



# University for Peace

## UPEACE SOMALIA



**Remarks by  
the Country Director**



**UPEACE PhD  
Student Study  
Visit to Makerere  
University, Uganda**



**The Essence of  
Democracy by  
H.E President  
Hassan Sheikh  
Mohamud**



**Launching  
the Presidential  
Scholarship**

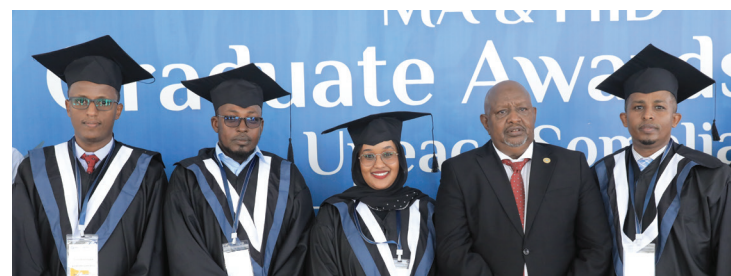


## Graduation 2025

### Nurturing Knowledge, Cultivating Change

Learn more about the university that is educating  
Somalia's innovators and peace ambassadors





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University for Peace  
UPEACE SOMALIA



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# UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE - THE GLOBAL INSTITUTION

Located in a beautiful and green 303-hectare plot of land in El Rodeo, Costa Rica is the first historical campus of the United Nations University of Peace, popularly known as UPEACE, which was established 44 years ago. The seeds of the university were sown in the fertile grounds of the United Nations in the late 1970s, at a time when the World was fatigued by wars and conflicts and yearning for a lasting peace.

The World also needed an institution dedicated to educating future generations in the art and science of peacebuilding and in December 1980, amidst the tumultuous backdrop of the Cold War the United Nations General Assembly unanimously voted to create this unique institution of higher learning, to cultivate future generations of peacebuilders equipped with the knowledge, empathy, and unwavering spirit to mend a fractured world. The UN General Assembly passed resolution 35/55, which also gave birth to an international treaty organization with its own Charter.

The charter, spelt out the university's mission which includes provision to humanity an international institution of higher education for peace, promoting, among all human beings, the spirit of understanding, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence and stimulating cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress. More than four decades later, over 40 countries including Somalia and many other African countries have signed and adopted the treaty establishing the University. When the history of the University is written, one name among others will find its place at the top of the list- it is that of the former Costa Rica President Rodrigo Carazo. Mr. Carazo was among the notable leaders who have championed the formation of the University. Costa Rica's visionary leader donated the land where the first campus, which also serves as the main global headquarters of the University, stands today.



It was not long before the impact of the University was felt across the globe- from the war-torn regions of Africa to the fragile democracies of Latin America, UPEACE graduates found themselves in the thick of the action, mediating conflicts, advocating for human rights, and building sustainable peace structures. The 1990s saw UPEACE evolve into a global hub for peace education and research. Partnerships with other universities and research institutions blossomed, expanding its reach and impact.

The UPEACE Centre for Peace Education, a pioneering initiative, developed innovative curricula and training programs that were replicated around the world.

As the 21st century dawned, UPEACE embraced the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The rise of environmental threats, the increasing complexity of armed conflicts, and the growing need for inclusive peace processes demanded new approaches. UPEACE responded with agility, adapting its programs and research to address these emerging realities.

Today, UPEACE stands as a testament to the enduring power of hope. With over 6,000 alumni from more than 120 countries, it is a living testament to the transformative power of education in fostering a culture of peace. Its impact transcends borders and generations, weaving a tapestry of hope across the globe.

In Africa, the University established its first campus in Ethiopia in 2002, and in December 2018, UPEACE Somalia.

Decades of civil war in Somalia have ripped communities apart, leaving behind a soaring number of displacement, poverty, and despair. Yet, through its unwavering commitment to education and training, UPEACE Somalia empowers citizens, decision makers and leaders to become architects of their own peace.

Beyond formal education, UPEACE fosters grassroots initiatives that nurture the seeds of peace at the community level. Workshops and training programs equip local leaders, women's groups, and youth organizations with the skills to address conflict and promote dialogue within their communities, fostering understanding and reconciliation.

As UPEACE continues to nurture the seeds of peace in Somalia, the hope for a brighter future takes root. Its graduates, equipped with the tools and the will to build bridges, stand as living testaments to the transformative power of education. The journey towards lasting peace in Somalia is long and arduous. Yet, with each student empowered, each conflict mediated, and each community reconciled, UPEACE proves that even in the most desolate of soils, the seeds of peace can blossom, bearing a harvest of a more just and harmonious world.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

By Dr. Mohamed Osman Mohamoud



The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24th January as "International Day of Education", in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. UPEACE Somalia has selected this most appropriate day for its important annual event, the graduation of the Master's and PhD students, in 2025.

The special day is acknowledged throughout the world and through UPEACE Somalia, where there remains the need for peace and development, we are joining in solidarity with the international community.

The theme for 2025 focuses on 'Artificial Intelligence and Education; preserving human agency in a world of automation. This is an issue that touches us all, in all walks of life and education, it is of particular importance if we are to continue to use the tools that are at our disposal to genuinely enable and empower our students in the skills that the modern world requires. As with many technological innovations, the introduction and use of AI in research, education and learning must be carried out in a way that improves and enhances our experiences and does not devalue or dehumanize them.

Since its establishment, UPEACE Somalia has embraced innovation to address the country's unique challenges, helping to make it an example of how education can transform communities.

In the context of this year's theme, UPEACE Somalia's work resonates profoundly. As Somalia rebuilds its education system after decades of conflict, UPEACE has harnessed technology to bridge gaps in access and quality. The university's integration of AI-powered tools in its curriculum ensures that students and faculty are not only consumers of technology but also informed contributors to its ethical use.

UPEACE Somalia's adoption of AI competency frameworks aligns with UNESCO's global initiatives. Students engage with courses designed to foster critical thinking about AI's implications on society, while faculty members are equipped to integrate these technologies into their teaching in ways that amplify human-centred learning.

With the rise of generative AI, UPEACE Somalia has also taken steps to provide clear guidelines on its use which help ensure that AI tools, such as those used for research and content creation, are employed ethically, respecting intellectual property and cultural contexts. By embracing technology responsibly, the university not only enhances access to quality education but also ensures that its graduates are equipped to tackle pressing global and local challenges.

**The 2025 International Day of Education is a poignant reminder of the transformative power of education. As we celebrate this day at the same time as acknowledging & congratulating our cohort of graduates, we reaffirm our commitment to transforming education and ensuring it remains a cornerstone of peace, development, and human dignity.**



# REMARKS FROM THE RECTOR OF UPEACE

– Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena



Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed dignitaries, distinguished guests, and all protocols observed,

It is with great honor and pride that I welcome you to this historic moment—the graduation ceremony of the University for Peace (UPEACE) Mogadishu Campus. Today, as we gather in Somalia's capital, a city that embodies resilience, hope, and transformation, we celebrate not only the achievements of our graduates but also the enduring beauty and boundless potential of this nation.

Mogadishu, a city with a rich history and a strategic location along the sparkling coastline of the Indian Ocean, has always been a symbol of opportunity and strength. Its golden beaches, bustling markets, and cultural vibrancy are matched only by the determination of its people to rise above challenges and shape a future filled with promise.

This event is even more special as it coincides with the International Day of Education 2025, celebrated under the theme “AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation.” This theme challenges us to reflect on the critical role of education in empowering individuals to navigate, shape, and humanize technological advancements. As automation transforms industries and societies, education must remain the bedrock that preserves human dignity, creativity, and agency.

## A Day of Celebration and Reflection

Graduation ceremonies are moments of immense joy and reflection. Today, we celebrate the incredible journey of 79 exceptional graduates, including 54 Master's degree recipients and an unprecedented 25 PhD candidates, marking the largest doctoral cohort in UPEACE's history. These graduates represent the hope and resilience of Somalia—a nation that has overcome immense adversity to stand tall in its pursuit of peace, stability, and development.

This ceremony is not just about academic achievements; it is a testament to the transformative power of education. Every diploma awarded today represents countless hours of dedication, perseverance, and sacrifice. It is also a tribute to the families, mentors, and communities that have supported our graduates on their journey.

**To our graduates, today is your day—a celebration of your hard work, your dreams, and your potential to shape a better future. You are the leaders, innovators, and change-makers of tomorrow, and your achievements inspire us all.**

## UPEACE's Mission in Somalia: A Journey of Impact

Since 2018, UPEACE has taken on one of its most ambitious and rewarding missions: to go where peace is most needed and partner with the people of Somalia to achieve the peace they have yearned for over decades. Somalia's transformation over the past few years is nothing short of remarkable, and we are proud to have played a part in this journey.

Our mission in Somalia has been guided by a simple yet profound belief: that education is the most powerful tool for building peace and fostering development. Through our tailored programs, we have trained over 3,000 individuals, including members of the army and police, civil servants, private sector professionals, and NGO staff. These graduates are now contributing to peacebuilding, governance, and development across Somalia.

Under the visionary leadership of H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a proud alumnus of UPEACE, we have witnessed transformative initiatives that underscore the power of education to drive change. The Presidential Scholarship Program, launched during his graduation, has provided 100 scholarships funded by Qatar Charity, enabling Somali students to pursue advanced studies in critical fields.

## Innovative Programs for a Resilient Somalia

UPEACE's academic offerings have evolved to address Somalia's unique challenges and opportunities. This year, we are proud to highlight the introduction of new programs designed to equip Somali professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to lead in their respective fields:

- PhD Programs:
- PhD in Peace, Governance, and Development: Addressing the need for leaders who can navigate complex governance challenges and foster sustainable development.

- PhD in Leadership and Sustainable Development: Equipping professionals to drive innovative and sustainable solutions to societal challenges.

- PhD in Blue Economy and Maritime Security: Supporting Somalia's efforts to harness its vast coastal resources while ensuring maritime security.

- PhD in Land Degradation and Desertification: Focusing on combating environmental challenges and promoting resilience in the face of climate change.

- Master's Programs:
- Master's in Security Transition, Leadership, Policy, and Planning: Preparing leaders to manage security transitions and prevent scenarios of relapse or collapse during international peacekeeping withdrawals.

- Master's in Blue Economy and Coastal Development: Building grassroots capabilities to manage Somalia's abundant marine resources and support the rapid expansion of coastal tourism and infrastructure.

These programs are not just academic offerings; they are investments in the future of Somalia. They empower individuals to address pressing issues such as governance, environmental resilience, maritime security, and economic development.

## A Nation on the Rise

Somalia's progress in recent years is a source of inspiration. The nation's integration into the East African Community, the success of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, and the lifting of the arms embargo by the UN Security Council are milestones that reflect its growing stability and global recognition.

The rapid development of Somalia's coastal zones, the construction of new resorts, and the exploration of offshore oil resources highlight the nation's potential for economic growth. However, these opportunities also come with challenges that require careful management and planning.

UPEACE is committed to supporting Somalia in navigating these opportunities and challenges. Our programs are designed to equip professionals with the skills needed to ensure that Somalia's growth is inclusive, sustainable, and secure.

## The Role of Education in Peacebuilding

Education is the foundation of peacebuilding. It equips individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to resolve conflicts, promote understanding, and foster collaboration. In Somalia, education has been a catalyst for healing and recovery, empowering communities to rebuild and thrive.

To our leaders, I urge you to recognise the immense value of investing in education, particularly in peace education. The returns on such investments are immeasurable, as they create a cadre of local professionals who understand the unique context of their communities and can actively contribute to peacebuilding and state-building.

To our donors and development partners, I appeal for continued support in mainstreaming peace education as a discipline within national curricula. This investment will not only heal communities and expedite recovery from conflict but also empower the youth to become agents of change and innovation.

## A Call to Action for Graduates

To our graduates, today is not the end of your journey but the beginning of a new chapter. You are now ambassadors of peace and development, equipped with the tools to address the pressing challenges of our time.

As you step into the next phase of your journey, I urge you to:

- 1. Lead with Integrity:** Be a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for your communities.

- 2. Foster Collaboration:** Work together to build bridges across divides and create lasting solutions to complex problems.

- 3. Empower Others:** Use your knowledge to uplift others and create opportunities for those who are marginalised or underserved.

- 4. Innovate for Change:** Embrace new ideas and approaches to address challenges and drive progress.

Remember, your education is not just a personal achievement but a responsibility to make a positive impact on the world.

## Looking to the Future

As we celebrate today's achievements, we also look to the future with hope and determination. UPEACE remains committed to expanding its impact in Somalia and beyond. Our ongoing discussions with the government of Uganda to establish a UPEACE campus and our collaborations with universities across East Africa are part of our vision to create a network of institutions dedicated to peace education.

The theme of this year's International Day of Education reminds us of the importance of preserving human agency in a world of automation. As technology continues to transform societies, education must remain a guiding light that empowers individuals to navigate, understand, and influence these changes.

## Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, today we celebrate the achievements of our graduates and the enduring spirit of Somalia. This nation, with its rich heritage and boundless potential, stands as a testament to the power of resilience, collaboration, and education.

To our graduates, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. You are the torchbearers of peace and progress, equipped with the knowledge to transform your communities and the world. Let this day be a reminder of your responsibility to lead with integrity, inspire change, and build a future where peace is not just a dream but a lived reality.

To our esteemed guests, your presence here signifies a shared commitment to the noble cause of peace through education. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more peaceful future for Somalia and beyond.

Thank you, and may our collective efforts continue to illuminate the path toward lasting peace and sustainable development.

**Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena**  
Rector, University for Peace



# THE PATH TO EMPOWERING SOMALIA: A JOURNEY TOWARDS POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC REVIVAL



Somalia's journey of resilience and recovery is a remarkable testament to the determination of its people. Despite decades of challenges, including political instability, social fragmentation, and economic hardships, Somalia continues to push forward. **As Director of the Africa Regional Programme at the United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE), I have witnessed firsthand the immense potential of Somalia's people and institutions when empowered with education, knowledge, and the tools for sustainable development.**

## Understanding Somalia's Complex Challenges

Somalia's challenges are as layered as its history. Political instability, exacerbated by civil war since 1991, has left institutions fragile, while social divides have fragmented communities. Economically, the country has struggled to rebuild critical infrastructure, create jobs, and attract investment.

Despite these issues, Somalia is endowed with immense natural and human capital. Its geographic position, rich cultural heritage, and resilient population form the foundation upon which recovery can be built. However, addressing these challenges requires holistic and contextualized solutions. The wounds of conflict and instability cannot be healed by external prescriptions alone. Somalia's recovery lies in empowering its people and institutions, fostering national dialogue, and strengthening homegrown systems that reflect the unique Somali context.

## Education as the Cornerstone of Recovery

UPEACE's work in Somalia began in earnest in 2018 when I first arrived in Mogadishu to understand the country's unique context. Since then, our philosophy has been guided by the belief that education is the key to unlocking a brighter future. Recognizing the unique challenges facing Somalia, we have contextualized our courses to address the nation's specific needs.

From conflict resolution and governance to sustainable development and climate resilience, our programs are designed to equip Somali leaders with the skills and knowledge to navigate their nation's complexities.

## The success of UPEACE in Somalia is evident in the achievements of our alumni.

A sitting president, ministers, members of parliament, civil servants, entrepreneurs, women leaders, and activists have all emerged from UPEACE's programs. In December 2022, Somalia's President H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud became the first sitting president to earn a PhD, a milestone achieved through his participation in UPEACE's efforts.

UPEACE classrooms have become sanctuaries for free speech and intellectual debate, where people from across Somalia's social and political spectrum come together to learn, engage, and envision a united future. This environment fosters unity and progress.

Over cups of Somali tea, often enriched with camel milk, students discuss their shared aspirations and challenges. This simple act of coming together symbolizes the immense potential of Somalia's people to heal and rebuild their nation.

### Milestones of Progress

The recent launch of the H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud Presidential PhD Scholarship Programme on May 28, 2023, marks a significant milestone in Somalia's higher education journey. This program, supported by Qatar Charity and UPEACE, provides 100 scholarships to Somali students pursuing doctoral studies. The first phase of the program, launched in August 2023, saw 40 students selected to begin their studies. These scholarships are not just about producing more PhDs; they are about cultivating leaders equipped to drive transformative change across Somalia's political, social, and economic landscape.

Somalia's remarkable strides are further evidenced by its historic election to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2025–2026. Announced on January 1, 2025, this achievement is a testament to the resilience of the Somali people and their determination to reclaim their nation's rightful place on the global stage.

Somalia's presence on the Security Council underscores its growing role as a voice for peace, stability, and development in the region and beyond.

On February 22, 2024, the Federal Republic of Somalia celebrated the commencement of studies under the Presidential PhD Scholarship Programme. At a ceremony held in Mogadishu, attended by President H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Education Minister Farah Sheikh Abdulqadir, and representatives from Qatar Charity and UPEACE, this program was heralded as a transformative initiative for Somalia's education sector. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud emphasized the importance of this scholarship in developing national human resources and enriching Somali universities with research competencies.

### The Road Ahead: Empowering the Nation

Somalia's recovery requires a multi-faceted approach. Political stability must be anchored in inclusive governance and dialogue that brings together all voices. Social cohesion must be nurtured through education, cultural preservation, and community-driven development. Economically, Somalia must harness its resources sustainably, invest in critical infrastructure, and create opportunities for its youth and women.

UPEACE remains committed to supporting Somalia on this journey. By empowering leaders with education and fostering partnerships with organizations like Qatar Charity, we aim to build the capacity of Somali institutions and communities to drive sustainable development.

### A Future of Hope and Promise

As Somalia embarks on this transformative journey, its people's resilience and determination serve as a beacon of hope. The Somali people have shown that, with mere stability, they can achieve extraordinary feats. The progress made so far is just the beginning. With continued investment in human capital and a collective commitment to national unity, Somalia will undoubtedly reclaim its glory among the nations of the world.

Congratulations to the people and leaders of Somalia for their relentless pursuit of peace, progress, and prosperity. The future is bright, and UPEACE is honored to be part of this historic journey. Together, we will build a stronger, more vibrant Somalia for generations to come.

**By Prof. Samuel Kale Ewusi**  
Director, Africa Regional Programme, UPEACE





# UPEACE: SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE AND TRANSFORMATION IN SOMALIA

Seven years ago, the United Nations University for Peace, popularly known as UPEACE, established its first campus in Mogadishu, Somalia, setting off a journey of transformation.

This was a bold step and an act of unwavering faith in the transformative power of education amidst a land burdened by protracted conflict. As the Country Director, my past seven years have been a privilege, a humbling journey of witnessing the resilience of a nation and the profound impact of knowledge in navigating the delicate path towards peace. Our arrival coincided with a fragile hope. Somalia, emerging from decades of violence, was tentatively rebuilding. Yet, the scars ran deep, etched into the fabric of society. Mistrust lingered, opportunities remained scarce, and the yearning for lasting peace was palpable. In this environment, UPEACE arrived not as an ivory tower but as a seed, a promise of knowledge blooming into action.

However, one of the key challenges we had to deal with as we set up the campus was convincing foreign lecturers from neighboring countries to come and teach in Mogadishu. They were so scared by the prospect of living in a city like Mogadishu, where al-Shabaab carried continued tragic attacks. They were right, and convincing them took a lot of effort. And as if that was not enough of a challenge, we were hit by the global Covid-19 pandemic. This was less than two years after we started our classes in Mogadishu. Nevertheless, our success and the formidable foundation lay in our efforts to seek collaboration with other entities and institutions. Partnering with Somali institutions like the Institute for Peace, Security & Development (IPSED), we developed a curriculum tailored to the nation's needs. Peacebuilding, human rights, environmental security, and post-conflict rehabilitation became guiding stars, illuminating pathways toward a just and equitable future. Our early successes were small but significant. The first cohort of Master's students, a vibrant tapestry of individuals from across Somalia and beyond, enthusiastically embraced the challenges. Their thirst for knowledge was infectious, dispelling cynicism and igniting a passion for making a difference. In February 2024, we marked a key milestone by launching the first cohort of presidential PhD candidates sponsored by Qatar Charity and the UPEACE Somalia campus.



