Dialogue on Formation of Inter-Governmental Relations Forum in Somalia

Mogadishu – From 7th to 9th December 2016, MOIFA organised a 3-day Consultative Dialogue on formation of Inter-governmental forums at Mogadishu which gathered 72 participants (62M; 10W) from the federal member states and core ministries of federal government, which included: Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Security, Ministry of Finance, BFC, Reconciliation Committee, Office of the Prime Minister, Office of the President, and Ministry of Constitution. The Consultative dialogue was supported by UNDP’s Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) Project.

The Consultative workshop enabled the member states and other key entities to brainstorm on methods and actions for establishing the Inter-Government Relation (IGR) Forum which will steer the discussion on the Somali federalization processes. The IGR forum will serve as a platform for dialogue and negotiation between the Federal Government and Member States on different facet of federalism process, such as institutional arrangement between Federal Government and Member States, power and revenue sharing formula and more. It will create an environment for resolution of administrative, political and or jurisdictional disputes between different levels of government.

During the Consultative workshop, the participants discussed the Terms and Reference (TOR) of the IGR Forum and broadly agreed upon the goals and objectives of the yet-to-be-formed IGR Forum. The proposed formation of the IGR forum is in line with the Vision 2016 Framework which acknowledges establishment of Inter-State Commission (ISC) as a principal mechanism for dialogue and negotiation between the Federal Government and Member States. The Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia also assigns specific mandates to each level of government to initiate dialogue on Inter government relationship and federalism process.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Jubbaland State of Somalia, said “It is important to initiate dialogue on federalism process in Somalia. This is only possible when such forum is established where Federal Government and Members States initiate the technical discussion on creating effective federal structure in Somalia”.

Contributing Donors:
**BFC Team trained on Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS)**

KENYA – From 17th to 28th October 2016, UNDP’s Support to Emerging Federal States (StEFS) project sponsored the Eight member team of the Boundaries and Federation Commission (BFC) to acquire practical hands-on skills on Geographic Information System. The training programme was delivered by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) at Kenya. The RCMRD was established under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Africa Union (AU) for provision of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Poisoning Systems (GPS) for Mobile mapping, and Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS).

The BFC team members acquired practical skills on how to utilize GIS and GPS applications/technology in monitoring, planning and mapping Federal Republic of Somalia resources. The GIS and GPS training strengthened the capacity of BFC members in boundary delineation and updated participant’s skills and knowledge on geo-database development, geographic information system methods and techniques. The outcome of the training programme led to the development of a practical guide and tool for mapping boundary issues.

“**We are very pleased with the support of UNDP** StEFS project for continuous capacity enhancement of the BFC. Establishing GIS system is one of the important task for us to work on boundary delineation process” Says Mr. Khalif, Chairman BFC Commissioner

Besides the above, the project plans to establish geographic information system and global positioning system platform in BFC for boundary mapping. GIS system establishment will also enhance capacity of BFC in the area of spatial planning.

**Civic Education on Boundary Delineation in Banadir Region**

Mogadishu & Hamarweyne – 8th December 2016, A civic education workshop on boundary delineation held in Mogadishu and Hamarweyne brought together 140 citizens and stakeholders (72 participants in Hamarweyne and 68 in Mogadishu) from Banadir region. The workshop was organized by Boundaries and Federal Commission (BFC) with the support of UNDP’s StEFS project. The objective of the workshop was to disseminate information about BFC mandate, roles and discuss federalism and boundary delineation issues with the Banadir administration staff, key community leaders, Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and women groups.

During the workshop, the participants explored types of federal system of governance and the development options available to the Federal Republic of Somalia. Further discussions were made on the ways to enhance public participation and establishment of public hearings mechanism related to boundaries issues. BFC members also presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on engagement Strategy with Regional Administrations for the boundaries delineation. The MOU will formalize the BFC relationships with the regional stakeholders to address jointly the disputes and conflicts related to boundaries.

