Dear Reader,

The project, which initially has been designed to support three parliaments (National Federal Parliament, Puntland HoR and Somaliland HoR) has further expanded its scope of work. After having assumed cooperation with the Jubaland Assembly and the Galmudug Assembly last year the project in late January officially met with the South West State Assembly in order to discuss support for 2016. While it is planned to provide direct assistance to the newly formed parliaments the project in addition will put emphasis on supporting the cooperation between existing parliaments and new ones in order to facilitate know-how transfer.

In early February the project also met with the Chairman of the Guurti as the official start of the cooperation with the Somaliland House of Elders.

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) provides support to the NFP, and the Parliaments of Puntland and Somaliland in order to capacitate them to operate as inclusive, transparent and effective law-making, oversight and representative bodies. The project provides technical assistance to

1. enact quality legislation and to maintain effective oversight over the government
2. establish effective institutions, with a functioning administration and infrastructure
3. empower MPs to represent and remain accountable to the people and to provide leadership

The Project is supported by the European Union, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and UNDP. The total budget for 2013-2016 is 11.7 million USD.

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Peace Park in the center of Mogadishu — an island of green
The year of 2015 marked a transition in the support provided by the Project to a more tailored assistance with an improved quality of delivery. There was also a transition from a mere provider of material support to offering technical assistance an know-how. Both, national counterparts and donors are satisfied with the project developments and during 2015 three verifications exercises conducted by third-party-monitoring have also pointed out relevance and quality of the Project.

Amongst the highlights and significant results of 2015 it is worth mentioning the technical assistance provided by the project to the priority legislative agenda of the parliaments, which culminated in substantive support to the critical and comprehensive review by NFP of three laws tabled, out of which two were approved: Procurement Law and Anti-Money Laundering. Other very positive results and impact of the project in 2015 were the transfer of knowledge between Parliaments in Somalia, as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation between NFP and regional parliaments. Support to representation/outreach was also a priority and achievements include the development of new National Federal Parliament website which is available via www.sfp.so and a public outreach activity with some 300 people participating: women and youth organizations, persons with disabilities, CSOs, students and lecturers from more than ten universities, lawyers, political associations, poets, and religious leaders.

The first ever website of the Puntland Parliament http://puntlandparliament.net/ is now online. The Somaliiland Parliament has approved a Communication and Outreach Strategy and implemented one of the recommendations, which was an Open Day for Youth. The Young Graduates Programme of the NFP, which commenced in 2013, has been fully transferred since beginning of 2016 to the responsibility of NFP enrolling YG as civil servants and putting them on the state payroll. Construction of the Perimeter Walls of the NFP, Somaliland and Puntland was almost completed in 2015. This provided a long awaited increase in the security of this institution and its people, often targeted by deadly attacks.

Recommendations of the ABRIMO Recommendations have been addressed by NFP (75%), Somaliland (100%) and Puntland (100%) through the implementation of individual capacity development plans, which included organizational changes, elaboration of guidelines, change of procedures and trainings of staff.

From the point of view of project delivery 2015 was a very successful year. The total expenditure incurred under the UNDP Parliamentary Support project for 2015 is USD 4,935,333 (provisional) against available resources of USD 5,050,721. This is a delivery rate of 98% and a significant increase compared with past years.

During FY 2015 UNDP received additional funding of USD 959,055 from SIDA and Norway under MPTF and UNDP also injected TRAC resources of USD 1,268,619 to meet the project requirements. Towards the end of the year Norway provided an additional USD 366,345 and SIDA added USD 250,000 so that the total of additional funds mobilized in 2015 was 2,325,399 USD.

Beyond the quantitative expansion of the support provided the project in particular transformed from a funding mechanism for parliaments to a provider of technical assistance and know-how implementing large-scale capacity building activities for all three parliaments.

Just to complete the picture: The project team is also implementing a second project which provides support to the constitutional review process (1.2 million in 2015).

Together both projects delivered approx. 6.2 million, which is more than twice as much as in 2014.
PSP Welcomes New Staff Members to the Project Team

As part of its continuous efforts to significantly increase the amount of technical assistance and advice for national counterparts, PSP recruited two additional national staff members (Mr. Nabil, as a Reporting Officer and Mr. Ahmed as a legal translator). Mr. Nabil and Mr. Ahmed who each of them have more than 15 years of experience officially joined the project team last week and will continue working from Mogadishu.

Update on the National Federal Parliament Activities

During the 3rd February sitting of the NFP, the Speaker addressed the House of Representatives (HoR) regarding the progress and the status of the legislation/bills tabled with the Parliament as well as the upcoming meetings on constitutional review with the Oversight Committee is presenting its report to the plenary on 15 February. He also gave notice re the planned closure of the current session on February 25 and opening of the 8th session of Parliament on 25 March 2016. In his remarks, the Speaker asked the MPs to intensify their work to finalize some priority bills and requested full participation in the sittings of Parliament for the remaining days of this session.

