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| <b>Country/entity</b>      | Eritrea<br>Somalia   |
| <b>Region</b>              | Africa (excl MENA)   |
| <b>Agreement name</b>      | Eritrea - Somalia Joint Declaration on Brotherly Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation |
| <b>Date</b>                | 30 Jul 2018  |
| <b>Agreement status</b>    | Multiparty signed/agreed   |
| <b>Interim arrangement</b> | Yes  |

**Agreement/conflict level** Interstate/interstate conflict

### **Ethiopia's Territorial Conflicts (1990 - )**

Agreements relate to three distinct (but related) conflict contexts:

Ethiopia-Eritrea. The first relates to the relationship between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the post-1990 period. In 1991, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) defeated the communist military junta ('Derg') in Ethiopia and proclaimed independence for Eritrea. At the same time, Derg itself was overthrown by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Forces (EPRDF), which established a transitional government in Ethiopia. Eritrea was granted an independence referendum, which resulted in a 99.8 per cent pro-independence vote. However, border tensions and heavy disputes, in particular on minority rights and economic issues, between EPLF and EPRDF led to new fighting between the two countries in 1998. A mediation by the US administration led to a difficult truce and in 2000 a peace agreement was signed. The ruling of the Border Commission established by the agreement was rejected by Ethiopia. The border continued to be heavily occupied by troops on both sides and border skirmishes continued into 2016. In June 2018, after a series of summits, the state of war was declared over in a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship, as Ethiopia finally agreed to honour the ruling of the Border Commission. This followed by a series of steps to improve political, economic and diplomatic ties. Transport and telephone links have been re-established, and borders reopened. In July 2018, the countries have signed the 'Agreement on Peace, Friendship and Comprehensive Cooperation' reiterating their commitment to achieving long-lasting peace in the region.

Ethiopia-Ogaden. The third relates to the remaining conflict in the Ogaden region. Here the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) in 1994 waged war against the Ethiopian government, demanding secession from the Ethiopian state and integration into Greater Somalia. Despite signing several agreements, low-intensity guerrilla warfare is still ongoing, although ONLF's strength significantly declined after 2009. Pursuant to an agreement with the federal government, they have returned from Eritrea to pursue peaceful political struggle and planning to register as a party and participate in 2020 elections.

Ethiopia-internal. The second relates to the attempts to reach settlement between contending groups post the Derg's overthrow with a negotiated political charter and 'peace agreement' constitution.

Close

Ethiopia's Territorial Conflicts (1990 - )

**Stage** Framework/substantive - comprehensive

**Conflict nature** Territory

**Peace process** Eritrea-Ethiopia border dispute peace process

**Parties** For the State of Eritrea President Isaias Afwerki;  
For the Federal Republic of Somalia, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed

**Third parties**

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**Description**

This short agreement reiterates the bonds between Somalia and Eritrea and sets out areas where the two states will cooperate and offer support.

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**Agreement document**

[ER\\_SO\\_180730\\_Eritrea-Somalia Joint Declaration On Brotherly Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**Groups****Children/youth**

No specific mention.

**Disabled persons**

No specific mention.

**Elderly/age**

No specific mention.

**Migrant workers**

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/  
national group**

No specific mention.

**Religious groups**

No specific mention.

**Indigenous people**

No specific mention.

**Other groups**

No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced  
persons**

No specific mention.

**Social class**

No specific mention.

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## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## State definition

**Nature of state (general)** Page 1, Provision 1  
Somalia is endowed with strategic location and vast human and natural resources. However, it has been hampered in realizing its potential due to internal problems and external intervention. Thus, Eritrea strongly supports the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia as well as the efforts of the people and government of Somalia to restore the country's rightful stature and achieve the lofty aspirations of its people.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** The two countries will establish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors;

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

**Civil society** No specific mention.

**Traditional/religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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## **Power sharing**

**Political power sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power sharing** No specific mention.

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## **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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### **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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### **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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### **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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### **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** Page 1, Provision 1  
Somalia is endowed with strategic location and vast human and natural resources. However, it has been hampered in realizing its potential due to internal problems and external intervention. Thus, Eritrea strongly supports the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia as well as the efforts of the people and government of Somalia to restore the country's rightful stature and achieve the lofty aspirations of its people.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** Page 1, Provision 3  
The two countries will establish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors, promote bilateral trade and investment, as well as educational and cultural exchanges.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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### **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion  
Page 1, Provision 2  
Somalia and Eritrea will endeavor to forge intimate political, economic, social, cultural as well as defense and security cooperation.

Page 1, Provision 3  
The two countries will establish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors, promote bilateral trade and investment, as well as educational and cultural exchanges.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

**Security sector**

**Security Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces** No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of foreign forces** No specific mention.

**Corruption** No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime** No specific mention.

**Drugs** No specific mention.

**Terrorism** No specific mention.



## **Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** No specific mention.

**Vetting** No specific mention.

**Victims** No specific mention.

**Missing persons** No specific mention.

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** Eritrea Ministry of Information <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/26772-eritrea-somalia-joint-declaration>

