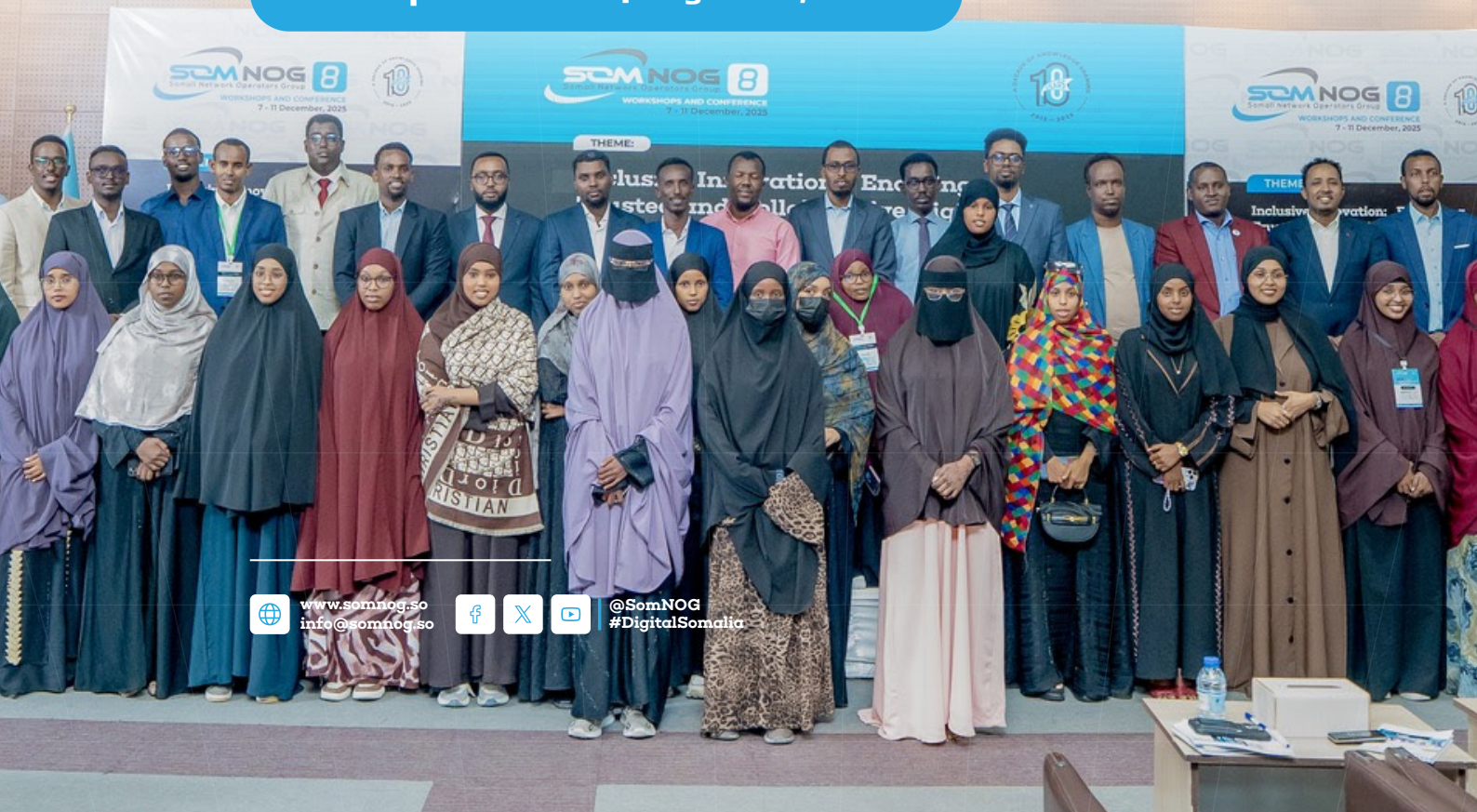




WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE
19-24 SEPTEMBER, 2026

Connected by Design: Advancing Somalia's Digital Infrastructure and Integrated Public Services

19-24 September 2026 | Mogadishu, Somalia



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@SomNOG
#DigitalSomalia

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INTRODUCTION

The Somali Network Operators Group (SomNOG) is pleased to announce SomNOG9 - the 9th Annual Workshops and Conference - scheduled from 19-24 September 2026 in Mogadishu, Somalia. As SomNOG enters its eleventh year and the beginning of its second decade, this edition carries both the weight of a proven track record and the ambition of a community that has consistently grown in scope, depth, and national relevance.

