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NEWS LETTER

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Building inclusive and accountable parliaments for a peaceful Somalia

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project supporting the capacity development of inclusive and effective parliamentary institutions in Somalia.

PSP - News Updates

Induction Workshop for Somali Parliaments on Parliament's Role in Realizing 2030 Agenda



Somali parliamentarians at Induction Workshop on Parliament's Role in Realizing 2030 Agenda, Mogadishu, 2-3 December, 2018 (Photo: UNDP Somalia/Ahmed Fais)

On 2 and 3 December 2018, the National Federal Parliament of Somalia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a two-day induction workshop in Mogadishu for parliamentarians, on the role of Somali Parliaments in advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda.

The workshop sought to build understanding of, and commitment to, the 2030 Agenda among members of the both Houses of the Somali Federal Parliament, State Assemblies and District Councils. It also aimed to facilitate a reflection on current gaps, opportunities and strategies for parliamentary SDGs engagement, support participants to identify priorities

for action, and establish a framework for an initial parliamentary SDGs strategy.

The training was attended by 40 participants, who recommended the creation of a parliamentary committee on SDGs, as well as to continue building private sector and public partnerships to achieve the Goals. The event was led by the Somali Federal Parliament with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Somalia, under a UNDP project that supports the parliament to enact legislation and ensure the effective and inclusive implementation of the SDGs, as part of a broader regional UNDP Arab States programme called 'Parliaments for Agenda 2030'. The regional programme has been developed in partnership with

the Islamic Development Bank, and Somalia has been chosen as a pilot country for the programme.



A Somali woman parliamentarian attending workshop, Mogadishu, 2-3 December, 2018 (Photo: UNDP Somalia/Ahmed Fais)

Highlights

- ◆ Induction Workshop for Somali Parliaments on Parliament's Role in Realizing 2030 Agenda
- ◆ Second Annual Women Parliamentarians Conference
- ◆ Support to Upper House Committees for Conflict Resolution and Engagement with Federal Member States
- ◆ Workshop on Role of Parliament in Good Governance & Federalism, Hirshabelle State
- ◆ Workshop on Budget Mechanism and Oversight for Hirshabelle State Assembly
- ◆ Somaliland House of Elders (HoE) Committee Workshop on Duties and Functions of Committees
- ◆ Somaliland Election Law Consultative Meeting on a Women's Quota in Electoral and Political Party Laws and in the Federal Constitution
- ◆ Newly Constructed Library for the South West State Parliament
- ◆ Support to Upper House Women's Caucus to Hold Consultations on Constitutional Review
- ◆ Logistical Support to the Oversight



Second Annual Somali Women Parliamentarians Conference

From 11-13 December 2018, the Second Annual Somali Women's Parliamentarians Conference (ASWPC) took place in Mogadishu. The conference brought together the federal & federal member state women parliament members from across Somalia to advocate for women's rights, equality & empowerment, as well as to highlight priorities for women in the 2019-2020 Election Process. Civil society representatives, members of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee (OC) on the Constitutional Review, and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC), also took part in the conference. The conference was supported by UNDP, UNSOM, the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The aim of the Second Women's Parliamentarian Conference was to take forward the outcomes of the first conference which took place in 2017. A critical lesson learnt from the first ASWPC was that women in leadership positions had a stronger voice when they leverage their collective capacity. For this reason, the second Somali Women's Parliamentarian Conference aimed to bring Federal and Federal Member States women parliamentarians together to strengthen their voices, and harness their collective power and position to advance gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). The Conference also aimed to provide a platform for parliamentarians to leverage their positions as legislators to promote gender sensitive legal reforms.

During the three day's conference, a broad range of topics and issues were discussed that included strengthening women's parliamentary caucuses to support women's rights and agendas; ensuring protection of women; and enactment of the Sexual Offences Bill. Ensuring inclusion of a minimum 30 per cent quota for women in Electoral and Political Party Laws and in the Federal Constitution; and promoting women's political empowerment and enhancing their role and participation in public life were also discussed during the event.

Somali women parliamentarians also discussed and explored possible ways to enhance their leadership skills to effectively deliver their mandate, as well as how to identify priorities for women during the 2019-2020 election period.



*Glimpses of 2nd Somali Women's Parliamentarians Conference Mogadishu, 2-3 December, 2018
(Photos credit: UNDP Somalia/Ahmed Fais)*

Upper House Committees of the Federal Parliament visit Federal Member States

From 15-30 October, the ad hoc committees on conflict resolution from the Upper House of the Federal Parliament visited the Upper House committees of the Federal Member States parliaments, as part of a mediation and conflict resolution mission.

The objective of the visit was not only to mediate and give recommendations on

resolving the recurring conflict between the Federal Member States and the Federal Government, but also to observe overall economic, political, social, and security situation of the Federal Member States.

The Upper House ad hoc committees had meetings with leaders of the Federal Member States and State Assemblies, and with civil society groups, religious

leaders, youth and women organizations, to deeply understand the scale and root causes of the conflict between the Federal Government and Federal Member States.

The committee also employed a standardized questionnaire to collect and analyze the economic and political situation of the regions.



UNDP acknowledges the contribution from Switzerland and Norway for the Parliamentary Support Project

Workshop on Role of Parliament in Ensuring Good Governance & Deepening Federalism, Hirshabelle State



Member Parliaments from Hirshabelle State Assembly attending working on Role of Parliament in Good Governance & Federalism, Mogadishu, 3-4 December, 2018 (Photo: UNDP Somalia)

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project facilitated a workshop on the role of parliament in good governance for 50 Members of Parliament (MPs) of Hirshabelle State Assembly from 3-4 December 2018 in Mogadishu.

