Country/entity	Somalia
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Sodere Declaration, comprising the Declaration of National Pledges and Commitments, and Solemn Declaration, adopted on 3 January 1997 by the High-level Consultative Meeting of Somali Political Movements, held at Sodere, Ethiopia
Date	3 Jan 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Somali Civil War (1991 -)

Originally spurred by centre-peripheral tensions, fighting broke out in 1981 between the regime of President Said Barre and the Somali National Movement, a militia primarily consisting of members from the northern Ishaq clan. Fighting intensified in the late 1980s as more clan-based militias arose. President Barre's regime collapsed in late 1991 and as a result the UN intervened. However persistent attacks on the UN's forces forced a withdrawal in 1994. From the mid- to late 1990s, the character of the conflict shifted as warlords fought for access to rents. Also during this period, two different peace agreements arose; the Sodere Declaration, which was mediated by Ethiopia and supported by IGAD, and the Cairo Accord, which was brokered by Egypt. Fighting, already noticeably lessened compared to the early 1990s, decreased and the more amicable environment paved the way for the Transitional Government to be formed in 2000 (replaced in 2004 by the Transitional Federal Government).

Nonetheless, opposition to the TFG arose in the form of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), which by early 2006 had taken control of most of southern Somalia until they were ousted by an armed intervention by Ethiopia in December 2006. As a result, the ICU splintered. Hard-line ICU members formed the Takfiri organization, Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen, and launched a guerrilla campaign against the TFG. Another faction of the ICU fled to Djibouti and formed the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, which was absorbed into the ruling TFG after successful negotiations in 2007.

To deal with the new round of fighting, the UN-mandated AMISOM force was deployed in 2007. Since then, insecurity has fluctuated between the urban and rural areas as the al-Shabaab's territorial gains waver. Local militia leaders maintain de facto governance over communities. From 2009 to 2012, insecurity spilled over into the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean when Somali pirates seized, looted and ransomed ships. In 2014, 'Operation Indian Ocean' was launched and in parallel with infighting among al-Shabaab, the organisation's position in Somalia has diminished slightly. However, as evidenced by large-scale attacks by al-Shabaab in northern Kenya throughout 2013-2015, the lack of security continues to destabilize the region. Al-Shabaab continues to launch surprise attacks with the aim of forcing out foreign military presence in Somalia. Targets include both military forces and civilians. The devastating attack in October 2017 in Mogadishu saw 587 fatalities and resulted in a renewed military offensive by the Somali government and African Union allies. Since 2017, the U.S. has increased its air strikes targeting al-Shabaab militants, and in December 2018 they announced to re-establish a permanent diplomatic mission in the country. Al-Shabaab has been characterized as a spoiler in the Somali peace process and have therefore been placed outside of any negotiations.
Close
Somali Civil War (1991 -
)

Stage Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature Government

Peace process	Somalia Peace Process
Parties	Somali Afrikans Muki Organization/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Mohamed Ramadan Arbow; Somali Democratic Alliance/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Ali Haji Hersi; Somali Democratic Movement/Bonkai, Signed by Abdulahi Mohamed Idris "Lesto"; Somali Democratic Movement/Somali National Alliance, Signed by Issaq Malaq Ibrahim; Somali Democratic Movement/Rahanwein Resistance Army, Signed by Hassan Mohamed Nur; Somali Democratic Movement/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Abdi Musa Mayow; Somali Democratic Union, Signed by Abukar Abdi Osman; Somali National Democratic Union, Signed by Ali Ismail Abdi; Somali National Democratic Union/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Mohamed Adan Yusuf; Somali National Front/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Omer Haji Mohamed; Somali National Union/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Mohamed Rajis Mohamed; Somali Patriotic Movement/ Somali National Alliance, Signed Ahmed Hashi Mohamud; Somali Patriotic Movement/ Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Adan Abdulahi Nur; Somali Salvation Congress, Signed by Abdullahi Moallin Mohamed; Somali Salvation Democratic Front, Signed by Mohamed Abshir Musa; Somali Salvation Democratic Front, Signed by Abdilahi Yusuf Ahmed; Southern Somali National Movement/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Abdullahi Shiek Ismail; SUDO/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Abdi Abdulahi Ibrahim; United Somali Congress, Signed by Osman Roble Mohamud; United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance, Signed by Osman Hassan Ali, Ato; United Somali Congress/Patriotic Movement/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Abdi Osman Farah; United Somali Congress/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Ali Mahdi Mohamed; United Somali Congress/Upper Jubba, Signed by Yusuf Sheekh Mohamed; United Somali Front/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Abdi Omer Ahmed; United Somali Party, Signed by Ahmed Gure Adan; United Somali Party/Somali Salvation Alliance, Signed by Mohamed Abdi Hashi; USR, Signed by Mohamud Hussein Farah
Third parties	-
Description	Short agreement aimed at finding common ground to begin reconstruction and rebuilding projects and re-establish a secure environment, also has the aim of creating a National Reconciliation Conference.