SomNOG9 arrives at a pivotal moment in Somalia's digital transformation. As digital public services expand, government systems multiply, and connectivity infrastructure grows, the absence of integration, trusted identity, local data hosting, and national cybersecurity readiness has become Somalia's most urgent digital challenge. Citizens register and re-register across disconnected systems. Citizen data sits on infrastructure beyond Somalia's jurisdiction. Network traffic between two users in the same city - or even the same building - travels across international fiber optic routes through foreign transit networks before reaching its destination, adding unnecessary latency, degrading user experience, and driving up costs for both users and Internet service providers alike. Addressing this gap in local traffic exchange, reducing dependence on international transit, and building the technical and policy foundations for a more locally rooted Internet infrastructure is one of SomNOG9's core priorities.

Building on eight years of annual events and a decade of community-driven capacity building, SomNOG9 will convene network engineers, systems administrators, cybersecurity professionals, software developers, government institutions, Internet service providers, academia, financial institutions, development organizations, and technology stakeholders for six days of technical workshops, tutorials, and high-level conference dialogue.

About SomNOG



Established in 2015, the Somali Network Operators Group (SomNOG) is a volunteer-driven, community-led technical organization dedicated to strengthening Somalia's Internet and ICT ecosystem through capacity building, knowledge sharing, operational collaboration, and multi-stakeholder engagement.

SomNOG provides a neutral, open platform for engineers, operators, developers, cybersecurity practitioners, students, academics, policymakers, and industry leaders to exchange knowledge, build technical skills, and collaborate on the challenges and opportunities shaping Somalia's digital future.

Since SomNOG1 in 2016, the organization has trained hundreds of ICT professionals, facilitated operational knowledge exchange across Somalia's Internet operators, connected the local technical community with regional and global networks, and built a community that has become a recognized cornerstone of Somalia's ICT ecosystem.

SomNOG's motto is: "Towards a better Internet, through effective collaboration."

Beyond the annual event, SomNOG operates a year-round Capacity Building Series - delivering virtual and in-person technical sessions on networking, Linux systems administration, DevOps, cloud computing, Cybersecurity, software development, and Online trust and safety. These sessions maintain community momentum between annual events, broaden access to quality technical training, and build the pipeline of skilled professionals that Somalia's growing digital infrastructure depends upon.

SomNOG at a Glance

Established	2015
Nature	Volunteer-driven, community-led technical organization
Motto	Towards a better Internet, through effective collaboration
Annual Event	Workshops, Tutorials Day, and Conference
Year-Round Activities	Capacity Building Series - virtual and in-person technical sessions
Core Domains	Networking · Systems & Services · Software Development · Cybersecurity · Cloud · DevOps · Digital Trust
SomNOG9 Organizers	SomNOG · SomaliREN · ISOC Somalia Chapter
Community Reach	Students, engineers, operators, academia, government, industry, and development partners



SomNOG9 Overview

SomNOG9 marks the beginning of SomNOG's second decade - and responds to Somalia's most pressing and interconnected digital infrastructure challenges: systems that do not communicate with each other, citizen data hosted outside the country, network traffic that transits internationally before reaching a local destination, and a cybersecurity posture that has not kept pace with the expansion of digital services.

These are not abstract technical problems. They have direct consequences for every Somali citizen who must re-register at every government institution, for every operator whose traffic incurs unnecessary international transit costs, and for every institution whose data governance is subject to foreign jurisdictions.

