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3.1 The Role of EU Projects in Peacebuilding, Democratic Governance, and the Respect of Human Rights in Somalia

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the central role of European Union projects in advancing peacebuilding, democratic governance, and human rights in Somalia, in alignment with core EU values of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. Given Somalia's context of prolonged conflict and institutional fragility, EU interventions employ a multidimensional strategy encompassing security sector reform, electoral assistance, institutional capacity-building, and human rights promotion. These projects aim to enhance social cohesion, empower civil society, and strengthen governance structures to facilitate sustainable peace and development. While acknowledging significant progress, the analysis identifies persistent obstacles, including insecurity, clan dynamics, limited local ownership, and resource constraints, which affect the efficiency and long-term sustainability of EU efforts. The paper posits that EU projects in Somalia exemplify a values-based, integrated approach to linking security, development, and human rights. It underscores the necessity for long-term, adaptive engagement rooted in EU principles to achieve enduring peace, democracy, and respect for human rights in Somalia.

Keywords: European Union; Peacebuilding; Democratic governance; Human rights; Somalia.

