



Media Accreditation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, in partnership with the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, oversees the accreditation of foreign media representatives. This process is essential for ensuring that foreign journalists can report on events and developments in the country with the necessary credentials and in accordance with national laws.

Accreditation Procedure

Foreign media representatives wishing to be accredited to cover events in Somalia are required to follow a structured application process. Accreditation is granted for both short-term and long-term coverage of news events, official functions, and other matters of public interest.

Step 1: Submission of Documents

To begin the accreditation process, foreign media representatives must submit the following documentation:

1. **Accreditation Request:** To initiate the accreditation process, foreign media representatives must submit a formal, sealed letter from their media organization requesting accreditation for the journalist. This letter should clearly outline the purpose of the visit, the scope of coverage, and the specific role the journalist will play during their stay in Somalia. It must be signed by the head of the media institution or a designated representative and include the official stamp of the organization.

For freelancers, the accreditation request must also be accompanied by an official endorsement from a recognized media organization or a professional association. This endorsement should confirm the freelancer's affiliation with a legitimate media outlet and their professional standing. The endorsement serves as proof that the freelancer is operating under the standards of an established press entity.

2. **Press Card:** A copy of the national or international press card, or for freelance journalists, a letter of endorsement from a recognized media institution or professional association.
3. **Passport:** A valid passport with a minimum of six months' validity at the time of application.
4. **Additional Documents:** Freelancers must provide further verification from their affiliated press organizations.

Step 2: Review and Approval Once all the required documents are submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, will review the application. This process typically takes between 7-14 working days. Journalists will be informed via email regarding the status of their accreditation.

Step 3: Issuance of Accreditation Upon successful accreditation, a media pass will be issued. This pass must be carried at all times while covering events in Somalia. Journalists are reminded that the pass grants access to events but does not allow interference in the course of proceedings.

Important Guidelines for Accredited Journalists

- **Journalistic Conduct:** Accredited journalists are expected to adhere to professional ethics and maintain neutrality in their reporting. They must not interfere with the activities they are covering, especially during official events or electoral processes.
- **Use of Equipment:** Media personnel are required to seek prior approval for the import of any broadcasting or photographic equipment into the country. This includes obtaining necessary clearance through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or through coordination with the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism.
- **Reporting Restrictions:** Journalists must respect the local laws and regulations regarding sensitive subjects, and any violation of these laws may result in the revocation of their accreditation.

Contact Information

For further inquiries or to submit accreditation applications, journalists are encouraged to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at:

- **Email:** ministry@mfa.gov.so
- **Alternatively,** applications can be submitted through the nearest Somali Embassy or Consulate.

The Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism is available to provide additional support in media-related matters, including press conferences and event coordination.