

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SOMALIA SINCE THE CARTA RECONCILIATION 2000

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<https://doi.org/10.54922/IJEHSS.2023.0564>

### ABSTRACT

This article presents a comprehensive exploration of the evolution of Somalias democratic system following the pivotal Carta Reconciliation Conference in 2000. It chronicles the crucial milestones achieved, encompassing the establishment of transitional national and federal governments, the adoption of a new constitution, and pivotal elections. The discourse highlights persisting challenges including conflict, insecurity, limited resources for institution-building, and the influence of clan politics and corruption. Amid these trials, the emergence of positive developments such as the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court is noted. The article underscores the indispensable role of international support in sustaining these advancements and fostering a robust democratic foundation. In light of a complex journey characterized by achievements and hurdles, the narrative underscores the necessity to capitalize on successes and surmount obstacles, aiming to establish a secure and flourishing democratic framework, thereby bestowing peace and prosperity upon the Somali populace.

**Keywords:** Democratic System, Carta Reconciliation, Transitional National Government, Transitional Federal Government, Post Transitional Federal Government.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Somalia has experienced decades of political instability, civil war, and conflict, which have resulted in the displacement of millions of people, a humanitarian crisis, and the absence of a stable government. (Wahlström, H. (2018)). However, since the Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000, there have been significant developments toward establishing a democratic system of government in Somalia. (United Nations Development Programme. (2017)). This article will explore the critical products in Somalia's democratic system since the Carta Reconciliation Conference, including the establishment of the Transitional National Government and the Transitional Federal Government, the adoption of a new constitution, the election of a new parliament and president, and progress in building democratic institutions. The article will also discuss the challenges that Somalia still faces in its efforts to establish a democratic system of government and the steps that need to be taken to ensure that democracy takes root in the country.

The Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000 brought together various factions and leaders across Somalia to discuss a way forward for the country. The conference resulted in the establishment of the Transitional National Government (TNG) in 2000(International Foundation for Electoral Systems. (2018).), which was tasked with creating a stable government in Somalia. However, the TNG could not control the whole country and eventually collapsed in 2004.

2004 the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was established with the international community's support. The TFG was mandated to develop a federal system of government in Somalia and create a new constitution. The TFG faced significant challenges, including ongoing conflict and insecurity, but it survived until 2012, when the Federal Government of Somalia replaced it.

Adopting a new constitution in 2012 was a significant milestone for Somalia. The form provided a framework for the establishment of a federal system of government and guaranteed fundamental human rights. (Ahmed, I. (2019). The constitution also established a bicameral parliament, with a House of the People and a Senate.

In 2016 and 2017, Somalia held parliamentary and presidential elections, respectively. The elections were seen as a significant step towards establishing a stable and democratic system of government in Somalia. However, the elections were not without controversy, and there were allegations of vote-buying and fraud.

Despite the progress that has been made, Somalia still faces significant challenges in its efforts to establish a democratic system of government. Ongoing conflict and insecurity undermine the country's political stability, and there is a lack of resources to build and strengthen democratic institutions. Clan politics and corruption also remain significant obstacles to establishing a stable and democratic system of government. (Menkhaus, K. (2017).)

Moving forward, there is a need for continued support from the international community to help Somalia build and strengthen its democratic institutions. (United Nations Development Programme. (2017). This includes support for the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court and efforts to address corruption and clan politics. If these challenges can be overcome, there is hope that Somalia can finally establish a stable and democratic system of government that can bring peace and prosperity to the Somali people.

### **Background**

Somalia has a long history of political instability, conflict, and violence. (World Bank. (2020). The country gained independence from Italy and Britain in 1960 and established a democratic system of government. However, the democratic system was short-lived, and a military coup in 1969 brought General Siad Barre to power. (Menkhaus, K. (2017).

Under Barre's rule, Somalia experienced a period of authoritarianism and political repression. 1991 Barre was overthrown, and the country descended into civil war and chaos. Various factions and warlords fought to control the country, and the capital, Mogadishu, became a battleground. (Woldemariam, M. (2016).

The international community intervened in Somalia in the early 1990s with a United Nations peacekeeping mission, but the mission was ultimately unsuccessful, and the UN withdrew in 1995. The situation in Somalia continued to deteriorate, with violence and conflict continuing to rage throughout the country. (Ahmed, I. (2019).

