



Ortadođu Arařtırmaları Merkezi
مركز دراسات الشرق الأوسط
Center for Middle Eastern Studies

ANALYSIS 317
MARCH 2024



TÜRKİYE AND SOMALIA: A NEW COOPERATION APPROACH FROM REGIONAL SECURITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KAAN DEVECİOđLU



Copyright

Ankara - TURKEY ORSAM © 2024



Content of this publication is copyrighted to ORSAM. Except reasonable and partial quotation and use under the Act No. 5846, Law on Intellectual and Artistic Works, via proper citation, the content may not be used or re-published without prior permission by ORSAM. The views expressed in this publication reflect only the opinions of its authors and do not represent the institutional opinion of ORSAM.

Publication Date: 07 March 2024

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Address : Mustafa Kemal Mah. 2128 Sk. No: 3 Çankaya, ANKARA
Phone : +90 850 888 15 20
Email : info@orsam.org.tr
Photos : Anadolu Ajansı (AA)

According to the second paragraph of Article 5 of the Regulation on Banderole Application Procedures and Principles, the use of banderole for this publication is not compulsory.

TÜRKİYE AND SOMALIA: A NEW COOPERATION APPROACH FROM REGIONAL SECURITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

About the Author

■ Dr. Kaan Devecioğlu

He completed his PhD at Istanbul Medeniyet University, Department of International Relations, with his thesis on "U.S. – China Competition in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait from the Perspective of Power Transition Theory (2011 – 2021)". He conducted field research on sustainable development in North Africa and in Red Sea at Sudan, Tunisia, and Algeria. His research interests include politics, economy, security, and terrorism developments in Africa, with a special focus on Africa in Turkish foreign policy, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, Sudan, and the Sahel. His articles and book chapters have been published in peer-reviewed journals, and his analyses and opinions have appeared in the media and in many international publications. Devecioğlu is proficient in Turkish and English and learning Arabic and French.

CONTENTS



3 INTRODUCTION

5 TURNING POINTS IN TÜRKİYE-SOMALIA RELATIONS FROM 2011 TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

9 OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES BROUGHT BY THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

13 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



INTRODUCTION

Türkiye's policy towards Somalia specifically, and Africa and the Red Sea region in general, historically has had strong ties with the countries of the region. However, the process of relations during the early Republic era was fraught with numerous opportunities and challenges. This is also true for the "Defence and Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement" approved last month by the Somali Cabinet. As a NATO member, the Republic of Türkiye, especially since 1991, and more intensively with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visit to Mogadishu in 2011 along with his family during his prime ministership, deepened its relations with Somalia in diplomatic, security, economic, and socio-cultural fields. The process of deepening relations between the two countries in various fields continues within the areas requested by Somalia and within the capabilities of Türkiye,

as demonstrated by this framework agreement.

In this context, the "Defence and Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement" signed between Türkiye and Somalia hold strategic importance both for the two countries involved and for regional stability. This 10-year agreement aims to expand cooperation, especially in the fields of maritime security, military training, and economic collaboration. The agreement grants Türkiye the authority to supervise maritime security operations in Somali territorial waters. Türkiye aims to support the reconstruction of the Somali Navy, combat illegal fishing within Somalia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), enhance Somalia's capacity to fight against illegal and unregulated activities, and use the economic resources derived from the Somali EEZ for the devel-

opment of the Somali Navy.¹ Thus, this agreement has the potential to contribute both to the development of bilateral relations and to the security of a strategically located region crucial for the stability of international trade.

However, considering that this agreement is a framework agreement, a more comprehensive analysis of the benefits for both countries or its contribution to regional stability will be possible with the public presentation of the sub-agreements in the coming period. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to identify the turning points in the relations between the two countries within the framework of the said agreement and to analyse its contribution to regional stability.

