

# Somali Civil Society Conference

## Communique

### 1. Preamble

Somali civil society reconfirms its commitment to the Roadmap and the end of the transition process and furthermore acknowledges the invitation from the Signatories to participate in the process and for the space given at Garowe II. Additionally, civil society applauds their support of the harmonization of the 30% women's quota in the three institutions established to end the transition, namely the Interim Independent Electoral Commission, the National Constituent Assembly and the New Federal Parliament. We hereby declare that we are willing, able and stand ready to assist and engage in the process.

In light of this, from March 23-27, 2012, over 120 leaders of Somali civil society gathered at the Imperial Beach Resort Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. The conference was convened by COSPE and IIDA and facilitated by the United Nations (UNPOS/UNDP) under the auspices of the Joint Constitution Unit (JCU). The participants included: Somali women groups, Human Rights Defenders, NGOs, business leaders, youth groups, professional associations, religious leaders, academics, the media, traditional elders and Somali Diaspora. Also present were key TFG ministers, other regional representatives and members of the international community who served as observers. This meeting was an unprecedented gathering of such wide-ranging and influential groups from civil society institutions.

Recognizing that the full implementation of the transitional task and the Roadmap requires strong support from Somalia civil society and that we can serve as a catalyst for wider public engagement and participation, this meeting was convened. The purpose of this meeting was three-fold: first, to unify the voices of the Somali civil society 2) develop civil society strategy in contributing to the ongoing process, i.e. to reflect and engage in dialogue on the Roadmap and 3) to create a forum for identifying ways in which the Somali civic actors and organisations can contribute to guiding principles on nomination and selection of members to three roadmap institutions; a) Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC), b) National Constituency Assembly (NCA) c) and the New Federal Parliament.

Discussion was intense and animated over the three days, both in plenary session, and in the various working groups on selected themes.

### 2. Civil Society Commitment to the Roadmap

Somali civil society reaffirms its commitment to the transitional Federal Charter, the Djibouti Agreement, The Kampala Accord, Garowe I and Garowe II outcomes. Somali Civil Society recognizes and supports the role and the leadership of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and other signatories in the process to end the transition. Somali Civil Society is committed to work with Somali and non-Somali entities in an effort to successfully end the transition by August 20<sup>th</sup> 2012.



### **3. Selection of the IIEC, NCA and NFP**

Taking into account the past agreements and accords, the Somali Civil Society undertook intensive deliberations and with a unified voice agreed on the following guiding principles and actionable tasks:

The civil society has the capacity to provide technical support in the IIEC open application process and partner with the signatories to ensure the optimal way of securing an inclusive public participation process. We urge the Signatories to take advantage of these capacities and the resources available to them from civil society. Additionally, the Roadmap signatories assisted by the Somali Civil Society Coalition and traditional leaders shall appoint the IIEC and the NCA. To give expression to the commitment of the Garowe II Signatories to ensure the minimum of 30% representation of women throughout the process, the civil society and traditional leaders will consult and identify the members of the New Federal Parliament.

Past experiences proves the likelihood of conflicts emerging in the process, therefore as a measure to overcome such eventualities the participants agreed to constitute an Arbitration Committee. This committee should consist of eminent Somali personalities with respect and integrity across the board, to further support this process.

### **4. Participation of Traditional Leaders**

Civil society welcomes the positive participation of the genuine, known traditional leaders who continue to have strong support from their communities in the process to end of transition. Acknowledging the extreme challenge of identifying these traditional leaders in Somalia today, the Civil Society stand ready to assist and call to be included in this task.

### **5. Civil Society Ad Hoc Committee: The Somali Civil Society Coalition**

The Civil Society selected an ad hoc committee, hereby named the Somali Civil Society Coalition to serve as the core interlocutor for the Roadmap process. This Committee consist of 30 members who on behalf of the Somali civil society will contribute to the ongoing transitional process. A subcommittee will be selected to serve as the core representatives to interact with the signatories.

