

UNDP/UNSOM INTEGRATED ELECTORAL SUPPORT GROUP (IESG) TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA



IESG electoral advisors meeting with TPEC staff in Garowe, 31 May 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- The indirect elections concluded on 6 May.
- Parliament elects new President of the Federal Republic of Somalia on 15 May.
- Prime Minister dissolves indirect electoral committees on 29 May.
- IESG provides support to TPEC for local elections.

Saadiyo Yasin Samatar was elected as the first-ever Somali woman HoP Deputy Speaker



Saadiyo Yasin MP becomes the first-ever woman to be elected as the HoP Deputy Speaker on 28 April.

Electoral developments

On 28 April, Saadiyo Yasin was elected as First Deputy Speaker of the House of the People. Hon. Yasin is the first woman to be elected to a leadership position in the federal parliament.

On 29 May, Prime Minister (PM) Mohamed Hussein Roble dissolved the Federal Elections Implementation Team (FEIT), State level Election Implementation Teams (SEITs) and the Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC) because their mandate was completed by the conclusion of the indirect parliamentary elections. The PM restored the National Independent Electoral Commission's (NIEC) function to manage by-elections for seats that become vacant in the federal parliament.

On 15 May, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected as the tenth President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The full process, comprising three rounds of voting, was conducted in a single parliamentary session held at the Aden Adde International Airport (AAIA) Hangar facility. On 6 May, the indirect parliamentary election was concluded with the final seat being elected in Hirshabelle.

On 14 April in Mogadishu, the swearing-in ceremony of newly-elected members of the 11th Federal Parliament of Somalia was held; 290 newly-elected Members of Parliament (MPs) attended the ceremony. During the event, the new MPs elected interim Speakers of both Houses of Parliament, choosing the oldest members of each House: Mohamed Ali 'Gagaab' for the Senate and Abdisalam Haji 'Dhabancad' for the House of the People (HoP) who then made arrangements for the election of the leadership of both Houses. On 26 April, Senator Abdi Hashi was elected Speaker of the UH and on 27 April Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nur 'Adan Madobe' was elected Speaker of the House of the People.

Support to TPEC

On 29 May in Garowe, IESG met with the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) Chairperson to review the provision of technical advice to TPEC and outlined the methodology of UN support to electoral management bodies. Four IESG electoral advisors met with TPEC counterparts between 30 May – 1 June for detailed technical discussions on the operational plan for voter registration and the concept of operations for the second phase of universal suffrage local government district elections scheduled in December 2022. These elections will be the first state-wide universal suffrage elections since the foundation of the state in 1998.



Garowe, Puntland, 29 May 2022. IESG meeting with TPEC. L-R: Livan Salah Ali, Dep Sec Gen TPEC; Arlyn Recla, IESG Electoral Field Coordination Puntland; Toms Dlamini, IESG Capacity Building Advisor; Abdirisak Ahmed Said, TPEC Chairperson; Mary Cummins, IESG Dep Chief Electoral Advisor.

Support to NIEC

IESG Outreach and Procedures and the Legal team supported the development of a Social Inclusion Policy for the NIEC, which was finalized and shared with the Commission. Additionally, IESG provided feedback and advice for the improvement of NIEC illustrations for the institution's Voter Education Manual.

IESG Public Outreach team provided input into the development of a concept paper for the promotion of the planned NIEC National Stakeholder Conference, which was shared and approved by NIEC Commissioners.

NIEC Planning on Introducing Performance Appraisal

IESG organized two training sessions on 24 and 30 May with the NIEC Human Resources (HR) Department on Performance Management and Development (PMD) in line with the IESG strategy to build the institutional capacity and implement the HR Plan according to the best practices and knowledge.

The purpose of the training sessions was to enhance the participants' understanding of the PMD principles, Staff Performance and Appraisal Management System, as well as to strengthen the HR management skills to

coordinate and manage the staff performance evaluation process, considering the core and managerial competencies, institutional values and the particularities of appraisal in a transparent, fair, effective and efficient way.



CAPACITY BUILDING - IESG Legal / Procedures

Regular mentoring sessions between representatives of the IESG Legal/Procedures team and the NIEC Legal Department took place to provide advice and support on legal and procedural matters and ad-hoc issues. A final draft regulation on NIEC Secondary Legislation, Policies and Guidelines in Somali and English language to be submitted to the NIEC Board of Commissioners for approval was finalized in May. In addition, IESG Legal/Procedures team and NIEC Legal Department discussed the NIEC's approach and options and limitations of reviewing the Electoral Legal Framework. Furthermore, NIEC Legal Department requested information sessions on Electoral Systems and Gender Inclusion which will be provided by IESG Legal/Procedures staff in the coming months.

INDIRECT ELECTIONS EDRC

IESG was in frequent contact with the Election Dispute Resolution Committee (EDRC) on the complaints adjudication process and to share updates. The final number of complaints on the HoP indirect process registered by the EDRC is 11. EDRC confirmed that its mandate expired on 09 May, and that EDRC did not hand over any cases of complaints to the NCC.

Women's 30% quota for parliamentary seats

On 6 May, the indirect elections for the House of the People concluded with the elections of 54 women, representing 20 per cent of the overall MPs. This figure represents a decrease from the 24 per cent reached in 2016 and is well below the overall goal of 30 per cent promised by the NCC. On 8 May, the Gender and Elections Task Team (GETT) members met to discuss the findings of the GETT Lessons Learnt exercise document, with the participation of IESG.

The advocacy by Goodwill Ambassadors (GwAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), international partners and high-level advocacy by UN Leadership in Somalia including High-Level advocacy and engagement by UN-Deputy Secretary General (DSG) contributed to achieving 26% seats in the Upper House, but the lack of a clear political will resulted in a disappointing 20 per cent result for the House of the People. The GETT has been dissolved following the conclusion of the indirect elections, but other forums will continue to promote gender representation and women's participation.

Logistics

Upon the conclusion of the indirect elections 2021/2022, IESG is coordinating the retrieval of electoral materials, assets and information and communications technology (ICT) equipment. According to the signed Letter of Agreement (LoA), FEIT, all SEITs, and the EDRC, through the office of OPM, should hand over all electoral materials, assets and ICT equipment to the NIEC. So far, assets from three SEITs offices; Banadir, Somaliland and Puntland have been handed over. Some challenges remain in retrieving electoral equipment from a number of indirect electoral committees.

Assistance to NIEC Office of Political Party Registrar

On 13 April, IESG met with the NIEC Office of Political Parties Registration (OPPR) to discuss updates on the software for registration of political parties (PPs), stakeholder conference preparations and update on the software for PPs registration. OPPR confirmed that there are 110 provisionally registered political parties while 17 new parties are under registration process. IESG IT continues support to the OPPR's office on updating the PP registration software to reflect new functionalities.

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