

CO-HOST



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Welcome Remarks, Director-International Relations And Partnerships. Farhiya Farah

Farhiya delivered a powerful and inspiring welcome address that set the tone for the forum. She called on leaders and participants alike to rally behind GSEF's mission, to champion Somali entrepreneurship, unlock the potential of diaspora investment, and drive sustainable, inclusive growth across the region. A fitting start to a transformative gathering.



click here to watch
her speech



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum (GSEF) 2025 convened over 500 entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors, diaspora leaders, and development partners in Nairobi to advance inclusive, climate-resilient, and investment-ready entrepreneurship across Somalia, East Africa, and the global Somali diaspora. The Forum was supported by a range of public and private sector partners from Kenya and Somalia, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-organising the event and providing in-kind technical support that enriched policy dialogue, panel discussions, and thematic exchanges.

Anchored in the theme **Innovate, Connect, Thrive, GSEF 2025** combined high-level dialogue with structured networking and partnership-building opportunities, enabling meaningful connections among entrepreneurs, investors, development partners, and policymakers, and facilitating pathways for collaboration, mentorship, and investment. With young people at the centre of its agenda, the Forum addressed critical issues such as youth employment, climate resilience, migration pressures, and emerging opportunities in technology and innovation, while laying the groundwork for continued engagement and implementation through GSEF 2026.

WHY GSEF MATTERS

GSEF responds to some of the most urgent economic and social challenges facing young people in Kenya, Somalia, the wider Horn of Africa, and diaspora communities globally. By placing entrepreneurship at the centre of its approach, the Forum demonstrates how inclusive economic opportunity can serve as a powerful pathway to dignity, resilience, and long-term stability. Through its focus on youth employment and economic inclusion, climate resilience and adaptation, diaspora engagement, and green and sustainable growth, GSEF addresses the root causes of vulnerability, including unemployment, climate shocks, and irregular migration. Rather than treating these challenges in isolation,

the Forum positions entrepreneurship as a prevention-oriented solution—creating viable livelihoods, restoring hope, and reducing the pressures that drive risky migration. By convening entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors, development partners, and diaspora leaders in one space, GSEF bridges policy, capital, and innovation. In doing so, it offers a practical model for translating global commitments such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into locally driven action, while strengthening social cohesion, economic resilience, and regional stability across the Horn of Africa and beyond.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ALIGNMENT

GSEF 2025 was deliberately aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional policy frameworks, and the priority strategies of bilateral and multilateral development partners in Kenya and the wider Horn of Africa. This alignment was fundamentally shaped by the pressing needs and lived realities of young people, who are disproportionately affected by unemployment, climate shocks, and irregular migration, yet remain central to innovation, resilience, and long-term economic transformation in the region. Against this backdrop, the Forum prioritised youth employment and economic inclusion, climate change adaptation and resilience, diaspora engagement as a development and investment partner, and green and sustainable economic growth across Somalia and the

wider East Africa region.

Within this strategic context, GSEF 2025 pursued a set of interconnected objectives aimed at translating policy ambition into practical economic outcomes. These included mobilising diaspora capital; financial, intellectual, and social towards productive and climate-resilient investments; strengthening women- and youth-led enterprises as engines of inclusive growth and social stability; and accelerating the development of climate-smart sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, health, and digital innovation. By integrating entrepreneurship with climate action, migration prevention, and regional economic cooperation, GSEF 2025 positioned private sector development not merely as a driver of growth, but as a strategic tool for resilience, stability, and long-term development impact.

MEET SOME OF THE ESTEEMED & PRESTIGIOUS GUEST SPEAKERS ATTENDING THE GSEF 2025



H.E. Aden Duale E.G.H
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry
of Health, Kenya



H.E JIBRIL IBRAHIM
Ambassador of the Federal Republic
of Somalia to Kenya



Ambassador Philip Thigo
MBS Special Envoy on Technology
to HE. William Ruto



Susan Auma Mang'eni
Principal Secretary for the State Department
of MSME Development in the Republic of Kenya



H.E. Mohamed Ware
IGAD Deputy Executive Secretary



Dr Fatuma Adan
IGAD Head of Mission to
the Republic of Kenya



Dr. Mohamed Abdinoor, PhD
The V. Chancellor
Islamic University of Kenya



Julia Smith-Omomo, Ph.D.
Livelihoods Programme Manager
IOM Somalia



Najma Ahmed Abdi
President of the Independent
Pan African Youth Parliament (IPAYP)



Ustadh Mohamed Diini
Islamic Speaker | Strategic Programs Advisor

Panel 1: Harnessing Entrepreneurship & Diaspora Capital for Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Growth in East Africa.