This cooperation marks a turning point in relations between the two countries in terms of significantly strengthening the Somali government's efforts to maintain its sovereignty. In Somalia, where economic and political issues are prevalent, Türkiye's support in the fight

against the security problems posed by the terrorist organization AL-Shabaab has been prominent. Thus, another important aspect of the agreement is Türkiye's responsibility to ensure maritime security in Somali waters and to protect the region. In this respect, the agreement can also be considered a concrete example of Türkiye's efforts to expand its international collaborations in military training, security, and defence industry areas. Therefore, the agreement is an important step that will contribute to regional and global security dynamics and further strengthen the strategic partnership between Türkiye and Somalia.

From this point, the study first examines the relations between the two countries from 2011 to the said agreement. Then, it analyses the opportunities and challenges for Türkiye, Somalia, and the maintenance of regional stability, as well as the regional and global implications, and presents policy recommendations.

1 Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur, "OPINION - Türkiye - Somalia alliance will guarantee stability in the Horn of Africa", *Anadolu Agency*, 27.02.2024; Dilara Hamit, "Somali foreign minister says will never accept Ethiopia's 'attempt' to annex territory", *Anadolu Agency*, 01.03.2024; "Somali Cumhurbaşkanı Mahmud, Türkiye ile ilişkileri CNN TÜRK'e yorumladı", *CNN Türk*, 03.03.2024.

TURNING POINTS IN TÜRKİYE- SOMALIA RELATIONS FROM 2011 TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



Relations with Somalia occupy a central position in Türkiye's Africa policy. Among the bilateral relations between the two countries, the visit to Mogadishu by President Erdoğan, then Prime Minister, in 2011 is a pivotal moment. The period from Erdoğan's visit to the Framework Agreement saw Türkiye's foreign policy towards Somalia evolve, with economic and diplomatic relations highlighted in 2012; military and security collaborations in 2017; and sustainable development and education initiatives from 2018 onwards. Thus, the development of relations between the two countries from 2011 to 2024 is marked by three main turning points across various fields.

Türkiye took a significant step in August 2011 to draw international attention to the famine crisis in Somalia and provide aid. The visit by then Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, along with his wife and key cabinet members to Mogadishu, marked the first visit by a NATO country to Somalia at such a high level in the

last 20 years and led to the launch of a major aid campaign, positioning Türkiye as a "global problem-solving actor" in the eyes of the international community. Following Erdoğan's visit, Türkiye began supporting Somalia's reconstruction with humanitarian aid as well as education, health, and infrastructure projects, drawing international attention to Mogadishu. Türkiye's intervention in the Somali famine crisis and Erdoğan's visit allowed Türkiye to project a positive and influential image in international politics, enhancing its position in international relations and demonstrating its capacity for leadership in humanitarian aid and global diplomacy.² This development has laid the foundation for the "Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy" approach highlighted in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategy reports up to 2023.³

Following Erdoğan's visit, especially in the first two years, a period of reconstruction and

² Ebuzer Demirci, "Web Panel: Türkiye-Somali Anlaşmasının Bölgesel ve Küresel Yansımaları" *SETA Web Panel*, 23.02.2024.

³ "2024 - 2028 Stratejik Plan", *TCDB Report*, January 2024.

TÜRK SOM provides support not only in military training but also in military tactics, operational planning, and strategic analysis for the Somali security forces. This training and support have increased Somalia's capacity to combat terrorism and contributed to regional security.

deepening of Türkiye-Somalia relations was recorded. The Turkish Embassy in Mogadishu, closed in 1991 for security reasons, was reopened.⁴ This step not only strengthened Türkiye's diplomatic presence in Somalia but also contributed to the expansion of secure areas in the country. As an indirect result of developing diplomatic relations, economic ties also flourished during this period. Turkish companies played significant roles in infrastructure development projects in Somalia, and increased passenger traffic through Turkish Airlines' Mogadishu-Istanbul flights significantly benefited commercial and socio-cultural interaction.