In 2000, a conference was held in Djibouti to unite various factions and leaders from Somalia to discuss a way forward for the country. The meeting resulted in the establishment of the Transitional National Government (TNG), which was tasked with creating a stable government in Somalia. The TNG was replaced by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004, which had the mandate to establish a federal system of government in Somalia and create a new constitution.

Despite the progress toward establishing a democratic system of government in Somalia, the country still faces significant challenges. Ongoing conflict and insecurity undermine political stability, and there is a lack of resources to build and strengthen democratic institutions. Clan politics and corruption also remain significant obstacles to establishing a stable and democratic system of government. (Menkhaus, K. (2017).

In addition to political instability and conflict, Somalia has faced various humanitarian challenges. The country has experienced recurring droughts and famine, resulting in significant displacement and suffering. The ongoing conflict has also led to the removal of millions of people within Somalia and neighboring countries.

International efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Somalia have been ongoing, with various aid agencies and humanitarian organizations assisting those in need. However, insecurity and access issues have made providing aid to some parts of the country complex.

Somalia's economy has also been severely impacted by decades of conflict and instability. The country has a largely agricultural-based economy, but the ongoing conflict has made it difficult for farmers to cultivate their land and sell their crops. The government has also been affected by piracy off the coast, which has impacted the fishing industry and international trade. (Ahmed, A. (2018).

Despite these challenges, Somalia's economy has had some positive developments. The country has significant natural resources, including oil and gas reserves, and some exploration and growth have occurred in recent years. The government has also taken steps to improve the business environment, with reforms aimed at attracting foreign investment and promoting entrepreneurship. (International Crisis Group. (2021).

Overall, Somalia remains a country facing significant challenges. While there have been some positive developments toward establishing a democratic system of government and addressing humanitarian and economic issues, the ongoing conflict and instability continue to pose significant obstacles to progress. International support and cooperation will be crucial in helping Somalia overcome these challenges and achieve lasting peace and stability.

### **Problem Statement**

Somalia has been plagued by political instability, conflict, and insecurity for decades, which has hindered the development of democratic institutions in the country. In 2000, the Carters Reconciliation Agreement was signed to promote national reconciliation and democratization. However, implementing democratic reforms has been slow and uneven, with several challenges hindering the development of a functional democratic system in Somalia. These challenges include weak institutions, corruption, a lack of political will, and ongoing conflict and violence.

The lack of a functional democratic system has contributed to ongoing humanitarian crises in Somalia, including displacement, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare and education. Moreover, the country needs help to establish a stable government that is accountable to its citizens and capable of addressing the needs and concerns of the population.

This case study explores the development of the democratic system in Somalia since the Carters Reconciliation, focusing on the challenges and opportunities facing this process. By examining the role of local and international actors and the experiences of communities in Mogadishu and other areas, this study will provide insights into the potential for further strengthening and

consolidating democratic governance in Somalia. The ultimate goal of this study is to provide recommendations for promoting sustainable peace, stability, and development in the country.

### Objectives

1. To examine the impact of the Carts Reconciliation in 2000 on the development of democratic institutions in Somalia.
2. To assess the extent to which democratic reforms have been implemented in Somalia since the Carts Reconciliation.
3. To identify the challenges and opportunities facing developing democratic institutions in Somalia.
4. To analyze the role of local and international actors in supporting or hindering the democratization process in Somalia.
5. To provide recommendations for further strengthening and consolidating democratic governance in Somalia.

### Research question

What impact did the Carts Reconciliation in 2000 have on developing democratic institutions in Somalia?

To what extent have democratic reforms been implemented in Somalia since the Carts Reconciliation in 2000?

What are the challenges and opportunities facing developing democratic institutions in Somalia?

What role do local and international actors play in supporting or hindering Somalia's democratization process?

What recommendations can be made for further strengthening and consolidating democratic governance in Somalia?

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Here is a significant body of literature on developing the democratic system in Somalia since the Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000. (Wahlström, H. (2018)). Much of the literature focuses on the various political developments and challenges faced by the country, as well as the role of international actors in supporting Somalia's efforts to establish a stable and democratic system of government. (Ahmed, A. (2018)).

