalia, and Regional authorities that opposite to the federal government.

Indicator of challenges	Mean	Std.dev	Interpretation
The agenda of neighboring countries are to divide Somalia into small parts.	3.99	.987	High
Al-shabab becomes the major challenges of Somali federal government.	3.79	.941	High
Al-shabab's foreign fighters have great impact to international community agenda to the Somalia.	3.33	.881	Neutral
Neighbor countries are unfaithful development of Somalia.	4.23	.974	Very high
Regional authorities that opposite to the federal government backed by neighboring countries.	3.95	.715	High
Mean index	3.215	1.0	Neutral

Table 4.4: The Achievement of Somali Foreign Policy after Transitional Government.

The second objective is to examine the diplomatic recognition after transitional government, the unity of all Somali people is reaffirming, and how recognition of US to the Somali government play role to the Somali's reputation, lifting of weapons sanction empowered Somali forces to ensure to remain in retreat al-shabaab militants and their affiliates. The study found that follow of diplomatic relations promotes our diplomatic reputation.

Indicator of Achievements	Mean	Std.dev	Interpret
There is a diplomatic recognition after transitional government.	4.06	.685	High
The unity of all Somali people is reaffirming.	3.22	1.023	Neutral
Federal government has regained its territorial integrity and political independence.	3.50	1.073	High
The recognition of US to the Somali government play role to the Somali's reputation towards world.	4.36	.871	Very high
The lift of weapons sanction to empower Somali forces by ensuring that Shabab militants and their affiliates remain in retreat	3.39	1.063	Neutral
The follow of diplomatic relations promote our diplomatic reputation	4.06	.685	High
Mean index	4.0	1.0	High

Table 4.5: The Effect of Foreign Interventions of Somalia Foreign Policy after Transitional Government.

The third objective of the study is to evaluate effect of foreign intervention to the deteriorate economy in Somalia, foreign intervention causes instability in Somalia, and the foreign intervention is good to the domestic politics, the study is to identify the existence that foreign intervention can solve dispute between leaders of Somali federal government, also the study revealed that the foreign intervention support catastrophe effects Somali people.

Indicator of Effect	Mean	Std.dev	Interpretation
The foreign intervention has effect to the deteriorate economy in Somalia.	3.16	.959	Good
Foreign intervention causes instability in Somalia.	3.78	.869	Very Good
The foreign intervention is good to the domestic politics.	2.70	.960	Good
Foreign intervention can solve dispute between leaders of Somali federal government	2.97	.943	Good
The foreign intervention support catastrophe effects Somali people	3.90	.765	Very Good
Mean index	3.0	1.0	Neutral

5. Discussion

This study assesses the achievement of Somalia foreign policy after transitional government is high. The study found that the challenge of Somali foreign policy after transitional government is neutral.

This finding confirms the U.S. recognition enables the Somali government to reopen its diplomatic mission in Washington.. This will assist the government's bid to make its case to arrangement of power centers within the U.S. government, media and other opinion makers.

The study takes one of the most contemporary cases, that is, Somalia. It tries to understand and examine the foreign policy and political condition in Somalia with a focus on the period after transitional government.

Our result was subject to limitations: Firstly, this survey reflected the opinions of the selected Ambassadors. Secondly this survey didn't include foreign embassies in Somalia. So this study concludes that Somalia foreign policy has made remarkable improvement in establish diplomatically recognition and building strong relationship to other countries after collapse central government 1991. The U.S. recognition of the Somali government is a remarkable diplomatic success that gives the new administration much-needed influence to engage other external actors. It could also open the door for major international investment in the reconstruction of Somalia.

6. Conclusion

The study investigated assessment of Somali foreign policy after transitional government in south Somalia. It revealed That the government wants to be accountable and assessed is welcomed and there is no doubt that structural limitations and inherited challenges have prohibited the government from translating certain stated objectives into real results. It is also true that many avoidable mistakes and built-in idealism of the new team have obtained in the way and been integrated by overblown expectations.

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