Dear Reader,

During the past weeks the three parliaments started with the implementation of the activities and funds covered by the Letters of Agreements (LoA). Funds have been transferred to all three parliaments and the project will in each newsletter edition dedicate a separate article informing on how these funds will be used.

The project team is now facing a double work load as it also will implement the Support to Constitutional Review Process project. The respective project board on 21 May has endorsed the Project Initiation Plan (PIP), the related budget and a Framework for Support to the Constitutional Review Process 2015/16.

In order to cope with the increased work load the project is recruiting additional staff: An operational expert has joined end of May, a legal and constitutional expert started her work in mid-June and recruitment of a parliamentary expert and additional finance/Admin/HR staff is underway.

Support to Re-establish Somali Legislation

Somalia faces a three-fold challenge with regard to its legislation. After the collapse of the state structures in 1991 legislation effectively came to a standstill only being resumed after 2012. As a result of the destruction during the civil war part of Somalia’s legislative archive has been destroyed with many volumes missing. Legislation of the colonial period and the first decades after independence is in Italian language and therefore cannot be understood by the public at large. To date no index or central register of laws exists and it is unclear which laws are currently still in force.

Based on the AWP the project assists the National Federal parliament to re-establish its legislative archive. As a first step the project in cooperation with the parliament’s Information Management Center (IMC) conducted an assessment on what legislation is available and in which language. Of the following two decades the NFP possesses less than 50 percent of the laws and 95 percent are in Italian language. Finally, of the period between 1971 and 1990, the NFP possesses all legislative volumes except 1976 and 1990. Laws are in various languages: Italian, English, Arabic, and Somali.

Together with the IMC the project is elaborating a workplan how to establish and digitalize the missing volumes. Cooperation will be explored with archives in Italy and USA to establish the missing volumes.

In addition it is planned to index the complete legislation which requires that at least the titles of all laws are translated into Somali language. At a later stage it will be necessary to provide authorized translations of those laws into Somali language which are still in force.

Volumes that are available have already been scanned by the NFP and can be accessed via the following link of the parliamentary website http://www.parliament.gov.so. However, as it is scanned image document it is not possible to search for key words. The project therefore is currently procuring Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology—namely (ABBY FineReader 12 Professional) and (Readiris Corporate 15)—software in order to process all gazettes for full retrieval of statute text.
During a workshop in April 2015 the NFP decided on an ambitious workplan to approve more than 20 bills in the 6th and 7th session. UNDP/ UNSOM were requested to provide technical assistance to 12 legal projects including procurement law, counter-terrorism law, anti-money laundering law, fire-arms control law, electoral law, telecommunication law, law re a Constitutional Court, a Human Rights Commission or a National Security Commission.

The respective NFP committees will discuss and revise draft bills prepared by the respective line ministry and endorsed by the council of ministers. The next draft law to be worked on is the draft procurement law. Based on a NFP request the project is contracting an experienced expert who will work in June and July with the Committee on Budget, Finance, Planning, international cooperation and Financial Oversight of Public Institutions in order to prepare a revised draft to be submitted to the NFP plenary for approval. The task of the expert will be to provide advice and input to the drafting based on best practice and international standards.

Other upcoming draft laws are the Anti-Money Laundry law and the Counter-Terrorism bill which are expected to be tabled in July. The project in cooperation with UNODC will arrange for experts to provide technical assistance.

The project in May has signed Letters of Agreement (LoA) with all three parliaments and will every month update on the progress concerning LoA implementation by the respective parliament.

National Federal Parliament
In the past four weeks, funds provided through LoA have been used in various ways: initiation of recruitment of a media staff and a consultant to build capacity of administration for the parliament related to the ABRIMO capacity assessment; an ICT needs assessment will start soon and shall lay the ground for upgrading the NFP ICT infrastructure; the procurement process of hiring a shuttle bus for MPs is almost complete. Costs of NFP Internet and Young Graduates salaries are covered from the LoA funds.

Puntland House of Representatives
Puntland House of Representatives (PL HoR) uses LoA funds to provided payment of DSA for the Ad-Hock committee working outside the Parliament’s session on the revised Rules of Procedures and the Code of Conduct. It further supported oversight missions and constituency visits that began in the week of June 7th.