One key theme in the literature is the importance of clan politics in Somalia. Many scholars argue that clan affiliation has played a significant role in the country's political landscape, with clan leaders and elders often wielding considerable power and influence. (Nunnally, S. (2016)) Some authors suggest that the clan system can provide stability, as clans can act as mediators and negotiators in resolving conflicts. However, others argue that clan politics can also be a source of instability, as it can lead to rivalries and competition between different clans.

Another critical theme in the literature is the role of international actors in Somalia's political development. The international community has played a significant role in supporting the country's efforts to establish a stable and democratic system of government (Ahmed, A. (2018)) through financial and technical assistance and diplomatic and military support. Some scholars argue that the involvement of international actors has been crucial in helping to stabilize the country and establish democratic institutions. However, others say that international participation

has been counterproductive, as it has led to the marginalization of local actors and the imposition of external agendas on Somalia's political development.

The literature also highlights the significant challenges that Somalia faces in its efforts to establish a democratic system of government. Ongoing conflict and insecurity continue to pose significant obstacles to progress, and there is a lack of resources and capacity to build and strengthen democratic institutions. Corruption and clan politics also remain tremendous obstacles to establishing a stable and democratic system of government. (Björkdahl, A., & Höglund, K. (2017).

Overall, the literature suggests that while progress has been made in Somalia's political development since the Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000, much work remains. Addressing ongoing conflict and insecurity, building democratic institutions, and addressing corruption and clan politics will be crucial in establishing a stable and democratic system of government in Somalia. (Human Rights Watch. (2020).

One area of focus in the literature is the role of the Somali diaspora in the country's political development. The Somali diaspora is a significant presence in many countries worldwide and has played a substantial role in supporting political and economic development in Somalia. Many authors argue that the diaspora can provide valuable resources and expertise in governance, entrepreneurship, and civil society as a bridge between Somalia and the international community. The literature also highlights the importance of constitutional development in Somalia. The country has been working on a new constitution since the establishment of the TFG in 2004, but progress has been slow due to ongoing conflict and political instability. Some authors suggest that a new form could help to establish a more stable and democratic system of government by providing a framework for governance and establishing the rule of law. However, others argue that a constitution alone will not address Somalia's underlying political and economic challenges. ( Björkdahl, A., & Höglund, K. (2017).

Another area of focus in the literature is addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity in Somalia. Many authors argue that addressing poverty, inequality, and governance issues will be crucial in promoting peace and stability in the country. Some suggest that focusing on economic development, including job creation and investment in infrastructure, could help address some of the underlying causes of conflict and instability.

Finally, the literature highlights the importance of local ownership and leadership in Somalia's political development. Many authors argue that sustainable political development in Somalia will require the participation and leadership of local actors, including civil society, political parties, and traditional leaders. Building the capacity of these actors and creating space for their participation in political processes will be crucial in establishing a stable and democratic system of government in Somalia. (Human Rights Watch. (2020).

### **3. DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY CONCEPT.**

Democracy is a form of government in which power is vested in the people, who exercise it directly or through elected representatives. It is based on political equality, majority rule, and protecting individual rights and freedoms. In a democratic system, citizens can participate in the political process, freely express their opinions and beliefs, and hold their leaders accountable for their actions. Democracy is often contrasted with authoritarianism or dictatorship, in which

power is concentrated in the hands of a single ruler or ruling elite, and citizens have limited or no political rights or freedoms. (Durkheim, Emile).

Democracy can take different forms, including direct democracy, representative democracy, and hybrid or mixed systems. In a direct democracy, citizens participate directly in decision-making processes, such as referendums or town hall meetings. In a representative democracy, citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf, such as in a parliament or congress. Hybrid or mixed systems may combine elements of direct and representative democracy, such as in Switzerland's system of direct democracy at the local level and representative democracy at the national level.

Democracy is often associated with fundamental values like transparency, accountability, participation, and inclusivity. (Nunnally, S. (2016). A transparent and accountable government is open about its activities and decision-making processes and responsive to its citizens' needs and concerns. Participation refers to the ability of citizens to take an active role in the political process, such as through voting or running for office. Inclusivity refers to the idea that all citizens should have an equal say in political decision-making regardless of their background or identity. (Columbia University Press, 2004.).

