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Conference Theme: A Multidimensional and Comparative Approach



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1.1 FORWARD

It is with great pride and profound satisfaction that we present this volume, marking the successful completion of the Jean Monnet Project in EU–Africa Studies, implemented by Horseed International University (HIU) with the generous support of the European Union. These publications represent both a scholarly milestone and a testament to three years of sustained academic engagement, dialogue, and capacity-building focused on the evolving and strategic relationship between the European Union and the African continent.

The Final Research Conference, held in 2025, served as a fitting culmination of the project’s academic journey. Together with the two preceding annual research conferences organized in 2023 and 2024, these events created a vibrant intellectual platform that brought together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, civil society actors, and students from across Somalia, the Horn of Africa, and beyond. Across the three conferences, participants engaged in rigorous discussions, presented innovative research, and critically reflected on the multifaceted dimensions of EU– Africa relations, with a particular focus on governance, sustainable development, economic partnership, peace and security, and regional integration. The quality of the presentations and the depth of scholarly exchange clearly demonstrated the project’s enduring academic and societal impact.

Over its three-year implementation period, the Jean Monnet Project in EU–Africa Studies at HIU delivered an intensive and diverse portfolio of academic and outreach activities. These included expert seminars, policy dialogues, thematic workshops, and certified training schools, engaging hundreds of participants from academia, the private sector, civil society organizations, and public institutions. Although the formal project period has concluded, the initiative has generated sustained and growing interest in EU policies, African integration agendas, and intercontinental partnership frameworks, significantly enriching both the Somali higher education environment and broader policy discourse.

The project unfolded during a period of profound transformation in the global political order and a strategic recalibration of EU–Africa relations. The European Union’s evolving geopolitical posture—reflected in initiatives such as the Global Gateway and the renewed Africa–EU Partnership—alongside Africa’s own ambitious integration agenda under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), has produced a complex and dynamic policy landscape. Within this context, the Jean Monnet Project at HIU played a vital role in fostering informed debate, critical academic inquiry, and policy-relevant research tailored to the opportunities and challenges confronting Somalia and the wider African region.

At its core, the Jean Monnet initiative is an educational endeavor, and this project was firmly anchored in a strong and contextually responsive curricular foundation. Between 2023 and 2025, the project successfully designed and delivered six specialized courses integrated into HIU’s undergraduate and postgraduate programs. These courses were carefully structured to equip students with analytical tools to understand European integration, Africa’s regional dynamics, and their interaction within the global system. The courses included:



- The Idea of Europe, the origins
- The EU institutions
- The European Union economy
- EU law-making, and sources of laws
- The nature of EU foreign policy
- Evolution of EU cooperation

Beyond teaching, the project made a substantial contribution to academic research with a distinct African and Somali perspective. Each project year resulted in the publication of one peer-reviewed scholarly article, collectively advancing the literature on EU–Africa relations with particular emphasis on fragility, resilience, development cooperation, and context-sensitive partnership models. In parallel, the project actively supported student-led research, strengthened academic writing and methodological skills, and nurtured a new generation of Somali and African scholars with expertise in Jean Monnet thematic areas—preparing them for careers in diplomacy, regional organizations, international development, and research.

This conference proceedings brings together selected papers presented during the three annual research conferences, reflecting the breadth and depth of scholarship stimulated by the project. The contributions address key themes including EU–Africa partnership dynamics, governance and security cooperation, economic integration, sustainable development, and the future of multilateralism. The project team remains committed to supporting the further development and publication of these studies in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals, ensuring that African perspectives—and Somali scholarly voices in particular—continue to inform global academic and policy debates.

As we present this volume, we do so with a strong sense of accomplishment and gratitude—to the European Union for its visionary support, to the dedicated academic staff and researchers for their intellectual rigor, and to the students and stakeholders whose active engagement brought the project to life. Above all, we are confident that the intellectual and institutional foundations laid by this Jean Monnet Project in EU–Africa Studies will endure, contributing meaningfully to higher education, research excellence, and informed, forward-looking policy discourse in Somalia and across the African continent.

