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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

### Opening of the Fourth Session of the House of the People

The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mohamed Abdullahi 'Farmaajo,' officially opened the fourth session of the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, in Mogadishu, on 10 September 2018.

The Prime Minister, H.E Hassan Ali Khaire, the Speaker of the House of the People H.E. Mohamed Mursal Abdirahman, Members of the House, and representatives from the international community, attended the opening ceremony of the session, which was held at General Kahiye Police Academy.

In his opening speech, President Mohamed Abdullahi 'Farmaajo' spoke about the current security and economic situation in the country and in the East Africa region and on the fight against Al-Shabaab.

The Federal lawmakers have been on recess since last May when House finished its third session. There were various legislations on card during this session, waiting for debate and eventual ratification.

## Highlights

- ◆ Opening of the Fourth Session of the House of the People
- ◆ Policy and Strategic Support to the Speaker of the House of the People
- ◆ Capacity Building Training on Administration of Parliaments for Somali Federal and State Parliaments
- ◆ Project team visit to Jubaland House of Representatives
- ◆ Updates on the House of People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia
- ◆ Support to the Joint Parliamentary Oversight Committee (OC)
- ◆ Support to Establish a Roster of Experts for Somali Federal Parliament

### Policy and Strategic Support to the Speaker of the House of the People

Since the election of the Speaker of the House of the People held in April, UNDP has had several meaningful meeting with the Speaker. These meetings were led by George Conway, UNDP Country Director, and Nahid Hussein, Inclusive Politics Portfolio Manager. The Speaker warmly received each delegation and expressed his interest in working with the UNDP. The Speaker was keen to ensure continuity and is determined to ensure that he is able to continue the good working relationship which his office has enjoyed thus far with UNDP. To this end, the Speaker expressed his appreciation for the continued direct support offered to

him and his office in the services that are being provided by Mr Hassen Ebrahim, International UNDP Consultant.

At one of these meetings on 11 July, the Speaker requested UNDP team to provide policy and strategic support to the Speaker's office on the rules and management of the parliamentary process.

The areas of support that are being considered include:

- ◆ A review of the strategic priorities of the House of the People
- ◆ Effectively processing legislation between the two Houses
- ◆ Providing continued support to the

Committees including training

- ◆ Reviewing the Rules of Procedure
- ◆ Continuing with the Speakers Forum and providing support to the Regional Parliaments, and
- ◆ Management of the constitutional review process
- ◆ Provision of other policy and strategic support

It was also highlighted during the meeting that the Parliament has a very limited time-frame between September to December to table legislations on the implementation of the inclusive politics roadmap before the House of People (HoP) for approval.



# Capacity Building Training on Administration of Parliaments for Somali Federal and State Parliaments



Parliaments staff attending a week long training on the parliament administration, Mogadishu, 3-9 July, 2018 (Photo: UNDP)

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project, in response to the need of the two chambers of the Somali Federal Parliament (House of the People and the Upper House), as well as of the State Parliaments, organized a comprehensive training for Parliament staff on the Administration of Parliaments from 3-9 July on best practices and experiences of contemporary parliaments from around the world.

The training was the start of capacity building process proposed and

identified by the parliament leadership, to support Parliament activities during the second phase of the Parliamentary Support Project PSP II.

Most of the 45 parliamentary staffers (32 men and 13 women) from federal and state parliaments who participated in the training were new to their jobs, and participated in the training to enhance their background and skills in managing parliamentary services.

The modality of training was designed to be informative and interactive. During the six working days training,

there were workgroups, open discussions, and questions and answers covering issues of concern to the participants. The group also carried out a full simulation on internal parliamentary elections, choosing a speaker and committee chairs at the plenary hall of the Upper House, which demonstrated the support of the House to the training. The UNDP project team as well as the two Secretary Generals of the Upper House and the House of the People attended the session.

This was the first time all core staff from Somali legislative institutions were



Ali Sawi (Trainer) awarding certificates among the participants, Mogadishu, 3-9 July, 2018 (Photo: UNDP)

trained together, which contributed to strengthening the collective vision and collaboration between all parliaments. After completion of the course, the Secretariats of Federal and State Parliaments stated that with the knowledge and capacity gained from the training, they were in a better position to support MPs to carry out their legislative, oversight and representative duties more effectively, and to help ensure good governance in parliaments.

Participants also requested further capacity building in the areas of Bill drafting skills, committee report writing, parliamentary research skills, public policy analysis, budget analysis and feasibility studies.



Participants engaged in a group work, Mogadishu, 3-9 July, 2018 (Photo: UNDP)



## Project Team visit to Jubaland House of Representatives (HoR)



Project Team with leaders Jubaland HoR, 13 August, (Photo: UNDP)

On 13 August, the Parliamentary Support Project team visited the Jubaland House of Representatives (HoR) and met with the Parliament leadership. The meeting aimed to

share project progress and funding status, and to discuss the 2018 Annual Work Plan (AWP). The two deputies expressed their appreciation for UNDP support to Jubaland HoR. They requested UNDP to speed up the process of Letter of Agreement (LoA) for timely implementation of the remaining activities of the AWP 2018.

