

To: President of Federal Republic of Somalia
Cc: Parliament of Somali Federal Republic (Bicameral)
Cc: Security Council members
Cc: General Secretary of United nations
Cc: Chairman of African Union
Cc: General Secretary of Arab League
Cc: Member States of IGAD
CC: All diplomatic missions to Somalia

LASANOD DECLARATION

5 February 2023.

The Somali people and most of the International Community are aware that over the last 15 years the SSC-Khatumo regions have encountered numerous problems caused by the illegal presence of the secessionist minded Somaliland administration. These problems resulted in an uprising known as the “Blue Uprising” in which the people in these regions stood up against the one-sided secession of Somaliland by defiantly raising the blue Somali flag. They protested against the genocidal agenda that targets prominent citizens, the economic embargo that prevents the presence of development agencies in these regions, and the violation of their inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

To counter these problems, it has become necessary to hold a self-determination conference that brings together the traditional leaders, religious scholars, intellectuals, women and youth groups, and representatives of all other civil society groups. They held the conference in the city of Las Anod, the capital of the SSC-Khatumo regions, from 28 January 2023 to 5 February 2023.

After lengthy and comprehensive deliberations, the delegates unanimously agreed upon the following points:

1. We declare that we are not part of the Somaliland Administration and that we have never agreed to or participate in the secession program, although the Somaliland administration is trying to force it upon us contrary to international norms and laws.

2. The SSC-Khatumo territories are part of the Federal Republic of Somalia and they stand for the unity and integrity of the Somali Federal Republic.
3. The delegates to the SSC-Khatumo self-determination conference elected 45-member body that will govern and administer the affairs of the SSC-Khatumo territories.
4. The SSC-Khatumo self-determination conference declares that the territory of SSC-Khatumo will be governed by the constitution and laws of the Federal Republic of Somalia.
5. Based on article 48 section 2 of the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia, we have decided that the Federal Republic of Somalia will administer the SSC-Khatumo regions until federalization of Somali territory is completed.
6. The Somaliland Administration should respect the desire and the will of SSC-Khatumo people toward their self-determination and Somaliland administration should withdraw its troops from the territory of SSC-Khatumo without any conditions.
7. We welcome any piece talks with Somaliland, only after they fully withdraw their troops from the SSC-Khatumo territories.
8. We hereby declare that we are not terrorists as the Somaliland Administration tries to label us. We are the owners of the SSC-Khatumo territories that Somaliland invaded and occupied by force. At the same time, we are willing and capable to safeguard and maintain the security of our territories, and we are ready to cooperate with neighboring administrations and regions in all matters related to security, peace, and stability.
9. There is no doubt that the Somaliland Administration is responsible for the cold-blooded murders and targeted assassinations of ordinary and prominent SSC-Khatumo citizens over the last 15 years it has been in control of our territories by force. This may even rise to the level of a genocidal campaign to eliminate the cream of the SSC-Khatumo people. This has created an atmosphere of fear that has negatively affected investments and business activities.
10. We call upon the traditional leaders, religious scholars, and the intellectuals of the Isak clan to convince their administration to withdraw its forces from SSC-Khatumo

territories and prevent insecurity and the possibility of an unnecessary and damaging conflict.

11. We call upon the international community and human rights organizations to investigate the atrocities committed by the Somaliland Administration against our people.
12. We call upon the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community to deal directly with the elected governing body which has mandate to run all affairs pertaining to the SSC-Khatumo territories.
13. The outcomes and decisions reached unanimously and collectively by all the delegates attending the self-determination conference held in Lasanod are final and can only be changed or amended by the same procedure and protocol.

=End=