



Assessing the Impact of Terrorism on Foreign Policy Implementation in the East African Community (EAC)

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Abstract

Terrorism significantly influences foreign policy implementation, particularly within the East African Community (EAC). This study examines the relationship between terrorism and foreign policy decisions, emphasizing how security threats shape diplomatic engagements, regional stability, and international relations. Using a cross-sectional research design, the study integrates both qualitative and quantitative approaches to analyze the impact of terrorism on policy formulation and execution. The findings reveal that terrorism disrupts foreign policy by necessitating increased military presence, counterterrorism collaborations, and intelligence-sharing initiatives among EAC member states. Additionally, community dynamics such as sheltering terrorists and maintaining silence on extremist activities, further complicate counterterrorism efforts and foreign policy objectives. The study also highlights how geopolitical factors, including Somalia's strategic location and historical insurgencies, exacerbate security threats, influencing the diplomatic strategies of regional and global powers. Regression analysis results indicate a strong correlation between national security challenges and foreign policy effectiveness, with terrorism accounting for a substantial variance in policy implementation. Consequently, the study recommends a multi-pronged approach, integrating enhanced border security, intelligence cooperation, and socio-economic development to mitigate terrorist activities and strengthen foreign policy execution. Policymakers must balance security concerns with diplomatic engagements to foster regional stability while addressing terrorism's root causes. The findings underscore the importance of coordinated efforts among EAC nations and international partners to counter terrorism effectively.

Keywords: *Terrorism, Foreign Policy, East African Community (EAC), Security Challenges, Intelligence Cooperation*

Introduction

In the context of terrorism activities, information sharing is commonly known to be practiced by the security bits of intelligence (Jackson, 2012). However, it should be noted that information sharing is used by terrorists to effectively coordinate their activities. It is believed that community members are always used as channels of information sharing. However, one should not discredit the assertion that community members willingly provide information sharing which affects terrorism.

According to Farroha, Farroha, and Whitfield (2019), the examinations utilising the customary data inspecting worldview (Brodbeck et al. 2017;

Schulz-Hardt et al. 2016; Stasser and Titus 2017 clarify IS conduct as a result of psychological inclinations (Mesmer-Magnus and DeChurch 2019; Reimer, Reimer, and Czienskowski 2010; Stasser and Stewart 2012; Stasser and Titus 2015). Right now, a genuinely enormous assortment of research (for example Osatuyi, Hiltz, and Fjermestad 2012; Stasser and Titus 2017; Stasser, Vaughan, and Stewart 2010; Winquist and Larson 2018) demonstrated that individuals are bound to share data that is known to all individuals than data that is one of a kind (for example known by one/some member(s) as it were).



Albeit exact research has to a great extent contemplated in helpful settings, in these investigations, it was impractical to unravel subjective and persuasive procedures. At the point when an individual said (s), he didn't share a snippet of data because (s)he didn't think about it as significant; it was vague whether this is truly valid (a psychological predisposition) or whether this is only self-support of vital retention of data. Past research has likewise demonstrated that individuals lie, trick and turn inclination steady data, showing that persuasive perspectives additionally assume a job in IS (Scholten et al. 2017). Our attention is on these inspirational viewpoints fundamental SIS and we utilise another worldview created by Steinel, Utz, and Koning (2010) to examine SIS. All the more explicitly, we examined how persuasive angles influence particularly the quality, yet besides, the amount of data people share.

However, regarding the effects of information sharing on terrorism in the EAC, the government needs to use the community members always as channels of information sharing. However, one should not discredit the assertion that community members willingly provide information sharing which affects terrorism.

