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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Somalia

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Process for preparation of the report

1. The Federal Government of Somalia has the honour to submit its fourth-cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) National Report, outlining progress in implementing the 246 recommendations supported during the previous cycle. The report highlights developments since the last review and provides updates on measures undertaken to promote and protect human rights in the Federal Republic of Somalia.
2. In accordance with the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) Policy, the Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development (MoFHRD) served as the lead institution and national focal point for the preparation of this report, chairing the Inter-Ministerial Human Rights Taskforce and coordinating inputs from federal MDAs, national independent commissions, the judiciary, the Federal Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, Federal Member States, and other designated NMRF members.
3. Through the NMRF coordination framework, MoFHRD led consultations with Taskforce members to collect implementation updates, data, and evidence on UPR recommendations. These inputs were consolidated following a review of developments since the previous cycle, including engagement with UN treaty bodies (CRC, CAT, HRC), reports by the Independent Expert on Somalia, thematic reporting by UNTMIS/HRPG, and relevant reports and assessments by other UNCT members. The report was subsequently reviewed through technical validation meetings convened under the NMRF.
4. Consistent with the NMRF Policy's stakeholder-engagement principles, the Government also solicited inputs from non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society organisations, women's rights groups, organisations of persons with disabilities, professional associations, and academia.

II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

A. Cross-cutting issues

Ratification of and accession to international instruments (Recommendations 132.1–30, 132.35, 132.41, 132.43–48)

5. Somalia has continued to advance the implementation of its international human rights obligations and to pursue further treaty ratifications, as reflected in the Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9 2020–2024). In October 2025, the House of the People adopted the ratification bill for the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which awaits presidential assent.
6. The ratification processes for the CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol instruments progressed between 2024 and 2025, supported by legislative alignment efforts and broad national consultations. Both instruments are prioritised for ratification under the Joint Programme on Human Rights III in 2026.
7. Somalia has committed to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict ("OPAC") by 2028. Ongoing reforms are aligned with OPAC standards, including SOPs and the implementation of UN Action Plans, and contributed to the conditional delisting of the Somali National Army and the Somali Police Force from the Secretary-General's 2025 CAAC report.
8. Somalia has not yet ratified the remaining recommended instruments, owing to competing national priorities during the reporting period: the COVID-19 pandemic, electoral processes, counterterrorism operations, and humanitarian crises.
9. Outstanding instruments under consideration include the Arms Trade Treaty, OPAC, the Statelessness Conventions, the Migrant Workers Convention, OPCAT, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Genocide

Convention, and the Mercenaries Convention. Preparatory actions for these instruments are ongoing and at various stages.

**Cooperation and follow-up with treaty bodies
(Recommendation 132.53)**

10. Somalia has strengthened its engagement with UN treaty bodies by submitting initial State party reports under the CRC, CAT, and ICCPR, all of which were reviewed in their respective constructive dialogues. The initial report under the ICESCR has been submitted and awaits review.

11. The 2022 CRC Concluding Observations informed the development and implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children (2024–2029) through sectoral coordination and child-focused programming. In 2024, Somalia completed its first follow-up cycle with the Committee against Torture, reporting progress on the criminalisation of torture, the establishment of the NIHRC, and accountability measures. This engagement has informed the ongoing reforms of Somalia's criminal laws.

12. Somalia has completed preparations for its initial report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a submission scheduled for February 2026. Among Somalia's six ratified human rights treaties, the report under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is still overdue, but it is expected to be submitted by the end of 2026.

**Inter-State cooperation and assistance
(Recommendation 132.54)**

13. Somalia has enhanced inter-State cooperation and international assistance through increased domestic financing and pooled partner support. Federal budget allocations rose from USD 929.9 million in 2022 to USD 1.32 billion in 2025, with increased investment in social services and the economic sector to support rights-based service delivery.

14. Through the Somalia Joint Fund (SJF), Somalia mobilised USD 46.3 million in 2022, USD 35 million in 2023, and USD 37 million in commitments for 2024, with USD 14.9 million deposited in the first half of 2025. SJF-supported programmes expanded GBV response services, land tenure documentation, national identification registration, and human-rights capacity-building for public institutions and civil society.

**Constitutional and legislative framework
(Recommendations 132.55–61, 132.67–70, 132.118, 132.268)**

15. In March 2024, the President signed into law amendments to the first four chapters of the Provisional Federal Constitution, adopted by both Houses of Parliament in a joint session. Amendments to the first three chapters reaffirmed the Bill of Rights contained in Chapter 2 of the 2012 Constitution, maintaining alignment with Somalia's international human rights obligations.

16. The Constitutional Court's establishment has been delayed, mainly owing to the absence of prerequisite institutions, including the Judiciary Service Commission and NIHRC. Following the establishment of the NIHRC, the Federal Government is committed to completing the Court's establishment by 2027.

17. Somalia has undertaken legislative updates to align its criminal justice framework with international standards, including Cabinet approval of a Penal Code Amendment Bill in December 2025 and submission of a Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill to the House of the People in January 2025.

18. In August 2023, the Cabinet approved the Child Rights Bill and submitted it to the House of the People. In January 2024, the Bill was returned for constitutional and Shariah review. Following consultations, the Cabinet reapproved the Bill in December 2025, the same month the Senate approved the Juvenile Justice Bill. In parallel, the revised Labour Code (Law No. 36 of 2024) established 18 years as the age of majority.

19. Somalia enacted Law No. 29 of 2 December 2024, giving legal effect to the CRPD. The National Disability Agency (NDA) is implementing an action plan focused on accessibility, inclusion, and non-discrimination. The national legislative agenda further prioritises the Rape and Indecency Offences Bill and a National Anti-FGM/C Bill, both of which are expected to be enacted before the conclusion of the current parliamentary session.

20. In November 2024, Somalia adopted a national elections law package comprising the Commission Law, the Political Parties Law, and the Electoral Law, all of which codify a minimum 30% quota for women's representation across electoral processes and governance levels.

21. The NGO Bill, approved by the Cabinet in March 2024, provides a legal framework for non-governmental and humanitarian actors. In addition, the IDP Bill, drafted to domesticate the Kampala Convention, was approved by the Senate in 2025 and awaits presidential assent.

22. Between 2023 and 2025, the Federal Government, in cooperation with security institutions and international partners, intensified efforts to eliminate illegal taxation and checkpoints operated by Al-Shabaab and other armed groups that restrict civilian movement and access to humanitarian assistance.

