



**EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE (EASF) ELECTION OBSERVATION
MISSION (EOM)
Presidential Election
Federal Republic of Somalia**

Preliminary Report

Mogadishu

May 16,2022

Introduction

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the Federal Republic of Somalia following the invitation by the Government. The EOM's objective was to observe and assess the conduct of the Presidential electoral process.

The EASF Election Observer Mission (EOM) Team is led Mr. Elrayes Ahmed Ali Mozamil from Sudan. The EOM Team comprising of Election Management Expert and Support Component from the Secretariat and Observers arrived Mogadishu on 13th May, 2022.

The assessment of the EASF Mission was based on the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR 1966), the African Union Declaration on the principles of democratic elections (2005), African Union Guidelines for Election Observations and Monitoring Missions (2002), the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance (ACDEG 2007), Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of conduct for International Election Observers as well as the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Objectives of EASF EOM Mission

EASF EOM undertook the following objectives;

1. To carry out an objective and impartial assesment of the process
2. To provide a timely and independent report of the process
3. To promote the conduct of credible elections and contribute to the consolidation of democracy, good governance, peace and stability in Somalia
4. Promote peace and stability in the region

Methodology of the EASF EOM Mission

- Interaction with stakeholders involved in the electoral process, notably the Speaker of the Parliament and Chair of the Parliament Committee for elections.
- Holding briefing sessions for Observers with focus on use of tools for the collection and compilation of electoral data.
- Meetings with relevant stakeholders including the media

This preliminary statement is based on the data collected from the three rounds of voting, on the overall environment within which the election was conducted and the conduct of the overall process.

Preliminary findings and observations

● Political context

A sustained period of political and institutional progress reflects a country transitioning out of fragility and protracted crisis. The 2011 Provisional Constitution, the 2012 establishment of the federal government, and the subsequent formation of five new Federal Member States are re-drawing Somalia's new federal map and creating the space for a political development.

The politics of Somalia takes place in a framework of federal parliamentary representative democratic republic. According to the Constitution of Somalia, the President of Somalia is head of state, and Prime Minister as head of government who is appointed by the President with the parliament's approval.

Nearly 300 MPs have been sworn in, following the elections for the two parliamentary chambers. For the first round of voting a total of 35 candidates were contesting.

● Legal framework

the Constitution, which recognizes federalism as the principle for organizing and structuring the state, comprises 143 articles grouped into 15 chapters. It establishes a two-tier government—at the central level and the state level, and also formally recognizes the principle of local government without granting the latter the status of a third tier of government. Furthermore, it establishes a republican political system with a unique system of government combining a president selected by parliament but is not politically accountable to it and also provides for a prime minister elected by and accountable to parliament. This section profiles only the institutional arrangements for the national or federal government.

● Election administration

The Parliamentary Committee on Election was mandated to organize the Presidential election. EASF Election Observer Mission notes with satisfaction the work done by that committee besides the various challenges including the absence of a full fledged and independent election commission, the process has been conducted in a professional manner.

- **Media**

The EASF EOM observed that Somalia has a diverse media sector, there are over 50 licensed radio stations and numerous ‘on line’ media platforms including state and private TV stations with a wide coverage across the Country.

Besides the mainstream print and electronic media, campaigning was carried out through social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Whats App.

EASF EOM notes with satisfaction the active role of journalists and the media houses in covering the election process, however we noted unbalanced reporting in the state funded media leading up to election day.

Conclusion

At the end of observation, the EASF EOM Team concludes that the Presidential Election of 15th May, 2022 in the Federal Republic of Somalia was conducted in transparent, calm and peaceful manner.

The EASF EOM Team wishes to express its appreciation to the authorities in the Federal Republic of Somalia for the measures put in place to facilitate its work throughout its stay in the country. EASF always call on the government to take note of the following recommendations.

Recommendations

In line with the above, the EASF EOM wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Finalise the provisional Constitution and organize voting based on Universal Suffrage principle, whereby the population will be able to vote on the proposed constitution
2. Set up the necessary framework to allow for registration and functioning of political parties and create a conducive environment for political parties to operate
3. Encourage more engagement with the Civil Society in matters of civic education
4. Encourage more women to participate in the political process of the country
5. Ensure the creation of a full fledged and independent Election Commission

EASF-Election Observer Mission congratulates the newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on his victory and calls on political leaders to maintain the peaceful and serene environment for the prosperity of the country and the region.

Issued in Mogadishu, Somalia

16th May 2022, For the Mission