



Expository Note on the Somaliland Economic Forum's Connection to the NDPs

The National Development Plan is, first and foremost, an instrument of the Government of Somaliland, guiding the national development process in 5-year intervals towards achieving the national goals set out in Vision 2030. The NDP III contains the costed priority interventions of all government sectors and MDAs, thus contributing to the alignment and harmonization of national goals and sector strategies while promoting and facilitating the alignment of NDP III with the national budget.

The NDP III is built around sectoral strategies and follows a sectoral approach in its design and presentation to achieve national development priorities. However, although the NDP III follows a sectoral approach in its design and presentation, there is no reason why, in certain instances, it cannot be implemented using an integrated multi-sectoral approach if this is warranted when the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. In such cases, the NDP III priority interventions can be seen as building blocks from various sectors that can be brought together in a single project or programme whilst addressing gaps, overlaps, and duplication efforts with the institutions involved.

Hence, the NDP III is implemented using various modalities. A critical approach to implementing the NDP III is facilitating spaces such as the '**Economic Forum**' that convene diverse experts that unpack the proposed implementation strategies, including the sectoral and multi-sectoral approaches, the latter involved in projects and programmes drawing inputs from multiple sectors.

In this regard, the Somaliland Economic Forum is a prioritization exercise for the NDP III to the extent that it brings together sector experts to delineate critical priorities the country needs to focus on in these turbulent times of the world economy.

More specifically, this year's theme of the Economic Forum is "Somaliland's Economic Future: Investing in Diversification and Modernization". Economic diversification and modernization are essential for the long-term economic growth of Somaliland. A diversified economy is less vulnerable to shocks, such as changes in commodity prices or natural disasters. A modernized economy is more productive and competitive and is better able to attract investment and create jobs.

Linking the Economic Forum theme to the relevant NDP III sectors

The production of livestock, agriculture, and fisheries sub-sectors is essential for Somaliland's food security while extracting mineral and identifying various mineral deposits in Somaliland is likely to grow the economy. The Economy Forum explores ways of diversifying the development of these sectors to broaden the country's economic base while avoiding reliance on a particular sector or industry. Currently, the economy relies heavily on the livestock industry, while investing in other sectors is likely to make the economy more resilient to shocks to enhance the live of the Somaliland people.

Moreover, modernizing Somaliland economy is critical to facilitating and accelerating socio-economic development as envisaged in Somaliland Vision 2030. The basis for a modern digital economy is a transformative telecommunication sector which adopts the fast-changing digital world. As envisioned in Vision 2030, a good communication network will support the government's drive towards a modern digital world. This is expected to support e-economy, e-government, and e-learning. The government's primary role is to create an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive. The recent developments in fibre optic cable deployment will further boost the industry and ensure that internet access and internally supported economic activities will increase. Connectivity to the international fibre optic cable will also help increase internet access to every home, business, school, and government department. In addition, advancing the movement of goods and services within Somaliland and potential foreign markets will boost the country's economy.

Finally, the discussions and inputs from the expert panels of the Economic Forum will contribute to NDP III's thinking of a diversified and resilient economy anchored on the principles of sustainable development. The Economy Forum's efforts to showcase the untapped resources of Somaliland go hand in hand with the NDP III's proposal to invest significantly in different sectors to uplift infrastructure, mining and extractives, water facilities, and food security, and build on achievements in the health and education sectors. The Economic Forum outputs will contribute to the government's initiatives to achieve sustainable development.