

December 18, 2025



Office of the Prime Minister  
Federal Republic of Somalia

## Closing Remarks by H.E. Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre at the 35th Ordinary Policy Organs Meetings, Council of Ministers of Defence & Security of the Eastern Africa Region, Mogadishu, Somalia

*Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security,*

*Honourable Ministers,*

*Chairperson of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Panel of Elders,*

*Distinguished Chiefs of Defence Staff,*

*Chair of the Friends of EASF,*

*Members of the Diplomatic Corps,*

*Director of the EASF,*

*Distinguished Delegates,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased to address this 35th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security here in Mogadishu. Your presence in Somalia is both symbolic and meaningful. It reflects the progress our country has made and the confidence of the region in Somalia's continued journey towards peace, stability and recovery. It also affirms the importance of strong regional solidarity grounded in respect for sovereignty and shared responsibility.



Throughout Eastern Africa, our people seek peace, security and prosperity. Yet our region continues to face serious challenges. Terrorism, transnational crime, maritime insecurity, climate-related shocks and humanitarian crises do not respect borders. These threats demand collective responses that combine security, development and diplomacy, and that strengthen institutions rather than replace them.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force is a vital instrument in this collective effort. Over the past days, experts and Chiefs of Defence and Security have conducted thorough and constructive deliberations. They reviewed progress on previous decisions, assessed regional security environment, examined key reports, and refined plans and budgets for the coming period. The recommendations before you are practical and forward-looking, so that EASF remains credible, responsive and sustainable.

Your leadership is critical in three areas. First, strategic direction. Clear policy alignment between national priorities, regional mechanisms and African Union frameworks will strengthen coherence and effectiveness. Strong political guidance ensures that EASF's mandate and operations are well defined and fully integrated into broader peace and security efforts.

The second one is about sustainability and resources. Effective mandates require predictable and adequate financing. This calls for shared responsibility among member states, innovative financing approaches, and



principled partnerships that respect African ownership. Investment in capabilities, logistics, planning and institutional systems is essential for readiness and impact.

Third, political support and accountability. When EASF is deployed, it must do so with clear mandates, strong political backing and consistent oversight. High standards of conduct, respect for international humanitarian law, and protection of human rights are non-negotiable. Learning from experience and applying lessons consistently will strengthen future operations.

At the heart of all our efforts are our people. Security is not an end in itself. It is a means to protect lives, preserve respect and create space for development and reconciliation. Women, children and youth must be central to our peace and security agenda. Linking security interventions with long-term development priorities will help transform stability into lasting peace.

Peace is a shared journey. It requires unity of purpose, mutual trust and sustained commitment. The decisions you take at this session will shape the future of regional peace and the role of the Eastern Africa Standby Force in safeguarding it. Thank you for your dedication and wish you success as you conclude your deliberations.