The Jubaland Parliament requested support for the construction of the

new parliament Chamber, highlighting that current chamber was initially built as a temporary conference hall for community reconciliation and was in a state of disrepair.

Ms Nahid Hussein, Chief Technical Advisor for the Parliament Project assured the leadership that the team would take their request forward for discussion with the Somali Stability Fund (SSF) which has previously agreed to support construction works in parliaments.

## Updates on the House of People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia

In its first sitting of the fourth session of the House of the People, the Speaker of the House, Mohamed Mursal Sheikh Abdirahman, started the review of the Rules of Procedure which will be finalised by the end of September 2018. The speaker also urged the HoP Rules of Procedure Committee to meet and discuss with Upper House Committee to develop joint Rules of Procedure for both Houses.

On the constitution review process, the Speaker highlighted that the House is committed to fast-tracking and finalising the review process, adding that the Oversight Committee is expected to present the completed five

chapters to both Houses of the Somali Federal Parliament. The Speaker expressed his appreciation for the support from donors and international organisations in the review process.

Finally, the Speaker asked the Members of Parliament (MPs) to intensify their work in finalising prioritized laws and requested MPs to attend the upcoming parliament session.

The laws in different stages of reading in the House of the People are as follows;

**Bills distributed and waiting for the first reading:**

1. Review of the Civil Service Law;

2. Sexual Offences Bill;
3. Review of Auditor-General Bill;
4. People with Disabilities Bill; and
5. Closing of Accounts 2017.

**Bills waiting for the second reading:**

1. Somali National Statistic Bill;
2. Special Education Bill;
3. Counter-Terrorism Bill;
4. Public Financial Management Bill;
5. Petroleum Bill;
6. Review of the Media Law;
7. Health Professionals Bill; and
8. Company Act.

**Bills waiting for the Third Reading:**

1. Armed Forces Benefits Bills





## Support to Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Constitution Review

The Oversight Committee (OC) of the Federal Parliament is responsible to perform their duties in accordance with Article 133 of the Somalia provisional constitution. The OC task is to overseeing, directing and approve the work of the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC) and assigning drafting projects and instructions to the ICRIC to ensure consistency and coherence of the draft constitution. It is also tasked with internally reviewing the draft constitutional amendment, and ensuring that adequate opportunity is provided for public debate and finally, with consulting with members of the Federal Parliament on issues needing deliberation and guidance.

The OC has developed a technical plan for the constitutional review process, which has been approved by the Federal Parliament, and facilitates the process of constitutional review in consultation with the key stakeholders. The technical plan indicates that 15 chapters of the constitution will be divided into three parts for review, with each part consisting of five chapters. The OC and ICRIC have now finalized the revision and technical amendments of first five chapters of the provisional constitution and they will soon start to work on the next five chapters for the technical review.

To ensure smooth implementation of the roadmap, and in line with the Oversight Committee work-plan, the UNDP Parliament Support Project has

provided administrative, logistics, operational and transportation support to the OC. It has also supported the recruitment of experts and young graduates to assist the OC, including a legal advisor, a constitutional expert, and a public relations and communication expert. 10 young graduates have also been recruited to support the Oversight Committee in day to day activities and in assisting the OC in the implementation of its work-plan.

Two hired vehicles have also been provided to the OC to facilitate movements of the OC members. On the request of the OC, UNDP will soon provide the provision of IT equipment that include laptops, desktops and printers.

## Support to Establish a Roster of Experts for Somali Federal Parliament

The UNDP Parliament Support Project (PSP) is supporting the Somali Federal Parliament to establish a National Experts Roster. The Somali Federal Parliament has initiated the process of screening for the Roster by issued an advertisement inviting national consultants to send their applications for inclusion.

For inclusion in the roster, applicants need to have expertise in the different areas of parliamentary function, such as lawmaking, oversight and representation, budgeting and budgetary oversight, parliamentary secretariat and services, parliament-executive relations, parliamentary outreach (electorate, civil society,

media), and parliamentary diplomacy.

Applicants will be screened against the qualifications and the competencies specified in the advertisement, and may be requested to participate in an interview. Successful candidates may be included in the Somali Federal Parliament National Expert Roster for a period of four years. However, the addition of an individual to the Roster does not guarantee a contract with any House of the Somali Federal Parliament.

When a request for service arises, any House of the Somali Federal Parliament in need of a particular area of expertise could directly contract the

consultant from the roster without the need for the further selection process. A specific Term of Reference (ToR) outlining the outputs for each assignment would need to be provided, and an Individual Contract (IC) would be issued to the consultant, detailing the time frame required by the contracting House of the Somali Federal Parliament. Conditions of a particular assignment may be negotiated.



### Contact: