

ELECTIONS OF SOMALIA  
CHOICES & CHALLENGES FACING 2016 ELECTIONS

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PROPOSING INTERIM MIXED ALTERNATIVE  
CREDIBLE SOLUTION

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**Pioneering Alternative Innovative Election model for Somali in 2016  
Mixed Alternative Random Ballot Election System**

Presented by:

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***Every Cloud has a silver lining***

*We must listen to one another, explore the unbiased facts, test ideas, weigh options and balance tradeoffs to find where our various interests overlap—where purposes can be joined towards a shared future.*

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## **1. Executive summary**

The future of Somalia hinges on the basis of selecting an electoral system that represents their customs and is in line with a cohesive understanding between all relevant parties. This statement cannot be taken lightly – Somalia's violent past has led to mistrust and wide division between its tribes (regions).

Democracy is not foreign to Somalia; as a matter of fact, it is the basis for the social cohesion seen within the structure of their tribes. The selection of a group of wise alderman leading its fellow tribesmen through common understanding has indications of involvement of decision making through representation; this is democracy in its most basic form. Subsequently, the challenges of Somalia is not adopting democratic values but agreeing to its practice and process; the method in which selection occurs amongst a nation that has been in civil war for more than twenty-five years.

The intent of this paper is to discuss these methods of selection by reviewing the different options of electoral system that can best synchronize an understanding between all acting parties in Somalia. Somalia, similar to other African states, has resolved their conflict by utilizing power-sharing mechanisms and practices to promote inter-ethnic inclusiveness, or discourage sectional imbalance and bias, in the decision-making processes. Relating the above to Somalia's situation, one would agree that the inability to design a mutually agreeable power sharing arrangement as portrayed by the political class is one of the issues Somalia is battling with - if it is not well managed, it could serve as albatross to political stability. Commonly, power sharing is a strategy for resolving disputes over who should have the most powerful position in the social order. Instead of fighting over who should have power over whom, power sharing relies upon the joint exercise of power.

The initiative of this paper provides an equal opportunity to Somali candidates from all stakeholders representing 275 seats of 4.5 groups. At the same time it offers an alternative electoral model tailored to the local context of Somalia. The initiative is facilitating new alternative electoral option, a pioneer alternative Election model for Somali in 2016 based on a mixed random ballot election System which creates consensus among stakeholders at the federal level, at the regional state level and at local governance and municipality level. The initiative is compliant 100% to the HLPF Guiding Principles for the 2016 Electoral Process adopted as bases to perform a credible process and hold free and fair elections in Somalia during of 2016.

The Current initiative promotes a broad participation with conventional monitoring mechanisms - facilitating a transparent, impartial and trustworthy method exclusive of any corruption or manipulation. It facilitates an innovative credible process that utilizes several positive components. National Consultative Forum members and other stakeholders are not in common on the method to conduct credible elections in 2016.

Finally, guidelines and specifications of the initiative, procedures of each model electoral system proposed is detailed below as the initiative is aiming to build consensus and inclusive participation for all relevant concerned bodies, it presents a menu of options which is divided into primary & general to choose candidates with three different models to realize for free and fair elections in Somalia based on win / win situation for all parties.

## **2. PREFACE:**

Election is a formal decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office. Elections have been the usual mechanism by which modern representative democracy has operated since the 17th century. This process is also used in many other private and business organizations, from clubs to voluntary associations & corporations<sup>(1)</sup>

The “perfect” electoral system does not exist. A system that works well in one context does not translate to another due to a myriad of particular national factors such as history, culture, geography, development, party development, etc. Electoral systems may be broadly classified as plurality/majority systems, proportional systems, and mixed systems. There are nine major electoral systems in use around the world as each of them has a number of variations to suit the practical needs of the country concerned. Choosing of an electoral system by a democracy is one of its most important institutional decisions, for different systems can translate the same strength of votes into different overall results.

Electoral systems may be broadly classified as plurality/majority systems, proportional systems, and mixed systems. Each of them has a number of variations to suit the practical needs of the country concerned. The electoral system is the mechanism by which the votes cast in a general election are converted into seats won by parties and candidates. Constitutional theorists argue that legitimacy of the regime must be renewed in each generation so those future generations continue to hold faith in the polity. International partners and Somalis have made considerable progress towards achieving stability, security and reconciliation; this opportunity should not be squandered. Introducing good governance and democracy in a post-war and divided society such as Somalia requires a carefully crafted approach that generates its own momentum to consolidate peace, whilst maintain law and order.