Sheltering terrorists is commonly viewed at a country level whereby different countries condemn other countries for sheltering terrorists, for example, Frantzman (2019) article posted online on the Jerusalem Post (<https://www.jpost.com>) inclined Iran and India for shielding fear mongers that consistently assault Pakistan. The later shown Iran and India are both affronted over late fear ambushes that appear to incorporate frameworks associated with fans in Pakistan. Further still, India was shocked at a dread assault in Pulwana in which 40 Indian Central Save police power individuals were slaughtered. The assault on the Indian security powers in Jammu and Kashmir likewise focused on transport. A gathering called Jaish-e-Mohamme was fingered as capable. In Iran, it was the IRGC individuals watching the outskirt in Sistan and Baluchestan area and the assault is accused of Jaish al-Asl a Baluch aggressor

gathering. In the two cases, the assaults occurred in districts that have since a long time ago had an anxious insurrection including Islamist bunches that are the two separatists and associated with psychological oppression. In the two cases, the gatherings are said to get support from the guests in Pakistan. However, the statements made by Frantzman (2019) referred to countries and not specific communities, and further still the countries referred to India and Iran and not Somalia. In this case, this study was in agreement with these statements, and it was found that several terrorist activities had occurred in Waberi District in Mogadishu and the community had played a role in sheltering the terrorists.

In other cases, individuals elsewhere were also convicted for sheltering terrorists. For example, the BBC news company (2019) reported on a man who lent his flat to two jihadists involved in the November 2015 Paris attacks who was sentenced on appeal to four years in prison. The co-ordinate suicide bombing and mass shootings around Paris killed 130 people and wounded hundreds more. Ingber (2019) further quoted the arguments made by the prosecutor in this case which reflected state building where the prosecutor was cited arguing that in November 2015, the man hid two men, who were on the pursued facilitated bombings and gunfire unleashed devastation at the Bataclan show lobby, bistros, bars, and the national stadium.

Accusations of sheltering terrorists have been recorded on various accessions without standing evidence among countries for example, at the United Nations General Assembly (2019), India's first Secretary at the Permanent Mission to the UN said that Pakistan is a country that provides shelter to 130 UN-designated terrorists and 25 terror entities. The Pakistan Prime Minister was also accused of sheltering and supporting Osama Bin Laden. At the individual level, a confession was made by one Indian policeman in India for sheltering terrorists. Rejeev (2022) posted this article online on <https://www.lokusnews.com/> where the policeman's confession stated that he ferried HizbulMujahideen terrorists for a year and facilitated the terrorist return to Shopian after rest



and recuperation. The Indian policeman had prepared a special hideout for sheltering the terrorists. This study found out that North East States were an entity of terrorists and community members played a role in sheltering the terrorists who lived in the same area as residents.

Thus the effects of sheltering terrorists on terrorism has led to unidentified assailants for example the one who detonated an explosive suicide belt at a police station killing at least six people and injuring six others in Waberi district, Mogadishu, overnight May 9-10.

The notion of community silence has been less studied however, the statement by White had (2023), that silence in communities over potential terrorists will lead to more atrocities in the UK is a true confirmation of this act of state-building. The author cited the UK counter-terrorism chief stating that there were some very dangerous and very committed individuals out in the communities who have deadly terrorist intent but keep silent about the intent. The author also noted that research has found that the intended terror attacks on Britain were highly facilitated by community silence.

According to Philibert (2016), silence is a powerful tool for community learning and listening to grievances. But in the context of response to terrorism, silence becomes an evil to society. The tendency of being silent on terrorist activities is characterised by not paying attention to your neighbour's activities, living in an isolated world, or even not minding what others are doing. Hurley (2015), analyses the dangers of a quiet community. According to the author, stated that a community is too quiet it will die. Quiet in a network isn't brilliant with regards to a network that settles on cooperative choices and depends on the association of open sources to achieve things. The creator likewise noticed that on the off chance that a network couldn't care less, at that point it won't decide. It will do nothing. Which implies something different will occur. In the context of this research, community silence is assumed to be one of the state-building practices that cause-effect on terrorism in the EAC.

