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Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization (KAHRDO) was established on 7th July 2013, is a woman-led, non-political, non-profit organization committed to promoting and protecting human rights across South/Central Somalia. The organization works on key areas including human rights, protection of women and children, ending violence against women and girls, Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC), Disability Rights & Inclusion, advocacy for socio-economic rights, and ensuring access to justice for marginalized communities. KAHRDO conducts trainings, awareness campaigns, legal aid programs, and community engagement initiatives to empower citizens and strengthen human rights protections.

This submission represents KAHRDO's continued engagement in international human rights mechanisms, including its participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, highlighting its dedication to advancing human rights and social justice.

Universal Periodic Review Report

October 2025

This report is a collective effort and contributions of 46 civil society organizations across Somalia and contains their opinions, views and recommendations.

A. Background and Framework

1. Since Somalia's third cycle in the UPR in 2021, during which the country received 273 recommendations (246 accepted, 27 noted), progress has been uneven and largely limited to policy committed rather than sustained implementation. CSOs highlight weak consultation mechanisms, political tensions between the Federal Government and some Federal Member States (FMS), and humanitarian and climate-driven crises that continue to undermine governance and delay human-rights reforms.

1.1 Scope of International Obligations

- 1.1.1 Since the 3rd cycle UPR report, Somalia has a several important of international human rights treaties and several optional protocols. In the past decade Somalia has made steps on the drafting and submission national stakeholders, and the State Party reports and participated both UPR cycles (2011 up to 2020), in line with the framework of the UN Human Rights Council. In 2015 and 2018 Somalia ratified the CRC and the CRPD the CSOs welcomes the progress step of October 2025 made by the Federal Parliament's House of the People ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and meaning while the participation of the civil society actors in in the consultation process of the charter was very limited.
- 1.1.2 Somalia CSOs has welcomed the Independent Expert (IE) and her team on the human rights situation in Somalia numerous times and their consultation of the Somali international standard obligations and the alignment of the domestic legislative and had the opportunity to talk to CSOs in Somalia on the implementation of the previous recommendations. The CSOs have informed that the IE of Human Right Situation in Somalia when they visited the country were shared them the challenges of working in the different sectors area of violations of human rights in Somalia, the general lack of protection for most citizens and how it is difficult to work on human rights protection in Somalia and while the mandate of this body has ended.
- 1.1.3 The CSOs continuously call the government to ratify remaining treaties including the CEDAW, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. CSOs also recommends Somali government to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG), to initiate the process to ratifying the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

1.2 Constitutional and Legislative Framework

- 1.1.2 The Somali Provisional Constitution (2012) continues to provide broad guarantees for the protection and promotion of human rights, However, the ongoing constitutional amendment and review process (2023–2025) has generated both opportunities and concerns including limited public consultations. The review has focused on key governance chapters, yet civil-society participation has been very limited, and several proposed amendments risk weakening existing protections, such as changes that could lower the age of the child below 18 years, contrary to Somalia's obligations under the

CRC. The process has also been slowed by political tensions between federal and state authorities FMS, inadequate transparency, and the absence of a national framework for inclusive consultation. CSOs stress that any constitutional amendments must align with international standards, safeguard fundamental rights, and guarantee equal participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities while women CSOs concern to constitutionalize at least the 30% quota of women political participation.

- 1.1.3 At the legislative level, progress has been partial. Important human-rights bills, such as the Sexual Offences Bill, Child Right Bill, Citizenship Bill, NGOs Bill and the new one of the Official Information Bill which the media, journalist and entire CSOs have already raised their concerns, and other important bills still remain pending before Parliament. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is going to become fully operational, undermining accountability. CSOs urge the Government to accelerate completion of the constitutional review, finalize and implement pending rights-based laws, and ensure that all legal reforms are inclusive, transparent, and consistent with Somalia's international and regional obligations.