Legal and institutional reform (Recommendation 132.65)

23. During the reporting period, Somalia undertook extensive legal and institutional reforms to strengthen constitutional governance, accountability, and electoral frameworks. Key reforms included the enactment of the Constitutional Amendment (Chapters 1–4) Law (No. 40 of 2024), the Office of the Auditor General Law (No. 014 of 2023), and the adoption of a comprehensive electoral law package comprising the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Establishment Law (No. 26 of 2024), the Political Parties Law (No. 27 of 2024), and the National Elections Law (No. 28 of 2024).

24. Complementary legislation adopted during the period included laws on national security and intelligence, counter-terrorism, data protection, immigration and movement, environmental protection, and environmental and social impact assessment, contributing to an updated legal framework aligned with governance, security, and regulatory needs.

25. National coordination on human rights reporting and follow-up was strengthened following Cabinet approval of the NMRF Policy in 2024, establishing an inter-ministerial task force chaired by the MoFHRD. Targeted capacity-building on UPR and treaty bodies reporting was conducted for NMRF members.

26. The implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children (2024–2029) advanced reforms in child rights governance through legal harmonisation, inter-ministerial coordination, and institutional strengthening, in line with the principles of the CRC.

27. Justice, security, and oversight sector reforms have been supported by continued cooperation with the United Nations and international partners, thereby gradually strengthening the national institutional capacity to meet Somalia's human rights obligations.

National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) (Recommendations 132.62–64, 132.66)

28. Somalia achieved a key institutional milestone in 2025 with the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) in accordance with Law No. 16 of 27 June 2016. The establishment of the Commission constitutes a central component of the Human Rights Transition Plan.

29. The selection process was conducted through a 19-member Temporary Selection Panel (TSP) appointed by the MoFHRD, representing all FMS, Banadir, and civil society, with gender parity and inclusion of persons with disabilities. In line with Articles 8 and 11 of Law No. 16, the TSP issued a public call for applications, conducted screenings, assessments, and interviews, and submitted a shortlist for Cabinet consideration.

30. Pursuant to Articles 16 and 17 of Law No. 16, the Cabinet and both Houses of Parliament approved the appointment of the shortlisted nine Commissioners between July and November 2025. The Commissioners were subsequently appointed by presidential decree in December 2025, thereby finalising the Commission's establishment.

**Human rights education, training and awareness-raising
(Recommendations 132.51, 132.104)**

31. The Federal Government, with the UN and partners, strengthened cooperation to build human rights capacity through joint programmes, institutional support, and nationwide outreach.

32. In 2024, more than 800 civil servants and CSOs were trained in human rights advocacy, monitoring, and engagement with international protection mechanisms. Human rights education was integrated into reconciliation, governance, and justice programmes, reaching thousands of citizens; more than 11,000 participated in inclusive constitutional and governance consultations.

33. Human rights training for security institutions expanded through SJF-funded programmes such as BASIS. In 2024, 4,472 individuals (1,725 women) underwent security assessments. Additionally, 150 police and corrections officers received human rights and reintegration training, 608 inmates benefited from reintegration initiatives, and 30 security assessments and mapping studies supported rights-based planning and accountability.

34. Under justice and security programmes, 1,157 participants were trained in non-violent communication, and 632 engaged in dialogue to improve institutional practices. Feedback indicates increased trust in security institutions and improved civilian engagement, particularly in IDP-hosting and marginalised areas.

**Human rights and climate change
(Recommendation 132.74)**

35. Somalia has strengthened the integration of human rights into climate policy and disaster risk reduction by prioritising vulnerable groups within its National Climate Change Policy. The policy promotes inclusive decision-making, with particular attention to women, children, persons with disabilities, and youth.

36. At the Global Refugee Forum in 2023, Somalia committed to enhancing climate adaptation measures for displaced and disaster-affected populations, including internally displaced persons, returnees, and host communities.

37. In mid-2025, Somalia submitted its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) to the UNFCCC, developed through an all-of-society approach involving government institutions, civil society, and marginalised groups, reflecting a shift toward participatory and rights-based climate governance.

38. The Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) developed a Gender Strategy for DDR, informed by consultations with women on their roles, needs, and vulnerabilities. With support from the UN, local resilience plans and community-based early warning systems are being developed and scaled up.

**Human rights and counter-terrorism
(Recommendations 132.77–180)**

39. Somalia has strengthened its counter-terrorism framework through the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Law (Law No. 007 of 2023) and the approval of the Tubsan National Centre's PCVE Strategy (2024–2027), which integrates security measures with prevention and resilience-building.

40. The Government continues to implement a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy encompassing law enforcement, military operations, PCVE measures, and initiatives addressing root causes. During his May 2025 country visit, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism acknowledged these efforts while recommending further strengthening of human rights safeguards in counter-terrorism practices.

41. Operations against Al-Shabaab and Islamic State continue with regional and international support. The transition from ATMIS to AUSSOM, including the deployment of up to 12,626 personnel and the expansion of regional partnerships, reflects continued international cooperation in counter-terrorism.

42. Measures to address violations against women and children in the context of counter-terrorism are pursued through legal reforms and by implementing the NAP on 1325 for WPS and related Local Action Plans in FMS. These efforts promote women's participation in peacebuilding and strengthen protection against conflict-related sexual violence through engagement with security institutions, community leaders, and civil society organisations.

43. Somalia has strengthened its legal framework to address piracy and kidnapping after the House of the People passed the revised Anti-Piracy and Anti-Kidnapping Bill in November 2025.

Business and human rights (Recommendation 132.76)

44. Somalia promotes responsible business through its laws, such as the 2016 Foreign Investment Law, which requires compliance with national laws and the employment of at least 50% local staff and contractors. The Investors and Investments Protection Law (2023) and the Companies Act (2019) and its 2021 Regulations establish baseline governance and reporting standards.

45. In high-risk sectors, including extractives, legislation such as the Petroleum Law (2020) and the Environmental Protection Act (2024) introduces human rights safeguards, environmental assessments, community protections, and the polluter-pays principle.

46. The revised Labour Code further strengthens worker protections, including provisions on fair wages, occupational safety and health, limits on working hours, non-discrimination, and enhanced safeguards for informal-sector workers.

47. With support from the World Bank, Somalia is developing regulatory frameworks for competition in the telecommunications sector and for Special Economic Zones, incorporating reviews of labour, environmental, and investment-protection standards to prevent abuses in high-concentration investment areas.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms and technical assistance (Recommendations 132.49–50, 132.52)

48. Since 2019, the Human Rights Council has adopted successive resolutions on assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, establishing a framework for technical assistance and capacity-building in cooperation with the Federal Government.

49. Support from the OHCHR, including through the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre, is primarily delivered via UNTMIS/HRPG and encompasses monitoring, reporting, and capacity-building for federal and state institutions, security actors, and civil society organisations.