Despite its many advantages, democracy also faces several challenges and criticisms. These include concerns about the role of money and special interests in the political process, the potential for demagogues or populists to manipulate public opinion, and the risk of "tyranny of the majority" in which minority interests are marginalized or ignored. Additionally, some critics argue that democracy is not always compatible with specific cultural or religious values and that alternative forms of government may be more appropriate in some contexts.

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SOMALIA SINCE THE CARTA RECONCILIATION 2000.**

The Democratic system in Somalia has undergone significant developments since the Carta Reconciliation Conference in 2000. The conference in Djibouti brought together various Somali factions and international stakeholders to establish a new government and chart a path toward peace and stability.

One of the key outcomes of the conference was the establishment of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004. The TFG was tasked with restoring law and order, rebuilding state institutions, and organizing national elections. However, the TFG faced many challenges, including a lack of resources, security threats from armed groups, and political instability.

In 2012, a new constitution was adopted to establish a more permanent government structure. The form established a federal system with a bicameral parliament consisting of a House of the People, a Senate, and an executive branch led by a president and prime minister. The constitution also provided for the establishment of regional states within the federal system.

2017 Somalia held its first direct presidential election in over 50 years. While there were some challenges and allegations of irregularities, the election was a significant step toward democratic governance. The election was followed by forming a new government led by President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, popularly known as "Farmajo."

Despite these developments, Somalia still faces many challenges in consolidating its democratic system. The country continues to be plagued by armed conflict, terrorism, and political instability. The federal government also faces significant challenges in extending its authority to

all parts of the country, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups and regional states that still need to be fully integrated into the federal system. (Columbia University Press, 2004.)

Overall, while there have been significant developments in Somalia's democratic system since the Carta Reconciliation Conference in 2000, the country still has a long way to go in consolidating democratic governance and ensuring peace and stability for its people.

## **5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SOMALIA SINCE PRESIDENT ABDI QASIM 2000-2004.**

President Abdi Qasim Salad was in power in Somalia from 2000 to 2004, during the early stages of the country's transition towards a democratic system. President Salad faced many challenges during his tenure, including political instability, insecurity, and economic hardship.

One of the key developments during President Salad's tenure was the Carta Reconciliation conference in Djibouti, held in 2000. The conference brought together various Somali factions and international stakeholders to establish a new government and chart a path toward peace and stability. The discussion led to the establishment the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004.

President Salad also played a role in forming the TFG, which was tasked with restoring law and order, rebuilding state institutions, and organizing national elections. However, the TFG faced many challenges, including a lack of resources, security threats from armed groups, and political instability.

President Salad's government also faced allegations of corruption and human rights abuses. In 2002, the United Nations imposed sanctions on Somalia, including an arms embargo, in response to its failure to cooperate with the international community to restore stability.

During President Salad's tenure, several significant events impacted Somalia's democratic system. In addition to the Carta Reconciliation conference and the establishment of the TFG, there was also the establishment of regional administrations, such as Puntland and Somaliland, which played a significant role in the country's political landscape.

President Salad's government also faced challenges in extending its authority to all parts of the country, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups and regional states that were not fully integrated into the federal system. Reports of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detention, further eroded public trust in the government.

Despite these challenges, President Salad's government tried to improve the country's democratic system. For example, his government organized a national reconciliation conference in 2003 to unite various Somali factions to promote national unity and peace. However, the meeting was marred by controversy and did not achieve its objectives.

Significant challenges and setbacks marked President Salad's tenure, but he played a role in the early stages of Somalia's transition toward a democratic system. Establishing the TFG and adopting a federal approach with a bicameral parliament and executive branch were significant milestones in this transition. However, it was not until later, under the leadership of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, that Somalia made substantial strides toward consolidating a democratic system.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SOMALIA SINCE PRESIDENT SH. SHARIIF 2009-2012.**

Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed was in power in Somalia from 2009 to 2012, during a critical period in the country's transition towards a democratic system. President Sheikh Sharif faced significant challenges during his tenure, including insecurity, political instability, and economic hardship.

One of the key developments during President Sheikh Sharif's tenure was the adoption of a new constitution in 2012. The form established a federal system with a bicameral parliament consisting of a House of the People, a Senate, and an executive branch led by a president and prime minister. The constitution also provided for the establishment of regional states within the federal system.

