



Statement by the Federal Parliament Members from the SSC region

February 3rd, 2023

To: IGAD Secreteriat

CC: UK Ambassador to Somalia

CC: US Ambassador to Somalia

CC: Turkiye Somalia

CC: China Ambassador to Somalia

CC: UNSOM Office

CC: Ethiopia Ambassador to Somalia

CC: Kenya Ambassador to Somalia

CC: Djibouti Ambassador to Somalia

CC: AU Mission Somalia

Dear **IGAD** Secretariat,

We, the Members of The Federal Parliament of Somalia representing the SSC regions, write this to acknowledge your recent 3rd State of the Region Address issued on 1st February 2023. As representatives of the Somali people, we appreciate your commOitment to promoting peace, stability, and development in the region.

We in particular want to highlight the Tensions in Laascaanod, the significant losses of both life and property, and your reference to mediation efforts attributed to H.E. President Ismail Omar Gulleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti.

The issue of Laascaanood and the ongoing tensions in the SSC region, a fulcrum the country's unity or disintegration hinges upon, is of great concern and significant interest to the people of Somalia and should be dealt with and led by the Federal Government of Somalia.

As representatives of the Somali people and in particular of SSC regions, we strongly believe that any interference by external parties, despite good intentions, is unacceptable, will have adverse ramifications, and exacerbates an already volatile situation.

In light of an interview given by the Spokesperson of the traditional elders of the SSC region to the BBC on February 1st, and a lengthy discussion we had with the SSC Consultative convention,

we couldn't establish any channel of communication, let alone an ongoing mediation, between the Elders and The Somaliland administration, or even between the elders and Djibouti government.

Furthermore, and in consideration of the unified stance of the local community, the withdrawal of Somaliland armed forces from the SSC regions is non-negotiable and should be made unconditionally.

We would like to emphasize that the resolution of these issues is the responsibility of the federal government of Somalia and should not be interfered with by any external parties. Any attempt to interfere with the SSC Self-determination and the consultative convention spearheaded by the local civil society and traditional leaders is an encroachment on Somalia's sovereignty and endorsement of the oppression and injustices carried out by the Somaliland forces in the region in the last 15 yrs.

The SSC community rallied behind their traditional elders in pursuit of their basic human rights and therefore, as parliamentary representatives of the SSC community we call upon all stakeholders to respect the voice of the people and the rightful demands of the Blue Revolution.

As the SSC consultative convention nears completion, the Somaliland administration continues to deploy significant armory and personnel to the region and may attempt to intervene forcefully in the convention's outcome. This could spark a protracted conflict and we urge the international community to be proactive and advise Somaliland against the such a futile attempt.

In conclusion, and considering the brotherly and communal relation between Somalia and Djibouti, we request that H.E. President Ismail Omar Gulleh respects the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Somalia and refrain from any further interference in the affairs of the SSC region.

Sincerely,

1. Hon. Mohamed Abdullahi Keyse;
2. Hon. Abdullahi Hassan Roble;
3. Hon. Abdullahi Warsame Bidhan;
4. Hon. Abdi Ibrahim Warsame;
5. Hon. Abdiqani Mahmoud Mohamed;
6. Hon. Farhiya Yusuf Omar;
7. Hon. Abdirisaq Hassan Dhokir;
8. Hon. Sahra Abdullahi Igal;
9. Senator Samira Haji Mohamed.

The End