



Federal Republic Of Somalia  
The Upper House  
Office Of The Speaker

Ref: 54/17/17: الرقم

Taariikh: 14/8/2017: التاريخ

To: The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia  
cc: The President of Federal Government of Somalia  
cc: Speaker of House of the People (SFP)  
cc: Joint Parliamentary Constitutional Review Committee (SFP)  
cc: UN Secretary-General

Dear Mr. Michael Keating

Thank you for your letter dated August 8, 2017. Indeed, Somalia has taken positive steps towards greater representation of women in both Somalia's Parliament and Federal Cabinet. We appreciate the importance of women's participation in our constitution-building process, as well as inclusive and representative government institutions. Further, we can assure you that none of the stated denial of women voice in reviewing the Constitution took place in the Upper House of Somali Federal Parliament.

As you are well aware, the composition of the Joint Parliamentary Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) is determined by the Federal Parliament through a majority vote (art.76 of the PC). In accordance with article 133 of the Provisional Constitution, each House of the Federal Parliament is to elect 5 of its Members on to the Committee. Given the nature of Somalia's bicameral Federal Parliament, the Upper House is therefore responsible for 5 seats on the Committee. Members of Parliament submit their candidacy for a seat on the Committee, and candidates are nominated through a majority vote of the Upper House.

There are 13 women out of 54 members in the Upper House of Somali Federal Parliament. Only one female senator of the Upper House submitted her candidacy to be on the Committee and was ultimately unsuccessful in obtaining the required votes to secure her nomination. The voting process was fair, transparent, and without error.

As to the legitimacy and authority of the Committee, it is first and foremost dependent on the procedural integrity of its formation, based on the rule of law. We must ensure that Committees that are creatures of Parliament are formed in accordance with proper parliamentary procedure and practice. My role as Speaker of the Upper House is to interpret the rules impartially, and to defend the rights and privileges of Members of the Upper House.

Further, it is important to take serious care in respecting the integrity of Somali democratic processes, especially when issuing written public memoranda on the legitimacy of Somalia's constitution-building process.

With respect to the recent motion tabled in the House of the People, we will give it due consideration when it reaches the Upper House, as is required of us. So long as our Constitution and parliamentary rules and traditions are observed, our commitment to building inclusive and representative democratic institutions remains firm.

With our highest consideration,

Hon. Abdi Hashi Abdullahi  
The Speaker of Upper House (SFP) – Mogadishu

