

# A Proposal for Action

## Salvaging the Third Somali Republic

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**5 March 2026**

*Contested constitutional amendments*

**14 April 2026**

*Parliamentary mandate expires*

**15 May 2026**

*Presidential mandate expires*

**Somalia's Third Republic is at a decisive national moment.** The March 2026 constitutional amendments remain contested and have not produced an agreed framework for transition. Without an agreed settlement before 15 May 2026, Somalia risks parallel legitimacy claims, fragmented governance, and worsening insecurity. **This proposal offers a realistic, compromise-based path forward: a two-year transition that prepares the nation for universal suffrage, aligns stakeholder interests, and delivers legitimate local and national elections by 31 March 2028.**

### STRATEGIC RATIONALE

<b>THE NATIONAL RISK</b>	The issue is no longer only the tenure of current officeholders. It is about the continuity, legitimacy, and unity of the state. A unilateral path deepens the crisis; no agreement risks vacuum, fragmentation, and instability.
<b>THE WORKABLE MIDDLE PATH</b>	Establish a strictly time-bound <i>Government of National Unity (GNU)</i> from 15 May 2026 to 14 May 2028, led by a professional Prime Minister (PM) with executive authority, jointly agreed by government and opposition. This is a realistic and implementable compromise that brings together the interests of all stakeholders.
<b>DOS AND DON'TS</b>	The proposal prevents a governance vacuum, preserves continuity of public institutions, and creates an inclusive path toward elections. It does not validate the contested March 2026 constitutional amendments. The transition instead proceeds based on the 2012 Provisional Constitution and a newly agreed roadmap.
<b>GNU CORE MANDATE</b>	Stabilize the country, complete an inclusive constitutional pathway, establish the electoral framework, prepare one-person one-vote elections, maintain national security, strengthen key institutions, and rebuild trust through transparency, dialogue, and inclusion.
<b>KEY RESTRICTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The PM and GNU cabinet members, as caretakers of the state, are barred from contesting the presidency in the next election cycle.</li> <li>- The President, the Speaker and The President of the Senate, as caretakers of the state, are prohibited from competing for the presidency in this election cycle.</li> <li>- No misuse of public resources, security forces, or government-controlled media to advance the campaign of any candidate.</li> </ul>
<b>A WIN-WIN PROPOSITION</b>	The Federal Government and all stakeholders jointly preserve the continuity of the Third Republic, avert a governance vacuum, reduce the risk of conflict, enable a time-bound transition to universal suffrage, develop a comprehensive roadmap, and secure a realistic path toward legitimate elections. This proposal offers the most realistic path to preserving the survival and legitimacy of the state once a political agreement is reached.
<b>Path Forward</b>	This proposal may not fully represent the demands of every stakeholder. However, it is the most realistic middle-ground to close existing differences. The window for reaching agreement is extremely narrow. Agreement must be reached before 15 May 2026 to prevent the end of the mandate, a crisis of legitimacy, conflict, and possibly state failure. Every stakeholder must act responsibly to salvage the Third Somali Republic.