50. Through the Somalia Joint Programme on Human Rights (Phases I and II), implemented by UNSOM/UNTMIS and UNICEF in collaboration with MoFHRD, technical assistance has been provided to federal and state institutions, security agencies, parliamentary human rights committees, and the NMRF task force.

51. Somalia has also strengthened cooperation with the Human Rights Council's special procedures, including engagement with the Independent Expert on Somalia until the mandate's conclusion. Since 2016, Somalia has maintained a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures and facilitated the first visit by a thematic mandate holder, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism.

Economic and political crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies (Recommendations 132.75, 132.119)

52. During the reporting period, Somalia experienced compounded challenges stemming from climate shocks, insecurity, and humanitarian crises. Recurrent droughts and El Niño-

related floods displaced large numbers of people and exacerbated food insecurity. In response, the FGS and its partners strengthened drought-mitigation measures, early-warning systems, and disaster-management capacities, contributing to the prevention of famine in 2022 and the integration of long-term resilience measures into national planning.

53. Despite periods of political tension and violence, Somalia resolved the 2021–2022 electoral crisis through inclusive dialogue among stakeholders, leading to the formation of a new government in 2022. Since then, the revitalised National Consultative Council has supported cooperative governance, while reconciliation initiatives led by the MoIFAR, in partnership with UNSOM and UNDP, have contributed to improved regional stability.

B. Civil and Political Rights

Conditions of detention (Recommendation 132.99)

54. The Ministry of Justice, through its Correctional Affairs Department, continues to oversee federal prisons, standardise correctional procedures, and expand education, vocational training, and rehabilitation programmes for detainees.

55. With support from the Joint Corrections Service Programme and the Joint Justice and Corrections Programme (2023–2027), Somalia launched its first National Justice Sector Strategy (2025–2029) in 2024, alongside an implementation framework for the Justice and Corrections Model, to modernise prison legislation and strengthen detention oversight.

56. In partnership with UNODC and other partners, Somalia has upgraded detention infrastructure in Mogadishu, Bossaso, Garowe, and Hargeisa. A key milestone was the opening of the Mogadishu Prison and Court Complex in March 2024, a 700-bed, high-security facility that integrates custodial and judicial functions. The United States has pledged support for the rehabilitation of Mogadishu Central Prison.

Administration of justice and fair trial (Recommendations 132.93–94, 132.97, 132.100–103, 132.106–107)

57. Somalia continues to reform its justice and security institutions with a focus on access to justice, judicial independence, and respect for human rights. Programmes such as the Joint Justice and Corrections Programme (2023–2027) have strengthened court capacity, expanded legal aid services, and improved police and custodial functions. With UNDP support, legal aid and mobile courts have extended services to underserved areas, assisting more than 1,600 women in 2022.

58. Capacity-building for justice and security institutions has expanded through training delivered by UNSOM, ATMIS, and partners on human rights, sexual and gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence, and child protection. These initiatives integrate human rights standards into operational practice and have strengthened referral pathways and survivor-support services.

59. Notwithstanding progress, challenges related to freedom of expression and the protection of journalists persist. Reports continue to document incidents of violence, arrests, intimidation, and legal actions.

Access to justice and remedy (Recommendation 132.109)

60. The National Justice Sector Strategy seeks to enhance affordability, accessibility, and responsiveness of justice services by promoting community-based dispute resolution and improved coordination among justice actors. Legal aid services have expanded through collaboration between UN agencies, civil society organisations, and FMS institutions, encompassing legal representation, rights awareness, support for children in conflict with the law, and referral services for survivors.

61. Somalia has initiated measures to provide rehabilitation and financial assistance to victims of major terrorist attacks. Following the October 2022 Zoobe-2 bombing, the

Government allocated USD 1 million to affected families and committed to strengthening longer-term victim assistance mechanisms. However, support for victims of conflict-related and gender-based violence remains uneven, and comprehensive national compensation frameworks are still under development.

62. Policy commitments, including the National Reconciliation Framework and the Protection of Civilians Policy adopted in November 2025, reflect the Government's intention to institutionalise accountability, victim support, and reparative measures.

**Freedom of opinion and expression, and access to information
(Recommendations 132.121–143, 132.145)**

63. Somalia reaffirms that freedom of opinion and expression and access to information are constitutionally guaranteed and remain central to democratic transition and state-building. The Government reviewed the 2024 OHCHR/UNSOM report on media freedom and is using its recommendations to inform reforms to media regulation, criminal law, and journalist safety.

64. The Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Journalists, appointed in 2020, has remained operational, with Somalia submitting case-status updates to the UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists. UNESCO records indicate that 80 journalists have been killed since 1993, with approximately one quarter of cases judicially resolved. Somalia has submitted five official responses to UNESCO on case follow-up.

65. Legislative and institutional reforms progressed during the reporting period, including ongoing Penal Code reform, the enactment of the Data Protection Act (2023), the establishment of the Media Council and the Data Protection Authority, the adoption of the Digital Inclusion Policy (2024), and the implementation of an Access to Information Act in Puntland.

66. Notwithstanding these measures, significant challenges persist. Independent reporting in 2024 documented 25 verified violations against journalists. While no journalist was killed in 2024 for the first time since 2005, the majority of incidents involved arrests or detentions, and a high proportion were attributed to police or security forces. Female journalists continued to face gender-based violence, with at least 21 incidents reported during the year.

**Rule of law and impunity
(Recommendations 132.96, 132.98, 132.101, 132.108, 132.112)**

67. Somalia has continued efforts to strengthen the rule of law, including measures to combat piracy and other unlawful violence. The Anti-Piracy and Anti-Kidnapping Bill, adopted by the House of the People in November 2025, updates the 1975 framework by strengthening penalties, expanding jurisdiction, redefining piracy, and aligning domestic law with the UNCLOS. Supported by international naval cooperation, including Operation ATALANTA and Combined Task Force 151.

68. Somalia has continued to investigate credible allegations of unlawful killings and pursue accountability through military and civilian justice mechanisms. In 2023, security personnel were linked to 61 civilian deaths, with nine perpetrators arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced. In 2022, military courts imposed maximum penalties in six cases involving personnel from NISA, the Somali Police Force, and the Somali National Army, including the December 2022 conviction of a soldier for the killing of a civilian at an illegal checkpoint, with due process guarantees observed.

69. Accountability measures have also been pursued in cases involving international forces. Following investigations into civilian casualty allegations, a troop-contributing-country court martial convened in Mogadishu convicted five AMISOM/ATMIS soldiers in November 2021, resulting in two death sentences and three terms of imprisonment.

