



ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE
COMUNITÀ SOMALA DI MODENA
URURKA DHAQANKA
JAALIYADDA SOOMAALIYEED EE MODENA

Modena, 11 July 2026

To the Council of the Union of the Somali Community in Italy: Rome

The Somali diaspora community in Italy acts as an international "bridge" and is structured primarily as an Italian "Third Sector" entity. The Council operates actively on two fronts:

- a) Foster the social integration of the diaspora community, enabling it to live in Italy with dignity and in an orderly manner.
- b) Promote development cooperation, as well as technical and humanitarian assistance, for Somalia.

Brothers and sisters, as you all know, Somalia is counted among the countries severely affected by hunger, food shortages, and unemployment—problems fueled by internal conflicts, persistent acts of terrorism, political instability, climate change, and a general lack of economic infrastructure.

To halt the humanitarian crisis affecting the Somali people, it is essential—an area where the diaspora can play a role—to adopt an economic vision centered on a few key factors.

Addressing the issue of Somali youth migration—driven by domestic unemployment, hunger, famine, and food resource scarcity—requires a comprehensive economic vision. This vision must encompass the development of the agricultural, livestock, and marine resource sectors, as well as the improvement of economic infrastructure, policy reform, and the implementation of social initiatives.

I would like to present to you here a comprehensive strategy, proposed by the Council of the Somali Community in Italy, to address the widespread needs existing in our country:

Somalia possesses three fundamental resources that would enable it to be self-sufficient without external aid—three resources with which the country is richly endowed, but which have not been effectively exploited.

- a) Vast and fertile agricultural lands that are currently underutilized.
- b) Diverse livestock—camels, cattle, sheep, and goats—not yet managed according to modern scientific methods.
- c) The sea and Africa's longest coastline. The development of Somalia's marine resources depends on two key sectors: the fishing industry and the offshore extraction of crude oil and natural gas. Both sectors are currently expanding thanks to international investment, with the aim of transforming this vast coastline into an engine of economic growth that benefits the entire population. It is essential to cultivate the land, develop agriculture, and build numerous wells to ensure water and pasture for Somali herders, while simultaneously leveraging marine resources, fisheries, and oil and gas extraction.

Yusuf Abukar Issak