At a ceremony held at Villa Somalia, President Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud awarded certificates of confirmation to the first 40 students who started their PhD courses on maritime security and the blue economy. In September 2024, we dispatched our first PhD students to Uganda to attend the 12th Annual International Leadership Conference organized by Makerere University. This forum exposed our students to diverse scholars from different universities across the globe, and they also had an opportunity to interact with university students and lecturers. As usual, UPEACE Somalia also made its mark at the Annual Climate Change Conference held in Azerbaijan (COP 29). UPEACE Somalia's impact transcended individual success. Our research, conducted in collaboration with local partners, provided crucial insights into Somalia's complex realities. We facilitated workshops and training programs, empowering policymakers, civil society actors, and security personnel with the tools and knowledge to navigate the treacherous landscape of peacebuilding.

**Our presence served as a symbol of hope, a testament to the belief that education can bridge divides and be a catalyst for healing and reconciliation.**

We proved that learning can flourish even in the most challenging environments, fostering understanding and paving the way for a brighter future.

Witnessing the graduation of hundreds of UPEACE students who were pursuing master's and PhD degrees, including President Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, was terrific and historical. Many of the University's alumni are currently working for the Government, the private sector, and local and international NGOs.

In another equally significant development, President Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, in September 2022, signed the UPEACE charter, making Somalia the 42nd Country. He also announced a presidential PhD scholarship for 100 students in December of the same year. In May 2023, Qatar Charity responded by sponsoring the first forty scholarships. Seven years may seem like a mere blip in the timeline of a nation's history. Yet, for

**UPEACE Somalia, it has been a period of remarkable growth and evolution.**

We know challenges remain; the road to lasting peace is long and complex. But the seeds we have sown are taking root, nourished by the unwavering commitment of our students, faculty, and partners. We stand committed, our roots firmly intertwined with the soil of Somalia, ready to face the trials ahead with unwavering optimism.

**Dr. Mohamed Yusuf**  
Country Director for UPEACE Somalia

# THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY: SOMALIA'S JOURNEY TO PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

By H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia



"The essence of Somali democracy lies in harmonizing our deep-rooted traditions of equality with modern governance. When we place power in the hands of our people and protect their right to shape their destiny, we create the foundations for lasting development. Our journey is not just about building institutions – it is about nurturing the human spirit that has sustained our society for centuries."- President Dr Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

Democracy and development form an intricate tapestry in which each thread strengthens the other. Somalia's path to democratic governance adds a unique chapter to democracy's global story, one that weaves together ancient wisdom with contemporary aspirations.

Our democratic journey draws strength from profound cultural foundations. The traditional Xeer system embodies fundamental democratic principles of mutual respect, equality, and collaborative decision-making. Guided by clan elders, it has long provided a framework for conflict resolution and social harmony. However, as our society evolves, so too must our governance structures. Modern challenges require broader participation and inclusive decision-making processes, reflecting an "adaptive tradition" that evolves while maintaining essential principles.

Therefore, I can confidently state that relationship between democracy and development in Somalia exemplifies "development as freedom." When people have the freedom to innovate, create, and participate in economic life, development naturally follows. Somalia's natural resources, from our coastline to our agricultural potential, represent not just economic assets but opportunities for democratic engagement.

The 2012 Provisional Constitution protects fundamental freedoms while emphasizing civic duties, supporting "democratic performance" – the capacity of institutions to deliver tangible benefits to citizens.

Somalia's democratic evolution benefits from a cultural emphasis on dialogue and consensus-building. The traditional practice of shir (community consultation) reflects "traditional modernity" – the adaptation of traditional values to contemporary challenges.

Expanding democratic participation aligns with Somali heritage while acknowledging modern realities, building on "legitimate authority" – power derived from public consent.

We have continuously focused on transforming our country with key transformative pillars which include Constitutional Governance through which we are protecting rights and defining responsibilities, Popular Participation which ensures citizens have meaningful input in decisions affecting their lives and ensuring we have put in place Knowledge-Driven Development through which we are Harnessing human capital and innovation for sustainable prosperity.

On the other hand, Since May 2022, when I took office Somalia has achieved significant milestones in democratization and state-building.

The National Consultative Council (NCC) reached an agreement on five major themes: the allocation of powers between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS), the federalization of the judiciary and fiscal systems, the National Security Architecture, democratization, and the electoral process.

The National Assembly also made great strides by adopting four chapters of the Provisional Constitution, reinforcing justice and democracy. Through the electoral reforms we are able to promote political pluralism and grassroots participation. In a historic move toward direct citizen engagement, the NIEC is preparing to announce local elections.

Meanwhile, the Centennial Vision 2060 and The National Transformation Plan (NTP I) 2025-2029 outline comprehensive strategies for economic resilience and sustainable growth, emphasizing infrastructure, social inclusion, and innovation-driven development. Somalia's democracy balances freedom and order, recognizing that liberty flourishes best within clear legal boundaries.



The essence of democracy and development in Somalia lies in unleashing human potential. Knowledge-driven initiatives, including the revival of Somalia's educational institutions and international academic partnerships, demonstrate how democratic openness fosters innovation.

Our commitment to peace and diplomacy reflects "democratic peace" – the tendency of democratic nations to resolve disputes through negotiation rather than force. This approach underscores the link between political stability and sustainable development, creating conditions for long-term growth and progress.

True power resides with the people. Strengthening institutions, refining legal frameworks, and broadening participation reflect Somalia's belief in democratic governance as a cultural identity. By safeguarding the people's ability to shape their destiny, fostering progress through knowledge, and maintaining peace, Somalia lays the foundation for sustainable growth.

This transformative journey requires patience, pragmatism, and a vision that balances tradition with modernity. Somalia's commitment is clear: to nurture a democratic spirit, build institutions that safeguard rights, and craft a uniquely Somali model of governance. Together, with determination and unity, we will build not just a political system but a foundation for enduring peace and prosperity.



# A JOURNEY OF GROWTH: MY PATH TO PEACE, GOVERNANCE, AND DEVELOPMENT

By Ali Haji Warsame, M.A, Peace, Governance & Development

For over 30 years, my life revolved around numbers. As an accountant and auditor, and later in public finance, I meticulously analyzed balance sheets, scrutinized budgets, and ensured accountability in both private and public sectors. My career progressed steadily, and I found myself occupying executive roles. Yet, as time passed and responsibilities grew, I began to realize that my passion extended beyond numbers; I yearned to make a deeper, more meaningful impact on my community. That realization set me on a path to pursue a Master's in Peace, Governance, and Development at the University for Peace (UPEACE), a decision that reshaped my life. My journey to UPEACE was not linear. Initially, I stumbled across the university while browsing the internet. The concept of an institution dedicated to peacebuilding immediately intrigued me. I discovered its campuses in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa, but the application process seemed daunting, and life's commitments led me to put the idea aside. However, fate intervened when UPEACE opened a campus in Somalia, where I had been stationed for over a decade. This proximity made the dream attainable, and I leapt.

## Learning Beyond the Classroom

Enrolling at UPEACE opened a new world of intellectual exploration. Although I had previously taken governance and public policy courses as part of my MBA, the depth and rigour of the Peace, Governance, and Development program were unparalleled. It wasn't just about acquiring knowledge; it was about applying it to real-world challenges. Somalia, with its complex history of conflict and fragile governance structures, provided a unique and urgent context for my studies. The program's structure was as innovative as it was demanding. Each course combined lectures, group assignments, individual research, and final exams. This holistic approach fostered collaboration and critical thinking. Preparing reports and presenting them to peers sharpened my analytical skills, while group projects taught me the value of teamwork. These experiences were instrumental in shaping my understanding of governance and peacebuilding strategies. One of the most impactful aspects of my time at UPEACE was my thesis research. I chose to focus on the divided city of Galkayo, a place scarred by recurrent conflicts and atrocities since the onset of Somalia's civil war. My research delved into the root causes of these conflicts, exploring trust-building mechanisms and early warning systems to prevent violence.



Engaging with local stakeholders and fostering dialogue between divided communities was both challenging and rewarding. The insights gained during this process reinforced my belief in the power of grassroots initiatives to drive sustainable peace. Applying Knowledge to Make a Difference The knowledge and skills I acquired at UPEACE have profoundly influenced my work. Since 2013, I have been mentoring finance staff in Somalia's federal ministries, providing training for the Auditor General's office, and working as a researcher and policy consultant for the Ministry of Education in Puntland. My role as a policymaker has been shaped by the principles of good governance, development studies, and peacebuilding strategies learned during the program.

In Somalia, a country emerging from decades of civil war, these principles are not just theoretical concepts but essential tools for rebuilding trust and strengthening public institutions. My education at UPEACE has equipped me to contribute meaningfully to these efforts, whether through mentoring future leaders or developing policies that promote transparency and accountability.

## Looking Ahead

As I approach graduation, my journey with UPEACE feels like the beginning of a larger mission. My immediate goal is to continue my studies and transition into doctoral research. The support of the university and its faculty will be crucial in this next phase, as I seek to deepen my understanding of peacebuilding and governance. Beyond academics, my vision is to apply what I've learned to foster reconciliation and development in Somalia.

Our country faces immense challenges, from governance deficits to rampant corruption. However, I firmly believe that with the right education and commitment, we can build a foundation for lasting peace and prosperity. By mentoring others and advocating for merit-based leadership, I hope to inspire a new generation of leaders dedicated to serving the public good.

## A Message to Future Students

To those considering a journey with UPEACE, I offer this advice: be prepared for a challenging yet rewarding experience. Embrace teamwork, engage deeply with your assignments, and don't shy away from expressing your ideas. The rigorous demands of the program will prepare you not only for academic success but also for real-world problem-solving. For the UPEACE team, I urge continued efforts to enhance the student experience. Incorporating on-campus courses and fostering exchange programs with other UPEACE branches could further enrich learning and create lasting connections among students.

## Closing Reflections

The significance of UPEACE in Somalia cannot be overstated. Its focus on peace, governance, and development aligns perfectly with the nation's state-building priorities. By equipping students with the tools to address these critical issues, the university is playing a pivotal role in shaping Somalia's future. As I reflect on my journey, I am filled with gratitude—for the opportunity to learn, for the support of my peers and professors, and for the chance to contribute to a brighter future for Somalia. My time at UPEACE has been transformative, and I am excited to see where this path will lead.

# FROM PARLIAMENT TO ACADEMIA: A JOURNEY TOWARDS PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

By Mahad Hassan, MA PGD, Deputy Speaker, Hirshabelle Parliament



My journey into the world of peace, governance, and development began with a realization—a need to bridge the gap between practice and knowledge in my political career. After three years in journalism and academia, I transitioned into politics, serving as a Member of Parliament, the Minister of Information, and eventually the Deputy Speaker of the Hirshabelle Parliament. In these roles, I encountered the complex challenges of governance and conflict resolution, which demanded deeper insights and structured approaches.

The turning point came when I decided to pursue a Master's degree at the University for Peace (UPEACE). Encouraged by friends who spoke highly of the institution, I embarked on a transformative journey. From the moment I stepped into the program, focusing on peace and governance, I felt a profound shift. The curriculum not only aligned with my day-to-day responsibilities but also reshaped how I approached challenges. It was humbling to recognize the mistakes I had made in governance and conflict resolution and even more empowering to learn how to correct them.

At UPEACE, I delved into alternative dispute resolution (ADR) as the focal point of my research.

This method bypasses lengthy and costly court processes, emphasizing community-based solutions. My findings highlighted ADR's potential to save time, foster inclusivity, and strengthen communal bonds—an approach that holds immense promise for Somalia's peacebuilding efforts.

The diversity at UPEACE enriched my experience further. Engaging with peers and professors from across the globe exposed me to a wealth of perspectives, broadening my understanding of governance and conflict resolution. I often reflect on the dynamic group discussions, stimulating lectures, and collaborative projects that shaped my thinking and gave me practical tools to apply in my work.

Balancing my studies with my parliamentary duties was no small feat. There were times when critical parliamentary meetings coincided with exams or classes. Yet, with determination and a bit of divine grace, I managed to navigate these challenges, often postponing political engagements to prioritize my education.

Today, as the Deputy Speaker of the Hirshabelle Parliament, I oversee a 100-member assembly and hold the government accountable.

The lessons I learned at UPEACE have profoundly influenced my approach, enabling me to mediate disputes more effectively and foster collaboration within the parliamentary framework.

Looking ahead, I aspire to pursue a PhD at UPEACE. This academic pursuit is not merely for personal growth but also to amplify my contributions to Somalia's development. I envision a Somalia where peace and governance are informed by scientific rigor and genuine reconciliation efforts—principles I have embraced through my education.

To future UPEACE students, my message is simple yet profound: align your studies with your daily work. The practical application of theoretical knowledge is where true transformation occurs. As for my role in Somalia's future, I am committed to leveraging my education to promote peace and good governance, not just in my country but across Africa.

UPEACE has filled a crucial void in Somalia's context, offering a platform for politicians and leaders to learn and implement best practices in governance and reconciliation. For me, this journey has been nothing short of life-changing, and I carry forward these lessons with unwavering hope and determination.



# ROOTS OF CHANGE: MY JOURNEY IN PEACE, GOVERNANCE, AND DEVELOPMENT

By Amina Nimo Mohamed, M.A, Peace, Governance & Development



The decision to pursue a Master's degree in Peace, Governance, and Development at UPEACE wasn't just about academic growth; it was a quest to reconcile my identity and purpose. It's a journey shaped by resilience, a thirst for knowledge, and an unshakable hope for Somalia's brighter tomorrow. Though I grew up in Kenya, Somalia has always been the heartbeat of my identity.

The stories of my family painted vivid pictures of a homeland scarred by conflict but also defined by unwavering strength. Tales of survival amidst adversity lingered in my mind, sparking a determination to understand the roots of these struggles and to contribute to a solution. These early seeds of ambition led me to UPEACE, a sanctuary of learning for those aspiring to bridge divides and create meaningful change. I first heard about UPEACE through colleagues in the development sector, who spoke of its reputation as a beacon for peace studies.

The university's focus on conflict resolution and sustainable development felt like an invitation to embark on a transformative journey—a chance not only to educate myself but to empower others. And indeed the moment I registered for the course and started attending lectures, I felt the buzz of possibility.

Each lecture, each conversation, felt like a stepping stone toward becoming a more informed and empathetic leader.

One experience stands out vividly—a seminar on transitional justice. It wasn't just a discussion; it was an exploration into the soul of fractured societies. We didn't merely dissect theories; we delved into the emotional and structural pathways that help nations heal.

Equally transformative were the group projects, where students from diverse backgrounds collaborated to tackle complex issues. In one memorable project on governance reform, my peers and I crafted solutions for creating inclusive decision-making processes. Each session was a display of perspectives, teaching me the invaluable skill of viewing the world through multiple lenses.

## The Struggles That Forged Strength

The journey wasn't without its hurdles. Balancing academic rigor with personal responsibilities was daunting, and as a woman, societal expectations often loomed in the background. There were moments of doubt, but the unwavering support of my professors and peers carried me through.

Their belief in my potential was a constant reminder that I belonged in this space, that my voice mattered. Those challenges became stepping stones, shaping my resilience and sharpening my resolve to succeed.

## From Theory to Impact

My research at UPEACE focused on a topic close to my heart—the impact of refugees on human security, particularly in the Somali context. I delved into how displacement affects host communities, examining both the strains it causes and the opportunities it can create for fostering social cohesion.

Through this work, I realized the critical need for policies that balance immediate humanitarian needs with long-term development goals. My hope is that these findings will inspire actionable change, providing policymakers with strategies to ensure stability and inclusion.

Professionally, UPEACE has been a cornerstone of my growth. Its emphasis on inclusivity and collaboration transformed the way I approach gender-related challenges in Somalia. I now approach my work with a deeper understanding of the cultural, social, and political dynamics that shape our communities.

## The Road Ahead

As I prepare to face the future after the graduation, my vision for Somalia is clearer than ever. I aspire to strengthen governance systems, advocate for gender equality, and champion community-led initiatives that address the root causes of conflict. Rebuilding a nation is no small task, but I believe in the power of collective action.

Mentorship is another passion I hold dear. I want to inspire young leaders to step into their potential, to see themselves as catalysts for change. Together, we can create a future that embodies inclusivity, stability, and hope. To the next generation of UPEACE students, particularly women: believe in your ability to shape the world. Your education is a tool for transformation, and your voice is a vital part of building a more equitable and peaceful future. Embrace challenges—they will mold you into a stronger, more compassionate leader.

# IN PURSUIT OF PEACE: A JOURNEY OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT UPEACE

By Omar Haji Mohamed Shurie, Ph.D. in Peace, Governance, and Development

Growing up in Somalia, I bore witness to the devastating consequences of conflict and governance failures. These early experiences shaped not only my worldview but also my unwavering resolve to contribute to rebuilding my nation. My academic journey led me to the University for Peace (UPEACE), where I pursued a Ph.D. in Peace, Governance, and Development, culminating in my graduation in 2025. This transformative journey has profoundly influenced my understanding of peacebuilding, governance, and sustainable development, equipping me with the tools to tackle Somalia's challenges and beyond. My decision to undertake a Ph.D. was fueled by a profound commitment to addressing Somalia's pressing issues. These include water scarcity, fragile governance structures, and pervasive societal inequalities.

My professional background in water resource management and emergency preparedness deepened my awareness of these challenges, reinforcing the urgency for sustainable solutions. Furthermore, my engagement in global peace and development discourse revealed the importance of integrating local realities with international best practices, a principle that guided my academic path.

## Discovering UPEACE

The University for Peace first captured my attention through its distinguished reputation as a global leader in peace education.

Established by the United Nations, UPEACE's mission to advance sustainable peace and its emphasis on interdisciplinary and practical learning resonated deeply with my aspirations. The institution's diverse and inclusive academic environment provided the perfect platform to explore innovative solutions to governance and development challenges.

My tenure at UPEACE was a dynamic blend of academic rigor and practical application. Engaging lectures, real-world simulations, and collaborative fieldwork expanded my understanding of governance, conflict resolution, and sustainable development.

Working closely with peers from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds underscored the value of inclusivity and enriched my problem-solving abilities. These experiences shaped my intellectual and professional outlook, affirming the power of education to catalyze change.



## Research for Sustainable Solutions

At the heart of my academic journey lies my doctoral research, titled "Assessment of Local Integrated Water Management Solutions and Community Conflict-Based Approaches for Sustainable Development in Galmudug, Somalia." This work reflects my dedication to addressing Somalia's resource-based challenges through innovative solutions. By integrating water resource management with conflict resolution strategies, my research offers a pathway to reduce resource-driven tensions, foster community collaboration, and strengthen governance systems. The findings have the potential to promote equitable access to essential resources and bolster resilience in Somalia's most vulnerable regions.

## Looking Ahead

Equipped with a Ph.D. from UPEACE, I am committed to applying my knowledge to advance Somalia's peacebuilding and development efforts. My vision includes strengthening governance systems, addressing resource-based conflicts, and mentoring the next generation of leaders. By collaborating with local and international partners, I aim to design and implement sustainable policies that drive resilience, equity, and development.

## Message to Future Students

For those considering UPEACE, I encourage you to approach this journey with curiosity, determination, and an open heart. Embrace the diversity of perspectives you encounter, as they will challenge and inspire you to think creatively and innovatively. UPEACE is more than an academic institution; it is a transformative experience that equips you to be a force for positive change in the world.

The Significance of UPEACE for Somalia  
The value of UPEACE for Somalia cannot be overstated. By empowering individuals to design inclusive policies and strengthen institutional frameworks, the institution provides a crucial foundation for sustainable peace and development. UPEACE alumni are well-positioned to address Somalia's unique challenges, bridging gaps between local needs and global opportunities.

As I reflect on my journey, I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to leverage my education and experiences to contribute to Somalia's stability and progress. The lessons I have learned and the skills I have honed at UPEACE have prepared me to play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for my country while contributing to the global pursuit of peace.



