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Consultation Draft Constitution of Somalia launched for the Somali People

The Independent Federal Constitution Commission [IFCC] of the Somali Republic has this evening presented its Consultation Draft Constitution for public consultation with simultaneously organized official launches in Mogadishu, Galkayo in Galmudug and Garowe in Puntland. The launches, each led by a delegation of IFCC commissioners, were also attended by representatives of the Transitional Federal Government and Puntland.

The IFCC, which comprises of 29 members, was mandated by the 2004 Transitional Federal Charter for Somalia to prepare this draft constitution for public consultation. The IFCC, together with the Transitional Federal Government and supporting development partners, believes that preparation of a new constitution for Somalia in an inclusive, participatory manner is critical for deepening long-term peace in Somalia.

The aim of the two-month public consultation period is therefore to draft a final constitution that is supported, reflects and represents Somali people's views of governance systems, right and duties in their nation. The success of this mission will to a large extent depend on public engagement and dialogue. In support of this mission earlier this month a comprehensive, ongoing mass media & civic education campaign on the constitution process has made a start with messaging spots and programs on Somali radio and TV. The Commission aim to present a final draft constitution this December.

Thousands of copies of the Consultation Draft Constitution (CDC) have been printed for distribution, together with an explanatory report of the IFCC, and an Issues & Questions paper to guide the Somali people through the main issues and to enable them to provide their input and comments. All documents are also available on the official website of the IFCC: www.dastuur.org

On August 14 the Minister of Constitution and Federal Affairs for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of the Somali Republic Hon. Madobe Nunow Mohamed, and TFG Prime Minister H.E. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke received the first 1,000 copies of the CDC from IFCC chairman Abdillahi Hassan Jama, to enable them to first circulate the document to the cabinet and the members of the Transitional Federal Parliament [TFP] for review and to enable them to prepare for the start of the public consultation today.

During this earlier handover the Prime Minister called the CDC "a great opportunity for the Somali public which is developing its own draft constitution since 1960. It is up to the public to further contribute and fine tune the consultative draft constitution. We can finally embark on a political process led by a constitution for the country and our expectation is it will lead to the end of transitional governments in Somalia."

For additional information please visit the Independent Federal Constitution Commission's website www.dastuur.org or contact the Commission's Chairman, Abdillahi Hassan Jama via email: info@dastuur.org or telephone number: **+254 721624425**.