

Counter Piracy and Somalia Capacity Building Program

2nd Expert Panel on

“Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Opportunities, Communities’ Engagement and Soft Diplomacy”



White Paper

Submitted to DP World
September 11, 2014

CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
II.	EXPERT PANEL STRUCTURE.....	3
III.	OPENING AND KEYNOTE STATEMENTS	4
IV.	PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPACTS ON DEVELOPMENT.....	4
V.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, STABILITY AND SECURITY.....	6
	SPECIAL GROUP BRAINSTORMING SESSION.....	7
VI.	SOFT POWER AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.....	8
VII.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	9
VIII.	NEXT STEPS	10

I. Introduction

Under the leadership and generous support of global marine terminal operator DP World, the Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis (INEGMA), in its capacity as Knowledge Partner, organized its 2nd expert panel on “**Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Opportunities, Communities’ Engagement and Soft Diplomacy**”, as part of the ongoing Counter Piracy and Somalia Capacity Building Program. The meeting took place on August 26, 2014 at the Movenpick Ibn Battuta Gate Hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This meeting was a continued commitment from the first expert panel held in April 2014 on “*The Business Environment, Regulatory Reform and Key Economic Sectors for Investment in Somalia.*” Where the first panel focused on supporting Somalia’s economy, attracting international investment and creating jobs for youth as an alternative to piracy, this panel highlighted the pivotal roles of public-private partnerships and community engagement in development, and the use of soft power and public diplomacy to counter instability, attract tourism and create a sense of community and belonging to the country.

The meeting, held under the Chatham House Rules, gathered around fifty participants including government and industry representatives, Somali students, as well as NGO representatives, academics, and business leaders from Somalia and beyond. A unique feature of this meeting was gathering participants from various Somali provinces, who put aside their political differences and objectives and spoke in one voice, the voice of Somalia. The meeting was attended by representatives from Mogadishu, Kismayo, Puntland, and Somaliland. Another distinctive aspect at the meeting was the participation of four Somali students who, having studied abroad, raised their voices and shared their hopes and their concerns and insecurities with regards to their future in Somalia.

The expert panel was moderated by Mr. Taufiq Rahim, Executive Director of Globesight, an emerging markets strategy company based in the United Arab Emirates.

II. Expert Panel Structure

The day comprised three sessions, with the first entitled ‘*The Evolving Role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) Opportunities and Impacts on Development.*’ Participants in this session discussed potential developmental areas that call for public-private partnerships and emphasized the necessary tools for cooperation in order to ensure the benefit of all parties involved. The second session entitled ‘*Importance of Community Engagement in the Road to Development and Security*’, focused on the need to empower youth through education and engagement and encourage greater participation of women in aspects of the society to create a more enabling and involved community. The third session under the title of ‘*Soft Power and Public Diplomacy as an Empowerment Strategy*’ focused on the two mentioned

elements as crucial tools to promote national security, create a sense of community and boost the economic sector.

III. Opening and Keynote Statements

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Mohammed Sharaf, Group CEO of DP World, followed by keynote speeches from H.E. Abdighani Abdi Jama, State Minister of Presidency in Jubbaland, H.E. Prof. Ali Mohamed Gedi, Former Prime Minister to the Federal Republic of Somalia, and H.E. Ambassador Mahash Saeed Alhameli, Director of the International Security Cooperation Department at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The session was opened with the positive fact that Somali piracy is no longer making headlines, although the threat still exists, but this paves the way for more efforts and discussions to implement reforms in Somalia. The statements focused on the significance of the Somali government engaging in the private sector as well as the important role of the Somali community, specifically youth, who should be actively engaged in and play a prominent role in the forthcoming development of their country. In terms of security, there was emphasis on regaining trust in the system and rebuilding confidence in its security measures. The phenomena of terrorism and piracy are strong outcomes and indicators of broken institutions, lawlessness and security loopholes. Tools that tackle problems on the ground in Somalia include public-private partnerships and other supporting programs that focus on reviving key sectors such as livestock, agriculture, education, healthcare facilities, airports and seaports.

The historical relationship between Somalia and the United Arab Emirates was highlighted. It was also noted that Somalia is not only a neighbor to the UAE and a country in this region, but it is a country that shares commonalities with the UAE. The UAE can serve as an excellent model in Somalia as a nation that outsources work in both the public and private sectors. It was emphasized that it is not only in the UAE's best interest to see Somalia stand on its feet, but more importantly, it is required for the country to grow into an attractive destination for regional and international investments. Security is the foremost prerequisite for any investment. The importance of UAE leaders supporting Somali stability, development and integrity was emphasized throughout the session.

At the end of this session, all participants agreed and affirmed that domestic conflicts should be controlled internally without the involvement of external parties who might have different interests to those of the people and country.

IV. Public Private Partnership Opportunities and Impacts on Development

The evolving role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is increasingly impacting social and economic development as well as the enhancement of stability and security in Somalia.

PPPs generally cover a wide array of arrangements that promote development through offering synergies amongst partners that leverage and integrate various types of expertise to reach an ultimate objective. Despite significant opportunities provided by these partnerships in Somalia in vital areas such as education, sustainable management of water, fishing, and the agricultural industry, challenges were reported regarding limitations of such partnerships and the need to expand them to include a wider spectrum of companies and stakeholders.

The historical evolution of PPPs was an important consideration while discussing the road to development in Somalia. It was initially noted that during the 1980s Somalia had fundamentally no private sector as the government supported its entire population. At that time, there was a total of five major tertiary major hospitals, dozens of pediatric hospitals, 480 health care facilities, and thousands of schools that were all funded by the government. However, 1991 resulted in the overthrow of former President Siad Barre and the collapse of the government leading to the consequent decay of security and development in Somalia altogether.

This brought to light a fundamental concept for the expert panel, which is the difference between “good fear” and “bad fear”. “Good fear” was regarded positively as the fear of breaking laws that are implemented in society and that guarantee the security of all. However, “bad fear” is related to the negative feelings that the lack of security and/or stability brings to a society that can take away all remnants of hope for development. In this sense, the notion of hope was constantly emphasized in the panel as the root and foundation of security and development for the future.

Panelists noted limitations of PPP management in various areas. It was continuously stressed by Somali speakers that the focus of development should not be limited to certain areas in Somalia, but that aid and investment should be delivered to the country as a whole and to all its scattered communities. Furthermore, despite attempts by PPPs in managing water resources, there still remains a significant shortage of food and water in many areas in Somalia. This was demonstrated in 2011 when Somalia suffered from severe drought and famine resulting in 260,000 people dying of hunger. The dire humanitarian situation was highlighted as critical and appeals were made for aid and the construction of dams in these areas.

Aviation was discussed as playing a very important role in the humanitarian crisis and facilitating air transportation was listed as a main objective for Somali development. It was noted that that Puntland government is committed to completing the construction of its first airport before 2015, while the Kuwaiti government is helping in the construction of another airport in Garowe and a third airport is underway in another area. Somalia’s determination to regain control of its airspace is indicative of its continued progress in security and stability. The biggest concern specified by Somali officials regarding aviation is

ensuring that security be provided, predominantly by the government, however with the additional help of the private sector when necessary. Moreover, the actions and contributions of the late founder of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, were mentioned specifically in the airline sector where he provided a considerable sum to Somalia to purchase jets that initiated the launching of Somali Airlines.

It was highlighted that Somalia has recently emerged from 20 years of military rule and that the notion of PPPs is a relatively new concept to the people. However, Somalia has the potential to be the breadbasket of Africa as it sits on a vast amount of untapped natural resources. These resources include uranium, iron ore, tin, copper and more. Additionally, it has the longest coast in Africa and is in close proximity to the oil-rich Gulf Arab states, suggesting unexploited oil and gas reserves. Somalia should not be reliant on importing food and resources from foreign countries but should rather be taught how to exploit its abundant resources to its own advantage in order to benefit its local population. Moreover an attendee noted, “Somalis don’t need to be given a fish; they need to be taught and be assisted with fishing,” further stressing the need to move away from traditional aid towards development programs.