Between 2014 and 2017, the trade volume and military and security cooperation between the two countries increased significantly. During this period, Türkiye's relations with Somalia expanded beyond humanitarian aid to include economic and military dimensions. Since 2014, Türkiye has become one of Somalia's largest trading partners, strengthening economic ties between the two countries. These trade relations have contributed to the economic devel-

opment of both countries and played a crucial role in Somalia's reconstruction process. Türkiye has supplied Somalia with food, medicine, construction materials, and other essentials, while importing agricultural products and other local resources from Somalia. In 2015, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) opened the 200-bed Somalia-Türkiye Training and Research Hospital in Mogadishu.⁵

In 2017, Türkiye-Somalia relations gained a new dimension with the establishment of the TÜRK SOM military training base near Mogadishu, aimed at training and strengthening the Somali army.⁶ This training base is designed to increase the capacity of Somalia's land and air security forces and is part of the efforts to strengthen the security infrastructure for Somalia to stand on its own feet. TÜRK SOM provides support not only in military training but also in military tactics, operational planning, and strategic analysis for the Somali security forces.⁷ This training and support have increased Somalia's capacity to combat terrorism and contributed to regional security.

4 "Somali'de Türk Büyükelçiliği" *TRT*, 13.09.2011.

5 "Somali-Türkiye Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi'nin Açılışı Yapıldı", *Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Sağlık Bakanlığı*, 2015.

6 Abdırashid Muse, "Somali Air Force 'training in Türkiye", *X*, 29.11.2014.

7 Mohammed Dhaysane, "Somalia's president praises Türkiye for its support", *Anadolu Agency*, 26.09.2023.

Türkiye-Somalia Trade Data (2019 – 2023)

	Export	Import	Total
2019	244.420.999	6.398.589	250.819.588
2020	266.142.490	4.802.387	270.944.877
2021	349.051.324	7.705.668	356.756.992
2022	379.663.982	2.579.124	382.243.106
2023	418.952.349	677.044	419.629.393

Source: TUIK

This cooperation is also part of Türkiye's broader efforts to ensure stability and peace in the region. Türkiye's presence and investments in Somalia have helped establish a strong trust and cooperation relationship between the two countries and served as an example of Türkiye's growing influence and effectiveness on the African continent. Türkiye's comprehensive approach to Somalia, focusing on a wide range of relations from trade to military cooperation and security support, has not only enhanced economic and military ties but also created deep cultural and social connections between the two countries.

Since 2018, relations between Türkiye and Somalia have focused on sustainable development and education projects. Significant strides have been made in education and cultural cooperation during this period, with the establishment of schools in Somalia by the Turkish Maarif Foundation and the implementation of various educational programs. A hospital established in 2015 has become a beacon of hope for the Somali community.⁸

Turkish educational institutions and universities have offered scholarships to Somali students under the Türkiye Scholarships program through the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), contributing to strengthening Somalia's educational capacity. These scholarships have enabled students to pursue higher education in Türkiye.

In sustainable development projects, Türkiye has worked to increase Somalia's capacity in critical areas such as agriculture, energy, and water management. These projects are designed to enable Somalia to effectively utilise its resources and achieve long-term development goals. Türkiye's development aid model for Somalia aims to achieve success through long-term projects that can directly impact the lives of people in the region.⁹ In light of this information, Türkiye's education and development projects in Somalia have not only strengthened the relations between the two countries but also made significant contributions to the development of Somalia's social and economic infrastructure.

⁸ "Türk hastanesi Somali'de şifa dağıtıyor", *Anadolu Ajansı*, 20.01.2018.

