

Telegaraf

**Kenya and Ethiopia:
Interference in Somalia's
Sovereignty**

Presented by
Telegaraf

YEAR 2025

The relationship between Somalia and its neighboring countries, Kenya and Ethiopia, has long been marked by conflict, political interference, and territorial disputes.

These two nations, while integral to the region's stability, have often pursued policies and actions that challenge Somalia's sovereignty and hinder its progress.

This report examines the historical and ongoing roles of Kenya and Ethiopia in Somalia, shedding light on their interventions and their implications for regional stability.

How to address the challenges posed by neighboring countries to Somalia's sovereignty?



Kenya's Role

Address military interventions and territorial disputes



Ethiopia's Role

Manage military presence and political manipulation

INTRODUCTION



Kenya and Ethiopia, as Somalia’s neighbors, hold significant influence in the Horn of Africa. However, their interactions with Somalia have frequently been contentious.

From military incursions to political manipulation, these nations have actively interfered in Somalia’s internal affairs. Such actions have not only strained diplomatic relations but have also impacted Somalia’s recovery and development.

This report delves into the motives and consequences of these interventions, exploring how Somalia can address these challenges to reclaim its sovereignty and ensure regional stability.

Influence and Interference in Somalia

Political Manipulation

Political manipulation reflects significant interference with low influence.

Low Influence

Diplomatic Relations

Diplomatic relations indicate low influence and interference.

High Interference

Military Incursions

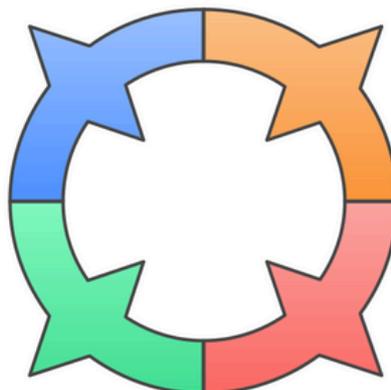
Military incursions demonstrate high influence and interference in Somalia.

High Influence

Territorial Disputes

Territorial disputes show high influence with minimal interference.

Low Interference



KENYA'S ROLE IN SOMALIA

Kenya's involvement in Somalia has been multifaceted, encompassing military, political, and territorial dimensions.

Military Interventions

Kenya's military intervention in Somalia began in 2011 under the pretext of combating terrorism and protecting its borders from the activities of Al-Shabaab.

However, this unilateral incursion, conducted without prior consultation with the Somali government, was widely viewed as a violation of Somalia's sovereignty. Kenyan troops, initially presented as part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), have remained in the country, often acting outside the mission's mandate.

Their prolonged presence has fueled suspicions about Kenya's true intentions, with many Somalis perceiving their actions as aimed at consolidating influence rather than fostering peace.

Moreover, Kenyan forces have been accused of exploiting Somalia's natural resources and undermining its territorial integrity.

Reports of illegal trade and unauthorized military activities have further strained relations between the two nations.

These actions have led to widespread resentment among the Somali population, who view Kenya's military presence as an impediment to national sovereignty and stability.

How to address Kenya's military intervention in Somalia?



Sovereignty Violation

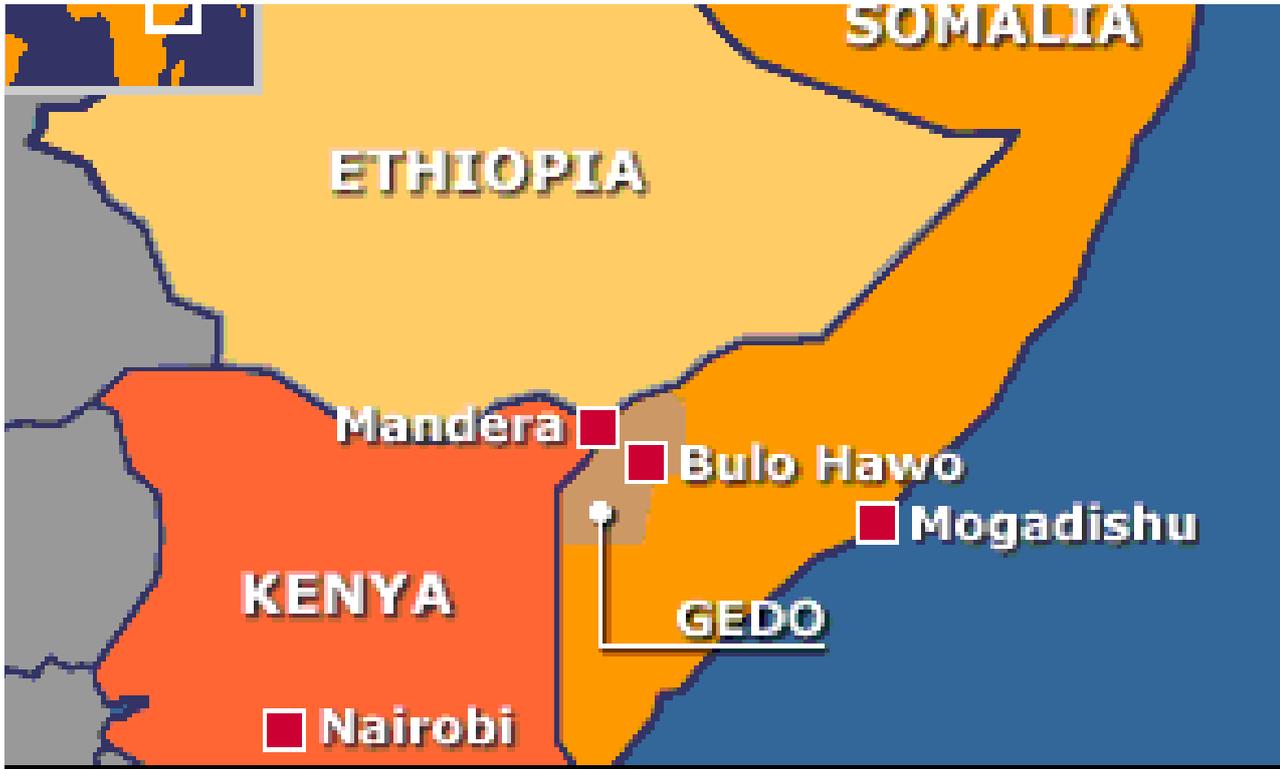
Address exploitation and unauthorized activities



