

**FGC Communications Strategy**  
**FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Communication Strategy**  
**18 December 2015**

**Introduction**

The FGC was established in early 2014 by mutual agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), donors and international financial institutions (IFIs) to provide a forum for dialogue on strategic financial governance issues. By its composition, the FGC is a hybrid Somali-international body that has played a mixture of advisory, monitoring and catalytic roles. Through its international representatives, the FGC has provided the Federal Government access to independent technical advice on issues related to concessions and strategic procurement contracts, and asset recovery. The FGC has also provided a forum for monitoring and reporting on progress in these areas as well as banking and other aspects of public financial management.

The aim with this concerted communication strategy and tool box is to work towards strengthening the profile of the FGC as well as exploring the communications potential of the activities carried out, and the achievements and obstacles met. The strategy further seeks to use communications and information efforts to increase awareness of the FGC, its role and on strategic financial governance issues generally.

**2. Objective**

The FGC Communication Strategy aims at improving internal and external communications, both within the FGC and towards a wider audience of stakeholders involved in strategic financial governance issues.

**3. Current Communication & Circulation of FGC Outputs**

Currently FGC outputs (reports, notes and the like) are circulated to the SDRF through the FGS Aid Coordination Unit and by direct mail to various known institutional stakeholders. As the FGC is a creature of the SDRF, it is appropriate that SDRF continue to formally receive such outputs through the formal structures of the FGS.

However, while there is circulation of FGC outputs, there is no effective publication so that these outputs are available to civil society for consumption, information and comment. Various members of the SDRF and other known institutional stakeholders

may circulate FGC outputs to various civil society institutions; this is not sufficient or effective to publicize the FGC outputs.

#### 4. **Communication Requirements of FGC Terms of Reference**

The FGC Terms of Reference require the following:

In addition to briefings at the Financial Governance Forum, the FGC will provide regular face-to-face briefings to the following financial governance stakeholders:

- Briefings to the SDRF Steering Committee or Executive Committee;
- Briefings to the FGS Council of Ministers and/or relevant Cabinet sub-committees;
- Briefings to Somali accountability institutions (e.g. parliament, Auditor General) and other key financial governance stakeholders;
- Briefings to donors and international partners.

The FGC and/or FGC Secretariat will produce the following written outputs to communicate its work:

- *FGC meeting agenda* (including any items proposed for the agenda but not adopted) and minutes with actions agreed (FGC Secretariat, every 1-2 months, within one week of the FGC meeting)
- *Regular progress reports/updates*, including progress against FGC agenda items and against FGC actions (FGC Secretariat, every 2-3 months)
- *Topic-specific progress reports* on core FGC agenda items (FGC Member focal points, quarterly);
- *Advice/Opinions of FGC members* on specific financial governance issues (FGC Members, *ad hoc*, to introduce new items to the agenda or in cases when consensus is not reached between members).

These outputs will be shared with the FGS Council of Ministers, other state institutions and international partners. Reports will also be made publicly available on a dedicated website.

It is necessary that each of these communication requirements be addressed in order by this strategy.

#### 5. **Communication Requirements**

##### ***Briefings to the SDRF Steering Committee or Executive Committee***

This strategy requires that all

- *FGC meeting agendas* (including any items proposed for the agenda but not adopted) and minutes with actions agreed;
  - *Regular progress reports/updates*, including progress against FGC agenda items and against FGC actions;
  - *Topic-specific progress reports* on core FGC agenda items; and
  - *Advice/Opinions of FGC members* on specific financial governance issues
- be submitted to the SDRF Steering Committee.

*FGC meeting agendas* will be submitted to the SDRF Steering Committee as soon as they are circulated to FGC members. This means that the agendas will be submitted as they have been drafted by the FGC Secretariat, prior to adoption at the FGC so that the SDRF Steering Committee can seek the inclusion of matters not covered by the agenda.

*FGC minutes and actions agreed* submitted to the SDRF Steering Committee as soon as they are circulated to FGC members. This means that the minutes and actions agreed will be submitted as they have been drafted by the FGC Secretariat, prior to adoption at the FGC so that the SDRF Steering Committee is able to consider the minutes and actions agreed without delay. This is necessary in case there is a delay in the period between the FGC meetings.

*Topic-specific progress reports on core FGC agenda items* will be submitted to the SDRF Steering Committee as soon as they are approved by the FGC.

*Advice/Opinions of FGC members on specific financial governance issues* will be submitted to the SDRF Steering Committee after they have been circulated to all FGC members for comment, but without the requirement that they be adopted by the FGC. While the FGC operates usually on the basis of unanimous adoption, advice/opinions of individual FGC members on specific financial governance issues are individual advice and opinions and do not require unanimous adoption, but do require consideration by FGC members.

The FGC Secretariat shall cause enquiry to be made of the SDRF Steering Committee on each occasion that communication is made to the SDRF Steering Committee whether the SDRF Steering Committee requires a specific briefing on any matter contained within any of the communications.

The method of communication to the SDRF Steering Committee shall continue to be through the Aid Coordination Unit. In order that the Aid Coordination Unit is fully apprised of the authority by which the communication is requested, the FGC Chair will be copied all requests made by the FGC Secretariat to the Aid Coordination Unit for communication of matters to the SDRF Steering Committee.

***Briefings to the FGS Council of Ministers and/or relevant Cabinet sub-committees***

The same materials that are communicated to the SDRF Steering Committee shall be communicated at the same time to the FGS Council of Ministers and/or relevant Cabinet sub-committees.