The act of community silence to terrorist activities is more than the community's inability to provide information. Whitehad (2023) stated that community members choose to keep quiet whether or not they are aware of the existence of terrorists in their neighbourhoods. Hills (2018) noted that the act of community silence is not intended but is stimulated by the effects of the terrorist acts and the counter-terrorism participants.

A study was done by Mohamed (2018) on community policing in Mogadishu. A case study of Bukhara Market found that the activities of community silence facilitated smooth operations of terrorist activities in the area. The author noted that community members gave a deaf ear to whatever was being done in the neighbourhoods and this gave a hard time for community policing. Community members were not cooperative.

However, the effects of community silence about terrorist existence on terrorism this has community silence is assumed to be one of the state-building practices the cause-effects on terrorism in the EAC. Thus the potential pacifying role of public opinion plays a key role here; a liberal public will constrain the illiberal temptation of 'executive power' during periods when there is an alleged threat to the security of the state. What is unclear about this monadic cultural explanation is under what circumstances liberal states can engage in wars of self-defence or wars against what Kant called 'unjust enemies'.

Materials and Methods

This study adopted a cross-sectional research design. The cross-sectional research design is a research design by which the whole population or its subset is studied by seeking information about a study problem on what is going on at only one point in time. The cross-sectional design was used because cross sectional studies are generally quick, easy, and cheap to conduct because limited time is spent in the field. This research design was selected because it allows to compared many different variables at the same time. With the cross-sectional design, the researcher collected appropriate data quickly and cheaply. This study also used both the quantitative and qualitative



approaches. The quantitative approach helped in testing hypotheses to draw statistical inferences while the qualitative approach supplemented the quantitative data by providing detailed information (Guetterman, Feters & Creswell, 2015). Therefore, the researcher was able to draw statistical inferences and carry out an in-depth analysis.

The quantitative data involved information from the questionnaires only. Data from the field was too raw for proper interpretation. It was therefore vital to put it into order and structure it, so as to drive meaning and information from it. The raw data obtained from questionnaires was cleaned, sorted and coded. The coded data was entered into the computer, checked and statistically analysed using the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) software package to generate descriptive and inferential statistics. The Pearson product correlation Co-efficient analysis was used to test the relationship among the variables and regression coefficient models to determine the extent to which the dependent variables impact the independent variable. The results were presented in tables, were analysed, and were interpreted, and then a conclusion and recommendations was drawn.

Analysis

The results presented in this section aimed to assess the influence of terrorism on the implementation of foreign policy in the EAC. Item mean tabulation was utilised to summarise the findings, as demonstrated in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4 : Shows results on Terrorism and foreign policy implementation in the EAC

Terrorism and foreign policy implementation in the EAC	Mean	SD
The presence of violent extremist organisations linked to global jihadist groups in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.	3.80	1.23
Somalia's location makes it vulnerable security risks.	4.25	0.83
Somalia is terrorist attack located near the Arabian Peninsula which is controlled by Islamist insurgency group Al-Qaeda, and a minor offshoot of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) has been active in the region.	4.23	0.67
Terrorism have led to the increased presence of military naval units deployed in the region by the US, China, Russia, UK, France etc.	4.23	0.89
Terrorism has significantly hindered the successful implementation of Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy.	4.10	0.79
Terrorism has drawn several powers into the region including Russia, USA, China, France etc.	3.94	0.95
The international community's support in combating terrorism aligns well with Somalia's foreign policy objectives	3.80	0.93
Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy needs to prioritise counterterrorism efforts over other diplomatic goals.	4.09	0.79
Somalia's response to terrorism within the framework of its 2001-2010 foreign policy is adequate and comprehensive.	4.08	0.86
The Somali 2001-2010 foreign policy effectively addresses the challenges posed by terrorism	4.10	0.76
Average mean	3.93	1.041

Source: Primary data, 2023.