Security Concerns

Enhance border protection and counter-terrorism

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES



Kenya's maritime dispute with Somalia over oil-rich waters in the Indian Ocean has been a significant source of tension. The contested area, believed to hold vast reserves of hydrocarbons, has been the subject of legal proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In 2021, the ICJ ruled in favor of Somalia, reaffirming its claim to the disputed waters. Despite the ruling, Kenya has been reluctant to fully acknowledge the decision, creating a lingering atmosphere of mistrust and hostility.

This dispute is emblematic of broader territorial ambitions that Kenya has pursued in the region.

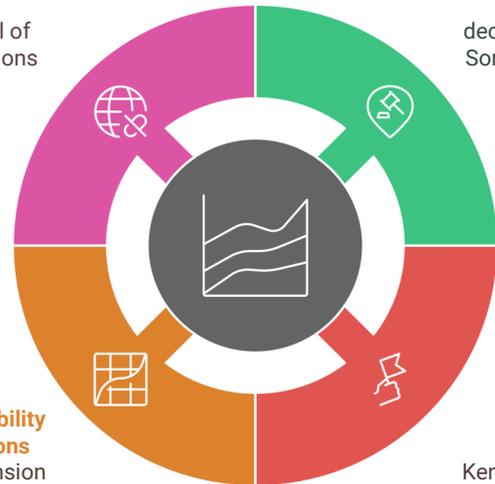
Attempts to assert control over Somali maritime territory have not only undermined bilateral relations but have also complicated efforts to achieve regional stability.

These actions have drawn criticism from international observers, who view Kenya's approach as contrary to the principles of international law and good neighborliness.

Kenya-Somalia Maritime Dispute

International Criticism
Global disapproval of Kenya's actions

ICJ Ruling
The court's decision favoring Somalia's claims



Regional Stability Complications
Increased tension in the region

Kenya's Reluctance
Kenya's refusal to fully accept the ruling



POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

Kenya's political interference in Somalia is most evident in its involvement in Jubaland, a semi-autonomous region in southern Somalia.

Kenya has openly supported Ahmed Madobe, the long-standing leader of Jubaland, whose administration has often clashed with Somalia's federal government.

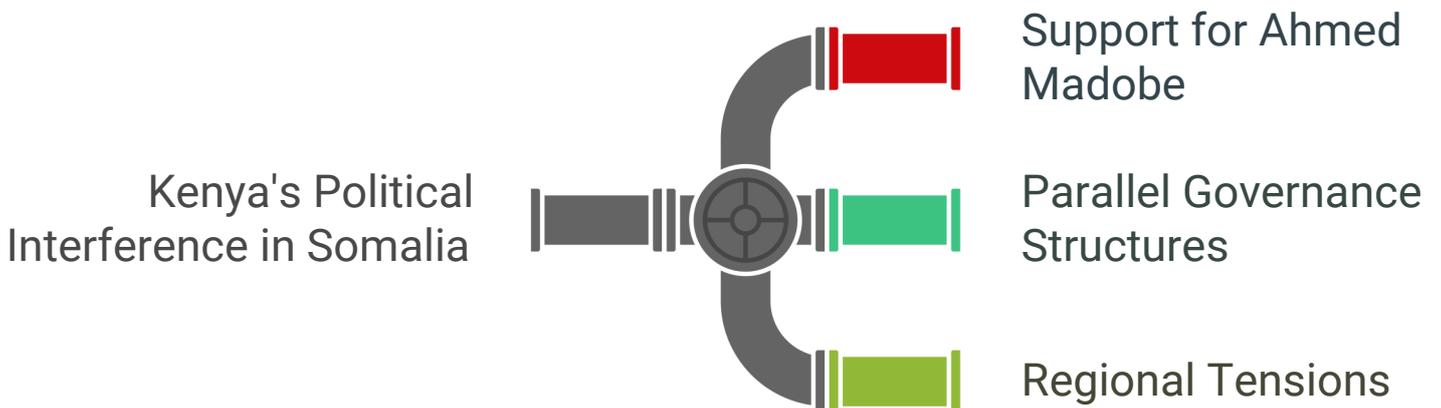
By backing Madobe, Kenya has effectively positioned itself as a powerbroker in Somali politics, further exacerbating divisions within the country. This interference extends beyond mere political support.

