Dear Reader,

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) is currently undergoing a mid-term evaluation which is being carried out by two independent evaluation teams.

The objective of the evaluation is to assess the impact of the project so far (results, achievements, constraints), to provide information on the effectiveness, relevance and value added of the support provided to parliaments in Somalia by UNDP since 2013, and to receive recommendations for the design of a follow up project for the period 2017-2020.

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) provides support to the NFP, Parliaments of Puntland, Somaliland and State Assemblies of Jubaland, Galmudug and South West to capacitate and 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 USD 14.6 Million.
On approval of 2016 Annual Work Plan (AWP) by the Project Board, UNDP fast-tracked the implementation of project activities and also signed seven Letter of Agreements (LoAs) with parliaments and state assemblies of Somalia, the implementing partners (IPs). After the signing of the AWPs and LoAs, the UNDP team met with the leadership of Parliaments and State Assemblies for detailed discussions on the implementation of 2016 AWP and LoAs. Accordingly, implementation plans and estimated timelines were agreed to ensure all activities of 2016 AWP are completed to achieve all project targets and objectives by end of year 2016. Under the LoAs, IPs are responsible to directly implement the agreed activities under 2016 AWP by the end of the project cycle, all Parliaments and State Assemblies are expected to be strengthened. Table provided below provides information for approved budget for LoA signed for each of the parliaments in 2016, with total budget USD 1.099 Million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL.#</th>
<th>Implementing Partner (Parliaments/ State Assemblies)</th>
<th>LoA budget for 2016 (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National Federal Parliament</td>
<td>412,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>House of Representative - Somaliland</td>
<td>189,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>House of Representative - Puntland</td>
<td>238,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>House of Elders (Guurti) - Somaliland</td>
<td>49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jubaland State Assembly</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Galmudug State Assembly</td>
<td>106,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>South West State Assembly</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP), supported the Secretary General (S.G) of National Federal Parliament of Somalia to attend the Induction Programme at the United Kingdom’s Parliament at Westminster from 18-20 July 2016. Unlike traditional trainings, the programme focused on direct interaction with the team members who have drafted and implemented the Westminster 2015 Induction Program. SG had also the opportunity to meet and interview two new MPs (Scotland and England) who were benefited from the programme.

The Secretariat of the NFP, in anticipation of the intake of new Parliamentarians in September or October, is currently planning Somalia’s Induction Programme to ensure that the new MPs are familiarized with good parliamentary practices and procedures at the beginning of their legislative careers.

The induction programme for the new members will equip them with all the indispensable tools that make an effective MP as well as assisting the new members to settle in the institution at the earliest. Armed with the direct knowledge transfer and experience from the Westminster Parliament, the Secretary General expressed his commitment to sharing the newfound knowledge with the various departments of the Secretariat of the Parliament. In the past, parliaments ceased to function before their terms of office expires.

The current Federal Parliament (the 9th) will be the first parliament to complete its term of office and transfer to the new parliament. The NFP Secretariat was created from scratch few years back with the support of UNDP under Parliamentary Support Project.

Therefore, this period is particularly noteworthy as this is the first opportunity for the Parliament institutional memory, documentation and infrastructure of one parliament to the upcoming new parliament.
The workshop participation included five MP's of the Interior and Security Committee and two parliamentary staff supported by UNDP and participation of Deputy Attorney General of Somaliland was funded by the UK Government. The workshop provided dialogue and legal commentary on the bill's provisions, with the objective of incorporating international obligations and standards as well as ensured respect for human rights in Somaliland counter-terrorism bill. Prior to the workshop, the UNODC expert undertook a desk review of CT bill of Somaliland (drafted in 2015) to check if the provisions are in accordance with the international obligations contained in the Universal Legal Framework Against Terrorism. The comments were then integrated into the workshop. Delegates also received a presentation about the background of the draft CT bill from the executive's perspective, including the connection and harmonization with the Somaliland Constitution and existing laws.

The Deputy Attorney General briefed participants on the situation of terrorism in Somaliland, the challenges the prosecution's office is facing, and the urgent need for the bill to be adopted. This session was followed by an article-by-article analysis of the draft bill from the UNODC expert and other experts, including recommendations on amendments to the draft. The presentation initiated a very fruitful exchange of views between the Somaliland participants and the experts.

The recommendations were incorporated into the bill, and a revised version of the bill was produced at the end of the workshop. The revised bill will be submitted to entire membership of the Interior and Security Committee for debate and endorsement. UNDP and UNODC will continue to assist the Interior and Security Committee while the bill is being further reviewed and revised until it is passed by the Parliament.

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) has engaged two independent consultants with extensive experience and expertise in parliamentary development to conduct a project evaluation covering the period from 2013-2016. Mazen Chouaib and Professor Robert Nakamura arrived in Mogadishu in July 2016. During their mission in Somalia, the evaluators interviewed experts, parliamentarians of Somalia and staff in Mogadishu, Hargeisa (Somaliland) and Garowe (Puntland).