President Sheikh Sharif organized the country's first direct presidential election in over 20 years in 2012. The election was seen as a significant step towards democratic governance, although there were some challenges and allegations of irregularities.

President Sheikh Sharif's government also tried to extend its authority to all parts of the country, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups and regional states that needed to be fully integrated into the federal system. His government also launched several initiatives to promote reconciliation and foster national unity.

During President Sheikh Sharif's tenure, several significant events impacted Somalia's democratic system. In addition to the adoption of a new constitution and the organization of the country's first direct presidential election, there was also the establishment of regional states, such as Jubaland and Galmudug, which played a significant role in the country's political landscape.

President Sheikh Sharif's government also faced challenges in extending its authority to all parts of the country, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups and regional states that were not fully integrated into the federal system. Reports of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detention, further eroded public trust in the government.

Despite these challenges, President Sheikh Sharif's government tried to improve the country's democratic system. For example, his government organized a national reconciliation conference in 2011 to unite various Somali factions to promote national unity and peace. The conference was seen as a positive step towards reconciliation, although its outcomes still needed to be fully implemented.

President Sheikh Sharif's government also worked towards improving the country's infrastructure and services, including education, health care, and transportation. His government launched several initiatives to improve public services and promote economic growth, although progress was limited due to ongoing security challenges and the need for more resources.

President Sheikh Sharif played a role in the early stages of Somalia's transition toward a democratic system. His government made some efforts to improve governance, promote reconciliation, and improve public services but faced significant challenges and setbacks. It was not until later, under the leadership of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, that Somalia made substantial strides toward consolidating a democratic system.



**7. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SOMALIA SINCE PRESIDENT HASSAN SH. MOHAMUD 2012 – 2017.**

The development of the democratic system in Somalia since the presidency of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud from 2012 to 2017 has been a mixed bag. While some progress was made, significant challenges also impeded the growth of democracy in the country.

One of the most significant achievements during President Mohamud's tenure was the establishment of the Federal Government of Somalia in 2012, which was the first central government in the country since the fall of the Siad Barre regime in 1991. This was a critical step toward the restoration of state institutions and the establishment of a functioning democracy.

Another significant development during President Mohamud's presidency was the adoption of a provisional constitution in 2012, which laid the foundation for establishing a federal state structure. The form resulted from a lengthy and inclusive consultation process involving various stakeholders, including civil society groups, traditional leaders, and regional administrations.

However, despite these positive developments, the democratic process in Somalia faced significant challenges during President Mohamud's tenure. One of the most significant obstacles was the continued presence of Al-Shabaab, a militant group that has waged a brutal insurgency against the government and civilians in Somalia. The group carried out numerous attacks during President Mohamud's tenure, undermining the government's efforts to establish stability and the rule of law.

Another significant challenge was the limited capacity of state institutions, which struggled to provide essential services to citizens, such as security, education, and healthcare. Corruption was also a significant problem, with many public officials accused of embezzlement and mismanagement of public funds.

Despite these challenges, President Mohamud's government made some progress toward building a more inclusive and participatory democracy. For example, the government established a national electoral commission, which oversaw the first democratic elections in the country in over four decades in 2016. Although irregularities and allegations of vote rigging marred the elections, they represented a critical step toward establishing a more democratic political system in Somalia.

In conclusion, the development of the democratic system in Somalia since the presidency of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud from 2012 to 2017 has been characterized by both progress and setbacks. While establishing a central government and adopting a provisional constitution were significant achievements, the continued presence of Al-Shabaab and the limited capacity of state institutions presented substantial obstacles to the growth of democracy in the country. Nonetheless, the government made some progress toward building a more inclusive and participatory democracy, representing a critical step toward establishing a stable and prosperous Somalia.

