



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO



Somalia Economic Conference

Mogadishu, Somalia | 30 & 31 May 2023





*H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, in H.E's Presidential State visit to Italy in February 2023, and during the Round Table meeting held by H.E. Jibril Abdirashid Haji, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia, at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Rome, the Federal Government of Somalia, the Government of Italy and UNIDO have announced the organization of two economic development events with focus on Somalia. The first of the two events, the **Somalia Economic Conference**, will take place on May 30th and 31st, 2023, in Mogadishu, which includes **the 2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum on May 30th**, and the **1st Somalia Private Sector Partnership Meet on May 31st**.*

Background

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been working extensively in Somalia for the development of private sector in the country. The private sector, which resiliently faced all the hardships arising out of post conflict situation, droughts, COVID-19 pandemic etc., needs to be networked with international businesses for its growth. The international partnerships will bring in technology and replace the obsolete machineries, bring in best management and productive practices, provide new market access and so forth. UNIDO has been able to generate many international partnerships between Somali private sector and international companies in the last couple of years through various initiatives, including organizing the first Italy – Somalia Business and Trade Forum, held in Mogadishu in 2019.

The success of the First Forum has prompted the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia and UNIDO to organize the 2nd edition of the 2019 Forum, with an enlarged vision titled **1st Somalia Economic Conference** to be held on May 30th and 31st, in Mogadishu, Somalia. The **1st Somalia Economic Conference** will host the **2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum** on May 30th, and the **1st Somalia Private Sector Partnership Meet** on May 31st.

The need for another International Business match-making event has been triggered by the growing interest expressed by the Somali private sector for more Italian-Somali and International business initiatives, as a result of the first Forum held in 2019 which saw the



wide participation of several Italian companies and associations. Subsequently, several negotiations and business deals were put in place, showing the enormous potential for international partnerships with Somali SME in different strategic productive sectors of the Somali economy.

The conference has been endorsed by the Federal Government of Somalia, by the Government of Italy, and will be organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia and UNIDO, in coordination with the Embassy of Italy to Somalia, the Agency for Development Cooperation of Italy, the office of the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry with its Somalia Network of Enterprises Development Units, SomInvest, International Bank of Somalia (IBS), as well as the EU delegation to Somalia and the Somalia United Nations Development Programme.

The **2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum on May 30th 2023** will be the flagship event of the Somalia Economic Conference, by setting the stage for achieving private and public partnership to support Somalia economic development prospects. The **Somalia Private Sector Partnership Meet organized on May 31st 2023** with focus on the growing potential of the Somali private sector and creating linkages between them and international business.

Objectives

Somalia is endowed with huge agricultural and aquaculture production and processing potential. Economic growth is driven by robust urban consumption spending, fueled by remittances and foreign aid. Investment spending, mainly in residential and commercial structures, is increasing rapidly, as evidenced by the high level of capital imports. The country's huge trade deficit is an opportunity for both international partners and Somali to push production towards domestic and international markets. Moreover, in Somalia, there is a growing need to modernize technologies, especially in important sectors such as, construction, fisheries, livestock and agriculture, which make the main sectors, that possess huge potential for investments and growth. Furthermore, the country has a huge demand for affordable and reliable electricity. In fact, the potential in renewable energy in Somalia is one of the highest in Africa, in terms of average sunlight hours and highest

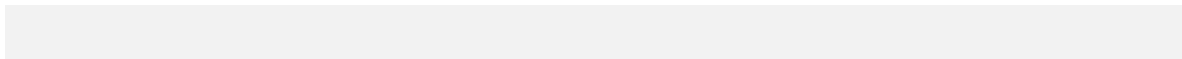


potential for wind energy.

Beyond this immediate goal of promoting Italian-Somali relationships and partnerships, it is key to stress that the technological, capital and know-how transfers that will occur shall constitute the means to achieve the overall objective of improving the Somali economic resilience. The focused business sectors to be covered in the Forum are

- Agro-industry
- Fishery
- Livestock (Poultry/Diary)
- Construction
- Renewable Energy

The Somalia Economic Conference, and its events: the **2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum on May 30th 2023** and **Somalia Private Sector Partnership Meet organized on May 31st 2023** is organized with the aim of promoting Somalia as a destination for business opportunities to international companies with the goal of establishing partnership in terms of trade, dealership agreements and all other form of business relations. The Forum will offer business opportunities to Italian and International companies to meet the demand for identified technology and know-how of the Somalia private sector.



