

# Somalia 2016 Electoral Process



# What is the 2016 electoral process for?

Under the **Provisional Federal Constitution**, the mandates of the Federal Parliament and the Federal President end in 2016. A political transition is therefore necessary to renew the country's political institutions.

As one-person, one-vote elections are not yet possible, an electoral process has been developed to facilitate a more participatory process in 2016, compared to 2012, and to advance towards universal suffrage by **2020**.



## How are the seats for the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia allocated?

The next Federal Parliament will be constituted on the basis of a mix of community and geography.

**The 275 seats** of the House of the People will again be distributed in accordance with the clan-based **4.5 power-sharing formula**.

135 Traditional elders will select the members of **275 electoral colleges**. These electoral colleges, each of which will consist of **51 delegates**, will then elect the **275 members of the House of the People**.



## How are the seats for the Upper House of the Federal Parliament of Somalia allocated?

The Upper House will represent the existing and emerging federal member states. Upon nomination by the state executives of at least two candidates for each seat, the state assemblies will elect the members of the Upper House.

The State Assemblies will vote for each seat **individually**, with special arrangements for Benadir and Somaliland.



## Number of seats per voting location

Federal and Emerging Member State	Lower House Seats	Locations where polling will take place	Electoral college delegates
Puntland	37	Garowe	1,887
Galmudug	36	Adado	1,836
Jubaland	43	Kismayo	2,193
HirShabelle	37	Jowhar (tentatively)	1,887
South West	69	Baidoa	3,519
Somaliland	46	Mogadishu	2,346
Banaadir	7	Mogadishu	357
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>		<b>14,025</b>

## Will everyone be able to vote in the upcoming 2016 electoral process?

**No.** The 2016 electoral process is not a universal suffrage election, as conditions are not yet in place for a one-person, one-vote ballot. Instead, a system of indirect elections will take place to choose the next federal parliament.

**275 electoral colleges**, each consisting of **51 delegates** selected by the **135 Traditional Elders**, will elect the **275 members** of the House of the People of the Federal Parliament of Somalia.

A total of **14,025 delegates** will be selected and will be able to vote in the electoral process this year.

## How are the electoral colleges delegates appointed?

The delegates are selected by the **135 Traditional Elders** in consultation with sub-clan elders and will represent all sub-clans sharing the respective seat.



## What is the role of the clan elders?

The **135 Traditional Elders** will be responsible for selecting delegates from their communities to form electoral colleges according to specific criteria. For each college, out of **51 delegates** there is a requirement to have at least **16 women and 10 youth**.



## Who will be eligible to contest a seat?

Any **Somali citizen** belonging to the sub-clans sharing a particular seat and who is at least **25 years old** and has a high school degree or equivalent experience will be eligible to apply to be registered as a parliamentary candidate.

Each male candidate will need to pay a **\$5,000 registration fee** whereas a female candidate will need to pay **\$2,500**.

## Where will the electoral colleges be located?

The voting will take place in Adado, Baidoa, Garowe, and Kismayo, as well as in Mogadishu for the Benadiri and Somaliland communities.

The location for the election of members of Parliament from Hiraaan and Middle Shabelle regions is yet to be decided.



## Who will administer these elections?



**The Federal Indirect Electoral Implementation Team** consists of **22 members** who are responsible for the oversight and overall planning of the electoral process and for ensuring its uniformity. Ten FIEIT members were appointed by the Federal Government while 12 were appointed by the existing and emerging federal member states.

**Seven of the 22 members are women (32 per cent).**

At state **level, 6 State Indirect Electoral Implementation Teams (SIEITs)** have been established to conduct the electoral process in emerging federal member states. A SIEIT will also be formed for Benadir. Each SIEIT consists of **11 members, 8** of whom are appointed by the federal member states and 3 by the Federal Government.



# How is the 2016 electoral process different from the 2012 selection process?

## 2012 Selection Process

135 traditional elders elected the members of the current parliament.

In 2012, a parliament consisting of a single house was elected.

The parliamentary voting took place exclusively in Mogadishu.

No secret ballot.



## 2016 Electoral Process

Over a 100 times more Somalis will participate in this year's process.

14,025 members distributed among 275 electoral colleges will choose the members of the House of the People.

Members of 2 houses of parliament will be selected this year.

Seats in the Upper House of the new parliament have been allocated on the basis of states and regions.

Voting will occur in at least 6 cities nationwide including Mogadishu.

Voting for the House of the People will be by secret ballot.



Somalia's 2016 electoral process is intended to be more **transparent** and **credible** than before.

The National Leadership Forum established an independent **Indirect Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism Team** to address disputes.

It consists of **25 credible** personalities and is supported by a number of international advisers.



dispute resolution process

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM

## HOW IT WORKS

### STEP 1

File a complaint with the Indirect Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism (IEDRM) Team. Members of the IEDRM will deploy into each voting location.

### STEP 2

Only candidates can file complaints. You will need to pay a \$1,000 administrative fee to file your complaint.

### STEP 3

The IEDRM Team will review and consider your complaint.

Complaints can only be lodged by candidates in the electoral process and it costs **1000 US Dollars** to lodge a complaint.



# DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM

what can be considered a complaint?

They can resolve disputes about

- ✦ Actions taken by the State Indirect Electoral Dispute Resolution Teams
- ✦ Intimidation of delegates or candidates
- ✦ Vote buying
- ✦ Disputes over the announcement of the results
- ✦ Tabulation of the votes.



The End