With our highest regards,

The Editors



1.2 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Senior Scholar, Somalia

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Eng. Abdifatah Abdulahi Hassan

Director of Registrar, Horseed International University

Peer Review and Editorial Process

All abstracts included in these conference proceedings underwent an editorial and academic screening process coordinated by the Scientific Committee of the Conference on European and African Studies (CEAUS). Submissions were reviewed for thematic relevance, academic coherence, methodological clarity, and alignment with the objectives of the Jean Monnet Project in EU–Africa Studies.

Accepted abstracts were presented during the respective annual conferences (2023–2025) and incorporated into this volume following revisions based on session feedback and editorial guidance.

Publication Ethics and Academic Integrity

These proceedings adhere to internationally recognized standards of academic integrity and publication ethics. Authors affirm that their submissions are original, properly attributed, and free from plagiarism. Authorship reflects genuine scholarly contribution, and all affiliations are accurately reported.



The editors and scientific committee uphold ethical principles consistent with COPE guidelines, ensuring transparency, fairness, and academic responsibility throughout the editorial process.

Indexing and Archiving Statement

This conference proceedings volume is assigned an ISBN and is intended for institutional archiving, academic dissemination, and citation. Metadata including titles, author affiliations, abstracts, and keywords are structured to support discoverability through academic search engines and institutional repositories.



1.3 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

1.3.1 1ST CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES (CEAUS) – 2023

THEME: A Multidimensional and Comparative Approach

VENUE: Nova Hall, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

1.3.2 2ND CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES (CEAUS) – 2024

THEME: A Multidimensional and Comparative Approach

VENUE: Nova Hall, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

1.3.3 3RD CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES (CEAUS) – 2025

THEME: A Multidimensional and Comparative Approach

VENUE: Nova Hall, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

1.4 1st CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (2023)

MODERATOR: Abubakar Yasin Mohamed, Public Servant Advisor, Somali National TV

Time	Presenter & Affiliation	Presentation Title
Session 1 10: 45 -11:15	Nasru Elton OKELLO, Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University	<i>Comparative Analysis of European Union Foreign Policy and African Union Foreign Policy: A Study of Objectives, Strategies, and Challenges</i>
Session 2, 11:15- 11:45	Okiya Jimmy JANSKY, Director of Research and Development, Horseed International University	<i>The European Union (EU)-Somalia Cooperation: Areas, Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities</i>
Session 3, 11:45- 12:15	Mohamed Abdi ISMAIL, Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Horseed International University	<i>The Impact of the European Union's Economic and Political Policies Towards Somalia</i>
Session 4, 12:15 – 12:45	Isak Hussein HASSAN, Lecturer, Horseed International University	<i>The Role of The European Union (EU) in Promoting Regional Integration, Sustainable Development, and Conflict Resolution in Somalia</i>



2.1 2nd CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (2024)

MODERATOR: Abubakar Yasin Mohamed, Public Servant Advisor, Somali National TV

Time	Presenter & Affiliation	Presentation Title
Session 1 10: 45 -11:15	Ayub Elmi MOHOMUD, Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University	<i>European Union Good Governance Efforts in East Africa</i>
Session 2 11:15- 11:45	Zakariya Hassan ADAN, Student, Horseed International University	<i>European Union Infrastructural Development Programs and Economic Growth in Mogadishu, Somalia</i>
Session 3 11:45-12:30	Abdukadir Mohamed HASSAN, Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University	<i>The European Union's Contribution to Nation- Building in Mogadishu, Somalia</i>

3.1 3rd CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (2025)

MODERATOR: Abubakar Yasin Mohamed, Public Servant Advisor, Somali National TV

Time	Presenter & Affiliation	Presentation Title
Session 1 10: 45 -11:15	Zakaria Hassan ADAN, Student, Horseed International University	<i>The Role of EU Projects in Peacebuilding, Democratic Governance, and the Respect of Human Rights in Somalia</i>
Session 2 11:15- 12:00	Abdukadir Mohamed HASSAN, Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University	<i>EU Humanitarian and Development Initiatives in Somalia: Upholding Human Dignity, Minority Rights, and Equality</i>
Session 3 12:00- 12:50	David Nyaboga MORANG'A, Lecturer, Horseed International University	<i>Governance and Accountability: An Assessment of the European Union's Role in Strengthening the Somali Education Sector's Institutional Capacity</i>

Q & A session

Closing Remarks

Hon Mohamud Moalim Yahya

Former MP, and State minister of interior and Rebuilding, and Deputy Board chair of HIU



Welcome Address by the Rector

Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Scholars, Honored Representatives from the European Union, Dear Colleagues, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Partners in Development, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with profound honor and immense pleasure that I extend, on behalf of the Senate and the entire community of Horseed International University, our warmest and most formal welcome to this distinguished gathering. We are convened here today for the Final Research Conference of the Jean Monnet Project in EU–Africa Studies—a moment that represents both a significant scholarly culmination and a celebration of a transformative three-year academic journey.

