

CDG Annual Report Year 2023

Prepared By CDG PROGRAM TEAM

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The Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG), an independent nonprofit center of excellence based in Somaliland, demonstrated unwavering commitment to its mission of promoting democracy, good governance, and peace throughout the year 2023. In collaboration with key stakeholders, CDG actively engaged in a diverse range of initiatives aimed at addressing critical challenges and fostering positive change within the region. CDG's Governance and Legislation focus saw the organization actively supporting the Amendment of Election Law (Lr. 14), advocating for changes aligned with democratic principles. The organization played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of a comprehensive General Guideline for Committees, enhancing transparency and efficiency in government processes.

In the realm of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, CDG addressed the Las-Anod Conflict through a multifaceted approach, engaging with local communities, leaders, and authorities to promote sustainable peace. Additionally, the organization conducted a comprehensive Conflict Analysis of the Somaliland House of Representatives, contributing valuable insights to foster a more harmonious and effective legislative body.

Social Integration and Empowerment initiatives showcased CDG's commitment to inclusive development. The organization conducted a Feasibility Study on Zakat and worked towards the inclusion of Social Protection Modules among universities in Somaliland, empowering communities and fostering socio-economic inclusion.

Civic Engagement and Public Opinion became focal points for CDG, conducting research on Citizen Expectations and organizing Public Dialogues in response to delayed elections. The organization actively facilitated conversations to ensure the voices of the community were heard, contributing to a more informed and participatory democratic process. CDG's embrace of Technology and Digital Systems was evident in the Launch of Digital Case Management Systems, streamlining case handling and enhancing efficiency in governance processes. The organization also actively participated in Security Meetings convened by the Ministry of Interior, contributing expertise to address legal and security challenges faced by the region.

In the realm of Gender and Political Empowerment, CDG conducted specialized Training on Campaign Management for Women's Political Associations and Political Parties and played a key role in the Establishment of a Women Political Network. These initiatives aimed to empower women, promote gender inclusivity, and amplify the role of women in political leadership.

Looking ahead, CDG envisions a future marked by strengthened democratic institutions, increased civic engagement, and sustained peace in Somaliland. The organization remains dedicated to its mission, employing a strategic and collaborative approach to navigate the dynamic landscape and contribute to positive societal transformation.



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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the transformative journey of 2023, I am immensely proud of the impactful initiatives and collaborative efforts that have defined our organization's commitment to fostering democracy, inclusivity, and sustainable governance in Somaliland.

Our focus on Governance and Legislation has seen CDG actively support the Amendment of Election Law (Lr. 14), advocating for changes that resonate with democratic principles and align with the needs of the people. We believe that a robust legal framework is fundamental to the democratic process and the representation of citizens' voices. In addressing complex challenges, our Conflict Analysis and Resolution initiatives have taken us to the heart of conflicts, including the Las-Anod Conflict and an in-depth analysis of the House of Representatives. CDG believes in the power of dialogue, understanding, and sustainable peacebuilding to pave the way for a more harmonious and effective legislative body.

In collaboration with the parliament, CDG has undertaken significant initiatives to strengthen legislative processes. We organized meetings with House of Representatives sub-committees to assess their current status and needs. This included mapping out procedures for sub-committees to engage with the government and hold it accountable, leading to the development of comprehensive guidelines. We provided training to the secretariat, enhanced documentation and archiving systems, and modified/prepared Terms of Reference and procedures for parliamentary subcommittees. Practical work for the management of sub-committees, including their secretariats, was also organized, aiming to streamline their operations.

Furthermore, the establishment of the progress of the Somaliland Dialogue Working Group (SDWG) has been a crucial focus. I am pleased to report that, in the past year alone, SDWG conducted at least 15 meetings. This underscores our commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding within the community, contributing to lasting peace and cooperation.

Our dedication to Social Integration and Empowerment is evident in the Feasibility Study on Zakat and the inclusion of Social Protection Modules in universities. These efforts aim to empower individuals with the tools they need for social development and integration, fostering a society that is inclusive and supportive.

