

Keynote address

Securing Somalia's Digital Future

From Cyber Readiness to Resilience

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Keynote Speaker



WHERE SOMALIA STANDS

A nation that went mobile-first

11.5M

mobile connections, 58%
of people

5.47M

internet users, 27.6%
online

3.51M

social media identities,
17.7%

Top tier

mobile money use,
among the world's
highest

EVC Plus, Zaad and Sahal carry salaries, remittances and trade. In 2025 Somalia added a national instant payment system with SOMQR codes.

THE CORE IDEA

Somalia's economy now runs on the phone. Its security must run there too.

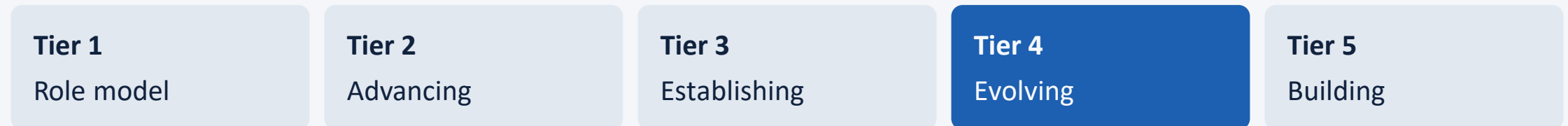
WHERE SOMALIA STANDS

The readiness baseline is still low

37.39

Out of 100 in the ITU Global
Cybersecurity Index

Somalia sits in Tier 4 of 5. Foundations are being laid, but technical capacity, structures and cooperation still lag the pace of digital adoption.



THE WAKE-UP CALL

The e-visa breach of November 2025

35,000+

applicants' names, photos, birth dates
and addresses exposed

*Lesson: launch speed outran security
and openness*

SEPTEMBER 2025

National e-visa platform goes live

11 NOVEMBER 2025

Attackers breach it; records leak online

13–16 NOVEMBER 2025

US and UK warn; agency confirms, moves portal

DECEMBER 2025

New flaw lets outsiders download documents

RESILIENCE IS PHYSICAL TOO

One anchor took the south offline

\$10M

estimated daily loss during the 2017
outage

In 2017 a ship's anchor cut the EASSy spur into Mogadishu, its only cable landing. The south lost internet for about three weeks.

Somaliland and Puntland stayed online via Djibouti. Redundancy decided who kept working.

Red Sea cable faults have since slowed Somali links again.

THE RISK LANDSCAPE

Seven exposures Somalia must manage

 Government data

Citizen records with weak safeguards

 Mobile money

SIM swap and fraud on wallets

 Phishing

Takeover of officials' accounts

 Chokepoints

Few cable landings, fragile fragile power

 Disinformation

Influence and extremist campaigns

 Vendors

Outsourced platforms, unclear accountability

 AI risks

Deepfakes, voice cloning and AI-written scams aimed at officials and mobile-money users

WHAT HAS BEEN BUILT

Three years of institution-building

When	Milestone	Status
Mar 2023	Data Protection Law and Authority	In force
Aug 2025	Cybercrime bill approved by government	Approved
Jan 2026	Cybersecurity Law passed by the House	Lower house
Early 2026	SOMCIRT response team launched	Scaling up
Feb 2026	Cyber MoU with Türkiye; Malaysia, UNODC ties	Partnerships
Apr 2026	NCA national framework consultation	Completed
Jun–Jul 2026	Risk Management Framework released	Implementing
Aug 2026	Senate first reading of cyber bill	In progress

FROM READINESS TO RESILIENCE

Having rules vs. absorbing shocks

Readiness: what we have

- Laws and a risk framework
- A lead regulator and a CERT
- Partners and MoUs
- First training for ICT staff



Resilience: what we can do

- Detect and contain in hours
- Keep payments and services up
- Tell affected people quickly
- Recover and fix root causes

THE ROADMAP

Five pillars of a resilient Somalia

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| 01 | Finish the law | Senate passage, implementing rules, CII list |
| 02 | Run SOMCIRT 24/7 | Monitoring, sector teams, mandatory reporting |
| 03 | Protect citizen data | Enforce data law, disclose breaches, audit first |
| 04 | Grow Somali talent | Train ICT staff, university degrees, awareness |
| 05 | Harden the pipes | More cable landings, backup links, recovery drills |

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Resilience is everyone's job

Who	What they own
Ministry and NCA	Set rules, fund SOMCIRT, secure state platforms first
Parliament	Complete the law and oversee implementation
Telecoms and mobile money	Protect networks and wallets; report incidents
Banks and Central Bank	Fraud controls; secure instant payments
Universities	Build the skills pipeline and local research
SomNOG community	Share threat data, best practice and training
Citizens and diaspora	Cyber hygiene; report scams
International partners	Training, funding and threat intelligence

MEASURING PROGRESS

Four numbers that prove resilience

GLOBAL STANDING

Tier 4 → [Tier 3]

in the next ITU cyber index

COMPLIANCE

[__]% of operators

filing annual risk reports with NCA

RESPONSE

[__] hours to contain

median SOMCIRT alert to containment

TRUST

[__] hours to disclose

to tell people their data was breached

Readiness is a document. Resilience is a habit.

The laws are written and the institutions exist. Now we build the muscle, muscle, together.

Mahadsanid · Thank you

Dr Abdiweli Mohamed Halane

