

Communique

PDRC Annual Peace-Learning Conference

21–23 September 2023

Introduction

Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) launched the Annual Peace-Learning Conference in Garowe, Puntland's capital, from September 21–23, 2023.

More than 200 persons from universities and research institutions, including East Africa University (Puntland), Mogadishu University, Garissa University, Jigjiga University, Addis Ababa University, Zayed University (UAE), Queens University (Canada), and many other research establishments, attended the conference which was the first of its kind to be held in the country.

Participants from a wide range of social groups, including government representatives and peacebuilding experts, attended the conference. Puntland's Vice-President, His Excellency Ahmed Elmi Osman, officially opened the conference.

Purpose of the Meeting

The main goal of the conference was to bring together experienced peacebuilders and people engaged in peacebuilding so that they could share knowledge, experience, and insights.

The Conference Agenda

During the conference, more than twenty research studies were presented on the different topics and levels of peacebuilding, conflict prevention and reconciliation, such as:

- *Consolidation of peace*
- *Prevention and resolution of conflicts.*
- *Understanding the legacy of reconciliation.*
- *The role of women in peacebuilding.*
- *Harmonization of systems and approaches of peacebuilding in Islam, traditional and contemporary methods.*
- *Improving methods and approaches of peacebuilding and reconciliation.*
- *Relationship between transitional justice, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.*
- *Horn of Africa integration from Peace prospective.*

The conference also presented achievements in the resolution of local conflicts and the methods applied. The following are some of the peacebuilding initiatives presented:

- 1. Peacebuilding in Galkacyo and its successes (Mudug Region).*
- 2. Reconciliation among communities in Dhusamareb and Cadaado (Galgaduud Region)*
- 3. Reconciliation in Cagaarre (Magacley and Qoriley in Nugal and Sool Regions)*
- 4. Reconciliation in Rako Raaxo (Karkrar Region).*
- 5. Peacebuilding in Bandiiradley and Galdogob (Mudug Region, Puntland/Galmudug).*
- 6. Reconciliation in Saax-maygaag (Nugaal and Sool Region)*

PDRC presented research studies (with audio and video) on the main conflicts that occurred in the country, particularly in Puntland State of Somalia. All the studies presented at the conference recommended a methodical and long-term approach to achieving lasting peace.

The Outcome of the Conference

- 1. The conference recognized the importance to document the major conflicts that have plagued the Somali people and compile the data into a database for future reference.*
- 2. The Conference participants have agreed upon that the conference should be regularly/annually held on September 20-22 and be dubbed as “the Somali Annual Peace Conference,” focusing on themes central to peace, conflict prevention and reconciliation.*
- 3. Based on the lessons learnt from Galkayo peace initiatives, it was noted that sustainable peace can only be achieved when all segments of the society, both men and women, work together. In this regard it was as well noted that the inclusivity of elders, youth, businesspeople, scholars, academicians, politicians, and the authorities that give due respect to the will and motivation of the people.*
- 4. The conference acknowledged the importance of strengthening the role of women in the various levels of peacebuilding.*
- 5. The conference acknowledged the imminence of conflicts in various parts of the country. Therefore, call upon the unconditional and full cessation of hostilities in many parts of the country and encourage the Somali people to contribute to the resolution of conflicts and reconciliation of communities as well as to refrain from fomenting violence.*
- 6. The conference called upon the Somali people, especially those in areas under active conflicts, to stop the bloodshed and the violence and engage in peaceful dialogue.*

Finally, the conference would like to express appreciation to PDRC for taking the initiative to organize the conference, which is the first of its kind to be held in Somalia. The conference also expressed its appreciation to the officials and representatives of the Puntland government for their commendable role in the conference.

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