In addition, the Standing Committee decided to convene parliamentary sittings on daily basis until the end of the current session excluding Thursdays and Fridays. During the 15 February session the Oversight Committee tabled a report on the review of ten chapters for the first reading. Copies of the report were distributed to the MPs as well as other participants. A total of 150 MPs were in attendance of the session. The key speakers at the session (NFP Speaker and the Prime minister) congratulated the Oversight Committee and ICRIC on the progress made so far. The Speaker asked the MPs to study the report and to share their feedback with OC. He also noted the importance of public engagement on the review process and called up on all MPs to take part with OC and ICRIC in the conduct of regional consultation during the coming parliament recess in Feb/March. The House in the past two weeks effected:

- Approval of the Bill on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons
- Approval of the Establishment of Disaster Management Agency Act.
- First reading of concession of membership of agreement of Islamic development organization
- First reading of Veterinary Bill
- Establishment of Disaster Management Agency Bill.

Oversight and Constituency Visits to various districts in Puntland

With the support of the project Puntland HoR conducted three oversight missions to ten districts and two constituency visits to five districts in different regions of Bari, Gardafur, Karkar Nugal, Mudug and Sanag to assess the government’s work and the delivery of public services in the areas visited. The main focus was to better understand the social economic situation of these regions and to ensure that executive policies reflect the public interest and have a positive impact on people’s lives. The parliament conducted inspection and visits to particular facilities (local police stations, public hospitals, schools, sea port and airport). Part of the information gathering were consultations and meetings with regional- and local authorities as well as with representatives of civil society groups and local media which provided valuable information and feedback.

With the support of secretariat staff MPs were able to collect comprehensive information which will be presented to the full house during the next session in June 2016.
Puntland HoR Mediates Clan Conflict in Karkar and Hayland Regions

On 22-27 December 2015 a delegation from PL HoR assisted by the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project engaged in peace building and conflict resolution in Karkar and Hayland regions. This was a follow up visit to a previous mediation between Abdirahim Ibrahim and Dubeys clans. The conflict dates back to 2006/2007 over complaints from pastoralist communities on degraded land and pasture. Following consultations in Aug/ Sep 2015 MPs from these community initiated a peace building road map to reach a lasting agreement between the two clans. MPs visited Dhahar and Gardo districts to meet with the elders of both sides. During these meeting MPs conducted community mobilization and awareness raising campaigns with the goal to encourage all sides to attend a round table for resolving their differences through Customary and Islamic Sharia law. Meetings between MPs clans’ leaders, elders and representatives of the local elites took place in the cities Qardho / Karkar region and Dhahar / Hayland region. After these meetings the two clans in principal agreed to continue the reconciliation meetings in Dhahar district to achieve sustainable solutions and establish lasting peace. The Puntland Parliament considers peace building and conflict resolution a key factor for integration of communities from different regions a key-factor of its parliamentary work.

Workshop on Legislative Drafting for Parliament of Somaliland

In continuation of its support to assist the Parliament of Somaliland to improve the legislation, the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project organized a workshop for members and staff of the House of Representatives and members of the House of Elders (Guurti) on “Legislative Drafting” from February 8-10 in Hargiesa. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the participants to the fundamental principles and techniques in legislative drafting. It aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of the Members of the Parliament and secretariat staff in legislative drafting. The workshop was facilitated by UNDP Parliamentary support staff, Valentina Hoxha, Legal Specialist, and Mohamed A. Farah, Research Officer. Twenty four participants from both houses of the Parliament and staff from the House of Representatives attended the workshop. The agenda of the workshop consisted of introduction to the general background of legislation and legislative drafting processes with a focus on the Legislature; current legislative process in Somaliland according to the Constitution and Rules of Procedures of both Houses as well as introducing the participants to the international standards, internationally recommended practices and generally accepted drafting principles and techniques. The Deputy Speaker and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives attended the opening and closing ceremony of the workshop. The event got significant coverage from Somaliland media and TV. During the closing ceremony, the participants emphasized the insights they gained from the workshop. One member of the House of Representatives considered the workshop “a real eye-opener.” A member of the Guurti informed the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives that the workshop not only equipped them with legislative drafting skills and knowledge but stimulated MPs to question on possible ways to improve lawmaking. One MP explained, “I learnt what we do right and what we do wrong by listening to the trainers”. Members from both Houses of the Parliament requested more training in the field of legislative drafting. The leadership of the Parliament and UNDP agreed that the project will continue to provide support to legislative agenda of the Parliament through delivering more training on legislative drafting for both Houses of Parliament in the future.
In early January 2016 the South West State Assembly was formed consisting of 149 MPs including 32 women. Shortly afterwards the project held a meeting with the newly established Speaker Hon. Abdulkadir S. Sheekhuna and his two deputies, Honorable Mohamed Noor Mohamed Moalim and Honorable Aweys Hussein Moalim.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the priority needs of the assembly and how the project could assist. A concrete outcome of the meeting was that the project will support a cooperation between the National Federal Parliament and the SWS Assembly for the initial phase. National Federal Parliament will provide technical assistance and advice in areas like designing Rules of Procedures and how to structure committees.

In addition the Speaker asked the project to provide capacity building for MPs with regard to principles of democracy and parliamentarism, as well as in particular the role of women in parliament.