2024

EACON

Comprehensive RoadMap
For Somalia's Integration into
the **East African Community**
(EAC)

Conference
RoadMap

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01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document outlines the comprehensive roadmap for Somalia's integration into the East African Community (EAC), developed following the East African Community Conference (EACON) 2024. This pivotal conference, held in Mogadishu, Somalia, was hosted by SIMAD University in collaboration with Somali National University and other key organizers, under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The roadmap addresses critical areas essential for regional cooperation, economic development, and social progress, categorized into immediate, short-term, and long-term actions aimed at facilitating Somalia's successful integration into the EAC.

Policy Harmonization: Aligning Somalia's trade and investment policies with EAC standards is paramount for enhancing regional trade and economic integration. Immediate actions include developing trade and investment policies, implementing unified customs procedures, and adopting the EAC Common External Tariff (CET). Training customs officials and conducting regular workshops will ensure efficient implementation and adherence to these standards.

Infrastructure Development: Upgrading key infrastructure, such as the Mogadishu port and developing the Mogadishu-Garissa road, is essential for improving regional connectivity. Immediate actions involve conducting feasibility studies and securing funding for these projects. Long-term plans include completing major infrastructure projects and developing additional transport corridors to support economic activities.

Capacity Building and Education: Launching 1,000 scholarships for Somali youth and establishing vocational training centers will enhance the skills and knowledge of the workforce. Immediate actions focus on promoting these scholarships and partnering with EAC universities to develop training programs. Long-term goals include expanding vocational training and fostering long-term academic partnerships.

Environmental Sustainability: Investing in renewable energy projects and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are crucial for mitigating climate change impacts and enhancing food security. Immediate actions involve identifying potential sites for renewable energy projects and initiating pilot projects. Long-term plans include expanding renewable energy initiatives and promoting regional environmental collaboration.

Public Health Systems: Enhancing healthcare infrastructure by building new facilities and upgrading existing ones is a priority. Immediate actions include securing funding and initiating the construction of healthcare facilities. Implementing electronic health records and establishing regional health partnerships will improve data management and patient care. Long-term goals focus on improving healthcare accessibility and fostering long-term healthcare collaboration.

Peace and Security: Strengthening regional security mechanisms through enhanced cooperation and intelligence sharing is essential for addressing conflicts, terrorism, and transnational crime. Immediate actions involve developing joint security initiatives and conducting joint training programs for security personnel. Long-term plans include expanding intelligence sharing and fostering long-term peace and security collaboration.

Migration and Movement of People: Implementing policies to facilitate the free movement of people within the EAC will enhance labor mobility, tourism, and cultural exchange. Immediate actions focus on developing labor mobility policies and implementing social integration programs. Long-term plans include introducing a common EAC passport and developing

frameworks for the mutual recognition of qualifications.

Private Sector and Civil Society Engagement: Fostering partnerships with the private sector and civil society is key to driving economic growth and social development. Immediate actions involve developing public-private partnerships (PPPs) and promoting business incubators. Long-term goals include expanding business support programs and fostering long-term civil society engagement.

Governance and Accountability: Establishing transparent and accountable governance mechanisms is fundamental for Somalia's integration into the EAC. Immediate actions include implementing transparent governance mechanisms and promoting democratic reforms. Long-term goals focus on monitoring and evaluating governance initiatives and fostering accountable governance practices.

This roadmap provides a strategic framework for Somalia's integration into the EAC, addressing key areas essential for regional cooperation, economic development, and social progress. Formulated through the collaborative efforts and insights gained from EACON 2024, this plan underscores the commitment of Somalia, led by SIMAD University and its partners, to leverage regional cooperation opportunities, address challenges, and ensure sustainable development and prosperity for its people within the EAC framework.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization that aims to foster regional integration and cooperation among its member states. Initially established by Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, the EAC has expanded over the years to include Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and now, Somalia. The EAC focuses on various sectors, including trade, education, health, infrastructure development, and the free movement of people, with the objective of promoting economic growth, social development, and stability within the region.

Somalia's accession to the EAC was formalized with the signing of the treaty of accession at State House Entebbe on December 15, 2023. This milestone represents a significant step in Somalia's efforts to enhance regional cooperation and economic development, aligning with the broader goals of the EAC to create a prosperous, competitive, and politically stable East Africa.