DAY 1 of the Somalia Economic Conference 2nd Italia – Somalia Business and Trade Forum

Tuesday May 30th, 2023 |AAIA SAF Hangar – Mogadishu

9:00

Welcome Coffee & Registration

10:00

Welcome address

Mr. Mohamed Saney Dalmar, Director General, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Federal Government of Somalia

Mr. Abdirizak Ali Warsame, Vice Chairman International Bank of Somalia (IBS)

Mr. Mohamud Abdi Ali 'Gabaire', Chairman, Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Giovanni Grandi, Head of the Regional Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Mr. Beger Gunther, Managing Director, UNIDO Directorate for SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation (*video recorded message*)

10.20

Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Madobe Nunow, Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia

H.E. Mr. Mohamud Abdirahman Beenebeene, Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia

H.E. Dr. Elmi Mohamud Nur, Minister of Finance of the Federal Government of Somalia

Mr. George Conway, United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Somalia

H.E. Alberto Vecchi, Ambassador of Italy to the Federal Republic of Somalia

H.E. Mr. Jibril Abdirashid Haji Abdi, Minister of Commerce & Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia

H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia

11.30 **Setting the Stage: Keynote Presentation**

Think Global Act Local: Doing Business in Somalia – Ministry of Commerce and Industry & United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Presented by:

Mr. Ahmed Sheikh Abdullahi Warsame, Director of Trade & Marketing, Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia

Mr. Ygor Scarcia, Industrial Development Expert & UNIDO Representative to Somalia

12.00 **Business Partners for Somalia I:**

The stage is set for firms from Italy and other countries, to present the participants with their products and services.

- **Agro-tractors & Moumin Group**, Mr. Emanuele Zobbi, Export Area & Abdiweli Abdullahi Moumin, Director
- **Acquedotto Pugliese**, Mr. Andrea Volpe, International Affairs
- **CNH, Ms. Nardos Admasu**, Business Manager
- **Global Seafood Group**, Mr. Abdirashid Muse, Managing Director
- **Genius Watter**, Mr. Dario Traverse, CEO

12:45 **Lunch & Prayer**

13:30 **Panel Discussion I:**

Achieving the Best Practice: A case study on Italy-Somalia Business Partnership Experiences

'The road to establishing a successful strategic partnership with sustainable competitive advantage between Italy and Somalia.'

Moderated by: Mr. Zakaria Abdullahi Hassan, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Panelists:

- CNH – Gaalooqe Cooperative
Ms. Nardos Admasu, Business Manager CNH Ethiopia & Sheikh Adan Abdullahi Mohamed
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry of FGS
Ahmed Sheikh Abdullahi Warsame, Director Trade & Marketing Department
- Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)
Prof. Ciise Halane, Deputy Director
- *International Bank of Somalia (IBS)*
Mr. Mahat Mohamed Abdi, CEO

14.30

Business Partners for Somalia II:

The stage is set for firms from Italy and other countries, to present the participants with their products and services.

- The Importance of the AfCTA for the future of Trade in Somalia and the African Continent,
BonelliErede, Mr. Michele Saponaro, Managing Associate

15.15

Panel discussion II:

Private Sector as the engine to economic growth in Somalia - “How can the private sector create jobs, stimulate economic growth and enable the government to finance social and economic infrastructure.”

Moderated by: Ms. Laura Rio, Portfolio Manager at UNDP Somalia Economic Resilience, and Institutional Development

Panelist:

- Business Incubators (IRisehub & Simad iLAB)
Mr. Mohamed Muse Hassan, CEO SIMAD iLAB
Mr. Abdikadir Abdulle Adow, Co-founder & Deputy Director iRise
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry of FGS
Mr. Abdirizak Hassan Yusuf, Director Investment Department
- Idman Bank
Ms. Khadija O. Ali, CEO
- Tamarso
Mr. Sharmarke Abdukadir, CEO and Founder
- Somali National University
Mr. Bashir Abdullahi – Economist

16.00

Closing Remarks:

Mr Thomas Kieler, Chargé d'Affaires and Head of Political and Communication, European Union Delegation to Somalia

H.E. Mr. Jibril Abdirashid Haji Abdi, the Minister of Commerce & Industry, the Federal Government of Somalia

16.30

Conclusion of the first Day of Somalia Economic Conference



DAY 2 of the Somalia Economic Conference Somalia Private Sector Partnership Meet

Tuesday May 31st, 2023 |AAIA SAF Hangar – Mogadishu

9:00	Welcome Remarks Mr. Ygor Scarcia , Industrial Development Expert & UNIDO Representative to Somalia H.E. Alberto Vecchi , Ambassador of Italy to the Federal Republic of Somalia
9.10	Opening Remarks: H.E. Mr. Ismail Sheikh Bashir , Minister of Public Works, Housing and Reconstruction of the Federal Government of Somalia H.E. Mr. Ahmed Hassan , Minister of Fisheries, and blue economy of the Federal Government of Somalia
09:45	Business-to-Business Networking: International and Domestic B2Bs International and Somali companies will have opportunity to sit down and engage in business discussion, partnerships, Technology Tie-up, and exchange of know-how. (Networking lunch from 12.30 to 13.30)
13:30	Continued Business-to-Business Networking
16:00	Closure of the Somalia Economic Conference H.E. Mr. Jibril Abdirashid Haji Abdi , Minister of Commerce & Industry of the Federal Government of Somalia

During the two-days of Somalia Economic Conference an exhibition area will be open, where both International and the Somali companies can exhibit their products and/or promotional material.