Kenyan forces stationed in Jubaland have been accused of undermining Somalia's federal authority by facilitating parallel governance structures.

Such actions have deepened internal divisions and weakened the Somali government's ability to assert control over its territories.

The prolonged backing of Ahmed Madobe has also fueled regional tensions, with many Somalis viewing Kenya's actions as an attempt to destabilize their nation for strategic gain.

Kenya's Multifaceted Influence in Somalia



ETHIOPIA'S ROLE IN SOMALIA

Ethiopia's interventions in Somalia have been equally complex, driven by strategic, historical, and geopolitical motives.

MILITARY PRESENCE

Ethiopia's military involvement in Somalia dates back to its 2006 invasion under the guise of combating terrorism and supporting Somalia's transitional government.

This intervention, while initially welcomed by some, quickly became a source of controversy due to widespread reports of human rights abuses and indiscriminate violence by Ethiopian forces.

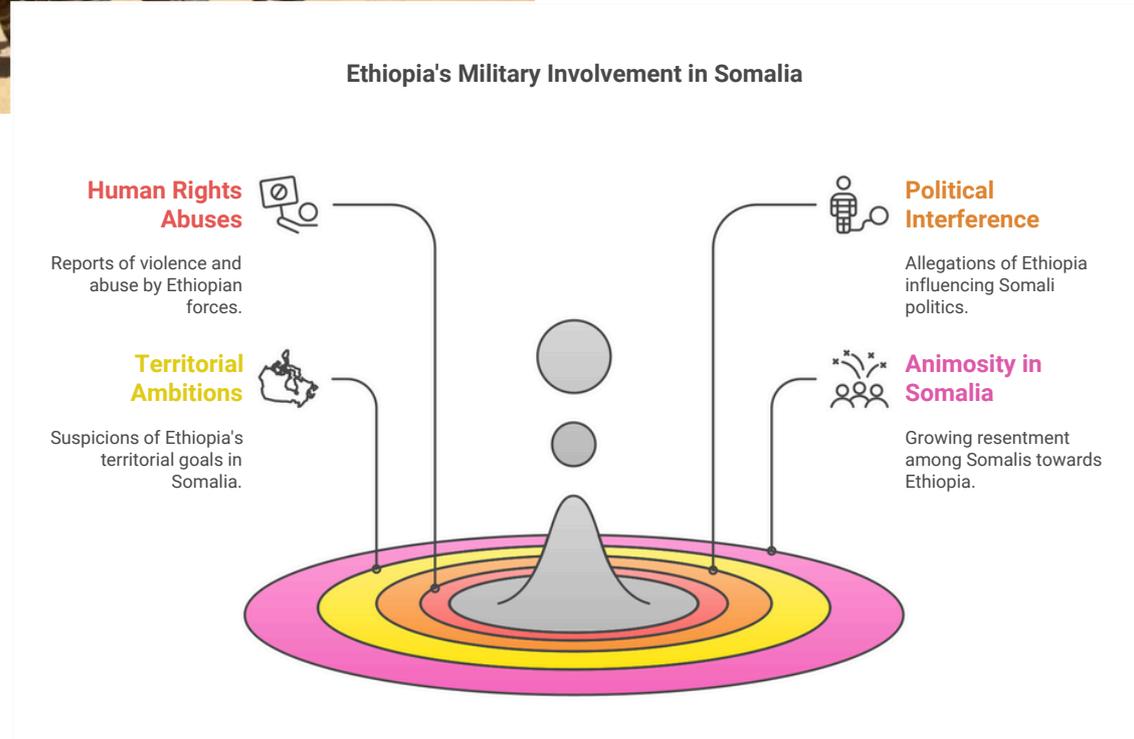
Their actions alienated many Somalis, fostering deep-seated animosity toward Ethiopia's presence in the country. In subsequent years, Ethiopian troops have continued to operate in Somalia, often as part of AMISOM.

However, their role has frequently exceeded the bounds of peacekeeping, with allegations of political interference and territorial ambitions.

These activities have raised questions about Ethiopia's commitment to Somalia's sovereignty and its true motives for maintaining a military presence.



Ethiopia's Military Involvement in Somalia



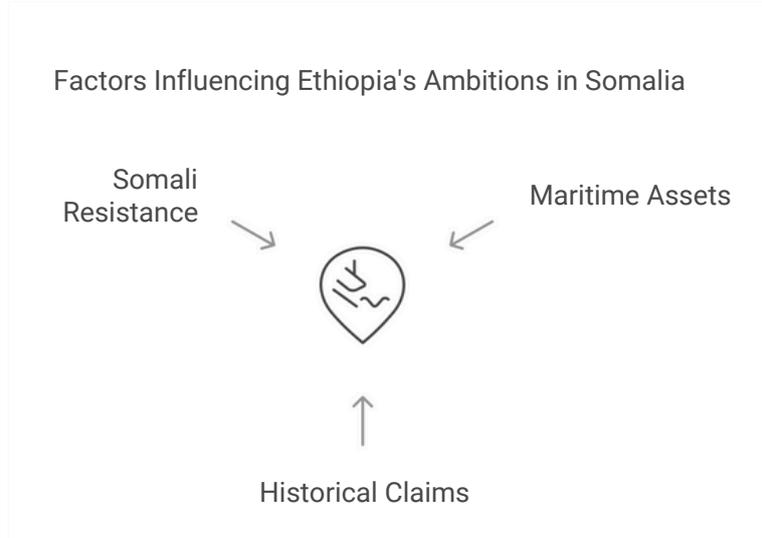
TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS

Ethiopia has long harbored ambitions to exert influence over Somalia's territory, particularly its maritime assets.