The comprehensive roadmap for Somalia's integration into the EAC was formulated following the East African Community Conference (EACON) 2024, held from June 24-26, 2024, in Mogadishu, Somalia. This conference was hosted by SIMAD University in collaboration with Somali National University and other key organizers. The event was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia. EACON 2024 served as a platform for discussing the implications and opportunities of Somalia's integration into the EAC, bringing together stakeholders from government, academia, the private sector, and civil society to deliberate on the best strategies to ensure successful integration.

During the conference, various sessions and panels were held to discuss critical areas such as regional cooperation, trade and investment, education and skills development, climate change and environmental sustainability, public health systems, peace and security, private sector involvement, civil society engagement, governance, and international support. These discussions provided valuable insights and recommendations that were instrumental in shaping the comprehensive roadmap for Somalia's integration into the EAC. The integration of Somalia into the EAC is expected to bring numerous benefits, including enhanced trade and investment opportunities, improved infrastructure and connectivity, increased educational and vocational training opportunities, better public health systems, strengthened regional security, and greater social and cultural exchange. This roadmap aims to guide Somalia in leveraging these opportunities, addressing the challenges, and ensuring sustainable development and prosperity for its people within the framework of the EAC.

The roadmap's development was a collaborative effort, with inputs from various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education, and representatives from other EAC member states. It reflects a commitment to a shared vision of regional integration and the collective advancement of the East African Community.

Objectives and Goals

The integration of Somalia into the East African Community is guided by a set of comprehensive objectives and goals aimed at fostering regional cooperation, enhancing economic development, and promoting social progress. These objectives and goals are as follows:

1. Facilitating Seamless Trade and Investment Across Borders
2. Enhancing Connectivity and Infrastructure Development
3. Building Capacity in Education and Vocational Training
4. Promoting Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Energy
5. Strengthening Public Health Systems
6. Enhancing Regional Peace and Security
7. Facilitating the Free Movement of People and Labor Mobility
8. Engaging the Private Sector and Civil Society in Development Initiatives
9. Ensuring Transparent and Accountable Governance

Policy Harmonization

- **Trade and Investment Policies:** Develop and implement policies to reduce trade barriers and harmonize customs procedures with other EAC member states. This includes adopting electronic customs systems, establishing one-stop border posts (OSBPs), and implementing the EAC Common External Tariff (CET). By aligning its trade regulations with EAC standards, Somalia can facilitate smoother cross-border transactions and enhance regional trade.

- **Customs Procedures:** The immediate focus should be on training customs officials to efficiently implement new procedures, utilizing electronic systems to streamline processes, and reducing non-tariff barriers. Workshops and meetings with EAC member states will be essential to discuss policy alignment and best practices, ensuring that all parties are on the same page.

- **Unified Customs Procedures:** Somalia should adopt electronic customs systems and establish OSBPs to streamline customs processes and reduce delays. This will require significant training for customs officials to ensure the efficient implementation of these new systems. The adoption of unified customs procedures will facilitate smoother cross-border transactions and enhance trade efficiency.

- **Common External Tariff (CET):** Implementing the EAC Common External Tariff will ensure uniform tariffs on goods imported from outside the EAC. This policy will help in harmonizing trade practices and fostering a more integrated regional market. By aligning with the CET, Somalia can enhance its trade competitiveness and attract more investment.

Infrastructure Development

- **Transport Networks:** Prioritize investments in roads, railways, and ports to enhance connectivity and support economic activities. Specifically, focus on upgrading the Mogadishu port and developing transport corridors linking Somalia to other EAC member states. Immediate actions include conducting feasibility studies, securing funding, and initiating the planning process for these critical infrastructure projects.

- **Mogadishu Port Upgrade:** Modernizing the port facilities to handle increased cargo volumes and improve efficiency is a top priority. Immediate steps involve conducting a detailed feasibility study, securing funding through public-private partnerships, and initiating the tender process for construction.

- **Mogadishu-Garissa Road:** Developing this road will enhance connectivity between Somalia and Kenya, facilitating trade and movement of people. The initial phase involves feasibility studies, securing funding, and planning the route. Collaboration with Kenyan authorities will be essential to ensure seamless integration with existing infrastructure.

Capacity Building and Education

- **Scholarships and Training Programs:** Launch 1,000 scholarships for Somali youth to study in East African universities, in collaboration with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). Additionally, establish vocational training centers to enhance skills development. Immediate actions include promoting these scholarships through awareness campaigns and partnering with educational institutions to facilitate the application process.
- **Scholarship Programs:** Partnering with EAC universities to offer scholarships in fields critical to Somalia's development, such as engineering, healthcare, and ICT. Immediate steps involve creating awareness about these scholarships, establishing selection criteria, and initiating the application process.
- **Vocational Training Centers:** Establishing centers focusing on practical skills in sectors like agriculture, construction, and information technology. Immediate actions include identifying suitable locations, securing funding, and developing curricula in collaboration with regional training institutions.

