

Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development
Office of the Minister

Ref: /WQM&HDQ/OM/063/2018

Date: June 09, 2018

Subject : Renewal of the Somaliland Special Arrangement

Excellencies,

Thank you for the draft proposal to renew the Somaliland Special Arrangement based on the agreement reached with the Federal Government of Somalia in 2013 which expired in 2016.

The FGS is indebted to our international partners for the continued support to re-build the resilience, livelihoods and state institutions for the Somali people and we are committed to working with partners to agree on the most effective means of ensuring that bilateral and multilateral support is directed to the people who need it most.

The New Deal was an important step in agreeing to a common set of principles and achieving greater coordination through the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF). We are also encouraged by the progress on the New Partnership for Somalia including on the important principle of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF), which will be highlighted at the forthcoming Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels.

Since 2013 and as evidenced by the New Partnership, our engagements with donors have expanded and become more coordinated, important reform processes have also been put in place which we believe will build the confidence of donors, strengthen our accountability and increase our effectiveness.

Nevertheless, a number of significant challenges remain, including the means by which the Federal Government and Federal Member States can build an effective institutional framework which allows Federal Member States the ability to generate resources and provide services in a way which strengthens the bonds with the Federal Government rather than weakens them.

We believe that all development assistance, regardless of which Federal Member State or region receives the support, should be disbursed in an appropriate and transparent manner to ensure that it benefits all communities, and that the assistance is used for development rather than other means.

The Federal Government is concerned that singling out an individual state or region for special arrangements could have serious impact on the efforts to deepen federalism and nation-building in Somalia. Other Federal Member States have openly expressed that if the special arrangement with Somaliland continues that they will seek similar relationships with donors which could have a further fragmentary effect on donor coordination in Somalia, weaken the nascent federal arrangements and exacerbate economic imbalances.

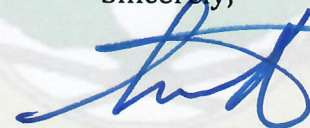
Consequently, on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia we do not agree with the proposal to renew the Special Arrangement for Somaliland.

However, we would welcome any constructive suggestions that do not compromise the sovereignty of the country and put intentionally or unintentionally any of its states or regions at a disadvantageous position.

Likewise, any appropriate considerations would be based on agreed frameworks, aligned with the national priorities as stipulated in the National Development Plan and should contribute positively to the unity and cohesion of the Somali people and State.

We look forward to continuing discussions to reach an understanding on this basis.

Sincerely,



Amb. Gamal M Hassan

Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development



To: Somalia Donor Group
MOGADISHU