

*Editorial - 10/may/2025*

## **The U.S. Message: Security Hinges on Political Consensus**

In just two sentences- that's 206 characters- the United States made clear what it supports, what it rejects, and how it sees the path forward to resolve Somalia's growing political uncertainty. The message, issued by the Bureau of African Affairs in response to the recent communiqué of the National Consultative Council (NCC), blends political and security concerns into one coherent, yet stern position.

Four major takeaways from the US Department of State's message.

**1. "All relevant stakeholders"** – The U.S. has introduced a more inclusive phrase than the often-contested term "political stakeholders," implying the inclusion of presidential candidates and federal member state leaders currently at odds with Villa Somalia. This broadens the scope of those who should be part of national decision-making.

**2. "Should have a say"** – This implies more than simply listening to opposition voices. It suggests shared decision-making. What is being demanded here is not symbolic inclusion but a move toward consensus-based governance.

**3. On Somalia's federal structure and the creation or redefinition of federal member states**, a sensitive issue heavily influenced by IGAD and global powers, the U.S. appears to signal that unilateral changes, especially ones led solely by Villa Somalia, will not gain international recognition or legitimacy.

**4. As for Somalia's electoral system**, from constitutional amendments to election law reform and electoral commission structure, Uncle Sam insists decisions must be inclusive. The message is clear: Washington does not recognize the current unilateral path being taken.

In its second sentence, the U.S. warns that decisions lacking broad support will be illegitimate and could divert attention from urgent security challenges.

**1. "Decisions taken without broad-based support will lack legitimacy"** – This is a clear sign that the U.S. will not recognize or support such decisions.

**2. Ignoring this message may directly impact U.S. security assistance to Somalia.** If Villa Somalia insists on making exclusive decisions, the unspoken message is simple: you're on your own.

This is likely the strongest direct message the U.S. has ever issued to Villa Somalia. Analysts believe it stems from failed diplomatic engagements between U.S. officials and Somali government leaders, particularly regarding the NCC's controversial electoral proposals