## **3. BACKGROUND:**

The Somali Government has publicly stated that the country cannot hold the standard one-man one vote election in 2016. As a result, a National Consultative Forum has been launched to consult the public and explore tailored solutions for a credible electoral process that can incorporate the realities of the native inhabitants, without suspicion of bias or inappropriate conflict of interest.

Nevertheless, all presented options for public consultations are not digested well, and not free from disparage. (1) Elders option experienced corruption and manipulation tactics in 2012. (2) District electoral based option is not applicable to all stakeholders represented in 275 seats, it cannot create needed consensus as it contains contentious elements that jeopardize inclusive representation resume of hostilities among communities. As post-conflict elections are part of a broader process of democratic reform, clearly ill-timed, badly designed, or poorly run elections can actually undermine the broader process of democratization and the establishment of peace. The choices of post-conflict electoral system is crucial, as it can effectively set the stage for power-sharing among competing groups and thereby dissipate election related conflict<sup>(2)</sup>. In any event, it is beyond dispute that elections organized in post-conflict environments take place in tense and high-risk environments. However, after so much destruction, after so much human misery and suffering, Somalis are desperately eager for a meaningful common solution that generates its own momentum to consolidate peace, maintain law and order etc.

Accordingly, past transitional initiatives of Somalia that aimed to achieve peace, reconciliation and effective government institutions for the past two decades did not achieve their desired goals on a socio-economic dimension. The majority of the populations are frustrated from exclusion of each other at the local, regional and national level, each group fears from dominance of the other or marginalization of the other. Somalia remains deeply divided across 4.5 groups. Fear of dominance recycling across the sub-clans of the five main groups’ can fuel greater distrust and deteriorating social relations. Feelings of mutual fear continue to fester in the Somali society.

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(1) [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/election](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/election).

(2) Power sharing conundrum and the challenges of 2015 general elections in Nigeria, International Journal of Development and Economic Sustainability, Vol.2, No.3 pp. 9-21, September 2014

#### 4. INTRODUCTION

Somali government declared that one-man one vote is not possible and it organized regional consultation meetings through National Consultative Forum (NCF) established in last September. NCF presented to the Somali public four different approaches to the creation (designation or selection) of an electoral college, which in turn will elect the Federal Parliament.

- 1) **Nation-wide Electoral College:** a national electoral college is formed to elect all 275 MPs. Such a system could combine the introduction of nation-wide political parties with an electoral system of proportional representation.
- 2) **Federal member state-level Electoral College:** electoral colleges are formed in each existing and emerging Federal Member State and elect MPs representing their respective Federal Member State.
- 3) **District-level Electoral College:** district-level electoral colleges are formed in each of the 92 districts based on 1991 administrative divisions and elect MPs representing their district (e.g. 3 MPs per district, i.e. a total of 276 MPs).
- 4) **Clan-based Electoral College:** electoral colleges are formed on the basis of clans (similar to the 2012 selection of MPs by 135 traditional (clan) elders but with a widened basis of clan representation) and elect MPs representing their clans.

NCF had consulted regional states in the southern parts of Somalia, the outcome of Puntland and Jubaland were (1) District-level Electoral College as Galmudug and Southwest was in favor of (2) Clan-based Electoral College (clan based power-sharing formula of 4.5).

The mixed result of the consultations process point out clearly how the country yearn for electoral system reform by undertaking a comprehensive review plan under Neutral and Impartial Committee to identify needed changes to correct any existing impediments to access, eligibility, and transparency. However, the Time has come to rethink over the suitability of Somalia's electoral system rooted in its social contexts and provides much-needed corrections in the irrationality plaguing the representation process. Much of the debate on electoral reform in Somalia is an endeavor to strike a balance between the need for constituency representation and the desire for proportionality in electoral outcomes. An electoral system must reflect the social, economic and geographical realities of the nation.

Free and fair elections are the keystone of any democracy. They are essentially aimed at the peaceful transfer of power. When voters elect representatives, they elect the leaders who will shape the future of their society. This is why elections empower ordinary citizens: they allow them to influence the future policies of their government, and thus, their own future. The Somali society is built on the model of a relatively egalitarian society, where social consensus and a high degree of inclusiveness are important, and there is a high level of social cohesion under traditional leadership. The country certainly should continue its work to establish electoral procedures that allow the potential for one man-one vote elections at the federal, regional and council level after the 2016 elections.

