

SRSG Swan's Remarks on Inclusive Politics
Somalia Partnership Forum
1 October 2019

- Thank you to the Deputy Prime Minister for starting our discussion today on Inclusive Politics.
- This topic, perhaps more than any other, if advanced skillfully, has the potential to unlock transformative change in Somalia. If Somalia is able to get the politics right, it will have a catalytic effect on other reforms.
- There have been many impressive recent examples of progress on inclusive politics and reconciliation. These include vibrant debate in the national legislature on national issues, peaceful elections in Puntland, the ongoing reconciliation efforts in Galmudug, including an excellent model in Galkayo, work on the National Reconciliation Framework, detailed review of the Constitutional chapters, and technical progress towards holding elections in 2020 or early 2021, among many other areas of progress.
- We are honored as the United Nations family to have been able to support many of these initiatives, under Somali leadership and with generous support and collaboration from partners. Our contributions on behalf of the international community have included direct assistance for the constitutional review process, technical aid to the National Independent Electoral Committee, logistical support for the reconciliation process in Galmudug, good offices in conflict situations, and many other similar efforts. We stand ready to do yet more.
- We very much welcome that together we have been able to identify, through the Mutual Accountability Framework, the 'must not fail' items for inclusive politics and the other priority reforms. It is clear we must now all channel our efforts toward helping Somalis to finalize and adopt the amended Federal Constitution, hold one person one vote elections in 2020/2021, reach agreement on a common vision of federalism, continue the National Reconciliation process, and ensure the inclusion of all sectors of society in political decision making. I wish to emphasize in particular the role of women, marginalized communities and youth in this reform agenda; politics cannot be fully inclusive without the meaningful participation of these large segments of the population.

- As we move forward on inclusive politics, it will also be necessary to continue efforts to complete reconciliation in Southwest State, to de-escalate tensions in Jubbaland through dialogue, and a pragmatic approach, and to explore opportunities to engage the authorities in Hargeisa, among many other challenges. We look forward to further progress on these issues.
- While many of the objectives outlined in the Mutual Accountability Framework are technical in nature, progress on inclusive politics – as the name implies – will necessarily require political compromise and agreement and putting the national interest first. This will involve all levels of Somali governing institutions and will also require engagement of non-governmental civil society actors and community leaders.
- Establishing a cooperative relationship between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States is the most important action needed to drive forward progress on a range of political, security, social and economic priorities, all of which urgently require political consensus. I appeal to Somali leaders to make this an overarching priority.
- Inclusive politics ultimately is not a matter merely of participatory elections or a single reconciliation process. Progress will entail a long-term commitment, as Somalia builds institutions of governance, justice, and protection of human rights that enjoy the broad support and confidence of Somali citizens over many years. We look forward to being your partners in this long-term endeavor, as well as in delivering the nearer-term targets identified in the Mutual Accountability Framework.