

# HOME

Horn of Africa & Middle-East Institute

معهد القرن الأفريقي والشرق الأوسط  
Integrated, Resilient, Prosperous  
متكامل. مرن. مزدهر



## WHO ARE WE

Horn of Africa and Middle East Institutes (HOME INSTITUTE), is the first institution dedicated exclusively to the interlinked dynamics of the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.

A not-for-profit organization working to strengthen communities by fostering cooperation and shared development among people in the two regions.

AIM: To build a Prosperity Corridor through Trade, Peace and Economic Integration between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

من نحن: معهد القرن الأفريقي والشرق الأوسط  
(معهد HOME), هو أول مؤسسة مكرسة حصرياً  
للديناميكيات المترابطة بين الشرق الأوسط والقرن  
الأفريقي.

منظمة غير ربحية تعمل على تعزيز المجتمعات من  
خلال تعزيز التعاون والتنمية المشتركة بين الناس في  
المنطقتين.

الهدف: بناء ممر ازدهار من خلال التجارة والسلام  
والتكامل الاقتصادي بين القرن الأفريقي والشرق  
الأوسط

## WHY IT MATTERS

Strategic location: Red Sea & Gulf trade routes - Combined market: 500+ million consumers  
- Growth in energy, food security, logistics, digital trade



1) Strategic location:  
Red Sea & Gulf trade  
routes



3) Combined market:  
500+ million consumers



2) Potential for Growth  
in energy, food security,  
logistics, digital trade



## VISION STATEMENT

A peaceful and economically interconnected Horn of Africa and Middle East region anchored in dialogue, cooperation, and shared prosperity. To foster a dynamic corridor of trade, peace and economic cooperation between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, creating an integrated, resilient, and inclusive regional economy that drives sustainable growth and unlocks shared prosperity.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To promote rigorous research, policy dialogue, and strategic collaboration that bridges the Horn of Africa and the Middle-East—fostering peace, security, and inclusive economic development. HOME aims to establish a robust framework for cross-border sustainable peace, trade, investment, and infrastructure development, leveraging geographic proximity and shared economic interests.”

# Why Integration Now?

## STRATEGIC LOCATION

Control of global shipping lanes

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Gulf capital + African labor/ resources

## GLOBAL SHIFTS

Diversification & food security needs

## DEMOGRAPHICS

60% under 30 → future workforce

## HOME'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Mutual Prosperity
- Inclusivity
- Sustainability
- Peace & Stability
- Innovation & Digitalization
- Rule of Law & Transparency



**MUTUAL PROSPERITY**



**INCLUSIVITY**



**SUSTAINABILITY**



**PEACE & STABILITY**



**INNOVATION &  
DIGITALIZATION**



**RULE OF  
LAW & TRANSPARENCY**

# Strategic Pillars



## PROMOTE TRADE FACILITATION & MARKET ACCESS

- Promote Harmonization of customs procedures and reduce non-tariff barriers.
- Promote the Establishment of preferential trade agreements or economic cooperation frameworks.
- Promote the Development of trade finance mechanisms for SMEs and exporters.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY

- Promote the Investment in ports, rail, and road corridors connecting the HoA to Gulf logistics hubs.
- Promote Expansion of air and maritime connectivity for goods and passengers.
- Promote digital infrastructure to enable e-commerce and smart trade solutions.



## INVESTMENT & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the Creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial parks near major ports.
- Encourage joint ventures in agro-processing, manufacturing, and logistics.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships.

# Strategic Pillars



## ENERGY & RESOURCE COOPERATION

- Promote the Development of integrated energy corridors for electricity and renewables.
- Support joint initiatives on green energy and renewable energy
- Promote Enhancement of water resource management through technology partnerships.



## HUMAN CAPITAL & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the Establishment of vocational and technical training programs in trade logistics and manufacturing.
- Support academic exchange and research partnerships between universities.
- Promote digital literacy and entrepreneurship programs for youth.



## PEACE, MEDIATION & SECURITY

### Key Components:

- Conflict Resolution & Mediation
- Promote Cross-border Security Cooperation
- Peace building Platforms

### Practical Linkages:

- Aligns with AU and IGAD peace frameworks.
- Complements GCC security dialogue initiatives

# Strategic Pillars



## POLICY DIALOGUE & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

### Purpose:

To drive coordinated, evidence-based policies and public-private partnerships that align development goals across regions.

### Key Components:

- Promote Bilateral & Multilateral Dialogue Platforms: Create formal channels (e.g., Red Sea Council, Horn-GCC Dialogue) for joint planning on trade, migration, infrastructure, and energy.
- Promote regional Development Finance Mechanisms for the two regions.



