

SECOND TERM ELECTION FOR THE LEADERSHIP

Event Date: 25 January 2023

Leadership Term: 2023–2024

Organization: Somali Disability Network (SDN)

Participants: More than 70

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**The Election for the SDN Somalia Disability Network Governing Body
THE SECOND TERM 2023 – 2024**

Executive Summary

The Somali Disability Network (SDN) was established in 2020 as a national disability network and consortium bringing together 15 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Somalia. SDN provides a collective platform for OPDs to advance disability rights, advocacy, empowerment, inclusion, and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in social, economic, political, humanitarian, and development processes. SDN is governed through a democratic leadership system, with leadership elections held every two years, and operates under established by-laws, policies, election regulations, and accountability procedures designed to promote transparency, participation, and good governance.

SDN's second-term leadership election was held on 25 January 2023 for the 2023–2024 leadership period. The election process took approximately three months, beginning with the development and approval of the electoral legal framework. In December 2022, the SDN Assembly developed and approved the legal articles governing the election. An independent five-member Electoral Committee was subsequently established to coordinate and implement the election, led by Mr. Yusuf Sh. Ali Adow. The Electoral Committee developed the election policy, regulations, and procedures to guide the electoral process and ensure that it was transparent, fair, participatory, and accountable.

The election was attended by more than 70 participants, including 45 representatives from the 15 member OPDs and observers and civil society representatives. The process was supported by nine independent observers, who monitored the election and contributed to transparency and credibility. Volunteer support was also provided by university students, university representatives, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to assist with logistical and administrative arrangements. The participation of members, observers, and volunteers demonstrated broad ownership and collective support for SDN's democratic governance.

The election resulted in the establishment of the SDN leadership for the 2023–2024 term. Mr. Abdullahi Hussein Osman was elected Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Ms. Fartun Mohamed Elmi was elected Secretary, and Mr. Omar Abdi Omar was elected Chairperson of the Assembly. Following the completion of voting, counting, and verification, the Electoral Committee officially announced the results. Participants welcomed the results and applauded and congratulated the newly elected leadership.

The second-term election represented an important institutional milestone for SDN. The development of electoral legislation, policies, regulations, and procedures, together with the establishment of an independent Electoral Committee and independent observers, strengthened the Network's commitment to democratic governance and accountability. The process also demonstrated the importance of member participation and collective decision-making within the disability movement.

Through its governance structures and national OPD membership, SDN continues to serve as a collective voice for persons with disabilities in Somalia. Its vision is an inclusive Somalia where persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights, opportunities, dignity, and meaningful participation in society. Its mission is to unite and strengthen OPDs through advocacy, empowerment, capacity building, policy engagement, and partnerships to promote the rights, inclusion, and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities.

Overall, the SDN second-term election strengthened the Network's institutional foundation and established a legitimate leadership mandate for 2023–2024. It demonstrated SDN's commitment to democracy, transparency, accountability, member participation, institutional independence, and representative leadership, while reinforcing the collective role of OPDs in advancing disability rights and inclusion across Somalia.

Background

The Somali Disability Network (SDN) is a national consortium of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) working to promote the rights, inclusion, empowerment, and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in Somalia. SDN brings together 15 member organizations representing different disability groups and works collectively on advocacy, human rights, humanitarian assistance, education, rehabilitation, livelihoods, and social participation.

On 25 January 2023, SDN conducted its second-term leadership election through a transparent and participatory process involving its member organizations. The election provided an opportunity for members to exercise their right to choose their representatives and strengthen the governance and accountability of the network. The second leadership term covered the period 2023–2024.

The election was overseen by an independent five-member Electoral Committee and supported by nine observers to promote transparency, fairness, credibility, and compliance with the agreed election procedures. The process resulted in the election of Mr. Abdullahi Hussein Osman as Chairperson of the Board of Directors and Ms. Fartun Mohamed Elmi as Secretary, alongside other elected representatives. The successful election strengthened SDN's institutional leadership and its collective role in advancing disability rights and inclusion across Somalia.

Institutional Governance and Democratic Leadership

The Somali Disability Network (SDN) is a national disability network with one of the largest memberships of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Somalia. SDN provides a national platform for OPDs to work collectively on disability rights, advocacy, empowerment, inclusion, and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

SDN has an established democratic leadership system, with its leadership elected every two years in accordance with its organizational governance framework. The election process provides member OPDs with an opportunity to participate in selecting their representatives and ensures that the leadership has a clear and legitimate mandate from its members.

SDN operates under established by-laws, election regulations, policies, and accountability procedures that guide the governance and management of the Network. These institutional mechanisms define the roles and responsibilities of the leadership, Assembly, committees, and members, while promoting transparency, accountability, participation, and responsible decision-making.

