

مركز المقاصد للبحوث والدراسات

XARUNTA CILMIBAARISTA IYO DARAASAADKA MAQASID
MAQASID CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND STUDIES



Somalia's Federalism: Between Political Deadlock And The Search For Inclusive Partnership

The Question Of Destiny And Prospects For Stability

(Insight Into The Shari'a Based Political Jurisprudence
Of Good Governance And Its Objectives)

FIFTH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2025



INTRODUCTION

Federalism—conceptually, legally, and administratively—remains one of the most complex and debated governance systems of our time. In Somalia, it occupies a particularly sensitive position at the heart of the national dialogue on unity, state-building, and equitable power sharing. Despite its promise, Somali federalism continues to face deep conceptual ambiguities, structural tensions, and weak institutional practice.

Since its adoption, Somalia has oscillated between the aspiration to build an inclusive system that enhances participation and equitable power distribution, and the reality of political fragmentation and localized loyalties. These contradictions have produced recurrent crises between the Federal Government and Member States, undermining national cohesion, governance effectiveness, and long-term stability.

Against this backdrop, the **Maqasid Center for Research and studies** at its Fifth Annual Conference, poses a pivotal question:

“Somalia’s Federalism: Between Political Deadlock and the Search for Inclusive Partnership.”

This question lies at the intersection of **good governance, national identity, and social justice**—principles central to the higher objectives (maqasid) of governance in Islamic jurisprudence. The jurisprudence of good governance (fiqh al-hukm al-salih) offers not only a framework for reflection but also a methodology for reform bridging normative principles with practical statecraft, and tradition with contemporary realities.

The conference seeks to move the debate beyond political rhetoric toward actionable scholarship and policy-oriented dialogue. It will explore how Somali federalism can evolve into a system that strengthens stability, justice, and inclusive national partnership, while drawing from both **Islamic jurisprudential insights and comparative governance experiences**.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Examine federalism through a jurisprudential lens that integrates Islamic political thought with the realities of state-building.
- Diagnose the roots and dimensions of Somalia's political crisis and its effects on governance, unity, and institutional resilience.
- Identify practical pathways to political stability and inclusive governance grounded in justice, participation, and social cohesion
- Shift the discourse from historical blame and fragmentation toward shared responsibility and future-oriented solutions.
- Reinforce confidence in Islam's ethical and governance principles as a framework for constructive political transformation.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Federalism, Legal Foundations, and the Objectives of Governance

1. Concept, origin, and evolution of Somali federalism.
2. Intellectual roots of federal thought in Islamic and Western traditions.
3. Legal and constitutional foundations of power-sharing and their purposes.
4. Shariah-based approaches to national unity, diversity management, and conflict resolution.
5. Jurisprudence of good governance in managing federal systems.
6. Federal objectives within the broader framework of maqasid al-shariah.
7. The objectives of Federalism in Light of the maqasid al-shariah.

Political, Constitutional, and Judicial Dimensions

1. Federalism in Somalia's constitutional experience: progress and reform prospects..
2. Political Challenges in the Implementation of Somali Federalism: Current Realities and Alternative Pathways.
3. Challenges of implementing power distribution between the centre and member states
4. The Legal Framework of Rights and Duties under Federalism: Towards Sustainable Fairness.
5. Judicial and legislative balance within the federal system.
6. Federalism between the Rule of Law and Tribal Rationality
7. Participatory governance and the role of political will in national stability.
8. Lessons from successful federal models and their relevance to Somalia.
9. The Role of the Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah in Promoting the Integrity and Supremacy of the Rule of Law.

Economic Development, Resource Management, and Social Cohesion

1. Equity in resource allocation and wealth distribution.
2. Economic justice and balanced regional development in a federal structure.
3. Sustainable management of natural resources.
4. Federalism's role in strengthening social cohesion and national identity.
5. The role of education, media, and traditional leadership in promoting unity and partnership.

Security, Stability, and Good Governance in the Federal System

1. Division of security responsibilities between central and regional authorities.
2. Mechanisms for ensuring national stability and conflict prevention.
3. The Role of the Maqāsid al-Sharī'ah in the Preservation of Life and Public Security.
4. Institutional reform and governance capacity development.
5. Constitutional Mechanisms for Internal Conflict Resolution: Conceptual Foundations and Practical Implementation.
6. Building a culture of transparency, accountability, and cooperation among security institutions.

Foreign Relations and the Future of Somali Federalism

1. Federalism's role in shaping Somalia's foreign policy and global engagement.
2. The jurisprudential outlook on Somalia's political future.
3. Foreign Policy Management within a Federal System: Strategic Pathways and involvement Prospects.
4. Role of opinion leaders and elites in fostering dialogue and national cohesion.
5. Assessing federalism as a pathway to Somali renaissance—conditions for success and lessons from failure.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Previously written papers may be submitted if they meet academic standards and have not been presented elsewhere.
- ✓ Submissions must include a participation request, a short CV, and a research abstract (200–300 words).
- ✓ Abstracts will be published in the conference booklet distributed to participants.
- ✓ Papers may be written in Arabic, Somali, or English.
 - Arabic: Sakkal Majella font, size 16 (main text), 12 (footnotes).
 - English/Somali: Times New Roman, size 12 (main text), 8 (footnotes), double spacing.
- ✓ Footnotes should be numbered independently.
- ✓ Sources and references must be listed at the end of the paper.
- ✓ Final papers should include clear findings and actionable recommendations.
- ✓ Papers should be between 15 and 30 pages.

PARTICIPATION BENEFITS:

- ➔ Abstracts will be featured in the official conference booklet.
- ➔ Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings after peer review.
- ➔ Outstanding papers may be considered for publication in the Center's peer-reviewed journal.
- ➔ All participants will receive official certificates issued by the Maqasid Center.

IMPORTANT DATES:

	MAGACA HAWSHA:	TAARIQDA FULINTA:
1	Abstract Submission Opens:	25 September 2025
2	Notification of Acceptance:	30 October 2025
3	Final Paper Submission Deadline:	30 November 2025
4	Conference Schedule Announcement:	December 10, 2025
5	The conference will take place: on	December 24–25, 2025.

END



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