**8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN SOMALIA SINCE PRESIDENT MOHAMED ABDULLAHI FARMAJO 2017- 15. MAY 2022.**

Since President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo took office in 2017, Somalia has experienced significant developments in its democratic system. Here are some of the notable events and changes:

1. **Presidential Election:** In February 2017, Farmajo was elected as the new President of Somalia in a historic election. This was the first time in more than 20 years that a president was selected through a popular vote.
2. **Constitutional Review:** In 2018, Somalia launched a review of its constitution, which was adopted in 2012. The study aimed to address some of the challenges that arose during the implementation of the form and to ensure that it reflects the aspirations and needs of the Somali people.
3. **Federal Member States:** In recent years, Somalia has established several Federal Member States, which have been granted a degree of autonomy from the central government. This has helped to promote greater participation and representation at the local level.
4. **Electoral Reforms:** In 2020, the Somali government introduced several reforms to improve the electoral process and promote transparency and fairness. The reforms included the establishment of an independent electoral commission, the use of biometric voter registration, and the allocation of seats to women and minorities.
5. **Regional Cooperation:** Somalia has been working to strengthen its ties with neighboring countries and regional organizations, including the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This has helped to promote more excellent stability and cooperation in the region.
6. **Challenges:** Despite these developments, Somalia faces several challenges in its democratic system. These include insecurity, corruption, and weak institutions. There is also an ongoing debate about the future of the country's federal system and the role of the central government in the Federal Member States.

Overall, while there have been some positive developments in Somalia's democratic system since President Farmajo took office, much work still needs to be done to consolidate these gains and address the remaining challenges.

### **9. CASE STUDY MOGADISHU AREAS: (APPENDIX ):**

Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, has been at the center of the country's political developments since the Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000. In particular, the city has experienced significant conflict and insecurity in recent years, which has posed a major obstacle to developing democratic institutions and governance.

One area of focus in Mogadishu has been the establishment of local governance structures in the city's various neighborhoods and districts. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of local ownership and participation in governance, and efforts have been made to empower local communities and establish local governance structures.

One example of this is the establishment of district councils in Mogadishu. In 2015, the federal government of Somalia established district councils in each of Mogadishu's 17 districts with support from the international community. The committees are composed of local representatives from each section and are tasked with overseeing local development projects and coordinating with the central government on governance matters.

While establishing district councils has been essential in promoting local governance in Mogadishu, challenges remain. For example, there have been concerns about the capacity and resources of the panels and their ability to represent the interests of their constituents effectively.

In addition, security remains a significant challenge in many parts of the city, which has made it difficult for the councils to carry out their functions.

Another area of focus in Mogadishu has been the role of civil society in promoting democratic governance. Civil society organizations have played an essential role in advocating for democratic reforms and promoting transparency and accountability in government. In particular, there has been a growing emphasis on women's participation in governance and civil society, and efforts have been made to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the city.

Despite these efforts, Mogadishu remains a challenging environment for democratic development. Ongoing conflict, insecurity, corruption, and clan politics significantly hinder progress. However, there are also reasons for optimism, as local communities and civil society organizations continue to work towards building a more stable and democratic future for Mogadishu and Somalia.

One specific area of focus in Mogadishu has been the role of youth in promoting democratic governance and peaceful coexistence. Somalia has a large youth population, and the country's conflict and insecurity have particularly affected young people. However, they have also been instrumental in promoting positive change in the country.

In recent years, several initiatives have been aimed at empowering and engaging youth in Mogadishu. For example 2017, the Mogadishu Youth Network was established to promote youth-led development and peacebuilding. The network has been involved in various activities, including advocacy campaigns, community engagement initiatives, and skills-building programs for young people.

There have also been efforts to promote youth participation in political processes in Mogadishu. For example, in 2016, the federal government of Somalia established a quota system to encourage women and youth participation in parliamentary elections. This system reserved 30% of parliamentary seats for women and 20% for youth candidates.

However, there have been challenges to youth participation in governance in Mogadishu, including limited access to education and employment opportunities and limited representation in political processes. Addressing these challenges will be crucial in promoting a more inclusive and democratic system of governance in the city and the country as a whole.

Overall, Mogadishu remains a complex environment for democratic development, with ongoing conflict and insecurity posing significant challenges. However, there are also reasons for optimism, as local communities, civil society organizations, and youth groups continue to work towards building a more stable and democratic future for the city and the country.

## **10. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The methodology for this analysis involved a review of academic and policy literature on the development of the democratic system in Somalia since the Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000, specifically focusing on the case study of Mogadishu. The literature was identified through a systematic search of academic databases, including Google Scholar, JSTOR, and Web of Science, and policy reports from international organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union.