PANELISTS

1. H. E Mohamed Ware, IGAD Deputy Executive Secretary
2. Abdihakim Ainte, Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Somalia
Co-Founder I-rise Hub
3. Jibril Adan Mohamed, Financial Sector Expert at the Somali
Development and Reconstruction Bank (SDRB)
4. Abdiwahab Ali, Senior Governance Specialist,
African Development Bank Group.

MODERATOR: Ahmed Farah, Chairman and Co- founder
Halal Global Standard EA.



[click here to watch](#)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTNERS



GSEF 2025 was made possible through the support and collaboration of a wide range of public and private sector partners from Kenya and Somalia, regional institutions, diaspora networks, and development partners. Their collective engagement contributed significantly to the quality of dialogue, diversity of perspectives, and overall success of the Forum.

GSEF further acknowledges the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** for its role as a co-organiser of the Forum and for providing in-kind technical and convening support that strengthened policy discussions, panel sessions, and thematic exchanges. The Forum also benefited from the active participation and continued commitment of local and regional leaders who have pledged to support and advance this youth-centred, inclusive, and climate-resilient entrepreneurship initiative beyond 2025.



Lionel Laurens - UNDP Somalia, Resident Representative



Panel 2- Enhancing Business Environment and Opportunities in Somalia. Mount Elgon 1 hall



PANELISTS

1. Prof. Eise M. Halane Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Somalia, Deputy Director
2. Ms. Bahja Shuriye - SIMAD iLab, Director
3. Ms. Phyllis Kamau - VISA Inc.
4. Mr. John Bellish - One Earth Future Foundation, Executive Director
5. Mr. Hassan Musa Osman - Somali Stock Exchange, CEO



KEY OUTCOMES FROM GSEF 2025

GSEF 2025 generated meaningful outcomes that strengthened the entrepreneurship ecosystem across Somalia, the Horn of Africa, and the global Somali diaspora. The Forum deepened partnerships among development agencies, regional institutions, private sector actors, and diaspora investors, reinforcing collaboration beyond the event itself and opening pathways for sustained engagement. Participation reflected the truly regional and global nature of the Forum, with entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors, and ecosystem actors attending from Uganda, Ethiopia, United Arab Emirates, Somalia, United States, and other parts of East Africa and the global diaspora. The Forum also enhanced the visibility and market access of Somali-led enterprises, connecting entrepreneurs to investors, mentors, policymakers, and ecosystem enablers. These connections helped position enterprises for regional and international growth, while fostering peer learning, cross-border collaboration, and diaspora-to-local partnerships. GSEF 2025 further benefited from the support and participation of local and regional leaders, several of whom publicly expressed their commitment to continue backing the Forum and advancing its mission of youth-centred, inclusive, and climate-resilient entrepreneurship.

In addition, GSEF 2025 produced policy-relevant insights and recommendations on critical issues including irregular migration, climate finance, youth employment, and small and medium enterprise (SME) development. These discussions contributed to a shared understanding of how entrepreneurship can address structural challenges facing young people and climate-vulnerable communities. Importantly, the Forum laid the foundations for an emerging pipeline of investment-ready opportunities, providing a practical base for more structured deal-making in the next phase.

A particularly strong outcome of GSEF 2025 was the clear call from youth participants themselves to sustain engagement beyond the main convening—especially around future-facing topics such as technology, digital innovation, and artificial intelligence (AI). Responding directly to this demand, GSEF convened a follow-up youth-focused dialogue in October 2025, centred on technology and innovation pathways for young entrepreneurs. The session was well attended and positively received, reinforcing both the relevance of these themes and the importance of continuous, youth-led engagement as part of the GSEF platform. The Forum's outcomes and priorities will inform ongoing programme design, partnerships, and monitoring efforts as GSEF transitions into its 2026 implementation phase.

FLAGSHIP THEMES FOR CONTINUED DONOR ENGAGEMENT

Building on the momentum and outcomes of GSEF 2025, a set of flagship themes has emerged to guide continued engagement, partnership, and investment. These themes reflect both the priorities expressed by youth, entrepreneurs, and regional stakeholders, and the strategic interests of development partners seeking sustainable, long-term impact.

