

Through awareness-raising and advocacy.

The International Community including embassies are powerful allies in the UPR and can provide support and funding for CSOs activities. For example, encourage them to participate in country Pre-session that provide a platform for an increased number of CSOs to engage with advocacy at the UPR.

The pre-session is a broad consultation among national UPR stakeholders, prior to the review in Geneva.

In Geneva, fewer CSOs have the opportunity to speak in the Pre-session. I am a part of them and I am lucky, as I will participate in the pre-session on 25 and 26 March 2021 in Geneva.

I will address concerns and recommendations on the Economic and Social Rights:

The CSOs have urged the government to put in place legislative frameworks to address the lack of safe delivery, to invest in the capacity of medical professionals (both at public and private institutions) and to increase public health awareness to support more prevention. The CSOs have also advised the government to ensure that the vulnerable communities have better access to affordable health care and services, particularly those in rural areas. They have warned that health care should not become a service only for those with means.

The governments use of the security situation as a reason why the health and medical services in Somalia are so poor, is not sufficient nor credible, according to the CSOs. More can be done by the government, using the limited resources Somalia has at its disposal. The CSOs state that this is unacceptable and that the government should seriously re-evaluate its priorities in the area of health care.

Recommendations: First, number one:

- The government should provide access to free health care, particularly for those most vulnerable in society
- Healthcare professionals should be qualified, those without medical license should not be allowed to treat patients and should be liable to prosecution if they do so.

Two, right to education

- The government needs a long-term plan to battle illiteracy in Somalia by providing free primary school education for all
- Invest in teachers by strengthening their capacities and offering better wages

Number three: right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

- Raise awareness and have policies in place to tackle sexual harassment and exploitation in the

workplace

- Economic empowerment of women, especially IDPs, those from marginalized communities and persons with disabilities

Thank you.