While Ethiopia is a landlocked country, its interest in Somalia's coastal resources has been a point of contention. Somali authorities have consistently opposed these ambitions, viewing them as a direct threat to their nation's sovereignty.

Ethiopia's territorial aspirations are further complicated by its historical claims to parts of Somalia.

These claims, rooted in colonial-era treaties and geopolitical calculations, continue to strain relations between the two nations. The Somali government has remained resolute in defending its territorial integrity, resisting any attempts by Ethiopia to encroach on its land or waters.



POLITICAL MANIPULATION AND SHIFTING ALLIANCES

Ethiopia’s political strategy in Somalia has often involved supporting factions and leaders who align with its interests. By cultivating relationships with regional actors, Ethiopia has sought to influence Somali politics in ways that serve its strategic objectives. This approach has undermined Somalia’s unity, as Ethiopian-backed factions often operate at odds with the federal government.

Ethiopia’s approach to Somalia’s leadership has been inconsistent, marked by both opposition and support depending on the political climate. Following the collapse of Somalia’s central government, Ethiopia vehemently opposed the first transitional government led by Abdiqasim Salad Hassan.

Ethiopia raised a significant armed opposition against this administration, providing weapons and resources to anti-government factions.

In contrast, Ethiopia supported the government of Abdullahi Yusuf, supplying substantial troops to aid his administration.

However, this support came at a heavy cost, as Ethiopian forces were accused of committing numerous atrocities in Somalia during their involvement.

The governments of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud also faced opposition from Ethiopia. Both leaders resisted Ethiopian interference in Somali affairs, leading to strained relations.

Instead of supporting these administrations, Ethiopia focused on empowering regional leaders, further fragmenting Somalia’s political landscape.

Ethiopia’s relationship with Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo’s administration marked a departure from its previous stance.

Ethiopia provided strong backing to Farmajo, reducing certain security threats in Somalia but also engaging in controversial actions that undermined the country’s sovereignty.

These included the extradition of Somali citizen Qalbi Dhagax and a contentious proposal by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to address Somaliland’s status.

Ethiopian politicians have often expressed discomfort with the idea of a Somali president hailing from Mogadishu, citing nationalist sentiments in the capital that they perceive as hostile to Ethiopia. This sentiment has influenced Ethiopia’s approach to Somali politics, with support or opposition frequently aligned with leaders’ regional origins and political alignments.

OPPOSED BY ETHIOPIA



SUPPORTED BY ETHIOPIA



BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL STABILITY

Lessons from Global Examples

The challenges Somalia faces are not unique. Other nations, such as Congo and Sudan, have also experienced the destabilizing effects of neighboring interventions.

Historical examples demonstrate that external interference often escalates conflicts rather than resolving them.



Impact of Interference on Stability

Escalation of Conflicts
External meddling often worsens regional tensions.



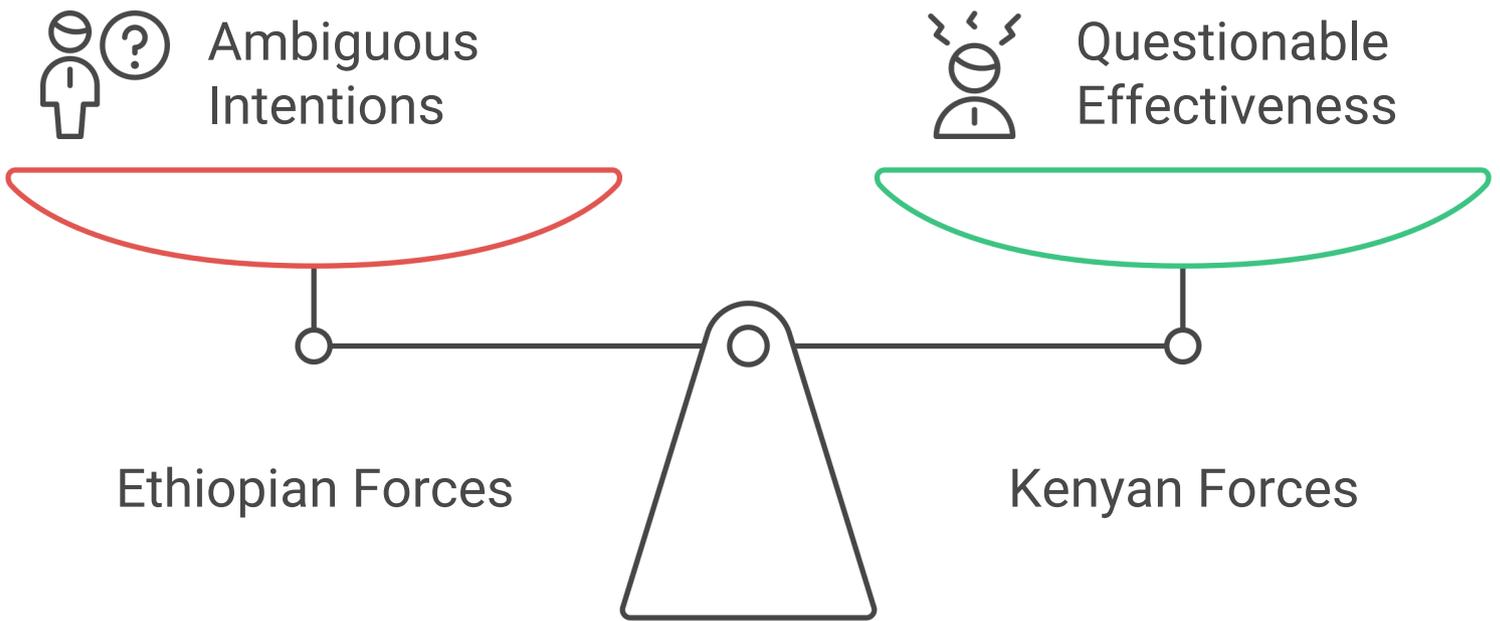
Congo's Destabilization
External interventions have exacerbated conflicts in Congo.

