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UPCOMING EVENTS

- MPs are expected to attend a Transformational Leadership Training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- The department of planning of the Somaliland HoR will be trained on M&E
- Puntland MPs attend election-related training in Tunis

Dear Readers,

The key activities of the past weeks were the signing of the AWP which lays the ground for the work of the upcoming months and the ongoing preparation of Letters of Agreements which shall be signed separately with the National Federal Parliament, the House of Representatives in Puntland and the House of Representatives in Somaliland.

While continuing its technical assistance to the three parliaments project staff during the past weeks was also engaged in preparing a new project document with respect to the planned support to the constitutional review process. This second pro doc will primarily support the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCA), the Provisional Constitution Review and Implementation Oversight Committee (OC) and the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC).

NFP Retreat April 2015

From 1-3 April 2015 the senior leadership of the National Federal Parliament conducted a retreat to prepare and plan for the upcoming 6th parliamentary session. The retreat was supported by the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA). UNDP, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Conflict Dynamics International, the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, Somalia One, Strengthen Somalia Governance were invited.

Participants discussed next steps of the parliament with regard to the constitutional review process as well as priority legislation for the 6th to 8th NFP sessions. The retreat was a useful event for the NFP to coordinate assistance ex-

pected to be received from various supporting organizations.



S.G. Buh speaks at the retreat in Kampala

Parliamentary Support Project - 2015 AWP signed

On 20 April the Speaker of the House of People of the National Federal Parliament, Hon. Mohammad Sheikh Osman Jawari, and UNDP CD George Conway signed the project's 2015 Annual Work Plan. It comprises of three outputs related to parliamentary support and one output that shall bridge the period until a constitutional review process support project is approved:

- ◆ Output 1: NFP and Parliaments of Somaliland and Puntland supported to enact quality legislation and to maintain effective oversight over the other branches of government...
- ◆ Output 2: NFP and Parliaments of Somaliland and Puntland established as an effective

institution, with a functioning administration and infrastructure and leadership supported to discharge their constitutional mandates

- ◆ Output 3: MPs are empowered to represent and remain accountable to the Somali
- ◆ Output 4: Activities related to ongoing commitments carried over from 2014 related to Support to Constitutional Review Process plus support to IJA

The AWP 2015 foresees activities in the total amount of \$6,202,751 with a funding gap of \$2,493,749. The project is funded by DFID/UK, European Union, Norway, Sweden/SIDA and UNDP.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT



Constitutional Drafting Process in Jubbaland

It was in August 2013 that the Federal Government of Somalia and Jubbaland signed a formal agreement for the creation of the Interim Jubbaland Administration (IJA) with a transitional mandate to terminate on August 27th 2015.

As it reaches the end of its term, IJA is planning at this moment an ambitious public consultation process with the purpose of drafting its internal Provisional Constitution for the future State. To provide technical support UNDP and UNSOM have prepared a joint programme to assist the process. UNSOM already has a full time officer in Kismayo, and UNDP has recently engaged an international constitutional expert, Mr. David Payne working in Kismayo. The process will begin with the formation of a Drafting Committee which will engage in public consultations throughout the regions preceded by a public awareness campaign, and leading to a Jubbaland Constitutional Assembly which according to IJA Minister of State to the President, Abdighani Jama, will see some 300 repre-

sentatives from throughout the region, debating and adopting the draft Constitution.

At the same time Jubbaland is fully engaged in the selection of representatives for the parliamentary Regional Assembly of Jubbaland also to be convened for the first time. In fact the Technical Selection Committee has almost completed the approval of all 65 members proposed by the Elders who are now selected to sit on the future Regional Assembly.



