




Center for Democracy & Governance

"Holding Power Accountable"

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORUM

For Candidates & Stakeholders of
the Scheduled 2026 Elections

Press Release
February 9, 2025
Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland



Today, a significant political milestone was achieved with the official launch of the 'Forum for Candidates and Stakeholders of the Scheduled 2026 Elections' in Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland. This forum serves as an inclusive platform aimed at fostering collaboration, dialogue, and coordinated efforts to ensure that the upcoming elections in 2026 take place on time and under a well- prepared electoral environment.

The forum is designed to bring together key political actors, electoral stakeholders, and all interested parties involved in the forthcoming parliamentary and local council elections across Somaliland. It is an open and inclusive initiative, welcoming aspiring candidates, political parties, civil society organizations, media representatives, and other election stakeholders committed to upholding democracy and electoral integrity.

Objectives of the Forum

- Ensuring Timely Elections – The forum is dedicated to working proactively so that the 2026 elections occur as scheduled, preventing any delays or political uncertainties.
- Facilitating Electoral Preparedness – It will focus on creating an enabling environment for all stakeholders to prepare for elections, ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness in the electoral process
- Encouraging Stakeholder Engagement – The forum will serve as a bridge between different election stakeholders, promoting open discussions and collaboration
- Advocating for Inclusivity – A key mission of the forum is to encourage women's political participation, ensuring that female candidates have a voice and representation in the upcoming elections.

Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration



As part of its strategy, the forum will establish strong engagement with all relevant electoral stakeholders in Somaliland. This includes:

- The Government of Somaliland, led by the President, to ensure political commitment to timely elections.
- National Political Parties, to enhance coordination and agreement on electoral matters.
- The National Electoral Commission (NEC), to facilitate smooth electoral preparations.
- Local and International Civil Society Organizations, to foster election integrity and international best practices.
- The Judiciary, to ensure legal frameworks support free and fair elections.
- The Media, to promote transparency and public awareness.

The forum fully supports and upholds the commitment of the President of Somaliland and the political parties in ensuring that the elections proceed without delays. It will actively contribute to achieving the electoral promises made by the government and key political players.

Commitment to Women's Political Participation

As part of its strategy, the forum will establish strong engagement with all relevant electoral stakeholders in Somaliland. This includes:

Operational Base

The Center for Democracy and Good Governance (CDG), headquartered in Hargeisa, will serve as the operational base for the forum. CDG will provide the necessary institutional framework and logistical support to facilitate the forum's activities and engagements.

This initiative marks a major step forward in strengthening Somaliland's democratic institutions, political stability, and electoral integrity.

END



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