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## Innovation Day at the United Nations Support Office in Somalia

**Mogadishu** - Sumaya Mohamed Dhakane, a 19-year-old student at Mogadishu Aviation College, has her sights set on an aviation career. Currently interning in the Aviation Section of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), Dhakane aims to manage Aden Abdulle International Airport, which serves as Somalia's gateway to the world.

"As a civilian aspiring to be an aviation professional, my internship with UNSOS has significantly enhanced my training and skills, greatly improving my knowledge and personal development," says Dhakane.

UNSOS Aviation Services recently took part in UN Global Innovation Day. They shared their commitment to empowering Somalia's next generation of aviation professionals, including Dhakane.



"I want to celebrate the partnerships we have built with the Civil Aviation Authority, Mogadishu Aviation College, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and the Somalia Security Forces," said Aisa Kacyira, the Head of UNSOS, during the celebrations in Mogadishu.

"This model is inspiring because it demonstrates what the UN can achieve when collaborating with partners focused on empowering a country like Somalia, which needs sustainable support."

The initiative aims to strengthen Somalia's aviation sector by providing comprehensive training programmes for personnel in the Somalia Security Forces (SSF) and aviation students. This includes training, coaching, mentoring, and on-the-job training.

"We've demonstrated that this approach is sustainable because of our achievements over the years. Since 2008, we have successfully transferred responsibilities to the Somali Civil Aviation Authorities and SSF as we gradually reduce our presence in the Aviation Movements Section," said Ernest Manzano, UNSOS Chief Aviation Services.



The Aviation Section has consistently improved its capacity-building programme to meet International Organization for Standards (ISO) requirements, addressing key needs in Somalia's aviation industry, such as security, meteorology, and firefighting. It empowers Somalia's Security Forces, including women in aviation, as the country moves toward self-reliance and a secure future.

"UNSOS mentorship has filled the knowledge gap and provided us with the confidence to perform our jobs correctly," said Lt. Ahmed Hiraabe, Team Leader of the Somali Air Force.