These are essential safeguards to prevent political interference and electoral fraud but by no means sufficient to ensure genuine representativeness. Management of free and fair elections involve responsible role of political parties, candidates, party cadres, voters and all the stakeholders of democracy – which are components that do not currently exist in Somalia. To achieve credible elections based on one-man one vote in Somalia, **the country needs Redistricting agenda** with related legislations such as (1) Political parties act (2) The Electoral Boundaries redistricting and Readjustment Act, (3) Election Offense and Punishment Act (4) Establishment of Special Election Court (5) Local Governance act.

Moreover, there is a need for a parallel research program to examine deeply & wisely all trends across the country, address genuine concerns and reflection of Somali population growth for the past 40 years to equalize the size of districts based on new census, which is underway, in order to avoid overrepresentation and underrepresentation of districts and regions to pave the way for stable and mutual future. Somalia districts are not equal in population and they are far from being equal in the size of eligible candidates for appointment. Due to past conflicts there are demographic changes and

movements of the citizens that require a comprehensive redistricting to address **concentrated communities as well as scattered communities**. [*Unequalled sized districts meant not only unequal representation but that the underrepresentation had consequences unequal distribution of public resources*].

## 5. ELECTION SYSTEM - CHOICES AND CHALLENGES FACING SOMALIA

A free and fair election brings the micro-institutions of governance closer to the people. People as stakeholders of democracy are subject to the authority of elected leadership and, therefore, can claim to share direct control over them. Law, administration and punishment pale into insignificance if civic education of citizens, their awareness about fundamental rights and duties & participation that set the context for fair elections go amiss. Certain principles, such as freedom of speech, organization, press and the secret ballot, might be considered essential at universal level, but the details of the electoral process must incorporate native reality. Each country has its own mechanism of elections reflecting the functional requirement of that nation-state & people.

On a related point, most post-conflict governments suffer from institutional weaknesses beyond political party limitations. In such circumstances, there is a general lack of accountability at all levels of government. As a result, the operating environment is one of **suspicion and distrust**, both at the governmental level and among the popular masses, which, particularly in developing countries, can be largely uneducated and/or illiterate. **There is a general lack of a sense of state accountability as well as the lack of individual accountability**; more common is political violence, high levels of intimidation and bias. In turn, there is widespread suspicion and little or no confidence in the governmental system. Such perceptions also stem from previous election experiences that were marred by serious electoral irregularities, manipulation of the process and domination of certain marginalized minority groups in regional formation representation process<sup>(3)</sup>.

This absence of an underlying democratic culture poses a serious problem in conflict countries, and underscores the need for an inclusive electoral process, voter education and measures to build confidence in the electoral system. It is fundamental that the electoral process be governed by clear and fair rules so that even the losers of the contest can trust that the rules have been applied justly; otherwise, these actors are more likely to continue the contest by other (violent) means.

Post-conflict elections are marked by great promise, commensurate with immense pressure to meet domestic and international expectations. While there may be competing interests and timeframes in the planning of post-conflict elections, in order to maximize the potential for the consolidation of peace and democracy, particular attention should be paid to the practical challenges to the Somalia-specific context and disintegration conditions of sections that further shape such challenges. Nevertheless, the challenges highlighted above obligate all concerned parties to explore appropriate electoral model that will ensure fair elections, credible and transparent process in 2016.

## 6. ELECTIONS AND POWER-SHARING

Somalia, similar to other African states, has resolved their conflict by utilizing power-sharing mechanisms and practices to promote inter-ethnic inclusiveness, or discourage sectional imbalance and bias, in the decision-making processes. Relating the above to Somalia's situation, one would agree that the inability to design a mutually agreeable power sharing arrangement as portrayed by the political class is one of the issues Somalia is battling with - if it is not well managed, it could serve as albatross to political stability. Commonly, power sharing is a strategy for resolving disputes over who should have the most powerful position in the social order. Instead of fighting over who should have power over whom, power sharing relies upon the joint exercise of power. If conflicts can be reframed to focus on how such power sharing might take place, they can become much more constructive<sup>(4)</sup>.