70. Somalia continues to engage with the UNCT and human rights mechanisms to strengthen independent investigations, improve data collection on civilian harm, including incidents linked to air and drone strikes, and expand safe reporting, accountability, and redress mechanisms for victims and their families.

Transitional justice**(Recommendations 132.95, 132.110–111, 132.113)**

71. Somalia has continued to prioritise national reconciliation and civilian protection in peacebuilding. In April 2024, the Prime Minister launched the National Reconciliation Framework, aligned with the NDP-9. Progress includes forming a Technical Advisory Board, developing a participatory reconciliation strategy with FMS, and integrating customary (Xeer), Islamic, and formal justice mechanisms.

72. Somalia has collaborated with the UN and civil society to improve the recording of conflict-related casualties. Although UN reports, including Protection of Civilians, document many civilian deaths, Somalia does not yet have a national casualty-recording system. Independent efforts, like the Every Casualty Counts programme, continue to contribute to addressing this gap.

73. The Government has underscored the importance of establishing a national data system on conflict-related deaths, aligned with SDG indicator 16.1.2, and continues to cooperate with partners to strengthen data collection and accessibility. Transitional justice and reconciliation efforts are pursued alongside broader priorities, including poverty reduction, counter-terrorism, and the protection of vulnerable groups, as reflected in the NTP I (2025–2029) and related social protection policies.

Right to participate in public affairs and right to vote**(Recommendations 132.115–117, 132.120, 132.272)**

74. Somalia has taken steps to advance democratic participation following the enactment of national election laws in 2024, which set out procedures for one-person, one-vote elections and codify a minimum 30% quota for women across electoral bodies, party lists, and candidates. The National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) was reformed with an expanded mandate.

75. In coordination with FMS, the FGS has strengthened electoral institutions and advanced biometric voter registration pilots. Experience gained from direct local elections conducted in Puntland and Somaliland has informed operational planning for potential national rollout.

76. Notwithstanding these developments, women remain underrepresented in government at all levels. Persistent challenges, including insecurity, political fragmentation, and infrastructure constraints, continue to limit the full exercise of political rights.

77. Somalia is committed to expanding inclusive elections by implementing electoral laws, enforcing women's quota, and conducting nationwide OPOV elections in line with constitutional principles and SDG 16.7.

Death penalty**(Recommendation 132.92)**

78. Somalia's legal framework provides general constitutional and procedural safeguards applicable to death penalty cases, including the right to effective defence counsel, exclusion of coerced confessions, mandatory appellate protection in capital cases, judicial control over execution by the Supreme Court, and automatic suspension of execution pending clemency petitions.

79. Additionally, Somalia has taken significant steps to strengthen due process guarantees, including reviews of Somali criminal laws, judicial training, internal procedural directives, and measures to review and limit the use of capital punishment, in line with international human rights standards, as part of ongoing reforms.

80. However, these safeguards are not specifically tailored to terrorism-related prosecutions, and concerns persist in practice—particularly regarding jurisdiction and trial modalities—such that due process guarantees required before applying the death penalty in terrorism cases are not yet fully ensured. Accordingly, the recommendation remains not fully implemented.

Human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery (Recommendations 132.114)

81. Somalia maintains a legal framework prohibiting slavery, servitude, trafficking in persons, and forced labour, with offences criminalised under the Penal Code. To strengthen international cooperation and national responses, the Government appointed a Special Presidential Envoy for Migration, Returnees, and Children's Rights in 2023. It acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols in March 2025.

82. In partnership with the IOM, UNHCR, and the EU, Somalia continued to protect and assist trafficking and irregular migration victims. Since 2023, thousands of Somali migrants have been repatriated from Yemen and Libya, receiving medical and reintegration support. Somalia actively participates in regional and international initiatives, including the Khartoum Process, the AU Horn of Africa Initiative, and the EU–IOM Joint Initiative, to promote safer migration and combat trafficking. Investigations are conducted by specialised units within the Somali Police Force and the Office of the Attorney General, while jointly operated Migration Response Centres provide services to vulnerable migrants.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

Human rights and poverty (Recommendations 132.147–148, 132.150, 132.153, 132.158, 132.160)

83. Somalia has strengthened its approach to poverty reduction through the National Social Protection Policy, which establishes a shock-responsive system to support vulnerable populations. The Baxnaano national safety-net programme provides nutrition-related cash transfers to low-income households nationwide and, following its expansion in 2022 with USD 143 million in IDA financing, now reaches approximately 500,000 households. Complementary initiatives, including the EU-funded SAGAL Project, support climate-vulnerable households across multiple districts.

84. In parallel, Somalia is implementing the Recovery and Resilience Framework and the Somalia Crisis Recovery Project to transition from humanitarian response to medium- and long-term recovery through investments in infrastructure, livelihoods, and disaster risk management, in alignment with NDP-9.

85. At the macroeconomic level, Somalia reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Completion Point in 2023 and acceded to the East African Community in 2024. These developments are expected to expand fiscal space and support inclusive growth, investment, and poverty-reduction efforts.

86. In December 2024, Somalia launched its first Multidimensional Poverty Index in partnership with UNDP and OPHI. The assessment found that 67% of the population experiences multidimensional poverty, with a higher incidence among nomadic and rural communities and significant regional disparities, underscoring the need for poverty-reduction strategies that extend beyond income-based measures.

Right to social security (Recommendation 132.155)

87. In November 2023, Somalia launched its Social Protection Systems framework, marking a shift from emergency assistance toward an integrated empowerment approach that combines regular social safety-net transfers with improved access to health, education, nutrition, and employment services. The system also strengthens institutional capacity through integrated beneficiary databases, secure delivery mechanisms, and enhanced oversight.

88. In the education sector, the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2022–2026) commits to free primary education and prioritises disadvantaged children, including girls, internally displaced children, and those in rural areas. In August 2023, a national roundtable launched

a nationwide school-feeding programme, with continued support from the WFP through food, cash, and nutrition interventions.

89. In the health sector, the Essential Package of Health Services has expanded nationwide with support from the WHO, UNICEF, and the WFP, particularly in maternal, child, and adolescent health. The Ministry of Health's EPHS Implementation Strategy guides this expansion.

90. In October 2025, the World Bank approved the BOOST-You project, which is expected to reach approximately 738,000 people nationwide through cash transfers, youth employment support, and conditional assistance linked to health and education services, thereby further strengthening Somalia's social protection system.

**Right to an adequate standard of living
(Recommendations 132.149, 132.159)**

91. Somalia has undertaken measures to improve living standards, support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and advance progress toward the SDGs. According to the IMF 2022 Article IV Consultation on Somalia, the economy grew by 2% in 2021 following a contraction in 2020, driven primarily by household consumption and exports. This recovery was supported by reforms under the Extended Credit Facility and aligned with NDP-9, despite ongoing challenges from drought, food-price shocks, and insecurity.