Soomaliland House of Representatives
Financed by LoA funds four HoR Committees started to visit various regions to conduct oversight missions. Committee activities include the following:
1. The Constitution, Judiciary, Justice and Human Rights Committee travelled to Borama on 30th May 2015 to assess prison conditions and the work of the judiciary.
2. The Committee for Internal affairs, Security and Defense traveled to the port city of Berbera for a fact-finding tour concerning the situation of refugees coming from Yemen (30th May 2015)
3. Public works and roads committee travelled to Borama on 30th May 2015
4. The Committee for Environmental, Livestock, Agriculture and Natural Resources were travelling on 31 May 2015 to Sanaag and Sool regions.

Three MPs from the Public Accounting Committee participate in an international conference in Jamaica named “Conference on Strengthening Legislative Oversight to Foster Accountability, Transparency, and Sustainable Development”.

On 14 June 2015, PSP board meeting took place in Mogadishu between NFP leadership, UNDP Somalia senior management and the program staff. Participants discussed the best way to foster effective support re the work of committees and committee outreach activities. Hon. Mahad informed the that during the 6th session the parliament has started to implement a two-hour weekly TV program intended to inform the public about committee activities. Furthermore it was discussed to enhance support to the upgrade of the NFP website, in particular to also strengthen its English part.

The meeting on the other hand called for the need to align UNDP existing programs with the SDRF / MPTF structure that was put in place last year. It is suggested that PSG1 representatives hold a meeting in order to include support to the parliament into this funding mechanism.
Strengthening Administrative Procedures of SL HoR

Austin Zvoma, a retired Clerk (Secretary General) of the Zimbabwe Parliament, completed his second four-week term on institutional capacity building of the Somaliland HoR Secretariat.

The focus of Austin’s work was to strengthen the internal systems and processes of five departments he is working with by developing or finalizing two draft manuals and five draft guidelines below.

3. Guidelines on Improved Hansard Production and Committee Verbatim Reporting
5. Guidelines on Administrative Procedures and Communication among departments
6. Guidelines on Planning Coordination and Monitoring duties and responsibilities
7. Policy Guidelines on the Standing Committee Roles and Functions

In addition, he amended and finalized two documents developed during the February – March assignment namely:
8. HoR Accounting Manual and Procurement Procedures
9. Improved HoR Secretariat Organizational Structure and better aligned Departments

The purpose of these manuals and guidelines is to respond to the findings of the ABRIMO assessment and to institutionalize and codify standard operating procedures of the departments to make their service delivery predictable, consistent and reliable. In addition, Austin finalized the draft Organizational Structure which now awaits final approval by the HoR. It is expected that this revised Organization Structure with departmental responsibilities aligned and the new manuals and guidelines will lead to improved service delivery by the beneficiary departments. Manuals and guidelines produced still need to be endorsed by the Speaker and the Secretary General, in order to make them official.

The manuals and guidelines are important steps in the introduction of a culture of customer focused performance management system in service delivery and shall contribute to the attainment of the five Strategic Directions of the HoR Strategic Plan 2013-15. Their development and the related training emphasized the four Balanced Scorecard (BSC) service delivery perspectives:

i. Financial Perspective: How well is Secretariat managing the resources of the HoR?
ii. Customer/Community Perspective: How is the service the Secretariat is providing perceived by its customers/stakeholders?
iii. Internal Perspective [Processes/Systems]: What must the Secretariat excel in?
iv. Learning & Growth Perspective: How can the Secretariat continue to improve and create value in its service delivery?

A very significant development is the decision to introduce planning coordination and monitoring as an integral part of service delivery by the Secretariat.

Three SL MPs Participate in Conference in Jamaica on Parliamentary Oversight

Beginning of June three MPs of the Somaliland HoR, Mr. Mohamed Ali, Mr. Nasir Hagi Ali and Mr. Ali Suleiman Awad, participated in a three-day conference organized by the World Bank and UNDP in Jamaica on the topic: Strengthening Legislative Oversight to Foster Accountability, Transparency, and Sustainable Development. Participants of more than 15 countries discussed how to strengthen parliamentary oversight in particular with regard to budgeting and government spending.