## 7. WORLDWIDE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS: CHOICES AND CHALLENGES

Within parliamentary elections, there are nine major electoral systems in use around the world, as categorized in the International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design. It is based on the

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(3) Hon. Marian Arif Qassim Somalia's Federal Governance: Progress and Challenges

(4) [www.colorado.edu/conflict](http://www.colorado.edu/conflict).

International IDEA database of elections, which covers 170 independent states and includes data for 1,256 parliamentary elections and 412 presidential elections. <sup>(5)</sup>

## 8. CONCEPT OF THE INITIATIVE: PROPOSING ALTERNATIVE MIXED ELECTORAL MODEL

This initiative is proposing a new alternative electoral model that create consensus among stakeholders at the federal level, at the regional state level and at local governance and municipality level. It proposes a credible process that is 100% compliant to the HLPF Guiding Principles for the 2016 Electoral Process adopted as bases to perform a credible process and hold free and fair elections in Somalia during of 2016. The Current initiative promotes a broad participation with conventional monitoring mechanisms - facilitating a transparent, impartial and trustworthy method exclusive of any corruption or manipulation.

### 8.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE INITIATIVE

1. It takes to account guiding principles of second High Level partnership forum
2. It help citizens participate in their democracies inclusively
3. It increases politicians' accountability to the electorate & strengthens government institutions
4. It forges a new social contract as it helps prevent corruption or undue influence in the selection of representatives.
5. It offers a chance to youth, both male and female, to participate in the process based on fairness and equal opportunities principle.

### 8.2 FRAMEWORK OF THE INITIATIVE

The initiative provides diverse Somali candidates from all stakeholders representing the 4.5 groups. It offers an alternative and appropriate electoral model tailored to the local context of Somalia, it facilitates an innovative credible process that utilizes the following components:

- (a) **Protection Component** (it closes several loopholes that enabled manipulation of the election process in the past, particularly 2012).
- (b) **Protective component** (introduce a new inclusive election model which is very transparent),
- (c) **Pro-motive component** (impartial and trustworthy motivating process free of corruption)
- (d) **Transformative component** (it provides a mixed approach and inter-related process which is considered a game changer in the Somali electoral system and restoring confidence in the political system of Somalia).
- (e) **Cultural Component** (it promotes democratic culture, strengthening accountability and transparency, effective and broad participation of all by removing barriers and harmful traditions).

## 9. MIXED RANDOM MODEL ELECTIONS

The random ballot single vote draw or lottery voting is a hypothetical voting method in which an election is decided on the basis of a single randomly selected ballot. The use of random selection in decision making is a way of being fair and being seen to be fair in a clear transparent process.

It is especially valuable **when other methods leave open a suspicion of bias or inappropriate conflict of interest.** "In ancient Athens, the birthplace of democracy, lottery-selection was used to choose political actors in three of its four major governmental institutions. Selection of political officials in late medieval and early renaissance Italy incorporated selection by lot. More recently, Citizens' Assemblies (in which citizens were chosen at random to serve on the assembly, and in which citizens heard from experts prior to coming up with their own proposals) were used in the Netherlands to reform election law, and in Canada (in British Columbia and Ontario). Randomly chosen citizens were also brought into the process of constitutional reform in Iceland in 2010.

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(5) [Rafael López Pintor, María Gratschew and Kate Sullivan. Voter Turnout/IDEA]

**10. CHOOSING POLITICIANS BY LOTTERY: AN OPTION FOR THE FUTURE BY IDEA?**

- a) Games: In many games of chance, randomness is seen as central to fairness. Consider the Australian game of two-up: two coins are tossed in the air and players bet on whether there will be two heads or two tails. When the result is one head and one tail, the coins are tossed again.

Imagine an alternative: each coin is held in one hand of a “coinholder,” behind her back. After the betting, she puts her hands out, palms upwards, and reveals heads or tails. If the coinholder is totally honest, everything is fine. But some players may suspect that the coinholder, noting how the betting is proceeding, may be changing the coins. It doesn’t matter whether the coinholder is totally honest or not: there is no way of convincing everyone that she is honest. Tossing the coins ensures that the result is seen to be fair, because it cannot be influenced by anyone involved. The coins, of course, have to be checked to make sure that they are “fair” or “true,” namely having an equal chance of giving a head or tail on each toss. Likewise, any other possible human influence on the result needs to be removed. Two-up rules require that the coins must reach a certain height and spin suitably. The coins are specially colored to prevent the spinner surreptitiously introducing double-headed coins. When all this is done properly, losers can only blame bad luck and not bias or conspiracy.

