



UNDP/UNSOM INTEGRATED ELECTORAL SUPPORT GROUP (IESG) TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

IESG NEWS UPDATES



ON 27 JUNE, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC), has presented the Commission's report to the House of the People, outlining the operational plan to implement the electoral law and hold federal parliamentary elections. Considering the delay in finalizing the necessary electoral legislation, the NIEC has put forward two options for Parliament's consideration:

- i) same-day voter registration and polling, with elections taking place in March 2021; and
- ii) elections with standard biometric voter registration, with polling taking place in August 2021.

According to the Electoral Law, a delay in meeting the constitutional deadline would prompt the Parliament to decide when the elections will be held.

Stakeholders subsequently called for timely elections with no term extension and urged for an inclusive decision-making process to agree on a viable electoral model, which can be implemented within the term of the current administration.

NIEC presents parliamentary elections options to House of the People

HIGHLIGHTS

- NIEC presents parliamentary elections options to House of the People
- IESG Advisor on Finance and Administration nominated to Board of Commissioners
- House of the People approves Amendments to the Political Parties Law
- House of the People passes resolutions on key articles in the Electoral Law
- Broad-based political consensus on electoral modalities required
- IESG supports professional development of NIEC staff
- NIEC urges political parties to prepare for official registration
- Ninety political parties have provisional registration
- Update on elections security planning

House of the People approves Amendments to the Political Parties Law



THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE has adopted amendments to the Political Parties law on 22 July. On 11 June, the NIEC had met with the Parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs, Regional Administration and Security to discuss their concerns related to the amendments and highlight timelines contradictions with the Electoral Law.

The revised law will enable political parties to seek official registration if they meet the necessary requirements, which now include a US\$30,000 registration fee. Another requirement for the official registration of political parties is to have 10,000 registered voters.

The NIEC has also noted the need to clarify this condition, since there has been no voter registration process to date and parties would not be able to meet this requirement and obtain official registration on time, according to the current electoral timelines.



IESG Advisor on Finance and Administration nominated to Board of Commissioners



ON 10 JUNE, the House of the People has endorsed the Cabinet nominee for NIEC Commissioner, Sadia Shurie, to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners.

Approval by the Upper House is expected in early August. Ms. Shurie's appointment brings the gender quota to 33 per cent on the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Shurie is currently working as an IESG-supported NIEC Advisor on Finance and Administration, a position she has held since 2016.

We wish Ms. Shurie every success in her new position!

House of the People has passed resolutions on key articles in the Electoral Law

THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY Ad Hoc Committee on Elections has submitted on 17 June its report and recommendations to the House of the People.

The issues under consideration included: allocation of seats in both Houses of Parliament; guarantee of a

minimum representation of women; representation rights in Upper House for Benadir region; and a modality for electing members from Somaliland in Mogadishu.

The House of the People has passed resolutions to maintain the current women's quota at 24 per cent; increase

the number of seats in the Upper House to 13 to give political representation to Benadir Region (which contains the country's capital Mogadishu); approve a separate electoral modality for electing members from Somaliland to both Houses of the Parliament in Mogadishu; and agree on the allocation of seats for Parliament.

Broad-based political consensus on electoral modalities required



FEDERAL MEMBER STATES have called for a consultative meeting with the Federal Government of Somalia to discuss the technical path to holding timely 2020/2021 elections.

The FGS and FMS leaders have met in Dhusamareb on 22 and 23 July, and subsequently issued a communiqué stating their agreement to hold timely elections, and to establish a joint technical committee to propose a model and timing of elections in the country.

The international community has issued a joint statement welcoming the leaders' decision to form a technical committee to work out election modalities

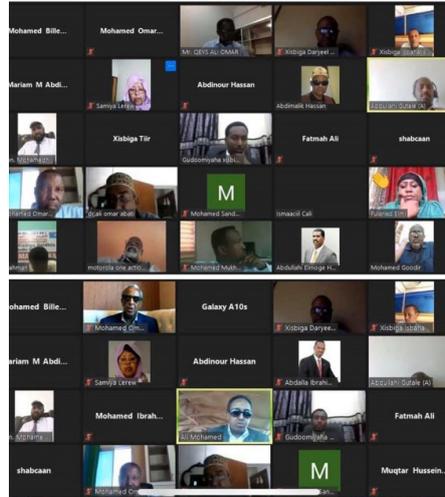
for the 2020 national elections, in a timely manner. The statement also urged Somali leaders to agree on a plan to implement other aspects of Somali democratic reforms.

The joint technical committee is due to present their report to the FGS-FMS leaders on 15 August, in Dhusamareb.

NIEC urges political parties to prepare for official registration

OVER THE past two months, the Office of the Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) continued to hold a regular dialogue with political parties. On 3 June, the OPPR hosted a virtual Zoom meeting with 70 provisionally registered political parties to discuss issues pertaining to permanent registration and the requirement to establish offices in the regions. On 13 July, the NIEC Board of Commissioners led by the Chairperson, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, held a meeting with many of the provisionally registered political parties at a local hotel in Mogadishu.

The event, supported by the Joint Programme for Electoral Support, was live-streamed by the Somali National TV and on the NIEC social media platforms to ensure wider public access. The Chairperson shared detailed information on the



Commission's role and responsibilities in the registration of political parties, and outlined the main points of the presentation to Parliament on preparations for the conduct of elections in 2020/2021. Many participants took the opportunity to

seek clarification in accordance with the electoral law on a number of issues of concern. NIEC also provided information on the progress of the discussions in Parliament regarding the amendments to the Political Parties Law.

The OPPR is currently supported by IESG. A political parties sub-working group was established in May, co-chaired by the OPPR and the International Republican Institute (IRI) with EISA and IESG as members. It is hoped this group will be joined by other assistance providers in the near future. The sub-working group has met twice in May and June, and aims to ensure coherence in support and avoid duplication of effort among the partners providing technical assistance support to the NIEC and political parties.

Ninety political parties have provisional registration



ON 1 JULY, the NIEC OPPR organized a virtual certification ceremony for eight new political parties, bringing the total number of provisionally registered parties to 90.

Addressing their representatives, the NIEC Chairperson urged them to make all necessary preparations and efforts to become officially registered.

Update on elections security planning

ON 6 JUNE, Major General Abdi Hassan Mohamed, Somali Police Force Police Commissioner and Chair of the National Electoral Security Task Force (NESTF), updated donors and partners on elections security planning and preparations.

Subsequently, an UN-AMISOM joint proposal was submitted to the office of the Police Commissioner for the

capacity development of Somali experts in the areas of training, threat analysis, budgeting, and public outreach. The UN recommended tapping into the expertise of existing advisors and consultants, funded by the UN and International Community, who currently work within the Federal Government of Somalia, and the Federal Member States and Benadir security institutions such as the Regional Security Offices.

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