

Hosted by:



Wasaaradda Horumarinta Maalgashiga iyo Warshadaha  
**Ministry of Investment  
& Industrial Development**  
وزارة تنمية الاستثمار والصناعة



In Partnership with



**Somaliland  
Commission for  
Higher Education**

# Shirka Iskaashiga Cilmi-baadhista Maalgashiga

## Investment Research Collaborative Meeting



Date 10 March, 2025



Day Monday,  
8:00Am - 12:00pm



Venue: Ali Jirde hotel





# Meeting Program

**08:00AM**  
-  
**09:00AM**

## Welcome

- **Check in and Registration**
- **National Anthem**

**09:00AM**  
-  
**09:30AM**

## Opening Remarks

- **Delivered by the Minister of Investment and Industrial Development.**
- **Chairman of Somaliland Commission for Higher Education.**
- **Guest of Honor Ministries**

**09:30AM**  
-  
**10:00AM**

## Government Role Discussion

- **Minister of Investment: Importance of research-backed investment feasibility studies**
- **Minister of Fisheries and Livestock: Need for a national research platform**
- **Minister of Energy and Minerals: Legal frameworks for energy sector investment**

**10:00AM**  
-  
**10:30AM**

## Higher Education Role Discussion

- **Chairman of Higher Education Commission: Aligning knowledge, resources, and technology**
- **University Leaders: Research funding and investment opportunities**

**10:30AM**  
-  
**11:00AM**

## Private & Organizations Role Discussion

- **Chairman of Wadaag Investment Firm: Proposal for a National Research Institution**
- **Private Sector Leaders: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in research**

**11:00AM**  
-  
**11:20AM**

## Presentation

- **Current Investment Climate Presentation**

**11:20AM**  
**12:00PM**

## Open Discussion

- **Closing Remarks, Minister**
- **Director General**



# SHIRKA ISKAASHIGA CILMI- BAADHISTA MAALGASHIGA

The Building Collaborative Research Meeting was a pivotal initiative aimed at fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and research-driven investment among key stakeholders in Somaliland. The event brought together government ministries, academic institutions, researchers, private sector representatives, and independent experts to explore ways to integrate research into national development strategies.

By facilitating discussions on investment-backed research, industrial innovation, and evidence-based policymaking, the meeting served as a platform for aligning research efforts with Somaliland's economic priorities. It emphasized the need for data-driven decision-making, public-private partnerships, and enhanced university-industry collaboration to promote sustainable economic growth and industrial development.

The conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development (MOIID) and the Somaliland Higher Education Commission (SHEC), reflecting a unified approach to bridging the gap between academic research and practical investment strategies. The event laid the foundation for ongoing collaborative research efforts, policy reforms, and strategic investment planning, ensuring that research plays a central role in Somaliland's economic transformation.





## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND KEY DISCUSSIONS

# OPENING SESSION

The Meeting commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks from Mr. Abdifatah Ismacil Ducale, Director General of the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development.

In his address, Mr. Ducale emphasized the importance of modernizing research methodologies and strengthening collaboration between universities and industries to drive economic research. He highlighted the critical role of data-driven investment analysis, stating that informed decision-making is essential for sustainable economic growth.

“We must be capable enough to analyze our country's investment trends,” he asserted, underscoring the need for evidence-based policy-making, research-backed investment strategies, and stronger public-private partnerships. His remarks set the tone for the conference, reinforcing the goal of aligning academic research with Somaliland's national investment priorities.



Mr. Aadan Jamac Duaale, The Director General of the Somaliland Higher Education Commission (NHEC) emphasized the commission's dedication to establishing a National Knowledge Center aimed at documenting and centralizing economic research in Somaliland. He underscored the importance of structured data collection and accessibility, ensuring that research findings contribute meaningfully to policy development, investment planning, and industrial growth.

A key highlight of his address was the announcement of the Research Portal, set to launch in April 2025, which will serve as a centralized platform for research collaboration. This initiative is designed to enhance accessibility to research outputs, foster knowledge exchange between scholars, government institutions, and industry leaders, and support evidence-based decision-making in investment and development strategies.



## KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr. Saleeban Dirir Cabdi, The Chairman of the Somaliland Higher Education Commission emphasized the critical need to align knowledge, resources, and technology to drive research and development (R&D) in key economic sectors such as fishing, livestock, water, and minerals. He highlighted that strategic integration of research with industry needs would enhance sectoral growth, innovation, and economic resilience.

Stressing the importance of practical implementation, he urged attendees to move beyond discussions and translate research insights into tangible, actionable strategies. He called for stronger collaboration between universities, government institutions, and the private sector, ensuring that research-backed solutions contribute to Somaliland's industrialization, investment policies, and economic sustainability.