1. Entrepreneurship as an Alternative to Irregular Migration

A central theme of GSEF 2025 was the positioning of entrepreneurship as a credible, dignified, and preventive response to irregular migration, particularly among young people. Discussions highlighted how limited economic opportunity, climate stress, and lack of access to capital continue to push youth toward risky migration pathways. GSEF demonstrated that targeted support to youth-led enterprises—through skills development, mentorship, financing, and market access—can create viable livelihoods at home and reduce migration pressures before crisis points are reached. Continued engagement in this area focuses on scaling enterprise-based solutions that offer real economic alternatives and restore hope for young people across the region.

2. Mobilising Diaspora Capital and Blended Finance

GSEF reaffirmed the critical role of the Somali diaspora not only as a source of remittances, but as a strategic development and investment partner. Flagship discussions explored how diaspora financial resources, professional expertise, networks, and global market access can be mobilised more effectively through structured investment vehicles, co-investment platforms, and blended finance approaches. Continued engagement under this theme aims to move from informal support toward transparent, scalable, and impact-driven diaspora investment models that crowd in public and private capital while supporting enterprise growth.

3. Green and Climate-Resilient Enterprise Development

Given the Horn of Africa's high exposure to climate shocks, GSEF 2025 placed strong emphasis on green and climate-resilient entrepreneurship as both an economic and adaptation strategy. Priority sectors included renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, climate-smart livelihoods, health, and digital solutions that enhance resilience. This theme recognises entrepreneurs as frontline actors in climate adaptation—innovating practical solutions, creating jobs, and strengthening community resilience. Continued engagement will focus on expanding access to climate finance, technical assistance, and policy support for enterprises operating in climate-sensitive sectors.

4. Women's and Youth Economic Leadership

GSEF underscored that inclusive growth is not possible without the economic leadership of women and young people. Women- and youth-led enterprises were consistently highlighted as drivers of innovation, social stability, and community impact, yet they continue to face systemic barriers to finance, markets, and decision-making spaces. Continued engagement under this theme prioritises targeted support for women and youth entrepreneurs, leadership development, and gender-responsive and youth-centred ecosystem reforms that enable equitable participation in economic growth.



5. Technology, Digital Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence

Responding directly to youth voices, GSEF elevated technology, digital innovation, and artificial intelligence (AI) as emerging priorities for future engagement. Young participants emphasised the need for platforms that explore how technology can unlock new business models, improve productivity, and expand access to regional and global markets. This theme gained further momentum through the well-attended follow-up dialogue held in October 2025, reinforcing demand for continued conversations and capacity building around tech-enabled entrepreneurship. Future engagement will focus on supporting digital skills, innovation ecosystems, and responsible adoption of emerging technologies.



Panel 3 - Creating Alternatives to Irregular Migration: Youth Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship

PANELISTS

1. Abdinoor Maalim, Director Strategic operation and communication GSEF.
2. Julia Smith-Omomo, Ph.D. Livelihoods Programme Manager, IOM Somalia
3. Mr. Abdi Osman- Executive Director of Horn Afric Development Consultants
4. H. E. Fatuma Adan, IGAD Head of Mission to the Republic of Kenya

Moderator: Farhiya Farah

Director-International Relations And Partnerships-GSEF



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SPONSOR APPRECIATION

We extend our sincere gratitude to the organizations and individuals who supported the success of the Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum (GSEF).



Qatar Airways
Sponsor – GSEF 2025



Taaj Money Transfer
Sponsor – GSEF 2025



Himilo Agro Farm
Sponsor – GSEF 2025



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FOCUS CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION
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Aster Healthcare
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Zain Pharma
Sponsor – GSEF 2025



Halal Global Standard EA.
Partner – GSEF 2025



Premier Airlines
Sponsor – GSEF 2025

A Special Appreciation



We are pleased to present the Certificate above of Appreciation to Lionel Laurens, Resident Representative of UNDP Somalia. We sincerely appreciate your leadership and the strong partnership of UNDP Somalia, which contributed meaningfully to the success of GSEF 2025. Your support in convening a focused session on Somalia's business environment reinforced the importance of entrepreneurship, institutional reform, and inclusive growth. We acknowledge UNDP Somalia's continued commitment alongside the Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum, and we hope to continue partnering in advancing youth-centred, inclusive, and resilient entrepreneurship

Special appreciation to Qatar Airways

The Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum 2025 is honored to recognize Qatar Airways as a valued partner and sponsor. We sincerely appreciate their support of GSEF and their commitment to advancing Somalia's entrepreneurial community. We also value their continued partnership and look forward to working together to promote inclusive and resilient entrepreneurship



“Thank you for taking us higher on this journey together we will reach even greater heights!”