SomNOG9 addresses these challenges directly - through practical technical training, operational knowledge sharing, infrastructure-focused policy dialogue, and community collaboration - building the shared understanding and skills that Somalia's next decade of digital transformation requires.



Main Theme and Sub-Themes

"Connected by Design: Advancing Somalia's Digital Infrastructure and Integrated Public Services"

Sub-Theme 1: Digital Infrastructure and Sovereignty

Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and local traffic routing, national data centers, data residency and sovereignty, and reducing dependence on international transit infrastructure for Somalia's own communications and citizen data.

Sub-Theme 2: Interoperability and Integrated Services

Connecting disconnected government and private systems, Government Enterprise Architecture (GEA), shared data standards, API-driven integration, citizen-centered service delivery, and eliminating the burden of repeated registration on citizens and institutions.

Sub-Theme 3: Digital Identity and Trust

Digital identity frameworks, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), trusted digital transactions, and authentication and trust services - the enabling layer without which integration cannot function safely.

Sub-Theme 4: Cybersecurity and National Resilience

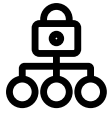
National cyber resilience, incident response coordination, cybersecurity governance, critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity workforce development, and supporting Somalia's evolving national cybersecurity ecosystem.

Program Structure

Component	Dates	Purpose
Workshops - 4 Parallel Tracks	19-21 September 2026	Intensive hands-on technical training across four domains
Tutorials Day	22 September 2026	Focused specialist sessions on emerging technologies
Conference - 2 Days	23-24 September 2026	Keynotes, technical presentations, panel discussions, policy dialogue, and community networking

Workshops - Four Parallel Tracks

The SomNOG9 Workshops run from 19-21 September 2026 delivering three days of hands-on, lab-driven technical training across four parallel tracks. Following SomNOG's established 60:40 practice-to-theory methodology, participants spend the majority of their time in active lab environments - configuring real systems, troubleshooting live networks, and applying concepts in operational scenarios rather than passively consuming lectures.



Track 1: Network Infrastructure

Routing and switching, BGP operations, IPv6 deployment, wireless infrastructure, IXPs and peering, campus network design, network automation, monitoring and troubleshooting.



Track 2: Systems and Services

Linux systems administration, DNS and Internet services, virtualization and containers, cloud infrastructure, monitoring and logging, identity and authentication services, automation and scripting.



Track 3: Software Development

Backend development, APIs and microservices, DevOps practices, CI/CD pipelines, secure application development, Infrastructure as Code, and cloud-native applications.



Track 4: Cybersecurity - New for SomNOG9

Introduced in direct response to Somalia's growing cybersecurity priorities, this dedicated track covers: security operations, incident response, threat detection and monitoring, PKI and cryptography, secure infrastructure design, network security, web application security, and cybersecurity governance.

Tutorials Day - 22 September 2026

The SomNOG9 Tutorials Day offers a focused Program of specialist sessions addressing high-demand technical areas directly relevant to Somalia's current digital priorities. Shorter and more targeted than the workshops, tutorials introduce participants to emerging technologies and operational approaches in a structured, practical format.

Proposed tutorial topics include:

- Cloud infrastructure and security
- PKI and digital trust in practice
- DPI and digital identity implementation
- AI and infrastructure management
- DevOps and automation workflows
- Wireless infrastructure deployment
- Internet governance and digital rights
- Online Trust and Safety

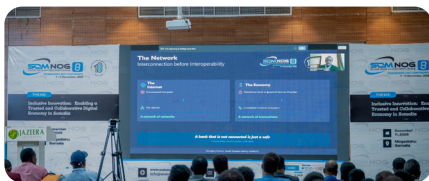


Main Conference -23 - 24 September

The SomNOG9 Conference is a two-day high-level gathering bringing together government institutions, ICT industry leaders, technical practitioners, academics, international development partners, and the broader community for substantive dialogue on Somalia's digital infrastructure priorities.

