



**PARTICIPATION OF RT HONOURABLE SIR ABSHIR ADEN FERRO
CHAIRMAN OF THE ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE PARTY**

**AT THE CENTRIST DEMOCRAT INTERNATIONAL AFRICA
CONGRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL ACCESSION
OF THE PARTY TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION**

PRAIA, 8 & 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

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CONTEXT AND HISTORY OF SOMALIA

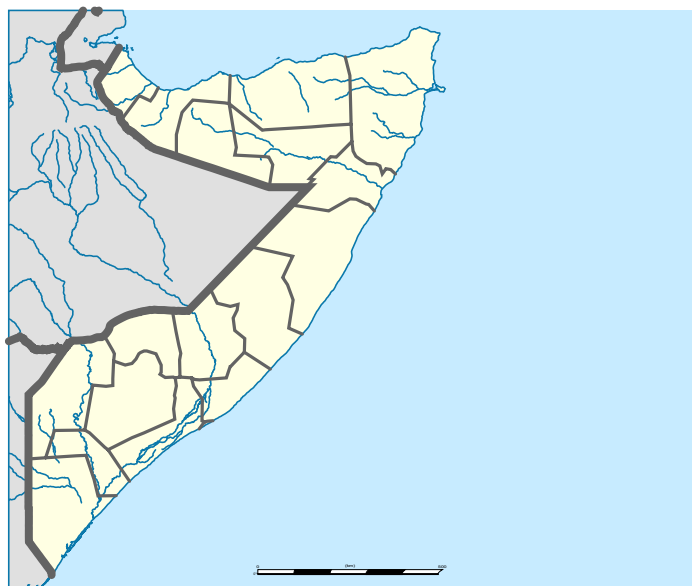
Somalia, situated in the Horn of Africa, holds a strategically vital position between sub-Saharan Africa and the regions of Arabia and southwestern Asia. Its easternmost location places it between the Equator and the Gulf of Aden, with the Indian Ocean bordering its capital, Mogadishu. The modern Republic of Somalia emerged in 1960, uniting a former Italian colony and a British protectorate. A significant chapter in Somalia's history unfolded under the rule of Mohamed Siad Barre, spanning from October 1969 to January 1991. His regime's downfall came amid a brutal civil war waged by clan-based militias.

Subsequently, Somalia grappled with prolonged conflict and the absence of a functioning centralized government, issues that persisted into the 21st century. In 1991, the self-declaration of the Republic of Somaliland in the north and, in 1998, the establishment of the autonomous region of Puntland in the northeast further fragmented the nation. **Demographically, Somalia faced annual population growth of approximately 3 percent in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.** With over 70% of the population under the age of 15, Somalia maintained an exceptionally youthful demographic profile.

Agriculture accounts for about three-fifths of Somalia's economy, primarily through livestock farming rather than crop cultivation. The period between 1969 and the early 1980s saw Mohamed Siad Barre's regime implement «Scientific Socialism,» involving nationalization, state-owned enterprises, and cooperatives. Unfortunately, this experiment weakened the economy significantly, and the ensuing civil war exacerbated economic hardships. By the early 21st century, Somalia remained one of the world's poorest nations, relying on foreign aid, remittances, and the informal sector for sustenance.

In terms of governance, the 1979 constitution, amended in 1990, concentrated power in the hands of the president and his supporters, rendering the People's Assembly devoid of real authority. Islamic law formed the basis of the legal system, without an independent judiciary, and human rights violations were frequent. The Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party was the sole legal political entity, accompanied by socialist-style mass organizations.

Following the collapse of the central government in 1991, clan affiliations became the predominant force in Somali politics, overshadowing direct voting. Key positions, including the speaker, prime minister, and president, were allocated among major clan groups. The national parliament members were chosen by state legislatures and clan representatives, who subsequently elected the president. A significant shift is anticipated with the introduction of universal suffrage in Somalia's government ahead of the 2024 elections, marking a departure from the clan-based political framework that had persisted for decades. **This development, announced in May 2023, represents a significant step toward embracing a more conventional democratic system, indicating the nation's evolving political landscape.** Central to this watershed transformation was Mr. Abshir Aden Ferro, a trailblazing pro-democracy activist and political leader in Somalia who leads the Alliance for the Future Party (Xisbiga Isbahaysiga Mustaqabalka).



ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE PARTY – XISBIGA ISBAHAYSIGA MUSTAQBALKA, A REFORMIST POLITICAL FORCE ENGAGED TO TRANSFORM SOMALIA

The Alliance for the Future Party, emerged in Mogadishu's political landscape on April 11, 2019, with a resolute commitment to actively engage in Somalia's political arena. The party's overarching objective revolves around the implementation of transformative initiatives geared towards enhancing the quality of life for the Somali populace and nurturing a renewed sense of optimism, especially among the younger generation. At the core of the Alliance for the Future Party's vision lies a profound aspiration for Somalia. They envision a nation where every citizen experiences the benefits of peace, security, and prosperity. Their vision extends to the dissolution of divisions in society, the ascension of justice above inequality, and the propulsion of economic growth through innovation.