Agreement document	SO_970301 Sodere Declaration.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 9. To place national interest above clan selfishness, personal greed and ambition;
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: C. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE AND CONCLUDING NATIONAL CONFERENCE We have also agreed to convene a National Reconciliation Conference at Bossasso, Somalia, to approve the charter of the Transitional Central Authority or the Provisional Central Government. The National Reconciliation Conference will be attended by delegates representing a cross-section of Somali society including elders, intellectuals, women, political and religious leaders.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 3. To reaffirm the unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia; ... 9. To place national interest above clan selfishness, personal greed and ambition; Page 2, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 14. To promote friendly relations with all nations and actively to pursue a policy of good-neighbourliness and mutual cooperation with the member countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.
State configuration	Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: F. OUR VISION FOR SOMALIA [Summary] Talks about establishing a new political system with check and balances.
Self determination	No specific mention.
Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.
Border delimitation	No specific mention.
Cross-border provision	No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→Temporary new institutions Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council ... Page 10, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, At Sodere we have established a National Salvation Council whose forty-one (41) members have been selected from the twenty-six (26) political movements participating in the High-level Consultative Meeting and a National Executive Committee with eleven (11) members led by five (5) member Co-Chairmen with the authority to act and speak on behalf of the National Salvation Council.The National Salvation Council will embark on a preparatory course of action leading to the establishment of a Transitional Central Authority or Provisional Central Government of Somalia and in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: Page 11, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: C. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE AND CONCLUDING NATIONAL CONFERENCE ... A Concluding National Conference will be convened following the completion of the National Reconciliation Conference to announce the formation of the Transitional Central Authority or the Provisional Central Government in the presence of the representatives of the international community. Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: F. OUR VISION FOR SOMALIA Taking into account of the fact that the collapse of the national institutions was due in part to structural defects and in part to the mismanagement of previous regimes, we have decided to construct a system of State and form of government that are suitable for our socio-political conditions and realities. We envisage in this restructuring approach a system of checks and balances ensuring not only the proper functioning of the Government, but also guaranteeing individual liberty and the democratic rights of the citizenry. Under such a system, propelled and fostered by the Somali people, a new Somalia that is strong, democratic and prosperous can be created.
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.

Traditional/ religious leaders	Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 6. To promote the cultural values and age-old traditional wisdom and tolerance of Somali society; 7. To reaffirm our deep attachment to the Islamic faith, teachings and moral values; Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: C. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE AND CONCLUDING NATIONAL CONFERENCE We have also agreed to convene a National Reconciliation Conference at Bossasso, Somalia, to approve the charter of the Transitional Central Authority or the Provisional Central Government. The National Reconciliation Conference will be attended by delegates representing a cross-section of Somali society including elders, intellectuals, women, political and religious leaders.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making Page 10, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: 3. To carry out other preparatory programmes including drafting a Transitional National Charter for the Transitional Central Authority and the Provisional Central Government, as well as preparing such other documents as are deemed necessary. Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: F. OUR VISION FOR SOMALIA During this interim period our focus will be on the achievement of reconciliation and the restoration of law and order as well as the preparation of a new constitutional arrangement for Somalia.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level Page 10, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, At Sodere we have established a National Salvation Council whose forty-one (41) members have been selected from the twenty-six (26) political movements participating in the High-level Consultative Meeting and a National Executive Committee with eleven (11) members led by five (5) member Co-Chairmen with the authority to act and speak on behalf of the National Salvation Council.The National Salvation Council will embark on a preparatory course of action leading to the establishment of a Transitional Central Authority or Provisional Central Government of Somalia and in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme:
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.

Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 8. To devote ourselves to the safeguarding of fundamental democratic principles and human rights;
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizens, specific rights Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: F. OUR VISION FOR SOMALIA We envisage in this restructuring approach a system of checks and balances ensuring not only the proper functioning of the Government, but also guaranteeing individual liberty and the democratic rights of the citizenry.
Democracy	Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 8. To devote ourselves to the safeguarding of fundamental democratic principles and human rights; Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: F. OUR VISION FOR SOMALIA We envisage in this restructuring approach a system of checks and balances ensuring not only the proper functioning of the Government, but also guaranteeing individual liberty and the democratic rights of the citizenry. Under such a system, propelled and fostered by the Somali people, a new Somalia that is strong, democratic and prosperous can be created.

Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: 4. To coordinate and facilitate the provision of emergency relief and rehabilitation programmes as well as other social services such as education, health care, environmental protection and the reactivation of the productive sectors.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 10. To work with determination and resoluteness for the revival of our nation and its renaissance; Page 10, Appendix III, A. Background: ... having realized that the main obstacle to progress in Somalia is the lack of a central authority capable of providing vital public services, including public safety, economic opportunity, and social justice; having further realized that the international community cannot provide adequate assistance to the Somali people without the necessary security in the country and without the institutional mechanisms through which to channel aid; Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: 4. To coordinate and facilitate the provision of emergency relief and rehabilitation programmes as well as other social services such as education, health care, environmental protection and the reactivation of the productive sectors. Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: 5. To act as the counterpart to the international community in its efforts to assist in the reconciliation process and the rehabilitation of Somalia.
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.

