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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Arrival of Austin Zvoma, capacity development advisor / SL HoR
- Consultant George Crawford returns to work with the NFP on public hearings.
- Trainings on Monitoring and Evaluation scheduled for NFP and Committees
- Capacity assessments are due to be complete in Somaliland and Mogadishu
- Consultant David Payne prepares a Code of Conduct for the Puntland HoR MPs

*Dear Readers,*

*It has been a busy month for the project team. Parallel to the ongoing activities three board meetings were conducted in Garowe, Hargeisa and Mogadishu in order to receive strategic policy guidance from the three parliaments and donor partners and to comply with the UNDP governance frame work. Work plans were approved for the support re all three parliaments with an overall amount of 5.9 million USD for 2015. A LPAC meeting has recommended to the UNDP Country Director the approval of the revised project document for the Parliamentary Support Project and an initial draft for a Support to Constitutional Review and Implementation Project has been shared with donor partners.*

### Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meetings

As already reported in the last edition a project document revision is under way which shall split the project into two. One dedicated to Parliamentary Support and one for Support to Constitutional Review and Implementation. Support to enhance parliaments' security, assistance to emerging parliaments and the collection, compilation and publishing of past and current legislation of Somalia are activities included in the revised pro doc. Also, the focus on gender and youth is included, namely for gender sensitive budgeting. The revised budget amounts to 11.7 million for the period 2013-2016.

Project board meetings were held in Garowe,

Hargeisa and Mogadishu. In addition to these meetings an UNDP internal LPAC was conducted where PPU and other projects were invited to comment on the Parliamentary support draft pro doc. Participants from all four meetings recommended amendments to the indicators, more gender-sensitive language, amendments to the risk log as well as revising the text to better articulate the specific situation of parliaments in Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeisa. Recommendations will be included in the next draft before submission to the Counterparts, CD and Donors for approval.



LPAC Meeting, Mogadishu, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT

The UNDP Parliamentary and Constitutional Support Project is supported by the European Commission, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom (DFID), UNDP BCPR, and is managed by the United Nations Development Programme in Somalia.

### Somaliland Board Meeting, 20 January 2015

The project held its first board meeting in Hargeisa on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the meeting was Co-chaired by the Speaker Honorable Abdirahman M. Abdillahi and UNDP Head of Office Stephen Kinloch Pichat and representatives of the parliament, the donor community and UNDP. During the session the participants discussed the 2014 achievements in which the speaker appreciated the support provided by the project during the past months. After a constructive discussion the board unanimously approved a revised 2015 Annual Work Plan (AWP). Among others the AWP 2015 includes significant support for the work of parliamentary committees, funds

to enhance security of the parliament, assistance to increase the administrative capacity of the secretariat staff and MPs oversight missions.



*Board meeting, Hargeisa, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

### NFP Project Board Meeting, 29 January 2015

On 29 January the quarterly project board meeting for the National Federal Parliament (NFP) in Mogadishu took place. Co-chaired by Dep. Speaker Mahad Aawed and UNDP Dep. Country Director David Akopyan, representatives of the parliament, the donor community and UNDP discussed 2014 project activities and the 2015 Annual Work Plan (AWP). Among others the approved AWP 2015

includes substantive support for the work of parliamentary committees, funds to enhance security for the parliament, substantive assistance to increase the administrative / operational capacity of the secretariat staff, assistance to compile past and current legislation as well as resources provided for outreach and oversight.



*Board meeting, Mogadishu, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

### Puntland Board Meeting, 19 January 2015

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 the Puntland PSP board meeting was conducted with the participation of representatives of the Puntland parliament, donors and UNDP. The project board members discussed the achievements of 2014, approved the project work plan for 2015 and provided strategic guidance to the project implementation. The HoR Speaker Hon. Said Hasan Shire who co-chaired the meeting together with UNDP Head of Area Office Mr. Sayed Sahibzada cordially welcomed participants including Ms. Christina Dahlman, Sweden/SIDA. He thanked UNDP for the support and partnership with Parliament and requested to further enhance support to the HoR in order to improve the quality of the legislation and to hold the government accountable. Mr. Sayed Sahibzada stated that UNDP will continue to support democratic processes and to provide assistance to capacity building of its central institutions in Puntland. The board meeting endorsed the 2015 AWP which among others foresees support to the HoR to conduct oversight and outreach missions to the constituencies, and support to increase the staff capacity in areas such as Human Resources, Procurement and Finance.



