



# Somalia South Central Non – State Actors (SOSCENSA)

## POSITION PAPER ON “CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE FOR THE ONGOING CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS AND REGIONAL STATES ESTABLISHMENT”

SOSCENSA recognizes the importance of public engagement in matters that affect the future of the country. Hence it organized a one day consultation meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 participated by 26 members from civil society organizations and officials from government line ministries, in City Palace Hotel in Mogadishu. The purpose of the consultation meeting was to clarify;

- The role of civil society in the current national constitution reviewing process.
- Challenges facing regional states establishment.

SOSCENSA actively engages in policy dialogue with Somali authorities and key members of the international community on issues relating to democratization. This consultation meeting was one of SOSCENSA’s planned activities designed to develop platform policy positions on country priority issues.

SOSCENSA would like to share with its key stakeholders existing challenges on the ongoing constitutional review process and regional states establishment as follows;

- **Challenges facing ongoing constitutional review process include, but not limited to;**
  - There is general public ignorance about the provisional constitution, because it was not distributed enough to the public.
  - Since there are also different versions of the provisional constitution, there are rumors which may jeopardize the authenticity of the current provisional constitution review processes.
- **Challenges facing regional states establishment include, but not limited to;**
  - Lack of coherent permanent laws
  - Insecurity
  - Conflicts on resources sharing
  - Inadequate capacity of central government to implement the federal system, and

- Foreign interventions.

### **Solutions/recommendations:**

SOSCENSA platform recommends to the Somali central government and other permanent stakeholders;

- To publish more copies of the provisional constitution and disseminate with collaboration of civil society groups and members of the parliaments (MPs) who will take part disseminating of these copies to their respective constituencies.
- The implementation of federal system should be given adequate time and recourses needed.
- Federal and constitutional courts should be established.
- Bylaws for regional state building should be approved as soon as possible by the concerned authority.
- International community and donor should support Somalis by realization their pledges.

SOSCENSA reiterates its commitment to facilitate various consultation meetings on these issues for the civil society members in order to influence the policy formulation of the country.