Environmental Sustainability

- **Renewable Energy Projects:** Invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and build climate resilience. Promote sustainable agricultural practices to enhance food security. Short-term actions include identifying potential sites for renewable energy projects, securing funding, and initiating pilot projects.
- **Solar and Wind Farms:** Developing renewable energy projects in regions with high solar and wind potential. Short-term actions involve conducting feasibility studies, securing partnerships with international organizations, and initiating construction of pilot projects.
- **Sustainable Agriculture Initiatives:** Implementing programs to promote climate-smart agriculture practices, such as conservation tillage and agroforestry. Short-term steps include training farmers, providing necessary equipment and resources, and monitoring the effectiveness of these practices.
- **Water Management Systems:** Investing in efficient water management and irrigation systems to support sustainable agriculture. Short-term actions involve identifying areas with water scarcity, developing irrigation infrastructure, and training farmers on efficient water use techniques.

Public Health Systems

- **Healthcare Infrastructure:** Enhance public health systems by building new healthcare facilities and upgrading existing ones. Promote collaboration in healthcare to combat pandemics and emerging health threats. Short-term actions include securing funding for new healthcare projects, initiating construction of healthcare facilities, and establishing partnerships with EAC member states for knowledge sharing.
- **New Healthcare Facilities:** Constructing hospitals and clinics in underserved areas to improve access to healthcare. Short-term steps involve securing funding, identifying suitable locations, and initiating the construction process.
- **Health Information Systems:** Implementing electronic health records and health information systems to improve data management and patient care. Short-term actions include

developing the necessary IT infrastructure, training healthcare workers, and rolling out these systems in pilot regions.

- **Regional Health Collaboration:** Establishing partnerships with other EAC countries to share best practices and resources in healthcare. Short-term steps involve formalizing agreements, setting up joint training programs, and initiating collaborative healthcare projects.

Peace and Security

- **Security Cooperation:** Strengthen regional security mechanisms to address conflicts, terrorism, and transnational crime through enhanced cooperation and intelligence sharing. Develop joint security initiatives with other EAC member states. Short-term actions include establishing frameworks for intelligence sharing, conducting joint training programs, and initiating regional security projects.
- **Joint Security Training:** Conducting joint training programs for security personnel to enhance their capabilities in addressing regional security challenges. Short-term steps involve organizing training sessions, developing curricula, and facilitating knowledge exchange between EAC member states.

- **Intelligence Sharing Frameworks:** Developing frameworks for real-time intelligence sharing among EAC member states to address security threats. Short-term actions include setting up secure communication channels, formalizing agreements, and initiating regular intelligence sharing meetings.
- **Counterterrorism Initiatives:** Implementing regional counterterrorism initiatives to combat terrorism and enhance regional stability. Short-term steps involve developing comprehensive counterterrorism strategies, coordinating efforts with EAC member states, and initiating joint operations.

Migration and Movement of People

- **Labor Mobility and Cultural Exchange:** Implement policies to facilitate the free movement of people within the EAC, enhancing labor mobility, tourism, and cultural exchange. Ensure migrants' rights and access to services. Long-term actions include developing comprehensive labor mobility policies, establishing social integration programs, and promoting cultural exchange initiatives.
- **Common Passport:** Introducing an EAC common passport to simplify cross-border travel for citizens of member states. Long-term steps involve developing the necessary legal frameworks, securing agreements from all member states, and rolling out the common passport system.

- **Mutual Recognition of Qualifications:** Developing frameworks for the mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications to facilitate labor mobility. Long-term actions include establishing regulatory bodies, formalizing agreements with educational institutions, and implementing recognition procedures.
- **Social Integration Programs:** Implementing programs to support the integration of migrants, ensuring their access to healthcare, education, and social services. Long-term steps involve developing comprehensive integration policies, setting up support centers, and facilitating access to essential services for migrants.

Private Sector and Civil Society Engagement

- **Economic Growth and Job Creation:** Foster partnerships between the private sector, civil society, and government to drive economic growth and social development. Encourage private sector investment in key industries. Long-term actions include developing public-private partnerships, establishing business incubators, and engaging civil society in policy formulation.
- **Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Promoting PPPs to attract investment in infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Long-term steps involve identifying potential projects, formalizing agreements, and initiating collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors.
- **Business Incubators and Accelerators:** Establishing incubators and accelerators to support startups and small businesses. Long-term actions include securing funding, developing support programs, and providing mentorship and resources to entrepreneurs.
- **Civil Society Engagement:** Involving civil society organizations in policy formulation and implementation to ensure inclusive development. Long-term steps involve formalizing engagement processes, setting up advisory committees, and facilitating active participation of civil society in governance.