*Board meeting, Garowe, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

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## Work on Puntland HoR Rules of Procedures Continues

An ad-Hoc Parliamentary Committee composed of seven MPs from all regions of Puntland was created in December 2014 by the Speaker of the Puntland Parliament to review the internal Rules of Procedure (RoP) with the assistance of a UNDP international consultant Mr. David Payne. The RoP have not been changed in more than 15 years at the time the Constitution was adopted and contain a number of ambiguities. The committee together with the UNDP consultant met in more than a dozen workshops over several weeks to familiarize with best practices from the parliaments of Uganda, England, Australia, Canada, Kenya, and other parliaments similar in structure and system to Puntland. As a result of these meetings draft RoP were elaborated which will be further discussed within the ad hoc committee and shall be submitted to the HoR for adoption after MPs return from recess in June. The RoP are not symbolic: they contain

detailed provisions concerning the election of the President of Puntland by the Parliament, as well as precise measures to be taken by Parliament in any initiative of impeachment. They also spell out how and under what circumstances the President of Ministers can or must come before Parliament.

Parliamentary RoP can be an MP's best friend. Indeed, they can be used by MP to favor the adoption of a Bill or to hasten its defeat. Or they can be used to hold the Government to account for its expenditures and public actions. For the MPs the RoP can serve as a pocket handbook of how the entire Parliamentary institution works. The revised RoP tackle a number of vital pillars of the parliamentary institutions, such as Parliamentary Committees, oversight methods, representation of citizen, Parliamentary-Executive relations, and the Plenary Sitzings.

Presently all the power is concentrated around a single catch-all committee called the Standing Committee and its membership is restricted to only 12 MPs out of a membership of 66 to draft RoP and correct this imbalance, by strengthening the mandate and powers of the 10 Parliamentary Committees as the principal source of law-making and oversight of government. Another important proposal in the reform is the introduction of a daily Question Time where the MPs can question ministers on current policies. Presently the Ministers come rarely to the Parliament and Committees very rarely meet during the recess. If implemented these reforms would further strengthen democratic structures and processes in Puntland.

The ad hoc committee will continue to discuss the draft RoP and it is planned that it will be submitted to the HoR in June/July for discussion and adoption.

## Contract management training for MOCFAD staff in Puntland

As part of an ongoing staff capacity development UNDP consultant Warsame Hassan provided a contract management training to the employees of the Puntland Ministry of Constitution, Federal Affairs and Democratization (MoCFaD). The training covered key areas related to standard agreements and contracts, such as how to draft and put into effect standard agreement documents (e.g. LOAs, MOUs, ToRs etc.). The workshop also included negotiation skills and strategies to achieve cost-effective agreements.

The training was offered in conjunction with a procurement procedure manual that is being developed by the consultant for the Ministry. An outline of the draft procurement document was summarized for the participants. Puntland already has

the essential legal documents related to procurement (e.g. Law No. 11 of 2000 and Puntland Procurement Regulations of 2013).

The MoCFaD is committed to put in place detailed procurement procedures

based on the Puntland established legal framework.

The workshop shall enhance the skills of MoCFaD staff to improve the quality of future contractual agreements and to administer more cost-effectively.



*MoCFAD training on contract management in Garowe*

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## Training sessions on Public Hearing in Somaliland

UNDP project in Hargeisa conducted two training sessions for 18 MPs and Parliamentary staff members on Public hearing on 24 and 26 January 2015. The objective of the sessions was initially to test the contents of the draft guide related to public hearing that UNDP consultant Soulef

Guessoum recently developed. During the training sessions the consultant explained the Parliamentary Hearing processes and types as well as steps needed for the organization of public hearings. In addition a quick review of the contents of the rules of procedures regarding the public

hearing was presented and discussed. Participants noted that several required provisions related to public hearings are missing in the RoP.

One outcome of the meeting was a joint understanding that MPs should arrange more public hearings at the parliament in Hargeisa and at the five regional offices of the parliament.

