



Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA)

Telephone: 0612008723. E-mail: info@sonsaplatform.org website: www.sonsaplatform.org

PRESS RELEASE

Today, Thursday on 24 December 2020, members of the civil society, religious leaders, elders, traditional elders, youth, and women attended a consultative meeting to discuss the peace and political stability challenges that are resulting from the implementation of the Electoral System agreed on by the Federal Government and the Federal Member States on September 17, 2020 in Mogadishu.

The participants of today's meeting understood that the election system agreed on is one that has been seen in the past and is a system that has many faults, which need to be addressed responsibly. Furthermore, participants emphasized that the country and its people, who are recovering from the effects of the civil war, cannot be setback.

The meeting produced the following recommendations on how to address the problems that may arise from the upcoming 2020/21 elections in Somalia;

1. To strengthen peace and stability in the country
2. To ensure the holding of elections expected to take place in 2020/21.
3. In order to hold peaceful elections and create political stability, we suggest that an emergency meeting between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States be convened in the presence of civil society.
4. The Federal Government shall be responsible for holding free and fair elections.
5. The media in the country, especially those on social media, are urged to refrain from spreading provoking propaganda and misinformation.
6. The Conference agreed that civil society should establish a committee consisting of elders, traditional elders, religious leaders, women, youth, business people and intellectuals who will work to create a consensus on the implementation of the 2020/21 elections.

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