

Somalia



1. **Constitution?** Draft constitution. Latest version: 20 February 1995. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: No.²

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.³
- i) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a. Women's participation:

- i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
- ii) Work as lawyers? ndf.
- iii) Judges? ndf.
- iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.⁵

c) Family law:

- i) Codified (draft, 1975), religious-based.⁶
- ii) Recent change? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**⁷

- i) Right to vote? ndf.
- ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? ndf.
- iii) Number of women in parliament: ndf.
- iv) Women in the cabinet? ndf.

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: ndf.
 - i) In which sectors? ndf.
 - ii) Heads of government departments? ndf.
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: ndf.

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

- a) National Council of Women? ndf.

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? ndf.

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.⁸

8. **Education:**

a) Adult female/male literacy rates: ndf.

b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 7/13%; secondary level 4/8%; tertiary level 1/4 % (1995).⁹

c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: ndf.

9. **The economy:**

a) Female economic activity rate: ndf.

b) Economic rights:

- i) To ownership of property? ndf.
- ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.
- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names: ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

- i) Life expectancy: ndf.
- ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 20.1 years (1980-90).¹⁰
- iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: ndf.

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? ndf.
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes.¹¹

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.¹²

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. **Culture:**

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. http://www.civicwebs.com/cwvlib/africa/somalia/1995/reunification/appendix_1.htm & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/somalia/constitution.html>
2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm>
3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.
4. Ibid., p 195.
5. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/nea/8296.htm>
6. The FLC of 1975 aimed to suppress customary law; civil courts have jurisdiction over cases arising from *shar'ia*: www.law.emory etc)
7. In 2000, all of the Somali clans met in Djibouti and devised a transition government. Women were to hold 25 seats in the 245-member Transitional National Assembly. Seats in the Assembly were distributed to provide parity between competing clans. Each of the four major clans was represented by five women, while the

five remaining women were from minor clans. These women have formed a bloc to represent female interests across clan lines: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/somalia/gender.html>

8. The Voice of Somali Women for Peace, Reconciliation and Political Rights: <http://www.undppogar.org/countries/somalia/gender.html>

9. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").

10. Cultural Context: Demography and Health, UNESCO.

11. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>

12. FGM is a near-universal practice, estimated to reach 98%. Infibulation, the most harmful form of FGM, is practised. It was banned in 1991, and remains illegal under the Penal Code; however, the law is not enforced: http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/somalia_women.htm

Sudan



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: 1 July 1998. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.
3. **International resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: No.²
 - b) ILO Conventions:
 - i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: No.³
 - ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁴
4. **Legal system:**
 - a. Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? ndf.
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁵
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁶
 - iv) Number of women judges: 67 out of 800. Five women sit in the High Court.⁷

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.

- c) Family law:
 - i) Codified (1991), religious-based.⁸
 - ii) Recent change? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? Yes (1964).⁹
 - ii) Stand for election (national and municipal levels)? Yes.¹⁰
 - iii) Percentage of women in parliament 9.7% (lower house).¹¹
 - iv) Women in the cabinet? Yes.¹²

6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹³
 - i) In which sectors? The diplomatic corps, the civil service, senior posts in police and army.¹⁴
 - ii) Heads of government departments: 2.1% of women employed in government occupied ministerial levels (2000).¹⁵
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: There is a Women's Policy Unit within the Ministry of Social Planning. Many ministries, corporations, and institutes of higher education have women's development units.¹⁶

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? ndf.¹⁷

b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁸

c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.¹⁹

8. **Education:**
 - a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 46.3/69.5%.²⁰
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 51/60%; secondary level 28/30%; tertiary level 7/8%.²¹
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 68% of primary school teachers, and 57% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²²

9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 34.8%.²³
 - b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? ndf.
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? ndf.

- iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
- iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: ndf.

10. **Health:**
 - a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 57.4/54.6 years.²⁴
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 18.7 years (1980-90).²⁵
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 550 per 100, 000 births (1985- 99).²⁶

- b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.²⁷
 - ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.²⁸

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.²⁹

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

11. **Culture:**
 - a. Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁰
 - b. Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Articles 15 & 2: <http://www.sudan.net/government/constitution/english.html>
2. <http://www.womenstreaty.org/facts.htm>
3. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 195.
4. Ibid., p 195.
5. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html> & <http://www.pogar.org/countries/sudan/index.html>
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Because of Sudan's religious heterogeneity, the Constitution does not proclaim Islam as state religion, but as religion of the majority of the population. <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/index2.html>
9. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR. p 194.
10. Ibid., p 194.
11. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
12. There have been women ministers in Sudanese governments since the early 1970s, holding portfolios such as health, social welfare, public service and manpower, and cabinet affairs: <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html> & <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/sudan/gender.html>
13. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
14. Ibid. This source reports that there are women major-generals in the police, and women are numerous in the army.
15. An Advisor on Women's Affairs (cabinet-level) was appointed in 2000. There is also an Advisor for Women's Affairs in the Southern States' Coordinating Council: United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York:

- Oxford University Press & <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
16. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
17. Ibid. The Sudanese Women's General Union is an officially recognized women's organization.
18. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing/national/natplans.htm>
19. Eg. The Democratic Women's Alliance, and the Sudan Women's Association: <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>
20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
21. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles").
22. Ibid.
23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. Ibid.
25. Cultural Context: Demography and Health, UNESCO.
26. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
27. http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/IPPF_CountryProfile.asp
28. Only if to save the life of the mother, or if the unborn child has defects: <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
29. 89% of northern Sudanese women practise FGM. The number is much less in the south. A 1946 Penal Code prohibited infibulation, but permitted the less radical form of FGM. In 1991, the government affirmed its commitment to eradicate FGM, but the 1993 Penal Code leaves this unclear: International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1999.
30. <http://www.saveaslave.com/articles/sudanwomen.html>