The Bandair regional administration staffs were delighted to attend the civic education workshop. One of the women members said; “earlier I was not aware of BFC. It is nice to see that BFC is doing very important task on addressing boundary conflicts in our country”.

**Q4 2016 Highlights**

- Continued support to the Hiraan and Middle Shabelle reconciliations led to the formation of Hirshabelle interim Administration
- Initiated dialogue on formation of inter-governmental relations forum for resolution of administrative, political and or jurisdictional disputes between different levels of government.
- Supported the establishment of Public Accountability Forum in Jubbaland and Galmudug State of Somalia.
- Provided capacity training on human resource management, good governance, leadership and management for civil servants from southwest State and Galmudug State of Somalia.
- Initiated construction and rehabilitation of office spaces and conference halls in Kismayo and Adado for the Jubbaland President office and Civil Service Commission, and the Galmudug State House respectively.
- Procured office furniture and equipment’s for MOPIC in southwest State, and Jubbaland State Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.
- Drafted and aligned the strategic plan for South West State in lined with the National Development Plan (NDP).
- Initiated process to review the organizational structure of the ministries of Jubbaland State of Somalia (JSS), South West State (SWS) and Galmudug State of Somalia (GSS).
Baidoa – A three-day workshop on conflict management organized by Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) of the South West State of Somalia (SWS) with the support of UNDP StEFS, brought together 30 participants (23 males and 7 females) selected from key ministries such as MOPIC, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Youth, women associations and civic society organization. The workshop was organized by MOPIC at Baidoa from 10th to 12th December 2016 based on the recognition that conflict management skills are important for the civil servants working in nascent ministries of SWS with limited capacity and great citizens expectations to deliver the services.

The workshop provided common understanding and concept on conflict management and resolution. The first day of the training aimed at helping participants to develop a working understanding of conflict, types of conflicts, the causes, levels of conflict, conflict management and mapping tools, stakeholders analysis.

Further, the participants gained understanding on peace building process and its linkage with state building process in the SWS and Somalia in general. The workshop concluded with group discussion, questions and answers session, which allowed the participants to share their learnings and clarify any doubts on the covered topics.

“Conflict management is one of the key skills for all the government officials, who should have positive attitude and basic ability to resolve conflicts at different levels” Says Mr. Mursal, State Minister, President Office SWS.

Baidoa – Process to review the organizational structure of the ministries of Jubbaland State of Somalia (JSS), South West State (SWS) and Galmudug State of Somalia (GSS) continued in the fourth quarter of 2017. The review was supported by UNDP/StEFS project. The aim of the organizational review intervention is to address the institutional arrangement for service delivery through mapping and clarifying the mandates of public institutions, structures in place for implementing its mandates.

First round of organization review was conducted in SWS in September 2016 and followed by second round in JSS and Galmudug in the month of November and December 2016. The organization review focuses on developing need based organizational structure, human resource budgeting for the states and developing organizational/administrative operating manual and organizational action plans for selected ministries as a pilot.

During the fourth quarter of 2016, SWS Organizational structure report was drafted and validation workshop was organized from 3rd to 8th November 2016 to review the report. All involved parties expressed their high level of estimation and approval of results. Consolidated draft version was submitted to SWS MoPIC Minister in December 2016 for final review and endorsement by the cabinet. Initial data collection was initiated in GSS in November 2016 and the organization structure review will continue in the first quarter of 2017.

Further, data collection for the JSS Government was completed for 15 out of 19 ministries. Key governmental counterparts were involved and showed their satisfaction to receive the final draft report by end of December 2016. The outcome of the organizational structure review for JSS led to preparation of a report on 30% quota for women’s political participation in governance.