Mr. Mohamed Ali, Chairman of the Public Accounting Committee (PAC) made a presentation on the challenges experienced by the Somaliland HoR. The three MPs intend to arrange a small work shop in Hargeisa in order to share the newly acquired knowledge with the other members of the PAC.
Somaliland HoR Committee visits Regional Prison

After the release of the first LoA instalment Somaliland HoR Committees travelled to four regions including Awdal, Sahil, Togdheer and Sanaag to conduct oversight missions

The Judiciary, Justice and Human Rights Committee visited Burao, Togdheer region on 30th May 2015 with the aim to conduct oversight over judicial institutions and to meet judges, the regional attorney general, police commanders, civil society representatives as well as women and youth. MPs also visited the region’s main prison and talked to prisoners. The committee members listened to their concerns and complaints re shortcoming in the judiciary system and human rights violations.

During their visit MPs were informed about the need to rehabilitate and enhance the Burao prison. The current prison was built in 1942 for 60 prisoners, but now accommodates 380 resulting in very poor detention conditions. MPs learned from the prisoners that they hardly receive any legal support from the government or the legal aid centres. Committee members received requests to enhance the capacity of the regional courts including judges and paralegals, to rehabilitate the existing courts and upgrade its equipment. The committee is expected to present their findings in form of a report to the HoR in the course of their next session.

The oversight mission was conducted using funds provided by the UNDP project.

Support to Constitution-building in Jubaland

UNDP and UNSOM have joined hands to provide the technical support to see this Constitution process in Kismayo through till its provisional adoption. A Drafting Committee has been formed from all clans, and with little fanfare has been meeting every day over the past two months, comparing other Constitutions from Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and new democracies of eastern Europe.

The mandate given the Drafting Committee by the Interim Jubbaland Administration (IJA) explicitly called for “an articulated Constitution based on the fundamentals of Human Rights and democratic principles” in “conformity with the Provisional Constitution of Somalia.” The Committee will involve all communities and opinions in Jubbaland, and will be conducted in an open and transparent manner” and would comprise a comprehensive public radio communications campaign, and a all region public consultation phase.

David Payne, UNDP Constitutional specialist on the ground in Kismayo for the past few months, sees this as an “essential building block of the new Somalia. Close collaboration with the Federal Government does not always make the headlines, but it has been present since the beginning. Close collaboration with Puntland as a future partner in Confederation is precious and both leaders meet regularly.”

A Constituent Assembly is scheduled for August 2015, and already the plans are in place to convene 300 voting delegates to adopt the Provisional Constitution of Jubbaland. The diversity of the delegates is impressive. Clans will be fully represented as will Civil society groups, and the Jubbaland diaspora. A consultative meeting will even be held in Nairobi to listen to their views. The Drafting Committee will continue to hold public hearings right up until the Constituent Assembly itself.

At the same time a parallel initiative has started which will bring together various clan leaders in an important reconciliation and peace-building effort, taking place in several villages throughout Jubbaland

During the next weeks David Payne will also provide technical support to the newly formed Jubbaland Assembly during its start-up phase.
On 18 May a board meeting took place in Garowe between the HoR Puntland senior management, the UNDP Area Office and project staff. The main topic of discussion was the implementation of the recently signed LoA between UNDP and HoR. The LoA and its funds provided by donors will enable the Puntland HoR to implement capacity development activities and to establish a conducive working environment for the parliament. The CTA stated that 2/3 of the funds allocated in the AWP are covered by the LoA which will be implemented by the HoR themselves. This also means that the pace of implementation depends on the Parliament and its Secretariat. The project offers advice and guidance whenever necessary to facilitate a swift implementation.

In addition, participants called upon the HoR to assist the formation of emerging state parliaments and transfer knowledge and experience. UNDP offered to provide support for this cooperation. HoR informed that it already started its cooperation with emerging parliaments. Participants also encouraged the HoR to contribute to the on-going Somali constitutional review process.

Puntland HoR Hired National Consultant to Improve Administrative Procedures

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) provided technical assistance to Puntland House of Representative (HoR) to hire a Somali capacity development consultant who is tasked to strengthen the capacity of the HoR Secretariat. The consultant will provide services, such as developing policies and guidelines in the areas of accounting and procurement. The contractor will also work to improve the organizational structure of the Secretariat and deliver training on various topics for the HoR secretariat staff.

The recruitment was prompted by a UNDP-sponsored micro capacity assessment conducted by ABRIMO Company in December 2014, which found a number deficiencies in staffing, accounting, procurement and asset management practices of this implementing partner. The primary responsibility of the new consultant is to address these deficiencies. The recruitment was conducted in a competitive and transparent manner. PSP National Consultant Warsame Hassan assisted the House Secretariat to prepare terms of reference, job advertisement text, application screening paperwork, interview process and contract documents. Twelve local experts applied for the six-month assignment position, six applicants were long-listed and three were invited to interviews. A panel from the HoR Secretariat conducted the interviews and UNDP played an observer’s role. Mr. Said Mohamoud Hirsi was finally selected as the best-qualified. The contract was signed on 1st of June.