This conference is more than a mere academic meeting; it is a testament to the power of enlightened partnership and shared intellectual pursuit. We gather under the esteemed banner of the European Union’s Jean Monnet Action, a program renowned globally for fostering excellence in the study of European integration. Our profound gratitude is therefore due, first and foremost, to the European Union for its visionary support and steadfast commitment to advancing knowledge and dialogue across continents. Your partnership has been the cornerstone upon which this ambitious endeavor was built.

To our distinguished guests who have travelled from near and far—eminent professors, insightful policymakers, dedicated practitioners, and brilliant researchers—your presence graces this occasion and elevates our discourse. You bring with you a wealth of experience and a diversity of perspectives that are indispensable for examining the complex tapestry of EU-Africa relations. We are deeply appreciative of your contributions.

This project has been a catalyst for institutional growth at HIU. It has allowed us to embed a robust curriculum on European integration and external action firmly within our academic programs, creating a lasting legacy of specialized knowledge. More importantly, it has fostered a vibrant intellectual ecosystem—through seminars, workshops, and preceding conferences—that has nurtured a new generation of scholars equipped to analyze and engage with global partnership frameworks.

We convene at a pivotal juncture in the strategic relationship between our continents. As the global order undergoes reconfiguration, and as Africa asserts its ambitious integration agenda, informed and critical dialogue has never been more critical. The themes of this conference—from governance and sustainable development to economic partnership, security, and the future of multilateralism—are not merely academic topics. They are the pressing, real-world challenges and opportunities that will define our shared future.

Therefore, I charge this assembly with a solemn purpose: to engage not only with scholarly rigor but also with a spirit of constructive inquiry. Let our discussions be fearless in their analysis, nuanced in their understanding, and forward-looking in their recommendations. Let us ensure that the insights generated within these halls transcend academia, offering value to policymakers and societies alike.

To the project team, faculty, and students of HIU, whose dedication has brought us to this day, I offer my heartfelt commendation. Your work embodies our university’s commitment to academic excellence and societal relevance.

In closing, I declare this conference officially open. May the next days be marked by stimulating exchange, fruitful debate, and the forging of connections that will endure well beyond our time together.

Thank you. I wish you all a most productive and enlightening conference.



1st CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS – 2023

1.1 Comparative Analysis of European Union Foreign Policy and African Union Foreign Policy: A Study of Objectives, Strategies, and Challenges

Nasru Elton OKELLO,

Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This study provides a comparative analysis of the foreign policies of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), focusing on their objectives, strategies, and challenges. Employing a qualitative research methodology via documentary review, the study analyzes secondary sources including official documents, policy statements, and academic literature. Key findings outline the distinct objectives of each union: the EU emphasizes promoting its values, democracy, rule of law, and human rights internationally (Article 21.1 TEU), while the AU prioritizes the promotion of peace, security, stability, and African solidarity (Article 3.h of the Constitutive Act). Similarities are found in their shared goals of promoting peace, security, democracy, and human rights. Divergences emerge in the EU's focus on regional integration and global governance versus the AU's emphasis on continental unity, economic development, and poverty eradication. Factors shaping EU policy include its treaty framework and member state interests, whereas AU policy is influenced by historical context, colonial legacy, and continental peace challenges. Both unions face significant implementation hurdles: the EU contends with achieving consensus among member states and external perceptions, while the AU grapples with limited resources, peace and security challenges, and weak enforcement mechanisms.

