

Resolution: The African Union should grant diplomatic recognition to the Republic of Somaliland as an independent state.

## Definitions:

## Skeleton:

### Con 1: Economics in the Horn of Africa

UQ: The economy in Somaliland is bad, the Berbera port is good for it -> the port can only do well if Ethiopia confirms the MoU -> Ethiopia has stepped back from the MoU

L: Providing Somaliland recognition gives Ethiopia more legitimacy and political cover to do the deal -> they will do the deal.

IL: Berbera port will receive the support necessary to thrive.

I: Economy flourishes

### Con 2: Climate Change

UQ: There is bad climate change causing instability, piracy, drought. This hurts 6 million people and ignores the voices of 200 million pastoralists that are affected by drought.

L: Somaliland can uniquely help solve for climate change -> what holds them back is international participation -> AU recognition allows for participation for international memberships/relations (not necessarily recognition)

IL: International relations opens up pathways to the IPCC -> IPCC is essential for solving climate change in the horn of Africa -> -> currently no IPCC info for horn of Africa

I: Solving climate change helps livelihoods of those in Africa.

## Con 1) Somaliland Econ

**Somaliland currently has a very weak economy.**

Somaliland: The Horn of Africa's Breakaway State,

<https://www.cfr.org/background/somaliland-horn-africas-breakaway-state>, Ferragamo (25)

**A weak economy** and limited opportunities for foreign trade and investment have **stifled the government's capacity to provide services to its approximately six million citizens**.

The Somaliland government reported a gross domestic product (GDP) of roughly \$7 billion in 2022—most of which it receives in remittances from Somalilanders working abroad. The region's unemployment remains very high, particularly for youth, and officials worry about a potential "brain drain" phenomenon, with educated people migrating in search of opportunities elsewhere. Its main exports are livestock and animal products, which it ships to neighboring Djibouti and Ethiopia, as well as to Gulf states, such as Saudi Arabia and Oman. **Its**

**GDP per capita, just around \$1,500, is one of the lowest in the world.**

although still almost threefold more than Somalia.

**Luckily, Ethiopia and Somaliland have been trying to secure the Memorandum of understanding (the MoU), which involves the Berbera port.**

[Ethiopia signs agreement with Somaliland paving way to sea access](#), Ethiopia signs agreement with Somaliland paving way to sea access, Kalkidan **Yibeltal(24)**

**Ethiopia** has taken the first legal steps on a path that could one day enable the landlocked country to gain access to the sea, its government says. **It has signed** what is known as **(the)** a memorandum of understanding **(MoU) with** the self-declared republic of **Somaliland to use one of its ports**. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has previously described sea access as an existential issue for his country. His statement in October prompted tensions across the Horn of Africa. There were some fears, quickly dampened by the authorities, that this implied trying to take land from another of Ethiopia's neighbours, Eritrea. The details of Monday's agreement with Somaliland have not been made public but a statement from Mr Abiy's office said it would "pave the way to realise the aspiration of Ethiopia to secure access to the sea". **Talks leading up to the MoU have focused on the Somaliland port of Berbera.**

**The Berbera port has massive potential, but Ethiopia is vital for its expansion and success.**

[Berbera Port: A rising geopolitical and trade hub - Somaliland Reporter](#), Berbera Port: A rising geopolitical and trade hub, Jennifer **Zabasajja (24)**

Nestled on the Gulf of Aden, **Berbera Port is quickly becoming a crucial economic and geopolitical asset in the Horn of Africa**. Once a modest outpost, **the port has transformed into a significant maritime hub**, thanks to substantial investment and strategic development. Its growing importance is drawing the attention of both regional and global powers. Strategic Location and Investment: The **\$300 million upgrade** by DP World, a UAE-based multinational logistics company, has turned Berbera Port into a vital maritime corridor. **Its strategic location**—just south of Yemen and close to the Red Sea—**positions it as a chokepoint for approximately 12% of global trade** flows. In addition to modernized facilities, the port now boasts a military base and an airstrip, further enhancing its strategic significance.

