



My name is Said Abdulahi and I am Norwegian, but I have Somali background. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies with a combination of international relations and business administration from the University of Agder in Norway and Instituto de Empresa in Spain. In pursuit of further education, I have been offered the privilege to study International Affairs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. My aim of taking such initiative is interlinked with my past experiences and future career goals.

My interest in international relations stems both from my experiences in growing up in one of the world's most hostile country, Somalia and my recent exposure to a world opened up by the enlightenment of higher education and its seemingly utopian setting. As result, my academic interest focus on global development and underdevelopment and the factors that create and maintain such differences in light of international politics.

After obtaining my Bachelor's degree, I worked for the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Ethiopia and for the European Union. During my time with the DRC, I have closely worked with refugees, migrants and internally displaced people (IDPs). Ethiopia being one of the largest origin, host and transit countries for migrants, refugees and IDPs, the exposure to and the engagement with many of them has enabled me to understand migration and the exodus of refugees as mainly a symptom of development and security issues that stem from conflict, lack of good governance, human rights violations, poverty and climate change. Upon completing my work with the Danish Refugee Council, I have interned for the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia in order to understand their solutions to the causes of the migration crisis that was originating from Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa at large. My main task at the EU delegation was mapping and analyzing EU's policies and projects in regards to migration and development that correspond to the 5 priority domains of the Valletta Summit.

As a person I am diligent, analytical with strong academic records and a multilingual person who speaks 4 languages (Norwegian, Amharic, Somali and English). In addition to this, I am also learning French and Arabic. I am a highly motivated person and due to my cultural background and through my work experiences internationally, I have internalized cultural openness, a virtue in work ethic, professionalism and effectiveness.