Keywords: European union; African union; Foreign policy; Comparative Analysis





1.2 The European Union (EU)-Somalia Cooperation: Areas, Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities

Okiya Jimmy JANSKY

Director of Research and Development, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This study offers a comprehensive assessment of the cooperation between the European Union and Somalia, examining its key areas, achievements, persistent challenges, and future opportunities. A qualitative research approach, utilizing an extensive documentary review of academic articles, policy documents, and reports, forms the methodological basis. The analysis identifies multiple areas of cooperation: governance and institutional development, security and counterterrorism, development assistance, humanitarian aid, trade and investment, migration, and regional integration. Notable achievements include contributions to security and stability through support for AMISOM, substantial humanitarian assistance, and progress in governance and state-building. However, the effectiveness of this cooperation is hindered by significant challenges such as ongoing security concerns, weak institutional capacity, political fragmentation, infrastructure deficits, corruption, and recurrent humanitarian crises. The study also highlights opportunities for enhanced partnership in economic development, capacity building, infrastructure, and inclusive peacebuilding. Recommendations include strengthening political dialogue, increasing tailored financial support, enhancing local capacity-building, fostering sustainable economic development, and promoting inclusive governance to improve the partnership's impact and sustainability.

Keywords: European union; Somalia; Cooperation; Development; Governance





1.3 The Impact of the European Union's Economic and Political Policies Towards Somalia

Mohamed Abdi ISMAIL,

Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the impact of the European Union's economic and political policies on Somalia, focusing on their implementation and effects. Through qualitative analysis and documentary review, the research examines EU interventions in supporting transitional governments, constitutional reform, human rights, financial assistance, trade integration, and private sector development. The findings indicate that EU policies have contributed to trade and development, delivered crucial development aid, facilitated agreements like the Fisheries Partnership Agreement, and supported governance, state-building, and migration/security initiatives. The implementation of these policies occurs through political dialogue, financial and technical assistance, and support for security and economic programs. However, major challenges impede effective implementation, including political instability, weak institutional capacity, corruption, limited infrastructure, a dominant informal economy, and trade barriers. The study concludes that while EU policies have positively influenced several sectors, their long-term success requires greater local ownership, enhanced capacity-building, concerted efforts to address corruption and governance issues, promotion of inclusive economic development, and robust support for conflict resolution and peacebuilding, accompanied by improved monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Keywords: European Union; Somalia; Economic policy; Political policy; Development aid





1.4 The Role of The European Union (EU) in Promoting Regional Integration, Sustainable Development, and Conflict Resolution in Somalia

Isak Hussein HASSAN,

Lecturer, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of the European Union in fostering regional integration, sustainable development, and conflict resolution in Somalia. Using a qualitative research approach and documentary review, the study assesses EU interventions and the challenges faced. The EU's role in promoting regional integration is manifested through its support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), facilitation of political dialogue, and enhancement of economic ties and trade. In sustainable development, EU efforts include supporting agriculture and food security, improving water and sanitation access, promoting renewable energy, and strengthening governance institutions. For conflict resolution, the EU supports political reconciliation, provides humanitarian and development aid, and backs regional peacekeeping efforts. Despite these contributions, the EU's role is constrained by Somalia's political instability, weak governance structures, limited resources, and cultural and ethnic fragmentation. The study recommends strengthening political engagement, increasing financial support, focusing on security sector reform, promoting job creation, and enhancing regional cooperation to amplify the EU's positive impact on Somalia's stability and development trajectory.

Keywords: European Union; Somalia; Regional Integration; Sustainable Development; Conflict Resolution





2nd CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS – 2024

2.1 University European Union Good Governance Efforts in East Africa

Ayub Elmi MOHOMUD,

Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia.

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the European Union's initiatives to promote good governance in East Africa, with a focus on institutional reforms, the rule of law, anti-corruption, and local governance strengthening. A qualitative methodology incorporating document analysis and case studies from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, and Rwanda is employed. Data from EU reports, government publications, and scholarly articles are analyzed to evaluate the impact of EU programs. Findings indicate that EU support has led to measurable improvements in local governance capacities, transparency, and public service delivery across the region. However, persistent challenges—including political instability, entrenched corruption, and limited civic space—continue to undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of these governance initiatives. The study concludes that while the EU has made significant and meaningful contributions, achieving lasting good governance requires continuous, adaptive engagement and strategies that more deeply involve and strengthen civil society while promoting genuinely inclusive governance processes tailored to local contexts.