In this respect, two root causes of instability in Somalia were mentioned: the lack of political representation and issues with resource distribution and sharing. Not enough political space is available for minorities and other parts of the society to participate or feel engaged in governance. Political power is directly associated with clan affiliation which isolates portions of the educated population by discarding merit as a criteria for involvement. The ability to give “more voice” to those within the clan structures is an important focus for current and future Somali leaders. This potential development would help bring key local issues to the forefront of clan relationships and their respective interests through empowerment. The issue of youth engagement is another problem on its own. In Jubbaland alone, 70 percent of the population is under the age of 30. Hence the fact that Kismayo, based on its age profile, is the most attractive center for recruiting Al-Shabaab members. Another area that was explored was the proper distribution of natural resources and allocation of aid. The former is more or less confined to certain areas and to certain individuals, hindering the fair distribution of wealth among the population.

V. Community Engagement, Stability and Security

Promoting community engagement and dialogue on the national level is a necessity in order to pave the way for security and stability in the country. Participants discussed strategies and tools to maintain meaningful dialogue and cooperation with and between the communities involved across Somalia; emphasis was placed on gender and youth and their respective roles in development. Community reconciliation was another issue mentioned during the discussion and the need to rebuild mutual trust in order to achieve security. In Somalia, community is at the heart of Somali society, as is family. By creating a wide

national consensus on the power of family, Somalia can improve itself substantially. Thus, Somalis must launch their own initiatives that target cross clan unity for the sake of the core unit of “family”.

The participation of youth in Somali society was presented as one of the biggest challenges the country is facing and a key obstacle to future development. Effective youth participation includes creating opportunities for the younger generation to be involved in influencing, shaping, and contributing to decision-making processes and local services and programs after the appropriate educational coursework. Participants discussed the importance of the collaboration and support of youth for improvement, particularly considering the fact that 70 percent of the Somali population is below the age of 30. One of the significant problems for Somali youth is their inclination to join “Al-Shabaab” rather than remain in schools. Other youth are simply “lost” in terms of work opportunities. The need to empower the large youth population through the provision of vocational training and apprenticeships was noted for the purpose of countering the risk of their involvement in illegal activities. A participant noted “attract youth, empower youth, and support the future leaders of Somalia.”

Moreover, increased awareness regarding sexual and gender-based violence among internal migrants and internally displaced communities was also deemed as crucial given their negative impact on society, particularly since participants said there are no laws and policies that limit women’s political participation, employment or education. As a matter of fact, in the 1990’s, Somali women were recognized for their significant roles in local peace processes that resulted in the reconciliation of numerous clans. Unfortunately, despite the notable strides women have made in reinforcing democracy and state-building processes in Somalia, and that they are playing a bigger role in Somali society as their numbers and education level are growing, they remain marginalized in society and are vulnerable to gender-based violence. The integration of women into socioeconomic processes is vital to empowering them. The private sector and NGOs can therefore play a key role in reinforcing their capacities and engagement.

Special Group Brainstorming Session

Prior to the commencement of the third session, a brainstorming exercise was conducted amongst the attendees regarding ways in which Somalia can be developed through the implementation of public-private partnerships. The moderator divided the participants into two groups and asked them to come up with concrete action plans that would support Somalia’s development.

The recommendations of the first group were as follows:

1. Creating proficient technical schools for youth in order to equip them with skills necessary for job markets, primarily in industries such as agriculture and fisheries;
2. Establishing joint ventures between the Somali and UAE private sectors or a UAE-Somali Business Council to encourage investments and business activity in Somalia;
3. Engaging the public in community projects such as building schools and hospitals by sharing management with the UAE since the Emirates have built a successful model of ownership.

The recommendations of the second group were as follows:

1. Attracting more investors into the country and working on establishing a framework for managing investments;
2. Investing and developing Early Warning Systems for humanitarian crises in order to build a robust capacity to avert disaster and starvation;
3. Engaging women and youth in decision-making.

Overall, this exercise demonstrated the capabilities of Somalis, on all society levels, whether business people, diplomats, or youth, on finding solutions that promoted Somalia's welfare as a country, regardless of political or clan-based preferences.

VI. Soft Power and Public Diplomacy

Soft power and public diplomacy are crucial tools in promoting national security and boosting the economic sector. Factors such as trade, investment, and aid were discussed as means to achieve positive relations between actors, which include both public and private institutions. Participants discussed the variety of ways in which soft power and public diplomacy can be implemented with emphasis on the importance of culture and policies in this regard. The paradigms of soft power were also addressed in order to develop potential strategies for cooperation that provided alternatives to military and coercive force.

