**Terms of reference**

**Assessment Proposal:**

We would like the assessment to examine various forms of federalism and/or decentralization in Somalia and the benefits and costs to each model. For example, a unitary federalism model (ie. a strong center) could be best for near-term stability and Somalia and international CT efforts but could result in long-term challenges that run counter to Western/US interests. On the other hand, perhaps a more decentralized federation could ultimately be the best for long-term stability but is inherently unsteady, and would only marginally promote state cohesion/CT coordination in the near-term. We look forward to your assessment on this issue which examines the following key questions:

* What are the possible forms/models of federalism that could occur in Somalia?
* What are the implications of each model of federalism, and which federalism model would provide the best prospect for a relatively stable Somalia governed by a representative administration that could reduce political divisions in the country, provide basic services to its population, counter violent extremism, and provide for its own internal security?
* What are opportunities and challenges for external partners, particularly the US, to consider to assist Somalia towards a desired end state?

In addition to answering the question above, please address any assumptions for this analysis in a scope note or introductory section. Please define the specific actors or position titles (Somali or other nationalities) that would be key to achieving this model. Please include how each model of federalism helps, hurts, or is neutral toward achieving the long-term desired end state (as described above). Please provide historic context in the analysis discussing where Somalia is at this moment in its path towards federalism and its trajectory for the next five to ten years.

Again, we welcome an analytic discussion of this proposal and can offer more space if you think the topic requires more than 10 pages.