2. Institutional and Human Rights Infrastructure and Policy Measures

- 2.1.1 Somalia's institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights remains weak and incomplete, with several constitutional commissions still pending establishment. The Independent NHRC mandated to promote, protect, and monitor human rights, according to Article 41 of the Provisional Constitution, has faced long delays and limited transparency in member selection, raising concerns about its independence and compliance with the Paris Principles. The Judicial Service Commission which the body is responsible for appointing judges, including those for the Constitutional Court, which plays a role in upholding human rights, is also not functional.
- 2.1.2 The CSOs working on media freedoms observe that the amended Media Law 2021 remains a source of contention, as its restrictive provisions expose journalists and media houses to harassment, prosecution, and censorship. CSOs call for a comprehensive revise of the media law to align with freedom of expression standards and the Somali government established non-inclusive Media Council which CSOs in the in depend houses against and they state that the 2021 media law is not aligned with Human Right Convention and the including the African Union Charters and Somalia also made Data Protection Act, Law No. 005/2023, the National Identification & Registration Act, Law No. 009/2023, signed the Refugee and Asylum Seekers law, 2023. The Somali Parliament passed the National Higher Education Law in November 2024 (becoming law in December 2024), the Environmental Protection and Management Law (2024), and the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Bill passed the Somali House of the People moved to the Upper House (Somali Senate) for further consideration.

B. Information on the Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations, Taking into Account Applicable International Humanitarian Law

3.0 Children, Women – Equality and Non-Discrimination

3.1 Issues and Concerns: Women

- 3.1.1 Gender-based violence remains prevalent across Somalia in human-rights concerns. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including rape, early and forced marriage, and intimate-partner violence, is frequently reported in contexts of displacement, conflict, and insecurity, with internally displaced women and girls being the most at-risk. Survivors rarely obtain justice, as customary dispute-resolution systems (xeer) often dominate formal courts, resulting in impunity for perpetrators and social pressure on victims to remain silent. Despite years of advocacy and repeated UPR recommendations, a human rights compliant Sexual Offences Bill remain unpassed, while reported cases of rape have increased.
- 3.1.2 Women also continue to face systemic discrimination and under-representation in governance and public life. The 2021/22 federal elections delivered only 19.6 percent representation for women in the House of the People—down from 24 percent in 2016—despite the 30 percent quota target. In the Upper House, representation stood at 26 percent.

3.2 Issues and Concerns: Children

- 3.2.1 Children in Somalia remain among the most vulnerable groups, affected by conflict, climate change, displacement, poverty, and lack of access to education, health care, and protection services. Many are engaged in child labor, separated from their families, or live in unsafe environments. Recruitment and use of children by armed groups continues despite government commitments, and there are still reports of detention of children alongside adults, in violation of international standards. While the Juvenile Justice Bill (March 2025) passed the Somali House of the People It is still with the and just under progress of Somali Upper House (Senate) for approval.
- 3.2.2 Female genital mutilation (FGM) is practiced widely affecting many more children and continues to cause severe health complications and psychological trauma, with Somalia having accepted UPR recommendations to criminalize FGM. The 2024 constitutional review reaffirmed a prohibition on FGM, but without a unified national law, enforcement remains inconsistent. In states such as Galmudug and Jubaland enacted FGM Bills while Puntland and the South West pending for finalization.
- 3.2.3 The Child Rights Bill and Sexual Offences Bill are still pending at the Somali parliament, leaving survivors without comprehensive protection. Over three million children remain out of school (UNICEF, 2024), particularly among girls, children with disabilities, IDPs, and rural populations per CSOs research. Although recent reforms such as the Higher Education Law (2024) aim to strengthen education governance, they have yet to yield measurable improvements in access or quality. CSOs highlight the need for stronger coordination, funding, and monitoring to uphold the rights of every Somali child.
- 3.2.4 CSOs also commend some FMS authorities, including Galmudug State and Puntland State, for passing the FGM Bill into law. Galmudug State of Somalia was the first FMS to enact the FGM Law, marking a significant step toward combating FGM and protecting girls' rights. However, CSOs express concern and urge the remaining FMS such Jubaland, Hirshabelle, and South West to draft and pass the FGM Bill without further delay
- 3.2.5 Constitutional Amendment and Review: In March 2024, Parliament made attempts to lower the legal definition of a child by setting the age of maturity at 15 and the age of responsibility at 18, which would have implications for forced and child marriage.