From the results in table 4.6 above, the average mean was 3.93 which implied that respondents strongly agreed towards the highlighted impact of Terrorism and foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010); including the fact that; the presence of violent extremist organizations linked to global jihadist groups in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (Mean=3.80) & (SD=1.23), Somalia's is located in the Mandeb Strait and its adjacent waters also raise security concerns (Mean=4.25) & (SD=0.83), and Somalia is terrorist attacks located near the Arabian Peninsula which is controlled by Islamist insurgency group Al-Qaeda, and a minor offshoot of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) has been active in the region (Mean=4.23) & (SD=0.67).

The findings were also supported by the purposive responses from the interviews conducted. That's, one of the respondents clearly stated that,

From the interviews conducted with Political Analyst Officials, one was quoted saying, "The foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010) of Somalia represents the strategic execution of Somalia's diplomatic agenda and objectives established in the year 2001. It involves navigating complex international relations to promote Somalia's interests, enhance its standing in the global community, and address key challenges such as security, development, and regional cooperation. This implementation requires a nuanced understanding of geopolitical dynamics, diplomatic negotiations, and strategic alliances to effectively advance Somalia's foreign policy goals" (Interviewees I-IV).

"From a security perspective, the foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010) of Somalia entails safeguarding the nation's interests and sovereignty against internal and external threats. It involves coordinating with national security agencies, law enforcement, and intelligence services to address security challenges, counter terrorism, and maintain stability. Additionally, it may involve collaboration with international partners to



strengthen border security, combat transnational crime, and enhance counterterrorism efforts to protect Somalia's territorial integrity and ensure the safety of its citizens." (Internal Security Official, 2023)

While, on the fact that the Terrorism have led to increased presence of military naval units deployed in the region by the US, China, Russia, UK, France etc affects Somali foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010), majority respondents strongly agreed with responses summed to a mean value of (Mean=4.23 & SD = 0.89), Terrorism have significantly hindered the successful implementation of Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy (Mean=4.10 & SD = 0.79), and that terrorism has drawn a number of powers into the region including Russia, USA, China, France etc, with a mean value of (Mean=4.23 & SD=0.89). The findings were also supported by the purposive responses from the interviews conducted. That's, one of the respondents clearly stated that. From the interviews with the Representative from the Central Government, some were quoted narrating that, "The terrorist threat in Somalia is a critical security challenge that is closely linked to the broader issue of insecurity and the presence of terrorist groups operating within the country. Organizations like Al-Shabaab pose a significant threat to Somalia's stability and sovereignty, as they seek to undermine the government, impose their extremist ideology, and create fear and instability among the population. The group's tactics, which include suicide bombings, targeted assassinations, and attacks on civilian and government targets, have resulted in numerous casualties and widespread fear. Additionally, Al-Shabaab's connections to global terrorist networks like Al-Qaeda and ISIS further complicate efforts to combat terrorism and ensure national security. Therefore, the government is committed to strengthening counterterrorism measures, enhancing security cooperation with regional and international partners, and addressing the root causes of extremism through inclusive governance and socio-economic

development initiatives. (Interviewees VIII-X). Further, on the fact that, the international community's support in combating terrorism aligns well with Somalia's foreign policy objectives, majority respondents strongly agreed with a mean value of (Mean=3.80 & SD = 0.93), Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy needs to prioritize counterterrorism efforts over other diplomatic goals with a mean value of (Mean=4.09 & SD = 0.79), Dominant narratives of historical experiences or 'roles' may also impact security policy behaviour with a mean value of (Mean=4.08 & SD = 0.86), and finally, The Somali 2001-2010 foreign policy effectively addresses the challenges posed by terrorism with a mean value of (Mean=4.10 & SD = 0.76). Therefore, with an average mean of 3.93; this implied that generally the terrorist attacks have a very huge impact on the foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010) of Somalia, which calls for an immediate attention to the matter following the ever growing military bases for various military powers in the region. While Representatives from the central government portrayed that,

As a member of the local community in Somalia, the foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010) impacts our daily lives and livelihoods. It influences how Somalia interacts with other countries and international organisations, which can have implications for security, trade, development, and humanitarian assistance in our communities. The successful implementation of foreign policy initiatives can contribute to stability, prosperity, and improved living conditions for local residents, while challenges or failures in implementation may result in insecurity, economic hardship, and other negative consequences for our communities. Therefore, it is essential for the government to consider the needs and priorities of local communities in its foreign policy decisions and actions.