⁹ ABDİ, İ. İ., NAS, Ç., & TAŞCI, F. (2021). Somali Örneğinde Türkiye Kalkınma Yardımı Modeli. *Toplumsal Politika Dergisi*, 2(2), 62-83.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES BROUGHT BY THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



The Somali cabinet has ratified the Defence and Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement signed between Türkiye and Somalia on February 8th. The agreement, which encompasses defence and security issues, outlines a 10-year cooperation plan. This agreement, significant for bolstering the Somali government's efforts to maintain its sovereignty, marks a turning point in bilateral relations following Erdoğan's visit in 2011.¹⁰

President Hasan Sheikh Mahmud of Somalia has stated that the agreement includes combating terrorism, external threats, piracy, and illegal fishing, as well as protecting Somalia's coastlines and developing its maritime resources. He emphasized that the agreement has no hostile intentions and will lead to the formation of a joint naval force between the two countries, which will protect Somali waters for 10 years and contribute to

the development of maritime resources.¹¹ This collaboration represents a significant step for Somalia and regional countries struggling with economic and political issues and security problems posed by AL-Shabaab for years. Hence, the agreement brings forth opportunities and challenges for Türkiye and Somalia, as well as regional and global contributions.

THE CLIMATE OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

The agreement signed between Türkiye and Somalia present opportunities that positively affect both countries geopolitically and economically. These opportunities have the potential to create extensive impacts and are interrelated.

Firstly, the strategic position of Somalia is particularly significant. The agreement offers

10 Tunç Demirtaş, "Türkiye'nin Afrika'daki Başarı Hikâyesi: Somali", *SETA*, 24.02.2024.

11 Gökhan Kavak, Hodan Mohamed Abdullahi, Gülsüm İncekaya, "Somali, Türkiye ile imzaladığı savunma işbirliği anlaşmasını onayladı", *Anadolu Ajansı*, 21.02.2024.

The timing of this defence pact, signed amidst increasing tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia, is interpreted as sending a message to other foreign actors in the region.

However, evaluating the agreement between Türkiye and Somalia as a contribution to regional stability, considering the background of ongoing relations between the two countries and Türkiye's good relations with Ethiopia, is a more accurate approach.

substantial opportunities for Türkiye on both regional and global levels. Somalia's proximity to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, and the Cape of Good Hope, some of the world's busiest maritime routes, points to the potential for both countries to more effectively safeguard their strategic interests and attain a stronger position in the international arena. For instance, Türkiye and Somalia could contribute to regional security initiatives and secure trade routes.

Secondly, maritime security and the protection of international trade represent significant benefits of this agreement. Security threats like piracy around Somalia and Houthi attacks in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait endanger international trade and global economic stability. The active role of Türkiye and Somalia in regional security operations under this agreement will contribute to securing international trade routes by taking effective measures against piracy and terrorism. This will allow the uninterrupted continuation of trade on these critical global routes. However, threats arising from terrorism, piracy, and conflicts in the region will pose challenges for Türkiye and Somalia.

Thirdly, the strengthening of military and defence cooperation between Türkiye and So-

malia will enhance the security and defence capabilities of both countries. With the lifting of the UN Security Council's restrictions on the export of security equipment to Somalia,¹² this agreement will advance security training and equipment trade between the two countries. This will increase Somalia's naval forces' development and role in regional security while allowing Türkiye's defence industry to expand in international markets.

Fourthly, under the agreement, the access to hydrocarbon reserves and fishing resources for Türkiye in Somali territorial waters will yield economic gains for both countries. Joint exploration, extraction, and utilisation of maritime resources are strategic steps that will support economic development and enhance energy and food security. This cooperation, especially for Somalia, will provide opportunities for funding development projects and strengthening economic independence. Additionally, in the coming process, there is also the potential for the revitalization of tourism in Somalia within the context of bilateral relations.

Lastly, the strengthening of Türkiye's diplomatic influence in Africa is a significant opportunity brought about by this agreement. Enhancing Türkiye's rela-

12 Diyar Güldoğan, "UN Security Council lifts Somalia arms embargo after 3 decades", *Anadolu Agency*, 02.12.2023.

tions with the Horn of Africa and the continent at large, through supporting regional stability and development projects, will serve the mutual interests of both Türkiye and Africa. This diplomatic and economic rapprochement will also support Africa's development goals.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS

