



Cultural Diplomacy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia views cultural diplomacy as a vital strategy for advancing the nation's global image, celebrating Somali heritage, and fostering stronger international relations.

This approach aims to highlight Somalia's distinct identity, engage with diverse cultures, and enhance the country's influence on the world stage.

Core Principles of Somalia's Cultural Diplomacy

- 1. Celebrating Somali Identity and Heritage**

Central to Somalia's cultural diplomacy is the promotion of its rich cultural legacy, including art, music, literature, and traditional practices. The Ministry will actively coordinate cultural events and exhibitions internationally, showcasing Somalia's artistic contributions, historical significance, and cultural dynamism. These initiatives will help reshape the global narrative surrounding Somalia, focusing on its cultural vibrancy and resilience.

- 2. Facilitating International Cultural Exchange**

The Ministry will encourage cultural exchange programs that allow Somali artists, musicians, writers, and academics to engage with their counterparts abroad. These interactions will promote mutual understanding, encourage collaborative projects, and facilitate the sharing of ideas. Through these exchanges, Somalia will foster stronger cultural ties, enhancing the international appreciation of its creative output.

- 3. Promoting Creative Industries through Global Partnerships**

Somalia will work to expand the visibility of its creative industries, including film, music, and fashion, by forging partnerships with international cultural organizations. These collaborations will provide Somali artists with global platforms to showcase their talents and explore opportunities for international exposure. The Ministry will focus on creating networks that increase the presence of Somali creative works in global markets and cultural arenas.

- 4. Contributing to Global Intellectual Dialogue**

Somalia seeks to engage in global intellectual discourse by supporting its scholars, writers, and thought leaders in contributing to international discussions on pressing global issues such as development, peace, and human rights. The Ministry will provide opportunities for Somali academics and experts to share their insights on platforms worldwide, positioning Somalia as a country with valuable contributions to global knowledge.

- 5. Strengthening Educational and Research Partnerships**

The Ministry will prioritize the development of educational exchanges and research collaborations with leading institutions around the world. Somali students will be encouraged to study abroad, while Somali universities will welcome international scholars to enhance academic dialogue. These efforts will broaden Somalia's global

educational footprint and promote cross-cultural understanding through academic collaboration.

6. Protecting Somali Cultural Creations

Protecting Somali cultural products and intellectual property is central to the Ministry's strategy. Efforts will be made to collaborate with international entities to secure legal frameworks that safeguard the rights of Somali creators in literature, music, and the arts. This initiative will prevent the misuse of Somali cultural assets and ensure that the nation's creative works receive the global recognition they deserve.

Key Initiatives and Actions

- **Cultural Programming through Diplomatic Missions**
Somali embassies and consulates will host cultural events to engage foreign audiences with Somali traditions, including exhibitions, concerts, and film screenings. These missions will act as cultural ambassadors, working with local institutions to highlight Somali achievements in art, literature, and history, enhancing the country's visibility abroad.
- **Participation in International Festivals and Exhibitions**
Somalia will actively take part in global cultural festivals, fairs, and exhibitions, collaborating with organizers to present its cultural heritage to international audiences. These platforms will provide Somali artists and performers with opportunities to share their work on a larger scale and engage with diverse cultural communities.
- **Digital Platforms for Global Engagement**
The Ministry will develop online platforms dedicated to promoting Somali culture through virtual exhibitions, digital storytelling, and multimedia content. These platforms will serve as accessible spaces for global audiences to experience Somali music, art, literature, and history, expanding Somalia's cultural outreach in the digital realm.
- **Engaging with the Somali Diaspora**
The Ministry will work closely with Somali communities abroad to create cultural initiatives that reflect the shared heritage and values of the Somali people. By organizing events and activities that connect Somalis worldwide, the Ministry will strengthen the bonds of the global Somali diaspora and use this network to further Somalia's cultural diplomacy.