For us, the local community members, the terrorist threat in Somalia directly impacts our daily lives and security concerns. Groups like Al-



Shabaab have carried out numerous attacks targeting civilians, markets, and public spaces, causing loss of lives and livelihoods. Their presence creates a climate of fear and insecurity, restricting our freedom of movement and economic activities. Moreover, the recruitment of young people into terrorist groups threatens the social fabric of our communities and perpetuates cycles of violence and radicalisation. Therefore, we call upon the government and security forces to prioritise the protection of civilians, enhance intelligence gathering, and engage with local communities in efforts to counter extremist narratives and prevent further radicalisation. Additionally, addressing the underlying grievances, such as unemployment, poverty, and marginalisation, is crucial for addressing the root causes of terrorism and promoting long-term peace and stability. (Political Analyst, 2023).

Multiple linear regression analysis between the dependent (foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010)) and independent sub-constructs of challenges of national security.

Table 4. : Model summary on challenges of national security and foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010)

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.608 ^a	.517	.317	.22617
a. Predictors: (Constant), Challenges of national security				

Source: Primary data computed by the researcher, 2023

The regression analysis results, particularly highlighted by the R-squared value of 0.608, signify a substantial relationship between the challenges of national security and the implementation of Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy. This statistical measure suggests that approximately 60.8% of the variability in the implementation of Somalia's foreign policy can be attributed to the challenges posed by security threats such as terrorism, insurgency, and kidnapping. This statistical significance is not only supported by empirical evidence but also resonates with theoretical understandings of how

security challenges can profoundly influence a country's foreign policy dynamics. It's plausible to acknowledge that security threats, especially in conflict-affected regions like Somalia, can disrupt diplomatic efforts, impede economic development, and undermine overall stability, thus directly impacting the execution of foreign policy objectives.

These findings hold significant implications for policymakers, security agencies, and international stakeholders involved in Somalia. Understanding the critical linkage between security challenges and foreign policy implementation underscores the urgency of addressing these issues comprehensively. Policymakers may need to prioritise security sector reform, counterterrorism measures, and conflict resolution initiatives as integral components of broader strategies aimed at enhancing Somalia's foreign policy effectiveness. Investing in capacity-building, peacebuilding endeavours, and governance reforms becomes imperative to mitigate security threats and create an environment conducive to diplomatic engagement and development endeavors.

Moreover, recognising the substantial impact of security challenges on foreign policy underscores the need for a multifaceted approach to address Somalia's security concerns. Policymakers should consider adopting holistic strategies that integrate security, development, and governance initiatives to effectively tackle the root causes of insecurity and instability. By doing so, Somalia can better navigate its foreign policy landscape, strengthen its diplomatic relations, and advance its national interests within the global arena. Ultimately, the regression analysis results underscore the interconnectedness of security and foreign policy domains, emphasising the imperative for integrated and coordinated efforts to address Somalia's security challenges and advance its foreign policy objectives.

This finding is supported by Al Maashi, (2017)'s study findings which asserted that Somalia being located in the most conflicted and poorly-



governed corners of the world, and the conflict in Somalia has aggravated tensions in a region that has already been scourged by maritime piracy, intense terrorist mobilisation, arms trafficking and a constant influx of refugees across the region, among other phenomena.

