

Hubi luqadda & punctuation

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Research Poster

Transitioning from Indirect to Direct Elections in Somalia: Challenges and Opportunities

Introduction

Somalia is transitioning from an indirect electoral model to a direct voting system to strengthen democracy and enhance political legitimacy. While this shift promotes equality and citizen participation, it faces significant challenges, including insecurity, weak institutions, and political fragmentation.

Research Question

What opportunities and challenges are shape Somalia's transition to direct elections, and how can this shift promote democratic governance?

Research Methodology

This qualitative study reviews policy papers, academic literature, and reports from government and civil society organizations to assess Somalia's electoral developments.

Findings

Challenges

1. **Weak Institutions:** Limited capacity within electoral and judicial institutions undermines the credibility of elections.
2. **Political and Public Participation Challenges:** Political fragmentation delays electoral reforms and coordination, while low voter awareness reduces citizen participation.
3. **Insecurity:** Persistent insecurity, especially from militant groups, threatens voter registration and election logistics.

Potential Benefits

1. **Increased Public Engagement and Economic Empowerment:** A large and predominantly young population offers potential for greater civic engagement and participation.
2. **Public Trust Building:** A fair and transparent electoral process can enhance citizens' confidence in government institutions and strengthen democratic legitimacy.

3. **International Support:** International partners and organizations provide essential technical and financial assistance to ensure credible elections.
4. **Economic Opportunities:** Election-related activities create short-term jobs and support local businesses.

Recommendations

1. Build institutional capacity, especially within the NIEC.
2. Enhance cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States.
3. Strengthen security to safeguard electoral processes.
4. Promote civic and voter education nationwide.

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