By reinforcing the need for data-driven decision-making, technological advancements, and sector-specific research initiatives, the Chairman set a firm foundation for aligning higher education with national development priorities. His call to action encouraged stakeholders to actively engage in transforming research findings into real-world applications, ensuring Somaliland remains competitive and progressive in its investment and industrial landscape.





## OPENING SPEECH

The Minister of Investment and industrial development Hon. Said Mohamed Burale, emphasized the critical need for compiling reliable socio-economic data to attract and facilitate investment in Somaliland. He highlighted that investors increasingly rely on accurate, up-to-date information when making decisions, particularly in areas such as population distribution, industry site allocation, and investment legal frameworks.

Hon. Burale pointed out that the lack of centralized and accessible investment data often poses challenges for both local and foreign investors, hindering economic growth and industrial development. To address this, he called for the establishment of a robust data collection and management system, ensuring that investment decisions are driven by credible, research-backed insights.

He further urged conference participants to go beyond discussions and commit to actionable resolutions that will strengthen Somaliland's investment climate. This includes developing data-driven policies, improving transparency in investment processes, and enhancing coordination between government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector. His remarks set the tone for a proactive approach to investment facilitation, reinforcing the importance of evidence-based economic planning and research-driven decision-making.





## GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES



Minister Cali Jaamac Faarax from the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Development emphasized the need for a dedicated national research platform to advance economic and natural resource research in Somaliland. He highlighted the critical role of data-driven research in ensuring the sustainable development and management of Somaliland's fisheries, marine resources, and coastal industries.

The Minister stressed that effective investment in the fisheries sector requires comprehensive research to assess marine biodiversity, fishing industry potential, and resource sustainability. He called for stronger collaboration between universities, research institutions, and government agencies to establish a centralized research hub that would facilitate data collection, policy development, and informed decision-making.

He further emphasized that such a platform would help guide investment strategies, improve regulatory frameworks, and attract local and foreign investors to Somaliland's fisheries and coastal industries. By prioritizing scientific research and evidence-based policymaking, Somaliland can enhance economic growth, ensure sustainable resource management, and strengthen its position in the global fisheries market.

Minister Ahmed Aw-Dahir Haji Hassan from the Ministry of Parliamentary Relations and Constitutional Affairs emphasized the importance of research-driven decision-making in shaping Somaliland's economic policies, investment strategies, and sustainable development initiatives. He highlighted that collaboration between experts, universities, government agencies, and the private sector is essential in ensuring that research findings are effectively translated into actionable investment opportunities and policy frameworks.

He stressed that structured and well-coordinated research efforts provide critical insights needed for evidence-based planning, infrastructure development, and economic growth. By fostering a culture of research and innovation, Somaliland can enhance sectoral advancements, improve governance, and create a more competitive business environment that attracts both local and foreign investment.

The Minister further emphasized the importance of hosting such research-focused events regularly to ensure continuous dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and strategic alignment between academia, industry, and policymakers. He encouraged stakeholders to actively participate in research initiatives and policy discussions, ensuring that Somaliland's economic development remains informed, inclusive, and forward-thinking.





## GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES



Eng Ahmed Jama Bare, The Minister of Energy and Minerals emphasized the urgent need for legal frameworks to regulate investment in Somaliland's energy sector. He highlighted Somaliland's vast solar energy potential, which, if fully utilized, could reduce industrial power costs and drive economic growth. He stressed the importance of renewable energy and the need for clear regulations to attract investment.

He raised concerns about international firms conducting resource research without sharing findings, calling for stronger agreements to ensure transparency and national benefit. He urged collaboration between government, universities, and the private sector to establish a centralized research database for resource management and investment planning.

The Minister also announced an ongoing research study on the mining sector, led by his ministry, to identify investment opportunities and regulatory needs. He stated that the findings will be presented at an upcoming Mining Conference, offering a platform to discuss investment prospects and policy recommendations. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring Somaliland's resources are developed through research-backed, sustainable strategies.

MP (Kodbur) emphasized the critical need for robust legal frameworks to regulate investment in Somaliland, particularly in the energy sector. He highlighted the importance of clear, enforceable regulations to create a transparent and competitive investment environment that fosters sustainable economic growth.

A key concern raised was the existence of monopolies in the energy sector, which he argued hinder fair competition, drive up costs, and limit access to affordable energy solutions. He stressed that introducing policies to promote market competition would attract more investors, encourage innovation, and improve service delivery across Somaliland's energy industry.

MP Kodbur called for parliamentary action to implement comprehensive investment laws, ensuring that foreign and domestic investors operate within a well-defined legal framework. He urged government agencies, regulatory bodies, and private sector leaders to collaborate in drafting policies that protect consumers, promote fair business practices, and maximize the potential of Somaliland's energy resources for national development.