Baidoa – From 12th to 13th December 2016, the South West State Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) in collaboration with South West Somalia None State Actors (SOSWENSA) organized a two-day workshop on engagement of civil society in state formation with the support from UNDP’s ‘Support to Emerging Federal States’ (StEFS) project. The workshop was held in Baidoa and twenty-six (17M; 9W) of the members of SOSWENSA attended the workshop. SOSWENSA is a none state organization which influence policy formulation and dialogue between the state and non-state actors on issues such as peace building, security and development.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance capacity of the none state actors in SWS to participate in economic and political development, and also to strengthen cooperation between the federal member state and civil societies. During the workshop, the participants were exposed to modules such as federalism, distribution of power between central government and regional governments. Participants on the first day expressed that the workshop improved their understanding on federalism and state building.

The second day of the workshop was used to discuss the nexus between civil society groups and government in the state building process. This interactive session allow the participants to address topics such as role of civil societies, political and economic development challenges facing civil societies and tabled possible solutions for realization of civil societies mandates. After two days of interaction, the members of SOSWENSA mentioned the knowledge gained from the workshop would be used to make positive impacts in their communities.
Adado and Baidoa – Capacity challenges are not only uncommon in the federal government institutions but also in the newly established federal member states. To address these challenges, UNDP through the StEFS project is providing capacity building support to the various ministries in the emerging states of Somalia. During the fourth quarter, civil servants from Southwest State and Galmudug State of Somalia received training on basic core functions skills.

From 13th to 15th December 2016, a three-day workshop on human resource management was organized by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) of South West State. The training took place in Baidoa and was attended by thirty participants (23M; 7W) from selected ministries of SWS namely; MOPIC, Minister of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of youth, Women Association and representatives from Civil Society Organizations. The capacity building training updated participant’s knowledge on human resource policies and procedure.

Similarly, three-day training programme on good governance, leadership and management spearheaded by the Ministry of Interior of Galmudug State brought together 100 participants with 30% female representation, comprising representative from the President office of Galmudug State, mayor of Galkacyo, parliamentarians, youth organizations and women groups. The training workshop organized at Adado enhanced the knowledge of the participants on good governance, leadership and management which will contribute to the efficiency and quality of work of civil servants in realizing their functions to deliver the better services effectively to the citizens.

Kismayo – From 24th to 27th October 2016, a three-day Public Accountability forum was organized by the Jubaland State Presidency and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation with the support of UNDP’s “Support to Emerging Federal States” (StEFS) project. The objective of the public accountability forum was to bring the JSS ministries closer to their citizens and thereby enhance their legitimacy. The forum was to secondarily enhance citizen’s engagement with the government and promote interaction between the state official and other stakeholders.

The forum was held in Kismayo and attended by 100 participants mainly government officials from different ministries in Jubaland, parliamentarians, cross-section of civil society organization and community representatives. The sector ministers for the respective sector ministries namely; infrastructure sector, Peace security and Rule of law and Public Administration sector, the Economic Development Sector, Social and Human Development Sector, Health, and Youth, presented the achievement, their plans as well as challenges of their ministries. The sessions were highly interactive and the presenters of the government actively engaged the participants. The forum informed the citizen on the development initiatives undertaken for the last three years.

The State Minister for Presidency of JSS in his concluding remarks recounted the forum was first of its kind to engage the government with its citizens and this belief will promote a culture of transparency and accountability to the citizens. The Public accountability forum will be organized at least two times a year and this will further also serve as a feedback mechanism from the citizenry on progress made by the government.

“IT is for the first time such event has been organized in Jubaland, where the government is sharing their development progress and plans with us. We wish this will be done on regular basis” says Zahra Abdikadir; a female representative from community organization.