They also interviewed donor partners in Nairobi. Evaluation report for the project achievements, impact, and sustainability and also the recommendations for strategic intervention is expected to be shared by the end of September 2016.
UNDP’s Parliament Support Program (PSP) organized a study tour for five key MPs and two staff from Somaliland’s House of Representatives in Nairobi from 21-22 July 2016. The Somaliland delegation visited the Parliament of Kenya and met with representatives from both houses of the Kenyan Parliament (the National Assembly and the Senate) to discuss and learn from Kenya’s experience on the Counter Terrorism Law, the Election Law and women representation in Parliament. The Somaliland MPs met the Majority Leader of the National Assembly and the Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

The Kenyan MPs welcomed Somaliland delegation and congratulated them for the peace and stability that exists in Somaliland. The MPs discussed the political party system and how coalitions work in the Kenyan Parliament. Kenyan MPs also explained their election process including the election of 47 Women MPs and how this model can increase political participation of women in Somaliland. Hon. Elias Barre Shill, former Vice Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defense and Foreign Relations in Kenya, highlighted the challenges faced during the drafting and adopting of the 2012 Kenyan Prevention of Terrorism Act. He spoke of the importance of having grassroots consultation with different stakeholders including religious leaders and civil society representatives.

The Somaliland delegation also met with Richard Ogesare, the Legal and Policy Officer with Joint Counter-Terrorism Analysis Centre of Kenya. He shared his experiences in drafting the counter terrorism law and explained the issues encountered before the adoption of the bill and during the implementation including the establishment of several mechanisms, one of them being the Joint Counter Terrorism Centre.

The MPs expressed their gratitude to UNDP for this opportunity to learn more about the Kenyan experience and they said this information will be very important for them to take back to Somaliland in order to get their bill passed into law.

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) supported Southwest State Assembly (SWSA) with a sound system. Sound system will be used in the new plenary hall of SWSA where the MPs meet and debate bills. The delivered equipment consists of microphones, amplifiers and loud speakers. The purpose of this sound system is to support parliamentary members to conduct debates effectively.

Speeches will be audible to all MPs and visitors, including the media. The speaker said “Prior to installing the sound system, it was not easy for the MPs to address the plenary and to participate in flawless discussions of the sittings due to interfering noise, thus hindering the participation of MPs in the debates. Now after installing the sound system, we have witnessed significant improvements. As a result, more MPs are taking part in the debates. We thank UNDP and donors for providing this support.” Improved plenary debate will result in improved government accountability. This sound system marks an important milestone in the history of the Assembly.
After a short recess for Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr, House of Representatives Puntland resumed its 37th session with 17 important agenda items. Unfortunately, the resumption of the session was marked by low attendance by MPs and the absence of Speaker. Initially, quorum was not met for official business to begin. After a delay of several days, enough MPs were present on Wednesday, 13 July 2016, for proceedings to begin. According to MPs, there was very limited media coverage of parliamentary business with the exception of the official opening ceremony on Wednesday, 15 June 2016. The lack of media coverage contributes to the limited public understanding of the work of HoR Puntland. This session was marked by the passage of number of bills, including the Quality Control Act, Fishery Service Fees Act and the NGO Act. The HoR Puntland rejected the Agriculture Service Fees bill and notably rejected the extension of the High Court judges’ term of office as proposed by President. One MP commented that this is proof that the legislative branch of government is independent of the executive branch. The HoR Puntland also agreed to postpone debate on the Sexual Offenses Bill, which is opposed by some religious leaders who asked to have more discussions so as to ensure that this law is compatible with Islamic Sharia and Somali customary law. This session was closed on 15 August 2106. The House is expected to address the remaining agenda items, including approval of the revised Rules of Procedures, which were supported by UNDP, and review of the “Closing of Ac-counts 2015,” which are the financial reports submitted to Parliament by the Ministry of Finance.

UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) provides assistance including training, technical assistance and coordination to all parliaments of Somalia including the new state/ assemblies to discharge their duties effectively. Training and capacity building activity is a key component to sup-port the parliaments as it is a way to ensure that MPs have the right skill set to do their work effectively and competently. The project conducted a training needs assessment for Juba-land State Assembly (JSA) from 11-14 April 2016. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the cur rent and desired knowledge, skills and abilities of the MPs. The out-come of this assessment will help to develop the appropriate training pro-grams to strength the capacity of the MPs. This data will be used to provide a baseline against the impact of the assistance. Here are some of the preliminary findings. JSA consists of 85 MPs which includes 03 women and 82 men. Majority of the MPs (71.43%) are between the age group of 35 - 55 years ; 14.29% are older than 55 years; and 14.29% of the MPs are 25-34 years old. 35 MPs were interviewed who were able to read and write Somali language (82.86%); 29 MPs were able to foreign language English (65.5%), Arabic (24.1%) and Italian (10.3%). 20.0% of the MPs completed primary school; 57.1% completed secondary school, 11.4% have a bachelor’s degree and 8.6% have masters’ degrees. 91.4% of the MPs have no experience with parliamentary committees. However, 34.3% believe they have experience in politics, including service in the military, ex-federal MPs and government officials. Although all of them participated in a previous training which introduced them to the basic functions of the parliament, 71.4% of the MPs report that they are not familiar with discharging their basic duties. Only 14.3% of MPs are very familiar with discharging their basic functions. Where equal percent of (14.3%) believe that there are somewhat familiar performing their basic functions. 65.7% of the MPs are not familiar with their own Rules of Procedure (RoP) and committees work. Only 22.9% are somewhat familiar with these procedures. Due to this, 88.6% indicated that lawmaking, representation, and constituency offices will be very important for them.