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Statement on Border Demarcation by the participants of IG TWG consultation meeting:

Introduction:

When Puntland Government was established in 1998 it consisted 5 regions and 21 districts. At the moment Puntland consist 9 regions and 47 districts, all those newly approved and districts were not based the required criteria of the districts and regions but based only clan satisfaction with no borders.

Those newly approved districts were villages for previous districts while the newly regions were also districts for previous villages. Various problems which was not existing before were discovered caused by these newly approved districts and regions including:

- Neighboring communities are separated and each of them settled in a specific areas
- Conflicts of land ownership are also encountered
- disagreements of rural management of pasture and water wells increased
- These newly approved districts and regions are obstacle to the Puntland democratization process, community interactions, common sharing and development planning in those areas.
- It will have a negative impact on Puntland elections in 2019

PUNSAA Inclusive Governance Thematic Working Group (TWG) were conducted consultation meetings on districts and regions border demarcation for some of Puntland cities.

PUNSAA beliefs that this issue can't be ignored and it is necessary to discuss. The latest consultation meeting on districts and regions border demarcation was held here in Garowe on January 4 to 5, 2018. The participants of this consultation meeting were from Puntland Ministry of Interior (Moi) and the different sectors of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including; Intellectuals, religious leaders, elders, women organizations, youth associations, media and business people.

The meeting which was discussed in detail in the context of the boundaries between districts and regions and its negative contributions to the community, as participants presented events related to problems in the districts and regions of Puntland from the new districts and regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In order to resolve all problems, the meeting participants has been agreed:

PUNTLAND GOVERNMENT:

- Puntland ministry of interior (Mol) should develop data collection on the districts and regions to identify the areas where the border disputes are seriously affected
- Conduct awareness raising campaigns on the border demarcations of Puntland districts and regions
- Ministry of Interior should be responsible and accelerate border demarcation activities and stop the appointment of new districts and regions based on clan satisfaction.
- The participants of the consultation meeting proposes that the government establishes a policy and a clear planning on the limitation of the boundaries of the districts and regions of Puntland.
- Government to issue regulations that regulates districts and regions in Puntland based on the required criteria when nominating districts and regions.
- Puntland government should immediately appoint an independent commission to work on the boundaries composed of government and civil society organizations.
- Get the advice of the knowledgeable people for the borders of the former Somalia government and involve them the issue of Puntland border demarcation.
- Consultation meeting participants suggested that the community be made up of weapons, reconcile and register the population to achieve our goals.
- Continue consultation meetings on the Puntland districts and regions border demarcation issue.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs):

- Meeting participants suggested to the CSOs to provide their maximum support to their government in order to achieve this important activity on the border demarcation

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

- The conference calls on the international community to provide technical and financial support to the necessary activities of the border demarcation

END

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