To materialize this visionary panorama, the Alliance for the Future Party has set forth a multifaceted mission which encompasses several critical components one of which emphasizes accountability as a fundamental principle, vowing to eliminate corruption and foster transparency. **This has been reflected in the party leadership's successful legal challenges to the Somalian and the European procurement procedures wherein allegations of unethical conduct and corruption against the upper echelons of power were raised.** The party's mission places a strong emphasis on unity, seeking to bridge divides through democratic emancipation and inclusivity that transcends socio-economic and socio-cultural boundaries. **This as well has been evidenced by the party leadership's movement against indirect vote which has now, after many years of activism by the party, will be succeeded by universal suffrage through "One man, one vote".**

The leadership of the party is dedicated to the cause of justice, with a steadfast commitment to uprooting corruption and establishing fairness and equality for all citizens. Additionally, the party recognizes the pivotal role of youth as the driving force of progress and pledges to provide them with access to quality education and opportunities. Furthermore, their policy focus extends to economic empowerment, with an emphasis on job creation, entrepreneurship, and foreign investment. Security and peace, ensuring safety and eradicating extremism, are viewed as the vehicle for peaceful coexistence in Somalia by the party.

Somalia helped many African countries in attaining their independence, now Somalia must look to African brothers in alleviating our struggles.

Abshir intend to reestablish & mend ties all over the continent, link somalia to the rest of Africa & get all the support we need to get back up.

Given his vast experience working with local, regional & international bodies, His Excellency Abshir Aden Ferro reliably convinced that Somalia can & should work towards regaining its standing on the world stage.

One way to accomplish this is by participating in the political process stated goal of ours.



Xisbiga Isbahaysiga
Mustaqbalka
ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE PARTY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

Mr. Abshir Aden Ferro, the leader of the Alliance for the Future Party, delivered a compelling agenda during the roundtable discussion at the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) on September 8th and 9th, 2023, in Praia, Cape Verde. His presentation revolved around various facets of his party, his vision for the future of Somalia, his fight for One Man, One Vote in Somali democracy, and the regional context of the Horn of Africa. His contributions to the event were marked by insightful perspectives and a dedication to democratic principles.

IN THE JAWS OF DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS : THE VISION FOR DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

In his presentation, Mr. Abshir Aden Ferro commenced by introducing the Alliance for the Future Party, elucidating its foundation in Mogadishu in 2019. He emphasized the party's commitment to actively engage in Somalia's political landscape with the aim of implementing transformative initiatives that enhance the lives of the Somali people, particularly the youth, instilling hope for the future. A central element of Mr. Ferro's address was the articulation of his party's vision for Somalia. **He envisaged a nation characterized by peace, security, and prosperity, where unity triumphs over division, justice prevails over inequality, and innovation drives economic growth.** This vision set the tone for his comprehensive mission, which encompassed key principles such as accountability, unity through democratic emancipation, justice, youth empowerment, economic empowerment, security, and peace. These principles formed the core of his party's approach to addressing Somalia's challenges.

A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL CENTRIST FAMILY

Furthermore, Mr. Ferro underscored his party's commitment to the CDI family by representing the Horn of Africa and advocating for democratic values and progress. He pointed out that his party is the first political force in Somalia to join an international political organisation, a significant historic achievement. **He highlighted the historical struggle for democracy and human rights in the region, exemplified by the One Man One Vote initiative in Somalia.** His dedication to accompanying the accession of centrist and progressive political forces from the Horn of Africa to the CDI family was a testament to his commitment to advancing democratic ideals.

A REFORMIST AGENDA THAT NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE CENTRIST AND GLOBAL FORCES COMMITTED TO A SHARED PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Regarding the future of Somalia, Mr. Ferro emphasized the nation's resilience, citing the World Bank's data on GDP growth in 2022. **He pointed out the demographic dividend offered by Somalia's youthful population and advocated for inclusive governance as a means to harness this potential.** He stressed the importance of transitioning to one-person, one-vote elections, recognizing the role of centrist, regional and international partnerships as a force for consolidating a stronger and stable Somalia. He called for decentralization of government, participative democracy, and the strengthening of key state institutions to achieve lasting stability and growth. His commitment to regional and international engagement showcased Somalia's potential as a gateway to the region and a hub for investments and peace.

ENGAGEMENT ON POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN AFRICA: ZOOMING IN ON SOMALIA, THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

Mr. Ferro highlighted the challenges of political disenfranchisement, socio-cultural and mass socio-economic exclusion all which fuel conflicts, coups and instability with recent headlines in Gabon and the Niger. To compound this problem statement, he also reflected on the protracted conflict in the host country of the African Union in the form of the clashes in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Mr. Ferro then delved into the historical influence of clan affiliations in Somali politics and his unwavering dedication to promoting direct voting as a means of self-determination for the Somali people. His efforts to bridge divides, foster dialogue, and ensure inclusivity in governance were underscored as essential for unlocking the potential of diverse talents and perspectives, ultimately driving economic growth and innovation.



Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro with HE José Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva, Prime minister of Cabo Verde



Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro with Luís Filipe Lopes Tavares, Vice-president of the MPD, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communities & Minister of Defence of Cabo Verde

KEY TAKEAWAYS

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Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro's agenda at the roundtable and high-level meetings at the IDC event showcased his commitment to democratic values, his vision for a prosperous Somalia. His contributions emphasized the importance of inclusivity, dialogue, and strong institutions as key drivers of progress in the Horn of Africa. **The key takeaways from his agenda included a call for unity, democracy, and regional cooperation to bring about a secure and prosperous future for Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region.**



Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro with HE Andrés Pastrana Arango, Former President of Colombia, Chairman of CDI



Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro with HE Nizar BARAKA, Minister for Infrastructure and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco



Hon. Abshir Aden Ferro in conversation with the CEO of the Cabo Verde TechPark



Family picture of the Congress



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