- 3.2.6 However, a significant progress happened on 4 October 2025, when the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Following the ratification, two official statements were released one on Somali National Television's Facebook page and another on the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development website announcing five reservations made by the Federal Government in line with Islamic principles. These reservations relate to:
- 3.2.7 Article 2: *definition of a child as a person below the age of 18 years*, reserving that maturity is not a fixed age but when a child reaches puberty in line with Islamic law;
- 3.2.8 Article 9: ***freedom of thought, conscience and religion***, reserving that Somalia is a Muslim country and right to change religion will not be recognized;
- 3.2.9 Article 10: ***protection of privacy***, reserving that parents are responsible for their children, and to not interfere in their responsibility;
- 3.2.10 Article 21 (a) paragraph 2: ***child marriage and betrothal***; reserving that maturity is not a fixed age but when a child reaches puberty in line with Islamic law; and
- 3.2.11 Article 24: ***adoption***, reserving that sponsorship/guardianship must be along lineage and in line with the Kafala system and Islamic practice.
- 3.2.12 The Federal Government has opted out of these specific provisions. It is important to note that Somalia had earlier accepted the definition of a child as below 18 years during its 2015 ratification of the CRC, although it also entered reservations on Article 14 (freedom of religion), Article 20 (alternative care), and Article 21 (adoption).

Status: The ACRWC is currently under review by the Upper House of Parliament, pending final endorsement.

3.3 Recommendations

- Fully implement the Juvenile Justice Bill once it is signed by the presidential, ensuring that children are never detained by adults and that nationwide rehabilitation and reintegration programs are mobilized.
- Enact human rights compliant FGM and Sexual Offences Bills without delay, allocating resources for prevention, survivor support, and prosecution of offenders.
- Adopt a comprehensive Child Protection Policy that expands child-friendly justice, shelters, and psychosocial services, particularly for displaced and conflict-affected children.
- Guarantee free and inclusive primary education for all children, with targeted measures to increase enrollment for girls, children with disabilities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Prohibit all forms of child labor and strengthen labor inspection mechanisms to protect children from exploitation. Implement the CRC Convention fully and promote child-focused technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs.
- The remaining FMSs should demonstrate clear commitment by developing and adopting FGM Bills, in consultation with regional CSOs. These consultations should ensure that CSO insights and contributions are meaningfully added before the Bills are submitted and passed by their respective state authority, following the positive examples set by Galmudug and Puntland States.

4.0 Right to Life, Liberty and Security of the Person

4.1 Issues and Concerns

- 4.1.1 Despite constitutional guarantees, violations of the right to life, liberty, and security remain widespread. Arbitrary arrests, prolonged pre-trial detention, and unfair trials

continue to occur across federal and FMS state jurisdictions. Law-enforcement agencies often detain individuals without warrants or access to legal counsel, and civilians continue to be tried before military courts, rather than civilian court, contrary to Somalia's Constitution and international human-rights law.

- 4.1.2** Extrajudicial killings, excessive use of force, and civilian casualties from counter-terrorism operations and inter-clan conflict continue, with few investigations or accountability measures. Journalists, human-rights defenders, and protesters are particularly at risk of arrest, intimidation, and in some cases, violence or death. In 2024–2025, several documented cases of lethal force during protests and arbitrary detention of activists highlighted the lack of accountability mechanisms. Families of victims rarely receive justice or compensation is just dream. The absence of an independent police oversight body and limited judicial-complaint systems leave survivors without remedy.

4.1 Recommendations

- The Government Should prohibit the trial of civilians in military courts, classification of the trials in the courts, and amend relevant laws to ensure all cases fall under the civil courts.
- Children should be separated from adults when held in detention.
- Establish an Independent Police Oversight Unit with civil-society representation to investigate complaints of abuse, torture, and excessive force.
- Safeguard the rights of those arrested and detained and prohibit any form of torture.
- Prevent abuse of power by the police, army, intelligence and those with political influence.
- Investigate all extrajudicial killings and deaths in custody, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide reparations to victims' families.
- The Government should protect journalists, protesters, and human-rights defenders from arbitrary arrest, harassment as guarantees the constitution and the international human rights law.