Sudan's Turmoil
Interference has intensified Sudan's internal strife.

IMPACT ON PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS

In regions where neighboring countries deploy troops, peacekeeping missions often fail to deliver long-term stability.

For example, the presence of Ethiopian and Kenyan forces in Somalia has raised questions about their true intentions and effectiveness.



Evaluating the Roles of Ethiopian and Kenyan Forces in Somalia



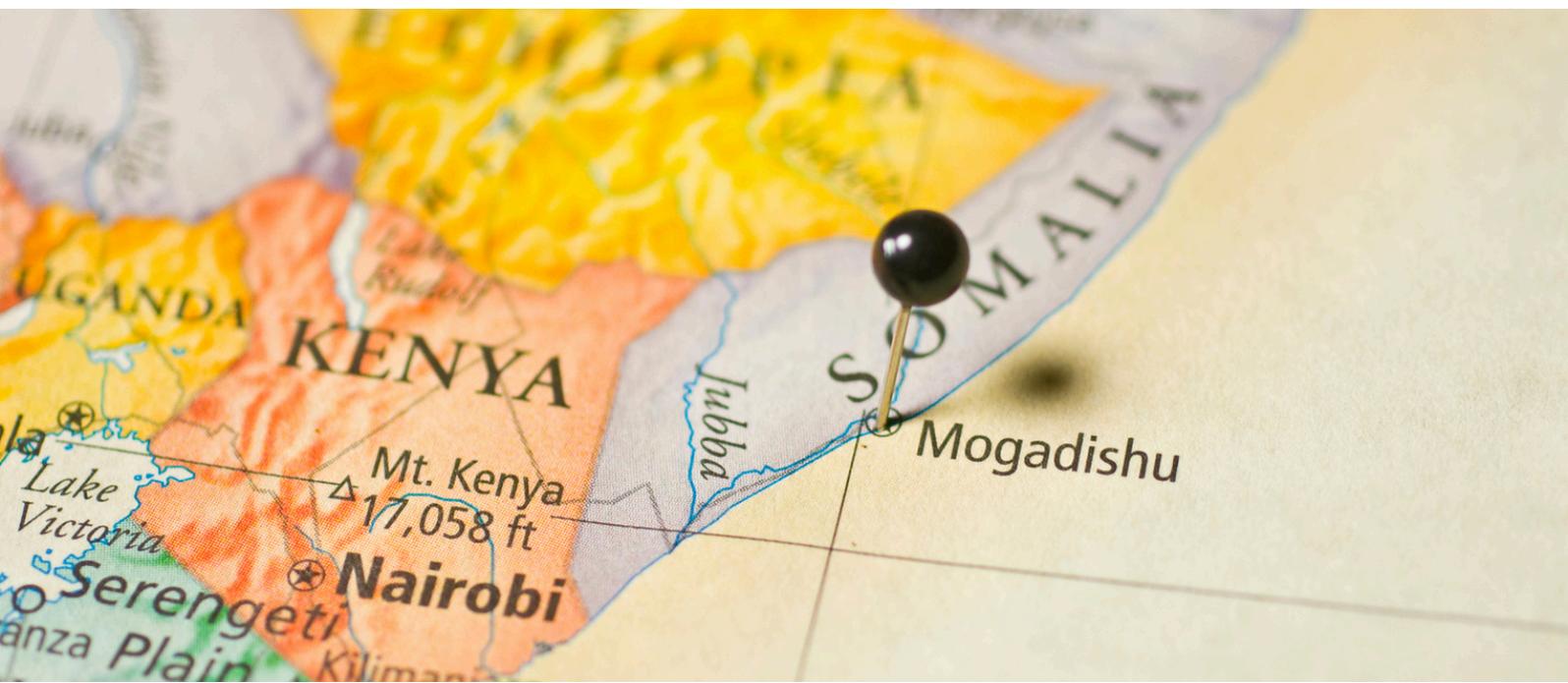
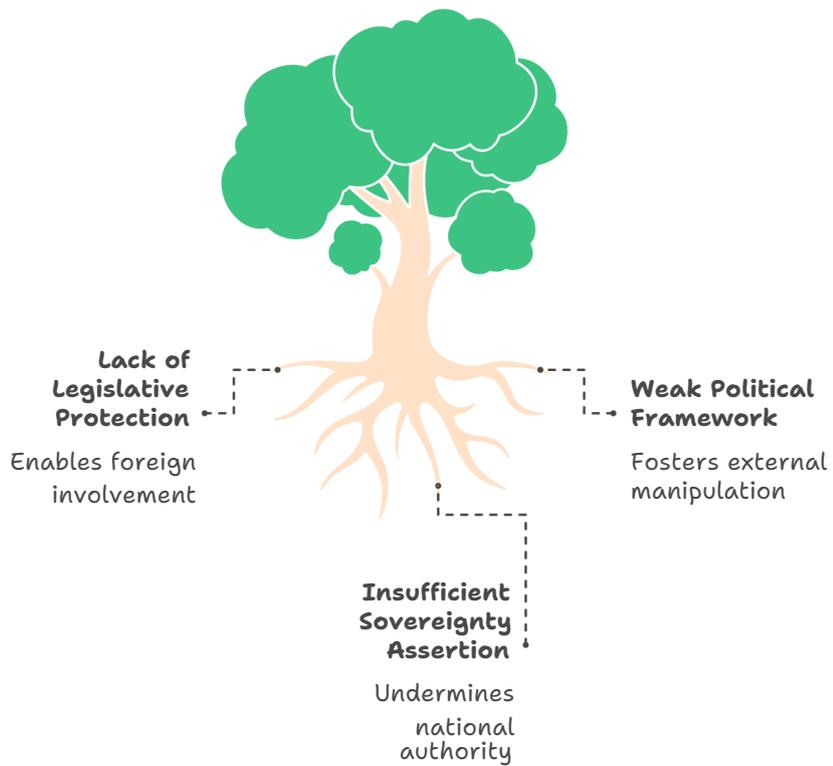
PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Strengthening Legislative Frameworks