### **6. Civil Society Values**

Transitional periods often generates vacuum where human right abuse may take place. Somali civil society urges all stakeholders to respect Human Rights and make it the centre of the Somalia transitional process. Human Rights defenders, CSOs, journalists and individuals must be protected and be able to operate freely and without fear. Decisions on Somalia's future must rest with the Somali people. The Somali people through Civil Society reserve the right to participate in the transitional and post transitional governance agenda of Somalia. Poor, marginalised and internally displaced people should not be discriminated against in the process of creating new Somalia. CSOs have a special place in the Somali society to ensure the mainstreaming of poor and marginalised people and their interests in the civil, political, social, economic and cultural development of Somalia. The Somali political leadership must be accountable to the people.

CSOs will continually demand transparency and accountability from the Somali political leadership and the international community to the Somali people. Furthermore, the Somali civil society is also committed to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusion throughout this process.

### 7. Appreciation of Support to Somali People

We welcome the role of IGAD, the African Union, the support from the League of Arab States, the European Union, Government and People of the United States of America, Government and People of Turkey, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in support for the Somali people. We express gratitude to Somali and non-Somali donors who have continually supported the Somali people and applaud the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) in facilitating the participation of civic actors in the transitional processes.

Done in Entebbe, Uganda

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Annex 1: Civil Society Selection Process Principles  
Annex 2: Women's Caucus Statement

*[A large number of handwritten signatures in various colors and styles are present, covering the lower half of the page. Some legible names include: Osman, Ahmed, Ali, Hassan, and others. There are also some handwritten notes and scribbles.]*

**CIVIL SOCIETY PRINCIPLES ON THE SELECTION PROCESS OF...**

26 March 2012

\* All references to Civil Society in the processes below refer to the Somalia Civil Society Coalition and its sub-committees.

A Civil Society core committee, called the Somali Civil Society Coalition, composed of thirty members and divided into multiple sub-committees to represent and guide the Civil Society at large has been created through the end of transition process. One committee will be the key interlocutor between Civil Society and the Signatories as set out in the processes below.

**I. SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE INTERIM INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION (IIEC)**

**A. Selection Process:**

1. The Somali Civil Society Coalition with the help of the Signatories will identify the date, the deadline and the advertisement of public applications.
2. Public application process
3. Civil Society will shortlist and screen the applications based on the 4.5 formula, criteria and the women's quota.
4. A joint steering committee of Roadmap Signatories, Traditional Leaders, and Civil Society representatives in equal numbers will select the IIEC candidates. International community will observe the process.

**B. Women's quota:**

1. Selection of five women must come first.
2. International observers will monitor the process.
3. Sub-committee of Somali Civil Society Coalition and media campaign will ensure that the women's quota is adhered to.

**C. Civil Society Representation:**

See A. Selection process above

**D. Safety Measures and Transparency:**

1. Sub-committee of the Somali Civil Society Coalition consisting of 5 members will monitor the process.
2. The International Monitoring & Coordination Group created under the Roadmap will also monitor the process and ensure that the sub-committee is fulfilling its mandate.

Handwritten signatures and notes are scattered throughout the page. On the left side, there are several large, stylized signatures, including one that appears to say 'Abbas A. Hassan'. On the right side, there are more signatures and some vertical text that looks like '11/11/12'. At the bottom, there is a dense collection of overlapping signatures and scribbles, some of which include the name 'Zeyn' and other illegible words. The signatures are written in blue ink.



**III. SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE NEW FEDERAL PARLIAMENT (NFP)**

**A. Selection Process of the Lower House:**

1. 70% of the members to be selected by recognized and genuine Traditional Leaders in consultation with the Somali Civil Society Coalition.
2. 30% of women quota to be selected by respected women of the clans in consultation with genuine traditional leaders and the Somali Civil Society Coalition.

**B. Women's quota:**

1. International observers will monitor the process.
2. Sub-committee of Somali Civil Society Coalition and media campaign will ensure that the women's quota is adhered to.
3. 30% of women quota to be selected by respected women of the clans in consultation with genuine traditional leaders and the Somali Civil Society Coalition.

**C. Civil Society Representation:**

See A. Selection process above

**D. Safety Measures and Transparency:**

1. Sub-committee of the Somali Civil Society Coalition consisting of 5 members will monitor the process.
2. The International Monitoring & Coordination Group created under the Roadmap will also monitor the process and ensure that the sub-committee is fulfilling its mandate.

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