From left to right: President's Chief of Staff, UNDP Consultant David Payne, President Madobe of the Interim Jubbaland Administration, and Minister of State of President, Abdighani Jama

2015 Budgets of National Federal Parliament, the Parliament of Somaliland and the Puntland HoR

The 2015 fiscal year approved budget of the **Federal Government of Somalia** amounts to \$ 239.9 million out of which the National Federal Parliament (NFP) is provided \$15.8 million (6.6 %). Of these funds \$ 13.3 million (84 %) will be spend on human resource related expenses and the balance \$ 2.5 million (16 %) is allocated to the NFP's general business activities. The 2015 UNDP parliamentary support project Annual Workplan (AWP) foresees direct technical assistance in the amount of \$ 2.3 million for the NFP.

The **Republic of Somaliland** appropriates \$ 2.7 million (1.7 %) of its \$ 154.3 million 2015 national budget to the House of Representatives (HoR) and \$ 2.9 million (1.87 %) for the House of Elders. The Somaliland HoR budget dedicates \$ 2.5 million (93 %) to human resources and 7 % to general parliament activities. The UNDP project AWP foresees direct technical support in the amount of \$ 527,510.

Puntland state so far has only prepared an interim budget covering Jan to March 2015. It is expected that the budget will be finalized in mid-April. The project AWP for the Puntland HoR plans direct technical support to the HoR in the amount of \$ 618,460.

Above figures indicate the tight financial frame work in which all three parliaments operate and the very limited own resources to fund their activities. Figures also show that assistance provided through the UNDP project and funded by donors is an important element in enabling parliaments to implement their constitutional mandate and to be fully operational.

Preparation of Letters of Agreements with all Three Parliaments

Following the signing of the 2015 AWP and the completion of the capacity assessments of all three parliaments the project is currently preparing separate Letters of Agreements (LoA) with all three parliaments.

While the project is set up for Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), part of the AWP shall be implemented through the national partners for which the LoA will provide the legal basis. The Letters of Agreement which need to go through a UNDP internal clearing process by the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) before signing will include a risk

mitigation plan and a capacity development plan which shall address risks and capacity shortfalls identified in the capacity assessments conducted for each parliament. The LoAs regulate the use of funds, documentation of spending as well as project oversight and monitoring. LoAs are an important tool to build administrative capacity among national institutions.

Draft LoAs have been shared with all parliaments for feedback and the UNDP internal clearing process is ongoing. It is expected that the contracts will be signed shortly .

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT



DFID Third-Party-Monitoring indicates: NFP Committee Staff Value Technical Assistance Provided by the Project

When working towards strengthening the capacity of Parliaments and its MPs to discharge their constitutional mandates it is imperative to consider the Parliament Leadership, MPs and senior management but also the Parliament staff members.

Committee staff therefore is a target group amongst the Parliament staff whom the project has been providing support to. Each MP is assigned to a committee on a specialized subject, and the committee staff support MPs as they are assigned to their respective committees. Staff tasks include reporting, preparation of background papers, analysis of drafts bills and organization of public hearings, to name of few.

George Crawford, UNDP Strategic Planning and Parliamentary Development consultant, has been working with the project for almost a year providing technical assistance to the NFP for the implementation of the legislative agenda. Amongst the range of activities the consultant has been implementing there is capacity building consistently provided to committee staff, including the Young Graduates, since the last quarter of 2014.

The expert has over 25 years' experience in the US House of Representatives and several international assignments supporting parliaments from Yemen, Bangladesh, Kenya, Kosovo, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Jordan.

UNDP technical assistance was the subject of an verification exercise conducted by a Third-

Party Monitoring company called IBTCI implemented in the first quarter of 2015 at the request of DFID, one of the donors of the project. The results are now available and they show a very positive feedback provided by the beneficiaries who confirmed that "the technical assistance provided by George Crawford was both useful and helpful, especially the trainings he carried out for the parliamentary staff. Interviewees' responses indicated that they now better understood key parliamentary processes and had either gained new skills or improved their skills as a result of George Crawford's training. Respondents also indicated that the TA expert was knowledgeable and that he employed both theoretical and practical approaches especially during his trainings".

Names and Contact Information of Parliaments

UNDP Parliamentary and Constitutional Support Project would like to share with readers of the monthly newsletter the contacts information of the following three parliaments: National Federal Parliament, Parliament of Somaliland, and Puntland House of Representatives.

