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Parliament Committee on Public Works, Technology, Transport, and Housing

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Technical Coordination and Management of Somaliland Airspace

(Legal Resolution/National Order 2025:001/03 Reaffirmation of Somaliland's Sovereign Right and Exclusive Operational Authority to Manage Its Airspace)

The Parliament of the Republic of Somaliland respectfully submits this formal request (SLTCMOAS) to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) concerning the management and regulation of airspace over Somaliland.

Somaliland, recognized as a beacon of democracy in Africa, maintains peace, security, and functional governance across its territory, including the operation of airports and air navigation infrastructure. Despite this, an illegal administrative arrangement persists whereby the Federal Government of Somalia, supported by Turkey, has hijacked the Istanbul II Agreement between the Government of Somaliland and the FGS. In contravention of **UN Security Council Resolution 1418, Article 2**, Somalia continues to wrongly administer and collect revenues from the airspace above Somaliland.

As Somaliland exercises full control over its land and sea, it must also assume rightful authority over its airspace, in accordance with ICAO standards. Indeed, “*Who controls the land and the sea controls the skies of that land.*” Somaliland’s governance and operational reality reflect its independent capacity and responsibility to ensure safe and efficient management of its skies. From 1993 to 2017, ICAO and Somaliland jointly managed Somaliland’s airspace in good faith and mutual understanding, demonstrating Somaliland’s ability to uphold international aviation standards.

We therefore **formally and respectfully inform ICAO and the international community** to consider our national rights to exercise technical control over our territory’s airspace management, in line with **ECAOA standards**. Our nation has suffered from rights denied, yet continues to provide essential services under hardship. The outcomes of these efforts must now be recognized as the rightful value of Somaliland’s contributions.

In support of this revalidation, the Parliament submits the accompanying **Policy Brief: Roadmap for Somaliland to Assume Technical Control of Its Airspace**, which outlines a detailed, ICAO-compliant plan for:

1. Establishing and strengthening the Somaliland Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA)
2. Upgrading air traffic infrastructure
3. Implementing operational and overflight management
4. Coordinating technically with ICAO and neighboring authorities
5. Ensuring compliance with international safety standards

6. Transitioning international overflights to SLCAA oversight safely and efficiently

Relevant Precedents:

The Parliament wishes to highlight international examples where *(de facto authorities have thought we the elected parliament believes not but de-jure state since 1960 26 June ROSI independence treaties are registered in the UN treaties Records.)* **managed airspace safely and effectively under ICAO coordination**, without requiring formal political recognition:

- **Kosovo:** Following partial recognition, Kosovo established the Kosovo Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) to manage domestic and regional flights safely, with technical coordination for international flights.
- **Northern Cyprus:** Administers airspace and airport operations independently, coordinating with neighboring authorities to ensure flight safety despite limited recognition.
- **Taiwan (Republic of China):** Operates a fully independent civil aviation authority managing all domestic and international flights, while ICAO treats it politically as part of China.

These cases demonstrate that **operational competence, safety compliance, and technical coordination** are sufficient for ICAO to engage with non-recognized or partially recognized authorities for the purpose of airspace management.

Humanitarian & Security Safeguards:

Somaliland affirms its commitment to protect civilians, uphold human rights, and prevent attacks in any form within its territory and the airspace it administers. Control and monitoring of Somaliland's airspace will be exercised in strict conformity with international humanitarian law and human rights obligations, with the following guarantees:

- **Protection of Civilians:** SLDs Airspace management will prioritize the safety and security of civilians and civilian infrastructure, minimizing risk from any airborne threat or misuse of airspace.
- **Prohibition of Attacks:** SL-CAA and relevant authorities will ensure that no airspace authorization or aviation activity under Somaliland's control is used to facilitate attacks, reprisals, or actions that would violate international human rights or humanitarian law.
- **Humanitarian Coordination:** SL-CAA will coordinate with humanitarian agencies, UN bodies, and ICAO to ensure safe passage for humanitarian flights, medical evacuations, and relief operations.
- **Transparency & Oversight:** Operational procedures, incident reporting, and fee collection will be transparent and subject to periodic safety and rights-respect audits; findings will be shared with ICAO and relevant international partners as part of technical cooperation.

The Parliament of Somaliland respectfully **requests ICAO to:**

1. Recognize the Somaliland Civil Aviation Authority as the operational authority responsible for managing airspace over Somaliland for technical and safety purposes.



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2. Engage in technical coordination with SL-CAA to ensure safe integration with regional and international flight operations.
3. Provide guidance and support to enable Somaliland to fully implement the roadmap outlined in the accompanying policy brief.
4. Support mechanisms for oversight and technical audits that include assessment of safety, humanitarian access, and respect for applicable human rights norms.

This request is submitted in the spirit of **ensuring flight safety, operational efficiency, humanitarian protection, and regional cooperation**, consistent with ICAO's standards and recommended practices (SARPs). The Parliament of Somaliland looks forward to ICAO's constructive engagement in this technical coordination.

Issued by:

**The committee Parliament Hargeisa,
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