Keywords: European union; Good governance; East Africa; Institutional reform; Anti- corruption





2.2 European Union Infrastructural Development Programs and Economic Growth in Mogadishu, Somalia

Zakariya Hassan ADAN,

Student, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This research assesses the impact of European Union-funded infrastructural development programs on economic growth in Mogadishu, Somalia. A mixed-methods approach combines quantitative analysis of economic indicators with qualitative data from stakeholder interviews, including local officials, community members, and EU representatives. The findings demonstrate a significant positive correlation between EU infrastructure investments and local economic growth, evidenced by increased GDP and improved urban connectivity. These projects have also generated substantial employment opportunities, particularly in the construction sector and through associated vocational training programs. The study highlights the critical role of effective governance mechanisms—such as capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and transparency measures—in ensuring project efficiency and accountability. Despite these positive outcomes, challenges related to security and potential corruption pose risks to project implementation and sustainability. Recommendations include strengthening local governance frameworks, enhancing security coordination, promoting greater transparency in project management, and expanding vocational training to maximize and sustain the long-term economic benefits of infrastructure development in fragile urban settings.

Keywords: European union; Infrastructure; Economic growth; Mogadishu; Governance





2.3 The European Union's Contribution to Nation-Building in Mogadishu, Somalia

Abdukadir Mohamed HASSAN,

Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the European Union's multifaceted contributions to nation-building in Mogadishu, focusing on institutional consolidation, state stabilization, and sustainable development. A qualitative research design utilizes case studies, document reviews, and in-depth interviews with policymakers, EU officials, and local stakeholders. The analysis reveals that EU sustainable development initiatives have enhanced economic growth and social infrastructure, directly improving living standards. In state stabilization, EU-supported security sector reforms have been pivotal in reducing violence and strengthening local governance structures. Furthermore, EU programs aimed at institutional consolidation have fostered more transparent and accountable governance, enhancing the overall functionality of public institutions. The study concludes that the EU's integrated approach has yielded positive, tangible outcomes in Mogadishu's nation-building process. However, ensuring the long-term sustainability of these gains remains a critical challenge. The study recommends continued and enhanced support for local capacity building, the strengthening of sub-national governance mechanisms, and strategies that ensure local ownership to consolidate peace and development.

Keywords: European union; Nation-Building; Mogadishu; Institutional consolidation; Stabilization





3rd CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS – 2025

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

Zakaria Hassan ADAN,

Student, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

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.





3.2 EU Humanitarian and Development Initiatives in Somalia: Upholding Human Dignity, Minority Rights, and Equality

Abdukadir Mohamed HASSAN,

Senior Lecturer, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the European Union's humanitarian and development initiatives in Somalia through the lens of fundamental principles: human dignity, minority rights, and equality. The EU's multifaceted programs are designed to build stability, resilience, and inclusive development amidst challenges like conflict, drought, and political instability. A rights-based approach is central, focusing on protecting vulnerable groups—including internally displaced persons, minorities, women, and children—by ensuring access to basic services and empowering local communities. The EU also works to safeguard minority rights through legal reforms, inclusive governance, and community dialogue to reduce marginalization and social tensions. Promoting gender equality and social inclusion is integral to the EU's long-term development agenda. The paper concludes that despite ongoing challenges such as social segregation and insecurity, the EU's adherence to these core values is critical for fostering sustainable peace, inclusive development, and social justice in Somalia. It advocates for participatory, multi-stakeholder strategies to enhance the effectiveness of interventions grounded in human rights principles.

Keywords: European union; Humanitarian aid; Development; Human dignity; Minority rights; Somalia





3.3 Governance and Accountability: An Assessment of the European Union's Role in Strengthening the Somali Education Sector's Institutional Capacity

David Nyaboga MORANG'A,

Lecturer, Horseed International University, Mogadishu, Somalia

ABSTRACT

This article critically assesses the European Union's role in strengthening governance and accountability within Somalia's education sector, with a focus on institutional capacity building. Employing a qualitative document-based review methodology, it synthesizes evidence from scholarly literature, donor reports, and policy assessments. The evaluation covers EU contributions to policy harmonization, teacher training, curriculum reform, technical advisory support, and institutional governance. Findings indicate that EU interventions have made significant contributions to institutional strengthening and governance reforms in Somali education. However, persistent challenges relate to the sustainability of these gains, donor dependency, and limited national ownership of reform processes. The paper concludes with recommendations to enhance Somali-led accountability systems, strengthen collaboration between federal and state-level education authorities, and ensure that capacity development initiatives are designed for long-term impact and local institutionalization.