Civic Engagement and Public Opinion have been at the forefront of our activities, with CDG conducting research on Citizen Expectations and organizing Public Dialogues in response to delayed elections. Our commitment to amplifying the voices of the community ensures a more informed and participatory democratic process.

The Launch of Digital Case Management Systems underscores our dedication to technological advancements, enhancing efficiency and transparency in governance. CDG actively participated in Security Meetings, offering expertise to address legal and security challenges faced by the region, exemplifying our commitment to a secure and well-governed Somaliland.



Our dedication to Gender and Political Empowerment is evident in the specialized Training on Campaign Management and the establishment of a Women Political Network. CDG envisions a political landscape where women are empowered, represented, and have the tools to actively contribute to decision-making processes. As we continue to navigate the dynamic landscape of Somaliland, CDG remains steadfast in its mission to build active, transparent, and accountable government institutions. I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, collaborators, and the incredible team at CDG for their unwavering dedication.

Together, let us continue to empower communities, bridge divides, and work towards a future where democracy thrives, and every voice is heard.

CDG Country Director, Abdirahman Warsame

Thematic Focus

- Governance and Legislation
 Conflict Analysis and Resolution
 Social Integration and Empowerment
- 4. Civic Engagement and Public Opinion
- 5. Technology and Digital Systems
- 6. Legal and Security Advocacy
- 7.Gender and Political Empowerment



Governance and Legislation

General Guideline for Committees

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) played a crucial role in the development and implementation of a comprehensive General Guideline for Committees, delineating the responsibilities of structural powers and fostering cooperation between Government Agencies and Committees of the House of Representatives. This initiative aimed to improve transparency and efficiency in government processes, providing a framework to guide Committees in the performance of their duties. While the information in the guideline is intended to inform the Committees and serve as a reference, it does not hold official status, aligning with the Bylaws of the House of Representatives and other national laws.

Prepared collaboratively by the Administration of the House of Representatives and CDG, the General Procedure for the Commissioning of the Committees underscores the importance of Guidelines, Policies, and Documents for the smooth functioning of the House of Representatives. The House, in recognizing the significance of regional communication, established offices in major regions, providing citizens with accessible points to engage with elected officials.

Committees, identified as the backbone and engine driving the Assembly's work, play a vital role in conducting tasks challenging for the General Assembly. These include fact-finding operations, evidence verification, and research on specific issues. Given the similarity in structure to government institutions, Committees empower the Council to scrutinize government policies, plans, and programs. The House encourages the Committees to utilize and implement the provided Guidelines.

Acknowledging the progress made since the nation's inception, the House of Representatives has acquired modern facilities, offices, equipment, and trained staff. The distributed offices in regional capitals facilitate communication between citizens and elected officials, emphasizing the commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

Support for Election Law Amendment

In the year 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) played a pivotal role in the Amendment of Election Law (Lr. 14) through concerted collaboration with key stakeholders. This multifaceted engagement aimed at actively supporting the amendment process involved various strategic components. CDG embarked on a comprehensive advocacy campaign, leveraging its expertise and influence to champion changes that align with democratic principles. The organization utilized its platform to raise awareness about the proposed amendments, emphasizing the importance of a legal framework that accurately reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of the people. Moreover, CDG undertook rigorous research initiatives to provide a robust foundation for the proposed amendments. The organization's dedicated researchers delved into the intricacies of election laws, studying best practices, potential challenges, and areas requiring enhancement. This research-driven approach ensured that CDG's advocacy efforts were well-informed and grounded in a thorough understanding of the existing legal landscape and its implications.

In parallel, CDG actively engaged with policymakers, fostering meaningful dialogues to shape the amendment process. Through consultations, workshops, and roundtable discussions, CDG facilitated an inclusive and participatory environment where the perspectives of various stakeholders, including government officials, were considered. The organization provided valuable insights, recommendations, and constructive feedback to ensure that the amended Election Law addresses existing gaps and promotes a fair, transparent, and democratic electoral process.

In essence, CDG's involvement in the Amendment of Election Law in 2023 showcased its commitment to democratic governance. By combining advocacy, research, and engagement, CDG played a crucial role in influencing positive changes to the legal framework, ultimately contributing to the strengthening of democratic processes and ensuring that the electoral system better serves the interests of the people it represents.





Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Las-Anod Conflict

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) undertook a significant initiative to address the Las-Anod Conflict, employing a multifaceted approach to tackle the complexities of the situation. CDG's strategy involved extensive engagement with local communities, leaders, and relevant authorities in the Las-Anod region. The organization sought to gain a comprehensive understanding of the conflict's root causes, employing thorough research and analysis to inform its subsequent interventions.

CDG's primary objective was to facilitate constructive dialogue among conflicting parties, recognizing the pivotal role of communication in resolving longstanding disputes. By creating a platform for open and inclusive discussions, CDG aimed to bridge gaps in understanding and foster a shared commitment to sustainable peace. Through its active involvement, CDG sought not only to mitigate the immediate tensions but also to contribute to long-term conflict resolution and community-building in the Las-Anod region.

In pursuit of these goals, CDG leveraged its expertise in conflict analysis and resolution, collaborating with local leaders and authorities to implement targeted interventions. The organization's engagement in the Las-Anod Conflict underscored its commitment to fostering peace and stability by addressing the underlying causes and promoting dialogue as a catalyst for positive change.



Conflict Analysis of House of Representatives

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) took on the responsibility of conducting a comprehensive Conflict Analysis of the Somaliland House of Representatives. This initiative aimed to provide a thorough examination of potential conflicts within the legislative body, contributing valuable insights to promote a more harmonious and effective parliamentary environment. CDG applied its expertise in conflict analysis and resolution to delve into the dynamics, identifying areas of tension, and understanding the underlying factors influencing the House of Representatives' functioning. The Conflict Analysis conducted by CDG served as a diagnostic tool, allowing for an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by the legislative body. By uncovering potential sources of conflict, CDG sought to facilitate targeted interventions and propose recommendations that would contribute to the creation of a more cohesive and cooperative parliamentary atmosphere. The insights gained from this analysis were intended to guide stakeholders in implementing strategies that enhance collaboration, communication, and overall efficiency within the Somaliland House of Representatives.

CDG's commitment to fostering a positive and effective legislative environment through conflict analysis showcased its dedication to strengthening democratic institutions. By addressing potential conflicts within the House of Representatives, CDG aimed to contribute to the overall stability and functionality of the parliamentary system in Somaliland.





Social Integration and Empowerment

Feasibility Study on Zakat

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) demonstrated its commitment to Social Integration and Empowerment through two significant initiatives. Firstly, CDG conducted a Feasibility Study on Zakat in Somaliland, exploring the potential of incorporating Zakat into social programs to promote greater socioeconomic inclusion.

This study involved a comprehensive analysis of the practicality and impact of integrating Zakat, a form of Islamic almsgiving, into existing social welfare structures. CDG aimed to identify opportunities to leverage Zakat as a means to address social disparities and enhance the overall well-being of marginalized communities in Somaliland.



Inclusion of Social Protection Modules

Secondly, CDG undertook efforts for the Inclusion of Social Protection Modules among universities in Somaliland. This initiative aimed to empower students by equipping them with the knowledge and skills essential for social development and integration. By integrating social protection modules into university curricula, CDG sought to foster a generation of socially conscious and engaged individuals who could contribute meaningfully to the community. This initiative reflected CDG's broader commitment to education as a catalyst for social change and empowerment, emphasizing the importance of providing students with the tools to navigate and address social challenges in Somaliland. development. These initiatives underscored CDG's holistic approach to social integration and empowerment, combining research, feasibility studies, and educational interventions to create sustainable pathways for positive social change in Somaliland. Through these endeavors, CDG aimed to contribute to a more inclusive and empowered society where individuals have the resources and knowledge to actively participate in social development.



"CDG undertook efforts for the Inclusion of Social Protection Modules among universities in Somaliland"



Civic Engagement and Public Opinion

Citizen Expectations

In the year 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) undertook a significant initiative by conducting comprehensive research on Citizen Expectations towards The House of Representatives Elected in 2021. This endeavor was rooted in the recognition of the crucial role public sentiment plays in shaping the effectiveness of elected representatives and, by extension, the democratic governance of Somaliland. CDG utilized a multifaceted research approach, employing surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions to gather a rich tapestry of insights from diverse segments of the population. The research aimed to provide a nuanced understanding of the expectations citizens held for their elected representatives, encompassing a range of issues from governance transparency to policy responsiveness.