The literature review focused on key themes and issues related to democratic development in Mogadishu, including establishing local governance structures, the role of civil society and youth

in promoting democratic governance, and the challenges and opportunities for democratic development in the city. (Ahmed, I. (2019).

In addition to the literature review, the analysis drew on primary sources, including news articles and reports from local media outlets in Mogadishu, to provide insights into the current state of democratic development in the city. Interviews with Somali politics and governance experts were also conducted to provide further insights and perspectives on the issues under review.

The analysis adopted a qualitative approach, focusing on a thematic analysis of the literature and primary sources. The findings were synthesized and presented in the sections on the background, literature review, and case study of Mogadishu.

The case study of Mogadishu involved a review of recent developments in the city, with a specific focus on the role of youth in promoting democratic governance and peaceful coexistence. The analysis drew on various primary and secondary sources, including news articles, reports from local media outlets, and interviews with Somali politics and governance experts.

The case study highlighted the significant challenges facing democratic development in Mogadishu, including ongoing conflict and insecurity, limited access to education and employment opportunities, and limited representation in political processes. However, it also identified several positive developments, including establishing local governance structures and the role of civil society organizations and youth groups in promoting peace and democracy in the city.

The analysis also identified several opportunities for promoting democratic development in Mogadishu, including promoting youth participation in political processes, establishing local governance structures responsive to community needs, and providing education and employment opportunities for young people.

Overall, the case study of Mogadishu provided essential insights into the challenges and opportunities for democratic development in a complex and dynamic environment. It highlighted the importance of local actors and community-led initiatives in promoting peace and democracy and the need for continued international support and engagement in the region.

## **11. FINDING AND CONCLUSION**

The development of the democratic system in Somalia since the Carta Reconciliation Conference of 2000 has been a challenging and complex process. This analysis has demonstrated that establishing local governance structures, the participation of youth in political circles, addressing underlying causes of conflict and insecurity, and continuing international support are critical factors in promoting democratic development and stability in Somalia.

The case study of Mogadishu highlights the importance of community-led initiatives and the role of local actors in promoting peace and democracy in the city. It also underscores the importance of addressing the limited access to education and employment opportunities for young people in Somalia to support their active participation in political processes.

The analysis has also shown that ongoing conflict and insecurity remain significant challenges to democratic development in Somalia. Addressing the underlying causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and political exclusion, is critical to promoting stability and democracy in the country.

Finally, continued international support and engagement are essential to promoting democratic development in Somalia. This includes support for local governance structures, civil society

organizations, and the participation of marginalized groups in political processes. It also involves support for addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity, including poverty reduction and economic development.

In conclusion, developing the democratic system in Somalia remains a work in progress. However, by addressing the challenges identified in this analysis and taking advantage of the opportunities presented, Somalia can continue progressing toward a more stable, peaceful, and democratic future.

## 12. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the analysis of the development of the democratic system in Somalia and the case study of Mogadishu, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Strengthen local governance structures: Establishing effective and responsive local governance structures is critical to promoting democratic development in Somalia. The government should work closely with communities to develop and support local governance structures that address the needs and interests of local populations.
2. Increase youth participation: Young people in Somalia represent a significant portion of the population and have the potential to play a vital role in promoting democratic governance and peaceful coexistence. The government should prioritize initiatives that increase young people's access to education, employment, and political participation.
3. Address underlying causes of conflict and insecurity: Ongoing conflict and insecurity remain significant challenges to democratic development in Somalia. Addressing the underlying causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and political exclusion, is critical to promoting stability and democracy in the country. The government should prioritize addressing these root causes through policies promoting economic development and social inclusion.
4. Increase international support and engagement: Continued international support and attention are essential to promoting democratic development in Somalia. The international community should increase its support for local governance structures, civil society organizations, and the participation of marginalized groups in political processes. It should also continue to support efforts to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity, including poverty reduction and economic development.
5. Encourage dialogue and reconciliation: Dialogue and reconciliation between different groups are crucial to promoting democratic development and stability in Somalia. The government should prioritize initiatives encouraging dialogue and reconciliation between other communities and political groups.

By implementing these recommendations, Somalia can continue progressing toward a more stable, peaceful, and democratic future.

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