## RESEARCH & STRATEGIC ADVISORY

### Purpose:

To ensure informed decision-making, promote mutual understanding, and de-risk investments through evidence and foresight.

### Key Components:

- Policy Research Hubs: Establish think tank partnerships to produce insights on migration, resource competition, climate security, and investment trends.
- Strategic Foresight & Risk Analysis: Use scenario planning and geopolitics mapping to anticipate regional disruptions (e.g., shipping choke points, drought).
- Knowledge Sharing Networks: Facilitate learning exchanges on regulatory policy, statecraft, and multilateral diplomacy across Horn-GCC institutions.

### Practical Linkages:

- Partnerships between universities, think tanks, and government strategy units

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAKEHOLDERS

- **Governments:** Diversification & job creation
- **Private Sector:** New markets & Special Economic Zone incentives (SEZ)
- **Investors:** Infrastructure, logistics, renewables
- **Development Partners:** Stability & growth impact



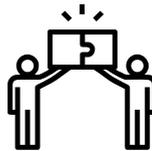
**GOVERNMENTS:**  
DIVERSIFICATION  
& JOB CREATION



**PRIVATE SECTOR:**  
NEW MARKETS &  
SEZ INCENTIVES



**INVESTORS:**  
INFRASTRUCTURE,  
LOGISTICS,  
RENEWABLES



**DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERS:**  
STABILITY  
& GROWTH IMPACT

## ACTION PLAN FOR 2025-2027

### Objective:

Sustainable economic growth through integration

### Proposed Next Steps:

Establish Regional Economic Integration Taskforce - Launch Horn-Middle East Trade Forum 2025 - Develop Policy Roadmap & Implementation Framework

## PROPOSED NEXT STEPS:

1

Establish Regional Economic  
Integration Taskforce

2

Launch Horn-Middle East  
Trade & Economic Forum

3

Develop Policy Roadmap &  
Implementation Framework  
for Sustainable Peace & Stability

## BOARD MEMBERS

### NIMO JIRDEH - DIRECTOR / BOARD MEMBER

A circular portrait of Nimo Jirdeh, a woman wearing a yellow hijab and a red blazer, set against a white background with gold concentric circles.

Nimo Jirdeh is a leading Governance and Public Sector Specialist in the Horn of Africa and Middle-East, widely recognized for her visionary leadership, deep community insight and a strong track record in advancing peace, governance and development across the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. She is the Founder and Director of the HOME Institute (Horn of Africa and Middle East Institute). Through HOME, Nimo has created a credible and inclusive platform for knowledge exchange, dialogue and collaborative action among thought leaders, civil society, academia and policy actors. With over 15 years of experience in international development, governance reform, and policy advisory, Nimo is known for her ability to navigate complex political landscapes, lead cross-sectoral partnerships and design transformative and inclusive programs to strengthen institutions. She previously served as Governance and Policy Advisor for the Horn of Africa at the Embassy of Switzerland for eight years and has held senior advisory roles with leading international NGOs including Oxfam International. She has completed higher education and advanced training in public policy, development practice, and political economy at prestigious institutions including Harvard University, the Graduate Institute of Geneva, the University of Basel and Edith Cowan University.

### Dr. ABDULLAH BAABOOD- BOARD MEMBER

A circular portrait of Dr. Abdullah Baabood, a man wearing a white thobe and a white ghutra, set against a white background with gold concentric circles.

Dr. Abdullah is an Omani scholar who taught at different universities and institutions in Europe, Asia and the Gulf, and was a visiting professor at the Middle Institute, National University of Singapore and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar. He has previously held the positions of the Director of the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University and the Director of the Gulf Research Center at the University of Cambridge, UK. Abdullah's teaching and research interest focuses on international relations, international political economy, especially on globalization and regionalism. His area focus is on the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economic, social and political development and their external relations. He has published widely and is frequently invited to speak on international conferences and seminars as well media programs. Dr. Baabood currently holds the Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies and a visiting professor at the Faculty of International Research and Education, Waseda University, Tokyo-Japan.

## BOARD MEMBERS



### PROF. FATUMA AHMED ALI REGIONAL POLICY & DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

Prof. Fatuma Ahmed Ali is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) of the United States International University – Africa (USIU-A), Kenya. She is a Visiting Faculty and an External researcher at the Inter university Institute for Social Development & Peace (IUDESP) of the Universitat Jaume I, Castellón, Spain.

She is also an Associate Fellow at the Horn Institute, Kenya, a gender advisor for the Somali Women's Study Centre (SWSC), Somalia, a Board Chair of the NGO Coalition of Violence Against Women (COVAW), and an Advisory Board member at the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP).