Somalia's Parliament should enact laws explicitly prohibiting neighboring countries from participating in peacekeeping operations within its borders.

Such legislation would affirm Somalia's sovereignty and reduce external manipulation.

External Interference in Somalia's Sovereignty



ENHANCING BORDER SECURITY

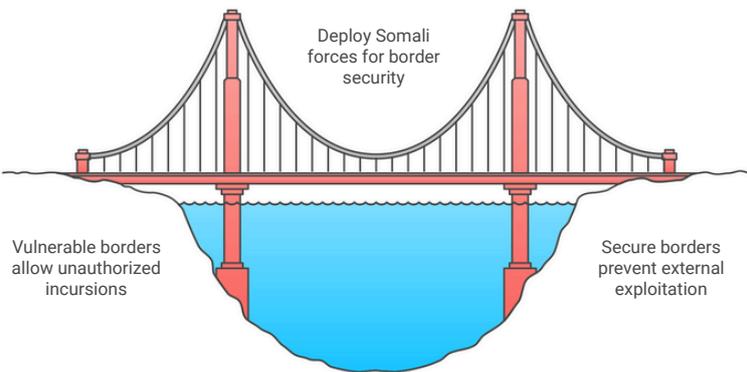
Strengthening Legislative Frameworks

Deploying Somali forces to secure borders is essential to preventing unauthorized incursions.

Strengthening border security would also deter external actors from exploiting vulnerabilities.

Such legislation would affirm Somalia's sovereignty and reduce external manipulation.