[Waiting for Ethiopia: Berbera port upgrade raises Somaliland's hopes for trade](#), Waiting for Ethiopia: Berbera port upgrade raises Somaliland's hopes for trade, May **Darwich (24)**

These projects are steadily progressing. **Berbera port has already completed its first expansion phase**. The DP World-owned free zone is under construction. Large parts of the Berbera corridor, a highway linking Berbera to Toqwjale at the Ethiopian-Somaliland border; and from there to Jiggiga and Addis in Ethiopia are finalised. According to Somaliland officials, the airport is also completed, but its original designation as a military outlet for the UAE remains ambiguous. What next? **The infrastructure project means a great deal to Somaliland**, promising to put the country on the path to international recognition and **achieve economic development**. However, **these**

**aspirations will not materialise without Ethiopia on board**, which has not met the conditions under which it was to get a 19% share of the Berbera port. In addition it has not yet opened its markets to Somaliland traders. Somalilanders remain optimistic, nonetheless, expecting that especially trade from eastern parts of Ethiopia will be redirected to Somaliland. But this plan is not without risks. The pandemic and war in Tigray has slowed down Ethiopia's economic growth, and the stability of the country is on the brink.

**Currently, Ethiopia has stepped back from the MoU, preventing further advancements for the Berbera port.**

[Ankara Declaration Reduces Ethiopia-Somalia Tensions but Leaves Unresolved Gaps - Somaliland Reporter](#), Ankara Declaration Reduces Ethiopia-Somalia Tensions but Leaves Unresolved Gaps, **Tyson (24)**

Ethiopia and Somalia agreed on December 11 to work toward securing Ethiopian commercial access to the Red Sea as part of a Turkish-mediated deal that will likely benefit Ethiopia and Turkey and undermine the SFG's legitimacy. **Ethiopia will** likely **withdraw from** or at least pause **its** controversial **naval base agreement with** the breakaway **Somaliland** region **because of the** new agreement with Somalia, which is known as the **Ankara Declaration**. Ethiopia's withdrawal from the Somaliland agreement would likely lead the Somali Federal Government (SFG) to reverse its decision to exclude Ethiopian troops from the new African Union (AU) mission in Somalia to combat al Shabaab in 2025.

**The main reason why Ethiopia is unable to further pursue the port deal is the lack of Somaliland recognition.**

[Ankara Declaration Reduces Ethiopia-Somalia Tensions but Leaves Unresolved Gaps - Somaliland Reporter](#), Ankara Declaration Reduces Ethiopia-Somalia Tensions but Leaves Unresolved Gaps, **Karr(24)**

Somaliland officials said that the Ankara Declaration "does not concern" Somaliland and that Ethiopia has insisted privately that it will not withdraw from the Somaliland deal.

Future international **recognition of Somaliland**'s statehood **would give Ethiopia greater political cover and legitimacy to resume talks on a port deal with Somaliland**. No countries currently recognize Somaliland, although many countries have consulates and diplomatic relations with Somaliland. US policymakers are increasingly contemplating giving US recognition to Somaliland's independence, however.

**The AU's diplomatic recognition is what would provide the grounds to regain Ethiopia's support.**

# I) Economy and Aid

**With the Berbera port backed up by Ethiopia, economy and humanitarian aid increases significantly.**

2035 Is, xx-xx-xxxx, "Port of Berbera", **British International Investment**,  
<https://www.bii.co.uk/en/story/port-of-berbera/>

The impact in Somaliland. **The expansion of the Port of Berbera will multiply its capacity** and improve surrounding logistics facilities to create a regional trading hub. **This will provide a vital economic boost to Somaliland and support development in the broader Horn of Africa region.** This will help drive much needed development for some of the most vulnerable in Somaliland and support the continuing growth of Ethiopia, which will have a positive knock-on effect on the whole region. **In Somaliland, the port is a cornerstone of the economy and by 2035 is expected to facilitate trade equivalent to nearly 27 per cent of GDP** and 75 percent of total trade, **supporting indirectly 53,000 jobs in Somaliland.** This will enable additional trade equivalent to 6 percent of GDP by 2035. A variety of sectors is expected to benefit from the port expansion, including exporters of livestock, agricultural and perishable goods, textiles and construction materials. In addition, trade enabled by the port will increase the availability and affordability of goods for over a quarter of the Somaliland population, with the greatest benefit felt by people who are dependent on imported staple food items. *This investment is part of our partnership with DP World - watch the video to find out more about why we're working together* (There will be) 53k jobs supported through trade enabled by the port (and) 1.6m people to benefit from improved access to critical goods and staples. The impact in Ethiopia Millions of people who live in the wider region will enjoy similar benefits. **In Ethiopia, Berbera port is expected to enable trade equivalent to 8 per cent of GDP and 32 per cent of national trade by 2035. This will support 1.2 million jobs** in the economy – where 60,000 of these employment opportunities will be created through the port expansion – and increase access to vital goods and staples for 10 million people in Ethiopia. **Berbera port also plays a key role in enabling humanitarian aid to enter the region, reaching close to 2 million refugees and internally displaced populations.** As the first major foreign direct investment (FDI) and first non-mineral international concession known in Somaliland, CDC's investment will help demonstrate investability and serve as a catalyst for further private sector FDI in the region. The partnership will also invest in a number of associated logistics projects that will further bolster trade capacity, including the Special Economic Zone outside the town of Berbera. *This project forms part of our partnership with DP World to strengthen economic development across the African continent by investing in improving and expanding ports – you can find out more about the partnership [here](#).* (There will be) 1.2m jobs supported through trade enabled by the port [and] 10m People in Ethiopia to [will] benefit from improved access to critical goods\_and staples.

