



My name is Fatuma Hani Abdullahi Ibrahim and I was born in a small northern town in Kenya but spent a majority of my life in the capital city, Nairobi. My initial interest in world affairs was sparked by reading about the interactions of long-lost civilizations as a young child, I was enamored by the tales of conquest, trade and how war was transformed into peace by the coming together of nations. An introduction to transnational affairs and history in secondary school further solidified this interest. For my undergraduate degree I chose to pursue a BA in International relations, which I believe has opened up many doors for me. I obtained my BA from the United States International University – Africa in Nairobi, in 2015.

Following the completion of my degree, I worked with the Kenya Red Cross Society as a public relations intern where I was involved in peer education activities and managed volunteer teams for different events. My experience at the Red Cross paved the way for me to continue my volunteer work, this time regionally. I worked with underprivileged youth in Rwanda's rural north through the Native school program powered by AIESEC an international youth-run, non-governmental and not-for-profit organization that provides young people with leadership development opportunities. I have remained a Kenya Red Cross member and continued to contribute to their work. In 2016, I began a career in public service with the Kenyan Interior ministry where I worked until recently under different capacities. I chose to pursue an MA in my continuous pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement.

During my undergraduate studies I developed a keen interest in the socio-political development of African states. Further my professional experiences have taught me the importance of understanding the forces that characterize transnational relations and their impact on individual communities. Africa has cycled through change, some areas more tumultuous than others, where once individual identity was validated by its connection to the collective there now exists a society that is increasingly disconnected and yet is unlike the western ideals it has embraced. Herein lies my true interest, I would like to be at the forefront of describing and understanding this new Africa and how it relates with the global community. An education at SAIS would equip me with the necessary training in theory and research to successfully interpret this dynamic change. Already it has given me the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals through the recently established Africa-impact hub at SAIS Europe and the overall African student's association.

At SAIS, I have chosen to pursue choice MA program in International Affairs which I believe would enable me to successfully interpret emerging dynamics and their impact on development in Africa. While I speak English, Swahili and Somali I am currently studying Arabic at SAIS. Overall, this experience will certainly contribute greatly to my personal advancement.