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Somalia—Elections 2020/2021

Position Paper

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INTRODUCTION

It's been 50 years since Somalia last conducted a "One Person, One Vote" election. Nevertheless, the current government hopes to change this history and hold a "One Person, One Vote" ballot for the 2020/2021 cycle. This paper argues against the "One Person, One Vote" election model and, at the same time, proposes an alternative for the upcoming elections.



Somali Prime Minister Abdirashid Ali Shermarke (right) deposed President Aden Abdullah Osman (L) in 1967 Elections, Photograph: -/AFP/Getty

Post-conflict elections are conducted to advance peace, stability, and, more importantly, democratic norms. Such elections are determined in part by the ugly history of painful wars and are guided by the hope of eliminating the causes of past conflicts. Many war-torn countries have used elections as a mechanism to institutionalize a democratic system following internal strife. These countries include Cambodia, El

Salvador, Angola, Mozambique, Bosnia, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Afghanistan, and Iraq. While some countries have succeeded in establishing peace through elections, others have witnessed bloody standoffs and chaos. Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia are two recent examples in Africa. Côte d'Ivoire held its presidential election in 2010, only to spark a deadly confrontation between Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara¹. In contrast, following the 2002 Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which brought Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to power, Liberia held successful elections in 2005². Elections are the focus of efforts to rehabilitate countries devastated by internal conflicts such as Somalia—giving such elections added significance, but at the same time challenging to occur.

¹ [https://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/04/world/africa/04i...
ve...html](https://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/04/world/africa/04i...)

² <https://www.hdcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/89NegotiatingpeaceinLiberia-PreservingthepossibilityforJustice-November-2007.pdf>