## Con 2) Climate Change

**Climate change in Somaliland has affected the lives of millions, through weather, causing piracy, and enabling conflict.**

Climate change in Somaliland — 'you can touch it', [Climate change in Somaliland — 'you can touch it'](#), **Wilson (18)**

It is often said that climate change will hurt the world's poorest people first. Nowhere is that potentially truer than in Somaliland, an unrecognised state in the Horn of Africa sandwiched between an expanding desert and the Red Sea.

**A prolonged drought has killed 70 per cent of the area's livestock** in the past three years, devastating the region's pastoralist economy and forcing tens of thousands of families to flee their grazing land for urban camps, according to authorities. "We used to have droughts before, we used to name the droughts, but they would be 10 or 15 years apart," says Shukri Ismail Bandare, minister for environment and rural development. "Now it is so frequent that people cannot cope with it." Somaliland has endured regular cycles of drought for the past 20 years that have intensified since 2015 as consecutive rains have failed. **The impact has been catastrophic for the nation of 3.5m people, where livestock farming accounts for about 70 per cent of economic activity.** According to the UN, 4.2m people in Somaliland and neighbouring Somalia will require food assistance next year. "Four consecutive years of emergency hit Somaliland so hard and it's all about climate change," Ms Bandare says. "You can touch it [climate change] in Somaliland — it is real, it is here." **Somaliland is not alone. Across the Horn of Africa — a region that includes Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and parts of Sudan and Kenya — drought has become the new normal.** According to US scientists, the region dried faster in the 20th century than at any other time in the past 2,000 years.

[Piracy off the Coast of Somalia | Climate-Diplomacy](#), Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, **Climate Diplomacy**

**Piracy off the Somali coast (has) significantly rose in the wake of severe drought** and famine in 2008. **Climatic change**s attributed to global warming and shrinking fish stocks and the collapse of the state **have led to illegal fishing off the Somali coast, which has enabled conflicts** between pirates and foreign fishing vessels.

**Somaliland is able to respond and play a role against climate change but lack of recognition and international participation is detrimental.**

[To deal with climate change, Somaliland needs to be a country](#), To deal with climate change, Somaliland needs to be a country, Saad Ali **Shire, Foreign Minister of Somaliland (16)**

**Many of the critical ingredients to effectively respond to this crisis are already in place. There are equitable governance structures** and a deep understanding of the social and economic context, and a dedicated committee headed by the Vice-President has been charged by President Silanyo **to lead the response**. However, despite declaring a drought in August the relief we have received from international agencies has been limited and insufficient. We are urgently calling on the international community and humanitarian agencies to assist our own efforts to address this crisis facing the people of Somaliland. Somaliland boasts an enviable record of delivering development and an appreciation of drought environments by locals and government officials alike. However, rather than allow a government that wants to help its people, the international community is trying to force it into the arms of Somalia, a neighboring country that can't control its own territory let alone protect livelihoods and environments. The international community must not abandon the 3.5 million people in Somaliland to climate change for the sake of a political delusion and ineffective policies.

**On the international level, Somaliland can play a constructive role on climate change** and a host of other global issues. Our **exclusion from the climate change**

negotiations in Paris was not only unjust, as the people of Somaliland are directly affected by climate change, but it also meant that the voices of other pastoralist peoples were excluded.