The purpose of the workshop was to equip MPs with skills they need to promote effective institutions and to minimize corruption.

The four day course also highlighted the importance of including the views of minorities and the most vulnerable in society in decision-making, so as to ensure Hirshabelle State Assembly is responsive to the present and future needs of all citizens.

Workshop on Budget Mechanism and Oversight for Hirshabelle State Assembly

A budget is a government's most important economic policy tool as it translates a government's policies, political commitments, revenue collection, and expenditure of funds into activities and services that meet competing needs of citizens. Parliaments review the budget process through their core functions of representation, law-making and oversight, which involves monitoring and reviewing the broad fiscal challenges facing government, exercising expenditure controls and carrying out budgetary trade-offs that affect present and future spending.

For this reason, from 7-8 and 11-12 November 2018, to improve Hirshabelle State Assembly's oversight of the state budget, UNDP Parliamentary Support Project organized a training workshop on Budgetary Mechanisms and Budget Oversight for 80 Members of Parliament (MPs) from Hirshabelle State Assembly, which took place with two different groups in two separate events.



Member of Parliaments from Hirshabelle State Assembly attending working on Budget Mechanism and Oversight Mogadishu, 7-8 December, 2018 (Photos: UNDP Somalia)



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Somaliland House of Elders Committee Workshop



MPs from Somaliland in committee chairs workshop on duties and functions of the committees Mogadishu, 3-4 December, 2018 (Photo: UNDP Somalia)

The workshop aimed to train members of parliament (MPs) on the duties and functions of committees, including the role of the individual MPs during the committee proceedings, how to manage committee public hearings, and how to manage internal debates and negotiation skills.

This was the first committee training since the Guurti was established in early 1990's.

From 14- 15 October 2018, the Somaliland House of Elders (Guurti) with the support of UNDP

Parliamentary Support Project, held a two-day workshop for parliament committee chairs in Somaliland.

Somaliland Election Law Consultative Meeting – “Focusing on the Women’s Quota”

On 18 and 19 October 2018, the Somaliland House of Representatives (HoR) facilitated a two-day public consultation meeting on how women and young people's political participation can be increased, and discussed how to ensure a women's quota in the upcoming parliamentary elections is made a priority, as part of inclusive politics and gender equality. Representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs attended the meeting as well as members of a wide spectrum of civil society and women rights organizations, such as Nagaad (an umbrella organisation for women's civil society organisations), the Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO), the Women's Agenda Forum, and the Somaliland Lawyers Association.

During the two-day discussion, members of the parliament and participants from women and youth organizations emphasized that the two Houses of the Somaliland parliament should support the women's quota as they hold legislative and constitutional power to approve it.

In his opening remarks, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Bashe Mohamed Farah, stated that the House is ready to support Women's Political Participation. “Somaliland Parliamentary Elections are expected to be held on 29th March 2019, and we are ready to finalize what is required from our side including the parliament election bill. “We are committed to working closely with all stakeholders to listen their concerns and recommendations.” Mr. Farah said.

The committee also collected the views and concerns of the participants and have committed to sharing these with the plenary in the coming parliamentary session.



SL Election Law consultative meeting with women and youth organizations on Women and Youth Role in Political Participation Somaliland, 18-19 October, 2018 (Photos: UNDP Somalia)



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Newly Constructed Library for the South West State Parliament

UNDP supported the establishment of a new library and research unit for South West State Parliament to enable the parliament to effectively discharge its functions in relation to lawmaking, oversight, and representation. The new building consists of two offices and is the first library and research unit established for the South West State Parliament.

The aim of the unit is to provide non-partisan and balanced analysis that is

adapted to the needs of MPs. This library will help committees and to research issues such as legislative process and budget analysis, and will also provide access to International library resources and servers via web pages and online resources. The online function will also allow the South West State parliament to connect with other parliaments and institutions to share information resources.

The parliament project will also

procure furniture and equipment, books, and e-library subscriptions, as part of the work to build the capacity of the library and research department to support the Parliament.



Upper House Women's Caucus Hold Consultations on Constitutional Review

On 5 November 2018, the Parliamentary Support Project supported the Upper House Women's Caucus to organize a consultative event on the reviewed first five chapters of Somali draft constitution.

The meeting aimed to find out the ways to include a thirty percent women's quota for representation in parliament in the Somali constitution. The meeting was attended by women's organizations, the Independent Constitutional Review Commission (ICRIC), the Constitutional Review Committee of the Somali Federal Parliament, the Women's Caucus of the House of the People, and the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs.

All the participants welcomed the idea and emphasized the importance of having a minimum of thirty percent of the country's leadership allocated for women. During the event some women's organizations highlighted the challenges that women face when they try to contest for high-level positions, saying that they face discrimination, therefore highlighting that their right has to be written in the constitution.

The Oversight Committee of the Federal Parliament Holds Public Consultations with Support of UNDP

The UNDP Parliament Support Project is providing ongoing logistical support to the Parliamentary Oversight (OC) Committee to hold public consultations and hearings on draft amendments of the constitution in Federal Member States (FMS). In November, the project supported the OC to hold second Forum of the Joint Parliamentary Oversight Committees on Constitution Review and Implementation in Garowe, Puntland. The meeting brought together constitutional review committees from the Federal Member States (FMS) parliaments and members of the Independent Constitution Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC). Civic society members, women and youth representative also attended the forum. The meeting aimed to consult constitution review committees from the Federal Member State parliaments and civil society on the reviewed first five chapters of the constitution. During the meeting, both the OC and ICRIC gave presentations on the reviewed chapters, the timeline and the roadmap to complete the review process, key achievements made so far, and challenges to the process as well as the way forward. During the three-day meeting, participants from the FMS committees and members of civil society provided substantive feedback on the reviewed chapters.



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