International funds	Page 10, Appendix III, A. Background: ... having realized that the main obstacle to progress in Somalia is the lack of a central authority capable of providing vital public services, including public safety, economic opportunity, and social justice; having further realized that the international community cannot provide adequate assistance to the Somali people without the necessary security in the country and without the institutional mechanisms through which to channel aid; Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: G. APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY During the course of the Consultative Meeting, two themes have dominated the discussions around the conference table. One theme was the plight of the Somali people, whether at home or abroad, suffering under extremely difficult conditions. The other theme centred on our failure to bring about any meaningful progress in the fulfilment of our obligations to our people. However, we have resolved solemnly to pledge our commitment to carry out the terms of the agreements we have signed at Sodere and to discharge our responsibilities to our people. In this connection, it is self-evident that the rebuilding of Somalia is of such a magnitude as to call for massive international aid in support of reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction. We, therefore, appeal to the international community to continue to provide the necessary assistance while expressing our gratitude to all donor countries for extending humanitarian relief aid to our people.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	No specific mention.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: ... 7. To reaffirm our deep attachment to the Islamic faith, teachings and moral values; Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 6. To promote the cultural values and age-old traditional wisdom and tolerance of Somali society; ...

Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 10, Appendix III, A. Background: ... having realized that the main obstacle to progress in Somalia is the lack of a central authority capable of providing vital public services, including public safety, economic opportunity, and social justice; having further realized that the international community cannot provide adequate assistance to the Somali people without the necessary security in the country and without the institutional mechanisms through which to channel aid; Page 10, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: 1. To work for the restoration of peace, stability and law and order. Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme: ... We have decided to spare no effort to pave the way for the establishment of a Government of national unity as well as the restoration of peace and stability in our country.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 12. To oppose and resist all forms of terrorism and foreign-inspired disruptive forces; Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following: E. A NATIONAL CALL In the same spirit we call upon the Somali National Movement/Egal political groups to joint with us as soon as possible in the search for a lasting solution to the crises in the country. Similarly, we call upon the Aidid group to participate in the ongoing reconciliation process.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge: 12. To oppose and resist all forms of terrorism and foreign-inspired disruptive forces;

Transitional justice	
Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.

Reparations

Transitional justice→Reparations→Symbolic reparations

Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge:

...

13. To pay homage to all those compatriots who sacrificed themselves and paid the ultimate price for the sake of peace and national salvation, to remember them as heroes of the Somali people;

Reconciliation

Page 1, ... signatories of the agreement reached at Sodere to establish the National Salvation Council, hereby solemnly declare by this act our full commitment and pledge:
2. To serve the aspirations of the Somali people for peace, reconciliation and development;
...
4. To work collectively for the enhancement of the dignity of the Somali people and to restore a climate of mutual trust and of self-confidence among all our people;
5. To foster collectively the spirit of brotherhood and social harmony in all spheres of life throughout our beloved country;
...
11. To encourage all efforts directed towards peace and reconciliation among Somali communities;

Page 10, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following:
A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING,
... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme:
2. To help reconcile the differences among the clans in the zones of conflict and to revive and strengthen the national cohesion of the Somali people so as to ensure the return of a lasting peace and the full participation of political groups in the political decision-making process.

Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following:
A. THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING,
... Provisional Central Government of Somalia [...] in this connection will pursue a five (5) point programme:
5. To act as the counterpart to the international community in its efforts to assist in the reconciliation process and the rehabilitation of Somalia.

Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following:
C. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE AND CONCLUDING NATIONAL CONFERENCE
We have also agreed to convene a National Reconciliation Conference at Bossasso, Somalia, to approve the charter of the Transitional Central Authority or the Provisional Central Government. The National Reconciliation Conference will be attended by delegates representing a cross-section of Somali society including elders, intellectuals, women, political and religious leaders. A Concluding National Conference will be convened following the completion of the National Reconciliation Conference to announce the formation of the Transitional Central Authority or the Provisional Central Government in the presence of the representatives of the international community.

Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following:
E. A NATIONAL CALL
In the same spirit we call upon the Somali National Movement/Egal political groups to joint with us as soon as possible in the search for a lasting solution to the crises in the country. Similarly, we call upon the Aidid group to participate in the ongoing reconciliation process.

Page 12, Page 11, Appendix III, Have agreed on the following:
E. A NATIONAL CALL
On our part we are prepared to meet with our compatriots at any time and at any place, to enter into dialogue for the purpose of reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement in the best interest of our people.
We welcome and express our full encouragement for all the peace and reconciliation efforts that have been undertaken in the various parts of the country and that have led to

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 7, CHAPTER FOUR, THE TRANSITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ARTICLE 11, 9. In the event that the Transitional Federal Government is unable to complete the process of federalism all over Somalia within the prescribed period of two and half years, the Government shall request Parliament for a vote of confidence, failing which the Transitional Federal Parliament shall withdraw its support and a new Transitional Federal Government shall be formed in the manner set out in this charter;