

**From:** Adam Sharon <[adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com](mailto:adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com)>  
**Date:** Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:53 AM  
**To:** Adam Sharon <[adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com](mailto:adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com)>  
**Subject:** Factsheet on Somaliland - Ethiopia MoU

Good morning,

I'm writing on behalf of the Republic of Somaliland's Mission to the United States to provide an update on the Somaliland - Ethiopia's memorandum of understanding (MoU) announced earlier this month.

Below, I have included a fact sheet with additional details about the MoU and select commentary from domestic and international observers.

I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss this development in further detail at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Adam

**Adam Sharon**  
Managing Director  
Washington DC

M. \_\_\_\_\_ 202-258-0616  
E. \_\_\_\_\_ [adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com](mailto:adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com)



**Somaliland Partners with Ethiopia to Advance Stability and Prosperity in the Horn of Africa**

On January 1, 2024, the Republic of Somaliland and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) laying the foundation for Ethiopia's recognition of Somaliland's independence. The agreement will provide Ethiopia, via a 50-year lease, secure access to 12 miles of coastline adjacent to the Port of Berbera and direct entry to the Gulf of Aden, while also granting Somaliland shares in Ethiopian Airlines.

This MoU resolves regional tensions, formalizes and strengthens the longstanding partnership between Somaliland and Ethiopia, and advances peace and security in the Horn of Africa, paving the way for further U.S. presence in the region. An economic game-changer, the agreement also promotes commerce in regions of Somaliland and Ethiopia that previously had limited opportunities for economic development.

## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

*"Fantastic news and a true "win/win" - Somaliland leases seacoast to Ethiopia and should gain formal recognition when deal finalized. This is reality - Somaliland is one of the most functional countries and Ethiopia needs long term sea access. Congrats!"*

- [Tibor Nagy @TiborPNagyJr](#), Former US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa (1/1/24)

*"I think it's a wonderful deal for Ethiopia, it diversifies its bottleneck in Djibouti where everything has to come through at very high prices. It's good for the Ethiopian people and it's good to have diversity. [The MOU] also opens Somaliland for recognition. I think it's a real win-win and it respects the reality of what is on the ground in the Horn of Africa and not notional theories."*

• [Dr. J. Peter Pham @DrJPPham](#), Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council; Former United States Special Envoy for the Sahel Region (1/6/24)

*"Ethiopia and Somalia for centuries were each other's greatest enemies. Kudos to Somaliland and Ethiopia for being mature enough to put aside old enmities for the sake of their national interests."*

- [Joshua Meservey @JMeservey](#), Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute (1/5/2024)

*"I am delighted that Ethiopia is set to become the first country in Africa to recognize Somaliland. For far too long the UK has not done enough. Now we need to show leadership and ensure Somaliland is recognized by the UK."*

- [Sir Gavin Williamson MP @GavinWilliamson](#), (UK) Conservative Member of Parliament for South Staffordshire (1/2/2024)

*"This is fantastic news for the nation of Somaliland and its wonderful people! As a former Foreign Minister in the UK it was always clear to me that we would recognize its sovereignty once Somaliland was formally recognized by African nation(s). That is now happening and I hope the UK follows through. The case for independence is overwhelming."*

- [Zac Goldsmith @ZacGoldsmith](#), Conservative Member of Parliament for South Staffordshire (UK) (1/2/2024)

*"I am delighted with the announcement of the agreement between #Éthiopie and #Somaliland. For 33 years, Somaliland has been an independent democracy, not recognized by the United Nations. This agreement constitutes a first recognition of Somaliland by an African state. Mogadishu should take the*

*example of Prague to manage the divorce between the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and formalize this de facto separation between Somaliland and Somalia, since 1991, to get off on a good footing with its neighbor and strengthen security in the Horn of Africa.”*

- [Olivier Cadic @OlivierCadic](#), Senator, French citizens living abroad (translation) (1/2/2024)

*“Ethiopia's agreement with Somaliland over Berbera simply reconfirms and expands the rationale for the port agreement signed 8 years ago. It was Addisababa and Hargeisa that approached DPWorld, as shown in my 2018 article with*

*@RossiterAsh [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3107475](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3107475)”*

- [Brendon J. Cannon @cannon\\_brendon](#), Assistant Professor of International Security at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE (1/3/2024)

*“The Ethiopia-Somaliland MOU is a wake up call for the U.S. State Dep. The one-Somalia policy is fiction; deluding ourselves puts us on the sidelines of diplomacy and business in Africa.*

*Mogadishu should not have a veto over American foreign policy.”*

- [Oliver McPherson-Smith, Ph.D @O\\_McPS](#), Research Fellow, Hoover Institute (1/2/2024)

*“Somaliland is destined to take the title of the world’s newest sovereign nation from South Sudan. Frankly speaking, it’s about time they obtained their recognition. It is more functional than many sovereign states around Africa and the world.”*

- [Peter Biar Ajak @AjakPeter](#), Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School (1/3/2024)

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*This material is distributed by FGS Global on behalf of the Republic of Somaliland. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*