5.0 Economic, Social Rights and Cultural Rights

5.1 Right to Health

5.1.1 Issues and Concerns

5.1.2 Access to quality and affordable health care in Somalia remains severely limited, especially for women, children, IDPs, and PWDs. Although the Government has taken some significant steps to reclaim public hospitals and coordinate with humanitarian partners, public health infrastructure remains underfunded by donors, and much of the population continues to depend on unregulated, unlicensed private providers. This has resulted in widespread inequality in access to essential services and an increase in preventable deaths, particularly maternal and infant mortality.

5.2 Recommendations

- Put in place legislative frameworks to address lack of safe delivery and decrease maternal and infant mortality rate.
- Invest in capacity of licensed medical professionals (public and private institutions).
- Increase national budget allocation to the health sector and ensure transparent management of donor funds.
- Improve regulation and licensing of private hospitals, pharmacies, and practitioners to ensure patient safety and service quality.
- Provide access to free health care, particularly for those most vulnerable in society.
- Expand access to clean water, sanitation, and nutrition programs to reduce disease and child mortality.
- The government should prioritize healthcare accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Integrate climate-resilience and disaster-response strategies into national health planning to address drought- and flood-related health crises.

5.3 Right to Education

5.3.1 Issues and Concerns

5.3.1 Somali CSOs observed, access to quality education in Somalia remains severely constrained by poverty, insecurity, and underinvestment. Despite constitutional guarantees, education spending continues to account for only 3–4 percent of the national budget, far below the international standard. Over three million children remain out of school, with girls, children with disabilities, IDPs, and rural communities extremely excluded. Gender barriers including early marriage, cultural norms, and safety risks continue to limit girls’ enrollment in schools. Schools in conflict-affected areas often lack qualified teachers, learning materials, and adequate facilities, forcing many families to rely on expensive, unregulated private or community-run institutions.

5.3.2 The CSOs commend that government’s enactment of the Higher Education Law (Law No. 30/2024) and formation of a 15-member National Committee for Higher Education are positive steps toward regulating tertiary education. However, the process has lacked transparency and equitable representation of stakeholders. Teacher salaries remain irregular, and training programs are underfunded. Students graduating from universities face high unemployment and limited job placements, reflecting a disconnect between education policy and labor-market needs. Digital literacy and inclusive education, especially for girls and persons with disabilities, remain largely unaddressed. Somali CSOs urge the Government to increase public investment in free, inclusive, and quality education and to establish mechanisms ensuring accountability, gender equity, and relevance to Somalia’s development priorities.

5.4 Recommendations

- Increase education budget allocations to at least 10 percent of national expenditure and ensure transparent use of funds.
- Guarantee free quality and compulsory primary to secondary education for all children, with targeted support for girls, children with disabilities, and IDPs.

- Expand school infrastructure and inclusive learning materials, especially in rural and conflict-affected regions.
- Promote digital literacy and inclusive education policies, ensuring accessible materials and facilities for learners with disabilities.
- Integrate peace, climate resilience, and human-rights education into national curricula context to promote civic awareness and tolerance.

5.5 Right to Work and to Just and Favorable Conditions of Work

5.5.1 Issues and concerns:

5.5.2 Somali CSOs states that the high unemployment and inequality continue to undermine Somalia's social and economic stability. Youth unemployment exceeds 70 percent, and women, IDPs, and marginalized groups remain largely excluded from formal employment. Hiring across public and private sectors often depends on clan ties and non-merit process, while girls and women face sexual harassment and exploitation for all gender in the workplace continue without compensation. Many domestic and informal-sector workers face abuse, unpaid salaries, or arbitrary detention, and including persons with disabilities.

5.6 Recommendations

- Create a national employment program targeting youth, women, and PWDs, with training and start-up support.
- Establish a labor-inspection mechanism and ensure compliance in both formal and informal sectors.
- Implement the 5% disability-employment quota and improve workplace accessibility nationwide.
- Economic empowerment of women, especially IDPs, those from marginalized communities and persons with disabilities.