JSS Encourages Diaspora in state building process

The mass exodus of Somali elites during the time of conflict has resulted in deep rooted depletion of human capacity and weakened institutions. These diasporas are highly skilled professionals who may have a high contribution to the ongoing state building process in Somalia through remittances and knowledge base. The significance of these diaspora in the political and economic spheres have also been rationalized and tends to be mutually supportive towards the ongoing state building in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

It is against this backdrop; the federal government institutions are increasingly recognizing the importance of the Somalian nationals who were either born or brought up in other countries. In the fourth quarter of 2016, UNDP through StEFS project initiated an effort to engage diaspora to support the state building process. A conference on the ‘Role of Diaspora in State building process’ was organized in the month of December 2016. The conference was held in Kismayo and brought together over 50 diasporas (40M;10W) from five continents; North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa.

The objective of the forum was to provide orientation on the existing opportunities in Somalia and to attract potential diasporas to contribute in the state building agenda. In the forum, it was discussed the diasporas should be encouraged to actively participate in development agenda of the country. The diaspora from Jubbaland unanimously agreed to forge a stronger development partnership with the Jubbaland State of Somalia administrations and sector ministries to mobilize resources for the development of Jubbaland State.

The Jubbaland Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) encouraged the diaspora to invest in the private and industrial sector of the Somali economy. He added that JSS is considering to develop investment policy to attract Somalia origin investors in the State.
One of the main challenges the new federal member state administrations faced with their establishment was the almost complete absence of decent working place and equipment to allow staff to operate effectively. Staff were working from home, meetings took place in hotels or private residences with almost no office equipment.

UNDP’s ‘Support to Emerging Federal States’ (StEFS) project launched several initiatives to provide the state governments with appropriate physical working environments. Construction and rehabilitation of several infrastructure projects for the state administrations were supported. In view of this, the project initiated construction and rehabilitation of office spaces and conference halls in Kismayo for the Jubbaland President office and Civil Service Commission, the buildings will ready by early 2017.

Further, the project initiated construction of office building, conference facility for the Galmudug State House, which is at its final stage of completion. The contract was awarded in September 2016 following a competitive tendering process and the construction of the facility commenced in early part of fourth quarter 2016. The office space will host President office staff.

Women Participation in State Building Process

Adado – From 15th to 20th October 2016, a workshop on women political participation brought together 40 participants (19M; 21W) comprised of parliamentarians, religious leaders, traditional elders, members of civic society, women groups and youth. The Galmudug Ministry of Women’s Affairs in the Federal Republic of Somalia accentuate that women’s substantive involvement in politics was premised upon creating environment where issues such as gender-based violence and women’s economic security can be openly discussed and addressed. Social barriers, however, stand in the way of women’s political participation in Somalia. Recognizing this, decisive efforts were embarked to empower and enable women to take up positions in all levels of government.

The six-day workshop on women political participation discussion forum at Adado organized by the Galmudug Ministry of Women’s Affairs served as a platform to advocate on gender issues and promote the involvement of women in leadership. By fostering knowledge and experience sharing, the women participants became more aware of the importance of their active political engagement. The participants both men and women agreed to ensure the implementation of the 30% women quota in political institutions both at state level and national level.

Beyond awareness raising, capacity development is also needed to empower more women to become political leaders and change-makers. The sensitization workshop in Adado was one of the step to strengthen and broaden the engagement of Somali women in politics and governance.

One of the participant recounted: ‘the workshop have enlighten my understanding of the essence of women participation in state building, and I will use the knowledge gained to lobby other civil society organizations to reach out to women in government with the view of forming coalitions, and further nurture up-coming women and girls for political engagement.”

Advocacy on Federalism and Peace Building

HOBGYO – On 9th to 12th November 2016, a four-day public outreach campaign on federalism and peace building was organized by the Galmudug State Administration, with the support of UNDP’s ‘Support to Emerging Federal States’ (StEFS) project. The workshop was held in Hoboyo and attended by hundred (56M; 44W) participants from cross-section of civil society organizations, women groups, ministers, parliamentarians and opinion leaders. The objective of the workshop was to orient the participants on constructive political dialogue, federalism and good leadership and accountable governance.