92. To strengthen evidence-based planning and monitoring, Somalia launched a national SDG dashboard and tracking tools managed by the National Bureau of Statistics. Recovery initiatives, including the Somalia Crisis Recovery Project valued at USD 187.5 million, focus on infrastructure rehabilitation, livelihood support, and disaster resilience in drought- and flood-affected areas, consistent with the Recovery and Resilience Framework.

**Right to adequate housing
(Recommendation 132.270)**

93. Somalia has advanced a policy and legal framework addressing housing, displacement, and evictions, anchored in the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs and the National Eviction Guidelines, which establish due-process safeguards against arbitrary evictions in line with international human rights standards.

94. These measures are complemented by the National Durable Solutions Strategy (2020–2024), the Banadir Regional Durable Solutions Strategy, and the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan (2024–2029), which aims to place one million IDPs on durable solutions pathways. In 2024, the Government launched the Durable Solutions Progress Survey to monitor displacement recovery. At the municipal level, an eviction-monitoring department was established under the Banadir Eviction Guidelines, and a moratorium supported by the South West State Urban Land Law contributed to a substantial reduction in evictions in Baidoa between 2019 and 2021.

95. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Protection Cluster, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and other partners, Somalia operates an eviction-monitoring system using community paralegals and real-time data platforms. In 2023, these measures helped prevent more than 222,000 evictions.

96. Notwithstanding these efforts, eviction pressures persist. Data from the Somali Eviction Information Portal indicate that over 188,000 people were forcibly evicted in 2022, more than 207,000 in 2023, and over 192,000 in 2024, mainly in Banadir, Bay, and North West (Hargeisa) regions.

**Safe drinking water and sanitation
(Recommendation 132.151)**

97. Somalia has established a national policy framework to advance the progressive realisation of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation through the WASH Sector Policy (2021–2025) and the Water Resources Strategy. The framework promotes equitable, safe, and sustainable WASH services, prioritises vulnerable populations, and sets a target of

achieving Open Defecation Free status by 2030, with support from humanitarian and development partners.

98. Between 2022 and 2023, the Government strengthened water infrastructure and climate resilience through borehole rehabilitation, hydrometeorological monitoring, flood protection in Beledweyne, and canal rehabilitation in Luuq. The World Bank-funded Barwaaqo project further supports rural water resilience, allocating USD 70 million to expand access through multi-use water systems in drought-prone areas.

99. Despite these efforts, significant access gaps persist. National data indicate that only 39.3% of the population has access to basic sanitation and 24.9% to basic hygiene. In 2024, nearly 7 million people required WASH assistance, while 2025 funding shortfalls left over 300,000 without safe water, contributing to 6,550 suspected cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhoea by mid-2025.

Right to health (Recommendations 132.161–166)

100. Somalia has strengthened its health system through the implementation of the National Health Sector Strategic Plan III (2022–2026), which promotes universal health coverage and expands the Essential Package of Health Services nationwide.

101. The Damal Caafimaad project, a World Bank-financed health programme, has expanded access to primary health care in underserved regions, including Nugaal, Bay, Bakool, Hiiraan, and North West (Hargeisa). The programme supports 49 health facilities and has provided outpatient services to more than 425,000 people, including 16,000 pregnant women who completed at least four antenatal care visits.

102. To inform improvements in service delivery and UHC investments, the Ministry of Health conducted a Harmonised Health Facility Assessment in 2022–2023, covering 1,215 facilities across five FMS and Banadir. The findings support targeted interventions in infrastructure rehabilitation, workforce deployment, and essential service provision.

103. Somalia's COVID-19 vaccination strategy prioritised marginalised populations. By the end of 2022, more than 6.5 million people had completed vaccination, including internally displaced persons, nomadic communities, and women. The campaign also reached 139,350 previously unvaccinated children and contributed to strengthening routine immunisation systems.

104. Somalia has strengthened its response to leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases through the establishment of a National NTD Office in 2015 and the integration of leprosy services into primary health care. New patient detection increased from 107 cases in 2015 to 2,638 in 2021. According to the MoH and WHO, between five and six million people live in NTD-endemic areas, with leprosy predominantly affecting southern regions. In 2023, a 34.2% reduction in newly detected cases was reported.

105. Guided by the WHO Global Leprosy Strategy (2021–2030) and the NTD Roadmap, the National Leprosy Programme is decentralising multi-drug therapy, strengthening early detection and disability prevention at the primary care level, and applying community-based approaches to reduce stigma and improve access to treatment.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (Recommendation 132.205)

106. Somalia has strengthened its sexual and reproductive health and rights framework through the implementation of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Strategy (2020–2024) and the National Health Sector Strategic Plan III (2022–2026), both of which integrate gender equality and gender-based violence considerations into essential health services.

107. In partnership with UNFPA and partners, Somalia expanded access to family planning, maternal health and emergency obstetric care. In 2022, facilities delivered over 194,000 antenatal consultations, supported 41,500 deliveries and performed 192 fistula repairs, alongside nationwide midwifery training. Responding to high maternal mortality,

low contraception and high fertility, SRHR interventions prioritised women and adolescent girls, particularly in humanitarian contexts.

108. At the normative level, constitutional amendments adopted in 2024 reaffirmed the prohibition of female genital mutilation. In November 2025, the Cabinet approved the first National Anti-FGM/C Bill. At the sub-national level, Galmudug (2024) and Jubaland (2025) adopted zero-tolerance FGM laws.

109. These legal and policy measures are complemented by community-based advocacy led through UNICEF–UNFPA programmes, which engage religious and traditional leaders, youth, and women’s networks to challenge harmful practices and promote bodily autonomy.

110. Survivor-centred services for gender-based violence have expanded and are integrated within secondary health facilities across all FMS and Banadir. UNFPA and partners continue to deliver integrated GBV and sexual and reproductive health services nationwide. During the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO, with support from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund, implemented emergency strategies addressing GBV and FGM, reaching approximately 2.2 million people with essential health services, including clinical management of rape survivors.

111. In addition, a dedicated Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility Strategy for June 2024–December 2025, co-led by UNFPA and the IRC and endorsed by national partners, coordinates 54 organisations to expand survivor-centred services, strengthen referral pathways, and integrate GBV risk mitigation across humanitarian and basic service sectors in at least ten priority districts hosting large displaced and vulnerable populations.

Right to education

(Recommendations 132.167–178)

112. Somalia expanded access to education under the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2022–2026), jointly implemented by federal and state authorities, prioritising access, quality, and governance. Public education financing increased by over 10% between 2022 and 2024, with USD 110 million allocated in the 2025 national budget. In 2024, Somalia received a USD 18.7 million Girls’ Education Accelerator grant to build girls’ schools, expand WASH facilities, and promote gender-responsive pedagogy.