**11. RANDOM SELECTION TO MAKE DECISIONS**

- b) For many people today, democracy (“rule of the people”) has become equal to elections -to a system of representation and political parties where ordinary citizens are only engaged in politics at election day once every four or five years. Recently, however, voter participation has decreased, new technologies have challenged the old system, and the established democracies have experienced what has been called a crisis of political parties. Elections as the only means by which people can select who are going to govern are no longer taken for granted. **In many corners of the world, new ways to achieve rule of the people are being discussed.**

**12. TYPES OF ELECTIONS & STAGE OF THE INITIATIVE**

**PROPOSED MENU OF OPTIONS: [see all options as per bellow chart A]**

National Consultative Forum members and other stakeholders are not in common on the method to conduct credible elections in 2016. This initiative aiming to build consensus and inclusive participation for all relevant concerned bodies, it presents a menu of options which is as following:

**OPTION ONE: TRIPARTITE JOINT PROGRAM /FEDERAL PARLIMANET**

This option provides a common approach for all stakeholders; it divides the process into two stages, a tripartite representation, regional state, federal state as well as concerned clan of parliament seat will be involved at elections which will be held in two stages (1) Holding **primary** stage elections at regional federal state level. (2) Holding **general** final elections at federal state level. This option is providing a common ground to each party and to engage all legitimate stakeholders in the process, including nominating representative in the technical facilitation & sub-elections committee Constituency Election Organizing Committee with clear TOR to operate neutral & impartial.

**OPTION TWO: SEPARATED ELECTORAL MODEL/ FEDERAL & LOCAL COUNCIL**

This option is addressing concern of each party whilst providing them separate tasks. As per new deal principles, each body will be lead by a common framework that guides the procedures: (1) Regional states, (2) Federal Parliament, (3) Clan & each seat constituencies, (4) other sub related bodies and specialized bodies such as national elections commission as well as international observers will participate and play an appropriate role in the process to witness the credibility and transparency of the process.

**13. APPROACH OF ELECTIONS FOR PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS**

1. All qualified candidate names will be locked inside a small box similar to one used in the World Cup drawing balls. All candidate names will be inserted in the ball;
2. Each name will be entered in a visible ballot box which will be reshuffled and mixed upside down in a very transparent manner to all parties.
3. A child less than ten years will select two balls based on random selection.
4. Two names will qualify to the second round, as two people will be selected randomly from constituency primaries to general final stage.



- The roles of clan elders are to endorse clan selected people for the general elections as well as the result of the final stage.

[Chart A]

**MODEL OF ELECTIONS AND MENU OF OPTIONS**

<b>Option A Federal Parliament Elections</b>	<b>Option B Parliament &amp; Local Council Elections</b>	<b>Option C Federal Parliament election under tripartite committee</b>	<b>Note</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize <b>primary elections</b> in the capital of regional states</li> <li>Organize <b>General elections</b> at the Federal Capital states.</li> <li>Give <b>special status</b> arrangement for (1) women (2) Minorities &amp; (3) Somaliland which is not applicable to regional state.</li> <li>Sub clan elders will endorse election results. (ceremonial)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize Local council of municipalities at level for regional states and;</li> <li>Organize Federal parliament elections at the national Federal Capital level. Primary and general elections.</li> <li>Special status arrangement for (1) women (2) Minorities (3) Northern regions of Somalia which is not applicable to regional state.</li> <li>Sub clan elders will endorse election results. (ceremonial)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nomination of tripartite mixed joint electoral committees, 3 people for each seat <math>3 \times 275 = 825</math> voluntary people. (1) Member from regional state (2) Member from elder of the constituency, (3) Civil society representative. (consist from women, youth &amp; intellectual)</li> <li>National elections commission will monitor and supervise elections process both Primary and General elections.</li> <li>Special status arrangement for (1) women (2) Minorities (3) Somaliland which is not applicable to regional state.</li> <li>Sub clan elders will endorse election results. (ceremonial)</li> </ol>	<p>All three options are in line to HLPF guidelines</p> <p>Inclusive representation From all stakeholders</p>

**14. PROPOSED TYPES OF SELECTIONS: PRIMARY & GENERAL**

The concept of proposed alternative elections for Somalia at the constituency and clan elder’s level are two types, primary & general. It’s similar to U.S. Elections, which has two basic types of elections, **[Primary and General]**.