# FROM SOMALIA TO THE WORLD: MY JOURNEY TO PURSUE PEACE

By Saleiman S. Umar, PhD, Peace, Governance and Development

Growing up in Somalia, a nation marked by decades of conflict and civil unrest, the harsh realities of war were not abstract or distant concepts—they were woven into the fabric of my everyday life. Political turmoil, societal fragmentation, and the profound challenges faced by my community left deep scars. Yet, amidst this adversity, I found inspiration in the unyielding spirit of resilience and hope displayed by those around me. These experiences ignited a lifelong commitment within me to contribute to peacebuilding and sustainable development.

When I took the bold step of enrolling at the United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE), it was far more than an academic pursuit. It was a defining moment, a leap of faith driven by an unshakable desire to comprehend the complexities of conflict and to uncover innovative pathways toward sustainable peace. My enrolment in the PhD program in Peace, Governance, and Development represented a personal pledge to dedicate myself not only to Somalia but also to the broader global community.

At UPEACE, I discovered a unique environment that championed intellectual curiosity and cross-cultural collaboration. The diversity of my peers—individuals from every corner of the globe, each carrying powerful stories of resilience and hope—expanded my worldview in profound ways. Whether engaging in spirited debates about restorative justice or participating in fieldwork within post-conflict communities, each experience deepened my understanding of global peacebuilding. One particular memory stands out: facilitating a conflict resolution workshop in a war-torn village. Witnessing the unwavering determination of individuals to rebuild their lives from the rubble of destruction was both humbling and inspiring. These encounters were not merely educational—they were deeply human, leaving an indelible mark on my soul.

My doctoral research focused on the intricate subject of fiscal federalism in Somalia—a critical area for the nation's development and stability. The study delved into issues such as clan-based disparities, governance inefficiencies, and the equitable distribution of resources. Through rigorous analysis, community engagement, and the refinement of theoretical frameworks, my work aimed to illuminate how localized empowerment and fair resource allocation could serve as pillars for enduring peace.



While the journey was fraught with challenges—long hours of data analysis and the meticulous balancing of academic theory with practical application—it was also profoundly rewarding. It reaffirmed my belief that sustainable peace is achieved not solely through intellectual endeavours but through empathy, collaboration, and actionable solutions.

Today, as the Director General of Somalia's Ministry of Finance, I carry the invaluable lessons I gained at UPEACE into every facet of my role. The interdisciplinary skills and global perspectives I acquired enable me to approach governance with a holistic vision—one that seamlessly integrates socio-economic stability with peacebuilding objectives. Each policy I design and every initiative I oversee is a step toward fostering a Somalia defined by unity, shared prosperity, and resilience.

To those embarking on their journey at UPEACE, my advice is straightforward yet heartfelt: embrace this transformative experience with an open mind and an unwavering spirit. Allow the challenges to refine your purpose and let the diversity of perspectives inspire you to think boldly. This journey is not just about academic growth; it is about becoming an agent of change in a world that desperately needs solutions rooted in peace and equity.

Somalia's story is one of resilience, hope, and determination, and I am deeply honoured to contribute to its ongoing narrative. Through the transformative power of education and a steadfast commitment to peacebuilding, I firmly believe we can create a more harmonious and equitable world for generations to come.

# PICTORIAL POSTERS

## PICTORIAL POSTERS

Every individual you empower through education is a step towards a more informed, peaceful, and prosperous society.

– Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena,  
Rector, UPEACE



As you would notice today, out of the 18 Ph.D. graduates, there are only two women. We need deliberate support for women in Somalia to study. We actually need positive marginalization, whereby we make deliberate decisions to sponsor women to ensure that they attain master's and Ph.D. qualifications.

–Prof. Samuel Kale Ewusi, Ph.D.  
UPEACE Director, Africa Regional Programme.



You stand here today as a generation coached to write a new chapter in Somalia's history—a chapter engraved with vision, quality education, and lasting peace.

– Jibril Afyare;  
Director for International Cooperation





# PICTORIAL POSTERS

## PICTORIAL POSTERS

Education is a means to personal development and growth and a powerful tool and force for positive change and lasting peace.

**- Karin Johansson,  
EU Ambassador to Somalia**



Please stay here solving Somalia's problems—not just Somalia's problems, but the problems of the region and the globe.

**—Catriona Laing,  
Former UN Special Representative  
for Somalia**



Education is the foundation for peace, prosperity, and progress, and it requires our collective commitment. And Somalia's story is a testament to the transformative power of education.

**- Dr Mohamed Osman,  
UPEACE sub-regional representative**



# PICTORIAL POSTERS

## PICTORIAL POSTERS

Feel the weight of your achievements  
and let the lightness of your aspirations  
carry you forward.

– Dr. Mohamed Yusuf Ahmed, UPEACE  
Somalia Country Director



It is your responsibility to make Somalia  
better. Somalia was beautiful, and Somalia is  
becoming beautiful again. Be the architects of  
that beautiful Somalia we once knew and  
heard about. That is your calling.

– Mrs. Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka,  
UPEACE Council Member, former Deputy Executive  
Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission  
for Africa and UNESCO Assistant Director General.



The students are to be commended for  
their application, hard work and level of  
commitment which in addition to advancing  
their careers will contribute to the stability  
and development of their country.

– James Swan,  
UN Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General for Somalia





# CLIMATE JUSTICE AT THE HEART OF COP29 IN BAKU

By: Abdirizak Mohamed Ahmed, Campus Manager, UPEAC.

COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024, brought together world leaders, policymakers, researchers, activists, and private sector representatives to address one of the greatest challenges of our time: climate change. The conference sought to build on previous commitments, including the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Paris Agreement, while emphasizing the urgent need for action to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

This year's COP stood out for its focus on actionable outcomes, equity, and inclusivity. The climate crisis, which disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, was framed not only as an environmental issue but also as a social and economic justice challenge. As the impacts of climate change intensify—manifesting in extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and food insecurity—the need for ambitious, collective solutions has never been clearer.

## Key Themes and Discussions

A central theme of COP29 was urgency. With less than six years left to make significant progress toward the 2030 climate targets, participants stressed that current efforts are insufficient. The conference explored pathways to enhance global collaboration while addressing the gaps in climate financing, equity, and implementation.

## Ambitious Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies

Countries were urged to revise and strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The scientific consensus is clear: without aggressive cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, the 1.5°C threshold will soon be out of reach. Discussions at COP29 emphasized not only the need for mitigation but also the importance of adaptation. Vulnerable countries in the Global South, particularly small island states and conflict-prone regions, require robust support to build climate resilience.

## Inclusion of Marginalized Voices

Youth, indigenous communities, and marginalized groups were given a stronger platform at COP29 compared to previous conferences.



Their participation underscored the importance of inclusive climate governance. Indigenous leaders shared their traditional knowledge, advocating for sustainable land management practices. Meanwhile, youth activists demanded accountability from global leaders, calling out systemic delays and broken promises on climate action.

## Climate Finance: Bridging the Gap

One of the most contentious issues was climate finance, particularly loss and damage funding. Developing nations, already bearing the brunt of climate impacts, reiterated the need for wealthier countries to fulfill their \$100 billion annual financing pledge. The introduction of loss and damage mechanisms was a significant step forward at COP27, but COP29 focused on operationalizing these frameworks. Transparency and accessibility remain major concerns, with many nations struggling to access promised funds due to bureaucratic hurdles and unclear processes.

## The Role of Education and Advocacy

Education emerged as a key lever for long-term climate action. Institutions like the University for Peace (UPEACE) advocated for a more integrated approach, combining environmental science, peacebuilding, and human rights education. Education, they argued, is not merely a tool for awareness but a foundation for empowering communities to act as agents of change.

The interdisciplinary nature of education at UPEACE was presented as a best practice. For instance, linking climate resilience with peacebuilding offers unique insights into how nations can address climate-induced conflicts. From addressing water scarcity disputes to managing climate migration, UPEACE demonstrated how education could serve as a bridge between science, policy, and practice.

## UPEACE's Contributions

The University for Peace brought a unique perspective to COP29, highlighting the intersection of climate change, peace, and resilience.

### •Panels and Side Events:

UPEACE representatives participated in discussions on climate-induced migration, which is emerging as a critical issue for peace and security. The institution also emphasized the role of education in equipping future leaders with tools to address these challenges.

### •Research Presentations:

UPEACE alumni shared cutting-edge research, focusing on the impacts of climate change on fragile states, community-based adaptation strategies, and the transformative role of education. These presentations drew attention to the need for locally driven solutions, particularly in developing nations where resources are limited.

### •Partnerships and Collabora-

#### tion:

Leveraging its international reputation, UPEACE built new alliances with academic institutions, governments, and NGOs. These partnerships aim to develop educational programs, conduct joint research, and foster innovation in climate adaptation and peacebuilding strategies.

### Challenges Highlighted at COP29

Despite the progress made at COP29, significant challenges remain:

#### 1. Insufficient Ambition:

Many nations continue to fall short of their climate commitments. The gap between pledges and real-world actions remains wide, jeopardizing the collective goal of limiting global warming.

#### 2. Contentious Negotiations:

Disagreements over loss and damage financing slowed decision-making. Wealthier nations hesitated to commit to clear accountability mechanisms, causing frustration among developing countries.

#### 3. Systemic Exclusion:

Non-state actors, grassroots organizations, and local communities often lack a seat at the decision-making table. Their exclusion limits the diversity and effectiveness of proposed solutions.

#### 4. Complex Bureaucracy:

Accessing climate finance remains a daunting task for many nations. Procedural delays and unclear guidelines make it difficult for vulnerable countries to receive timely support.

### Hope Through Collaboration

One of the most promising aspects of COP29 was the growing emphasis on partnerships. Governments, private sector players, and academia demonstrated a willingness to collaborate on innovative solutions. From advancing renewable energy technologies to scaling up nature-based solutions, COP29 showcased how collective action can drive progress.

For example, partnerships involving UPEACE highlighted the potential of integrating climate resilience into peacebuilding frameworks. This approach not only addresses immediate environmental challenges but also mitigates long-term risks associated with climate-induced conflicts.

### Education as the Path Forward

The transformative role of education was a recurring theme throughout COP29. Institutions like UPEACE are uniquely positioned to lead this charge, offering programs that address the climate crisis from an interdisciplinary perspective.

By equipping young leaders with the tools to navigate complex challenges, education serves as both a preventive measure and a catalyst for action.

At COP29, UPEACE reaffirmed its commitment to expanding its educational offerings. This includes launching initiatives that focus on post-conflict regions, where climate resilience is closely tied to peace and development. Additionally, UPEACE plans to foster global dialogue through webinars, policy papers, and conferences that address the climate-peace nexus.

### A Call to Action

COP29 in Baku was more than a diplomatic event—it was a testament to the resilience and determination of humanity. The conference highlighted both the progress made and the work that remains. While gaps in ambition and accountability persist, COP29 demonstrated that solutions are within reach if nations, institutions, and communities work together.

The challenges of climate change are profound, but so is the potential for transformative action. COP29 served as a reminder that the path forward demands unity, vision, and unwavering commitment. As the world grapples with this existential crisis, institutions like UPEACE offer a roadmap for integrating education, equity, and innovation into climate solutions.

Baku's legacy will depend on how the global community acts on its promises. The next steps must prioritize not only technical solutions but also human-centered approaches that address the needs of the most vulnerable. Only through collective action can we ensure a sustainable and peaceful future for generations to come.





# CELEBRATING SOMALI WOMEN: A LEAP TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY

By Zeinab Omar Mohamud, Academic Registrar, UPEACE Somalia

On March 8, 2024, Mogadishu witnessed an extraordinary gathering in honor of International Women's Day, a celebration of Somali women's indomitable spirit and their critical role in shaping a more peaceful, equitable, and prosperous Somalia. The Somali National Women Organization, in partnership with the University for Peace (UPEACE), hosted this transformative event, which brought together leaders, scholars, advocates, and community members from across the nation. This year's celebration was more than a symbolic acknowledgment; it was a testament to the resilience, courage, and achievements of Somali women. For decades, Somali women have stood firm as pillars of their communities, holding families together, sustaining economies, and leading peacebuilding initiatives in the face of immense challenges. The event was a tribute to this unyielding resilience and a rallying cry to address the systemic barriers that continue to hinder their full participation in society.

At the heart of the celebration was the passionate keynote address delivered by H.E. Amina Hassan Ali, Acting Minister of Women and Human Rights. With her words reverberating across the room, she reminded the audience of the invaluable contributions women have made—and continue to make—in Somalia's journey towards peace and development. "Women are not just supporters in this nation-building process; they are the architects of progress," she declared, her voice both inspiring and firm. Her call to action emphasized that a future built on inclusion, equality, and respect for women's rights is not just desirable but essential.

## A Platform for Dialogue and Reflection

The event created a dynamic space for dialogue, reflection, and the exchange of ideas, uniting diverse voices under one roof. Panel discussions, workshops, and interactive sessions tackled pressing topics, including peacebuilding, socio-economic development, and women's representation in governance. The atmosphere was electric as attendees debated, shared insights, and proposed solutions to the barriers holding back Somali women from reaching their full potential.

One participant described the event as "more than a conference—it's a movement." With fiery debates and innovative solutions taking center stage, the gathering showcased the collective determination of Somali women to drive change in every sphere. The conversations were not confined to the challenges but extended to the opportunities that could arise from greater investment in women's empowerment.

The highlight of these discussions was undoubtedly the panel featuring Somali women leaders who have broken barriers and defied expectations. Their stories of perseverance and triumph in the face of adversity were both heartwarming and galvanizing. One panelist shared her journey from rural Somalia to becoming a business owner and community leader, proving that with courage and determination, the sky is the limit. Another spoke about her role in mediating community disputes, emphasizing that women are natural peacemakers whose inclusion in decision-making processes leads to lasting solutions.

## Honoring Resilience, Shaping the Future

In her remarks, H.E. Amina Hassan Ali reminded everyone that Somali women have always been at the forefront of change. "The world may call us resilient, but resilience is simply our way of life," she said with a smile, drawing laughter and applause from the audience. This acknowledgment of the quiet strength and unyielding determination of Somali women set the tone for a day filled with hope and inspiration.

Abdirizak Mohamed Ahmed, UPEACE Campus Manager for Somalia, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the university's commitment to advancing gender equality. He described Somali women as "the backbone of our communities and the heart of our future," a sentiment that resonated deeply with the audience. Abdirizak's pledge of continued partnership and support for women's leadership demonstrated that progress requires collaboration at every level, from local initiatives to global networks.

The collaboration between the Somali National Women Organization and UPEACE reflects a shared vision: a Somalia where women can lead without limitations, contribute without hindrance, and thrive without fear. This partnership not only symbolizes hope but also marks a step towards turning aspirations into tangible outcomes. For Somali women, this is not just a moment but a movement—a call to action to ensure their voices are heard, their contributions recognized, and their rights upheld.

## Stories of Triumph and Inspiration

Among the most inspiring moments of the day were the personal stories shared by Somali women leaders. These tales of resilience and determination highlighted the incredible potential of women who have overcome adversity to transform their lives and communities.

On e speaker, a young entrepreneur, recounted her journey of building a business from scratch, using her profits to support education initiatives for girls in her village. Her story was a powerful reminder that empowering women has a ripple effect, benefiting entire communities.

Another panelist shared her experiences working as a mediator in conflict-affected areas, where her ability to bring people together has led to lasting peace agreements. Her story challenged the stereotype that women are passive actors in conflict situations, showcasing instead their critical role in fostering stability and unity. "Women are the glue that holds our communities together," she said, drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience. These stories were not just testimonials of individual success but a collective narrative of Somali women's potential to drive societal transformation. Each woman's journey underscored a simple yet profound truth: investing in women is investing in the future.

## Moving Forward: Building on Momentum

The celebration of Somali women on International Women's Day 2024 was not just a recognition of their achievements but also a commitment to sustaining this momentum.



The event concluded with a series of recommendations aimed at addressing the systemic challenges faced by women. These included strengthening educational opportunities for girls, increasing women's representation in decision-making bodies, and enhancing support for female entrepreneurs. In his closing remarks, Abdirizak Mohamed Ahmed emphasized the importance of collective action. "Progress cannot be achieved by one organization or one initiative. It requires all of us—government, civil society, academia, and individuals—to come together and create lasting change," he said. His words served as a powerful reminder that true empowerment is a shared responsibility.

As the event came to an end, the atmosphere was one of optimism and determination. Somali women are not waiting for change to happen; they are making it happen. With their courage, creativity, and unwavering resolve, they are proving that progress is not only possible but inevitable.

## A Celebration of Hope and Progress

International Women's Day 2024 in Mogadishu was more than just a celebration; it was a beacon of hope and a call to action. The event underscored the vital role of Somali women in nation-building while highlighting the work that still lies ahead. By uniting diverse voices and fostering meaningful dialogue, the gathering laid a strong foundation for continued efforts to uplift Somali women and promote a future of equality and empowerment.

As the University for Peace and its partners look ahead, the lessons from this celebration will guide their efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable world. Somali women, with their courage, resilience, and determination, are leading the way. They remind us that the path to progress is not just paved with hope but with action, partnership, and unwavering belief in a brighter future.

Because if Somali women have proven anything, it's this: when they rise, Somalia rises with them.

# FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE WORLD: SOMALI ACHIEVERS LEADING THE WAY

By Dr. Mohamed Yusuf Ahmed, Country Director, UPEACE Somalia

## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF UPEACE SOMALIA



In the bustling streets of Mogadishu where the oral culture is evident in cafes, social gatherings and public places, stories are emerging that are reshaping the future of Somalia—stories of determination, resilience, and the transformative power of education. These tales aren't splashed across tabloids or trending on social media, but they deserve to be. They tell of people who are quietly changing not just their lives but the destiny of a nation.

The United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE), a place affectionately called the “home of peace education”, plays a part in many of these transformation stories, demonstrating that its influence is not just in the classroom. The real impact of UPEACE lies in the people it empowers— Somali men and women whose experience with the institution arms them with knowledge, a vision for peace, and the determination to build a better future. This is their story, and it includes a cast of unforgettable characters.



Let's start with two sisters whose sibling rivalry became a tale for the books—literally. Forget fighting over who gets the best seat at family gatherings; these sisters competed over academic excellence. Both enrolled in the prestigious MA-PGD Peace, Governance, and Development program, pushing each other to their limits. Their journey wasn't about beating the other but about elevating themselves together. When the results were finally in, it was a tie—both sisters graduated with top honors, walking the stage arm in arm. Family competition never looked so good. They've since gone on to champion peacebuilding initiatives, proving that sisterhood and scholarship go hand in hand.

Then there's the inspiring story of General Garaar, a man who rewrote the narrative for Somali law enforcement. In a world where police officers and PhD degrees rarely share the same sentence, Garaar made history. After earning his master's degree from UPEACE, he pushed further, trading his badge for books and becoming a doctoral graduate. Today, he's a symbol of what's possible when ambition meets opportunity. Imagine a police officer mediating disputes not with threats but with governance theories and conflict resolution frameworks. “To serve, protect, and publish” might as well be his new motto.

And who could forget the heartwarming tale of a father-and-son duo who turned education into a family legacy? The father, a proud graduate of Cohort C5, led the way, inspiring his son to follow in his footsteps. Now, as the son prepares to graduate with Cohort C6, their bond is more than familial—it's academic. Dinner table conversations in their household must be fascinating: “Dad, I think your analysis of governance frameworks is outdated. Let me show you my latest research.” It's a beautiful reminder that education isn't just a personal journey; it's a gift that can be passed down through generations.

And then there's last year's star couple—the husband-and-wife team who both earned their MA-PGD degrees, becoming the definition of a “power couple.” Forget romantic dinners; their idea of quality time was debating governance theories and drafting joint research papers. Their secret? Supporting each other through every chapter, citation, and late-night study session. If academic degrees could be romantic gestures, theirs would be a bouquet of diplomas.