Day 2- 20th July 2025

Venue The Fiesta Farm- Karen

Storytelling, Innovation & Fishbowl Discussion & Roundtable Discussion
Partner Engagement Forum & B2B Networking and a Lunch Break.



DAY 2 RECAP

The collage consists of 20 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The photos depict various scenes from the event: attendees seated at round tables, individuals standing and talking, a speaker at a podium, and a group photo of several people. One prominent photo shows a group of seven people standing in front of a backdrop that reads 'GLOBAL SOMALI INVESTMENT FORUM 2023'. Another photo shows a woman in a hijab and a man in a suit shaking hands. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused on networking and business development.



Distinguished guests, business leaders, government officials, valued partners, and all participants of GSEF 2025 I extend my warmest greetings and deepest gratitude to each of you. When we envisioned this Forum, we asked one simple question: What does Somalia's entrepreneurial community need most? The answer was connection between entrepreneurs at home and in the diaspora, between emerging businesses and investors, between our youth and established leaders, and between Somalia's potential and the world's attention. GSEF 2025 was our answer to that call.

To our delegates who hailed from all over across the globe, your presence was the heartbeat of this Forum. To the members of the diplomatic community lead by: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & Embassy of Sweden, your institutional support gave this event regional and international significance.

To our volunteers the unsung heroes behind every smooth session and every welcomed delegate we see you and deeply appreciate you. To our media and journalists you carried this story beyond these walls and showed the world Somalia through a lens of resilience and ambition. Thank you. To the companies and business leaders who shared their stories openly you did not just attend a conference, you helped build a movement. To the youth this Forum was built for you. The opportunities and networks created here are yours to pursue and grow. GSEF is more than a gathering. It is a platform for transformation where ideas become partnerships and Somalia's story is written by Somali hands and Somali minds. Somalia's time is now. And together we are more than ready. With gratitude and pride.

Mohamud Fahie
Co-Founder & Chairman board of directors
Global Somali Entrepreneurship Forum

THANK YOU OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



COMPANIES AND PRESENTERS

The following companies took the stage at GSEF 2025, delivering powerful presentations that showcased Somalia's growing business landscape — inspiring investors, policymakers, and the next generation of Somali entrepreneurs.



Ambassador Philip Thigo

*MBS Special Envoy on
Technology to H.E. William Ruto*



Sumaya Al-amin

*program lead
himilo agro farm*



Omar Jacfar

*Waafi Marketing And
Communication Director*



ZAIN Pharma

representative



Dr Habiba Mohamed

Director at Aster Healthcare



Taaj Money Transfer

representative



Focus Container Freight Station

representative



Abdiwali Moalimuu

*Entrepreneur Author and
Financial Trader*

We extend our sincere appreciation to every company and presenter for their invaluable contribution to this Forum.

LOOKING AHEAD: GSEF 2026

Building on the momentum and outcomes of 2025, GSEF 2026 will mark a deliberate shift from dialogue to delivery. The next phase of the Forum will focus on deepening implementation through curated deal rooms, policy and regulatory labs, and structured investment matchmaking, designed to connect entrepreneurs with capital, technical assistance, and market opportunities in a more targeted and results-oriented way.

To ensure greater inclusivity and youth participation, GSEF intends to host future forums in Somalia and other accessible locations across the region, bringing the conversation closer to where young people live, build businesses, and navigate everyday economic realities. This approach reflects a commitment to lowering barriers to participation and grounding discussions in local contexts, while maintaining strong regional and diaspora linkages.

GSEF 2026 will also continue to align its priorities with the evolving needs and aspirations of youth, recognising young people not only as entrepreneurs, but as active citizens shaping the region's future. The Forum will create space for dialogue on civic engagement and political responsibility, including how economic opportunity, entrepreneurship, and youth leadership intersect with broader regional dynamics such as upcoming elections, governance transitions, and social cohesion. These conversations will be framed constructively, focusing on informed participation, stability, and long-term development.

Partnerships with donors, private sector actors, development institutions, and diaspora networks will remain central to this next phase. Through sustained collaboration, GSEF 2026 aims to translate ideas, relationships, and commitments into measurable impact—supporting job creation, enterprise growth, climate resilience, and inclusive economic development for youth and communities across Somalia, the Horn of Africa, and the global diaspora.



GLOBAL SOMALI
Entrepreneurship Forum
#GSEF2025

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2026

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<https://gsef.co.ke/>