



# Conference Concept Note

## Resilient Futures: Bridging Generations, Building Peace

| 5th Mudug Peacebuilding Conference

**Mudug Peacebuilding**

the 5th Annual Mudug Peacebuilding Conference, to be held in Mudug, Somalia in December 2025

**2025  
Somalia**

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# Executive Summary

Midaynta Community Services is a registered Canadian charitable organization with over 30 years of experience supporting youth, refugees, immigrants, and marginalized communities across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Established in 1993 as a family reunification project and incorporated in 1995, Midaynta delivers a wide range of services, including settlement assistance, housing support, counseling, case management, and educational programming. The organization is particularly recognized for its youth-focused initiatives, which provide essential support to young people facing mental health challenges, involvement in the criminal justice system, and other systemic barriers.

Key programs include the Youth Mentorship Program (YMP), Youth Outreach Worker (YOW), Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker (EYOW), Student and Family Advocate, and Project TurnAround, which collectively connect youth with mental health services, employment opportunities, and educational pathways. These programs also provide mediation, guidance, and personalized action plans to help youth navigate complex challenges and achieve their full potential.

The Mudug Peacebuilding Group stands out as a pioneering Somali-led initiative dedicated exclusively to advancing peace and social cohesion in the Mudug region. We are proud to be the only Somali community in the world consistently leading grassroots peacebuilding efforts through a structured, community-driven model. Our most notable achievement is the establishment of weekly community meetings, where diverse voices from both the Mudug region and the Somali diaspora—especially from Canada, the U.S., and Europe—come together to discuss challenges, share solutions, and coordinate actions for peace. These regular forums have strengthened trust, accountability, and collaboration across generations and regions. Our commitment is unwavering: we believe that lasting peace must be built from the ground up—by the people, for the people. Through sustained dialogue, inclusive engagement, and collective leadership, Mudug Peacebuilding Group has become a model for Somali-led peace efforts worldwide.

The conference will gather Somali youth, elders, community leaders, diaspora members, policymakers, and international partners under the theme “Resilient Futures – Bridging Generations, Building Peace.”

# Conference Overview

The 5th Mudug Peacebuilding Conference is designed as an international gathering that highlights Somaliled, grassroots approaches to peacebuilding while bridging the contributions of the diaspora and global partners. This year's theme, Resilient Futures – Bridging Generations, Building Peace, reflects the need to empower young people while drawing on the wisdom of elders and traditional leaders to foster reconciliation.

The conference will focus on issues such as youth radicalization, mental health and trauma recovery, employment and entrepreneurship, identity, gender inclusion, and digital safety. Through panel discussions, workshops, cultural activities, and youth marketplaces, participants will be equipped with practical tools and strategies to serve as leaders in their communities.

## **Participants will include:**

- Somali youth (local and diaspora)
- Clan elders and traditional leaders
- Government officials (regional and federal)
- Mental health practitioners and educators
- Communitybased organizations and civil society
- International NGOs and donors
- Peace and conflict scholars
- Media professionals

## **Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

### **Objectives:**

- To empower Somali youth with tools for leadership, healing, and civic engagement
- To build sustainable crossgenerational and crossborder dialogue platforms
- To institutionalize December 17 as a Day of Peace and Resilience in Somalia
- To strengthen collaboration between Somali diaspora and local communities in peacebuilding
- To support Somalia's Centennial Vision 2060 and national reconciliation efforts

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- Youthled recommendations addressing peace, employment, and mental health
- Strengthened alliances between Somali actors, diaspora, and global partners
- An annual action plan for youth engagement and resiliency in Somalia
- Documentation of lessons learned to inform future policies and advocacy strategies
- Enhanced visibility of Somaliled peacebuilding in international policy circles

# Background and Rationale

Somalia stands at a historic crossroads, where sustained peace and youth empowerment are both urgently needed and profoundly possible. Decades of conflict have challenged stability and trust, yet a new generation of Somali youth is emerging with determination, vision, and resilience. **Recognizing this potential, Midaynta Community Services, a Toronto-based Somali-led nonprofit, has taken a leadership role since 2021 in building bridges between the Somali diaspora and local communities in the Mudug region.**

Through annual peacebuilding efforts—including the landmark December Peace Conference—Midaynta has worked alongside elders, youth, and regional governments to promote dialogue, reconciliation, and unity. Concurrently, Midaynta has hosted five successful Youth Resiliency Conferences in Canada, with the sixth and most recent conference held internationally in Uganda, addressing critical issues such as youth radicalization, mental health, unemployment, and identity. These conferences have empowered youth, sparked policy conversations, and strengthened civil society capacity across borders.

In 2025, Midaynta will merge both streams into one powerful international event in Somalia. This gathering will unite Somali youth, elders, community leaders, diaspora members, scholars, and government officials to advance healing, opportunity, and peace.

**The initiative directly supports Somalia’s Centennial Vision 2060 (CV2060) and aligns with Presidential Initiatives focused on peacebuilding, reconciliation, and inclusive national development.** By investing in the leadership and resilience of Somali youth, the conference contributes to a long-term vision of unity, stability, and sustainable peace in Somalia.