But these stories are just the beginning. UPEACE isn't simply handing out degrees; through the social dissemination and application of its ideas and ideals, it is creating an army of peacebuilders who are rewriting Somalia's narrative. The real stars of this transformation are the Somali people themselves. With their grit, determination, and ingenuity, they're taking what they've learned and applying it where it matters most—in their communities.

Picture a Somali farmer in Baidoa using UPEACE training to mediate disputes over scarce water resources. Or a young woman in Garowe drafting community development plans based on governance theories she mastered in class. Or even a neighbourhood elder resolving a long-standing feud over grazing rights while casually quoting John Paul Lederach. These aren't fairy tales; they're everyday realities in a Somalia that's being quietly transformed by the power of education. And of course, there's humor in this transformation. Imagine a UPEACE graduate at a local tea shop passionately explaining conflict resolution to his friends, only to have one of them ask, "That's great, but can you mediate who gets the last sambusa?"

Or a politician citing their thesis during a town hall meeting, leaving everyone in awe—and mildly confused.

Somali humor remains as vibrant as ever; it's just getting more academically informed. What makes this journey so inspiring is that UPEACE isn't just an institution—it's a movement.

Its mission is simple yet profound: to equip Somali men and women with the tools they need to build peace and governance from the ground up. The graduates aren't just students; they're torchbearers, carrying the light of knowledge into the farthest corners of the nation.

Somalia, often painted as a land of challenges, is proving itself to be a land of untapped potential. The people are its greatest resource—resilient, innovative, and unyielding in the face of adversity. UPEACE has tapped into this wellspring of talent, creating a ripple effect that is being felt across the country.

The institution may be the "home of peace education," but the Somali people are its heart. They're taking the theories, frameworks, and lessons learned and turning them into real-world solutions.

At its core, peace is not something you can hand out like diplomas. It's a living, breathing process that requires nurturing, belief, and action. And in Somalia, peace is becoming a reality, thanks to the graduates of UPEACE. These men and women are not just spreading knowledge; they're spreading hope. They're not just solving problems; they're building futures. So here's to Somalia, a nation of stories, strength, and endless possibilities. And here's to UPEACE, the starting line for a race that's being won every day by the incredible people of this resilient nation. If peace is the goal, then Somalia is showing the world how to achieve it—with determination, humor, and a whole lot of heart.

And for those of us watching from the sidelines, let these stories be a gentle nudge—or perhaps a firm push—to take that leap. Whether it's enrolling in a degree program or simply starting a small initiative in your community, the path to change begins with a single step. Who knows? Next year, it could be your story that's inspiring others.

Because in the end, peace isn't just a possibility—it's an inevitability when the right minds, hearts, and hands are at work.



# PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE” LAUNCH IN SOMALIA.

Students and alumni from the UPEACE Mogadishu campus took part in the Principles for Peace launch of the Peace Making covenant in Somalia.

The high profile event marked the launch of Principles of Peace (P4P) in Somalia and the integration of the eight principles into the National Reconciliation Framework. Among the dignitaries attending were; Prime Minister, H. E. Hamza Abdi Barre, Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs & and Reconciliation, H. E. Ahmed Fiqi; Minister of Information Culture and Tourism, H. E. Daud Aweis; Head of United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Ms Catriona Laing; Special Representative of the AU Commission Chairperson for Somalia & Head of ATMIS, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef.

Key to the consultative agenda were the event workshops, facilitating discussion of the eight P4P Principles and allowing comment, questions and suggestions from the delegates. This was managed by the UPEACE students and alumni, moderating the discussion groups, note taking and reporting to the plenary session. Their final reports will provide the basis on which P4P prepares its implementation in Somalia.





# EDUCATING FOR PEACE: UPEACE'S ROLE IN REBUILDING SOMALIA'S ACADEMIC LANDSCAPE

By: Amb. Salim Kinyiri, Country Rep. UPEACE Uganda



Somalia is undergoing a quiet transformation, not through geopolitics or aid, but through education. In late August 2024, the United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE) hosted a pivotal workshop for 40 Somali PhD students at Silver Springs Hotel, Kampala. Funded by Qatar Charity under the H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud PhD Scholarship, the program marked a major step in rebuilding Somalia's higher education infrastructure.

The two-day workshop focused on strengthening Somalia's Higher Education Regulation, University Quality Assurance and PhD Research Standards. The event coincided with Uganda's 12th Annual International Leadership Conference hosted by Makerere University Business School - Leadership Center, offering participants exposure to regional academic practices.

## Numbers That Matter

The current UPEACE Somalia PhD scholarship program supports 40 Somali scholars pursuing doctorates in fields critical to Somalia's future, including Peace, Governance, and Development, Blue Economy and Maritime Security, Land Degradation and Desertification, and Leadership and Sustainable Development. Qatar Charity has committed funding for 60 additional scholarships, bringing the total to 100. Since the establishment of UPEACE Somalia, it has supported over 200 master's students and 30 PhD graduates.

It is now poised to scale up operations with plans to establish a campus in Mogadishu.

In Uganda, the partnership with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) offered Somali scholars exposure to best practices in academic quality assurance. MUBS, a dominant Makerere University affiliate, with thousands of postgraduate candidates, boasts one of East Africa's most robust quality assurance frameworks. This includes performance monitoring of faculty, program accreditation, and compliance with Uganda's National Council for Higher Education standards.

## Why It Matters

Somalia's education system has been crippled by decades of instability. According to UPEACE Africa Director Prof. Samuel Kale Ewusi, "Education is the foundation of peace and development. To rebuild a nation, we must rebuild universities." He emphasized the need for "African solutions to African problems," aligning UPEACE's programs with Somalia's environmental and security challenges. The workshop also addressed the stark realities of Somalia's academic landscape.





'Teaching and learning process' towers as leading challenge to Somalia higher education according to Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2022) and attributes the low Somalia universities' global. But where are the PhDs? UPEACE aims to address that gap through its initiatives. "It's not just about degrees; it's about creating intellectual leaders who can reform institutions," said Prof. Ewusi.

## Key Lessons from Kampala

The workshop covered the full spectrum of academic challenges.

**Quality Assurance:** Freddie Semukono, MUBS' Director of Quality Assurance, presented Uganda's model of monitoring admissions, faculty recruitment, and exam integrity. He provided tangible tools, such as Uganda's faculty evaluation frameworks, for Somali universities to adopt.

**PhD Research and Writing:** Prof. Laura Orobia from MUBS outlined the journey of a PhD, from identifying research gaps to publishing in reputable journals. Her advice was pragmatic: "Focus on relevance. Research must solve societal problems, not just sit on shelves."

**Innovation and timeliness:** Prof. Joseph Ntayi indicated that need to innovativeness in presenting their research ideas because the pace of knowledge evolution is quite fast. Time is of essence on the PhD journey! Academic Partnerships: UPEACE highlighted the importance of building networks. Participants were encouraged to collaborate with Ugandan academics, attend symposia, and engage with regional institutions.

## Global and Regional Impacts

Somalia's membership in the East African Community (EAC), formalized earlier in 2024, opens significant opportunities for educational integration. A recent study projected that aligning Somali higher education with EAC standards could boost regional student exchanges by 15% annually and improve graduation rates by 20%. The workshop included discussions on leveraging EAC membership to create cross-border centres of excellence.

International partnerships have also been instrumental. Qatar Charity's \$2 million pledge to the scholarship program is part of its broader efforts in Somalia, which include investments in health, infrastructure, and education. Qatar's support underscores the growing trend of Gulf states influencing development in Africa.

## A Vision for Mogadishu

H.E. Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir, Somalia's Minister of Higher Education, closed the workshop by reiterating Somalia's commitment to education reform. "We're not just building schools; we're building a nation," he declared.

Somalia's 2022-2026 National Education Strategic Plan aims to increase primary school enrolment by 40% and improve university infrastructure across all regions.

The Minister announced that Somalia would allocate land for a UPEACE campus in Mogadishu, a move expected to enhance the nation's academic capacity and attract international collaboration.

## The Road Ahead

By investing in education, UPEACE Somalia and its partners are empowering a generation of scholars who will lead the country into a future defined by resilience and prosperity. As Prof. Ewusi put it, "Education is Somalia's strongest weapon for peace."

Through initiatives like this, UPEACE is quietly reshaping the intellectual landscape of a nation long defined by conflict. The question now is whether other regions will follow suit.





# COP 16 RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA: UPEACE AND UNIVERSITY OF SASSARI UNITE TO COMBAT LAND DEGRADATION WITH SUPPORT FROM SOMALIA AND QATAR CHARITY

By Prof. Quirico Migheli and Dr. Mohamed Osman Mohamoud



The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, brought together world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and experts to discuss one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time: land degradation and desertification. Among the highlights of the conference was a side event titled "Promoting a New System of Scientific and Societal Knowledge: Research, Education, and Training for an Effective and Contextualized Fight Against Land Degradation."

This event, co-organized by the French Scientific Committee on Desertification (CSFD), DesertNet International (DNI), the UN University for Peace (UPEACE), and the Desertification Research Centre (NRD) at the University of Sassari in Italy, exemplified the importance of collaboration in tackling global challenges.

This significant session emphasized the intersection of science, education, and community engagement in addressing the root causes and consequences of desertification. Panelists included distinguished experts such as Dr. Badal Ahmed Hassan, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for the Federal Government of Somalia and advisor to UPEACE; Ms. Veena Balakrishnan, co-founder of the Youth Negotiators Academy; Professor Tayebah Mesbahzadeh, a member of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface from the University of Tehran; and Professor Lindsay C.

Stringer, Director of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute at the University of York. The discussion was moderated by Professor Quirico Migheli, Director of the NRD and DNI representative in the CSFD.

This event underscored the urgency of addressing land degradation and its far-reaching impacts while spotlighting the pivotal collaboration between UPEACE and the University of Sassari in nurturing a new generation of scientists dedicated to combating desertification.

## UPEACE and University of Sassari: A Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Development

A key focus of the discussion was the unique and enduring collaboration between UPEACE and the University of Sassari. The two institutions, bound by a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), have launched a groundbreaking joint doctoral program in "Land Degradation and Desertification."

This program represents a beacon of innovation and hope, preparing scholars to address the complex challenges of land degradation with a multidisciplinary approach.

The doctoral program not only provides advanced training in scientific and technical knowledge but also incorporates ethical, social, and policy dimensions to ensure that graduates are equipped to deliver sustainable and inclusive solutions. By addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender inequality, land ownership rights, and the empowerment of marginalized communities, the program seeks to create a new paradigm in environmental science education.

An essential component of this program is its integration into Somalia's Presidential Scholarship initiative, championed by H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia. This initiative, generously funded by Qatar Charity, allows Somali students to access world-class education and research opportunities. By investing in the education of young leaders, this partnership is empowering Somali students to contribute to global efforts to combat land degradation while addressing the specific needs of their home country.

Dr. Mohamed Osman Mohamoud, a Somali scholar and advocate for education, emphasized the significance of this partnership: "The collaboration between UPEACE and the University of Sassari exemplifies the power of education and research to address global challenges. The inclusion of the Presidential Scholarship, supported by Qatar Charity, ensures that Somali students have the tools and opportunities to lead in this critical fight against desertification."

### Bridging the Gap Between Science and Society

One of the key takeaways from the panel discussion was the need to integrate research and education to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and practical, localized solutions. Panelists emphasized that combating land degradation requires more than just technical expertise; it demands a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic and cultural contexts in which these challenges arise.

Dr. Badal Ahmed Hassan noted that effective solutions must be rooted in ethics, inclusivity, and community engagement. "Our efforts must be holistic, addressing the scientific, social, and economic dimensions of land degradation. Research alone cannot solve these problems—it must be complemented by education and collaboration with local communities," he stated.

The joint doctoral program between UPEACE and the University of Sassari exemplifies this integrated approach. By combining rigorous scientific training with a focus on ethical and contextualized knowledge, the program prepares graduates to tackle the complex challenges of desertification while promoting sustainable development. This holistic approach ensures that solutions are not only effective but also equitable and inclusive.

### Somalia's Leadership in Combating Climate Change

Somalia's commitment to addressing climate change and land degradation was a recurring theme at the COP16 side event. Under the leadership of H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Federal Government of Somalia has prioritized education and research as critical tools for resilience and progress. The Presidential Scholarship initiative, supported by Qatar Charity, is a testament to this commitment.

By supporting Somali students in pursuing advanced studies at UPEACE and the University of Sassari, the initiative is building a pipeline of skilled professionals who are equipped to address the dual challenges of land degradation and climate change. These efforts are not only vital for Somalia's development but also contribute to global efforts to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management.

Qatar Charity, a key partner in this initiative, has played a pivotal role in ensuring its success. By providing financial support and resources, the organization has demonstrated its dedication to fostering international collaboration and sustainable development. This partnership highlights the importance of global solidarity in addressing shared challenges.

### Education as a Catalyst for Change

Education emerged as a central theme in the discussion, with panelists highlighting its transformative potential in the fight against desertification. The joint doctoral program between UPEACE and the University of Sassari was celebrated as a model for how education can be leveraged to address complex global challenges.

The program's focus on interdisciplinary research and collaboration bridges the gap between academia and real-world challenges. By fostering partnerships between universities, research institutions, and local communities, the program creates a network of dynamic scientists committed to sustainable development. This collaborative approach ensures that research findings are translated into practical, actionable solutions that benefit both people and the planet.

### A Global Call to Action

The side event at COP16 concluded with a powerful call to action, emphasizing the urgency of collective efforts to combat desertification and land degradation. As Professor Quirico Migheli stated, "The fight against desertification is about more than preserving land—it's about preserving livelihoods, communities, and our collective future. By combining research, education, and international solidarity, we can make a real difference."

The partnership between UPEACE and the University of Sassari, supported by the Presidential Scholarship initiative and Qatar Charity, serves as a model for how global collaborations can address both local and global challenges. By fostering a new generation of scientists and promoting inclusive approaches to land management, this initiative offers a pathway to a more sustainable and equitable future.

As the world reflects on the outcomes of COP16, the discussions and partnerships forged at this event provide hope and inspiration for tackling one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Through education, research, and international collaboration, the fight against land degradation is being reimagined—and with it, the future of our planet.



# MASTERS GRADUATING STUDENTS 2025

NO	Programme	Name
1	DRLHA	Abdiqani Ali Jama
2	DRLHA	Abdiwali Ali Mohamed
3	DRLHA	Abdiwali Mohamed Ahmed
4	DRLHA	Abdukadir Mohamed Ahmed
5	DRLHA	Abdulkadir Hassan Abukar
6	DRLHA	Ahmed Abdirahman Omar
7	DRLHA	Dayib Abdulkadir Hassan
8	DRLHA	Osman Sh Adan Ahmed
9	DRLHA	Salad Ahmed Halane
10	EDP	Abdi Ahmed Ibrahim
11	EDP	Abdikadir Hassan Dooy Ahmed
12	EDP	Abdirahman Sheikh Hassan
13	EDP	Abdirizak Mursal Mohamed
14	EDP	Abdullahi Mohamed Adeid
15	EDP	Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed
16	EDP	Bashir Ali Hassan
17	EDP	Mohamed Abdullahi Hussein
18	EDP	Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed
19	EDP	Mohamed Hared Adam
20	EDP	Nabil Youssouf Abdi
21	EDP	Nuh Ahmed Said
22	EDP	Omar Abdikadir Ismail
23	ILHR	Abdishakur Aden Osman
24	ILHR	Abdiweli Yahye Isse
25	ILHR	Ismail Abubakar Omar
26	ILHR	Omar Nuh Hassan
27	ILHR	Salado Hussein Ahmed

NO	Programme	Name
28	PGD	Abdiaziz Hassan Arte
29	PGD	Abdijalil Abdullahi Abdi
30	PGD	Abdullahi Artan Shurie
31	PGD	Abdullahi Salad Hashi
32	PGD	Ahmed Abdirahman Shuriye
33	PGD	Ahmed Mohamed Roble
34	PGD	Ali Haji Warsame
35	PGD	Amina Nimo Mohammed
36	PGD	Bishar Ali Ibrahim
37	PGD	Daud Abdi Yusuf
38	PGD	Farah Ali Jama
39	PGD	Ibrahim Mohamed Abdi
40	PGD	Issa Mohamud Aden
41	PGD	Isse Mohamed Isse
42	PGD	Jama Ahmed Adan Adan
43	PGD	Kassim Mohamed Hish
44	PGD	Khalid Abdullahi Ali
45	PGD	Mahad Hassan Osman
46	PGD	Mathy Ekema Njoku
47	PGD	Mohamed Hussein Abdirahman
48	PGD	Mohamed Mohamud Hussein
49	PGD	Mohamud Ali Mohamed
50	PGD	Mohiadin Abdirahman Mohamud
51	PGD	Mowliid Ahmed Hassan
52	PGD	Osman Mohamed Gesey
53	PGD	Said Ahmed Fagase
54	PGD	Yussuf Hussein Abdullahi

\*DRLHA - Disaster Resilience, Leadership and Humanitarian Action

\*EDP - Environment, Development and Peace

\*ILHR - International Law and Human Rights

\*PGD - Peace, Governance and Development



# PHD GRADUATING STUDENTS 2025

## PHD GRADUATING STUDENTS 2025

No	Name	Topic	Country
1	Jean-Baptiste Thiathie TINE	Security Governance in West Africa in the era of New Threats: Issues and Challenges in Sahara-Sahelian Zone	Senegal
2	BOMA Blessing Simanka	An Analysis of Access to Quality Education in Emergency: The Case Of Refugee Children in the East Region of Cameroon	Cameroon
3	Oulematou KEITA	Early Warning Mechanism, Conflict prevention and the shaping of the ECOWAS of the People: Challenges and Success Stories	United States
4	Benjamin Achuo MUA	The Challenge of Term Limits Enforcement in Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Burkina Faso and Nigeria.	Cameroon
5	Koffi Henry SAWYER	Enhancing Electoral Democracy in Africa: The Impact of Intergovernmental Organizations in Promoting Credible Elections	United Kingdom
6	Kenneth ABOTSI	ICTs in Election Administration and Election-related Conflicts in Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya	Ghana
7	MKONG Bernice Nkweh	Assessing the Limits of Peacekeeping in Conflict Management in Africa: The Case of the Central African Republic	Cameroon
8	TIETENGA Abibata Barry	Analysing the African Union Responses to the Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa	Burkina Faso
9	Desmond LILAO	From Policy to Practice: An Assessment of The European Union Green Deal's Implementation Mechanisms for Tackling Desertification and Climate Change by 2050	Cameroon
10	Gregory Mwambo IKOMEY	Administrative Governance and the Promotion of Peace and Development in the CEMAC Region: The Case of the Republic of Cameroon	Cameroon
11	Modou DIAGNE	Management of Terrorist Threat in the three border area of Liptako-Gourma: Analysis of the Impact of Conflict between Defence forces and Cross border populations.	Senegal
12	ABDIWAHID IBRAHIM AHMED	An Analysis of Intergovernmental Relations and its implication on peace and development: A case study of Somali Federal Government and Jubaland State	Somalia
13	ABDULKADIR SH MOHAMED NUR	An Analysis of the contribution of conflict between the Federal Government and Federal Member States in Somalia from 2004-2023	Somalia
14	MOHAMED MOHAMUD MOHAMED	E-government Procurement Adoption in Somalia's Public Procurement: Implications for Good Governance and Sustainable Development	Somalia
15	MOHAMED MOHAMUD MOHAMED	Effective Counter Terrorism Strategies in Somalia: The Interplay between Military and Police: A Case Study of Banadir Region, Somalia	Somalia
16	ABDIHAKIM IBRAHIM HASSAN	An Analysis of the Contribution of Real Estate Development to the Economy of Mogadishu, Somalia from 2014 – 2023	Somalia
17	MOHAMED IBRAHIM NUR	Evaluating Food Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Somalia: A Case study of Hirshabelle State	Somalia
18	SALEIMAN S UMAR	An Analysis of the Challenges of Implementing Fiscal Federalism in Somalia	Somalia
19	ABDULLAHI MOHAMUD MOHAMED	Addressing Clan-based Political Violence in Somalia: Exploring Solutions	Somalia
20	ABDULKADIR DAHIR MOALIM	Comparative Analysis of Khat Delivery and Humanitarian Delivery in Jowhar District: Efficiency, Challenges and Implications	Somalia
21	ALI HAJI ADEN	Climate Change and its Effects on Household Food Security in the Beledweyne District	Somalia
22	AHMED ABDI MOHAMED	An Analysis of the Nexus Between Institutional Capacity Building and Governance Practices with Special Reference to Debt Relief in Somalia	Somalia
23	OMAR HAJI MOHAMED SHURIE	Assessment of Local Integrated Water Management Solutions and Community Conflict Based Approaches for Sustainable Development in Galmudug, Somalia	Somalia
24	AHMED ABUKAR AHMED	An Analysis of Socio-Economic Challenges and Foreign Direct Investment from 2013-2023	Somalia
25	ABDIHAKIM OSMAN ALI	The Role Of Decentralization On Social Services Provision At Sub-National Level In Fragile Post-Conflict Settings: A Case Of Berbera, Somaliland	Somalia





# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: THINGS YOU WON'T BELIEVE UNTIL YOU SEE THEM

By Fatima Ibrahim Nor, UPEACE Student, M.A. Environmental, Development and Peace

It was one of those mornings in Mogadishu when the air felt heavy with anticipation. The streets buzzed with the usual rhythms of life—vendors calling out their goods, children darting between alleyways, and a warm breeze carrying the unmistakable scent of the Indian Ocean. But this June 5th wasn't like any other day. Something special was unfolding, something that would leave a lasting imprint not just on the city but on all who witnessed it.