Through its governance system, regular leadership elections, by-laws, and accountability procedures, SDN continues to strengthen its institutional credibility and ensure that the collective voice of its member OPDs is represented in national disability advocacy and policy processes.

Somali Disability Network (SDN)

Somali Disability Network (SDN) was established in 2020 as a national disability network and consortium of 15 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Somalia. SDN works to advance disability rights, advocacy, empowerment, inclusion, and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

SDN is governed through a democratic leadership system, with elections held every two years, and operates under established by-laws, election regulations, policies, and accountability procedures that promote transparency, participation, and good governance.

Vision

An inclusive Somalia where persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights, opportunities, dignity, and meaningful participation in society.

Mission

To unite and strengthen OPDs in Somalia through advocacy, empowerment, capacity building, policy engagement, and partnerships to promote the rights, inclusion, and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the election was to democratically elect an accountable, representative, and effective leadership for SDN for the 2023–2024 term and to strengthen the governance, unity, coordination, and collective representation of the 15 member OPDs in promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Somalia.

Specific Objectives

1. To elect the SDN Board of Directors and Assembly leadership for the 2023–2024 term.
2. To ensure meaningful participation of all 15 SDN member OPDs in the election process.
3. To promote democratic, transparent, fair, and accountable leadership within SDN.
4. To strengthen the representation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.
5. To provide members with an opportunity to participate in SDN decision-making and leadership selection.
6. To strengthen coordination, unity, and collaboration among the 15 member OPDs.
7. To implement the election in accordance with the SDN election legal framework, policy, and regulations.
8. To establish a legitimate and representative leadership capable of guiding SDN's programs and advocacy.
9. To strengthen SDN's institutional governance and accountability.
10. To promote confidence and ownership among member OPDs in the Network's leadership and decision-making processes.



Role of the SDN Electoral Committee

The five-member SDN Electoral Committee was established to organize, coordinate, manage, and supervise the second-term leadership election of the Somali Disability Network (SDN). The Committee was led by Mr. Yusuf Sh. Ali Adow, who was elected in December 2022 to coordinate and oversee the preparation and implementation of the election process leading to the January 2023 election.

Prior to the election, the SDN Assembly developed and approved the legal articles and framework governing the election in December 2022. These provisions established the procedures, responsibilities, eligibility requirements, and governance arrangements for conducting the election. Following the establishment of the electoral framework, the Electoral Committee developed the SDN Election Policy and Regulations to guide the practical implementation of the election and ensure that the process was transparent, fair, accountable, and participatory.

The Electoral Committee was responsible for preparing and coordinating the election process in accordance with the approved legal framework, election policy, and regulations. Its responsibilities included organizing the election, communicating the procedures to member

OPDs, coordinating nominations and voting, ensuring the participation of eligible representatives, supervising the voting and counting processes, documenting the proceedings, and resolving procedural matters that arose during the election. After completing the process and verifying the results, the Committee officially announced the elected leaders on 25 January 2023.

Through the establishment of a dedicated five-member Electoral Committee, the approval of the election legal framework by the Assembly, and the development of clear election regulations and policy, SDN strengthened the transparency, accountability, and credibility of its second-term leadership election.

Election Schedule and Results

Date/Period	Election Activity	Outcome
December 2022	SDN Assembly reviewed and approved the legal articles/framework governing the election.	Election legal framework established.
December 2022	The Electoral Committee was established, with Mr. Yusuf Sh. Ali Adow leading the five-member committee.	Electoral Committee mandated to coordinate and implement the election.
December 2022 – January 2023	The Electoral Committee prepared the election policy, regulations, procedures, nominations, and organizational arrangements.	Election process and procedures finalized.
January 2023	Member OPDs were coordinated and representatives confirmed for participation in the election.	45 representatives from 15 member OPDs prepared to participate.
25 January 2023	SDN Second-Term Leadership Election was conducted.	More than 70 participants attended, including 45 OPD representatives and observers/civil society representatives.
25 January 2023	Voting, counting, and verification of results were conducted under the	Election process completed successfully.

	supervision of the Electoral Committee.	
25 January 2023	Electoral Committee announced the final results.	New SDN Board of Directors and Assembly leadership elected.
2023–2024	New leadership assumed responsibility for SDN's second term.	Leadership mandate implemented for the 2023–2024 period.

Final Election Results

Elected Position	Elected Leader
Chairperson: Board of Directors	Mr. Abdullahi Hussein Osman
Secretary: Board of Directors	Ms. Fartun Mohamed Elmi
Chairperson: Assembly	Mr. Omar Abdi Omar



The End