Strengthen Border Security to Enhance Sovereignty

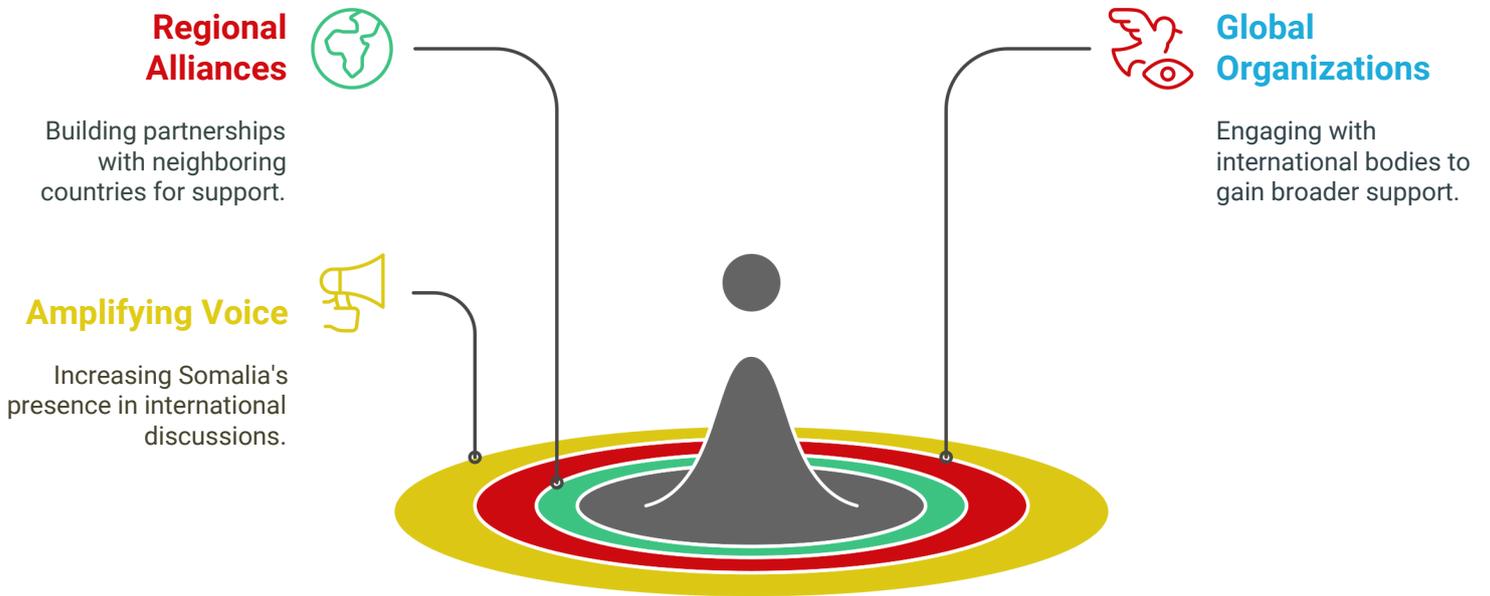


BUILDING DIPLOMATIC ALLIANCES

Somalia must strengthen its diplomatic ties with international allies to counteract territorial violations and political interference.

Engaging regional and global organizations can amplify Somalia's voice on the international stage.

Strengthening Somalia's Diplomacy

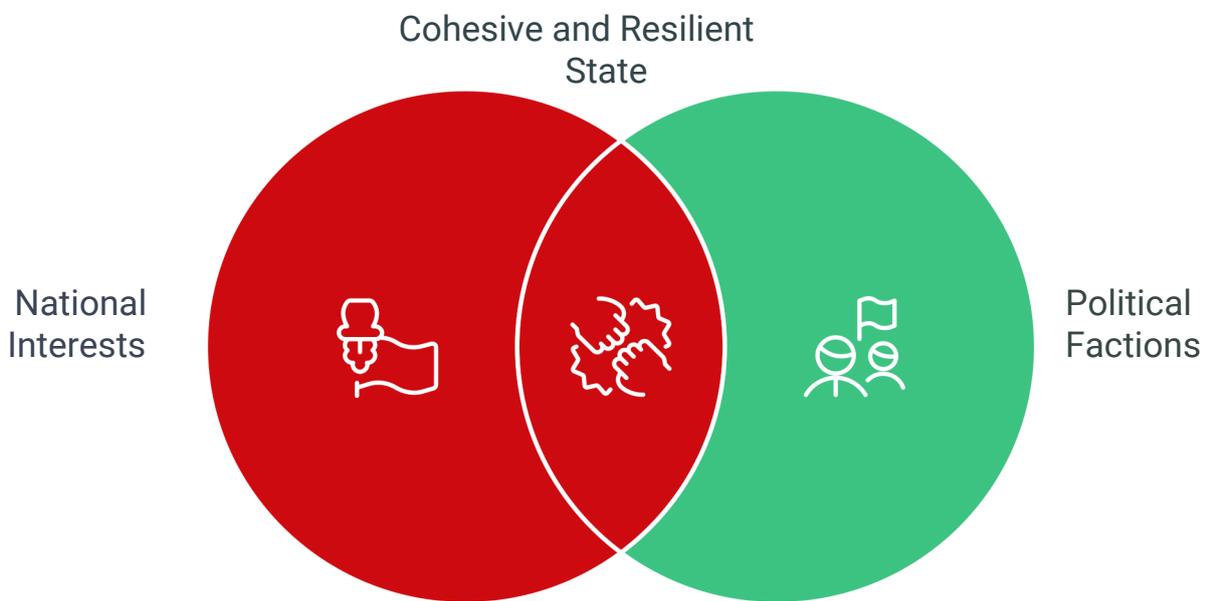


PROMOTING NATIONAL UNITY

Unity among Somali leaders is crucial to overcoming external challenges.

Political factions must prioritize national interests over personal or regional gains to create a cohesive and resilient state.

Path to a Cohesive Somali State



AHMED MOALIM FIQI: A RESILIENT LEADER IN SOMALI DIPLOMACY

Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, has emerged as a steadfast and courageous figure in the country's political arena. Known for his uncompromising principles and fearlessness, Fiqi has redefined leadership within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His reputation as a minister who cannot be influenced by external pressures or corruption has earned him widespread respect across the nation.

Fiqi's tenure has been marked by his unwavering commitment to protecting Somalia's sovereignty and advocating for its interests on the international stage. His bold approach to diplomacy has elevated Somalia's presence in global forums while ensuring that the country's territorial integrity and political independence remain uncompromised. Fiqi's actions resonate deeply with a Somali public eager for leaders who prioritize national interests over personal or external agendas.