113. According to the Joint Education Sector Review (2023), primary GER rose from 24% in 2021 to 33.8% in 2023, exceeding the ESSP 2026 target. Female enrolment increased from 22% to 30.1%. The GPI remained at 0.89, below the parity goal of 1.0, while enrolment of children with disabilities remained low at approximately 1%. At the secondary level, enrolment increased from 22% to 26%, with female enrolment from 18% to 21%, and GPI from 0.68 to 0.7.

114. Access to Alternative Basic Education expanded, with enrolment rising from 40,440 learners in 2021 to 111,234 in 2023. Access for displaced and vulnerable children improved through the construction of more than 225 temporary learning spaces and the distribution of textbooks and teacher guides.

115. System capacity has been strengthened through phased teacher recruitment and professional reforms. In 2023, Somalia recruited 3,000 teachers, including 1,275 for primary education, exceeding ESSP targets and improving pupil–teacher ratios. In 2024, a further 3,000 teachers were recruited, with plans to recruit an additional 4,000, aiming to reach a total of 10,000 teachers nationwide.

116. The Provisional Federal Constitution prohibits discrimination in all forms (Article 11) and guarantees the right to education (Article 30), obliging the State to ensure equal access to education at all levels. Somalia has not yet ratified the Convention against Discrimination in Education.

117. Somalia endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration in October 2015 and has taken steps to implement its guidelines. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education, in collaboration with partners, developed Safe Schools policies and Somali-language guidelines to integrate education protection into national frameworks.

118. In relation to children affected by armed conflict, Somalia continued to support reintegration efforts. In 2022, 302 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups were handed over to UNICEF, and 2,137 children at risk, including 33% girls, received assistance such as shelter, medical care, psychosocial support, and skills training. In 2023, reintegration services reached an additional 1,244 children, including 214 girls.

Right to food

(Recommendations 132.154, 132.157)

119. During the reporting period, Somalia experienced recurrent food security crises while implementing large-scale measures to uphold the right to food and prevent famine. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan targeted 7.6 million people, and WFP scaled up assistance to reach 8.9 million individuals by the end of 2022, thereby helping to prevent famine. Despite these efforts, acute malnutrition remained widespread, with 1.4 million children under five malnourished in 2022, including nearly 330,000 severely. Estimates for 2023–2024 indicate an increase to 1.8 million acutely malnourished children, of whom approximately 477,700 were severely affected.

120. In parallel, Somalia and its partners invested in climate-resilient agriculture and rural livelihoods. Infrastructure rehabilitation, including 174 kilometres of irrigation canals in Jowhar, benefited more than 2,000 farming households, while broader resilience initiatives supported many more farmers and pastoralists. Early warning and analysis systems, including FSNAU, IPC assessments, and SWALIM, were strengthened to enable anticipatory action. Nevertheless, food insecurity persisted, with an estimated 3.4 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above in early 2025 and projections rising to 4.6 million later in the year.

Labour rights and the right to work

(Recommendation 132.156)

121. Somalia has taken initial steps to strengthen labour rights and promote decent work despite ongoing structural challenges. The 2021 Somalia Labour Force Survey established a baseline, revealing low participation, high unemployment, and significant gender disparities, with women's participation much lower than men's.

122. A 2025 survey on the Informal Economy found that more than half of employment remains informal, underscoring the need for stronger regulation and social protections. In response, the government, supported by the ILO, enacted a revised Labour Code (Law No. 36 of 2024) and created a formalisation plan to enhance worker protections, streamline business registration, and strengthen labour institutions.

123. Labour resilience has been further supported through the expansion of social protection systems. The Baxnaano national safety-net programme provided regular cash transfers to 200,000 households and additional support to approximately 100,000 households during shocks.

124. Youth employment initiatives implemented under UN joint programmes have also delivered vocational training and short-term employment opportunities to large numbers of young people.

Economic, social and cultural rights - general measures of implementation

(Recommendation 132.152)

125. Somalia strengthened its ESCR frameworks through the NDP-9 (2020–2024) and the National Transformation Plan I (2025–2029), providing unified, SDG-aligned frameworks integrating ESCR priorities across governance, economic transformation, social and human capital development, and climate resilience.

126. Fiscal capacity to support ESCR implementation improved as domestic revenue rose from about USD 230 million in 2021 to USD 369 million in 2024, reflecting progress in tax administration and customs reforms.

127. The Baxnaano national safety-net programme has laid the foundation for a state-led social protection system, delivering regular cash transfers and emergency top-ups. In parallel,

the programme has supported the development of core institutional systems, including a Unified Social Registry and a government-led Social Protection Working Group.

128. The evidence base for ESCR policy formulation and reporting has been strengthened through improvements in national statistics and SDG monitoring, including the Labour Force Survey, the SDG GoalTracker platform, and additional survey initiatives, enhancing data availability for planning, monitoring, and accountability.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

Discrimination against women

(Recommendations 132.179, 132.184, 132.188)

129. Somalia has advanced gender equality through legal, policy, and institutional reforms. In September 2022, the FGS launched the first NAP to implement the Somali Women's Charter and 1325 for WPS, in collaboration with FMS, civil society organisations, women's groups, and with support from UN Women and development partners.

130. Gender equality, a cross-cutting priority under NDP-9, guided federal and state development planning and poverty-reduction strategies and addressed structural barriers affecting women and girls. MoFHRD functions as the national gender machinery, coordinating gender policies, legislation, and programmes with FMS, civil society, women's organisations, and the UNCT.

131. Implementation efforts are supported by strengthened gender data systems, including the National Bureau of Statistics' periodic publications, which provide disaggregated data across sectors such as education, health, employment, and decision-making to inform anti-discrimination policies and monitoring.

132. Gender-responsive measures have been integrated across key sectors. Primary and secondary enrolment rates for girls have increased. The National Social Protection Policy has expanded women's access to welfare, with women accounting for all regular safety-net recipients and the majority of shock-response beneficiaries. The RMNCAH framework remains the principal vehicle for delivering reproductive and maternal health services to women nationwide.

133. National efforts have been complemented by UN and development-partner strategies aligned with government priorities, including the UN Somalia Gender Equality Strategy (2021–2025) and the UNDP Somalia Gender Equality Strategy (2023–2026), which support federal and state institutions in addressing structural discrimination, expanding women's economic empowerment, responding to gender-based violence, and promoting women's leadership in decision-making processes.