Pastoralists number over 200 million people and represent some of those most affected by climate change. Yet they had no one to voice their concerns and perspective during the latest round of talks in Paris, in part due to Somaliland's international exclusion.

[A Legal and Diplomatic Analysis of Somaliland's Quest for International Recognition - Modern Diplomacy](#), A Legal and Diplomatic Analysis of Somaliland's Quest for International Recognition, Gulaid Yusuf **Idaan (24)**

Somaliland maintains informal relations with many countries and international organizations. It has representative offices in some countries, for example, in the UK, Ethiopia, and the US, and takes part in some international forums such as the African Union's Intergovernmental Authority on Development, IGAD. However, this engagement is limited by its unrecognized status, which blocks its capacity as a signatory to some treaties and full participation in world diplomatic and economic forums. First and foremost, the ability to enter into relations with other states is one of the chief criteria for statehood, which indicates the ability of a given state to conduct international diplomacy and cooperation. Though not formally recognized, Somaliland has already shown the capacity to establish and maintain diplomatic relations. This could be evidenced by representative offices in different countries, which is a strong indication of its proactiveness in diplomacy and building international relationships. Earlier, the participation of Somaliland in international fora, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, testifies to its mental preparedness and ability to partake in regional development and cooperation. As modest as these relations are, it is a demonstration of Somaliland's brilliance in diplomacy and towards the rest of the states and international communities. Somaliland has hosted international delegations as well as participated in bilateral and multilateral discussions on security, trade, and development matters and, in the process, demonstrated its capacity for diplomacy. But lack of formal recognition puts up insurmountable hurdles in the way of Somaliland by the international community. Without recognition, Somaliland cannot be a part of agreements and treaties, international memberships, or active participation in the global economy and political systems. With due inevitability, such a constraint limits its capacity to attract international assistance and resources towards its sustainable development and security concerns.

**This is detrimental because international membership, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), assesses climate change in different regions and presents methods to resolve such problems.**

[Climate Change and Regional Instability in the Horn of Africa | Council on Foreign Relations](#), Climate Change and Regional Instability in the Horn of Africa, Michelle **Gavin (24)**



**Climate change** and climate-induced migration **in the Horn of Africa** could seriously **exacerbate(s) security risks** in the region. The sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**) reiterates the grim facts of **climate change in Africa**. The continent has contributed little (less than 4 percent) to total greenhouse gas emissions but has already suffered serious consequences, from biodiversity loss to reduced food production. In East Africa particularly, drought frequency has doubled. Yet, between 2010 and 2018, **most Horn countries received less than the average amount of climate adaptation funding** per capita for lower-income countries, despite ranking at the top of climate vulnerability indices. **Not only is financing for adaptation measures insufficient, but climate research in the region is also under-resourced.** The Horn of Africa is extremely vulnerable to climate change, as it encompasses vast drylands, numerous pastoralist communities, multiple border disputes, unresolved trans-boundary water-rights issues, and porous land borders. The region also has a traumatic and politically contentious history with natural disaster, famine, and conflict, including the 1983–85 Ethiopian famine and the controversial 1992–93 humanitarian intervention in Somalia. In fact, the impetus for forming the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in 1986 was to address drought and desertification from a regional perspective, with peace and security issues added to the organization's mandate in 1996 due to the obvious interconnection of those issues. The Horn's history informs and sometimes politically distorts perceptions of current climate-related threats.

## IPCC's sixth assessment of Africa shows that the countries in the Horn of Africa such as Somalia, Somaliland, Ethiopia and Djibouti provided minimal data.

[Figure AR6 WG2 | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#), Figure 9.13 | Temperature increases due to human-caused climate change are detected across Africa and many regions have warmed more rapidly than the global average. **Figure 9.13 (from 2021)** in Trisos, C.H., I.O. Adelekan, E. Totin, A. Ayanlade, J. Efitre, A. Gemed, K. Kalaba, C. Lennard, C. Masao, Y. Mgaya, G. Ngaruiya, D. Olago, N.P. Simpson, and S. Zakieldeen, 2022: Africa. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörrner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1285–1455, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.011.