The findings of CDG's research served as a valuable repository of information for policymakers, elected representatives, and the broader community. Through this initiative, CDG sought not only to assess the current state of public sentiment but also to contribute substantively to the ongoing dialogue between citizens and their representatives. By uncovering the nuanced expectations of the public, CDG aimed to provide actionable insights that could inform policy decisions, enhance representation, and strengthen the democratic fabric of Somaliland.

Moreover, CDG's research on Citizen Expectations emphasized the organization's commitment to promoting an informed and engaged citizenry. By facilitating a deeper understanding of public sentiments, CDG aimed to foster a more responsive and accountable governance structure. This initiative aligned with CDG's broader mission of actively involving the public in the democratic process, ensuring that citizens' voices are not only acknowledged but also influential in shaping the trajectory of governance in Somaliland.

Public Dialogues - Delayed Elections

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) demonstrated proactive responsiveness to the challenges posed by delayed elections by organizing and facilitating Public Dialogues. Recognizing the significance of community engagement in fostering a resilient democratic process, CDG sought to provide a platform for citizens to express their concerns, opinions, and perspectives regarding the delayed electoral proceedings. The Public Dialogues were meticulously designed to ensure inclusivity, drawing diverse voices from the community into constructive discussions about the electoral process and its implications on the democratic landscape of Somaliland.

CDG's role in organizing these Public Dialogues extended beyond mere facilitation, aiming to create an environment where community members felt empowered to actively participate in shaping their collective future. By encouraging open and transparent discussions, CDG facilitated an exchange of ideas that not only contributed to a more informed public opinion but also allowed citizens to play an integral role in decisionmaking processes. The dialogues served as a conduit for citizens to voice their concerns, fostering a sense of empowerment and inclusivity in the democratic governance structure of Somaliland.

Furthermore, CDG's commitment to organizing Public Dialogues underscored its dedication to promoting transparency and accountability in governance. The initiative aligns with CDG's broader mission of ensuring that the community's perspectives are not sidelined but actively considered in navigating the complexities of electoral processes. Through these dialogues, CDG aimed to bridge the gap between the government and the public, fostering a collaborative approach to democratic governance that prioritizes the concerns and aspirations of the citizens in Somaliland.

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Collaboration Among Legislators, Public and Other Political Actors

The Somaliland Parliament, comprised of 82 members elected in May 2021, has made significant strides in the nation's democratic journey. However, concerns have arisen regarding the readiness of relatively inexperienced parliamentarians for effective representation. In response, the Center for Democracy and Governance (CDG) organized a symposium with key objectives, including strengthening the legislature's capacity for public responsiveness and collaboration with civil society. Panelists, including MP Ahmed Yusuf Guruje, civil society leader Mrs. Kaltun Hasan, academic Prof. Mohamoud Husein, and politician Mubaarik Abdilahi, provided diverse perspectives.

Participants engaged in insightful discussions, generating valuable recommendations. These encompassed strengthening the Somaliland Parliament's ties with constituencies, emphasizing the importance of legislative capacity-building, facilitating public engagement through interactive platforms, and building partnerships with civil society organizations. The symposium underscored the significance of communication infrastructure investment, emphasizing the use of media channels and technology.

Insights from panelists highlighted the experiences and challenges faced by parliamentarians, the role of civil society in promoting transparency, and the necessity of training on research and oversight functions. Recommendations urged MPs to actively engage with constituents, collaborate with civil society, and undergo training for enhanced legislative capacity. Civil society was encouraged to provide expertise and promote transparency. The CDG was recommended to continue capacity-building events and facilitate communication channels.

