

## **MEMORANDUM OF THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF SOMALILAND**

**(Signed on 30 September 2009)**

### Paragraph 1

Given the shortage of time remaining before 27 September 2009, which is the jointly agreed time for the next election, the parties accept that the Election be postponed, the new time for the election to be decided as per what is stated in paragraphs 4 and 5 below.

### Paragraph 2

The Parties agree that all options, including changes in the leadership and composition of the National Election Commission, need to be considered to restore public confidence in the Commission and to make sure that the Commission is able to perform the role expected of it under the Constitution.

### Paragraph 3

The three parties have agreed that there is a need for a Voters Registration List as legally provided for, for this and future elections. In this regard, taking note of the shortcomings of the existing Voter Registration List, the three parties accept that there is a need to further refine the list and to consider whether further safeguards are required to avoid multiple voting.

### Paragraph 4

The parties have agreed to invite independent international experts to assist the National Election Commission in reviewing Somaliland's electoral preparations. The Experts will be invited to submit their recommendations to the Commission including on how to refine the provisional voter list, and on the timetable under which the remaining preparations for the election can be held. The Commission shall then fix the new date for the election based on the amount of time required for the final election preparations to be made.

The Parties also decided that detailed Terms of Reference for the experts should be agreed with the political parties and the Commission.

### Paragraph 5

On the basis that the determination of the date of the election is depoliticised, with the date to be fixed by the Commission, in light of the recommendations by the experts as set out in paragraph 4 above, the parties have agreed that the term of office of the President and Vice-President should be extended to a date not more than one month after the date to be fixed by the Commission for the elections.

### Paragraph 6

The parties underline the need for Friends of Somaliland to continue their engagement with

the three parties with the view to contributing to the faithful implementation of the understanding contained in paragraphs 1 to 5 above and assisting the Somaliland authorities to carry out free, fair and peaceful elections critical for preserving the stability, security and credibility of Somaliland.

Signed in Hargeisa on \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

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