

COMMUNIQUE:

THE KISMAYO DECLARATION OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Somali representatives gathered in Kismayo for the third session of the National Consultative Forum.

Among the attendees were the President of the Federal Republic, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic, Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, the Speaker of the Federal Parliament, Mohammed Osman Jawari, the President of Puntland, Abdiweli Ali "Gaas", the President of the South-West, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, the President of Jubbaland, Ahmed Islaan "Madobe," and the President of Galmudug, Abdulkarim Guled, as well as Federal ministers, members of the Federal Parliament,

The National Consultative Forum agreed the following important principles:

1. There shall be no extension of the constitutional term limits of the executive and legislature.
2. The electoral process in 2016 shall involve the formation of both the Lower House and the Upper House.
3. The Lower House will consist of 275 members based on 4.5 formula.
4. The Upper House will consist of 54 members based equal representation between federal member states.
5. Three 3 additional number of Upper House shall be allocated for Puntland as the longest existing federal member state.
6. Electoral colleges will convene and vote in the Federal member state capitals. They shall be diverse and contain representation from women, youth and civil society.
7. There shall be a minimum fixed number of seats reserved for women in both houses. There shall be enhanced representation of youth and marginalised groups.
8. A political roadmap shall be developed and agreed for (1) the period between now and the implementation of the electoral process in 2016, and (2) the period 2016 to 2020 to deliver universal suffrage elections in 2020. This roadmap shall be an integral part of the final agreement on the electoral process for 2016.
9. The details of the electoral model and the implementation plan shall be discussed with constituencies and agreed and launched before end of January 2016.

The National Consultative Forum expressed its thanks to the Jubbaland administration for hosting us and for their hospitality.

Kismaayo, 17 January 2016