Primary elections are held prior to a general election to determine party candidates for the general election. The winning candidates in the primary go to the general election.

**Sample of tools and draw method proposed for Primary and General**



Inserting names of candidates      Mixings locked balls      draw balls & select randomly      Declaring results and winners

**15. METHOD OF ELECTIONS: Draw principles & procedures of primary & general**

**1. Constituency Election Organizing Committee: CEOC**

Beside National Election commission as a supreme oversight body, constituencies need the establishment of Constituency Organizing Committee that consists of 5 mixed reputable persons at sub-clan level beside the Elder of the clan.

The responsibilities of CEOC include but are not limited to:

- Supervising general preparations and deciding on the competition format, the draw and the arrangement of sub-clan candidates;

- B) Under take necessary arrangements such as examining the eligibility of candidates and fulfillment of conditions;
- C) Collaborate with National Election commission and other stakeholders;
- D) Facilitate smooth elections process at both the Primary and General final Stage;
- E) Process election results and endorsement from the clan elders for the final results.

## 2. PRIMARY STAGE ELECTIONS:

- 1) Facilitate broad and transparent participation at the sub constituency level and endorsing results from the Genuine Clan Elders. Sub constituency will participate in the selection process as detailed bellow. However, genuine elders will endorse winners from primary selection process as well as the general final selection process of candidates.
- 2) **Primary elections:** Primary elections will be held at sub clan level (constituency) prior to a general election to determine sub clan candidates for the general final elections based on random selection ballot box. To sort genuine number of participants, the candidates require some kind of clearance to qualify for nomination and candidacy from the constituency, it's a method used in other countries to gain access to the ballot by submitting a specified number of petition signatures.

## 16. CRITERIA FOR CANDIDACY: DEMAND APPLICATION FEE FOR CANDIDATES

Primary Selection process and conditions

1. Constituent technical facilitation & electoral monitoring committee which consist from seven mixed voluntary people will be established to facilitate primary elections.
2. Candidates shall submit a clearance sheet containing petition of 20 certified signatures.
3. Candidates shall fill candidacy application form as well as deposit in the bank (standard bank account) the application fee totaling tentatively 5000\$ for federal parliament candidates and application fee totaling 1000\$ for local municipality council members.
4. Short listing candidates to carry on primary election based on random selection process.
5. Guidelines, specifications and type primary systems proposed are detailed bellow.

## 17. PRIMARY ELECTIONS: TYPE OF PRIMARY

Type of election primaries proposed is two forms; (1) pure-closed and (2) pure-open to address needs of certain groups in Somalia to suite the impediment of Somalia local context inline to HLPF meeting adopted guidelines to respond to various candidates needs such as women, youth, minorities etc. Advanced electoral countries which developed various types of primaries such as USA <sup>(6)</sup> which utilize six different types of primary election systems, each one gives some clues as to how the systems vary in voter participation to each different six types of primary election systems: pure-closed, semi-closed, semi-open, pure-open, blanket, and non-partisan.

**(1) Pure-closed seat** for women candidates inside each clan across 4.5 groups. This will secure current 12% percentage of women in the parliament, based on adopted equal opportunity principle in favour of women. It has protective component and pro-motive component which will allow size of female run in each seat to empower women in politics with is an added value on both sides as part of affirmative action.

**(2) Pure-open seat** is open for all candidates [Male, Female & youth), it applies an equal opportunity based principles. All candidates that meet the required conditions can participate.

## 18. GENERAL ELECTIONS

- The two qualified candidates or winners from primary elections will participate in the second general elections alongside holders of clan parliament seats who are also members from the current term ending 2016.
- **An advantage is given to current federal parliament to earn direct qualifying into general elections beside finalist from primary stage elections.** Adopting direct qualifying to the final stage is similar to facility or considerations given to sport hosting countries

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(6) Ansolabhere, Gerber, and Snyder (2002),

which earns a direct qualification. The reason to offer this advantage to create win – win situation and address knowledge in the country.

