



HIGHLIGHTS

- National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) continues voter registration.
- NIEBC re-opens registration of political associations
- IESG Enhances NIEBC Readiness for the 2025 District Elections.

ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

Agreement Reached Between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Somali National Salvation Forum

On 25 August 2025, the Federal Government of Somalia and former members of the Somali Salvation Forum reached a political agreement to support the Government's commitment to hold direct district councils, FMS assemblies, and the Federal Parliament. This agreement may require adjustments to Somalia's constitutional and electoral framework, such as changing the mandate of the National Independent Electoral Commission

(NIEBC) to conduct presidential elections at federal and FMS levels, as well as the qualifications for political associations to gain parliamentary representation with a 10% threshold.

The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) reviewed the agreement and shared with the NIEBC the potential impact of the agreement on its role and on existing legislation and NIEBC regulations.

NIEBC Activities

Voter Registration Continues in Benadir and Expands to FMS

The National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) continued voter registration in Mogadishu with more than 800,000 voters registering ahead of the upcoming district council elections. The initial registration period in Mogadishu took place from 15 April to 15 August 2025 and was extended from 13 to 30 September 2025 to allow supporters of all registered political associations to register.

In Galmudug, eight registration centres operated in Dhusamareb from July 3 to August 21, 2025, supported by mobile voter registration. President Ahmed Abdi Karie and other officials registered early to encourage public

participation. During September, the voter registration was conducted in Addado where ten registrations were operational and in Guriel with nine centers. Meanwhile, the VR training has been completed in Galkacyo, and Herale, with registration yet to commence in these districts.

Hirshabelle's voter registration started on 13 July 2025 in Jowhar, concluding on 30 August, with future expansions planned. Southwest State began registration on July 3 in Baidoa, later extending to other areas with mobile units deployed for remote communities. Northeastern State opened 16 registration centres in Las Anod starting 4 September 2025.



Mobile voter registration in SWS



Registered Voters holding their registration certificates in Dhusamareb

National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) Re-Opens Political Association Registration



NIEBC is awarding a registration certificate to PAs.

The NIEBC reopened registration for political associations for a two-week period from 23 August to 6 September 2025. During this period, 18 new political associations were certified, including two led by prominent opposition figures from the Somali Salvation Forum, bringing the total number of certified political associations to 61.

On 24 September 2025, the NIEBC met with all registered political associations to discuss candidate nomination and registration procedures; rules and procedures for establishing coalitions and mergers; and unique symbols for political associations and ballot paper layout.



NIEBC workshop with PAs on 24 September

IESG ACTIVITIES

Over the last quarter, the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) continued to provide technical assistance to the NIEBC, strengthening the Commission’s capacity in preparation for the 2025 district elections. The focus was on developing regulations and improving operational readiness. The tools provided to the NIEBC:

Candidate Nomination Guidelines

As part of its mandate to support Somalia’s electoral process, the IESG developed Candidate Nomination Guidelines to serve as a practical reference for managing the candidate nomination process for the district council elections for the NIEBC’s consideration.

Based on Somalia’s electoral legal framework and NIEBC regulations, the guidelines provide a step-by-step guide on the candidate nomination process as well as standardised forms

and checklists to enhance the NIEBC’s ability to conduct candidate nominations transparently, consistently, and credibly.

Voter Card Management Concept of Operations

On 19 August 2025, the IESG briefed a high-level NIEBC audience, including commissioners and senior executives, on a Voter Card Management Concept of Operations (CONOPS), aimed at outlining the main elements of the process and discussing the next steps. The presentation covered the legal framework guiding the process, as well as how voter cards are designed, produced, distributed, collected, replaced, and accounted for. It also included the communication and public awareness activities needed to inform the public, along with transparency and reporting measures. The presentation was well received by the NIEBC.

Conducting Polls and Counting Procedures Manual

In July 2025, the IESG presented a draft manual on the polling and counting procedures for district council elections to the NIEBC’s senior management. The manual was designed for use by polling station staff and officials and can also serve to clarify the process for agents and observers.

Management of Electoral Results Strategy

The IESG developed a comprehensive strategy for aggregating and publishing the election results. The proposed system will enable the NIEBC to record results swiftly from individual polling stations with minimal errors. The strategy was presented through a detailed PowerPoint briefing to the NIEBC commissioners, secretary general, and directors.

Capacity-Building Support for NIEBC

IESG Provides Practical Logistics Training to NIEBC

On 26 August 2025, the IESG Logistics team conducted a practical training session on electoral asset and warehouse management. The session covered the entire asset management cycle from procurement to disposal, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in handling electoral materials.

The training enabled NIEBC staff to implement standardised procedures and best practices for safeguarding materials, maintain accurate records, and improve warehouse operations. This initiative also strengthened the NIEBC's ability to securely and effectively manage critical electoral assets such as ballot papers, voter registration kits, and ICT tools, thereby boosting operational readiness for future electoral processes.



On 9 September, IESG presented a practical logistics solution to the NIEBC's Logistics Department, aimed at streamlining the management of electoral material stock and deployment.



Public Information Campaigns

The IESG provided a detailed briefing to the NIEBC commissioners and directors on key public information campaigns needed to ensure that the public understands the electoral process.

The briefing covered informing the public about the publication of the provisional voter list to allow all registered voters to verify their registration details and to correct any errors

during the designated correction period, as well as messages related to card collection.

It also proposed public awareness campaigns on candidate nominations, including submission procedures and qualification criteria and on polling day procedures.

NIEBC Security Training Workshop

On 5 August 2025, at the NIEBC compound, the IESG security team conducted a Personal Safety & Security workshop for 24 NIEBC Secretariat staff to enhance their safety and preparedness. The NIEBC staff were briefed on the main security threats in Mogadishu and Somalia, fire safety rules, and were given recommendations to mitigate risks during security incidents.



IESG Field Office Activities

Hirshabelle

Promoting Inclusive Democracy in Hirshabelle State

On 30 August 2025, in Jowhar, the IESG facilitated a session titled "The Role of Local



Communities in Promoting Inclusive Democracy" during a community reconciliation activity event for members of the Mahaday district council.

The session emphasized the critical role of citizen participation, especially from under-represented groups—in democratic processes highlighting that inclusive democracy fosters dialogue and deliberation on shared community concerns, reduces feelings of exclusion, builds trust, and enhances the accountability of local leaders.

Southwest State

Aligning Local Government Law N°10 for One Person, One Vote

On 16 September 2025, the IESG Field Office attended the Southwest State Peace

Week celebrated from 11 to 17 September 2025 in Baidoa, led by the Ministry of Interior, Local Government and Reconciliation. The event featured workshops and panel discussions including a workshop on the alignment of Local Government Law N°10 to accommodate provisions for one person, one vote.

