

# THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE ON SOMALIA

## Chicago Conference on the Establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Planning Process for Somalia's Long-Term Social and Economic Development

Saturday April 14, 2012  
Union League Club of Chicago

Somalia is at a crossroads. Decades of war, famine and neglect have left it bereft of focused development and visionary leadership. Meanwhile, the International Community has too often approached Somalia with a state-centric, top-down, and often overly kinetic approach to peace and institution building. What has been missing is concerted outreach to, and utilization of, grass-roots - *Somali-led* - civil society organizations to help foster the long-term social and economic security of Somalia. The *Somali Diaspora*, facilitated by the Somalia Strategy Forum and supported by the World Engagement Institute and National Strategy Forum, is organizing a forum to initiate the process of developing a long-term - *Somali focused/Somali-led* - strategic planning mechanism for building a prosperous and peaceful future in Somalia. This conference is designed to enlist and empower grass-roots support for a comprehensive strategic planning process. The Chicago Conference on Somalia serves as a catalyst for developing comprehensive, long-term, "bottom-up," strategies for sustainable agricultural development, food security, rule of law, economic development, inclusive education, health care and governance capacity. The outcome will be to create the necessary pre-conditions for enhancing sustainable capacity development in Somalia, as well as extending the conversations that began at the London Conference. Please engage with your fellow Somalis in this historic peace development process.

We are grateful for the generous support and contributions of Ms. Pamela Scholl, *The Dr. Scholl Foundation*, Mr. Nabil Y. Barakat, *Wamar International Group LLC*, Dr. Muhammad Munir Chaudry, *Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA®)*



**[Somaliastrategyforum.org](http://Somaliastrategyforum.org)**

# Agenda

- 8:00 Registration  
Coffee/Tea and Breakfast Pastries Available
- 9:00 Welcoming slideshow (please be seated)

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## SESSION ONE: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*MAIN LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR*

- 9:15 **Mr. Charles Tucker**, *Executive Director, World Engagement Institute*  
**Mr. Yusuf Maalin**, *Executive Director, Somalia Strategy Forum*  
**Mr. Richard Friedman**, *President and Chair, National Strategy Forum*  
**Dr. Marco Tavanti**, *President, Sustainable Capacity International Institute*

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## SESSION TWO: INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS AND SOMALI EXPERTS PANEL

*MAIN LOUNGE*

- 9:30 Overview of the constitutional issues for Somalia
- 9:40 **Mr. Sumit Bisarya**, *Lead Legal Officer for the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)*, Post-August 2012: Implementing the Constitution and Beyond
- 9:50 **Dr. Thomas Ginsburg**, *Leo Spitz Professor of International Law at the University of Chicago*, Constitutional Construction in Somalia: The Consultation Draft and the Way Ahead.
- 10:00 **Ms. Hodan Said Isse**, Nation-building and Peace-Building Through Economic Development
- 10:10 **Ms. Fowsia Abdulkadir**, Governance Capacity, including Rule of Law and Justice Sector Development
- 10:20 **Mr. Ibrahim M. Ayeh**, Literacy and Educational Capacity Development
- 10:30 **Dr. Fozia Abrar**, Health sector development
- 10:40 **Dr. Mohamed Ali Abukar**, Poverty Eradication Strategies for Food Security

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## SESSION THREE: BREAKOUT SESSION

*MAIN LOUNGE*

- 10:50 Introduction to the breakout session for each table
- 11:00 Breakout Session
- 11:50 Attendees transfer to 5<sup>th</sup> floor for lunch

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## SESSION FOUR: LUNCH

*CRYSTAL ROOM, 5TH FLOOR*

- Noon Lunch with vegetarian (Halal) entree
- 12:45 Return to Main Lounge or stay for Prayer in Crystal Room, Foyer and Small Lounge

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## SESSION FIVE: REPORTS AND STRATEGIC SESSION

*MAIN LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR*

- 1:00 Reports from Breakout Session
- 2:00 Concluding remarks
- 2:15 Adjournment

## Speakers

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### MR. SUMIT BISARYA



Mr. Sumit Bisarya is the Lead Legal Officer for the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and is responsible for the design, management and oversight for programs in Afghanistan, South Sudan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia and Tajikistan. Mr. Bisarya has spent seven years at IDLO, during which time he has designed and managed projects in the areas of constitutional reform, legal aid, gender and criminal justice, strategic planning and institutional strengthening, legal and judicial training and higher legal education reform. He spent almost two years based in Kabul, Afghanistan where he managed a legal assistance initiative for the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is presently responsible for the development of IDLO's constitution making and implementation programming. Mr. Sumit is a British National of Indian origin. He qualified for law in the United States. Mr. Bisarya is a British national, a member of the New York State Bar Association and holds a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School and a BSc in Neuroscience from Brown University.