Communication for Development (C4D) is a crucial driver for the effective delivery of aid programs. This approach, according to the speaker, involved social media campaigns and ensuring that every Somali owns a mobile phone to spread messages of goodwill and to help shape hearts and minds. At the same time, the use of social media could help break the chain of recruitment of youth in pursuing maritime piracy or joining Al-Shabaab. A panelist stressed the importance of strategic communication, as part of a soft power campaign, in transforming the "cold youth" of Somalia into "warm youth", making them more productive in society.

The various tactics of soft diplomacy were also discussed such as humanitarian aid and investing in trade. The case of Turkey was commonly referred to while explaining soft power

as well as the integration of UN agencies and NGOs in implementing change. It was emphasized that “Somalia is a sick patient that needs to be treated in a dignified manner; soft diplomacy is all about investment – investment in humans, in partnerships and in companies.” A distinction was made between “traditional donors”, those that maintain Somalia in all their aid programs, and “non-traditional donors”, those that don’t have ongoing commitments to Somalia. For over 20 years, aid only came from UN agencies such as UNICEF, which operated in Somalia. Currently however, international aid has been increasingly invested in Somalia from all around the world particularly from Europe, the United States of America, and the Middle East.

However, some Somali panelists argued that the country needs local solutions to their problems, and not help from outside. In 1969, Somalis went back to their original clans for protection and did not seek outside help. It was argued that the people must look back into their own experiences and learn and grow from them in order to build their own future and shape their own opportunities and developments.

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Re-building confidence in the security of Somalia is vital;
2. Combating Al-Shabaab can be achieved through addressing corruption and supporting public-private partnership programs aimed at development;
3. Domestic problems internally should be tackled without involving external parties;
4. A unified vision and approach to Somali development will facilitate investment and attract business to the country;
5. Creating hope in Somali societies will encourage communities to implement change;
6. Aid and investment needs to reach to all parts of Somalia, focusing on the country as a whole, with no favoritism, to tackle insecurity stemming from impoverishment;
7. Dams need to be built in affected areas of the country to counter famine;
8. Investment in aviation and telecommunications needs to be encouraged because of their importance in connecting a united Somalia;
9. A free zone on the coast would capitalize on Somalia’s strategic geo-political economic location;
10. Develop infrastructure in Somali ports to attract foreign direct investments (FDI) as these ports are geographically advantageous due to their close proximity to African and Middle Eastern markets and economies;
11. Implement policies that engage youth in society by ensuring their enrollment in schools and universities, distancing tendencies to join Al-Shabaab or other terrorist/criminal networks;
12. Provide the necessary tools (information, funding, and equipment) to let local people take advantage of abundant natural resources and enable the country to thrive and prosper;

13. Implement youth advisory and focus groups to incorporate them more into society;
14. Create technical training schools for youth to equip them with skills necessary for the jobs in primary sectors such as agriculture and fisheries;
15. Conduct training programs to enhance skills of women as well as granting them economic freedoms that will allow them to escape marginalization and benefit themselves, their families and the country as a whole;
16. Engage the Somali public in UAE projects and investments activities;
17. Use social media to spread awareness of community and national issues in order to counteract youth participation in maritime piracy and terrorism.

VIII. Next Steps

INEGMA and DP World are moving forward to the October 29-30, 2014 Counter-Piracy Conference to be held in Dubai, UAE. This year's theme is **"Securing State Recovery: Sustaining Momentum at Sea, Confronting Instability on Land"**. This two day conference, the fourth to be held, will examine many of the issues raised in this round-table but adding a wider context across Africa. One of the key issues to be raised in the conference is an overview of industry supported initiatives and contributions to Somalia including their impact, sustainability, and assessment. Industry leaders will measure their success and look for areas of improvement and collaboration. Another aspect to be discussed is illicit crime originating from the Horn of Africa and the best practices for combating piracy, crime, and terrorism. Human security is also to be discussed in the context of threats either man-made or by nature. Finally, youth and gender empowerment will be examined to help boost ways for future leaders of not only Somalia but Africa so that development and capacity building can bloom. Following this two-day conference, a follow-up INEGMA-DP World roundtable is planned to discuss the results of the 2014 Counter-Piracy Conference and build further momentum for building a stable and prosperous Somalia.