Follow-up actions and monitoring mechanisms were proposed, including regular evaluations, workshops, and training sessions. The report concluded by emphasizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of the Somaliland Parliament, fostering collaboration, and enhancing public engagement. It underscored that investing in the parliament is foundational for a vibrant and sustainable democracy, bridging the gap between legislators and their constituencies and fostering collaboration with civil society. The recommendations, if effectively implemented, have the potential to enhance responsiveness, public trust, and legitimacy, empowering MPs for effective representation.





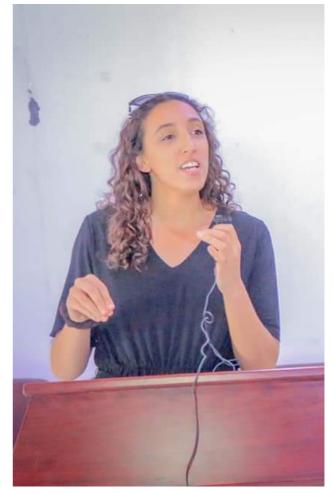
Technology and Digital Systems

Launch of Digital Case Management Systems

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) undertook a transformative initiative with the Launch of Digital Case Management Systems, marking a significant leap towards modernizing governance processes. Recognizing the potential of technology to enhance efficiency, CDG spearheaded the implementation of digital systems designed to streamline case handling. This comprehensive undertaking aimed to revolutionize the way cases were managed, introducing digital tools that facilitated a more seamless and transparent approach to governance in Somaliland.

CDG's leadership in the Launch of Digital Case Management Systems reflected a commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of governance. The digital systems introduced by CDG were meticulously designed to enhance accessibility, reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks, and optimize the overall workflow of governance processes. By embracing digital solutions, CDG aimed to establish a foundation for increased transparency, accountability, and responsiveness within government institutions.

Moreover, the initiative showcased CDG's forwardthinking approach to addressing contemporary challenges in governance. The incorporation of digital case management systems highlighted the organization's dedication to staying at the forefront of technological advancements, ensuring that governance processes evolve to meet the demands of the digital age. Through this launch, CDG contributed to the modernization of administrative practices, fostering a more efficient and technologically adept governance framework in Somaliland.



The Launch of Digital Case Management Systems reflected a commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of governance



Legal and Security Advocacy

Participation in Security Meetings

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) demonstrated its commitment to addressing legal and security challenges by actively participating in Security Meetings convened by the Ministry of Interior. This engagement exemplified CDG's proactive role in contributing expertise and insights to discussions aimed at enhancing the overall security framework in the region. Recognizing the importance of collaborative efforts between civil society and government entities, CDG actively shared its knowledge to address pressing legal and security challenges faced by the region.

Participation in Security Meetings allowed CDG to bring a valuable perspective to the table, leveraging its expertise in governance and democracy. The organization provided insights into the complex interplay between legal frameworks and security dynamics, contributing to more informed decision-making processes. By actively engaging with the Ministry of Interior and other stakeholders, CDG facilitated a cooperative environment where key issues related to security and legal concerns were discussed comprehensively, leading to potential solutions and strategies for implementation.

The Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) demonstrated its commitment to addressing legal and security challenges by actively participating in Security Meetings convened by the Ministry of Interior





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Gender and Political Empowerment

Training on Campaign Management

In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) took significant strides in fostering gender inclusivity and empowering women in political leadership roles through its specialized Training on Campaign Management. Specifically designed for Women's Political Associations and Political Parties in Somaliland, this initiative aimed to bridge gender gaps in political participation by equipping women with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective campaign management. CDG recognized the critical importance of gender diversity in political leadership and endeavored to empower women to play more active roles in the political landscape.

The Training on Campaign Management conducted by CDG provided a targeted and comprehensive curriculum, addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that women face in the political arena. By offering specialized training, CDG sought to enhance the capacities of women involved in politics, enabling them to navigate the complexities of campaign management with confidence. The initiative aimed not only to increase women's representation in political processes but also to create an environment where their perspectives and voices are valued and integrated into decision-making.



Establishment of Women Political Network In 2023, the Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) played a pivotal role in advancing gender equality and supporting women in politics through the Establishment of a Women Political Network. Recognizing the need for a cohesive and supportive platform, CDG took the lead in creating a network that served as a hub for collaboration, support, and advocacy for women involved in politics in Somaliland.