- Generally, Somalia and other failed or fragile states suffer from brain drainage and knowledge gap in the system. So enabling current **MPs a direct qualification will contribute into that goal as part of state building process and injecting expert** individuals in the new parliament.

**Sample of tools and draw method proposed for Primary and General**



Inserting names of candidates    Mixings locked balls    Draw balls & select randomly    Declare results and winners

**19. TIME FRAME OF ELECTIONS:**

All options proposed in the above box can be organized within two months. A detailed work plan will be developed that covers all activities constituencies represented among 4.5 groups.

**1. PROFILE OF ISKAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

ISKAAL Partnership Forum (**IPF**) is a Somali Think Tank & civic national dialogue forum which is dedicated to the Somali people. It is an innovative dialogue forum utilizing alternative dispute resolution and fostering collaborative problem solving processes for controversial issues. Founded in September 2015 by a group of Somali professionals, academics, Diaspora and civic activists throughout the country, the forum is non-violent in nature with a mission to provide the ingredients of a transformational leadership change in Somalia in the long-term but through a consultative, participatory Somali-led and owned process.

The forum is an Innovative membership based platform for public-private dialogue searching a common solution. It is rooted in the simple notion that people need to come together to reason and talk to deliberate about common problems. The short and medium goals of (IPF) are to contribute to various levels of reconciliation, social integration, respect of human rights & inclusiveness, ending the culture of impunity, and reconstruction and development throughout Somalia and the Diaspora community. In this case, IPF will also play the role of a catalyst between Somalis in Somalia and the Somali Diaspora community.

**2. PRIMARY OBJECTIVES**

- Re-building trust between the government and the citizens, coordinate and facilitates a national dialogue which aims to define, develop and articulate a vision for a new social contract that will represent a paradigm shift in the relationship between the Government, private sector and civil society.
- Searching a Common National New Deal.

**3. MISION**

The mission of IPF is to mobilize Somali people to participate in building a future based on peace, equality, justice, inclusion, democracy and prosperity for all. Regardless of clan origin, region, or other differences, builds a solid foundation for a shared secure, peaceful, prosperous unified Somalia.

#### **4. VISION**

Peaceful and prosperous Somalia inhabited by free and equal citizens with harmonious and safe communities who will live together in peace, respect, dignity and mutual interest, a democracy governed state according to universal principles of human rights and the rule of law.

#### **5. CORE PRINCIPLES: -**

##### **5.1 Frame issues neutrally.**

Offer an unbiased framing of the policy issue in a way that allows the public to struggle with the most difficult choices facing decision makers.

##### **5.2 Finding common ground**

Finding common ground is not the same as settling for the lowest common denominator - it's generating a new "highest common denominator." It's not about having two sides meet in the middle, but having them identify something together they can aspire to and work toward. When people who really care about an issue come together and bring their best thinking, there is the potential for new options to be generated.

##### **5.3 Educate participants.**

Provide accessible information to citizens about the issues and choices involved, so that they can articulate informed opinions.

##### **5.4 Achieve diversity.**

Involve a demographically balanced group of citizens reflective of the impacted community.

##### **5.5 Conflict is different from violence and neither negative nor positive**

Conflict is not a bad thing in and of itself. It is the natural result of differences between people - religious, political, ethnic, or whatever they may be. Those differences can enrich us and can be as much at the root of peaceful progress as at the root of violence. Dealing with these differences constructively is a skill that can be developed.

##### **5.6 Conflict can be transformed**

Conflict transformation is not about ending conflict - the goal is to shift the way individuals, communities and societies view and deal with their differences. Though we included them as necessary, our goals are broader than resolution or mediation. What is important is how conflict is approached, to shift away from an adversarial stance toward a cooperative, problem-solving one. An essential step in transforming conflict is enabling people to communicate and have accurate information about each other. Reframe the situation so that people attack problems, not each other.

##### **5.7 Peace is a process**

There isn't a method for causing conflicts to transform instantaneously - it is not something you can achieve in a single event or by signing a peace accord; it is an on-going process of developing relationships of mutual respect and trust. Every peace process has its ups and downs. Making long-term commitments allows us to keep working on the underlying causes of a conflict even during periods of increased intensity.

##### **5.8 Humankind is interdependent**

We are witnessing the impact of globalization, regional integration on an unprecedented scale and we approach this as an opportunity. Our success and peace depend on our ability to share space, resources and understanding.

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