Board Meeting in session in Garowe (May 18th)
Introducing Consultants Soulef Guessoum and David Payne

In this edition we continue our series to present two of the consultants working for the project: Ms. Soulef Guessoum and Mr. David Payne:

**Soulef Guessoum** is an Algerian Parliamentary and Gender Expert with some ten years of experience in managing political development programs with international organizations and working with media. She has been recruited by the project to provide capacity building for the Somali Parliament in particular with regard to public outreach and oversight, support to strengthen the constituency offices and gender issues.

Soulef has previously worked as a parliamentary expert with UNDP in several countries including Libya, Iraq, and Tunisia. Prior to that, she held the position of a Parliamentary Project Manager with the UNDP regional office in Cairo, Egypt, and with UNDP Algeria. Before joining UNDP, Soulef worked with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Algeria as a Senior Program Officer. She was previously a Project Coordinator with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Between 1995 and 2004, Soulef was a journalist for Algerian National Radio Channel I, El-Khabar, a daily Arabic Newspaper, and National Algerian Television (ENTV).

**David Payne** was a Canadian MP in Quebec Canada for 15 years, during which time he was State Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister of Quebec, and member of the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as Chair of two Parliamentary Commissions.

In 2012 for UNDP he coordinated the successful convening of the Somalia federal Parliament and the subsequent Election of the President of Somalia.

David has a wealth of International experience in countries such as Côte d’Ivoire, Somalia, Haiti, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Morocco, Kosovo, China, Jordan, Canada, Haiti, Ukraine and Rwanda, in three of them he was Programme Country Director. He was recruited in 2014 as a parliamentary expert to work with the Puntland House of Representatives in particular on the revision of the Rules of Procedures and Code of Conduct. Currently he is providing UNDP support to the Draft Constitution of Jubaland for the Interim Jubaland Administration (IJA) and will in the future also support the Jubaland Assembly and the Central Region administration.

In Iraq and Afghanistan Mr. Payne was Program Country Director (USAID) for the Parliamentary Support program. While in Haiti as Country Director of the Parliamentary Program he was awarded by CBC Television the prestigious award “Personality of the Year” (2011) for his work as USAID Parliamentary Search and Rescue Director, following the devastating earthquake which killed 250,000 Haitians, and for his work in the re-establishment of the Parliament.

The project team receives reinforcement with the recruitment of a Legal and Constitutional Specialist who will provide technical assistance to improving the legislature and contribute support to the constitutional review process.

The project hereby introduces Ms. Valentina Hoxha. She has thirty one years of experience working in Europe, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the United States. In the international development field, she has worked for more than 10 years in long-term and short-term positions in public administration capacity building, judicial/legal education, legal reform and Human Rights. Ms. Hoxha has most recently been serving as a long-term Education & Training Advisor for the Justice Support Program in Iraq, helping to build the Iraqi Judicial Development Institute at the Higher Judicial Council.

Beyond that she has experience working with leading democracy and governance implementers including Checchi Consulting, Inc., ARD, Casals, NCSC, IFES, Urban Institute, SUNY/CID, GIZ, and B&S Europe. Ms. Hoxha has experience working with USAID, State Department/INL, UNDP, European Union, Council of Europe, DFID, UNICEF, SIDA, Danish Center for Human Rights and OSCE. During the post-dictatorship transition in Albania, Ms. Hoxha served as the Dean of the University of Tirana Law Faculty and is a Founding Member of the High Council of Justice. Ms. Hoxha is a U.S. citizen and holds a post-graduate law degree from France and a Doctorate of Law from Albania.

**CONTACT DETAILS PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT PROJECT (PSP)**

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

UNDP Somalia Country Office – UN Common Compound, Airport Road, Mogadishu, Somalia | registry.so@undp.org

UNDP Somalia Nairobi Support Office – UNON, UN Avenue, Block D5, PO Box 28832, Nairobi, Kenya

**TELEPHONE:** +254 20 51 21324

**EMAIL:** mohamed.ali.farah@undp.org

**WEBSITE:** www.so.undp.org