## The occasion? World Environment Day 2024.

This year's theme, "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," struck a particularly deep chord in Somalia, a country where the land tells stories of hardship, resilience, and hope. Hosted at the elegant Hotel Xayaat, the event was a symphony of minds and hearts coming together to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time. Organized by the University for Peace (UPEACE) in collaboration with the Planetary Health Innovation Hub (PHIH), the day promised more than words—it promised action.

## A Room Full of Promise

From the moment you stepped into the event hall, you could feel it—the hum of energy that only comes when passionate people unite for a cause greater than themselves. The crowd was diverse: students eager to learn, community leaders ready to inspire, activists armed with solutions, and policymakers keen to listen. It was as if the room had been stitched together with the threads of shared purpose.

The opening speech set the tone. A representative from UPEACE welcomed everyone with an urgency that resonated deeply. "The earth," they said, "is speaking to us. Through barren lands, parched rivers, and dying forests, it's telling us to act—now."

PHIH's representative followed, adding another layer to the call to action. "This isn't just about saving the environment," they declared. "It's about saving ourselves. When we heal the planet, we heal communities, economies, and futures."



It was hard not to feel a pang of responsibility. Somalia's story is one of resilience, yes, but it's also a cautionary tale. Decades of environmental degradation, compounded by climate change, have left the land scarred. And yet, like any great story, this one still holds room for redemption.

## The Land Speaks

One of the most powerful moments of the day came during the keynote presentations.

The first speaker, an environmental scientist, painted a vivid picture of the challenges facing Somalia. "Imagine this," she began.

"A land so fertile it could feed its people ten times over. Now imagine that same land, stripped bare, its soil turned to dust. That is the reality of desertification." The data was sobering. Every year, Somalia loses thousands of hectares of productive land to desertification.

The consequences ripple outward—food insecurity, economic instability, and mass migration. Yet, as the speaker emphasized, this is not a fate sealed in stone. She shared stories of reforestation projects that had breathed life back into barren landscapes. In one village, community members came together to plant trees that not only stabilized the soil but also brought shade, fruits, and a renewed sense of pride. “The land,” she said, “is alive. Treat it well, and it will repay you tenfold.”

The second speaker, a local expert, delved deeper into Somalia’s unique challenges. He spoke of farmers battling the twin enemies of drought and soil erosion. “But,” he added with a smile, “these farmers are warriors. They’ve adopted drip irrigation systems that save water while keeping their crops alive. They’ve learned to harvest rainwater and use it wisely. They’ve proven that even in the harshest conditions, ingenuity can thrive.”

### Lessons from the Past, Hopes for the Future

Somalia’s history is one of adaptation. For centuries, its people have lived in harmony with a land that can be both generous and unforgiving. The event honored this heritage by weaving traditional knowledge into modern solutions. One panelist shared how elders in rural communities had taught young farmers to use zai pits, a traditional technique for conserving water and enriching soil.

“Sometimes,” she said, “the answers are not in laboratories or boardrooms. They’re in the wisdom of those who’ve walked this land for generations.”

But while tradition offers valuable lessons, the future demands innovation. The final keynote of the day presented a bold vision for drought resilience. The speaker, an expert in water management, outlined strategies that could transform Somalia into a model for sustainability. From large-scale rainwater harvesting systems to solar-powered desalination plants, the possibilities were as vast as the challenges.

“Somalia,” he declared, “is not just a victim of climate change. It can be a leader in climate resilience. The world is watching, and we have the power to show them what’s possible.”

### When Minds and Hearts Collide

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the panel discussion. Moderated by a dynamic representative from PHIH, the session brought together voices from academia, government, and grassroots organizations.

The panelists didn’t shy away from hard truths. One government official admitted that Somalia’s environmental policies had often been reactive rather than proactive. “But,” he added, “we’re learning. Events like this push us to think bigger, act faster, and dream harder.”

An activist chimed in, speaking passionately about the role of youth in driving change. “We are the generation that will inherit this planet,” she said. “And we refuse to let it crumble beneath us.”

Audience members joined the conversation, sharing their own stories of struggle and resilience. A young man from a drought-stricken region spoke of how his community had banded together to build a small reservoir that now provides water for 300 families. A woman recounted how her village had started a reforestation project that had not only restored the land but also brought people closer together.

The discussion was raw, honest, and deeply inspiring. It was a reminder that while solutions often begin in boardrooms, they take root in communities.

### Beyond the Event

What made this World Environment Day truly special was its impact. This wasn’t an event that ended when the lights went out—it was a catalyst for change.

By the end of the day, participants had committed to a series of actions. Local organizations pledged to expand reforestation drives, targeting the regions most affected by desertification. Policymakers vowed to push for legislation that prioritizes sustainable land management.

New partnerships were formed, bringing together NGOs, government bodies, and academic institutions to tackle environmental challenges collaboratively.

The event also produced a set of actionable policy recommendations, including:

- Increasing investment in water conservation technologies.
- Promoting sustainable agricultural practices that balance productivity with environmental protection.
- Engaging communities in decision-making processes.
- Strengthening international cooperation to fund large-scale restoration projects.

### The Seeds of Change

As the day drew to a close, a representative from PHIH delivered closing remarks that captured the essence of the event. “Today,” she said, “we have planted seeds—not just in the ground, but in our hearts and minds. Now it’s up to us to nurture them.”

The words lingered long after the applause faded. Participants left with more than just knowledge; they left with a sense of purpose. Many spoke of how the event had shifted their perspectives, inspired them to take action, and given them hope for the future.

### A Call to Action

World Environment Day 2024 in Mogadishu was more than a commemoration. It was a testament to the power of collective action, a reminder that even in the face of immense challenges, there is always room for hope.

For Somalia, the stakes couldn’t be higher. The land is not just a resource—it’s a lifeline, a heritage, a home. And while the challenges are daunting, the solutions are within reach.

As we look to the future, let us carry the lessons of this day with us. Let us remember that the fight for the environment is not just about saving trees or rivers—it’s about saving lives, cultures, and generations yet to come.

The earth is speaking to us. Are we listening?

Dr. Fatima Ibrahim Nor is pursuing M.A. in Environmental, Development, and Peace at the University for Peace. She is CEO of The Planetary Health Innovation Hub, Somalia, and passionate about sustainability, community empowerment, and finding solutions to the challenges of climate change.



# DR. MOHAMED OSMAN MOHAMOUD: CELEBRATED AMONG THE 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL SOMALIS IN 2024

Dr. Mohamed Osman Mohamoud, a renowned academic, activist, and advocate for sustainable development, has been honored as one of the 25 most influential Somalis in 2025. For the second consecutive year, Dr. Osman shares this recognition with distinguished national leaders, including H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President of Somalia, H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of Somalia and Cabinet Minister Khadija Al Makhzoumi. This acknowledgment highlights his unparalleled contributions to public policy, economic development, and youth empowerment, cementing his reputation as a visionary leader in shaping Somalia's future.

Dr. Osman's multifaceted initiatives have elevated him to this celebrated position. As the Sub-Regional Representative for the United Nations University for Peace, he leads transformative efforts in climate change adaptation, regional integration, and higher education, focusing on human capital development. Beyond policy and academia, Dr. Osman is deeply invested in fostering national identity by promoting Somalia's historical figures and founding fathers. His commitment extends to sponsoring youth and sports programs, organizing educational competitions, and supporting media initiatives that raise awareness and strengthen the Somali identity.



Dr. Mohamed Osman | Activist

**D**r. Mohamed Osman Mohamoud has established himself as one of the most influential figures in Somalia and Africa, leaving a profound legacy in youth empowerment, economic transformation, education, and peacebuilding. As a visionary leader and global influencer, his work transcends borders, connecting Somalia with the world in unprecedented ways. This remarkable impact has earned him a place in the 25 Somalis of the Year program by 5 Magazine.

Born in Mogadishu, Somalia, in September 1986, Dr. Osman faced the challenges of civil war but persevered in his pursuit of academic excellence. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Mogadishu University, followed by a Master's degree in Economic Policy and Conflict Resolution from Makerere University and Kampala International University in Uganda. His academic journey culminated in a PhD in Peace, Governance, and Development from the United Nations University for Peace, reflecting his lifelong commitment to knowledge and leadership.

In January 2024, Dr. Osman was recognized by the Paris-based magazine Africa Intelligence as one of the three most influential young leaders in Africa. This accolade highlights his significant role in shaping Somalia's policies, advancing economic strategies, and promoting regional integration.

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celebrated his leadership in facilitating Somalia's entry into the East African Community and his dedication to environmental sustainability, particularly through initiatives like the Great Green Wall Initiative.

Dr. Osman was honored alongside Nigeria's legal expert, Tobi Oluwalanmi, and Kenya's Wanjiku Thiaga, a prominent advocate against femicide, showcasing the diversity of Africa's leadership.

Throughout 2024, Dr. Osman has emerged as a key figure in Somalia, particularly in youth empowerment and economic development. One of his notable achievements was organizing and sponsoring the SYL Cup tournament, held from May 6 to 9 at Ma'aqul Stadium in Mogadishu.

This event celebrated the legacy of the SYL youth, who played a crucial role in unifying Somali territories, while providing a platform for young people to showcase their talents and leadership potential.

As a strong advocate for critical issues facing Somalia, such as environmental protection and peacebuilding, Dr. Osman's efforts in these areas are more pressing than in many other countries. His commitment has garnered recognition on multiple fronts and has positioned him as a pillar of Somalia's economic and social resilience.

Serving as the National Economic Advisor to Somalia's President and a member of the National Economic Council, he has played a pivotal role in negotiating partnerships with international donors to improve the lives of Somalia's rural, peri-urban, and urban populations. His visionary leadership has mobilized millions of dollars for transformative projects in education, healthcare, and environmental protection.

In a groundbreaking initiative, Dr. Osman established Somalia's first-ever Presidential Doctoral Scholarship Program in collaboration with the United Nations University for Peace, funded by Qatar Charity. This program currently supports 40 doctoral candidates, with plans to expand to 100, marking a new era in Somali higher education.

Dr. Osman's commitment to youth development is evident in his consistent investment in initiatives that inspire and uplift. By sponsoring sports tournaments



Social

like the SYL Cup and fostering startups in media, entertainment, and agriculture, he has created platforms for young talents to shine and thrive.

His work with the Resilient Africa Network and the Somali Response Innovation Lab, funded by USAID, further underscores his dedication to fostering innovation. These initiatives empower Somali innovators to address pressing challenges such as drought, displacement, and insecurity with groundbreaking solutions.

Beyond Somalia, Dr. Osman's influence as a global academic and diplomat is noteworthy. He has shaped postgraduate education and diplomatic training across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, ensuring that the next generation of leaders is equipped to tackle complex global challenges.

In addition to being celebrated by Africa Intelligence, Dr. Osman was named one of the "Top 25 Somalis of 2023" by 5 Magazine, which hailed him as "a national treasure and an international leader in economic policy, environmental advocacy, and educational empowerment."

At just 38 years old, his star continues to rise, embodying the promise of a resilient and innovative Somalia. As a transformative leader with a global vision, Dr. Osman remains steadfast in his mission to shape a brighter future for Somalia and the African continent.



and innovative Somalia. As a transformative leader with a global vision, Dr. Osman remains steadfast in his mission to shape a brighter future for Somalia and the African continent.

By engaging directly with the youth, he ensures that their voices are at the heart of peacebuilding and state-building efforts.

Appearing alongside Somalia's top leaders such as H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Dr. Osman's work continues to inspire national and regional progress. His inclusion in this prestigious list reflects his dedication to advancing freedom of expression, public participation, and climate resilience. A tireless advocate for progress, Dr. Osman's focus on empowering women and youth demonstrates his unwavering belief in their central role in Somalia's rebirth. His achievements are not just an honor for him but a source of pride for the entire nation.



# THE PUZZLE OF SOMALIA'S CONSTITUTION: A HISTORY OF BUILDING, BREAKING, AND BEGINNING AGAIN

By Hussein Sheikh Mohamud, Ph.D., National Constitution Advisor

A constitution is more than a legal document; it is a nation's promise. It defines governance, justice, and the rule of law. For Somalia, finalizing the constitution is about more than policy; it is about uniting a nation, clarifying how power is shared, managing resources equitably, and giving every citizen a sense of belonging. It tells the Somali people, This is your country, and here's how we'll build it together. Without it, Somalia risks deepening divisions and mistrust. With it, the nation can lay a foundation for stability, progress, and peace.

Somalia's constitution-making journey has stretched over six decades, marked by setbacks, breakthroughs, and resilience. The recent progress in 2024 offers hope that Somalia is closer to solving the long-unfinished puzzle of its governance framework.

## From Independence to Collapse

In 1960, Somalia's first constitution symbolized optimism and unity. Adopted through a referendum, it promised democracy, civil liberties, and a parliamentary system. However, regional disparities, clan dynamics, and weak institutions quickly undermined its implementation.

In 1969, a military coup brought democracy to an abrupt end. Major General Mohamed Siad Barre's regime centralized power, replacing the constitution with one reflecting his vision of "scientific socialism." While this aimed at unifying the country, it suppressed freedoms and concentrated authority.

By 1991, Barre's collapse plunged Somalia into lawlessness. Governance dissolved, clans and warlords filled the void, and the country operated without a functioning constitution. Even amidst chaos, however, the Somali people clung to the hope of rebuilding their nation.

## Transitional Frameworks

In 2000, the Transitional National Charter (TNC) was introduced at the Somalia National Peace Conference in Arta, Djibouti. It marked Somalia's first attempt to restore governance by creating the Transitional National Government. However, its lack of inclusivity hindered its success. The Transitional Federal Charter (TFC), introduced in 2004, replaced the TNC and established federalism to balance power between the central government and regions.

While ambitious, it faced implementation challenges, plagued by political fragmentation and unresolved conflicts.

## The Provisional Constitution of 2012

In 2012, Somalia adopted the Provisional Constitution, ending its transitional period and introducing federalism, democratic principles, and human rights protections. This was a bold step forward, signaling recovery after years of instability.

However, the document was far from complete. Major issues—such as resource sharing, fiscal federalism, allocation of powers between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS), and the national security framework—remained unresolved. Several chapters and articles were left unfinished, leaving the constitution's "provisional" status as a reminder of the work still ahead.

For over a decade, political disagreements stalled progress. Committees formed, consultations took place, and contentious issues were debated, but gaps persisted.

## The Breakthrough of 2024

On March 30, 2024, Somalia achieved a historic breakthrough. The bicameral Parliament approved amendments to Chapters 1 through 4 of the Provisional Constitution with unanimous votes: 253 in favor, none against, and no abstentions.

These amendments incorporated key agreements from the National Consultative Council (NCC), addressing crucial governance issues:

- Allocation of powers between the Federal Government and Federal Member States.
- Federalization of the judiciary.
- Establishment of fiscal federalism.
- The National Security Architecture.
- Democratization and the electoral process.

The amendments reaffirmed Somalia as a sovereign, federal, and democratic republic. They clarified foundational principles like power-sharing and governance structures, creating momentum for further progress.

Although challenges remain, this marked a turning point in Somalia's constitutional journey. Progress may be slow, but it is now tangible.



## Lessons Learned

Somalia's journey offers valuable lessons:

1. Political Will and Local Ownership Are Non-Negotiable  
Recent progress demonstrates the power of Somali-led initiatives. Leadership and local ownership were essential to breaking political stalemates and fostering consensus.

2. Compromise is Essential

No constitution is perfect. Progress depends on finding common ground that serves the greater good. Compromise and negotiation must remain at the heart of Somalia's efforts to finalize the constitution.

3. Civic Engagement Matters

A constitution must belong to the people. Public participation and education ensure citizens understand its significance and feel invested in its success. Without civic buy-in, even the most well-crafted constitution risks irrelevance.

The 2024 amendments were a significant step forward; however, unresolved issues must be addressed, and Parliament must act decisively to finalize the constitution's remaining chapters before its term ends.

## Final Thoughts

Somalia's constitutional journey is a testament to its resilience. It is a story of ambition, challenges, and hope—a reminder that nation-building is never easy but always worth pursuing.

The amendments of 2024 marked a turning point, proving that progress is possible when political will and local ownership align. While the puzzle is not yet complete, Somalia is closer to finalizing a constitution that reflects its aspirations and unites its people.

This is not just a story about drafting laws; it is about building a nation rooted in justice, governance, and shared vision for the future.



# UPEACE GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

By Amb. David F. Puyana, PhD, and Dr. Mohamed Osman, PhD

The University for Peace (UPEACE), a United Nations-mandated institution, has continued its mission of advancing peace and diplomacy through education, training, and multilateral collaboration. In 2024, UPEACE played a pivotal role in fostering global cooperation through key initiatives in Shanghai, Myanmar, Geneva, and Bahrain. As a neutral platform, UPEACE remains steadfast in bridging divides and empowering individuals to tackle the world's most pressing challenges.

## Shanghai: UPEACE Strengthens Multilateralism

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Think Tank Forum 2024 was held on September 27–28 at Shanghai University of Political Science and Law's International Judicial Exchange and Cooperation Training Base. During this forum, Ambassador David Fernández Puyana, UPEACE's Permanent Observer to the United Nations in Geneva and Vienna, was appointed as a "Shanghe Scholar."



sador Fernández Puyana emphasized the growing significance of revitalizing the multilateral system and addressing global governance gaps. He reaffirmed the UPEACE's role in promoting peace, justice, and commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Charter. This appointment reflects UPEACE's commitment to fostering global dialogue and collaboration through its engagement with key international platforms like the SCO. By integrating education and research into multilateral efforts, UPEACE continues to contribute to strengthening global governance and addressing challenges such as peacebuilding, sustainable development, and justice.

## A Renewed Partnership for Regional Peace and Security

On November 8, 2024, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE) signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), renewing their collaboration for the first time since 2008.

This landmark agreement highlights the shared commitment of these two institutions to advancing peace, security, and development across the IGAD region. IGAD, established in 1986 and revitalized in 1996, has long championed regional stability and governance through initiatives in conflict prevention, transnational security, and post-conflict reconstruction. UPEACE, as the only United Nations-mandated university focused solely on peace education, brings unparalleled expertise in interdisciplinary research and practical training. Together, the institutions aim to create a transformative partnership addressing the region's complex challenges through academic rigor and regional cooperation.