After including the feedback of the two workshops the *Draft Guide on Public Hearing* will be finalized and translated into Somali. As a result of the workshops and the draft guide MPs and parliamentary staff are expected to be better prepared to conduct public hearings and to interact with their constituencies. In the project's 2015 Annual Work plan for the Somaliland HoR, some of the funds foreseen are for the purpose of supporting the conduct of public hearings.



*Participants discussing how to conduct the public hearings*

## Somaliland HoR Media Room Established

The Parliamentary Support Project is assisting the Somaliland HoR to improve its communication and outreach efforts. This includes the preparation of a draft communication strategy and support to the establishment of a dedicated communication unit within the HoR secretariat. Another important step has been completed in January 2015 with the completion of a HoR media center which will serve to improve public engagement of the HoR and interaction with media.

The newly equipped media room has seating capacity for 30 media persons and a state of the art sound systems. The project spent a total of \$ 3,200 USD on designing the media

room and purchasing of stage/podium, wireless speakers, flat screen, carpet and chairs.

Setting up a media room will enable the HoR to provide timely and enhanced information to the

media by using modern presentations methods. This will contribute to an increased understanding of the public about the work of parliamentarians and shall improve the link between the MPs and the public.



*New Media Room in the Somaliland HoR Building*

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## Technical Assistance to Improve Budget Preparation and Financial Oversight in Somaliland

During the past three weeks Prof. Atm Obaidullah, a consultant contracted by the project, worked with the Somaliland HOR to improve the procedures for the preparation of the annual budget and to strengthen HoR's capacity to conduct financial oversight of government's spending. Ten MPs (incl. one female) and ten Secretariat staff attended a series of workshops.

A budget is not a mere compilation of income and expenditure for a year; it is the blueprint for the nation's socio economic policies for each financial year and a comprehensive statement of the political priorities of the nation. Parliament must ensure that the revenue and spending measures it authorizes are fiscally sound, match the needs of the population, remain within the available resources, and are implemented properly and efficiently.

As a result of the workshops it is expected that

MPs and Secretariat staff are now much better equipped to deal with issues on budget and financial oversight. Key impacts are:

- Substantial improvement of MPs' budgetary knowledge,
- Increased ability for in-depth deliberations re the proposed budget in the budget committee and during General Discussion
- Enhanced ability of the Standing Committees to scrutinize ministerial expenditure

Secretariat staff better prepared to provide assistance to the MPs and Committee Chairs in discharging financial oversight

- Greater parliamentary involvement shall lead to greater transparency and enhanced government accountability.

Oversight on the budget and public expenditure is a round the year activity for standing committees on ministries, PAC and Finance committee. In order to provide better support services to the Chairman and committee members Guidance Notes for the Committees and checklists for the committee secretary have been prepared.

Draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for budget process have been elaborated for the HoR and will help to institutionalize a more participatory budget process.



Dr. Obaidullah in Hargeisa

## Micro Capacity Assessments of National Federal Parliament, Puntland and Somaliland Parliament

Letters of Agreement (LoA) with national counterparts are one of the modalities UNDP has to implement their activities, through which funds are channeled to national counterparts for them to implement directly the agreed activity.

In line with UNDP regulations [laid out in the *Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) Framework*]<sup>1</sup> UNDP with the help of a specialized company (ABRIMO) is conducting micro capacity assessments of all national counterparts. This assessment exercise

assesses the Parliament's financial management capacity (i.e. accounting, procurement, reporting, internal controls, etc.) to determine the overall risk rating and assurance activities.

The risk rating provided, along with other available information, will be taken into consideration by UNDP when selecting the appropriate cash transfer modality. In addition the result of the assessment will function as a baseline and useful tool for targeted capacity building support to

enhance the administrative capacity of the respective parliament. The Annual Work Plan 2015 includes capacity building activities for all three parliaments with regard to strengthening their Finance, HR, and Procurement units through training and the development of adequate SOPs.

To date the assessment of the Puntland HoR has been finalized, the process for the NFP is close to completion and the assessment of the Somaliland HoR started in February.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.undg.org/content/programming\\_reference\\_guide\\_\(undaf\)/common\\_country\\_programming\\_processes\\_-\\_undaf/harmonised\\_approach\\_to\\_cash\\_transfers](http://www.undg.org/content/programming_reference_guide_(undaf)/common_country_programming_processes_-_undaf/harmonised_approach_to_cash_transfers)