While, according to Belenkaya, M., (2019), Terrorists based in Somalia pose a security threat to the United States, while piracy off the Somali coast affects U.S. economic interests and has led to the murders of U.S. citizens. U.S. policymakers face the challenge of protecting foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010) while helping tackle the poor governance which is so often a root cause of insecurity. Further asserted that these events have been going on since the oust of Gen. Said Barre in 1992 and have led to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that has already killed more than 10,000 people and left millions displaced, which, in turn, has contributed to the sharp increase in the regional security concerns.

Table 4. : ANOVA results on challenges of national security and foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010)

ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	23.992	1	23.992	136.963	.000 ^a
	Residual	63.413	103	.175		
	Total	87.405	104			
a. Predictors: (Constant), Challenges of national security						
b. Dependent Variable: Foreign policy implementation in Somalia, (2001-2010)						

Source: Primary data computed by the researcher, 2023

The ANOVA table 4.9 reveals a significant positive effect of the challenges of national security in Somalia on the implementation of the country's 2

ANOVA ^b						
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001-2010 foreign policy. This is evident from the positive F-value of 136.963 and the corresponding Sig-value of .000. The Sig-value being less than the conventional significance level of 0.05 indicates strong statistical evidence supporting the relationship between national security challenges and foreign policy implementation. Essentially, these findings suggest that ineffective management of security challenges such as terrorism, insurgency, and kidnapping can greatly impact Somalia's ability to execute its foreign policy objectives outlined in the 2001 policy framework.

The positive F-value indicates that there is variation in the implementation of Somalia's foreign policy that can be attributed to the challenges of national security. This variation is not due to random chance but rather reflects the influence of security-related factors on the country's foreign policy landscape. Moreover, the statistically significant Sig-value underscores the importance of addressing security challenges as a priority for Somalia's governance and diplomatic efforts.

In practical terms, these findings highlight the critical need for effective management and resolution of security issues in Somalia to facilitate the successful implementation of the country's foreign policy objectives. By addressing the root causes of insecurity and instability, such as terrorism, insurgency, and kidnapping, Somalia can create a more conducive environment for diplomatic engagement, economic development, and international cooperation. Failure to effectively manage these security challenges could hamper Somalia's ability to pursue its foreign policy goals, jeopardising its standing in the international community and hindering efforts to promote peace, stability, and prosperity within the country. Overall, the ANOVA results underscore the interplay between national security dynamics and foreign policy implementation in Somalia, emphasising the importance of a holistic approach to governance that addresses both security and diplomatic priorities. Effective



management of security challenges is essential for safeguarding Somalia's national interests and advancing its foreign policy objectives in the global arena.

Findings

The findings underscore the critical importance of fostering a culture of peace for the comprehensive development of individuals, families, societies, and nations. It is evident that a culture of peace, characterised by unconditional respect for human life and rights, serves as the cornerstone for fostering harmonious coexistence among diverse communities. From the study results, it becomes clear that promoting non-violence and peace is not merely an endpoint but an ongoing endeavour. This continuous process cultivates an environment conducive to constructive dialogue and conflict resolution, where individuals are empowered to participate without the fear of violence. Moreover, the study highlights the transformative potential of promoting an effective and harmonious peace culture. Such efforts can serve as bridges, fostering understanding and respect among various ethnic groups and nations. Additionally, a culture of peace acts as a powerful antidote to violence, conflict, and the escalation of regional and global tensions. By nurturing this culture, Somalia can mitigate the impacts of insurgency and other security challenges, thereby facilitating the implementation of its 2001-2010 foreign policy objectives. In summary, the findings emphasise the pivotal role of a peace culture in shaping Somalia's foreign policy landscape. By prioritising initiatives that promote peace, dialogue, and mutual understanding, Somalia can build resilience against insurgency and advance its goals of stability, security, and prosperity within the region and beyond.

The findings showed that Somalia's geographical proximity to the Arabian Peninsula, a region controlled by Islamist insurgency groups like Al-Qaeda and minor offshoots of ISIS, underscores the inherent geographic nature of terrorist attacks and their impact on the implementation of Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy objectives.

