Diaspora Bridging Societies and States

Drs. Fatumo Farah
Director of HIRDA Foundation

IOM International Dialogue on Migration 2017 -
second workshop 18-19 July, Geneva
My Background

• Refugee from Somalia 1992
• Being Refugee-Diaspora In Europe-NL
• Giving back to the country of origin
• Bridge between host country and country of origin
• Engaging diaspora/migrant to the development through HIRDA
HIRDA is a Diaspora development organization founded 1998 by Somali Diaspora in the Netherlands.

HIRDA works with CSO’s and CBO’s in East Africa (Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia) in field of Education, women Empowerment, relief, Remittances sport and Diaspora/migrant/refugees engagement engagement.
Diaspora/contribution
Contribution

- Political engagement
- Economic development
- Social development
Political engagement

- Contributors reconciliations and
- Peace building
- Participation of political arenas
Economic development

• Financial Remittances
• Social Remittances
  - Skills and technical know-how
  - ideas
Economic development

- Investment
  start-up capital for SMEs
- Investment sectors
  - Money transaction offices
  - Telecommunication and media
  - Small-scale industries
  - Real states
  - Trade
  - Agriculture
Social development

- Humanitarian and emergency assistance
  - Mobilizing Funds
  - Supporting local organization
- Development assistance
  - Diaspora development organizations
  - Diaspora community networks

HIRDA (Hmilo Relief and Development Association)
Challenges for Somali diaspora

- Working voluntary basis
- Lack of government support and partnership
- Absence of a common Diaspora Voice
- Leveraging remittance to development
- Xenophobia and discrimination
Conclusion

- Partnership between Diaspora and international community
- Capacity building for Diaspora community
- Promotion of Diaspora investment in different sectors
- Strong Diaspora network (regional)
- Engagement of Diaspora in development sector
Thanks for your attention

Contact information
fatumo@hirda.org
www.hirda.org