Program elements include:

- Official opening ceremony and keynote addresses
- Technical presentations and operational case studies
- Lightning talks - concise, high-impact practitioner insights
- Expert panel discussions across all four sub-themes
- Community networking and stakeholder engagement sessions
- Sponsor recognition and engagement
- SomNOG9 Communiqué



Conference Topics of Interest

Presentations, case studies, and panel proposals are welcomed across the following areas:

- Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and local traffic routing
- National data centers and data sovereignty
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) - design, deployment, and governance
- Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and digital identity
- Government Enterprise Architecture (GEA) and integrated services
- Cybersecurity operations, incident response, and national cyber resilience
- Incident response frameworks and organizational readiness
- Cloud infrastructure adoption and management
- Network automation and monitoring
- Internet governance and policy
- AI and digital services
- DevOps and infrastructure automation
- Community networks and last-mile connectivity
- Technical capacity development and workforce readiness

Objectives

- Strengthen practical technical capacity in networking, systems, software development, and cybersecurity across Somalia's ICT ecosystem.
- Advance community understanding of local traffic exchange, national data hosting, and data sovereignty as critical national infrastructure priorities.
- Facilitate substantive dialogue on interoperability, shared standards, APIs, Government Enterprise Architecture, and citizen-centered digital service delivery.
- Build awareness and readiness around PKI, digital identity, authentication, and trusted digital transactions as foundational prerequisites for integrated services.
- Accelerate community and institutional engagement around cyber resilience, incident response readiness, and cybersecurity governance.
- Strengthen collaboration between operators, government, academia, financial institutions, development partners, and the technical community.
- Connect Somalia's community-driven technical capacity building with national digital transformation priorities.
- Expand professional networks and mentorship pathways for students and emerging ICT professionals.

Target Audience

SomNOG9 is designed to engage a wide range of stakeholders across Somalia's digital ecosystem:

- Network engineers, systems administrators, and infrastructure operators
- Cybersecurity professionals and practitioners
- Software developers and DevOps engineers
- Cloud and infrastructure engineers
- Government ministries, agencies, and regulatory bodies
- Internet service providers and telecommunications companies
- Financial institutions and fintech companies
- Universities, researchers, and academics
- Technology startups and entrepreneurs
- Development organizations and international partners
- Students and emerging ICT professionals

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened practical capacity across network operations, systems administration, software development, and cybersecurity.
- Clearer community and institutional understanding of local traffic exchange, national data hosting, and data sovereignty.
- Actionable recommendations on interoperability, GEA, shared data standards, and citizen-centered digital service delivery.
- Greater awareness and organizational readiness around PKI, digital identity, DPI, and trusted digital transactions.
- Increased community engagement and institutional readiness for incident response and national cyber resilience.
- Strengthened cross-sector collaboration between operators, government, academia, financial institutions, and development partners.
- Better alignment between community-driven capacity building and Somalia's national digital transformation agenda.
- Expanded peer networks and mentorship connections for students and early-career ICT professionals.

Call for Papers and Presentations

SomNOG9 invites submissions of technical presentations, operational case studies, research papers, lightning talks, panel proposals, and community experience-sharing sessions from engineers, operators, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and academics whose work aligns with the SomNOG9 theme and sub-themes.

Submissions are particularly welcomed on:

- Technical deployment experiences and operational lessons learned
- Research and policy insights aligned with SomNOG9 sub-themes
- Cybersecurity case studies and institutional readiness frameworks
- DPI, PKI, GEA, IXPs, and integrated digital services
- Cloud, DevOps, networking, systems, and software development

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should not exceed 500 words, written in English or Somali, and should clearly state the objective, methodology, and significance of the work. Please include the presenter's name, organization, and contact information.

Important Dates

Milestone	Date
Abstract submission deadline	15 August 2026
Notification of acceptance	26 August 2026
Final presentation deadline	10 September 2026
Conference	23–24 September 2026

Sponsorship Opportunities

SomNOG9 offers a range of sponsorship and partnership packages providing meaningful visibility, community engagement, and direct association with Somalia's most trusted annual ICT community event.