Governance and Accountability

- **Transparent Governance:** Establish mechanisms for transparent and accountable governance, ensuring adherence to democratic principles and respect for human rights. Strengthen coordination and monitoring by the Somali Government and EAC Secretariat. Long-term actions include implementing anti-corruption measures, promoting democratic reforms, and developing robust monitoring and evaluation systems.
- **Anti-Corruption Measures:** Implementing anti-corruption frameworks and institutions to promote transparency and accountability. Long-term steps involve establishing independent anti-corruption bodies, developing legal frameworks, and conducting regular audits.
- **Democratic Reforms:** Promoting democratic reforms to ensure free and fair elections, and the protection of human rights. Long-term actions include developing electoral laws, strengthening democratic institutions, and facilitating civic education programs.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:** Developing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the implementation of policies and projects. Long-term steps involve setting up dedicated monitoring bodies, developing performance indicators, and conducting regular assessments.

ACTION PLAN FOR SOMALIA'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

This action plan outlines the strategic steps Somalia will take to integrate into the East African Community (EAC). It is divided into immediate, short-term, and long-term actions to be implemented over the next two years. These actions cover key areas such as policy harmonization, infrastructure development, capacity building, environmental sustainability, public health systems, peace and security, migration and movement of people, private sector and civil society engagement, and governance and accountability. Each category includes specific initiatives to enhance regional cooperation, economic development, and social progress.

Category	Immediate Actions (0-6 Months)	Short-Term Actions (6-12 Months)	Long-Term Actions (12-24 Months)
Policy Harmonization	Develop trade and investment policies Implement unified customs procedures Adopt Common External Tariff	Conduct regular workshops Streamline customs procedures Train customs officials	Ensure full compliance with EAC standards Evaluate policy impacts and adjust as necessary
Infrastructure Development	Upgrade Smart Ports Develop Somalia – Ethiopia and Kenya connecting road Conduct feasibility studies	Secure funding for projects Initiate construction of key infrastructure Plan regional rail links	Complete major infrastructure projects Develop additional transport corridors
Capacity Building and Education	Launch 1,000 scholarships Establish vocational training centers Promote scholarships through awareness campaigns	Partner with EAC universities Develop training programs Implement teacher training initiatives	Monitor and evaluate educational programs Expand vocational training Foster long-term academic partnerships
Environmental Sustainability	Identify sites for renewable energy projects Secure funding Initiate pilot projects	Develop solar and wind farms Implement sustainable agriculture initiatives Invest in water management systems	Expand renewable energy projects Monitor and evaluate sustainability practices Promote regional environmental collaboration
Public Health Systems	Enhance healthcare infrastructure Build new healthcare facilities Promote collaboration in healthcare	Construct hospitals and clinics Implement electronic health records Establish regional health partnerships	Improve healthcare accessibility Develop health information systems

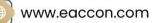|			Foster long-term healthcare collaboration
Peace and Security	Strengthen regional security mechanisms Develop joint security initiatives Establish intelligence sharing frameworks	Conduct joint security training Develop counterterrorism initiatives Enhance regional stability efforts	Monitor and evaluate security initiatives Expand intelligence sharing Foster long-term peace and security collaboration
Migration and Movement of People	Develop labor mobility policies Implement social integration programs Promote cultural exchange	Introduce common passport Develop mutual recognition of qualifications frameworks Support migrant integration	Expand labor mobility initiatives Monitor and evaluate integration programs Foster long-term cultural exchange
Private Sector and Civil Society Engagement	Foster partnerships with private sector and civil society Develop public-private partnerships (PPPs) Promote business incubators	Establish business accelerators Involve civil society in policy formulation Promote economic growth initiatives	Monitor and evaluate PPPs Expand business support programs Foster long-term civil society engagement
Governance and Accountability	Implement transparent governance mechanisms Promote democratic reforms Develop monitoring and evaluation systems	Establish anti-corruption measures Strengthen democratic institutions Facilitate civic education programs	Monitor and evaluate governance initiatives Promote long-term democratic reforms Foster accountable governance practices

- EACON Declaration
- EACON Conference Report

Sources

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2. The East African: EAC Integration Roadmap
3. EAC Website: East African Community Integration

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