The Somali Cabinet's granting of to Türkiye in its territorial waters for security and economic reasons has significant regional and global implications. The international media's coverage of the agreement is evaluated within the context of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland. The timing of this defence pact, signed amidst increasing tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia, is interpreted as sending a message to other foreign actors in the region.¹³

However, evaluating the agreement between Türkiye and Somalia as a contribution to regional stability, considering the background of ongoing relations between the two countries and Türkiye's good relations with Ethiopia, is a more accurate approach. Indeed, Türkiye's good relations with Ethiopia, Somalia, and Somaliland will facilitate the development of dialogue channels to prevent the escalation of tensions among regional states. Additionally, the process of consolidating relations with the UAE,¹⁴ which is noted as a for-

mer rival to Türkiye, will potentially contribute positively to the stability of trade for both the UAE and regional countries.¹⁵

In the context of regional implications, the insecurity in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean could be mitigated by Türkiye's authority in Somali waters and its contributions to the Somali military, positively affecting the security of international trade. This situation will contribute positively to Türkiye's security influence in Africa and the Middle East.

Regarding global implications, Türkiye's increasing influence in Africa might introduce new dynamics in its relations with global actors such as China, Russia, the USA, and the European Union. Türkiye's contribution to international maritime security and Somalia's fight against terrorism indicate intersecting mutual interests with these actors. Thus, it can be said that there is a mutual interest for these global actors to coordinate with Türkiye.

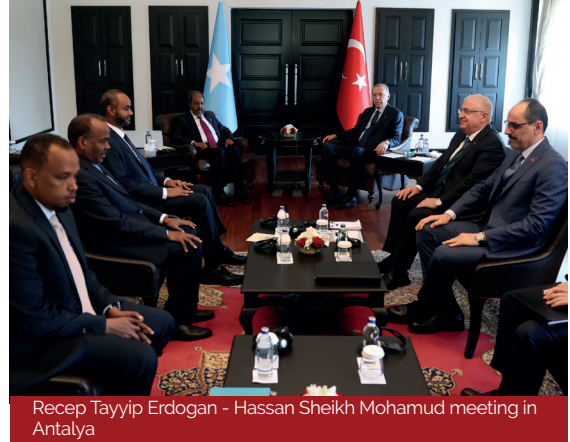
In conclusion, this agreement is a significant milestone in defence and security between Türkiye and Somalia, offering several advantages for regional stability. Somalia's strategic location and the authority granted to Türkiye will significantly contribute to the security of international trade. Maximising the benefits of this agreement for Türkiye and Somalia require a strategic and balanced approach, as well as cooperation and dialogue with the international community.

13 "Somalia Türkiye Security Deal How Does it Impact Ethiopia" *DW*, 26.02.2024; "IntelBrief: Somalia-Türkiye Defense Deal and the Regional Implications for East Africa", *The Soufan Center*, 29.02.2024; Federico Donelli, "Red Sea politics: why Türkiye is helping Somalia defend its waters", *The Conversation*, 28.02.2024.

14 Federico Donelli, "Red Sea politics: why Türkiye is helping Somalia defend its waters", *The Conversation*, 28.02.2024.

15 Gökhan Erel, "From Normalization to Consolidation in Türkiye-Gulf Relations: President Erdoğan's Visits to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE", *ORSAM*, 19.07.2023.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



This study has scrutinised the strategic significance of the "Defence and Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement" signed between Türkiye and Somalia, the opportunities it presents for regional stability, and the challenges it might face. While the agreement will deepen relations between the two countries and encourage cooperation across a wide spectrum, it will also significantly contribute to regional and global security and economic development. Considering the opportunities and challenges faced by regional stability, as well as Türkiye and Somalia, six key policy recommendations are proposed to maximise the potential of the agreement and overcome possible challenges in the upcoming period.

- *Firstly, it is essential for Türkiye and Somalia to deepen their cooperation in military training, maritime security, and counterterrorism under comprehensive security and defence collaboration. Developing a comprehensive program by Türkiye that includes training, equipment*

support, and intelligence sharing will contribute to regional stability.

