



# SCCI

Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Rugta Ganacsiga Iyo Warshadaha Soomaaliyeed



## JOINT STATEMENT

*Mogadishu, 3 September 2017*

On 26 August 2017, Somalia's Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry Ms Khadra Ahmed Duale issued ministerial decree in which Ms. Khadra Ahmed Duale claimed to have dissolved the leadership of Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and directed preparations of elections for leadership of SCCI, organized by the Ministry, in line with law number 22.

The decision by the Minister is a flagrant violation of the principle of freedom of association which is a cornerstone principle of law in the Federal Republic of Somalia as prescribed in Provisional Constitution of Somalia. Business community and employers in particular, are free to organize freely and form their own organization without interference, dictation or control by any governmental authority.

This ministerial decree is an attack on numerous pieces of legislation, treaties and conventions to which Somalia is a party, that reference promotion of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Particular this decree contravenes two ILO Conventions that govern the basic principles of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining as they are defined at the international level: Conventions 87 and 98.

SCCI is an independent organization which is striving to promote and represent interests of Somali business community. Its leadership is elected by business community freely and democratically.

Attacks on independence of SCCI and legitimacy of its leadership is similar to grave government attacks on workers' right to freedom of association and trade union freedom which have been endured by the members and leadership of Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU). This time around, they have come for employers' freedom to associate.

We unequivocally and collectively condemn these severe violations of freedom of association, and send urgent appeal to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Employers' Organization (IOE) and the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC) as well as wider international employers and workers movement to condemn and reject these attacks on freedom of association in Somalia, and expressly ensure that social partners enjoy basic right of freedom of association.

Issued by:

**Mr. Abdi Abshir Dorre**  
SCCI Executive Director

**Mr. Omar Faruk Osman**  
FESTU General Secretary