Sponsorship Tiers:

Tier	Available Slots	Investment (USD)
 Diamond Sponsor	2	\$7,000
 Gold Sponsor	2	\$5,000
 Silver Sponsor	2	\$2,500
 Workshop Host	1 slot In-kind - University / Training Facility	
 Media Partner	1 slot In-kind	
 Digital Media Partner	1 slot In-kind	
 Catering Sponsor	1 slot In-kind / TBC	
 Coffee Sponsor	1 slot In-kind / TBC	
 Printing Partner	1 slot In-kind	
 In-kind Sponsor	Open In-kind	

Sponsorship Benefits

Benefit	Diamond	Gold	Silver	Workshop Host	Media	Digital Media	In-kind
Exhibition Desk	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Workshop Participant Places	6	4	2	5	-	2	1
Conference Passes	15	10	5	8	3	3	3
Logo - Marketing Materials	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Extra Large	Medium	Medium	Small
Logo - Event Backdrop	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Small
Social Media Mention	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Logo - Event Website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Distribution of Materials	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-
Pull-up Banner Display	2	2	1	2	1	1	-
Conference Opening Remarks	15 min	10 min	5 min	10 min	-	-	-

Why Sponsor SomNOG9

SomNOG has spent a decade building the most trusted and well-attended ICT community event in Somalia. Sponsoring SomNOG9 is not a transaction - it is a demonstration of belief in Somalia's digital future and a direct investment in the engineers and operators who build and run the country's digital infrastructure.



Direct access to decision-makers and practitioners.

SomNOG9 will convene government institutions, ISPs, financial institutions, universities, and the technical community - the professionals who recommend, procure, and deploy technology solutions across Somalia.



Association with a trusted, community-driven platform.

SomNOG's reputation has been built on volunteerism, technical excellence, and community integrity. Sponsoring SomNOG9 associates your organization with those values.



Reach beyond the event. SomNOG's social media community, mailing lists, and alumni network extend your brand visibility well beyond the six days of the event itself.



A visible commitment to Somalia's digital development.

In an environment where demonstrating national investment matters, SomNOG sponsorship is a credible and respected signal of long-term commitment.



Investment in trained professionals.

SomNOG workshops alone have trained over 1,700 ICT professionals across eight annual events - engineers and developers now operating across Somalia's ICT sector who remain active members of the SomNOG community.

A Decade of Community-Driven Impact

A decade of consistent, community-driven progress - each theme building on the last.

Edition	Year	Theme
SomNOG1	2016	Building and Managing Better Internet Infrastructure
SomNOG2	2017	Creating an Enabling Environment for the Growth of the Internet and Telecommunications Industry
SomNOG3	2018	Strengthening the Somali Internet Industry as a Key Economic Pillar
SomNOG4	2019	Digital Somalia: Laying the Foundations for the Next Economy
SomNOG5	2021	Digital Infrastructure for Development
SomNOG6	2023	Digital Somalia: Charting Somalia's Path to Digital Transformation
SomNOG7	2024	Digital Public Infrastructure: Laying the Foundations for Somalia's Digital Future
SomNOG8	2025	Inclusive Innovation: Enabling a Trusted and Collaborative Digital Economy in Somalia
SomNOG9	2026	Connected by Design: Advancing Somalia's Digital Infrastructure and Integrated Public Services

Community Reach Across Eight Annual events (2016–2025)

Metric	Figure
Conference Participants	1,500+
Workshop Participants Trained	1,700
Speakers and Presenters	200+
Panel Discussions	27+
Professionals in the SomNOG Network	1,500+

SomNOG8 Highlights - December 2025

Highlight	Figure
Workshop Applications Received	599
Workshop Participants Trained	106
Conference Registration Applications	1,109
Conference Delegates	250
Workshop Tracks	3
Event Days	5



**SomNOG welcomes conversations
with potential sponsors, partners,
presenters, and collaborators.
Reach out early – Diamond and
Gold slots are limited.**



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