Dear Reader,

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project, which started in March 2013 is planned to end in December 2016. Currently preparations are under way for the design of a follow up project for the years 2017-2020. As part of these preparations two evaluation teams will assess the impact of the project and collect information for priority needs of technical support of parliaments in Somalia and Somaliland for the years ahead.

The two teams started their work in mid-July and the project will inform you about the findings of the evaluation during the next months as the reports will be completed.

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 13.3million USD.

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With the attendance of the Somali Federal Parliament Chief Whip Hon. Abdullahi Hassan Rooble, the Swedish Amb. Mikael Lindvall, EU representative Eva Atanassova and UNDP CD George Conway the new security perimeter for the Somali Federal Parliament has been inaugurated on 18 July 2016.

The security perimeter which is protecting the NFP plenary hall as well as the parking area for parliamentarians consists of a 900-meter-long stone and concrete wall as well as seven hardened watch towers which can be used as fighting positions for the guards. Most of the construction work took place in 2015 and the overall costs amounted to 450,000 USD. The construction was made possible with funds provided by DFID/UK, EU, Norway, Sweden/Sida and UNDP.

Considering the volatile security environment in Somalia and Al-Shabab’s strategy to specifically target government buildings the construction of the security parameter became a key priority. The plenary hall had already twice been a target in the past. It has been attacked twice in May and July 2014 with some 15 people killed and many more injured. During the attacks at least four MPs wounded. With the completion of the security upgrade the Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff working in that building can now meet and work in a much safer location.
PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT PROJECT

At Least 22 Somali MPs Killed Since August 2012

A parliament is the key institutions in a democratic society. However, parliamentarians in Somalia live a dangerous life. Somali parliaments in general and the National Federal Parliament in particular are under constant threat of attacks organized by the Al-Shabaab terror group due to the important work they are doing in their capacity as lawmakers and political decision makers.

Since 2012 when the new parliament was formed, at least 22 legislators (NFP: 17; Puntland State: 4; Galmudug State 1) have been assassinated and many more were injured. The latest victims of Al-shabaab’s attacks on Somali lawmakers were Hon. Abdullahi Jama Kabaweye and Hon. Mohamoud Mohamed Gure. Hon. Both prominent MPs were killed during the attack on the Ambassador Hotel on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. UNDP Parliamentary Support Project team would like to expresses its condolences to the families of the MPs for this tragic loss.

LoAs Signed with Various Parliaments

Experience of 2015 showed that Letters of Agreements (LoAs) are an important instrument to increase the capacity of the national parliaments, in particular with regard to their administrative and financial structures, to assist them to cover essential running costs, to create national ownership to implement the project in a timely fashion. In the Letter of Agreement UNDP and the national counterpart agree upon which activities of the project work plan will be implemented directly by the parliament and under which conditions. The LoA also regulates the oversight conducted by the project. So far UNDP on behalf of the project in 2016 has signed LoAs with the following institutions:

- National Federal Parliament
- Puntland HoR
- Somaliland HoR
- Somaliland Guurti
- South West State Assembly

LoAs with Galmudug State Assembly and Jubaland State Assembly are have been finalized and will be approved on receipt of banking information from these two assemblies.

Overview About Project Funding (2013-2016)

The Parliamentary Support Project was set up in year 2013 as a four-year project with an overall budget of 20 million USD to provide a) technical assistance to the NFP, Somaliland HoR and the Puntland Parliament as well as b) support to the constitutional review process. In March 2015 the two components were split and two separate projects established.

The revised parliamentary project document foresaw a reduced budget of 11.7 million for the parliamentary support project. During 2015, the project implemented activities for around USD 5 million (98% of available funds for year 2015).

During the second half of year 2015 / beginning of year 2016, three new parliaments were formed in Jubaland, Galmudug and South West State which approached UNDP for technical assistance.

With additional funds received through the MPTF funding mechanism, the Project was able to expand its support from three to six parliaments.

This increase in activities also reflects in an increase of the overall budget from 11.7 to a new total of 14.6 million, which the project board approved on 11 May 2016.

Funds in a total amount of USD 13,271,726 have been made available by donors, UNDP and UN HQ- DPA against budget of USD 14,600,000 for the period from 2013-16 as detailed in the table.

Currently the project is still facing a resource crunch for with a funding gap of USD 1,328,274 for 2016. The project is in close contact with donors for additional donor contribution in order to fill this gap.

### Overview About Project Funding (2013-2016)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SI</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Funding Commitment (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DFID/UK</td>
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<td>UNSOM-DPA</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>
After working 2 years with UNDP for the support of the parliaments across Somalia, it is with heavy heart I bid farewell.

During my time here, I formed wonderful friendships and associations, overcame many a challenge with the help of my team members, direction from supervisors and collaboration from all counterparts.

During these two years the Project has progressed significantly with a more consistent in-country presence of UNDP, increased delivery and the establishment of a sound project team, which contributed to a crucial shift from a more infrastructural/equipment and cost support driven project, to a more increased focus on technical assistance and know-how support.

I personally want to express my sincere gratitude for all the support from my team, from the UNDP Country Office and from all counterparts. It has been an absolute honor and pleasure to have served Somalia.

May the years ahead bring prosperity to the project and all the people who work for it, and for whom it is to benefit, the parliaments of Somalia and its citizens.

Outgoing Programme Management Specialist, Carla Riquito

National Federal Parliament Legislative Work (8th Session)

The 8th Session of the National Federal Parliament which is the last session of this parliament started on April 11, 2016. During the current session the NFP achieved to pass several laws and regulations.