The MoU outlines a framework for collaboration across key areas such as joint research, capacity building, and knowledge management. Both institutions will pool their resources to strengthen institutional capacity within IGAD member states, develop harmonized academic programs on peace and security, and offer specialized training at both academic and practical levels.

The partnership also prioritizes counter-terrorism, conflict stabilization, governance reforms, and resource mobilization to address pressing regional challenges. By integrating IGAD's expertise in regional problem-solving with UPEACE's global academic mandate, the MoU reflects a shared commitment to "African solutions to African problems," ensuring that programs are locally informed and globally relevant. The agreement also underscores a collective goal of addressing root causes of instability, fostering human security, and promoting sustainable development across the Horn of Africa.

### A Milestone for Peacebuilding and Development

This renewed partnership represents a critical milestone in the pursuit of regional peace and prosperity. Amid the Horn of Africa's ongoing challenges—ranging from armed conflicts and climate-induced crises to governance issues—the collaboration between IGAD and UPEACE offers a unique opportunity to deliver impactful, evidence-based solutions. Structured around a three-year framework, the MoU ensures both regular reviews and a clear pathway for renewal and expansion of cooperative efforts. The signing on November 8, 2024, is not just an administrative achievement but a powerful testament to the potential of strategic alliances between regional intergovernmental organizations and global academic institutions. It sets the stage for a future defined by stability, resilience, and shared progress, laying the groundwork for sustainable peace and development in one of the world's most dynamic yet fragile regions.

### Myanmar: Building Foundations for Peaceful Coexistence

In November, UPEACE partnered with Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to host a transformative training program titled "Training on Peaceful Coexistence and Cultural Diversity" in Nay Pyi Taw. Over the course of two days, 30 mid-level officials from MoFA and other government agencies participated in workshops focused on peaceful coexistence, cultural diversity, multilateral diplomacy, and human rights. The initiative aimed to equip participants with practical tools to navigate the complexities of cultural diversity and international relations while fostering a culture of dialogue and inclusivity.

Myanmar's rich and diverse cultural framework provided a fitting backdrop for the program, which highlighted UPEACE's role in empowering leaders to address conflicts with diplomacy and respect. This collaboration underscored UPEACE's mission to create sustainable peace through education, particularly in post-conflict and multicultural settings, and reaffirmed its standing as a global leader in peace studies.

### Geneva: Addressing Global Displacement through Dialogue

In Geneva, UPEACE co-hosted the "Community Dialogue on Peacebuilding with Refugees" with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on November 26. The event, held at the Palais des Nations, brought together global leaders, humanitarian organizations, and peacebuilding experts to address the intersection of forced displacement, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Opening remarks from key figures, including UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Ruvendrini Menikdiwela and UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena, emphasized the critical role of displaced and stateless persons as agents of reconciliation and social cohesion. Case studies presented innovative, community-based initiatives that highlighted how peace and inclusion can thrive even in challenging circumstances. The dialogue also focused on the Global Refugee Forum's commitments, with an emphasis on gender and youth-specific perspectives, and explored barriers to inclusion and cross-sector partnerships.

Moderated by Ambassador David Fernández Puyana, the event culminated in actionable strategies for multilateral engagement and durable solutions for forced displacement. This initiative showcased UPEACE's ability to convene diverse stakeholders to address humanitarian challenges and reinforced its role as a trusted partner in advancing peace and inclusion.

### Bahrain: A Hub for Diplomatic and Peaceful Coexistence Education

On December 1, Bahrain hosted a landmark event under the auspices of the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence in partnership with UPEACE and GIOYA Higher Education Institution. The event celebrated the launch of two transformative programs: the Joint Postgraduate Diploma in Peaceful Coexistence and the Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy. Held at the International Convention Centre in Manama, the event brought together global diplomats, academics, and policymakers to explore innovative approaches to fostering diplomacy and peacebuilding. The program also celebrated the graduation of 50 students from around the world who completed certificates in peaceful coexistence. Many of these graduates are expected to pursue European Union-recognised PhDs in Commercial Diplomacy, jointly offered by UPEACE and GIOYA. Interactive workshops led by Ambassador David Fernández Puyana explored critical topics such as multilateral diplomacy in a multipolar world and global trends in commercial diplomacy.







The event concluded with a gala dinner and graduation ceremony, where Bahrain's Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, H.E. Sheikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, reaffirmed the nation's commitment to peaceful coexistence and tolerance. This initiative underscored Bahrain's role as a hub for global dialogue and education, demonstrating how universities can serve as neutral platforms for advancing diplomacy and collaboration.

## Islamabad: International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities

In Islamabad, Pakistan, UPEACE participated in the International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities: Challenges and Opportunities, hosted under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. This landmark event, convened on January 11–12, 2025, brought together global leaders, scholars, and advocates, including UPEACE Rector Prof. Francisco Rojas Aravena and Ambassador David Fernández Puyana, Permanent Observer of UPEACE to the United Nations in Geneva.

The conference was graced by the presence of Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Laureate and global advocate for girls' education, as well as high-level delegations from the Muslim World League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and Islamic Fiqh Councils. Participants discussed pressing challenges and opportunities in promoting girls' education within Muslim communities, with a particular focus on regions where access to education remains limited.

During the event, Rector Rojas Aravena met with key stakeholders, including young activists like Malala Yousafzai, who presented him with a signed copy of her book. Ambassador Puyana held bilateral discussions with Somalia's Minister of Education, Culture, and Higher Education, H.E. Hon. Farah Abdulkadir Farah, to explore collaborative efforts for enhancing education in Somalia.

The conference emphasized Islam's strong advocacy for education as a fundamental human right, countering misconceptions that hinder girls' access to learning. Resolutions included calls to expand educational opportunities, particularly for girls in conflict zones and underserved communities, and to promote digital and inclusive education strategies.



This initiative, supported by the Muslim World League and other international bodies, solidifies UPEACE's dedication to using education as a tool for global transformation and social inclusion.

## A Neutral Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation

From Shanghai to Myanmar, Geneva, Bahrain and Islamabad, UPEACE has demonstrated its unique ability to foster diplomacy and peacebuilding through education, research, and dialogue. As a neutral platform, UPEACE continues to bridge divides and empower individuals and communities to address global challenges with collaboration and innovation.

UPEACE's initiatives in 2024 highlight the critical role of universities in advancing multilateral engagement and creating sustainable solutions to the world's most pressing problems. By leveraging its position as a United Nations-mandated institution, UPEACE has cemented itself as a beacon of hope and a trusted partner in global governance.

In an increasingly polarized world, UPEACE remains committed to shaping a more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient future, reaffirming its mission to educate the next generation of leaders and foster a global culture of peace and coexistence.



# FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION: LEARNING FROM VIETNAM'S INSPIRING JOURNEY

By Dr. Mohamed Osman Mohamoud

The air in Vietnam on May 7, 2024, was charged with reverence and pride as I attended the grand 70th-anniversary parade commemorating the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. The city was alive with the sound of ceremonial drums and patriotic songs that echoed through the streets. Colourful banners and fluttering national flags adorned the parade route, creating a vibrant mosaic of red and yellow.

Rows of impeccably uniformed soldiers marched in synchronized precision, their polished boots striking the pavement with an almost thunderous rhythm. Military vehicles rolled by, their steel frames gleaming under the tropical sun, evoking memories of the historic battle that changed Vietnam's destiny. Veterans of the battle, now in their twilight years, rode past in open-top vehicles, their medals glinting proudly as they saluted the crowds. Their faces, weathered with age, told silent stories of courage and sacrifice.

Invited by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the National Assembly, and other key institutions, I felt the weight of history pressing down. This was more than a parade; it was a living testament to the indomitable spirit of a nation. Speeches resounded, narrating the harrowing yet triumphant tale of the French Indochina War—a struggle that began in 1946 and culminated in the fateful siege of Dien Bien Phu in 1954.

As I watched these action packed commemorative events far away from home, I could not help but think about the lessons we can all learn from the inspiring Journey of Vietnam and how the role United Nations University for Peace, UPEACE, can apply these to in fostering peace and stability.

Vietnam has embraced peace-building and reconciliation, transforming its historical conflicts into an inspiring story of progress. This experience mirrors UPEACE's broader engagements worldwide, connecting with communities, especially in conflict-prone areas, to foster knowledge exchange and reconciliation. My visit to Vietnam in 2024 gave me a deeper understanding of UPEACE's unique ability to support nations striving for peace. Vietnam, with despite its war-torn past, has become a thriving society that values the lessons of education and coexistence.



As a scholar focused on peace and conflict transformation, I was fascinated by the narratives surrounding Vietnam's progress. At the parade, a French veteran remarked, "It's not strange—we also fought with the Germans, and now we are friends, making the EU one of the largest and most successful common markets." His words underscored the transformative potential of reconciliation and mutual respect between former adversaries.

The parade included 12,000 participants, showcasing Vietnam's commitment to honouring its history while looking forward to a peaceful future. It was inspiring to see French veterans and military attaches participating in the event, symbolizing reconciliation between the two nations. Vietnam's ability to reconcile with its colonial past extends beyond France. The United States, once a fierce adversary during the Vietnam War, has also forged a strong partnership with Vietnam. This relationship has grown steadily since 1995, encompassing trade, diplomacy, and cultural exchange.

In 2024, the U.S. and Vietnam celebrated 11 years of their Comprehensive Partnership, emphasizing mutual trust and collaboration. Their bilateral trade, which was virtually nonexistent three decades ago, exceeded \$138 billion in 2022. Vietnam's exports to the U.S. reached \$118.92 billion in 2023, while U.S. exports to Vietnam grew at a rapid annualized rate. Such partnerships highlight how former adversaries can achieve mutual benefits through peace and cooperation.

Reflecting on Vietnam's journey, I was reminded of my home country, Somalia, which is also navigating its path to recovery. Like Vietnam, Somalia has endured decades of conflict and division. However, Somalia is now embracing peace, reconciliation, and governance reforms. From In 2018 UPEACE began its on-going relationship with to 2025, Somalia and has been working with UPEACE, which has played a crucial role in fostering transformation across the political, social, and economic spheres.





Somalia's recent trajectory highlights the importance of initiatives like those championed by UPEACE. As I explored Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, I saw the profound impact of resilience and strategic development. Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, reflects a blend of ancient traditions and modern progress. Similarly, Ho Chi Minh City, with its intricate rivers and bustling streets, represents a journey from division to unity. Visiting the Cu Chi Tunnels in Ho Chi Minh City offered a stark reminder of the horrors of war. These hand-carved tunnels, which played a critical role in Vietnam's resistance, stand as symbols of resilience and determination.

Somalia's challenges differ but share common threads of resilience and recovery. Like Vietnam, Somalia has a rich cultural heritage and a resilient spirit that can propel it toward a united future. Somalia has distanced itself from its socialist past and is transitioning to a grassroots-led democratic framework. The focus on constitutionalism, justice, and universal suffrage is a significant step forward in building a society based on equality and inclusivity.



Emphasizing these values, Somalia is working toward its Centennial Vision 2060, marking 100 years since independence in 1960. This vision lays the foundation for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Somalia through seven medium-term transformation plans. Just as Vietnam achieved reconciliation and unity, Somalia's commitment to peace, governance, and development offers hope for its future.

UPEACE's interdisciplinary programs provide Somalia with a framework to address its unique challenges. The university connects nations like Somalia with tools for recovery and emphasizes the transformative power of education and diplomacy. By collaborating with countries in Africa, Asia, and beyond, UPEACE fosters a global culture of peace, empowering communities to overcome the devastation of conflict.

UPEACE's neutrality allows it to serve as a bridge for nations at different stages of recovery, connecting them with resources, knowledge, and strategies for sustainable development. Whether in Vietnam or Somalia, the principles of reconciliation and coexistence resonate universally, reflecting the core values of UPEACE.

As Johan Galtung wisely stated, "Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." UPEACE exemplifies this ethos, inspiring nations and individuals to envision and build a future free from war, division, and inequality. Somalia, like Vietnam, has the potential to emerge as a beacon of hope, demonstrating how resilience, education, and diplomacy can transform a nation.





# UPEACE MOGADISHU STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION WITH THE UN OFFICE IN SOMALIA

By Steve Turner, Partnership Coordinator, UPEACE

As part of UPEACE Somalia's engagement with the UN and international organisations in Somalia, representatives of the University for Peace (UPEACE) in Mogadishu recently met with George Conway, the Head of the Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia (DSRSG/RC/HC). This inaugural meeting between UPEACE and the United Nations Integrated Office in Somalia explored the potential role of UPEACE's advanced academic programs in supporting the UN's mission and the Somali government during a critical transitional period. Of particular relevance and support is UPEACE's newly developed Master of Arts program in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning. Designed specifically for countries navigating political and security transitions, this innovative program is uniquely positioned to address Somalia's challenges as it undergoes a historic transformation in governance and security structures.

## A Critical Moment for Somalia

Somalia is at a pivotal juncture. The country is in the process of transferring responsibilities for national security and governance from international actors to Somali authorities, acknowledged by the newly mandated African Union Support and Stabilization Mission (AUSSOM) and the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS). Supporting such significant changes, education continues to equip leaders and subsequently their institutions with knowledge and skills that assist in the development of a stable and peaceful nation.

UPEACE's presence in Somalia aligns with this broader agenda. Established by the United Nations General Assembly, UPEACE is an institution dedicated to advancing peace, security, and sustainable development through education. Its mandate has been particularly relevant in conflict-affected regions, where the intersection of education and peacebuilding can drive transformative change.

The MA in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning is emblematic of this mission. It emphasizes practical skills in policy formulation, strategic planning, and leadership, offering a multidisciplinary approach that draws from political science, international relations, and peace studies. These competencies are essential for Somali leaders as they seek to establish stable governance structures and foster long-term peace and development.



## Forging a Partnership

The meeting with Regional Coordinator underscored the shared goals of UPEACE and the UN Integrated Office in Somalia. Among the points of discussion was the potential for UN personnel in Somalia to enrol in UPEACE's higher degree, certificate and diploma courses, providing UN staff with access to specialized training in areas directly relevant to their work and enhancing their ability to support Somalia's transition.

Additionally, the two parties explored the possibility of UPEACE developing customized courses tailored to the specific needs of the UN and its country teams. These courses would focus on themes such as conflict resolution, leadership in fragile states, and policy development, aligning with the UN's priorities in Somalia.

Further potential collaboration involves leveraging the expertise of UN specialists to contribute to UPEACE's academic programs. By involving experienced practitioners in the teaching process, UPEACE can ensure that its courses are both academically rigorous and practically relevant.

This partnership model reflects a commitment to bridging the gap between academia and practice, a hallmark of UPEACE's approach to education.

Regionally, UPEACE has the potential to serve as a hub for capacity-building efforts in the Horn of Africa. With its strong presence in Somalia and working closely with international partners, UPEACE can help address regional challenges such as cross-border conflicts, terrorism, and climate-related displacement.

## Looking Ahead

UPEACE Somalia anticipates an active collaboration with the UN Offices in Somalia, operationalizing the ideas discussed during the meeting. The potential benefits are clear. For the UN, collaborating with UPEACE offers access to cutting-edge academic programs and expertise in peace education. For UPEACE, the partnership provides an opportunity to engage more deeply with the international actors in Somalia and contribute to one of the most pressing peacebuilding efforts of our time.

In the words of a UPEACE representative, "Such partnerships are about more than just education. They're about equipping Somali leaders and institutions with the tools they need to build a better future. By working together, we can ensure that the current transition period becomes a foundation for long-term peace and stability."





# Master of Arts Programs

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## **MA in Disaster Resilience, Leadership and Humanitarian Action (MA-DRLHA)**

The Master of Arts (MA) degree in Disaster Resilience, Leadership and Humanitarian Action (DRLHA) emphasizes the development of a generation of disaster resilience leaders (DRL) as well as strengthen the capacity of existing leaders in the field of DRM. The program specifically strengthens leadership and resilience competencies to increase their effectiveness and involvement in disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian assistance. The programme is designed as a modular programme involving thirteen (13) taught modules and a field practicum plus a dissertation. The program is designed to cover holistic domains including conceptual fundamentals of disaster resilience, resilience programming and learning, measurement and analytics, monitoring and evaluation in DRM, leadership and climate change, environment and health and nutrition in emergencies. The Master programme is designed to target individuals with an interest in addressing issues of disaster risk through a community development focus. It is ideally suited for persons with a basic degree and who are into their early to mid-careers.

### **Programme Objectives and Deliverables**

- i. The MA programme is designed to meet the needs of scholars and students interested in peace and conflict studies with a distinct focus on Africa. To arrive at the afore-mentioned goal, the educational purposes and objectives of the MA programme include:
- ii. To systematically strengthen the capacity of existing Emergency Response (ER) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) students and sector leaders at multiple levels
- iii. To systematically strengthen the capacity of ER and DRM in academic, government and development and humanitarian organizations
- iv. To support the development of future leaders by institutionalizing disaster resilience leadership in higher education programs
- v. To expand and strengthen a network of public, private, and NGO stakeholders by globally linking a community of practice of disaster resilient leaders.
- vi. To introduce students to key concepts and applications in the field of DRR, and climate resilience, and its nexus with humanitarian response and sustainable development in Africa
- vii. To guide students to develop their functional competences of advance reflection and critical analyses of various theoretical and practical applications in disaster resilience and humanitarian action leadership.
- viii. To encourage empirical research and develop a critical mass of researchers whose objective is to nourish the formulation of policy in the varied and complex area of African peace, security, governance and development.





## Master of Arts, Energy, Economics and Governance (EEG)

### Introduction

The world's long-term economic development depends on the existence of efficient, innovative and creative energy and resources industries. These in turn rely on individuals who possess a sound grasp of their legal, economic, governance, technical and policy backgrounds. However, and unique to Somalia, low energy uptake and lack of access to a variety of energy sources including hydro-power; low level of access to modern energy; inadequate infrastructure for generation, transmission and distribution; low level of energy efficiency; high tariffs; the unreliable and inefficient energy supply; inadequate Institutional and regulatory capacity continue to adversely impact on the country's energy sector.

The Master of Energy Economics and Governance Programme is intended to develop a pool of specialists with energy-sector specific skills; and equip future leaders, policy planners and managers in energy-related businesses and institutions, both in public and private sector. In the current dynamic and highly globalized energy markets, the Program aims at producing competency and professionals for managerial, advisory, and academic positions in the energy sector. It aims at giving a deep understanding of the complexity of the current energy transformations in Africa and the World at large. The Program offers a unique, multidisciplinary approach which distinguishes it from other master's programmes in the field of energy studies. It analyses the links between the different levels of energy governance, from an international to a local level, offering problem - focused learning at the crossroads of theory and practice. In this regard, pertinent issues include optimal extraction of energy resources, upstream and downstream energy value chain, local and international/global energy market dynamics, modelling energy production, supply and demand and regulatory policies.

### Programme Objectives

The overall goal of the Programme is to create a pool of resources persons with knowledge of challenges and economic policy planning and governance skills in energy sector. Specifically, the MEEG Programme aims to:

- i. Enable and encourage students to develop their capacity for learning and communication within an open, scholarly, and professional environment.
- ii. Develop skills to better utilize data to inform strategic decisions in the energy sector.
- iii. Develop an appreciation of economics and governance within the energy sector, as an intellectual discipline and as an important contributor to a practical and significant understanding of the world;
- iv. Prepare students for a range of careers and other activities in which independent thought and analysis, as well as effective communication, can contribute to social and economic welfare improvements and impacts of dynamics in the energy sector;
- v. Prepare participants for managerial, advisory and academic positions in the energy sector by providing them with an intellectually challenging training and imparting in them the ability to analyze, synthesize and evaluate key theoretical concepts and practical applications in energy with an emphasis on the economics and governance dimensions of the subject matter; and
- vi. Provide an opportunity for students to apply and demonstrate a range of skills, including the capacity for independent study, through the completion of a Masters dissertation.