This policy recommendation constitutes one of the fundamental building blocks of security and defence cooperation between Türkiye and Somalia. Deepening cooperation in military training, maritime security, and counterterrorism, as emphasised in the recommendation, will significantly enhance both countries' capacity to effectively respond to security threats in the region. Somalia has been grappling with various security issues, such as terrorist organisations, piracy, and illegal fishing, for many years, negatively affecting regional stability. Türkiye's experience and capacity in this field will aid Somalia in combating these threats more effectively.

Military training and capacity building will be critical not only in enhancing the operational capabilities of Somali security forces but also in improving their professionalism and respect for human rights, a fundamental element for long-term stability and security in the region.

Türkiye's support with modern and effective equipment will increase the operational effectiveness of Somali security forces, allowing them to be more successful in counterterrorism and maritime security operations. This support will strengthen Somalia's capacity to ensure its security, reduce dependence on international aid, and support regional stability.

Intelligence sharing is vital for counterterrorism and other security operations. Intelligence cooperation between Türkiye and Somalia will enable Somalia to act more proactively and effectively against regional security threats. This will also offer a significant advantage in counteracting cross-border movements of terrorist organisations, contributing to both regional and global security.

Therefore, this policy recommendation highlights the importance of cooperation and coordination between Türkiye and Somalia in combating regional and global security threats. However, the success of such cooperation is not only dependent on technical and operational capacity development but also on political will, mutual trust, and sustainable engagement. For this cooperation to be effective, both sides need to take concrete steps in training, equipment, and intelligence sharing and regularly review and update these processes in collaboration with other actors.

- *Secondly, it is proposed that joint projects be initiated to increase trade volume, develop investment opportunities, and strengthen Somalia's critical infrastructure between Türkiye and Somalia. Supporting sustainable development projects in agriculture, energy, and water management in Somalia by Türkiye will enhance bilateral commercial relations.*

This policy recommendation encompasses a critical approach with the potential to deepen and expand economic cooperation

between Türkiye and Somalia. Increasing trade volume, developing investment opportunities, and strengthening Somalia's critical infrastructure are fundamental elements that support economic development and long-term stability. This recommendation can also be considered part of Türkiye's strategy to increase its influence in Africa. In this context, four key points can be highlighted:

Firstly, increasing trade volume will contribute to the economies of both countries. For Somalia, increasing export capacity and access to broader markets will offer opportunities for economic growth and job creation. As indicated in the related table, there is an imbalance in bilateral trade data. For Türkiye, diversifying its trade with emerging markets like Somalia will support its economic growth.

Secondly, for Turkish investors, Somalia presents attractive investment opportunities in areas such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure projects. These investments will strengthen Somalia's critical infrastructure and contribute to its economic development. Encouraging investments will also enhance Somalia's capacity to attract foreign capital and increase international collaborations.

Thirdly, Somalia's infrastructure needs are diverse. Investments in sectors such as energy, water management, and agriculture are vital for sustainable development. Support from Türkiye in these areas, both technically and financially, will play a significant role in achieving Somalia's development goals. In this regard, support from international organisations for projects in Somalia will be of strategic importance.

Fourthly, projects supported by Türkiye in agriculture, energy, and water management that also include environmental protection and social development alongside economic growth will help Somalia achieve its sustain-

able development goals. These projects are also important in combating global issues such as climate change and environmental sustainability. However, as noted in the third point, support from international actors, especially UN organisations, is essential for Turkish investors and investors from other countries to facilitate Somalia's development.

Thus, this policy recommendation highlights the significant role Türkiye can play in achieving Somalia's development goals and enhancing its economic independence. However, for such projects to be successful, it is crucial to consider the needs and priorities of local communities, develop local capacity, and adhere to principles of transparency and accountability in project implementation. Additionally, this cooperation should serve the mutual interests of both countries while also aligning with broader regional and global development goals, wherein support from international organisations for Somalia will be of strategic importance.