The outreach trip to Hobyo smoothen the path for the subsequent reconciliation conferences in the districts. As part of the outreach, participants were shared with the best practices in peace-building and conflict sensitive approaches. It is noteworthy that a number of line ministers of GSS participated in the consultative gathering with influential community leaders and civil society organizations and discussed communities’ conflict root causes and their needs.

“We welcome such government’s interaction with citizens like us, we can only resolve our issues by speaking to each other and make our federal structure strong and effective in Somalia”, Says His Excellency Mohamed Hashi Abdi Arabey, the Vice President for Galmudug State of Somalia.
What is the role of MOIFA in State formation process?

Somalia stepped into a new development arena and change in 2016. The Federal Government of Somalia under the leadership and the technical facilitation of the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MOIFA) successfully completed the formation of the interim state administrations (Federal Member States) with the support of International Community, UN and other international partners such as the Somalia Stability Fund without whose support we would not have realized the success that we have achieved today. Our role as the MOIFA, was purely facilitation of the process, to create a platform for reconciliation and dialogue among stakeholders in order to ensure an inclusive process in which everyone, including women and minority clans, were considered and received their due share in the political sphere.

Who are your key partners and what has been their contribution in supporting MOIFA to deliver its mandate?

It goes without saying that UNDP through its different programs (Support to Emerging Federal States project, Integrated Electoral Support Group and JPLG) is MOIFA’s main partner in delivering its mandate in the areas of state formation, elections and local governance. In addition, MOIFA receives support from UN Women. MOIFA also receives support from TIS+ and PBF for its stabilization program. Support received are in the program implementation, operational support, human resource and technical assistance support. MOIFA has received support from SSF during the state formation processes in Galmudug and Hirshabelle. Additionally, Max Planck provided MOIFA with technical assistance through recruitment of legal advisors.

What do you see will be the priority for the year in relation to Federalism?

With the successful completion of the formation of state administrations, MOIFA has embarked on initiating the establishment of Intergovernmental Relations Consultative Forum which has brought together key ministries both at Federal and State level, Offices of the President and the Prime Minister and the BFC. The objectives of this initiative is to serve a platform for cooperation, coordination, consultation, negotiation and strengthening relations as well as resolution of disputes. The priority for the year is to continue with this effort and conduct more dialogues that will include federal parliamentarians and civil society to engage further in the federalism debate and advancement with the aim of drawing policies and principles of engagement between different levels of the government as well as deliberations on options as to how federalism will be executed in Somalia. Since we are at early stages of the IGR process, it is paramount that MOIFA staff involved in the federalism receive training, experience sharing and study tours in order to learn from the experiences of other nations who have long established the IGR.

Continuation of enhancing of public awareness and CSO engagement through workshops on the concepts and options around federalism and engage in public outreach in order to strengthen the relations between the government and the people and also increase people’s confidence in their government.

**UNDP’s StEFS Project Q1, 2017 Plan Highlights**

- Initiate Mapping of Institutional arrangement and Federal structure of Somalia, baseline for Federalism dialogue
- Continue support on reconciliation initiatives across Jubbaland, South west, Galmudug and Hirshabelle areas
- Complete first round of office space construction for GSS and JSS
- Finalize Organization Structure review and Strategic Plans for GSS and JSS
- Continue to provide capacity development support to emerging states civil servants in core functional skills area

**UNDP Core Message:**

UND is the UN’s global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

The UNDP Somalia Country Office approach works directly with local authorities in a highly sensitive and complicated political environment. Although we implement across regional borders and seek access for communities throughout the country, we respect and recognize the complex and sometimes volatile nature of political affiliations and implications. Our counterparts in Puntland, Somaliland, and South Central Somalia are involved in our project creation and implementation in their respective regions.

**Our Goals:**

UND’s network links and coordinates global and national efforts in Somalia to reach the national development priorities. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of: Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment, and Women’s Empowerment.