WORKING REPORT ON FORUM ABOUT BRIDGING GENERATIONS ON LEADERSHIP: YOUTH DIALOGUE ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PEACEBUILDING IN SOMALIA.

GAROWE-PUNTLAND SOMALIA-2026



Forum Report by:

Date: 11th September 2026

Bridging Generations on Leadership: Youth Dialogue on Political Participation, Good Governance and Peacebuilding in Somalia

1. Introduction

Agents of Peace Somalia (AOP) is a youth-led civil society organization committed to promoting peacebuilding, youth leadership, good governance and inclusive participation in Somalia. The organization works to empower young people to become active contributors to peace, stability and social development. Its areas of engagement include the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, conflict prevention, dialogue, civic participation, democratic governance and the promotion of women's meaningful participation in peace and decision-making processes.

AOP recognizes young people as essential partners in building sustainable peace and strengthening governance institutions. Its work is guided by the principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, which recognizes the important role of young people in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and decision-making. The organization also promotes the Women, Peace and Security agenda, particularly the participation and leadership of women in peace and security processes.

As part of its commitment to advancing youth participation and intergenerational cooperation, Agents of Peace Somalia organised a dialogue forum on 11 September 2026 at Cityview Hotel in Garowe, Puntland. The forum was held under the theme **"Bridging Generations on Leadership: Youth Dialogue on Political Participation, Good Governance and Peacebuilding in Somalia."**

The forum aimed to strengthen understanding of the role of youth in public decision-making, encourage cooperation between generations and promote inclusive approaches to governance and peacebuilding. It also created an opportunity for participants to exchange perspectives, identify barriers to meaningful youth participation and discuss practical ways of strengthening young people's contribution to Somalia's peace and development.

The event also sought to encourage intergenerational cooperation by creating opportunities for young people to share their perspectives, raise concerns and engage with established leaders on issues affecting their participation in public and political life.

2. Objectives of the Forum

The forum was organized to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote meaningful youth participation in political processes, leadership and decision-making.
- Encourage dialogue and cooperation between young people and established leaders.
- Strengthen awareness of good governance, accountability, transparency and inclusive leadership.
- Explore the contribution of young people to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion.
- Identify barriers affecting youth participation in governance and public decision-making.
- Encourage collaboration among youth, government institutions, civil society and other stakeholders in advancing peace and inclusive development.

3. Proceedings and Key Discussions

The forum brought together different sectors of the society for discussions on leadership, political participation, governance and peacebuilding. The discussions focused on the importance of creating opportunities for young people to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their communities and the future of Somalia.

3.1 Youth Political Participation

Participants discussed the importance of youth involvement in political processes, public institutions and decision-making structures. The discussions highlighted that young people should not only be considered beneficiaries of political and development programmers but also active contributors to shaping policies and determining national priorities.

The forum emphasized the need to expand opportunities for youth participation in political dialogue, civic engagement, public consultations and leadership structures. Participants also reflected on the importance of encouraging informed, peaceful and responsible political engagement among young people.

3.2 Intergenerational Leadership and Cooperation

A central focus of the forum was the relationship between younger and older generations in leadership and governance. Participants discussed how cooperation between generations can strengthen leadership, promote the transfer of knowledge and experience, and create opportunities for emerging leaders.

The dialogue organized the value of experience and institutional knowledge held by established leaders, alongside the ideas, energy and innovation that young people bring. It encouraged mutual understanding, mentorship and inclusive platforms through which both generations can contribute to addressing Somalia's political and social challenges.

3.3 Good Governance and Accountability

The forum explored the role of good governance in promoting stability, public trust and sustainable development. Discussions addressed the importance of transparency, accountability, rule of law, public participation and responsible leadership.

Participants highlighted that young people have an important role in promoting accountable governance through civic engagement, constructive dialogue, community initiatives and peaceful participation in public affairs. The discussions also underscored the importance of institutions that are responsive to citizens and provide equal opportunities for participation.

3.4 Youth Contributions to Peacebuilding

The forum organized young people as important actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion. Participants discussed the potential of youth-led initiatives to promote peaceful coexistence, address community concerns and encourage dialogue among different groups.

The discussions emphasised that sustainable peace requires the involvement of all sections of society, particularly young people who are directly affected by insecurity, unemployment, exclusion and limited

opportunities. The forum encouraged youth to contribute positively to peacebuilding efforts and to reject violence as a means of addressing political or social disagreements.

4. Participation

The event recorded a total attendance of **81 participants**. The participants represented different sectors and backgrounds, providing an opportunity for diverse perspectives and constructive engagement.

The participation of young people, community representatives, civil society actors, academics and other stakeholders contributed to the intergenerational nature of the dialogue. Bringing together participants with different experiences and responsibilities helped create a space for exchanging ideas on leadership, governance and peacebuilding.

5. Key Outcomes

The forum achieved several important outcomes:

1. **Increased dialogue on youth leadership:** The event provided a platform for discussing the importance of youth participation in leadership and public decision-making.
2. **Strengthened intergenerational engagement:** The dialogue encouraged cooperation between younger and older generations and highlighted the importance of mentorship and knowledge-sharing.
3. **Greater awareness of good governance:** Discussions reinforced the importance of transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and responsible leadership.
4. **Recognition of youth as peacebuilding actors:** The forum highlighted the contribution young people can make to conflict prevention, social cohesion and sustainable peace.
5. **Expanded stakeholder engagement:** The event brought together 81 participants from different backgrounds, encouraging interaction and exchange of perspectives on issues affecting Somalia.
6. **Promotion of constructive civic participation:** The discussions encouraged young people to engage peacefully and responsibly in political and governance processes.

6. Recommendations

Based on the discussions and objectives of the forum, the following recommendations are proposed:

- **Expand youth representation:** Government institutions and relevant stakeholders should create more opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making and leadership structures.
- **Strengthen intergenerational dialogue:** Regular platforms should be established to facilitate engagement, mentorship and cooperation between young people and experienced leaders.
- **Promote civic and political education:** Youth organizations, educational institutions and civil society should strengthen civic education and awareness of democratic participation and governance.

- **Support youth-led peacebuilding:** Relevant institutions and development partners should provide technical and institutional support to youth-led peacebuilding and conflict-prevention initiatives.
- **Encourage inclusive governance:** Public institutions should promote transparency, accountability and meaningful participation of different groups, including young people and women.
- **Strengthen partnerships:** Cooperation among government institutions, civil society organizations, universities and development partners should be encouraged to advance youth participation and peacebuilding.

7. Conclusion

The Agents of Peace Somalia intergenerational dialogue forum provided an important opportunity to bring young people and other stakeholders together to discuss leadership, political participation, good governance and peacebuilding in Somalia.

The event demonstrated the importance of creating inclusive spaces where young people can exchange ideas, engage with experienced leaders and contribute to discussions about the country's future. The forum reinforced the understanding that sustainable peace and good governance require meaningful participation, accountability and cooperation across generations.

Agents of Peace Somalia remains committed to promoting youth leadership, inclusive governance, peacebuilding and the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. Continued engagement with government institutions, civil society, academic institutions and development partners will be important in translating the dialogue and its recommendations into practical initiatives.

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