## Master of Arts in Environment, Development and Peace (MA-EDP)

### Introduction

The search for peace, security and climate conservation in Africa are prominent, yet complex and challenging. UPEACE Africa Programme's mandate to strengthen capacities in environment, peace, conflict, and development related areas couldn't be more relevant. Since 2004, UPEACE Africa Programme has achieved some milestones within this mandate; however, an urgent need exists to improve the skills, knowledge and capacity of policy makers and legislators to link research to policy on complex issues of environment, peace, and development. Africa still lacks a critical mass of researchers to engage in the academic, policy and practice issues affecting the climate conservation and development of the continent. Also, very few institutions or programmes exist with specific focus on African security.

This programme is envisaged to advance the development of the full spectrum of knowledge, skills, and related capacities of students in environment, development, and peace. The programme will offer a holistic selection of courses that critically examine the academic concepts, theories, contemporary debates, and practices of the interdisciplinary studies of peace, conflict, environment, and development in Africa. Students will have the chance to follow a tailored set of courses with an emphasis either on environment and security or development and peace building within the programme. Students will explore relevant theoretical frameworks, analyze, and critique policy and practice, explore case examples, and reflect on the political, economic, social, and cultural contexts to find innovative ways to invest in the prevention and transformation of violence, for sustainable development and peace to emerge.

### Programme Objectives

The MA-EDP programme is designed to meet the needs of scholars and students interested in environment, development and peace studies with a distinct focus on Africa. To arrive at the aforementioned goal, the educational purposes and objectives of the MA programme include:

- i. To introduce students to the key concepts and applications in the field of peace and conflict, and its nexus with environment, security and development in Africa
- ii. To guide students to develop their functional competences of advance reflection and critical analyses of various theoretical and practical applications in peace and development.
- iii. To enhance conceptual thinking and espouse multiple pedagogies – holistic, dialectical, dialogical, innovative, critical – all relevant perspectives of dealing with rapidly changing global environment.
- iv. To encourage empirical research and develop a critical mass of researchers whose objective is to nourish the formulation of policy in the varied and complex area of African peace, security, and development.





## Master of Arts in International Law and Human Rights (MA- ILHR)

### Introduction

The Master of Arts in International Law and Human Rights (MA-ILHR) seeks to build human capacity in International Law and Human Rights. The programme works towards building international relations that allow nations to cooperate with one another, pool resources, and share information as a way to face global issues that go beyond any particular country or region. The search for such knowledge to achieve sustainable development in Africa is prominent, yet complex and challenging. UPEACE Africa Programme's mandate to strengthen capacities in peace, conflict and development related areas couldn't be more relevant to address the growing and recurrent international relations and human rights protection. Since 2004, UPEACE Africa Programme has achieved some milestones within this mandate; however, an urgent need exists to improve the skills, knowledge and capacity of policy makers and legislators to link research to policy on complex issues of international relations and development. Africa still lacks a critical mass of peace and development researchers to engage in the academic, policy and practice issues affecting the resilience and sustainable development of the continent. Also, very few institutions or programmes exist with specific focus on African International Law and Human Rights.

On the continent, some courses in International Law and Human Rights are taught within Development Studies and Development Economics, while International Law and Human Rights postgraduate programmes are still a novelty, offered in a few universities in Africa. Courses designed to meet International Law and Human Rights are rarer in Africa. With the above juxtaposed 'needs-versus-ability' scenario, UPEACE with its vast connection and presence in the global development agenda led by the UN, the Africa Programme's mandate couldn't be more relevant. Deriving policy implications from research requires the development of innovative training programmes to strengthen capacities for analysis and development policy implementation.

It is also important to note that the Master of Arts in International Law and Human Rights programme fits well in Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, justice and strong institutions. The aim of the goal is to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity through promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. In addition, the MA in International Law and Human Rights in line with goal 11 of African Union Agenda 2063 that focuses on entrenching democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law.

The programme intends to provide students with a rigorous understanding of the rule of law in today's complex global society.





## **Master of Arts in Peace, Governance & Development (MAGPD)**

### **Introduction**

The search for peace and security in Africa is prominent, yet complex and challenging. UPEACE Africa Programme's mandate to strengthen capacities in peace, conflict and development related areas couldn't be more relevant. Since 2004, UPEACE Africa Programme has achieved some milestones within this mandate; however, an urgent need exists to improve the skills, knowledge and capacity of policy makers and legislators to link research to policy on complex issues of peace and development. Africa still lacks a critical mass of peace researchers to engage in the academic, policy and practice issues affecting the development of the continent. Also, very few institutions or programmes exist to with specific focus on African security.

The Online MA in Peace, Governance and Development in Africa is envisaged to advance the development of the full spectrum of knowledge, skills and related capacities of students. The programme will offer a holistic selection of courses that critically examine the academic concepts, theories, contemporary debates and practices of the interdisciplinary studies of peace, conflict, governance and development in Africa. Students will have the chance to follow a tailored set of courses with an emphasis either on governance and security or development and peace building within the programme. They will explore relevant theoretical frameworks, analyze and critique policy and practice, explore case examples and reflect on the political, economic, social and cultural contexts to find innovative ways to invest in the prevention and transformation of violence, for sustainable development and peace to emerge.

### **Programme Objectives**

The MA programme is designed to meet the needs of scholars and students interested in peace and conflict studies with a distinct focus on Africa. To arrive at the afore-mentioned goal, the educational purposes and objectives of the MA programme include:

- i. To introduce students to the key concepts and applications in the field of peace and conflict, and its nexus with governance, security, and development in Africa
- ii. To guide students to develop their functional competences of advance reflection and critical analyses of various theoretical and practical applications in governance and development.
- iii. To encourage praxis – the complex and holistic 'action-reflection' process necessary for synergy in theory and practice
- iv. To enhance conceptual thinking and espouse multiple pedagogies – holistic, dialectical, dialogical, innovative, critical – all relevant perspectives in a globalized and rapidly changing world.
- v. To develop students' familiarity with the conventional guidelines for the creation, interpretation and dissemination of academic material including using content in the form of a problematique.
- vi. To encourage empirical research and develop a critical mass of researchers whose objective is to nourish the formulation of policy in the varied and complex area of African peace, security, governance, and development.
- vii. To accord French speaking African students the opportunity to study this discipline in their language of choice.





## **Master of Arts in Sustainable Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation (MA- SWCA)**

The Master of Arts in Sustainable Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation (MA- SWCA) seeks to build human capacity in Water Resources Management and Climate Change highly vulnerable communities to save lives and alleviate suffering by systematically strengthening existing capacity, supporting the development of future leaders, and working towards sustainability through a global network of academic, public and private stakeholders more effectively.

The search for Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa is prominent, yet complex and challenging. UPEACE Africa Programme's mandate to strengthen capacities in peace, conflict and development related areas couldn't be more relevant to address the growing and recurrent climatic and human-induced disasters. Since 2004, UPEACE Africa Programme has achieved some milestones within this mandate; however, an urgent need exists to improve the skills, knowledge and capacity of policy makers and legislators to link research to policy on complex issues of Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation development. Africa still lacks a critical mass of water resource management researchers to engage in the academic, policy and practice issues affecting the resilience and sustainable development of the continent. Also, very few institutions or programmes exist with specific focus on African water resource management and climate change resilience.

It is also important to note that the Master of Arts in Sustainable Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation programme fits well in Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Clean water and sanitation targeting to substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030. The programme also fits SDG 13 on Climate action, which targets Improving education, awareness-raising, human, and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. In addition, goal 7 of African Union Agenda 2063 focuses on ensuring environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities through bio-diversity, conservation and Sustainable natural resource management.

# UPEACE Programs

The university offers Masters and Doctoral programs, as well as professional certificate courses. The professional certificate courses are intended to provide the graduates and professionals an opportunity at continuous professional development while also allowing them to gain credits that could be counted towards any degree program they might decide to pursue with UPEACE in the future.

The Masters Programs are designed to offer aspiring participants an opportunity to be job-ready by advancing their knowledge and practice under the guidance of internationally

recognized academics from an international Institutions such as UPEACE.

These innovative programs take into consideration the latest international and regional insights to help participants better understand national contexts. Participants develop competences required to contribute to development of their countries as well as peaceful co- existence between countries at the regional and global environment as well as cope in a rapidly changing world.

The programs are designed with participants' interests and needs in mind with highly qualified UPEACE Professors delivering the courses in Mogadishu.



## Masters Programs

The MA Programmes are envisaged to advance the development of the full spectrum of knowledge, skills and related capacities of students. The programmes will offer a holistic selection of courses that critically examine the academic concepts, theories, contemporary debates and practices of the interdisciplinary studies of peace, conflict, governance and development in Africa. Students will have the

chance to follow a tailored set of courses and explore relevant theoretical frameworks, analyze and critique policy and practice, explore case examples and reflect on the political, economic, social and cultural contexts to find innovative ways to invest in the prevention and transformation of violence, for sustainable development and peace to emerge.





## Programmes Objectives and Deliverables

The MA programmes are designed to meet the needs of scholars and students interested in various disciplines of studies with a distinct focus on Africa. To arrive at the afore-mentioned goal, the educational purposes and objectives of the MA programme include:

- To introduce students to the key concepts and applications in the field of peace, conflict, international law, environment and their nexus with governance, security and development in Africa
- To guide students to develop their functional competences of advance reflection and critical analyses of various theoretical and practical applications
- To encourage praxis – the complex and holistic ‘action-reflection’ process necessary for synergy in theory and practice
- To enhance conceptual thinking and espouse multiple pedagogies – holistic, dialectical, dialogical, innovative, critical – all relevant perspectives in a globalized and rapidly changing world
- To develop students’ familiarity with the conventional guidelines for the creation, interpretation and dissemination of academic material including using content in the form of a problematique.
- To encourage empirical research and develop a critical mass of researchers whose objective is to nourish the formulation of policy in the varied and complex area of

### **African peace, security, governance and development.**

The above objectives presume measurable deliverables including among others:

1. **Active participation, reflection and presentation of viewpoints and perspectives**
2. **Essential skills in leadership, non-violent communication, conflict transformation and project management for sustainable development**
3. **Advanced written essays as final course papers for each of the modules, including policy briefs, project proposals and critical essays**
4. **A well written final dissertation based on empirical research or thematic analysis of a problem**





# Programme Structure and Timeline

The programmes will offer 12 courses over 12 months, totaling 36 academic credits. A final 15000-word research paper (Dissertation) worth 8 credits will be mandatory for the award of Master of Arts. The total duration of the MA program is 18 months including the research work. Each student will be expected to attend a 3-week long face-to-face or online courses and take comprehensive exams on each of the courses. The course will be completed with a final dissertation which will be presented during the period of residency and graduation.

Given the various professional commitments of students, the

MA programme can be completed via two routes:

- a. Full time online-only (FO): This corresponds to completion of all required credits and a Dissertation within 18 months from the date of registration;**
- b. Full time face to face: Completion of all required credits and a Dissertation in 18 months.**

Admission to the MA will be open throughout the year, and enrolled students can begin in January or September.

## Masters Degree Programs

- 1. MA in Environment, Development and Peace**
  - a. Specialization Environmental Security and Governance**
  - b. Specialization Sustainable Natural Resource Management**
  - c. Specialization Climate Change Policy**
  - d. Specialization Sustainable Food Systems**
- 2. MA in Peace Governance and Development**
- 3. MA in International Law and Human Rights**
- 4. MA in Disaster Resilience, Leadership and Humanitarian Action**
- 5. MA in Energy, Economics and Governance**
- 6. MA in Sustainable Water Resources Management and Climate Adaption**



From a practical perspective, the programs provide a sophisticated and solid theoretical background in each module. The central idea is to apply a theoretical and practical framework to the way participants think and work the various fields. The programme is structured in 13 Modules including an independent research project or optional field visits/internship.

UPEACE embraces an innovative and interdisciplinary approach to both the pedagogy and content. Our academic programs offer specialized, multidisciplinary courses and our international faculty uses engaging and participatory teaching models for face to face classroom instruction.



# Teaching and Assessment Methodology

A strong grounding in proactive, student-centered learning is the envisioned pedagogical philosophy of the MA programme. To ensure that all students get the full benefits as face-to-face learning, interactive, participatory, task-based methodology will be fostered, to enable critical reflection while leaving room for creativity and validation of multiple points of views.

The proposed MA programmes will primarily use a variety of learning methods for teaching. Students will have face-to-face or online teaching sessions 3 days a week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) throughout the year. All materials will be composed of scientifically sourced and originally-authored work by in-house and external academic contributors. For all modules, students will be supported by faculty and tutors (facilitators) who will provide course materials and feedback on their work and will be available to them by face-to-face, email and online

sessions.

Learning will generally be self-directed, applied and collaborative. However, several aspects of the learning process will be assessed to contribute to students' final grades, including – substantive participation in discussions, individual and group written assignments, applied (creative) project development and presentation. All grades will reflect the UPEACE established grading system.

The MA programmes will be taught in English. Applicants from Arabic speaking countries will therefore be encouraged to have an intermediate or higher level of English to partake in English language discussions. All discussions will be conducted in English. Students will be offered all course guides and syllabi in English.

## Admission Requirements and Process

For eligibility and admission into the MA programmes, the following criteria will apply:

**Education:** A 3 or 4-year Bachelor degree in Social or Behavioral Science, Business, Economics and Humanities

**Skills:** A functional knowledge and familiarity with e-learning tools – internet search engines, Microsoft Word and Powerpoint, (internet access is implied)

**Language ability:** Proof of **advance** ability in English is mandatory. For the primary language, this implies either having completed undergraduate study in English or attended tertiary education in any native-speaking English country. Arabic speakers must demonstrate intermediate level English competence through a phone or face-to-face interviews. Speakers of other languages must demonstrate ability in English through an established professional language exams

To apply, candidates will submit their applications online using the link provided below. The applicant is required to submit:

- **A Completed Application form**
- **Bachelor Degree University Certificates and Transcripts (certified)**
- **A 1000-word Statement of Purpose**
- **Proof of English language competence**

To waive the English language proficiency test report requirements, applicants from non-English speaking countries may present one of the following documents:

Undergraduate or previous master's degree from an English speaking university (language of instruction must be clearly stated on transcript)

Letter from a higher-education institution certifying enrolment in or completion of an undergraduate or master's programme where the medium of instruction was English

- **An updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
- **Two recommendation letters (ideally sent electronically or if in hard copy, must be signed, sealed and dated, with valid contact information. Valid referees include former/current professors, and employers)**
- **Passport size photographs**
- **Copy of passport**

Once successful candidates are selected, admission letter will be sent to them detailing the financial terms available for them. They must confirm such terms in signature and pay the non-refundable enrolment fee to confirm their place in the programme. Once payment is made, they will be issued a UPEACE student ID and access to the 'Classrooms'.

For more information contact our office on  
**0613 9999 06**  
<https://upeace-cohort8.teachmint.institute/admission>

## Fee Structure

The fee for the MA programs is structured as follows:

Fee	Description	Amount
Admission and registration fees	Application processing, admission fee and course registrations, and examinations	US\$ 500
Functional fees	Include examination, research and thesis fees, technology and graduation fees	US\$ 500
Tuition fees	A lump sum amount for the courses offered under the respective MA programs	US\$ 4000
<b>Total fees</b>		<b>US\$ 5000</b>

## Payment Mode, Methods and Schedule

UPEACE Somalia Program offers a flexible payment opportunity for the potential graduate program candidates. Payments shall be made as per the payment structure below:

Admission and registration fee	After the submission of the application and receipt of notification of acceptance	US\$ 500
First installment of the tuition fees	After receiving the official admission letter to UPEACE and beginning of the first term	US\$ 800
Second installment of the tuition fees	At the beginning of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	US\$ 800
Functional fees	Within the second semester	US\$ 500
Third installment of the tuition fees	At the beginning of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> term	US\$ 800
Fourth installment of the tuition fees	At the beginning of the 4 <sup>th</sup> term	US\$ 800
Fifth installment of the tuition fees	At the beginning of the thesis assignment	US\$ 800
<b>Total fees</b>	<b>All the fees including admission fees, functional fees and tuition fees</b>	<b>US\$ 5000</b>





University  
for Peace



# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



## 1. Introduction

The University for Peace (UPEACE) has established itself as a leading Institution in building capacity for peace in Africa, through its Africa Regional Programme based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Africa Regional Programme, in collaboration with institutions and Universities in Africa has over the years established Master's, Doctoral and professional training Programmes with over 1000 academics, and practitioners trained.

In 2017, UPEACE Africa Programme admitted its maiden students in the Doctor of Philosophy Degree with specialization in Peace, Governance and Development. The first batches completed their coursework and are now undertaking research towards completion of the Programme. The second batches of students are currently undertaking course work at the UPEACE Regional Programme in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Currently three batches are undertaking PhD-PGD Programmes at UPEACE centre in Mogadishu, Somalia.

## 2. Programmes with Specialization In

1. PhD in Peace Governance and Development
2. PhD in Blue Economy and Maritime Security
3. PhD in Land Degradation and Desertification
4. PhD in Leadership and Sustainable Development

<https://upeace-cohort8.teachmint.institute/admission>

## 3. Programme Details

- ✓ **Programme duration:** 3 Years (1st Year Compulsory Coursework organized in 2 sessions of 2 weeks) Programme.
- ✓ **Requirement:** Primarily holders of a master's degree in any Social Science field.
- ✓ **Programme Costs:** \$20,000 USD (3 years) (25% discount to UN staff and other international Organizations).
- ✓ Application and Registration Fees (\$1500 USD) in single payment (non-refundable).
- ✓ Maximum number of candidates per cohort: **15 Students**

## 4. Degree Award

The Degree is awarded by the United Nations – Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) based in Costa Rica ([www.upeace.org](http://www.upeace.org)) and implemented by the Africa Regional Programme, [www.africa-upeace.org](http://www.africa-upeace.org)

## Contact

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## Address

Mogadishu Campus: Dr. Hassan Sh. Mohamud, Airport Road, Wadajir District, Mogadishu, Somalia. Email: [admissions@africa-upeace.org](mailto:admissions@africa-upeace.org)  
Web: [www.upeace.org](http://www.upeace.org), Tell: +252613999906

UPEACE Africa Programme. P.O. Box 2794, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel: +251116670547, +251116180993

Main Campus: Rodrigo Carazo Odio, San Jose, Costa Rica



## Doctor of Philosophy in Peace, Governance and Development (PGD)

### Introduction

The University for Peace (UPEACE) has established itself as a leading Institution in building capacity for peace in Africa, through its Africa Regional Institute based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Over the last 15 years UPEACE has organized short courses, developed MA Program with partner universities across the continent and has supported doctoral research through awards and fellowships to African Ph.D. students registered with Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa and specializing in the areas of peace, conflict, governance, security, and development.

Close to a thousand academicians, researchers, policymakers, and members of civil society organizations from 36 countries across the continent have benefited from these various undertakings.

From its inception, the Africa Regional Office of UPEACE has adopted a “collaborative approach” to working with existing universities on the continent. In its drive to produce high-level African researchers on peace and conflict issues, UPEACE collaborated with IDRC to provide research grants to 56 Ph.D. candidates registered for their Ph.D. in 19 Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Africa Regional Programme has also endeavored to provide a vehicle for the promotion of African researchers and those working on issues of Africa through the establishment of the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal (APCJ), a peer-reviewed journal that comes out twice a year and UPEACE Africa Policy Series published ones a year.

The PhD in Peace, Governance and Development offers a unique opportunity for students to have an interdisciplinary examination of governance, power, authority, conflict, peace, and development in the global and African contexts. The program interrogates the concepts, tools, and assumptions that have served scholars and practitioners in the past and assesses new approaches for addressing contemporary and future challenges. Graduate students in the program will examine the variety of actors, institutions, ideas, rules, and processes that contribute to governance, development, and security management. In addition, international organizations and inter-state relations, the study of African governance examines the plethora of non-state actors as well as rules, norms, and institutions. This will prepare them to take on advanced careers in peace, governance, and development with the ability to advance governance, peace and development theory and practice, and enhance the contributions that public policy analysis can make to the larger community.

The program fits in Sustainable Development Goal 16 which targets ‘Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions’. SDG 16 focuses on the promotion of peaceful societies, the provision of justice for all, and the building of effective and accountable institutions at all levels.