- *Thirdly, Türkiye and Somalia need to cooperate on the sustainable use and protection of marine resources. In this context, establishing joint ventures on issues such as combating illegal fishing, exploring, and extracting hydrocarbon reserves will contribute to regional development and stability.*

This policy recommendation underlines the strategic importance of cooperation between Türkiye and Somalia in the sustainable use and protection of marine resources. The protection and efficient use of marine resources are critical for economic development, environmental sustainability, and food security. Thus, emphasising cooperation in areas such as combating illegal fishing and exploring and extracting hydrocarbon reserves will be beneficial for enhancing cooperation between

the two countries. In this regard, three points can be highlighted.

Firstly, it should be noted that "illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU)" is a significant problem threatening marine ecosystems worldwide. Countries like Somalia can suffer severely from such activities when they lack the capacity to effectively monitor and protect their maritime areas. Türkiye's technological and operational capacity could significantly enhance Somalia's capabilities in combating IUU fishing. This cooperation could be among the fundamental factors in promoting sustainable fishing practices and conserving marine biodiversity in the region.

Secondly, Somalia's underwater hydrocarbon reserves present significant potential for the country's economic development. However, exploring and extracting these resources requires processes that demand high technology and expertise. In this respect, Türkiye's experience and technical knowledge in the energy sector could enhance Somalia's capacity to evaluate and sustainably utilise this potential. Such cooperation could also contribute to the energy security of both countries.

In this context, the last point to be highlighted is that joint ventures and cooperation mechanisms could facilitate concrete steps in combating illegal fishing and the sustainable use of hydrocarbon reserves. These initiatives could include the sharing of knowledge and best practices, joint research and development projects, and capacity-building programs.

Therefore, this policy recommendation demonstrates that cooperation between Türkiye and Somalia in the protection and sustainable use of marine resources could provide significant benefits and contribute to regional development and stability. This cooperation

could support not only economic benefits but also environmental sustainability and regional security. However, the success of such initiatives will depend on effective governance, transparency, and adherence to sustainability principles. Considering the needs and participation of local communities and stakeholders will enhance the social acceptance and long-term success of this cooperation.

- *Fourthly, Türkiye should strengthen dialogue mechanisms on regional security and development issues by increasing cooperation with Somalia and other regional actors. In this frame, collaboration with neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti are crucial for promoting regional stability and economic integration.*

This policy recommendation emphasises the importance of enhancing dialogue and cooperation on regional security and development issues, a critical step towards ensuring regional stability and promoting economic integration. Collaboration with neighbouring countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti will play a significant role in resolving regional issues. This recommendation can be evaluated from three different perspectives.

Firstly, given the myriad security threats facing the Horn of Africa, such as terrorism, piracy, ethnic conflicts, and competition over natural resources, Türkiye's initiatives in this region, especially in counterterrorism and maritime security, should contribute to regional stability. Türkiye's experience and capacity in security, along with its good relations with regional actors, could be a significant resource for strengthening regional security mechanisms.

Secondly, Türkiye's participation in regional development projects is related. Especially in the infrastructure, energy, and agriculture

sectors, Türkiye's experience and capacity in investment and development aid can significantly contribute to boosting regional trade and supporting economic development.

Lastly, enhancing Türkiye's cooperation with regional countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti will promote an approach based on dialogue and cooperation in resolving regional issues.

Therefore, this policy recommendation highlights the significant contributions Türkiye can make to regional security, development, and integration. However, the success of such cooperation requires a careful assessment of regional dynamics and the interests of other countries. Additionally, the effectiveness of this policy will depend on Türkiye establishing long-term, mutually respectful, and trust-based relations with regional actors.

- *Fifthly, considering the global implications of the agreement signed with Somalia, Türkiye should enhance its cooperation and coordination with the international community. This includes collaborating with international partners on issues such as international maritime security, counterterrorism, and development aid, which are beneficial for the sustainability of regional stability.*

This policy recommendation underscores that the security and economic cooperation framework agreement signed between Türkiye and Somalia could have significant effects not only between the two countries but also on an international level. Türkiye's effort to increase cooperation and coordination with the international community, considering the global implications of the agreement, aims to contribute to regional and global security and development goals. This recommendation can be evaluated from four different aspects.