The method of communication to the FGS Council of Ministers and/or relevant Cabinet sub-committees shall continue to be through the Minister of Finance, as Chair of the FGC. The Chair of the FGC will report to each FGC meeting on any matters arising from Council of Ministers and/or relevant Cabinet sub-committees on the communications submitted, including whether Council of Ministers and/or relevant Cabinet sub-committees require a face to face briefing on any matters.

***Briefings to Somali accountability institutions and other key financial governance stakeholders***

The same materials that are communicated to the SDRF Steering Committee shall be communicated at the same time to Somali accountability and other key financial governance stakeholders.

The key Somali accountability institutions are Parliament, the Budget and Finance Committee of Parliament and the Auditor General. The other key financial governance stakeholders are the Financial Governance Forum members, the PFM Working Group and the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group.

The method of communication to the key Somali accountability institutions and key financial governance stakeholders shall be through the Aid Coordination Unit. In order that the Aid Coordination Unit is fully apprised of the authority by which the communication is requested, the FGC Chair will be copied all requests made by the FGC Secretariat to the Aid Coordination Unit for communication of matters to key Somali accountability institutions and key financial governance stakeholders.

The FGC Secretariat will report to each FGC meeting on any matters arising from the key Somali accountability institutions and key financial governance stakeholders on the

communications submitted, including whether they require a face to face briefing on any matters.

### ***Briefings to other financial governance stakeholders – non-institutional***

It is difficult to identify all or all relevant non-institutional financial governance stakeholder in order that all receive relevant information. However, this is a necessary matter that must be addressed by the FGC.

As FGC outputs are published (see below), the FGC Secretariat will request the Aid Coordination Unit to advise all known Somali media outlets of the fact of the publication and request the media outlets to publish and otherwise inform civil society that all requests for briefing on any matter contained in the published material be directed to the FGC Secretariat (contact details will be given). On receipt of a request for a briefing from civil society, the FGC Secretariat will liaise the FGC Chair to determine the best method to respond to the request for briefing and the FGC Secretariat will make the necessary arrangements to implement the direction. The FGC Secretariat will attend any briefing and keep minutes of the briefing for submission to the FGC and for publication.

All requests for briefing from civil society and the actions taken as a result will be reported to the next FGC meeting by the FGC Secretariat.

### ***Briefings to donors and international partners***

Any donor or international partner may at any time request a briefing from the FGC on any matter within the mandate of the FGC. This will be advised by

- A notice published to that effect (see below);
- Through regular notices to the Financial Governance Forum members and the PFM Working Group.

On receipt of a request for a briefing from any donor or international partner, the FGC Secretariat will liaise the FGC Chair to determine the best method to respond to the request for briefing and the FGC Secretariat will make the necessary arrangements to implement the direction. The FGC Secretariat will attend any briefing and keep minutes of the briefing for submission to the FGC and for publication.

All requests for briefing from any donor or international partner and the actions taken as a result will be reported to the next FGC meeting by the FGC Secretariat.

## 6. Publication of FGC Outputs

It is not cost effective or appropriate to establish an FGC website as the FGC is an interim body. The Ministry of Finance has a website and as the Minister of Finance is the Chair of the FGC, this is the most likely place that a person seeking FGC information would look in first instance.

All FGC outputs are to be published on the Ministry of Finance website. These are

- A. *FGC meeting agendas* (including any items proposed for the agenda but not adopted) and minutes with actions agreed;
  - *Regular progress reports/updates*, including progress against FGC agenda items and against FGC actions;
  - *Topic-specific progress reports* on core FGC agenda items; and
  - *Advice/Opinions of FGC members* on specific financial governance issues.

Specifically, any written FGC output that is shared with the SDRF Executive Committee is to be published. For clarity, this will include all asset recovery update reports, all contracts and concession reports, all CBS and PFM governance reports and any strategy (including this strategy) adopted by the FGS.

For clarity, in respect of the contracts and concessions reports, the contracts and concessions and all supporting documents considered by the FGC will be published. No confidential assessment of the FGC will be published as these are commercially confidential documents, however, on the conclusion of the follow-up on a confidential assessment, the FGC may authorize the publication of redacted versions of the confidential assessment.

To facilitate the publication of FGC written outputs, the FGC Secretariat shall be granted administration rights to a discrete section of the MoF website that will be dedicated to FGC material and the FGC Secretariat will post material as it is available.

In respect of existing FGC written outputs, attached is a list of the documents that the FGC will immediately publish.

The FGC Secretariat will report to the FGC at each meeting on any documents that have been posted to the Ministry of Finance website. When any FGC documents are posted on the Ministry of Finance website, the FGC Secretariat will request the Aid Coordination Unit to advise all known Somali media outlets of the fact of the publication and request the media outlets to publish and otherwise inform civil society that all requests for briefing on any matter contained in the published material be directed to the

FGC Secretariat (contact details will be given) which will be dealt with in the manner detailed above.

The FGC will annually publish a high-quality report and presentation for wide circulation.

## **DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE FGC ON THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WEBSITE**

FGC Terms of Reference

FGC Priorities

FGC Work plan

List and contact details of all FGC members

All FGC reviews

Communication Strategy

All FGC Agendas, Minutes & Agreed Actions

All Periodic Asset Recovery Reports

Asset Recovery and Management Strategy

All CBS and PFM Period Reports

All Public Sector Contracts and Concessions: the FGC and the Confidential Assessments Reports

All contracts and concessions reviewed by FGC (the actual contracts and concessions and attachments)

Terms of Reference for INPB

Speaker's Notification on Procurement, INPB and FGS

Statement on Currency Reform