## ACADAMIC PERSPECTIVES



Dr. Mohamed Muse Jibril, The Chairman of Amoud University emphasized the vital role of university-government collaboration in shaping effective policies and conducting research to drive economic growth and job creation in Somaliland. He highlighted that universities serve as key knowledge hubs, capable of producing data-driven insights that can guide investment strategies, industrial development, and employment policies.

However, he pointed out that the current collaboration between universities and government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) remains weak, limiting the impact of research on national policymaking and economic planning. To address this, he called for stronger partnerships, urging the government to empower universities by providing financial support for research initiatives that align with Somaliland's development goals.

Furthermore, the Chairman suggested the need for designated liaison officers who would act as bridges between universities and MDAs, facilitating better communication, coordination, and knowledge exchange. He stressed that institutionalizing such collaboration would ensure that academic research is effectively utilized in policymaking, helping Somaliland achieve sustainable economic development, industrialization, and job creation.

Dr. Sulub ismail, The representative of Burao University highlighted a critical gap in the utilization of research on economic and investment trends by government ministries. While valuable research exists, he pointed out that it is not effectively integrated into decision-making processes or used for tracking progress and evaluating investment strategies.

He stressed that Somaliland's policy and investment landscape often lacks a strong focus on data-driven approaches, leading to missed opportunities for informed decision-making. He further emphasized that most research findings remain underutilized or undistributed, limiting their impact on economic development and industrial planning.

To address this, the Chairman called for improved dissemination and accessibility of research. He urged government ministries, universities, and private sector stakeholders to establish a centralized research-sharing platform where economic and investment studies can be easily accessed and applied in policy formulation, business strategies, and national development planning. Strengthening this link between research and practical application, he noted, is crucial for Somaliland's sustainable economic growth and industrialization.





## ACADAMIC PERSPECTIVES



Dr. Fuad Obsie, The Vice President of the University of Hargeisa expressed strong enthusiasm for future involvement in investment and economic research, reaffirming the university's commitment to Somaliland's economic development. He appreciated the recognition given to academic institutions, emphasizing that collaborations with government and industry strengthen research-driven policymaking and investment strategies.

He highlighted the need for institutional support to conduct comprehensive economic studies and assured that the University of Hargeisa has the expertise to guide policies and private sector investments. Additionally, he reiterated the university's readiness to support government ministries in policy formulation, capacity building, and research-based decision-making. His remarks reinforced the importance of bridging academia, governance, and industry to drive data-driven economic growth in Somaliland.

Dr. Abdi ismail Yonis, The Vice Chairman of the Somaliland Higher Education Commission highlighted the success of the Building Collaborative Research Workshop in fostering meaningful dialogue between government institutions, academia, and the private sector. He emphasized that the event laid a strong foundation for a research-driven investment ecosystem in Somaliland by bringing together key stakeholders to align research efforts with national development priorities.

He noted that the workshop was a crucial step toward integrating evidence-based research into policymaking and investment planning, ensuring that decision-makers have access to reliable data and insights. The discussions held during the event identified key challenges and opportunities in investment research, reinforcing the importance of collaboration between universities, industries, and government bodies.

Moving forward, the Vice Chairman stressed the urgent need for continuous engagement and implementation of the action points discussed. He called on all stakeholders to maintain momentum by translating workshop resolutions into tangible outcomes, such as establishing a centralized research database, strengthening funding mechanisms for university-led research, and fostering public-private partnerships. This, he emphasized, would be essential in shaping Somaliland's long-term economic growth and industrialization efforts.





# PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVES



The Chairman of Wadaag Investment Group, Mr. Abdirashid, proposed the establishment of a National Research Institution to serve as a coordinating body for research and investment promotion efforts in Somaliland. He emphasized that such an institution would enhance collaboration between universities, industries, and government entities, ensuring that research findings directly inform investment decisions and national development strategies.

He further highlighted the importance of academic research in global rankings, noting that universities are evaluated based on the quality and impact of their research, particularly their publications in international journals. Strengthening Somaliland's research ecosystem, he argued, would increase the country's visibility in the global academic and investment community.

Additionally, Mr. Abdirashid stressed the need for regular research-focused events to promote the strategic utilization of Somaliland's natural resources. He urged stakeholders to support data-driven investment approaches, ensuring that resource exploration and industrial development are guided by practical and evidence-based research. By fostering stronger ties between academia, government, and the private sector, he reiterated that Somaliland could maximize its economic potential and attract both local and foreign investments.



## **PRESENTATION: UNLOCKING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SOMALILAND - A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS**



Presented by: Dr. Mohamed Aden Hassan

The Research & Development (R&D) Department of the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development conducted an in-depth survey and analysis on Somaliland's investment landscape, highlighting key opportunities, challenges, and strategic policy recommendations to enhance economic growth. The findings were presented by Dr. Mohamed Aden Hassan, who shared the department's research on investment trends and sectoral opportunities.