## **Alignment with Mission and Vision:**

Midaynta’s mission is to mobilize and engage Somali communities in the diaspora and locally to reduce violence, foster resilience, and promote sustainable development. Its vision is a peaceful, thriving, and resilient Somali society where safety, well-being, and opportunity are shared by all. This conference directly aligns with both the mission and vision by centering youth in peacebuilding and equipping them with tools to succeed.

## **Relevance of the Current Issue:**

The 2025 conference is particularly relevant given the growing urgency of addressing radicalization, unemployment, trauma, and intergenerational divides in Somalia. The event responds to the critical need to create inclusive spaces for dialogue, leadership, and healing at a time when peacebuilding efforts are gaining national and international momentum.

# Peacebuilding Efforts

## Timeline of Midaynta's work in Mudug Peace Building

The Mudug Peacebuilding Group is a grassroots coalition of Somali elders, youth leaders, activists, scholars, and diaspora professionals. Rooted in the Mudug region and supported by the Somali diaspora in Canada, the U.S., Europe, and beyond, the group is united in its commitment to bottomup peacebuilding, guided by principles of dialogue, collaboration, and empowerment.

Renowned for pioneering weekly peace dialogues, the group has strengthened trust, accountability, and collaboration across regions. It stands as a model for Somaliled reconciliation efforts, emphasizing communitydriven solutions and youth engagement.

### 2021

Midaynta hosts General Gorod in Toronto – diaspora peace involvement begins

### 2022

Peace planning expands, Galkacyo conference delayed due to conflict

### 2023

Conference held in Boston with ACEDONE; plans for 2024 return to Somalia

### 2024

December 17: successful Galkacyo peace conference

# Proposed Initiative

## 1. Mudug Peacebuilding Commemoration – Galkacyo (December 17–18, 2025)

### Objective:

- To promote isdhexgalka bulshada (community cohesion) and strengthen peace in Galkacyo through inclusive dialogue and collaboration.

### Participants and Logistics:

- A delegation of 15 international guests, including project coordinators, staff, speakers, panelists, and moderators from North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, will arrive in Mogadishu on December 15, 2025 and stay one night.
- The group will then travel to Galkacyo on December 16, staying three nights
- Local participants will include peacebuilders, community leaders, elders, women, and youth representatives from both North and South Galkacyo.
- The list of local participants will be finalized once the budget is confirmed.

### Activities:

- A one-day peace forum bringing together diverse community stakeholders.
- Facilitated discussions on trust-building, reconciliation, and sustainable peace mechanisms.
- Development of a short community action plan for continued peace engagement in Mudug.

### Expected Outcome:

- Improved collaboration and dialogue among community groups, strengthened local ownership of peace processes, and an actionable plan for sustaining peace in Mudug.

### Communication and Outreach

A robust outreach plan will ensure wide participation and visibility.

### Promotion strategies will include:

- WhatsApp networks and email newsletters to mobilize participants.
- Somali radio and television stations for community outreach.
- Social media campaigns on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.
- A dedicated conference page on the Midaynta website for resources, registration, and updates.

# Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

## Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

To ensure the 3rd Mudug Peacebuilding Conference achieves its objectives and contributes to long-term peacebuilding, Midaynta Community Services will implement a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework.

### Key Activities:

- Pre- and Post-Event Surveys: Measure participant learning outcomes, engagement, and satisfaction.
- Daily Debrief Sessions: Facilitators and participants will review sessions to identify lessons learned and immediate improvements.
- Feedback Forms: Collect insights from youth, elders, partners, and sponsors to capture diverse perspectives.
- Final Evaluation Report: Summarize recommendations, best practices, and actionable next steps for 2026 planning and future initiatives.

### Outcome:

This structured M&E approach ensures that the conference:

- Achieves its immediate objectives of empowering youth, fostering dialogue, and promoting peace.
- Provides actionable insights for continuous improvement of programs.
- Strengthens long-term strategies for community engagement, and sustainable peacebuilding in Somalia.





Federal Republic of Somalia  
Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs & Reconciliation  
Office of the Minister

TIX: WAGF&D/XW/0263/2025

Date: Mar 09, 2025

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF MIDAYNTA COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT AND PEACEBUILDING IN SOMALIA**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Ministry of Interior of the Federal Republic of Somalia extends its regards to International Partners and is pleased to highlight its indorsement of Midaynta Community Services.

Midaynta Community Services has successfully implemented youth-focused programs and peacebuilding initiatives in North America, particularly in Canada. Recognizing the pressing challenges facing Somali youth, the organization now seeks to extend its invaluable efforts to Somalia.

We firmly believe that Midaynta's initiatives will play a crucial role in nurturing youth leadership, strengthening community resilience, and advancing sustainable peace in Somalia. To this end, we respectfully urge international donors and partners to extend their support by providing the necessary resources and funding for Midaynta Community Services' programs in Somalia.

The Ministry of Interior remains fully committed to offering guidance and cooperation to ensure the success of these initiatives. We look forward to working with Midaynta Community Services and our international partners to achieve these shared goals.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and stand ready for further discussions as needed.

Best regards,

H.E. Ali Yusuf Ali-Hoosh  
Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation  
Government of Somalia





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