

## Germany celebrates 32<sup>nd</sup> Day of German Unity in Mogadishu

**Mogadishu, 10 November 2022** – Today, Germany celebrated its Day of National Unity with friends and partners in Mogadishu. The German National Day marks the day when East and West Germany were officially reunited on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1990. The celebrations today took place amidst a volatile security environment in Somalia and for the first time after the Covid-19 pandemic. It demonstrates that allies such as Germany and Somalia stand side by side even in trying times. Ambassador Groth therefore underlined today that this German Unity Day Celebration was a “very special moment”.

Germany supports Somalia in stabilisation, humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and democratisation. However, we are also responding to recent calls of urgency and are currently organising together with the government the supply of vital medical equipment for the victims of the latest heinous al-Shabaab attacks. Overall, Germany is the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor for a number of years with our contribution in 2022 standing at 66.4m €. The current development cooperation portfolio with a running project budget of 465m € focuses on peaceful and inclusive societies, sustainable economic development, training and employment as well as the transformation of agri-food systems. Our engagements in stabilisation and democratisation are supporting the federalisation process, development of policing, mediation and reconciliation as well as Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR). Germany, thus, stands by Somalia for its immediate as well as long term goals and priorities.

Ambassador Groth highlighted in his speech today the positive trajectory that Somalia has been on since his last posting in the Horn of Africa 20 years ago. He particularly commended the current priorities of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s government – constitutional reform, federalism and reconciliation, rule of law and justice, the fight against al-Shabaab and the current historic drought - and assured that Germany will continue to support Somalia in its pursuit of a stable and peaceful future. In the face of historic challenges such as the ongoing offensive against al-Shabaab, the extraordinarily harsh dry period and international events such as Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, Ambassador Groth called for a united front to defend our core values and help each other in times of turmoil.

German-Somali relations go a long way back. In this light, the celebrations paid tribute to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the “Landshut” in a joint effort by German and Somali security forces in Mogadishu. The successful joint manoeuvre to free the hostages on the airplane in October 1977 was a milestone in German-Somali relations which is still remembered by Somali as well as German partners and, inter alia, has paved the way for close collaboration today. In honour of this historic moment, the German School and German Embassy in Nairobi initiated a collaboration and created an exhibition on the events and historical background of the “Landshut”. The exhibition was presented at the German Unity Day today in presence of Somali National Museum Director Osman Gedow. Consequently, the exhibition will be handed over to the Somali National Museum in Mogadishu as a token of Somali-German relations.

For day-to-day updates and sharing, visit our Twitter account [@GermanyInSOM](https://twitter.com/GermanyInSOM) and follow Ambassador Sebastian Groth [@Diplo\\_Jazz](https://twitter.com/Diplo_Jazz).

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