The presentation outlined Somaliland's untapped investment potential across various sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mining, manufacturing, infrastructure, and ICT. It emphasized how leveraging natural resources, fostering innovation, and strengthening regulatory frameworks can attract both domestic and foreign investors. The study highlighted that strategic investments in industrialization, renewable energy, and export-oriented businesses could significantly boost Somaliland's economic trajectory.

While Somaliland presents strong investment prospects, the research identified key challenges affecting investor confidence and economic expansion. These include regulatory uncertainties, infrastructure limitations, financing constraints, and weak data-driven decision-making. The survey also highlighted the need for comprehensive feasibility studies to support evidence-based policymaking and investment planning. The lack of structured public-private partnerships (PPPs) and limited research accessibility were also noted as factors hindering economic development.

To address these challenges, the R&D department proposed several strategic policy interventions, including strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing research-driven investment strategies, and promoting public-private sector collaboration. The establishment of a National Research and Investment Database was recommended to centralize economic data and feasibility studies, ensuring investors and policymakers have access to accurate and up-to-date information.

In conclusion, the presentation reinforced the importance of research-backed investment policies in shaping Somaliland's economic future. The R&D Department of the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development emphasized the need for continued collaboration between government institutions, academia, and the private sector to unlock Somaliland's full investment potential. Moving forward, implementing these research-driven recommendations will be key to fostering sustainable economic growth, attracting investors, and positioning Somaliland as a competitive investment hub.



# OPEN DISCUSSION (COMMENTS / FEEDBACK / QUESTIONS)

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for discussion, comments, and feedback from attendees. Participants, including government officials, academics, private sector representatives, and researchers, engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue on the key findings and recommendations presented.

Several stakeholders commended the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development's R&D Department for conducting a comprehensive analysis on Somaliland's investment potential. They emphasized the importance of using research-driven insights to shape policies and attract investors. Participants also highlighted the need for regular investment research updates, ensuring that economic trends and sectoral opportunities remain accurate and relevant.

One of the recurring themes in the discussion was the role of higher education institutions in investment planning. University representatives reiterated their commitment to conducting research that aligns with national economic priorities, calling for stronger collaboration between academia, government, and the private sector. There was also a strong emphasis on bridging the gap between research and implementation, ensuring that feasibility studies and policy recommendations are acted upon rather than remaining theoretical.







# NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES

## Facilitating Research and Investment Collaboration: National Research Priorities Assessment

This meeting was organized and facilitated by the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development, under the leadership of its Research & Development (R&D) Department, in partnership with the Somaliland Higher Education Commission. The event served as a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration between academia, government, and the private sector, ensuring that research-driven investment strategies contribute to Somaliland's economic growth and industrialization efforts.

As part of its broader national research coordination efforts, the Ministry has launched a National Research Priorities Assessment during the meeting. This initiative aims to evaluate the current state of research in Somaliland, identify gaps, and align research activities with national development objectives. The assessment seeks to answer key questions, including:

- Which sectors have been extensively researched?
- What existing research data is currently available for policymakers and investors?
- What research projects are academic institutions, NGOs, private sector stakeholders, and other government agencies planning to undertake?

By mapping out the research landscape, this initiative will ensure that future studies are targeted, impactful, and aligned with Somaliland's investment and economic priorities. It will also facilitate the centralization of research findings, creating a repository of knowledge that decision-makers, businesses, and researchers can access to support evidence-based policymaking and investment strategies.

Moving forward, the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development, in collaboration with key stakeholders, will use the findings of this assessment to establish a structured research framework, guiding national development strategies, investment policies, and innovation-driven economic growth in Somaliland.



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development, we extend our sincere gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions to this meeting. Special thanks to the Somaliland Higher Education Commission for partnering with us and ensuring the active participation of universities and research institutions, strengthening the link between academia, government, and industry.

We deeply appreciate the Research & Development (R&D) Department for organizing this event and leading efforts to enhance research coordination in Somaliland. A special acknowledgment also goes to the Deputy Director of the Investment Department, who served as Master of Ceremony, and the Director of Research and Scholarships of the Higher Education Commission for their dedication and teamwork in making this meeting a success.

As we move forward, we look ahead to the National Research Initiative Conference, where we will showcase Somaliland's ongoing and completed research efforts. We thank all stakeholders for their commitment to research-driven economic growth and investment strategies and look forward to continued collaboration. Thank you.



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**THANK YOU**

**"Shirka Iskaashiga Cilmi-  
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**"Investment Research  
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**10TH MARCH-2025  
ALI JIRDE HOTEL, HARGEISA**

**08:00 AM TO 12:00 PM**



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