Her areas of specialization are in the field of International Relations, Peace, Conflict and Development Studies, Security and Gender Studies. Her research interest focuses on gender analysis, gender and violent extremism, gender, labour migration and diaspora returnees in development and humanitarian initiatives, women's agency in regime change, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), peace and security, elections, informal institutions/actors in peace building, and politics in the Horn of Africa. Also developing interest in the Horn-Gulf relations, gender analysis of the Blue Economy and women's digital financial inclusion in the Horn of Africa region.

Prof. Ali is a Gender expert, political and security analyst, feminist researcher, pan-Africanist, mentor, and academic activist with almost 20 years of experience. She has extensive experience in research, publication, curriculum development/review, training, consultancy, project evaluation, and rapid assessment. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, briefs, opinion pieces, co-edited an academic journal (Journal of British Academy), one edited and self-authored book in both English and Spanish languages. She is also a recipient of several grants and the prestigious Peace Prize 2020 award of the City of Castellon (Premio Por la Paz Ciudad de Castellon), Spain.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### JOHAN SVENSSON

#### Senior Strategic Advisor

Johan is a highly respected expert in peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa, his extensive experience spans over 30 years. In 1995, he established the Life & Peace Institute's regional office in Kenya, serving as the Resident Representative for more than a decade. Subsequently, he joined Interpeace, where he worked for another ten years, five of which were as the Regional Director for East and Central Africa. The peacebuilding work with Interpeace also involved support to civil society partners and intergovernmental organizations in the Great Lakes region and within Kenya, in particular northern Kenya and the border areas with Somalia. Later, he served as a diplomat with the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi, focusing on Somalia. During this tenure at the Embassy, he represented the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs during Sweden's membership the United Nations Security Council (2017–2018) and later the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) as a Senior Peace and Reconciliation in Advisor until January 2025. Currently, he is the Senior Strategic Advisor for Acacia Dialogue Center.

### ALI IBRAHIM (PhD)

#### Director of Programs & Operations

Ali Ibrahim - is a seasoned development expert with over 15 years of experience specializing in civil society strengthening, inclusive local governance, conflict resolution, environmental peacebuilding, climate change adaptation, and community stabilization. He has served as a technical expert and led programs for various international organizations, donors, governments, and civil society organizations.

Ali played an instrumental role in establishing the first District Councils and Administrations in Somalia, significantly enhancing local governance structures. Among his notable achievements are the development of the National Reconciliation Framework and the National Communication Strategy for the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism for the Federal Government of Somalia. In addition to his programmatic work, Ali has extensive experience in research and training in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS), focusing on development challenges in transitioning democracies and post-conflict environments. He is currently a part-time Senior Consultant for Acacia Dialogue Center, where he conducts comprehensive recovery and peace building assessments, facilitates dialogues, and fosters knowledge sharing among partners and within donor networks.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAUNCH



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAUNCH

We are grateful for the incredible support from distinguished guests from the Middle-East, Diplomats from various Embassies in Kenya, and our local and international Partners. Their presence and contributions during the launch of HOME Institute (Horn of Africa and Middle East Institute) was testament to the shared commitment we hold toward a future shaped by cooperation, understanding, and common purpose.

It is the beginning of a bold and transformative journey. A journey that reimagines the relationships between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East—not as separate spheres—but as regions deeply interwoven by history, culture, movement, and mutual aspiration. The vision behind HOME is clear and compelling: to help shape a peaceful, resilient, and interconnected future—built on trust, dialogue, and shared prosperity. This vision echoes the very principles that anchor our foreign policies, cultural traditions, and social values. We envision this institute becoming a center of excellence, a trusted convener, and indeed—a home—for courageous ideas, strategic partnerships, and transformative action.

## Publications and Policy briefs

1. Navigating New Frontiers: East Africa's Economic Diplomacy with the Middle East – Benefits, Challenges, and Long-term Implications (upcoming)
2. Harnessing Cross-Border Trade for Peace and Integration in the Horn Of Africa.
3. Bridging Horizons: Analyzing East Africa's Economic Diplomacy with the Middle East (upcoming)
4. Bridging the Gap: Integrating Women-Led Initiatives into Peace Negotiation and Mediation in the IGAD region.
5. Climate adaptation strategies, resilience, and action plans in the Horn of Africa.
6. Powering Progress: Transforming Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) with Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience.
7. Harnessing Moranism as Catalyst for Peace, Climate Resilience and Development in Marsabit and Samburu Counties of Kenya.
8. How climate change caused the worst drought, conflicts and sexual gender-based in Kenya's ASAL areas.
9. Empowering Communities, Elevating Lives Through Better Governance.
10. Humility on the Journey of State-Rebuilding in Somalia.
11. Why Somalia's reconciliation is a process issue and a governance question!



## PARTNERS



**CARPO**

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in Partnership with the Orient

مجلس مسقط للسياسات  
**Muscat Policy Council**



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