



The Independent  
Civil Society Organisations  
Coalition

## Profile

### **Introduction**

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019, independent civil society organisations signed a memorandum of understanding that will serve as the governing rules and regulations for the Independent Civil Society Organisations of Somaliland (ISCO Somaliland). The signatories represented diverse organisations across the country who are working on different issues including minority rights, youth, women rights, researches, democratisation, child rights, human rights advocacy and development.

The members of ISCO Somaliland share a common vision of engagement based on participation, transparency, accountability, inclusion, fairness and trust; using commonly agreed benchmarks, ISCO members will apply themselves to the most dynamic connotation of this vision. We affirm an engagement that is complementary in purpose, constructively critical in method and transparent in motive.

### **Principles and values**

- ❖ ISCO Somaliland shall always act in accordance for the best interest of democracy and civic space based on the constitutional principles and international standards.
- ❖ All member organisations shall cooperate on matters of common interest for enhancement of democracy and civic space;
- ❖ All member organisations shall work together through meaningful consultation and shall work towards enhancing accountability and transparency;
- ❖ All member organisations shall commit in sustaining an independent and vibrant network of civil society actors and groups that are responsive and accountable to the people;
- ❖ All member organisations shall respond to issues related to or affecting the democratisation process and civic space in a joint responsibility of all organisations;
- ❖ ISCO Somaliland shall remain politically nonpartisan;

## Responsibilities

- ❖ ISCO Somaliland shall be responsible for working towards enhancement of coordination and cooperation among civil society organisations;
- ❖ ISCO Somaliland shall formulate, publicise and advocate for common civil society positions in areas of democracy and civic space;
- ❖ Member organisation shall fully commit to the work of ISCO Somaliland and contribute to its activities;
- ❖ Member organisations shall defend and promote the position of the civil society;
- ❖ Member organisations shall refrain from engaging in partisan activities that promote an agenda for a political party.

## Secretariat

The member organisations elect a secretariat organisation. The secretariat organisation provides an office to ISCO Somaliland and assign at least one person to coordinate the activities. The main task of the secretariat organisation is to coordinate meetings, provide a venue for meetings, prepare and disseminate minutes, disseminate information sent by a member organisation to the wider network and other activities necessary for the work of the network and those asked by the member organisations or the Taskforce.

## Taskforce

Member organisations of ISCO Somaliland elect at least 7 member organisations to serve as Taskforce. The Taskforce coordinates activities and convene necessary meetings.

## Membership

Every civil society organisation based in Somaliland which is independent can be a member of ISCO Somaliland. A new organisation that is not a signatory of the original Memorandum of Understanding can become a member by writing an application addressed to the secretariat. The application should be accompanied by a commitment letter accepting the rules in the Memorandum of Understanding and adherence to the principles of independence and cooperation. The Secretariat shall submit the application to the Taskforce for approval.

### **Contact:**

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