134. In line with NDP-9 and the CRC, Somalia has prioritised strengthening legal and policy frameworks to protect women's and children's rights, including through the NAP on 1325 for WPS and the NPA for Children. It has linked these frameworks to implementation across the social protection, education, health, and justice sectors.

Participation of women in political and public life

(Recommendations 132.180, 132.183, 132.190)

135. Somalia has reaffirmed its commitment to achieving a minimum 30% quota for women's participation in political and public life through legal, institutional, and advocacy measures implemented under the National Gender Policy and the NAP on 1325 for WPS, with support from the Joint Programme on Women, Peace and Protection.

136. Despite these commitments, women's representation declined during the 2021–2022 indirect federal elections. Representation in the House of the People decreased from 24% in 2016 to approximately 20% in 2022, while representation in the Senate increased marginally to about 26%. In both chambers, women's participation remained below the 30% target.

137. In response to these gaps, the FGS and FMS, with support from UN Women and other partners, strengthened Women's Parliamentary Caucuses at both federal and state levels. By

2024, seven caucuses were operational across the Upper House, the House of the People, and all five FMS parliaments, providing platforms for cross-party advocacy on gender quotas and gender-responsive legislation. These advocacy efforts contributed to the amendment of the Electoral Law in November 2024, which formally codified a 30% quota for women in future elections, marking the first time such a provision is officially codified in a national legislation.

138. Through the Joint Programme on Women, Peace and Protection, the MoFHRD, UNDP, UNSOM, and UN Women have supported federal and state institutions in operationalising commitments to women's participation. This includes establishing 17 Women's Peace Networks and Women's Resource Centres across all Federal Member States and Banadir, providing platforms for women leaders, activists, and civil society organisations to engage with authorities on peace, security, and governance priorities.

Violence against women

(Recommendations 132.212, 132.220–224, 132.227, 132.230, 132.234–235)

139. Somalia has strengthened its legal framework to address violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices, and conflict-related sexual violence. The Government withdrew the Sexual Intercourse and Related Crimes Bill and prioritised a new SOB – the Rape and Indecency Offences Bill – which was approved by Cabinet and received its first reading in Parliament in November 2025. In parallel, the Cabinet approved the National Anti-FGM/C Bill to strengthen alignment with international standards. At the policy level, Somalia continues to implement the NAP on 1325 for WPS and the National Plan on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict.

140. Survivor-centred services have expanded through the establishment of gender-based violence one-stop centres, safe spaces, and mobile clinics across FMS and Banadir. These services provide clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, case management, and legal referrals, and are integrated into health facilities and humanitarian responses.

141. Efforts to eliminate harmful practices, particularly female genital mutilation and child, early, and forced marriage, have been intensified through federal and state-level legal reforms and community-based awareness initiatives.

142. Accountability has been strengthened through targeted training of police, prosecutors, and judges, improvements in referral pathways, and enhanced documentation of cases, including conflict-related sexual violence. Increased reporting reflects improved awareness and access to services, although comprehensive national data on outcomes remain limited.

Sexual and gender-based violence

(Recommendations 132.192–204, 132.206–211, 132.213–219, 132.225–226, 132.228–229, 132.231–233, 132.236–241, 132.269)

143. During the reporting period, Somalia scaled up prevention and awareness initiatives through nationwide community-based campaigns, including the Dear Daughter campaign, alongside sustained engagement with religious leaders, elders, and youth. Legislative and policy reforms progressed at the national and subnational levels, including the National Anti-FGM Bill and the Galmudug and Jubaland Anti-FGM Laws.

144. Institutional accountability mechanisms were strengthened through the establishment of a specialised SGBV Crimes Unit within the Office of the Attorney General and a June 2024 decree in Somaliland mandating that rape cases be adjudicated exclusively by formal courts.

145. Survivor support and service delivery expanded through strengthened coordination frameworks, including the GBV Area of Responsibility and the 2024–2025 GBV Strategy. Between July and September 2024, more than 50,000 survivors received assistance through coordinated GBV services.

146. Despite these efforts, national data indicate harmful practices remain highly prevalent due to social norms, poverty, and security challenges, with approximately 99% of women aged 15–49 having undergone female genital mutilation and 45% of women aged 20–24 married before the age of 18.

Advancement of women**(Recommendations 132.181–182, 132.185–187, 132.189, 132.191)**

147. Somalia has continued to implement the National Gender Policy under the MoFHRD's coordination, supported by inter-ministerial and FMS coordination mechanisms. The NAP on 1325 provides a comprehensive framework guiding programmes, Local Action Plans, and gender-responsive initiatives across sectors.

148. The Joint Programme on Women, Peace and Protection expanded its geographic reach to 17 districts, establishing Women's Peace Networks and Women's Resource Centres and supporting state-level planning processes, despite persistent funding constraints. Coordination among government institutions, civil society organisations, the UN, and local authorities has strengthened nationwide.

149. Although women's representation in the House of the People and the Cabinet declined in 2022, the establishment of the NIHRC in 2025 ensured the implementation of a 30% women's quota, with three women appointed among the nine Commissioners, making it the first national independent institution to meet the minimum quota fully.

150. Legislative electoral reforms adopted in 2024 formally reserved 30% of seats for women across all levels of elections. These measures were reinforced by the strengthening of women's parliamentary caucuses at the federal and state levels, implementation of the National and Local Action Plans on WPS, and expanded public awareness and media campaigns.

151. Somalia has also advanced women's economic empowerment through targeted investments in education, skills development, and financial inclusion. Programmes supported higher education and technical training for girls, expanded access to education for out-of-school girls, and provided legal aid through dispute resolution mechanisms. Employment-focused initiatives, including the BOOST-You project, aim to increase women's labour-market participation, with a target of 16,800 new jobs by 2029.

Persons with disabilities: definition, general principles**(Recommendation 132.267)**

152. Somalia has taken substantive legal, institutional, and policy measures to promote the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Somalia ratified the CRPD in 2019 and enacted the National Disability Agency Establishment Act (2018) and the National Disability Law (Law No. 29 of 2024), providing a comprehensive legal framework for equality, non-discrimination, accessibility, social protection, education, health, employment, and political participation.

153. The National Disability Agency (NDA), established in 2021, serves as the central coordination and monitoring body, while disability inclusion is mainstreamed within the NDP-9 (2020-2024) and the NTP I (2025-2029).

154. Progress has been made in inclusive education, social protection, access to justice, and political participation, including measures to ensure accessible voting in upcoming general elections, assistive technologies, disability-inclusive social safety nets (Baxnaano), and the development of a 5% political participation quota for persons with disabilities.

155. Data systems have significantly improved following the first-ever National Disability Report (2024), which found 11.7% of adults over 18 live with disabilities, disproportionately affecting women and rural populations. These data now inform education, health, employment and social protection planning.