This proximity exposes Somalia to security concerns emanating from neighbouring regions plagued by extremist activities, shaping the country's security landscape and diplomatic priorities. Therefore, the implementation of Somalia's foreign policy is intrinsically tied to geographical factors, including unique physical environments and cultural dynamics, highlighting the multidimensional nature of addressing terrorism within the context of foreign policy.

The results align with Grygiel's (2019) research, indicating that challenges to implementing Somalia's 2001-2010 foreign policy can result in various adverse outcomes, including economic downturns, government instability, fraud, public insecurity, cyber-crimes, and external threats such as terrorism. This is attributed to the significant role of geographical location in shaping power dynamics, as it influences climate, economic opportunities, strategic positioning, and even national policies. A favourable geographic location confers considerable economic and strategic benefits, highlighting the importance of geographical considerations in understanding the complexities of foreign policy implementation.

According to Halford (2001), as cited in Potheary (2016), the study delves into how terrorism-related factors such as proximity, landmass, and geographical resources have historically shaped international politics. Halford (2001) posited that specific spaces may be more susceptible to attacks due to the political implications of distance, while certain topographical features can enhance security. On the other hand, Potheary (2016) highlighted that in geopolitical discourse, the influence of geography on politics is often regarded as 'commonsense' rather than driven by ideology. It is believed that geographical realities inherently dictate and influence political processes in predictable ways.



Recommendations

To effectively address the threat of terrorism in Somalia and safeguard the implementation of the country's foreign policy objectives, immediate action is required to strengthen border security. The Somali government, in collaboration with regional partners and international organisations, should prioritise allocating resources to enhance border surveillance technology, increase border patrol units, and establish joint border control operations with neighbouring countries. Additionally, enhancing intelligence-sharing mechanisms and conducting joint training exercises will bolster border security capabilities and mitigate the risk of terrorist infiltration.

Efforts to combat terrorism in Somalia must involve comprehensive counterterrorism strategies led by Somali security forces, intelligence agencies, and law enforcement. These measures should include intelligence-led operations, targeted airstrikes against terrorist hideouts, and disruption of terrorist financing networks. Moreover, capacity-building initiatives, specialised counterterrorism training, and strengthen cooperation with international partners are essential to effectively counter extremist ideologies and dismantle terrorist networks operating within the country.

Given the transnational nature of terrorist threats, fostering regional cooperation is paramount to addressing security challenges in Somalia. The Somali government, regional organisations, neighbouring countries, and international partners should establish ongoing cooperation mechanisms to tackle regional security threats collectively. This entails organising regional security summits, conducting joint military exercises, and fostering intelligence-sharing agreements to enhance regional stability and security in the Horn of Africa.

Investing in the capacity building of Somali security forces, intelligence agencies, and law enforcement is crucial to effectively combat terrorism and safeguard national security interests. Immediate and sustained investment in

specialised training programs, equipment procurement, and technical support will enhance the capabilities of Somali security forces to respond to evolving security threats. Strengthening institutional capacities and improving coordination among security stakeholders are essential steps towards building a robust counterterrorism infrastructure.

To address the root causes of extremism and terrorism, long-term development programs aimed at addressing socioeconomic grievances must be implemented. The Somali government, development agencies, civil society organisations, and international donors should prioritise inclusive development policies, job creation initiatives, vocational training programs, and infrastructure development projects in marginalised communities. By fostering youth empowerment, promoting social cohesion, and addressing inequalities, Somalia can reduce vulnerability to extremist ideologies and promote sustainable development.

Diplomatic engagement and multilateral efforts are vital components of Somalia's counterterrorism strategy. The Somali government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and diplomatic missions should prioritise strengthening diplomatic ties with regional and international partners. Active participation in bilateral and multilateral forums, advocacy for increased support for counterterrorism efforts, and engagement in regional security initiatives will facilitate collective action against terrorism and promote stability in Somalia and the wider region.

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