The Women Political Network established by CDG aimed to address the unique challenges faced by women in the political arena. It provided a space for women to collaborate, share experiences, and offer mutual support, fostering a sense of solidarity among female political leaders. The network also served as a platform for advocacy, enabling women to collectively address issues related to gender equality, representation, and the advancement of policies that promote the interests of women in the political sphere.

CDG's role in the Establishment of a Women Political Network underscored its commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering environment for women in politics. By facilitating collaboration and providing a supportive network, CDG contributed to breaking down barriers and empowering women to actively participate in shaping the political landscape. This initiative aligned with CDG's broader mission of promoting diversity and ensuring that the voices of women are heard and valued in the political decision-making processes of Somaliland.

Conflict Sensitive Journalism Workshop

In 2023, CDG conducted a training workshop in collaboration with SOLJA, focusing on enhancing the skills and capacities of media professionals in Somaliland. The workshop aimed to address the evolving challenges faced by journalists and media practitioners in the region, particularly in light of the increasing number of reported violations of freedom of expression.

The training workshop had specific objectives, including practicing methods to challenge policies or party programs using arguments related to social services systems and delivery. Another key focus was on recognizing and debunking disinformation and misinformation, reflecting the growing importance of media literacy in an era of information overload.

A significant aspect of the workshop was dedicated to leveling up the interviewing skills of female journalists with senior figures, recognizing the need for gender inclusivity and empowerment within the journalism profession. The training also aimed to equip participants with the ability to facilitate public debates effectively, emphasizing the role of media professionals in fostering constructive dialogue within society. Additionally, participants practiced the art of constructive questioning of speakers during public debates, honing their skills to extract meaningful insights and encourage transparent discourse.



FUTURE OUTLOOK

Academic Dialogue

In the realm of academic dialogue, CDG envisions deepening its engagement with educational institutions and thought leaders to foster a culture of research and critical thinking. By organizing seminars, workshops, and collaborative forums, CDG aims to create spaces where scholars, policymakers, and the public can exchange ideas, insights, and innovative solutions. The organization is committed to nurturing an environment that encourages intellectual discourse, contributing to a robust academic foundation for informed governance and democratic practices in Somaliland.

Upcoming Elections

With a keen eye on the upcoming elections, CDG is poised to play a pivotal role in ensuring the democratic integrity of the electoral process. The organization plans to conduct extensive research, organize public dialogues, and provide training programs to enhance the capacities of election stakeholders. CDG aims to contribute to fair, transparent, and inclusive elections, fostering a civic environment where citizens actively participate in shaping the future of their nation.

Researches

Research remains a cornerstone of CDG's commitment to evidence-based governance. In the coming year, the organization plans to conduct in-depth research on emerging challenges and opportunities, including conflict dynamics, social integration, and civic engagement. CDG seeks to produce comprehensive analyses that inform policy-making and advance the understanding of critical issues affecting Somaliland, contributing to the broader discourse on democracy and governance in the region.

Trainings and Short Courses

CDG is dedicated to building the capacities of individuals and institutions through targeted training initiatives. The organization plans to offer specialized courses on conflict resolution, governance, and leadership, equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge. These training programs aim to empower a new generation of leaders and advocates, fostering a cadre of professionals capable of driving positive change within their communities.

Strengthening HoR and Citizens through Dialogue

Recognizing the pivotal role of the House of Representatives (HoR) in governance, CDG intends to intensify its efforts in strengthening legislative processes. This involves continuous engagement with HoR sub-committees, providing training, and refining procedures for more effective functioning. Simultaneously, CDG plans to facilitate dialogues that bridge the gap between citizens and their representatives, fostering mutual understanding and collaborative decision-making.

Women's Participation in Peace Building and Conflict Analysis

CDG is unwavering in its commitment to advancing women's participation in peace-building and conflict analysis. The organization plans to implement targeted initiatives, including specialized training programs, advocacy campaigns, and the establishment of networks that empower women to actively contribute to conflict resolution and peace-building efforts. CDG envisions a future where women play integral roles in shaping the peace and stability of Somaliland, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable society.



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