Keywords: European union; Governance; Accountability; Education sector; Institutional capacity; Somalia





Note on References

Due to the nature of conference proceedings, individual abstracts summarize ongoing or completed research. Full reference lists and extended analyses are available from the authors upon request and through subsequent peer-reviewed journal publications arising from the Jean Monnet Project.

CLOSING SPEECH

Honorable Mohamud Moalim Yahya

Former MP, and state Minister of interior and Rebuilding, Deputy chair, Board of Directors, Horseed International University

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Esteemed Academics, Valued Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the sun sets on what have been three profoundly engaging days, it is my distinct honor, on behalf of the Board of Horseed International University and as a son of this nation deeply invested in its future, to stand before you to deliver the closing remarks for this landmark conference.

We have not merely attended a conference; we have borne witness to the crystallization of an intellectual movement. Over these days, this hall has transformed into a true crucible of ideas. We have dissected complex partnerships, debated governance architectures, and envisioned sustainable futures with a level of sophistication and passion that has been nothing short of inspiring. To every speaker, panelist, and participant who challenged a premise, offered a solution, or shared a groundbreaking insight—I offer my deepest gratitude. You have not just filled an agenda; you have enriched a field of study.

This gathering was the final, shining pillar of the Jean Monnet Project, a bold venture that began three years ago as an ambitious proposal and has now grown into a formidable center of gravity for EU-Africa scholarship in this region. From my dual vantage point—as a former policymaker in the halls of government and now as a guardian of this university’s mission—I see with absolute clarity the unique and potent value of what has been built here.

To our friends and partners from the European Union, your foresight in funding this initiative is to be commended. You invested not in a mere project, but in the foundational *software* of a partnership: informed understanding, critical analysis, and mutual respect. This is the bedrock upon which durable political and economic cooperation must stand. You have helped cultivate the very experts who will one day negotiate, implement, and scrutinize the agreements we discuss in theory today.

From a Somali and Horn of Africa perspective, this initiative has been a quiet revolution. In contexts often dominated by urgent humanitarian and security narratives, this project carved out an essential space for strategic, long-term, and *intellectual* engagement with a key global partner. It has equipped our brightest minds—our students—not just with knowledge of Brussels, but with the analytical tools to advocate effectively for Mogadishu, for the IGAD region, and for the African Union in any forum. This is not just education; this is an investment in our sovereign agency.

Therefore, as we close this chapter, we must categorically reject the notion of an ending. What we are witnessing is a critical evolution.



- **First, the ideas generated here must travel.** The papers presented, the debates held, must be synthesized, published, and placed directly into the hands of our region’s policymakers, diplomats, and development architects. This conference must live on in policy briefs and legislative recommendations.
- **Second, the community forged here must endure.** The network of scholars, practitioners, and students in this room is our most valuable output. We must nurture it, connect it digitally, and reconvene it to assess progress on the very themes we have debated.
- **Third, the legacy of the Jean Monnet Project at HIU must be institutionalized.** It must become a permanent fixture of our academic landscape—a dedicated research cluster, a continuing forum for dialogue, a beacon attracting further investment and collaboration.

In my years of public service, I learned that the most resilient rebuilding is that of institutions and minds. This project has done precisely that. It has fortified an academic institution and sharpened the minds that will lead us forward.

To the Rector, the project team, the faculty, and the indefatigable students of HIU: you have made your university and your nation proud. You have demonstrated that Somalia is not just a subject of study, but a vibrant source of scholarship and strategic thought.

As we depart, let us carry forward the spirit of this conference: one of rigorous inquiry, respectful partnership, and unwavering commitment to a future where the Africa-Europe relationship is defined by mutual benefit, shared knowledge, and collective ambition.

With the gavel in hand, it is now my duty and my privilege to declare the proceedings of this Final Jean Monnet Research Conference officially closed.

I thank you all for your distinguished participation. May your journeys home be safe, and may the ideas ignited here continue to burn brightly.

Thank you.