

From: Adam Sharon <adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com>

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:25 AM

To: Adam Sharon <adam.sharon@fgsglobal.com>

Subject: Update - Somaliland and Taiwan Deepening Bilateral Relations

Good morning,

I'm writing on behalf of the Republic of Somaliland's Mission to the United States to provide an update on the Republic of Somaliland's recent diplomatic engagements with Taiwan.

Last month, a delegation led by Musa Hassan Yousuf, Chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Somaliland, the independent agency responsible for the organization and administration of Somaliland's elections, [arrived](#) in Taiwan for a six-day visit to learn more about Taiwan's electoral system, election operations, and political participation. The delegation was welcomed by Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, and visited Taiwan's Central Election Commission, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice. It also met with the international affairs departments of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the Kuomintang (KMT), and the Taiwan People's Party (TPP) and local civil society organizations.

During the NEC's meeting with Minister Wu, the parties exchanged views on bilateral relations between Somaliland and Taiwan, their shared experiences, and their histories of democratic governance and elections. Minister Wu [noted](#) that since formally establishing diplomatic ties in 2020, Taiwan and Somaliland have developed close relations and cooperated on topics including public health, agriculture, and women's empowerment. Minister Wu also stressed that Taiwan and Somaliland are partners who share values, such as democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. He stated that Taiwan would continue to work closely with Somaliland to deepen bilateral ties.

Chairman Yousuf [recognized](#) Taiwan as one of Somaliland's most important international partners and thanked Taiwan for its support. He said the trip gave him a deeper understanding of Taiwan's electoral system and procedures.

For additional information on the visit, please see:

- Taiwan Today: [Foreign Minister Wu meets Somaliland NEC delegation](#) (January 5, 2024)
- Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [Foreign Minister Wu meets with Somaliland NEC delegation led by Chairman Yousef](#) (January 4, 2024)
- Taiwan News: [Somaliland National Electoral Commission delegation arrives in Taiwan](#) (January 4, 2024)

Separately, we wanted to make sure you saw that on January 1, 2024, 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 secure access to coastline adjacent to the Port of Berbera and direct entry to the Gulf of Aden. The MoU resolves regional tensions, formalizes and strengthens the

longstanding partnership between Somaliland and Ethiopia, and advances peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The agreement will also promote commerce in regions of Somaliland and Ethiopia that previously had limited opportunities for economic development.

For additional background on the agreement, please see:

- Somaliland Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [The Republic of Somaliland Government signs Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) with Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for Seaport Access in Exchange for International Recognition](#) (January 3, 2024)
- BBC: [Ethiopia signs agreement with Somaliland paving way to sea access](#) (January 2, 2024)
- VOA: [Ethiopia 'Secures' Access to Sea After Deal With Somaliland](#) (January 1, 2024)
- Al Jazeera: [Ethiopia signs agreement to use Somaliland's Red Sea port](#) (January 1, 2024)

I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss these or other developments in further detail at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Adam Sharon

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