**POST-AUGUST 2012: IMPLEMENTING THE CONSTITUTION AND BEYOND:** The constitutional process does not end with its promulgation, indeed in many ways it only begins. Diaspora can play a crucial role in the successful implementation of the constitution, including providing input into policy, legislation and strategic planning which will be necessary to build on the strengths of the proposed constitution. The talk will look at key steps which will need to be taken, drawing lessons from the region and elsewhere with regards to strategic planning and institution building, and modalities for public participation.

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### PROF. TOM GINSBURG



Tom Ginsburg is the Leo Spitz Professor of International Law at the University of Chicago, where he also holds an appointment in the Political Science Department. He holds B.A., J.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. He currently co-directs the Comparative Constitutions Project, an NSF-funded data set cataloging the world's constitutions since 1789. His recent co-authored book, *The Endurance of National Constitutions* (2009), won the best book award from Comparative Democratization Section of American Political Science Association. His other books include *Judicial Review in New Democracies* (2003), *Administrative Law and Governance in Asia* (2008), *Rule By Law: The Politics of Courts in Authoritarian Regimes* (with Tamir Moustafa, 2008), and *Comparative Constitutional Law* (with Rosalind Dixon, 2011). He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Kyushu University, Seoul National University, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Trento. Before entering law teaching, he served as a legal advisor at the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, The Hague, Netherlands, and he has consulted with numerous international development agencies and governments on legal and constitutional reform.

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONSTRUCTION IN SOMALIA: THE CONSULTATION DRAFT AND THE WAY AHEAD:** The Consultation Draft Constitution is the basis of current constitution-making efforts in Somalia, and is currently being circulated for comment. The draft has numerous strengths and some weaknesses. This talk will discuss some of the efforts to bring the constitution to fruition, and will identify those areas in the draft that need most attention. The talk will be based on a report for the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

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### PROF. HODAN SAID ISSE



Dr. Hodan Isse is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Finance and Managerial Economics Department at University of Buffalo School of Management. Dr. Isse holds a Ph.D. from George Mason University and a Master's of Science from Ohio University. Dr. Isse's teaching interests and research are in monetary theory, international economics, economic development, econometrics, applied microeconomics, managerial macroeconomics, public choice, public finance and public policy.

**NATION-BUILDING AND PEACE-BUILDING THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Using economic resources as a means of perpetuating conflict or resolving conflict. Two conflicting tendencies exist with regards to any economy. Resources are limited but our wants are unlimited. To reconcile these conflicting tendencies, choices must be made. But choosing one thing necessitates giving up something else one might highly value. The blunt reality is that the productive capacity of our limited resources is many times less than our material wants. This presentation examines how incentives available to the Somali people play an important role in either promoting clan division and hatred or clan harmony and peaceful coexistence. In any given society, the individual's self-interest motivates their actions, which leads to either a pattern of mutual hostility or mutual cooperation. It also offers better alternatives that are based on social justice and equitable sharing of commonly owned resources.



Ms. Fowsia Abdulkadir is a policy analyst at the Public Health Agency of Canada, and is Ph.D Candidate at Carleton University's School of Canadian Studies, in Ottawa. Ms. Abdulkadir earned BSW & MSW from Carleton University, Ottawa, concentrating in Canadian social policy. As well Ms. Abdulkadir has obtained graduate Certificate of Teaching English as Second Language (C.T.E.S.L) from Carleton, and a B.A. in economics from Aligarh University, India. Ms. Abdulkadir's research interests can be placed both in the international and national (Canadian) arenas. In the international context, her research interests are in the areas of gender-based analysis, gender mainstreaming, as well as the role of women in governance, democratization and conflict resolution, and social justice in the Horn of Africa. In the Canadian national

context, her research interests are in Canadian social policy analysis; public sector accountability; and immigrant and refugee women settlement issues, particularly exploring how these women re-negotiate their social identities in a context of intersecting issues of ethnicity, gender and race. Ms. Abdulkadir volunteers with local community based organization on local issues facing the ethnically diverse communities of Ottawa.

**GOVERNANCE CAPACITY, INCLUDING RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT:** Security is essential for governance capacity development and critical for building the justice sector. The concept of security needs to be broadened into 'human security', which encompasses economic, health, physical, political and social security for any member of the population. In the literature, the definition of the concept of human security is summarized in "freedom from fear and want". Somalia represents a complex and instructive case study for the area of human security. Its people had experienced extreme ranges of armed violence since the overthrow of the military regime in 1991. In this presentation, employing a gender perspective to security, I will examine human security in the context of Somalia and glean some lessons towards capacity building in good governance, rule of law and justice the sector development.