6.0 Persons with Disabilities, Internally Displaced Persons and Marginalized Groups

6.1 PWDs

6.1.1 Issues and Concerns

6.1.2 PWDs in Somalia continue to face systematic exclusion and discrimination in nearly all areas of public life. Despite progress with the Disability Rights Protection Law (2024) and the National Disability Agency, the government has yet to strengthen the NDA's operational capacities or allocate resources for enforcement of the law. As a result, most PWDs still lack access to education for special consideration, health services, employment opportunities, and political participation which the newly legislative signed allows them to have access to all 5%. Public facilities and transportation remain physically inaccessible, and government information is rarely available in accessible formats such as Braille or sign language.

6.1.3 The Agency mandate has been renewed in February 2025. However, the CSOs, particularly organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) network have reported government interference, and the agency is currently facing severe obstacles in becoming operational. In 2025 the lands that previously belonged to the organizations of persons with disabilities known

as (Somalia National Institute on Disability People Vocational Skills Training and Somalia disability people basic education boarding for young people girls and boys in Mogadishu), were taken by the Government and sold to private business investors. The CSOs stated that this action violates human rights standards, as the government is expected to support, not undermine, disability organizations. As a result, currently, disability organizations no longer have centers from which to operate.

6.1.4 PWDs are often excluded from humanitarian aid, exposed to violence and abuse, and overlooked in community decision-making. Civil society has been commended Somalia's ratification of the CRPD, but the gaps is that domestication and implementation remain incomplete. Without a clear national plan and strategy of the National Disability Agency NDA or meaning while the commitments of the CRPD remain as symbolic.

6.2 Recommendations

- The government should ensure full implementation of the National Disability Act (2024) by providing adequate and adding the annual budgetary and institutional support to the national disability agency and related mechanisms.
- Implement and monitor the 5% quota for persons with disabilities in all public institutions, local councils, and national programs, in line with the CRPD's principles of inclusion, equality, and participation.
- Investigate and reverse or compensate the unlawful confiscation and sale of lands belonging to organizations of persons with disabilities especially the National Institute Training for the disabilities.
- Uphold the independence of organizations of persons with disabilities and end any form of interference in their operations.
- Establish an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism to maintain the mainstream disability inclusion across government institutions and ensure compliance with the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda for SDG 10 & 16.
- Establish disability desks in ministries, courts, police stations, private sectors, and other may available places to support reporting and avoid discrimination.

6.3 Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

6.3.1 Issues and Concerns

6.3.2 Somalia continues to experience one of the highest rates of internal displacement in Africa, driven by conflict, wars, drought, flooding, and evictions. An estimated 3.86 million people were internally displaced in Somalia by October 2024, a figure that represents the total stock of displaced persons, not new displacements in the year. Between January and November 2024, there were 477,000 new internal displacements, a significant drop of 85% from the 2023 record levels. The primary drivers of displacement were climatic shocks and conflict. (UNHCR Report, 2024 OCTOBER)¹ And in just August 2025 only one month the OCHA reported that early 142,000 displaced people were evicted from their temporary shelters since the beginning of this year: 81 percent in Banadir region, severely impacting community resilience. (OCHA, 2025

¹ (UNHCR Report, 2024 OCTOBER)

August)²

6.3.3 This remains displaced nationwide, most of them women, children, and persons with disabilities. Living conditions in IDPs settlements are dire, characterized by inadequate shelter, unsafe water, and limited access to education and health services. Many displaced families face SGBV, forced evictions by landowners, and exploitation by gatekeepers who divert humanitarian aid.

6.3.4 CSOs reports that, although the IDP Bill was passed by the House of the People in 2024, it is still awaiting approval by the Upper House (Somali Senate) and Presidential assent. Implementation of the Kampala Convention (ratified 2019) also remains limited. The government has yet to adopt a coordinated framework for durable solutions or to provide effective protection from eviction. Civil society acknowledges positive engagement by humanitarian agencies but stresses that long-term policy and legal enforcement must come from national authorities. There is an urgent need for the government to finalize and operationalize the IDP bill into law to enhance protection from forced displacement and ensure equitable access to humanitarian to avoid aid diversion and development programs.