## Climate Change research is essential for solving actual climate change.

[How researchers can help fight climate change in 2022 and beyond](#), How researchers can help fight climate change in 2022 and beyond, **The Nature Editorial (22)**

COP26 energized the global effort to halt global warming. **Research is now crucial to monitoring progress and creating solutions.** Late last year, the major climate summit in Glasgow, UK — the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations climate convention (COP26) — injected much-needed momentum into the political and business community in the fight to stop climate change. The year ahead represents an opportunity for scientists of all stripes to offer up expertise and ensure that they have a voice in this monumental effort. Science is already baked into the UN's formal climate agenda for 2022. In February, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is scheduled to release its assessment of the latest research into how climate warming is affecting people and ecosystems; a month later, the panel is set to provide an analysis of the options for curbing emissions and halting global warming. Combined with [last year's report on climate science](#), the governments of the world will have a solid review of the state-of-the-art of research on climate change. But the research community's work stretches far beyond the IPCC. At the top of governments' climate agenda is innovation. Existing technologies such as wind and solar power, whose price has plummeted over the past decade, and more-efficient lighting, buildings and vehicles will help to reduce emissions. But if green energy is to push out fossil fuels and fulfil the rising demand for reliable power in low-income countries, scientists and engineers will be needed to solve a range of problems. These include finding ways to cut the price of grid-scale electricity storage and to address technical challenges that arise when integrating massive amounts of intermittent renewable energy. Research will also be required to provide a new generation of affordable vehicles powered by electricity and hydrogen, and low-carbon fuels for those that are harder to electrify, such as aircraft. Even in the most optimistic scenarios, such clean-energy deployments are unlikely to be enough to enable countries to keep their climate commitments. More innovation will also be needed — for example, in the form of technologies that can pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. These have yet to be tested and demonstrated at any significant scale. Governments and funders also need to support scientists in efforts to understand the safety and efficacy of various [controversial geoengineering technologies](#) — methods for artificially cooling the planet, such as the addition of particles to the stratosphere to reflect sunlight back into space — if only to determine whether there is sense in even contemplating such alternatives. There are signs of renewed support for research and innovation in helping to address climate change. In Glasgow, 22 countries, as well as the European Commission (EC), announced plans to cooperate on innovation focused on greening cities, curbing industrial emissions, promoting CO2 capture

and developing renewable fuels, chemicals and materials. The EC has also announced efforts to drive new funds into demonstration projects to help commercialize low-carbon technologies. And China, currently the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, is [creating a vast research infrastructure](#) focused on technologies that will help to eliminate carbon emissions. In the United States, under President Joe Biden, the Democrats have also made innovation a linchpin of efforts to address climate change. A bipartisan bill enacted in November will expand green-infrastructure investments, as well as providing nearly US\$42 billion for clean-energy research and development at the US Department of Energy over the next 5 years, roughly doubling the current budget, according to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a think tank in Washington DC. Another \$550 billion for climate and clean-energy programmes is included in a larger budget bill that Democrats hope to pass this year. Economic modelling suggests that the spending surge could help to lower emissions in the coming decade while teeing up technologies that will be crucial to eliminating greenhouse-gas emissions in the latter half of the century. In addition to enabling green innovation, scientists have an important part to play in evaluating climate policies and tracking commitments made by governments and businesses. Many of the initiatives that [gained traction at COP26](#) need science to succeed. That includes evaluating how [climate finance](#) — money that wealthy nations have committed to help low-income nations to curb emissions and cope with climate change — is spent. Research is also needed to understand the impacts of carbon offsets and carbon trading, for which new rules were agreed at COP26. Climate science, too, must continue apace, helping governments and the public to understand the impact of climate change. From floods in Germany to fires in Australia, the evolving field of climate attribution has already made it clear that global warming is partly to blame for numerous tragedies. Attribution science will also feed into an ongoing geopolitical debate about who should pay for the rising costs of climate-related natural disasters, as many low-income countries seek compensation from wealthy countries that are responsible for the bulk of the greenhouse-gas emissions so far. These and other issues will be discussed again in November at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, where it will be crucial to

[make sure that everyone has a voice](#) and that

**research supports climate monitoring and innovation everywhere, not just in rich nations**

A new agreement made at COP26 that requires governments to report annually on their climate progress should help to maintain pressure on them to act on climate change. But science and innovation will be equally important to driving ever-bolder climate policies.

**If you vote for the aff, we remove Somaliland's international exclusion from agencies and memberships by providing them with the formal recognition they require. This allows them to provide research to the IPCC and respond to climate change domestically, helping 3.5 million people suffering from drought and 200 million ignored pastoralist voices.**

**Thank you.**