Somali National Federal Parliament – House of the People

Hon. Mohammad Sheikh Osman "Jawari"
Speaker of NFP
Email: speaker@parliament.gov.so

Hon. Jaylani Nur Ikar
1st Deputy Speaker of NFP
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Hon. Mahad Aabdalle Aawed
2nd Deputy Speaker of NFP
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Mr. Abdikarim Haji Buh
Secretary General of NFP
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Puntland House of Representatives

Hon. Said Hassan Shire
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Hon. Abdihamid Abdisalan Isse
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Hon. Hussien Yasin Haji Dirie
Second Deputy Speaker
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Mr. Ali Ahmed Salah
Secretary General of Puntland Parliament
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Republic of Somaliland - House of Representatives

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Rt. Honorable Mr. Bashe Mohamed Farah
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Rt. Honorable Mr. Dr. Ali Yousuf Ahmed
2nd Deputy Speaker, Somaliland HoR
E-mail: drali1991@hotmail.com

Mr. Abdirizak Saed Ayanle
Secretary General, Somaliland HoR
E-mail: galooni7@hotmail.com

Republic of Somaliland - House of Elders

Suleiman Mohamed Aden-
Chair, Somaliland Guurti

Saed Jama Ali
Deputy Chair, Somaliland Guurti

Mr. Abdillahi Ibrahim Habane
Secretary General, Somaliland Guurti
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PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT



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The Several Dimensions of the Project's Support to NFP

The project goal is to support and capacitate the three parliaments to work as inclusive, transparent and effective law-making, oversight and representative bodies contributing to national peacebuilding and state-building goals.

To be able to do so, not only technical assistance needs to be provided, which is the core of the support provided by the UNDP Parliament project, but also direct funding to ensure the availability of the much needed human, finan-

cial and material resources that sustain the functioning of the Parliaments.

To this extent, the NFP Young Graduates Scheme, a flagship programme that was recently classified as a success by an external verification exercise, is as a pilot for cost-sharing efforts and incentive schemes between UNDP and the Somali Government, which has since been applied to other institutions. In March the project ensured the transfer of funding to guarantee the salaries of these

young graduates for the next 3 months.

In addition, funding for the provision of internet to the NFP for the next 3 months has also been provided by the project. This will allow to ensure maintaining other core services such as the functioning of the parliament website, one of the most relevant parliamentary tools for public engagement, to strengthen the relationship between parliament and citizens and to make available to Somali citizens the activities of the NFP.

Mission to Constituency Offices of the House of Representative in Burao and Berbera

As part of monitoring ongoing project activities in Somaliland, a delegation consisting of the Head of UNDP Area Office in Somaliland, the Project's Chief Technical Advisor and the National Area Project Officer visited the HoR constituency offices in Burao and Berbera on 28 - 29 March 2015. The goal of the mission was to assess to which degree the offices are exercising their function to be a link between population and parliament and how their work could be made more effective. The UNDP project provides financial support to covering the costs of equipment (ICT, furniture), running costs

(rent, communication/internet) and training of staff. In 2014 the project contributed 37,500 USD, the AWP 2015 foresees 28,000 USD to be used for the constituency offices.

The mission found that both offices are fully operational and have the minimum necessary facilities to cope with their day-to-day work. Both constituency office staff have received training on basic roles and responsibilities of the constituency offices organized by an UNDP consultant but stated that they would need additional trainings. On the other hand all the MPs the mission met in the respective regions

voiced that they are regularly using the constituency offices as a main source of getting regional information including complaints and grievances of the people, and are using the office space and meeting place when they are back in their region. However, they do not have official office hours / scheduled days of attendance of their presence at the constituency office. It was suggested to develop and circulate an official schedule when MPs will visit the region during the coming nine months and to improve public outreach in order to make the office better known to the public.



Berbera Parliament Constituency Office



Hon. Ahmed Mohamed Nur addressing a group of students

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