6.4 Recommendations

- The government should **expedite the passage of the IDP Bill into law**, it is urgently needed to ensure clear protection measures, coordination structures, and resource allocation, including policies and strategies to improve the lives of IDPs.
- Prohibit forced evictions and establish procedures for compensation, relocation, and due-process safeguards.
- The government should ensure availability of education and health programs in IDP settlements.
- Ensure IDPs' access to education, health care, and legal aid, prioritizing women, children, and PWDs.
- Strengthen humanitarian coordination and regulate gatekeeper practices to guarantee equitable aid delivery.
- Afford better protection mechanism for displaced person, in particular women and children to prevent sexual violence.
- Develop durable-solutions policies that integrate livelihoods, housing, and social protection for returnees and displaced families.

6.5 Marginalized and Minority Groups

6.5.1 Issues and Concerns

6.5.2 CSOs reports that marginalized communities in Somalia including minority clans, occupational groups, and socially excluded populations continue to experience systemic

² This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It provides information on the humanitarian situation across Somalia in August 2025

discrimination, poverty, and exclusion from political, social, and economic participation. These groups often live in segregated neighborhoods or informal settlements with little access to safe water, sanitation, education, or health care. Their members are frequently subjected to verbal abuse, social stigma, and exploitation, and they are largely absent from decision-making structures and public employment.

6.5.3 Vulnerable communities in Somalia including rural populations, displaced families, and those affected by poverty and climate shocks continue to face persistent exclusion from social protection and development programs. Civil society organizations have criticized the Baxnaano Social Safety Net Program led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs for weak targeting and misappropriate, noting that many intended beneficiaries were not reached as stated by the CSOs. CSOs also discussed that the government must adopt transparent and accountable policies that prioritize women, children, and those repeatedly affected by drought, floods, and displacement.

6.5.4 In September 2025, the National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS) launched the National Rural Development Strategy preparation process, which aims to expand access to social services, invest in Agri-financing, and rebuild rural infrastructure. CSOs welcomed this initiative but underlined that it must be target based for the vulnerable communities are directly accessed about their needs in each region.

6.6 Recommendations

- The Government Should Adopt a National Inclusion and Equality Policy ensuring fair political representation and equal access to basic services for marginalized groups.
- Prohibit and penalize all forms of discrimination and hate speech, including clan-based exclusion and segregation.
- Guarantee participation of marginalized groups in local councils, parliamentary committees, and national decision-making.
- Expand education, water, and housing programs in minority and low-income neighborhoods to address social inequality.
- Ensure that social protection and rural development programs, including the Baxnaano Social Safety Net and the National Rural Development Strategy, adopt a rights-based and participatory approach that prioritizes vulnerable groups particularly women, children, and displaced vulnerable affected by climate shocks and other challenges.
- Establish transparent and accountable mechanisms to monitor implementation, prevent misuse of funds, and ensure that social protection and development benefits reach the poorest and most excluded communities across all regions.

6.7 Freedom of Thought, Expression, and Association

6.7.1 Issues and Concerns

6.7.2 Members of the CSOs states state that, the freedom of expression, opinion, and association in Somalia remains under significant restriction. Journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists continue to face harassment, intimidation, and arbitrary arrest despite

constitutional guarantees. Censorship of the media, suppression of protests, and misuse of national security laws persist as major obstacles to democratic participation and transparency.

6.7.3 The amended Media Law (2021), while a step forward, still contains criminal provisions that permit the detention of journalists and closure of media outlets. For instance, in 2024, the Risaala Media Group was suspended for several hours, and over 40 journalists were detained in just only 2025 across the country during coverage of political and social events. Independent media networks continue to face censorship, while protesters and community organizers risk arrest for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and expression as guaranteed the Somali provisional constitution 2012.

6.7.4 CSOs also reports that, the Federal Government have done the establishment an independent Somali Media Council, while the CSOs reported that the process has lacked transparency and inclusivity. Furthermore, most Federal Member States (FMSs) with the exception of Puntland and Somaliland, the rest have not yet adopted any media laws or protective frameworks. In states such as Jubaland, South West, Galmudug, and Hirshabele, citizens are unable to organize peaceful protests in the last 10 years, meaning while those the mobilize mostly happen.

6.7.5 The CSOs noted mentioned that the Somali Media Associations SOMA, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) and have documented alarming trends in the last three years the violation faces with the Somali journalist and media associations including with human right defenders. Only in 2025 alone, at least more than 41 violations of media freedom were recorded including arbitrary arrests, physical assaults, and confiscation of media equipment. These incidents reflect deliberate attempts to suppress independent reporting and silence critical voices. Such actions directly violate Somalia's obligations under its Somali Provisional Constitution, the UDHR, the ICCPR, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists, these still ongoing restrictions on media and civic space in Somalia undermine public trust, weaken accountability, and threaten the foundations of democratic governance in Somalia.

6.8 Recommendations

- Amend or replace the Media Law (2021) to ensure full compliance with international human rights standards. Any new or revised media legislation should be drafted through broad, transparent, and inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholder such as journalists, media associations, and civil society.
- Establish an independent and functional Somali Media Council through a merit-based and inclusive process that guarantees representation of journalists, CSOs, and media houses, while avoiding it becoming a government-controlled or politically influenced body.
- End arbitrary arrests, detentions, and harassment of journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society actors. Ensure prompt and impartial investigations into violations and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Guarantee freedom of association and assembly, removing administrative or security barriers that restrict peaceful protests, activist, media association, independent journalist and entire CSO operations at both federal and state levels.

- Adopt and harmonize media and civic freedom laws across all Federal Member States to protect journalists, activists and media houses from intimidation, censorship, and reprisals.
- Fully implement international conventions and the regional charter that guarantee everyone's right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, in order to ensure the safety and protection of Human Rights Defenders and Media Workers.

7.0 Impacts of Climate Change on Human Rights

7.1 Issues and Concerns

7.1.1 Somalia remains among the countries most severely affected by climate change in the Horn of Africa. Recurrent droughts, floods, and desertification continue to destroy livelihoods, displace communities, and deepen food insecurity. In 2024–2025 alone, flash floods in the Shabelle and Jubba regions displaced thousands of families and triggered outbreaks of water-borne diseases. These environmental shocks directly threaten fundamental human rights — including the rights to life, health, housing, food, and water — particularly among pastoralists, farmers, women, and children.

7.1.2 Although the Federal Government established, for the first time, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the Federal Parliament enacted the Environmental Protection and Management Law (2024), implementation and budgetary allocation remain minimal. Climate-resilience and adaptation programs are still largely donor-driven, with limited national coordination or participation of affected communities. Internally displaced persons, women, and marginalized groups remain underrepresented in national climate planning processes, leaving them exposed to recurring climate-related shocks.

7.1.3 Importantly, Somalia submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0, on September 9, 2025) with the active participation and technical input of CSOs and research institutions specialized in climate and environmental policy.

7.2 Recommendations

- Implement the Environmental Protection and Management Law (2024), particularly Articles 3, 5, 6, and 31–34, with adequate funding and monitoring, including provisions that uphold the right to a clean and healthy environment, promote environmental justice, and ensure the protection and participation of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and marginalized communities affected by climate change.
- Integrate climate-change adaptation into national development and human-rights frameworks.
- Promote sustainable land and water management and protect the rights of pastoralists, fishers, river banks and farmers.
- Ensure inclusion of women, youth, IDPs, and marginalized groups in climate-policy decision-making.
- Establish a national climate monitoring and early warning system, with robust meteorological data collection and dissemination to enhance disaster preparedness and response.

- The Somali government should establish a National Meteorological Institute to strengthen early warning systems and climate monitoring, ensuring that vulnerable communities in rural areas and along riverbanks receive timely alerts and information during heavy rains, floods, and droughts.

8.0 Elections and Political Participation

8.1 Issues and Concerns

8.1.1 Somalia's progress toward inclusive and credible elections remains still limited. The National Electoral Law (2024) and the Law Establishing the Independent National Electoral and Boundaries Commission (INEBC, 2024) are in place, but their implementation faces structural and legal challenges that undermine equality, transparency, and representation including the opposition groups, and weak consultation during the initial draft bill stage.