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**IBRAHIM M. AYEH**



Mr. Ibrahim Aye has a Master of Arts in Mathematics from Eastern Michigan University and has been working with schools and various educational programs, including holding a challenging position in international organizations on curriculum and staff development. He has written several articles about "How to Work with the Somalia Student," which has been published in educational newsletters and also in the updated mathematics curriculum for College of Education, Somalia.

**AWARDS and HONORS:**

- Minneapolis Public School Board of Education recognition of outstanding services
- McKnight Foundation Award in with a reward of \$10,000
- Outstanding American Teachers- National Honor Rolls
- Outstanding Leadership Award by the confederation of Somalia Community
- Translated in Somali the preparation material for Minnesota's Basic Standard Test in Mathematics, Grade Level Expectations, Sexual Harassment and a lot of documents from Minnesota State of Education, and the District of Minneapolis

**LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:** What are the education crises that Somalia is facing? What are the major issues that prevent a lot of Somali children from going to school? How can Somalia provide equitable access to basic education for all children (girls and boys)? How can Somalia improve the surrounding environment that causes challenges for children to participate in schools? What does Somalia need in order to improve the quality of education for their children?





Dr. Abrar is the Department Head for HealthPartners Occupational and Environmental Medicine. She is board certified in occupational medicine and preventive medicine. Dr. Abrar's special interests are international health issues, Population Health, life style medicine, and disability prevention for employee populations. Dr Abrar Graduated from Semmelweis University of Medicine in Budapest. She completed Masters in Public Health in Boston University School of Public Health. She completed Preventative Medicine Residency in Carney Hospital & Tufts Med. Univ., Boston, MA. She is a practicing physician in Twin Cities Metro area.

**HEALTH SECTOR DEVELOPMENT:** Somali Women and children have a very limited access to basic health care/primary care and basic secondary health services. According to World health organizations and Unicef the infant mortality rate was estimated at 132 per 1,000 live births, with the rate of under-five mortality at

224. Maternal mortality was estimated as high as 1,600 per 100,000 live births. Somali children have one of the highest infant mortality rates. Maternal mortality rate are one of the highest in the world. Contributing factors are low ratio of health care workers, malnutrition, lack of access to conduct vaccination due to lack of peace and good governance. This presentation will provide recommendations to invest in rebuilding primary and secondary health services including community Maternal, child health centers and posts and training community health care workers in every village.

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DR. MOHAMED ALI ABUKAR



Dr. Mohamed Ali Abukar, is the Founder and President of Somali American United Council of Arizona. Dr. Mohamed holds a BS degree, two MS degrees including a certificate in Journalism and a Ph.D. with a major in Public Administration and an emphasis in Agricultural Extension Management. Dr. Mohamed Ali has worked for Utah State University in two departments over the past seven years. Specifically, he has served as the instructor for three different Agricultural System Technology & Education courses. Dr. Mohamed was the Chairman of the Notational Production; Director General of the ministry of Agriculture & General Manger of the Agricultural Extension & Farm Management Training project (AFMET) AFMET was a one of the biggest project in the ministry of agriculture & was jointly funded by USAID, the World Bank (IDA), the African Development Fund (ADF) & Government of Somalia. Dr. Mohamed is known world-wide for His work with agricultural extension education development agencies & His life

experiences with AFMET, FAO & the European Union signify an Individual who has worked on the front lines of agricultural development for more than 25 years. Dr. Mohamed introduced new crops such as rice in the Middle Shabelle Region of Somalia. The adoption of this crop was monumental & has improved the lives of the farmer of Shabelle Region. Through his efforts, agriculture development in developing nation has experienced significant improvement, especially in dry land production, Somalia, & Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mohamed was awarded the Silver Medal for meritorious conduct for his exceptional contribution on the agricultural production in Somalia.

**POVERTY ERADICATION STRATEGY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY:** Poverty is a fuel for terror and is a threat to human rights, democracy and peace. Peace, stability and democracy cannot be achieved when there is a hunger and poverty. Our focus, then, must be to fight hunger and eradicate poverty, and if we succeed, this will certainly lead to the creation of peace, democracy and good will among all people and nations. In order to measure domestic poverty, we must consider these factors: household income, education, health, market, road, technologies and development. The overall concept for world poverty is the number of people who live in households whose daily consumption per head is less than one US dollar per day, and continuous declining per capita food production. Therefore, it has been suggested that there should be at least 2 percent growth rate per year in the agricultural sector, and that growth will be obtained in focusing investment in research and extension, which will lead to the way to how best to ensure food security. Growth of the agricultural sector will largely depend on growth of crop production, and the crops sub-sector had benefitted from extension work in the past (Before the Somali civil war) and will require even better Extension Service in the future. It is therefore necessary to emphasize the need for policies that promote development and agricultural productivity and sustainability through public and private investment in education, health, road, market, research and extension, and encouraging intensification of inputs; which is considered a key to food security. Improving the education system will certainly increase the basic conditions for sustainable development, food security and a democratic system.

## Somalia Conference Functional Breakout Sessions

*The following topics correspond to the numbers on the tables. Please select your preferred topics and table if available.*

1. **Constitution A:** The topics covered by the constitution
2. **Constitution B:** The topics NOT covered by the constitutions
3. **Democracy:** Discuss the applicability of Western-style democracy to the cultural and governmental norms of Somalia; Is there a democracy hybrid that would be better suited to Somalia
4. **Executive Secretariat / Management:** Interdependence of Government Function; Management efficiency, education and training for all government departments and agencies; Chief of staff for president and management of the executive staff; Manages the information flow and is the policy decision manager and implementer; Liaison with all government departments and agencies
5. **Budget and Finance:** Interim Finance, Negotiate grants and loans from international sources; Budget preparation; Financial accountability; Liaison with anti-corruption agency taxation -- internal revenue department; Interim department of treasury -- banking and currency
6. **The Role of the Cabinet and Department Heads (Executive Branch) – Management:** Identify and appoint persons who will chair various departments and agencies; Provide education and training for shadow government heads; Discuss the role of the cabinet.
7. **Organizing the Parliament / The Legislative Process:** Discuss the structure of Parliament -- unicameral or bicameral; Education and Training regarding the parliamentary process; Identify leadership roles; Liaison with the executive branch; establish major committees and subcommittees; Oversight committees: intelligence and anti-corruption;
8. **An Independent Judiciary:** The rule of law; Focus on separation of powers; Establish a strong independent judiciary at the national, province, and local level; Judicial education and training; Prosecutor training; Criminal defense bar training; Consider a criminal accusatory system rather than a civil code system.
9. **Law Enforcement / Department of Homeland Security:** Counter terrorism responsibility; Law enforcement training and education at the federal, province, and local level; Sovereignty issues: passport and immigration control; Customs enforcement; Civilian prudent preparation for catastrophic incident; Disaster relief; Liaison with the department of defense.
10. **Military / Navy / Piracy / Intelligence:** Establish a department of defense with military divisions: Army, Navy, and Air Force; Posse Comitatus applicability: separation of department of defense and law enforcement functions; Counter terrorism operation support and cooperation with the department of homeland security; Counter piracy operations on land and sea; Intelligence gathering; Should intelligence gathering be a part of department of defense, department of homeland security, and/or a central intelligence agency?
11. **The Role of the Diaspora: Shadow Government:** Create a U.S. diaspora shadow government with training for people to be assigned to each functional position chair; The election process; Political organization
12. **Critical Infrastructure: Electric, Transportation, Roads, Railroad:** Electric grid and national transmission of electric power; Rural electrification; Road transportation network; Railroad; Urban, inter-urban, and rural bus system; Clean water; Water harvesting.
13. **Agriculture:** Hunger; Food Distribution: Agricultural education and training; Local seed project; Farm equipment sharing; Farm to market rural road network; Farm product warehouse and distribution network; Nutritional education; Anti-hunger campaign
14. **Health:** Three tier health network system; Train local first aid and primary health workers; Establish regional and community hospitals; Distance health consultation; Teaching hospitals; Medical and health professional education and training;
15. **Education:** Establish a contemporary basic education curriculum; Construct rural, community, and urban school facilities; National education campaign; Vocational education; Distance learning; Secular education in religious schools; Civic education; Foreign language education and training
16. **Women, Youth, and Seniors:** The Role of Women in Contemporary Society; Training of Women as local health professionals, family finance and management education; Female entrepreneurship; Youth unemployment: establish a civilian conservation corps; Establish senior centers; Conceptualize an effective social welfare system for the vulnerable population.

17. **Role of Religion:** Private and government support of religious life and religious education. The role of religion to the country welfare. The role of religion to counter-terrorism.
18. **Communication and the Media:** Establish a communication network using low-cost networking; Information technology, including the use of shared low-expense computers and computer systems; Private broadcasting network; Innovative use of television and Skype; Radio network and availability of low expense radios; Distance learning; Free and independent print and electronic media; Encourage media investigative reporting.
19. **Economic Development:** Assessment of national resources, potential for domestic manufacturing for a domestic market, and for foreign corporations; Foreign manufacturing investment; Economic development and commercial export legislation; Assessment of domestic manufacturing potential; Production for the domestic market: solar and inexpensive home water purification equipment.
20. **International Relations / International Organizations:** Liaison with regional states; Membership in international organizations; Anti-piracy; Expand Somalia Strategy Forum to provide international relations and national security policy ideas.
21. **Local Government Power:** Delegation of power to local government; Local government organization; Local government education and training.
22. **Corruption and Anti-Corruption:** Anti-corruption legislation; Establish a separate anti-corruption agency; Three-step process to overcome the traditional culture of corruption; Parliamentary oversight.

## NOTES