Firstly, given Somalia's strategic location near crucial maritime routes such as the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden, international maritime security is of critical importance. Enhancing Türkiye's international cooperation in this area will contribute to combating piracy and other maritime security threats, significantly benefiting both regional and global trade routes' security.

Secondly, considering that Somalia is a country where the terrorist organisation Al-Shabaab operates, posing a serious threat to regional security, Türkiye's strengthening of international cooperation in counterterrorism will be beneficial.

Thirdly, Türkiye's development aid to Somalia, which significantly contributes to the country's economic and social development, will be more effective and comprehensive by increasing cooperation with the international community. This will also promote the efficient use of resources in development projects and achieve international development goals.

Lastly, Türkiye's efforts in international cooperation and coordination should align with sustainable development goals and international norms. This will not only strengthen Türkiye's international image but also effectively contribute to international development and security initiatives.

Therefore, this policy recommendation highlights the importance of considering Türkiye's cooperation with Somalia in a global context while emphasising the need to enhance cooperation and coordination with the international community. This effort could produce more effective and inclusive solutions to the security and development challenges faced by both Türkiye and Somalia. However, the success of such cooperation depends

on balancing mutual interests and goals and garnering support from a broad spectrum of the international community. Thus, Türkiye's efforts in this direction should be based on open communication, transparency, and a multilateral cooperation approach.

- *Sixthly, Türkiye should develop programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of Somalia's public and private sectors. Strengthening human resources in education, health, and governance areas is crucial for achieving the long-term development goals of both Somalia and the region.*

This policy recommendation is a significant component of Türkiye's strategy to support sustainable development in Somalia. Developing the capacity of the public and private sectors and strengthening human resources in education, health, and governance areas play a fundamental role in achieving Somalia's development goals. This recommendation represents a comprehensive approach, highlighting that long-term development can be achieved not only through financial support or infrastructure projects but also through human capacity development. This recommendation can be evaluated from four different aspects.

Firstly, a robust education system helps young people succeed in the business world and innovate, contributing to the country's economic growth. Thus, Türkiye's support for Somalia's education, including improving teacher training, curriculum development, and school improvement, will be beneficial.

Secondly, increasing the accessibility and quality of health services will raise the general welfare of the population and enhance economic productivity. As mentioned above, in addition to the friendship hospital, Türkiye's

collaboration with Somalia to increase health service capacity, strengthen health personnel training, and modernise health infrastructure will be beneficial.

Thirdly, the development of effective governance and institutional capacity is critical for the success of development projects. Türkiye's provision of capacity-building programs in public administration, financial management, and the rule of law will help strengthen Somalia's governance structure. This approach will also contribute to reducing corruption and increasing the efficiency of public services.

Lastly, encouraging public and private sector collaboration by Türkiye will support Somalia's economic development. This includes developing programs to encourage private sector investments, support entrepreneurship, and enhance the capacity of local businesses.

Therefore, this policy recommendation focuses on strengthening human resources in education, health, and governance areas, which are critical for Somalia's long-term development goals. Türkiye's collaboration with Somalia in these areas will help achieve tangible and sustainable development outcomes. However, the success of such programs will depend on analysing local needs and priorities, closely collaborating with local capacity and institutions, and adhering to transparency and accountability principles in project implementation.

In conclusion, the "Defence and Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement" has the potential to further strengthen the strategic partnership between Türkiye and Somalia and contribute to regional stability. However, the success of this cooperation will depend on balancing mutual interests, focusing on sustainable development goals, and enhancing cooperation and dialogue at both regional and global levels.

NOTES



 www.orsam.org.tr

    [orsamorgtr](https://www.youtube.com/orsamorgtr)