156. Despite these advances, challenges remain, including accessibility gaps, limited services in rural areas, labour-market exclusion, and persistent stigma. The Government acknowledges these constraints and remains committed to progressive realisation through legal enforcement, institutional strengthening, and continued collaboration with OPDs, civil society, the UN, and development partners.

Children: definition; general principles; protection
(Recommendations 132.242–251, 132.257, 132.260, 132.263–265)

157. Somalia has strengthened the constitutional protection of children through amendments to the first four chapters of the Provisional Federal Constitution, which define 18 years as the age of adulthood and explicitly prohibit female genital mutilation. These constitutional reforms are complemented by the NPA for Children (2024–2029), which aligns the core principles of the CRC – non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, and the right to special protection – with national constitutional and policy frameworks.

158. Somalia has advanced child rights legislation in line with the CRC through the development of the Child Rights Bill and the Juvenile Justice Bill, which establish comprehensive legal frameworks for child protection, education, health, and child-sensitive justice. Somalia has also ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and begun operationalising the NPA/C across five FMS and the Banadir region.

159. Progress has been made in strengthening children’s legal identity through the development of a civil registration and vital statistics system, with the Civil Registration Department responsible for registering births, deaths, and marriages. Since 2023, UNICEF-supported digital registration pilots linking health facilities with civil registries have resulted in the registration of more than 43,000 children by late 2024, representing a substantial increase from historically low registration rates.

Children: protection against exploitation
(Recommendations 132.252–256, 132.258–259, 132.261–262)

160. Somalia continued implementing the 2012 Action Plans and the 2019 Roadmap on CAAC. Age-verification procedures and SOPs for children separated from armed forces and armed groups remain operational, monitored through the CAAC Working Group. These measures led to the delisting of the Somali National Army and Police Force from the UNSG’s 2025 report on recruitment and the use of children.

161. Nationwide implementation of the CAAFAG Programme Toolkit by UNICEF and partners strengthened prevention, referral, and reintegration systems. In 2022, child-protection work plans were formalised across 19 federal and state institutions, reinforcing legal and institutional frameworks. These efforts supported successful community reintegration, with only one reported case of recidivism, and improved referrals as communities increasingly recognised children formerly associated with armed groups as victims requiring protection.

162. In addressing child labour and economic exploitation, Somalia continued to strengthen its legal and policy framework by enacting the revised Labour Code in 2024. Enforcement efforts have been pursued through community-based child-protection mechanisms, labour inspections where feasible, and awareness-raising initiatives integrated into education and livelihood programmes.

163. At the sub-national level, reintegration services expanded. In Puntland, the Garowe CAAFAG Centre completed seven reintegration cohorts, supporting 512 children through literacy education, psychosocial care, and vocational training. Nationwide, UNICEF and partners assisted more than 15,000 conflict-affected children over a five-year period, while child-protection and MHPSS services reached more than 220,000 in 2022 and continued at scale during 2023–2024.

Members of minorities
(Recommendation 132.266)

164. Somalia has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the rights and inclusion of minority groups through the NDP-9, which identifies marginalised communities as a cross-cutting priority, and through the National Reconciliation Framework launched in 2024. These frameworks seek to address historical clan-based grievances and promote equitable political participation, social cohesion, and fair access to resources.

165. Electoral reforms adopted in 2024 provide for a transition from the clan-based 4.5 system to one-person-one-vote elections by 2026, representing a significant structural reform aimed at strengthening equal political representation, including for minority clans.

166. To improve protection and access to justice for minority groups, the Government endorsed the Protection Cluster Strategy (2022–2023), which prioritises access to legal services and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Assessments conducted in Puntland, Jubaland, and South West identified tenure insecurity and documentation gaps affecting minorities, prompting targeted interventions to improve secure access and protection.

**Refugees and asylum seekers
(Recommendations 132.271, 132.273)**

167. Somalia has strengthened its protection framework for refugees, asylum-seekers, and IDPs through the operationalisation of the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs and the adoption of the Refugees and Asylum-Seekers Law in 2024. These measures establish procedures for asylum, documentation, and the protection of rights in accordance with international standards. In addition, an IDP Bill approved by the House of the People in May 2025 provides a national legal basis for domesticating the Kampala Convention and advancing durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

168. Institutional coordination has been strengthened through the adoption of the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) Strategic Plan (2024–2029) and the continued implementation of Somaliland’s National Displacement and Refugee Agency Strategic Plan (2022–2026). These frameworks support an estimated 3.8–3.9 million internally displaced persons and 40,000–46,000 refugees and asylum-seekers nationwide, with concentrations in North West, Bari, and Sanaag regions.

169. The NDSS (2020–2024) provides a comprehensive framework for addressing displacement affecting internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and host communities. The strategy aligns with regional and global commitments, including the IGAD Nairobi Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees, and its outcomes inform the Solutions Pathways Action Plan to scale up durable solutions interventions.

170. Informed by the UNHCR Somalia Strategy (2023–2026), Somalia has strengthened cooperation with international partners, including UNHCR, OHCHR, and other UNCT members. Joint data initiatives established a 2023 displacement baseline identifying 3.45 million internally displaced persons and 155,710 returnees across nearly 11,000 locations. These data underpin coordinated planning and implementation of the Solutions Pathways Action Plan (2024–2029), supporting protection and solutions for approximately four million displacement-affected persons.

III. Implementation of voluntary pledges and commitments

171. At the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (HR75), Somalia made four voluntary pledges to advance its national human rights framework: to finalise the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission, to introduce comprehensive sexual offences legislation, to enact a National Anti-FGM/C law, and to adopt a National Disability law.

172. Somalia has made substantial progress in implementing these pledges. The National Independent Human Rights Commission was fully established in December 2025; the Rape and Indecency Offences Bill received its first reading in the House of the People in November 2025; the Cabinet approved the National Anti-FGM/C Bill in November 2025; and the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law (Law No. 29) was enacted in December 2024.

IV. Areas required for international support

173. Somalia seeks sustained international technical and financial support to:

(a) Fully operationalise the National Independent Human Rights Commission, including institutional development, nationwide presence, investigative and complaints-handling capacity, victim support and referral mechanisms, and engagement with regional and international human rights systems.

(b) Strengthen the capacity of the MoFHRD and its FMS counterparts to function as the national policy lead for human rights coordination, including analytical capacity, policy development, stakeholder engagement, and public communication.

(c) Finalise the digitalisation of the NMRF as a permanent platform linking the Universal Periodic Review, treaty bodies, special procedures, and SDG follow-up through a national recommendations database, data dashboards, and periodic public reporting.