8.1.2 Women's participation continues to decline. In the 2016 elections, women won 24% of seats in the House of the People and the Upper House (Senate), failing to reach the 30% quota. Unfortunately, in the 2021/22 indirect elections, representation dropped to 19.6%, showing a worrying regression. The 30% quota remains a political pledge rather than a constitutional or legal guarantee. CSOs warn that under a one-person-one-vote system, Somali women may lose further representation unless their seats are protected by specific legal provisions. (Somalia Non-State Actors SONSA, PUNSA, EISA., 2021/2022)³

8.1.3 CSO also express concern over repeated amendments to electoral laws in every term, which have triggered disputes in every election cycle. They recommend fixing the most contentious articles for a minimum of 15 years to promote stability and legal certainty.

8.1.4 Marginalized groups including minority clans, youth, and persons with disabilities — continue to face regular exclusion from political participation. The electoral law provides no special representation or reserved seats for these communities. In addition, the high registration fees and financial requirements effectively bar youth and low-income candidates from contesting elections, which contradicts the principle of equality and universal participation.

8.1.5 Women also remain largely excluded from executive leadership positions; there are still no women serving as Directors General in federal ministries, a clear indicator of gender imbalance and institutional discrimination.

8.2 Recommendations

- Ensure full and inclusive implementation of the National Electoral Law (2024) and INEBC Law (2024) in line with international human rights and democratic standards.
- Preserve the 30% women's quota in the Constitution and Electoral Law to make it legally binding in all elected and appointed positions.
- Limit future amendments to electoral laws by fixing contentious provisions for at least 15 years to prevent repeated political disputes in every coming term.
- The CSO suggest that the government to totally remove excessive registration fees and other financial conditions that restrict the participation of youth, women, marginalized communities and low-income citizens, ensuring that political rights are not dependent on

³ Somalia Non-State Actors SONSA, PUNSA, EISA.

wealth.

- Guarantee representation of marginalized groups and minority communities, including consideration of reserved seats to promote equality and inclusion.
- Implement the 5% quota for persons with disabilities in line with Somalia's Disability Law (2024) and the CRPD, ensuring accessibility and participation.
- Promote gender equality in executive positions, ensuring Somali women occupy at least 30% of senior public offices, including Director General and leadership posts.
- Harmonize electoral frameworks across Federal Member States and clarify the political status of Mogadishu for fair representation.
- Enhance civic and voter education through CSO and media engagement to build informed participation and public trust.
- Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) to align Somalia's frameworks with regional human rights and governance standards.

List of CSOs Task Force to follow up the implementation of 3rd UPR recommendations

#	Organization	Email
1.	Kalkal Human Rights and Development Organization (KAHDO)	info@kalkalhuman.org
2.	Somali Women and Child Care Association	swcca2012@gmail.com
3.	Minority Community Advocates Network (MCAN)	ibrahim@mcadvoc.org
4.	Institute of Climate and Environment (ICE)	abdikafi@simad.edu.so
5.	UDHAN (Visually Impaired Youth Org)	info@udhan.so
6.	Protection Lens (PL)	info@protectionlens.org
7.	Somali Disability Inclusion Cluster	info@naafo.org.so
8.	Somali minority Development Organization	somaliminority1@gmail.com
9.	Women Center for Peace and Development (WoCPAD)	Info.wocpad@gmail.com
10.	Organisation for Minority Rights Advocate (OMRA) Location: Dhusamareeb	info@omrasom.org omra.somalia@gmail.com
11.	Youth Empowerment Council (YECO)	goonil@yecosomalia.so
12.	Youth Empowerment Education Lifeline Organization	barud.ahmed@yeelo.org
13.	Somali Environmental and Community Development Organization	Secdosomali@gmail.com
14.	Sahal Organization for Relief and Development	info@sorfad.org
15.	Jubbaland Non-State Actors Association – JUNSAA (CSOs umbrella)	chairman@junsaa.org
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