The number of resolutions, agreements & bills approved during the session has shown a significant increase compared to previous sessions which indicates that the parliament over the past years has gained enhanced capacity with regard to its legislative function.

The highlights of the NFP legislative work during this session include the approval of:

- The Resolution on Membership of Islamic Cooperation Agency (04.2016).
- Law on Establishment of the Constitutional Court (11.6.2016.)
- Amendment to Article 6 re the law on the Boundaries & Federation Commission (11.6.2016).
- Amendments to Article 60 (1) & Article 136 (2) of the Provisional Constitution (15.6.2016).

In addition to above during the current session the NFP also started discussion on several bills, i.e.

- Bill on the Retirement Benefits of Political Leadership (first & second reading).
- Public Financial Management bill (first reading).
- Agreement on Establishment of East African Countries Standby Force (first & second reading).
- Landmines and Explosives bill (first reading).
- Water Resources Bill (first reading).

The PSP has also supported the NFP to hold the following public outreach activities.

On 1 June 2016 the NFP held a public outreach event at the NFP plenary building for 50 representatives from political parties and civil society organizations in order to receive their feedback and input before the final vote on the political party law.

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project is supported by the European Union, Norway, Sweden (Sida), the United Kingdom (DFID), and UNDP, and is managed by the United Nations Development Programme in Somalia.
Puntland State Parliament has commenced its 37th session on Wednesday 15 June in Garowe.

High-ranking officials from the government, UN organizations and the Ethiopian consulate, as well as representatives of CSOs, the media, the diaspora, traditional and religious leaders attended the session.

H.E President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali officially opened the 37th session giving his constitutional address to the parliamentarians.

The First Deputy Parliament Speaker Hon. Mr Abdihamid stated in his opening remarks that the lawmakers will appraise the government delivery in line with its promises and submitting draft laws for approval during this session. He commended the role of UNDP towards the capacity building of the MPs in 2015 and mentioned that it will upgrade and refurbish the preliminary hall of the parliament in 2016.

The house approved its legislative agenda which includes review of taxes, government contracts’ law, approval of new HoR rules of procedures, providing immunity to the high judicial council and approval of the Puntland representatives for the Federal Upper House.

UNDP PSP offers its continuous assistance to support the PL HoR to enact quality legislation, maintain effective oversight of the executive, build the capacity of its institutions, and reach out to Puntland’s citizens in order to ensure effective representation and accountability of MPs to the Population.

The Parliament took a short recess on 20 June for the month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr festivity, and resumed its sitting on 10 July.

While from its beginning the Jubaland State Assembly (JSA) had a meeting hall to convene, it was facing infrastructural challenges to equip the plenary hall and the JSA secretariat offices.

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project during the past months procured furniture and IT equipment and delivered it to the Jubaland Assembly. In June 2016, UNDP also provided the JSA with a sound system for the plenary hall.

The sound system consists of microphones, amplifiers and loud speakers. Following the installation of the sound system, it is expected that parliamentarians will better be able to conduct parliamentary debates as speeches now will easily be audible to all MPs and visitors.

“Before installing the sound system, it was very difficult for the MPs to hold their speeches when addressing the plenary and to be heard by others. As a result, information was frequently lost. We have been using the new system since a few days and everything works perfect. With the new equipment, sessions are quite different now. It has significantly improved the participation of MPs in the house debate, and there is no need for a parliamentarian to raise his/her voice or to come forward in order to be heard,” said the Speaker of the JSA, Hon. Mohamed Abdirahman, a few days after the installation of the sound system.
The secretariat staff of the Somali-land House of Elders (HoE) / Guurti received a two-day training workshop on 27-28 June in Hargeisa facilitated by Warsame Hassan, UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP). The topic of the first training session was the roles and responsibilities of a parliamentary secretariat. This introductory session focused on the procedural and administrative functions that parliamentary staff perform in order to support the HoE to fulfill its mandate of legislation, oversight and representation. Seventeen secretariat staff attended the first session. The Second Deputy Chairman of the Guurti Hon. Saed Jama Ali delivered the opening statement. The second session of the training targeted administration and finance staff. The workshop provided an overview of accounting and procurement procedures based on HACT (Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfers) framework and based on lessons learned from working with other parliaments. The Secretary General of the Guurti and three other staff members from the Department of Administration and Finance, including the department’s director, attended this session.

The workshop participants also discussed and identified what policies and procedures should be developed for the Guurti secretariat in order to function as an effective administrative body for the legislature and to manage funds more effectively. This training was the first capacity building activity jointly implemented by UNDP and the House of Elders. Staff effectively participated in the training and showed enthusiasm to strengthen their profession-

During the past months the SWS Assembly constructed a new plenary hall in Baidoa. However, the assembly lacked funds to equip the plenary hall with the necessary furniture. In response to a request coming from the Speaker the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project started a series of procurements and delivered various types of chairs to the State Assembly to be used for the plenary hall.

The delivery included chairs for all 149 MPs, chairs for the Speaker and his deputies, chairs for the clerks, as well as chairs in the public gallery, which also serve for the media. The provision of the chairs will enable the Assembly to hold regular sittings in the new plenary hall. UNDP PSP will deliver a second consignment of equipment including a sound system in the coming weeks. “The furniture will assist the Assembly to carry out its function more effectively—thanks to UNDP. This is a significant and tangible contribution which will enable the MPs to conduct assembly sittings on regular basis and to discharge their mandate of legislative, oversight and representation roles,” stated Hon. M Abdulkadir S. Sheekhuna Speaker of Southwest State Assembly during the handover. The new chairs were first used during the recent National Leadership Forum end of June in Baidoa.