## **Doctor of Philosophy in Blue Economy and Maritime Security (BEMS)**

### **Introduction**

The Ph.D. in Blue Economy and Maritime Security (BEMS) is an innovative and specialized program designed to equip students with an in-depth understanding of the multidisciplinary dimensions of the global Blue Economy and the crucial role of Maritime Security. This program targets professionals, researchers, and policy-makers who aim to understand, design, and implement strategies for sustainable development, governance, and security of the Waterbodies resources.

The programme entails mandatory coursework and an extensive research project. The programme is targeted towards middle and high-level academics and practitioners seeking to consolidate their knowledge in the field of Blue Economy and Maritime Security. The Programme is administered by the UPEACE Uganda office but supervised by UPEACE headquarters in Costa Rica which will issue the Degrees.

### **Program Objectives**

The primary focus of the programme is on teaching and researching in the field of Blue Economy and Maritime Security. It is expected that the program will develop an atmosphere where faculty are accessible to students. Teaching and research will be complimentary with each other, and the program will encourage faculty and students to jointly publish cutting edge research materials. The PhD in Blue Economy and Maritime Security aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To provide advanced knowledge and skills in the areas of Blue Economy and Maritime Security.
- To foster research and innovation in sustainable use and governance of maritime resources.
- To create an understanding of global maritime security issues and their implications for the Blue Economy.
- To nurture a culture of evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation in the Blue Economy and Maritime Security sectors.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the Program, graduates of the PhD in Blue Economy and Maritime Security shall be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep understanding of the principles of the Blue Economy and Maritime Security.
- Conduct independent research in the fields of Blue Economy and Maritime Security.
- Contribute to policy formulation and strategic decision-making in the Blue Economy and Maritime Security sectors.
- Engage effectively with various stakeholders in promoting sustainable maritime practices and security





## Doctor of Philosophy in Combating Land Degradation and Desertification (CLDD)

### Introduction

The University for Peace (UPEACE) has established a PhD in Combating Land Degradation and Desertification in a bid to address one of the world's challenges that is endangering human existence. It is a specialized degree that focusses on finding solutions to land degradation and desertification issues. The decline or loss of land productivity or utility due to natural factors affects food production and safety, livelihoods, and the production and provision of other ecosystem goods and services. This along with desertification need to be addressed through comprehensive research that this program entails. This program is in sync with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification that was set up to address the problem of desertification. The programme will therefore focus on aspects of land and life, climate change and environment, governance and conventions and scientific research methods as core courses.

The PhD in Combating Land Degradation and Desertification offers a unique opportunity for students to have an examination of land management practices that can combat the high rate of land degradation and desertification through the various research projects that will be carried out. Graduate students on the program will examine the causes, impacts and processes of land degradation as well as the development and implementation of sustainable land management practices. This will prepare them to take on advanced careers in land management and enhance the contributions that the knowledge obtained can make to the larger community. The program fits in Sustainable Development Goal 15 on life on land targets to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030. The PhD in land degradation and desertification also fits Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action, which targets Improving education, awareness-raising, human, and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. The programme also fits well in SDG 2 on zero hunger, which targets ensuring sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production.

### Programme Objectives

The primary focus of the programme is on teaching and researching issues concerning Combating Land Degradation and Desertification. The overall objective is to promote students' abilities in dealing with land degradation and desertification issues.





## Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership and Sustainable Development (LSD)

### Introduction

The wealth gap, environmental degradation, financial crisis, trade frictions, COVID-19, and the tension between globalization and localization are affecting the foundations of political and economic stability and cohesion, making global society face growing sustainability challenges.

Focusing on the above topics, University for Peace (UPEACE) has specially launched doctoral degree courses for business leaders, corporate executives, and students from relevant ministries and commissions. Through high-quality management courses, visits to multinational companies and top domestic companies, exchanges with experts from cross-industry companies and international celebrities, students will explore the best model for promoting sustainable development and social innovation from the perspective of humanities and management. They will also track the most advanced models in the world's cutting-edge management wisdom which helps to solve the most pressing global issues at present. The programme entails mandatory coursework and an extensive research project. The programme is targeted towards middle and high-level academics and practitioners seeking to consolidate their knowledge in the field of leadership and sustainability. The implementation of the Programme will be supervised by UPEACE headquarters in Costa Rica which will issue the Degrees.

The PhD in Leadership and Sustainable Development focusses on providing interdisciplinary and multicultural opportunities to study topics related to leadership and sustainable development. Through in-depth analysis of the latest business environment, management theory and business philosophy, it aims to enable doctoral students to explore, understand and criticize theories, concepts, competencies and values, ethics related to leadership. Along the way, students are encouraged to develop and critically explore specific strategies for implementing these philosophies.

### Program Objectives

The primary focus of the programme is on teaching and research in the field of Leadership and Sustainable Development. It is expected that the program will develop an atmosphere where faculty are accessible to students. Teaching and research will be complimentary with each other, and the program will encourage faculty and students to jointly publish cutting edge research materials.



## **Master of Arts (MA) in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning (MA-STLPP)**

The Master of Arts (MA) in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning (MA-STLPP) is designed to equip professionals and policymakers with the skills and knowledge needed to manage security transitions, peacekeeping withdrawals, and post-conflict stability. The course critically examines the challenges of international peacekeeping exits, focusing on the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan, AMISOM's transition in Somalia, and UN missions in fragile states.

The programme addresses the failures of security transitions, including terrorism resurgence, insurgencies, political instability, governance breakdowns, and security vacuums. By integrating leadership, policy development, and strategic planning, the course prepares students to design and implement sustainable, locally driven security solutions.

This modular programme consists of thirteen (13) taught courses and a final dissertation, covering key areas such as security sector reform, military strategy, counterterrorism, post-conflict governance, and regional security cooperation. The programme is ideal for individuals in military leadership, security policy, governance, and peacebuilding, particularly those in early to mid-career positions seeking advanced expertise in security transition planning.

### **Programme Objectives and Deliverables**

1. Understand the complexities of security transitions by analyzing past failures in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and other conflict zones.
2. Develop strategic leadership skills to manage military withdrawals and build resilient national security forces.
3. Examine the rise of terrorism and insurgencies post-withdrawal and formulate counter-strategies for peace operations.
4. Strengthen governance and institutional capacity to prevent political instability and ensure sustainable peace.
5. Implement security sector reforms focusing on national force development, intelligence coordination, and law enforcement.
6. Enhance research and policy development to drive evidence-based decision-making in security transitions.
7. Engage with local actors and indigenous leadership structures to ensure community ownership in peace processes.
8. Promote regional security cooperation by strengthening diplomatic and strategic partnerships for sustainable peace efforts.

The MA in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning is a highly specialized programme designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice, equipping graduates with the tools to address global security challenges, peacekeeping transitions, and governance stability.





## **MSc in Blue Economy and Maritime Security (MSc-BEMS)**

The Master of Science (MSc) degree in Blue Economy and Maritime Security (MSc-BEMS) aims to develop a new generation of professionals equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the challenges and opportunities in the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. The programme integrates interdisciplinary approaches to blue economy development, maritime security, marine resource management, and environmental sustainability.

The MSc-BEMS programme strengthens leadership and technical expertise in marine governance, maritime security, and economic development through a modular curriculum, which includes core courses, applied research, and a final dissertation. It is structured into taught modules covering areas such as marine law, climate change adaptation, maritime security, coastal zone management, and sustainable marine finance. The programme is particularly suited for individuals interested in policy, governance, security, and environmental sustainability in maritime sectors.

The programme is delivered online with flexible full-time (12 months) and part-time (18 months) options, allowing professionals to advance their studies without disrupting their careers. A final graduation ceremony will be held in Somalia, one of the countries where the programme is implemented.

### **Programme Objectives and Deliverables**

1. Develop expertise in Blue Economy and Maritime Security by equipping students with knowledge in sustainable marine resource management, maritime governance, and security strategies.
2. Strengthen leadership and resilience competencies to address emerging challenges such as illegal fishing, maritime crime, climate change, and ocean sustainability.
3. Enhance capacity in Marine and Coastal Resource Management, providing students with tools for ecosystem-based governance and sustainable use of marine environments.
4. Advance knowledge in maritime security and legal frameworks, enabling students to analyze international laws, treaties, and governance mechanisms related to maritime security.
5. Integrate data science and GIS applications to improve decision-making in marine conservation, surveillance, and resource planning.
6. Support research and innovation in sustainable marine industries, fostering solutions for sustainable fisheries, blue economy finance, and marine renewable energy.
7. Promote cross-sector collaboration by connecting scholars, policymakers, and industry professionals to address maritime security and blue economy challenges.
8. Align with global and regional goals such as SDG 14 (Life Below Water), African Union Agenda 2063, & Somalia's National Development Plan (2020-2024) to promote sustainable ocean economies.
9. Advance knowledge in maritime security and legal frameworks, enabling students to analyze international laws, treaties, and governance mechanisms related to maritime security.
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This MSc programme offers a unique opportunity for professionals and scholars to contribute to the sustainable development, security, and governance of maritime resources worldwide.



## Empowering Future Leaders: Pioneering Programs in Maritime Security and Post-Conflict Transition Leadership

The University for Peace (UPEACE), a United Nations-mandated institution, proudly presents groundbreaking programs designed to empower future leaders. From revolutionizing the blue economy and maritime security to reimagining security transitions in post-conflict environments, these programs offer a unique blend of academic rigor, practical skills, and global relevance. Join us to build a sustainable, secure, and resilient future for communities worldwide.

### MSc in Blue Economy and Maritime Security (MSc-BEMS)

#### Charting a New Course in Maritime Innovation

The University for Peace (UPEACE), a United Nations-mandated institution, is proud to unveil the MSc in Blue Economy and Maritime Security (MSc-BEMS). This revolutionary program equips global leaders with the tools to tackle maritime challenges and unlock the economic potential of oceans and waterways.

#### What Makes MSc-BEMS Unmatched?

- 1) Holistic Curriculum:** Master key areas like climate adaptation, marine renewable energy, blue economy finance, and maritime law, all designed to foster sustainable development.
- 2) Innovative Approach:** Combining advanced research, practical applications, and global insights, the program prepares you to address real-world issues in maritime sustainability.
- 3) Global Relevance:** Aligned with UN SDG 14 and Somalia's National Development Plan, it directly contributes to environmental protection and economic resilience.
- 4) Flexible Structure:** Delivered entirely online, with full-time (12 months) and part-time (18 months) options to fit your schedule.

Prepare to lead in the emerging fields of blue economy and maritime security, driving solutions for a sustainable and secure future.

**Applications are now open. Join us and make waves!**

### MA in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning (STL2P)

#### Shaping the Future of Security Leadership

The University for Peace (UPEACE) proudly introduces the MA in Security Transition Leadership, Policy, and Planning, a game-changing program tailored for peacebuilders, policymakers, and leaders navigating the complexities of post-conflict transitions.

#### What Makes This Program Exceptional?

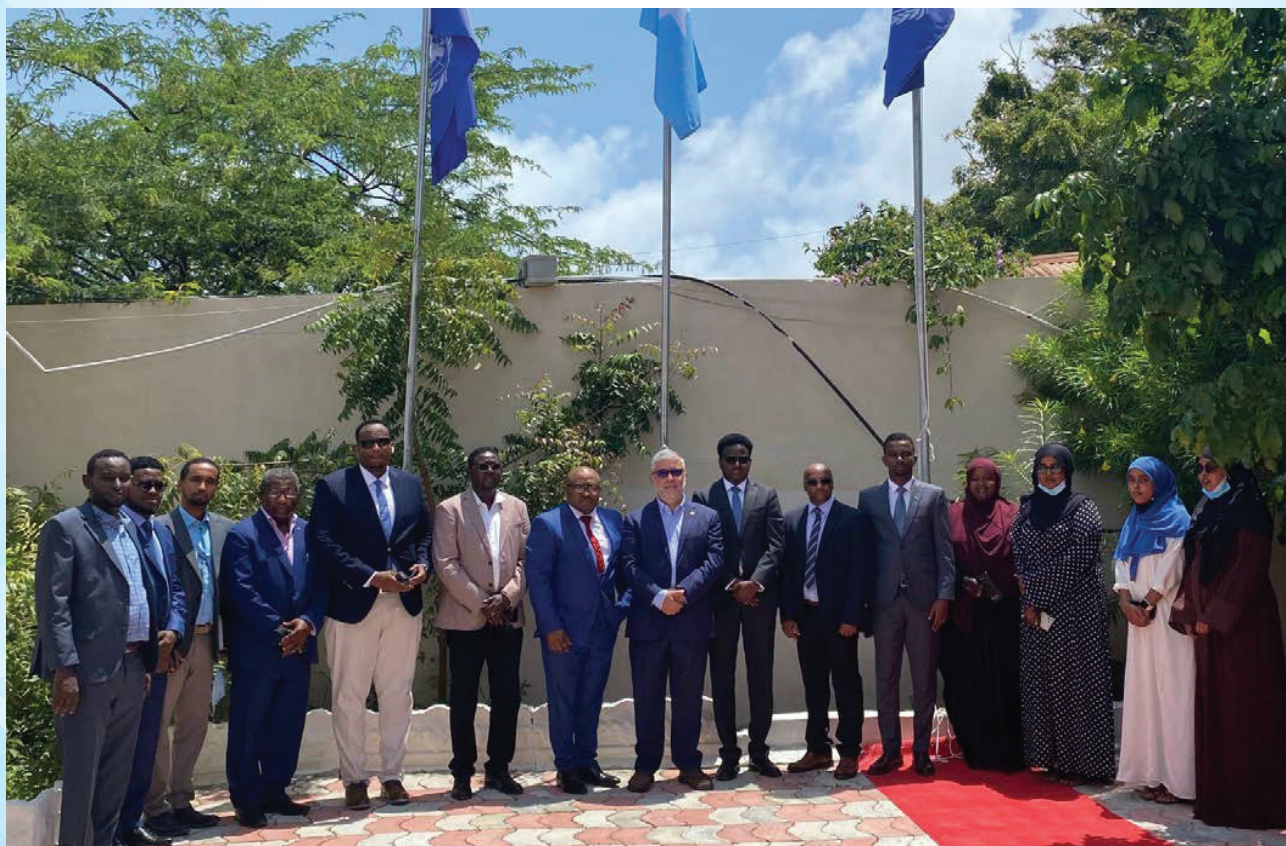
- 1) In-Depth Analysis:** Learn from global case studies like Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq to understand the successes and pitfalls of security transitions.
- 2) Leadership Expertise:** Build skills in governance reforms, grassroots engagement, and policy innovation to address vulnerabilities and strengthen transitions.
- 3 Real-World Focus:** Tackle key challenges, including the rise of insurgents, governance breakdowns, and the development of sustainable local security forces.
- 4) Globally Relevant Skills:** Equip yourself to manage complex security transitions and foster resilient, inclusive peace processes.

Be the leader who transforms challenges into sustainable peace, ensuring stability in a rapidly changing world.

**Apply now to lead security transitions that make a difference!**

**For more information, kindly contact the University through: [admissions@africaapeace.org](mailto:admissions@africaapeace.org).**





## UPEACE Somalia Certificate Courses

UPEACE Mogadishu Campus offers Certificate Courses on a range of practical subjects, providing short, UPEACE Certified learning accessible to students and working professionals.

- 1) Certificate in Business Administration
- 2) Certificate in Health Systems Strengthening
- 3) Certificate in Local Government Administration Management
- 4) Certificate in Procurement and Supply Chain Management
- 5) Certificate in Project Planning and Management
- 6) Certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation
- 7) Certificate in Media Relations Management in Conflict and Crisis

The Online Certificate Courses offer a practical approach to learning with an emphasis on solving real problems interwoven with theory and best practices. Therefore, students who successfully complete this Certificate Programme will have a good understanding of the concerned topic.

Furthermore, the programmes are offered using online methodology to give learners the utmost flexibility in balancing their professional and personal responsibilities with studies. With this approach, learners will be in position to undertake and complete the certificate in the specific programme while continuing with their full-time employment and without having to be resident at the university. This flexibility in offering the programme will enable students to learn the fundamentals in a very short time of only six weeks.

Admission is through direct entry. The financial resources will be obtained from privately sponsored students' tuition and other fees paid by the students. Each Student will be required to pay a fee for the programme. Discounts are offered for group of more than 10 applicants from institutions.

The Certificate shall normally extend over a period of six weeks (five weeks of study and one week of exam). The programme delivers to learners the required foundational skills that enable them to support the three sectors; markets, civil society, and the State, to further the successes achieved in political governance and economic progress. The programme will be run by experienced professionals with excellent delivery skills and hands-on experiential learning. The main objective of the Online Certificate in the various disciplines and programmes is to educate and develop students' competence in governance which are recognized as key to economic and political success of a nation. Specifically, this programme seeks to:

Equip students with foundational knowledge and skills in the areas of governance as key requirements for sustainable development, to improve accountability and service delivery, in analysing public sector structures, programme and policies and their effectiveness, to aid them analyse and solve contemporary and complex issues in governance in both private and public sector, and in the African politics and its effect on economic growth and development in African countries.

All certificate courses run for five weeks. The fee for each course is \$300 plus a \$50 registration fee

If you are interested to join and/or learn more about the programmes, please submit your expression of interest and full application by clicking the link.

<https://upeace-cohort8.teachmint.institute/admission>

For enquiries : [admissions@africaupeace.org](mailto:admissions@africaupeace.org)

Airport Road, Wadajir District, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Main Campus: Rodrigo Carazo Odio, San Jose, Costa Rica.



# About the United Nations University for Peace



**The United Nations University for Peace is an Institution of higher education dedicated to The study of peace.**

Created by UN General Assembly Resolution 35/55, the University for Peace has been training leaders for peace for the past four decades. It is a unique global academic institution with over 2,000 Alumni hailing from more than 120 nations. Through its Master's and Doctoral degree programmes, UPEACE trains future leaders to explore and formulate strategies and practices in various contexts to address the causes of multiple problems affecting human and global wellbeing, and thus contribute to the processes of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The UPEACE Experience is experiential and unique, empowering, transformative and cultivates critical thinking in its students.

UPEACE launched its Somalia program in 2018 to play a critical role in the recovery, peace-building and development of the country. Since its launch, the program has produced hundreds of leaders who have impacted the public sector and civil society's efforts in improving service delivery and civic leadership. Offering degree programs and professional certificate courses that have been designed to develop the leadership skills in the areas of environment, governance, peace building and resilience, the university is set to instill a lasting impact on the nation's progress.



**320**

Number of graduates  
(Somalia Program)



**3000+**

Global  
Alumni

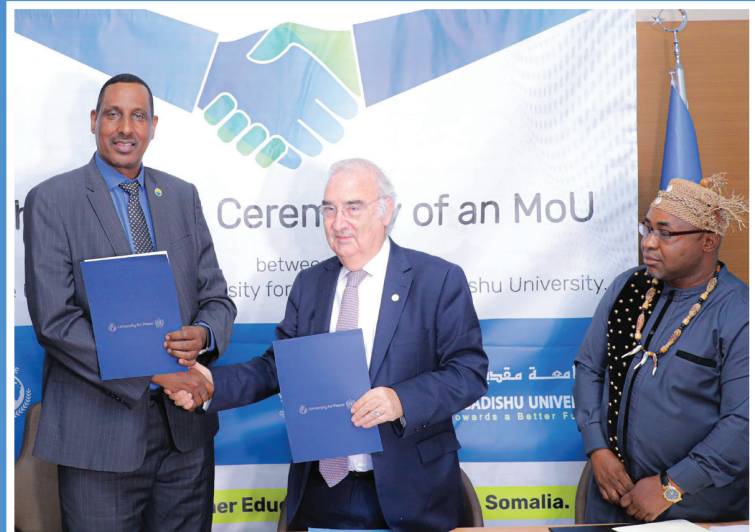


**400+**

Current student  
population



# University for Peace



## CONTACTS

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