Colleagues and citizens alike describe Fiqi as a "fearless hero," whose integrity and dedication have made him both a challenging adversary and a powerful advocate for Somalia. His leadership in navigating complex regional dynamics, particularly with neighboring countries, underscores his critical role in shaping the future of Somali diplomacy.

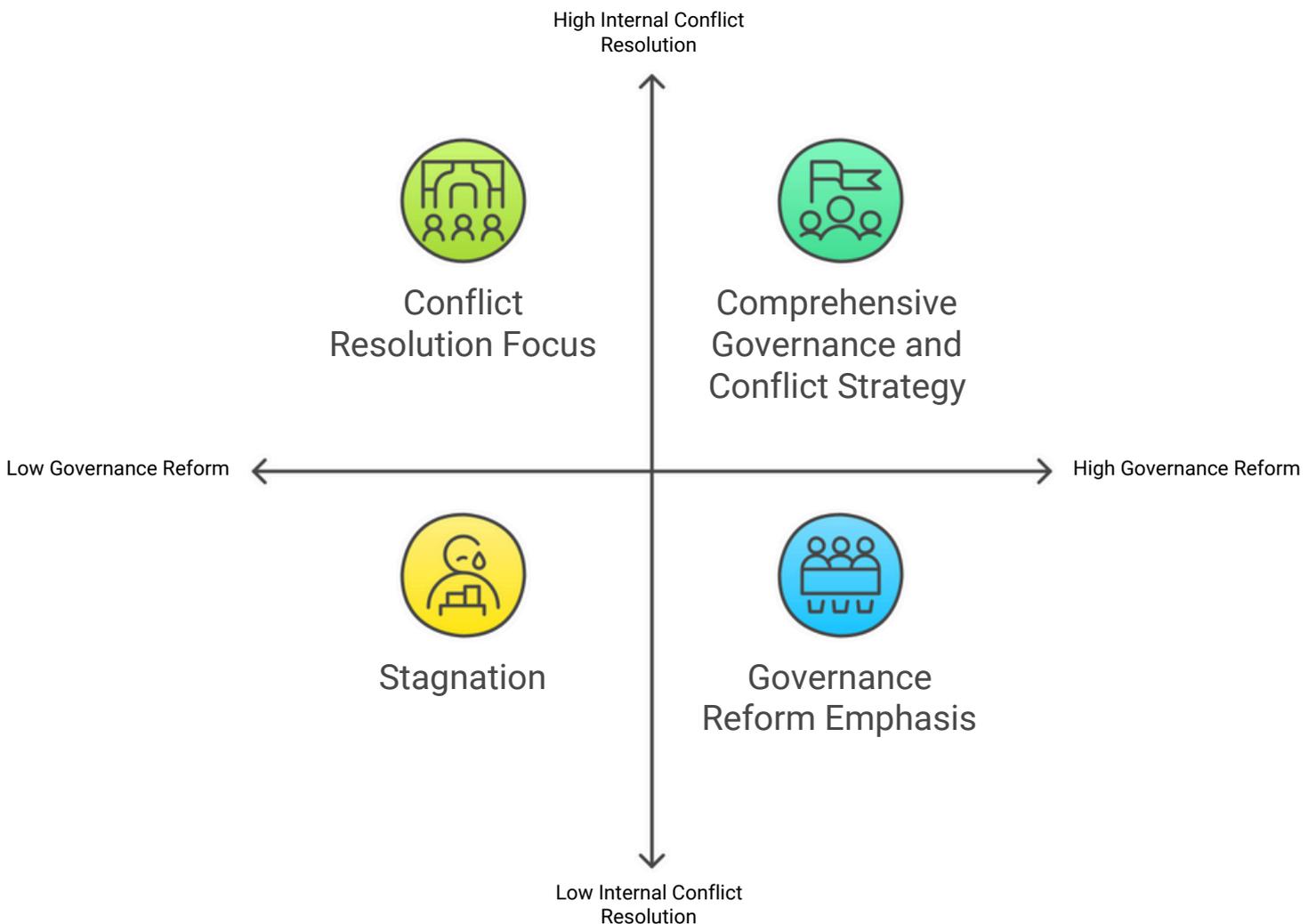


ADDRESSING INTERNAL DIVISIONS

Efforts to resolve internal conflicts, including reducing the influence of factional leaders, will strengthen Somalia's position against external threats.

Political accountability and governance reforms are key to achieving this goal.

Strengthening Somalia's Resilience



CONCLUSION

The actions of Kenya and Ethiopia in Somalia have highlighted the complexities of regional politics and the challenges of maintaining sovereignty in a contested landscape.

While these interventions have created significant obstacles, they also present opportunities for Somalia to assert its independence and chart a path toward stability.

By strengthening its legal, diplomatic, and security frameworks, Somalia can address these challenges effectively. Collaboration with international allies, coupled with internal unity, will be instrumental in achieving these goals.

As Somalia navigates these dynamics, it must remain steadfast in its commitment to sovereignty and resilience, ensuring a brighter future for its people and the region.

