



Press Release

MEC Releases a Special Report on Vulnerabilities to Corruption in the Attorney General's Office

Kabul, Afghanistan. July 19, 2017. The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) releases its "Special Report on Vulnerabilities to Corruption in the Attorney General's Office (AGO)."

MEC recognizes that the Attorney General has begun to implement a number of positive changes to address past deficiencies; the establishment of the ACJC is one of the positive examples of these efforts. However, there is lot more to be done to ensure effectiveness and integrity of the AGO.

MEC has identified several areas that are vulnerable to corruption. The Special Report found bribery and interference as the two main forms of corruption, not as previously, prevalent in the AGO. The findings of the Report also indicated that lack of ideal cooperation, despite the existence of a MoU between the police and AGO functions, raised challenges toward mutual collaboration between the two institutions. Additionally, there are concerns about the transparency regarding the outcome of many cases referred to the AGO and transfer of cases between districts. The new leadership of AGO has developed a mechanism which has decreased corruption to an extent.

In addition, the current case management system practices in the AGO makes it difficult to track cases, which results in discrepancies between the statistics of cases provided by AGO and the courts. The Report highlights that prosecutors lack proper equipment, buildings and facilities, and they often lack the capacity to investigate cases, and they prepare indictments based on weak evidence. According to the Report, they are sometimes not present in court and are often not prepared, proceed with incomplete documents, or make vague arguments.

Some police and investigation prosecutors use detention and imprisonment as a tool to extract bribes. Although interference in the recruitment process still exists, the AGO developed a recruitment mechanism to prevent illegal interference.

This Special Report of the AGO was initiated in October 2016. The data collection consists of over 230 interviews in Kabul and a number of provinces with AGO officials, law enforcement officials, defense attorneys, end users, legal aid providers, legal educators, and detention centers. In the Report, MEC issued 51 recommendations in different areas of the AGO, including appointment and performance management, cooperation and case management, investigation



کمیته مستقل مشترک نظارت و ارزیابی مبارزه علیه فساد اداری
د اداری فساد پر وړاندې د مبارزې د څارنې او ارزونې خپلواکه گډه کمیته
Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

and court proceedings as well as organizational reform, planning, and budgeting in an effort to institute genuine reform and substantially reduce corruption.

The initiatives of H.E. Hamidi, the Attorney General, offer an opportunity to pursue the reform that is required to strengthen the AGO's ability to address crime and fight corruption. Since his appointment in April 2016, the reforms in the AGO include replacement of several senior officials, listening directly to the complaints by the public, increasing salaries of prosecutors, improving monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including conducting provincial visits and installing public complaint boxes in Kabul. He has also expelled prosecutors and administrative staff on charges of bribery, recruited qualified female prosecutors and staff through a competitive process, and signed MoUs with a number of government institutions for improved coordination. MEC is pleased to support the AGO on this path by identifying the areas most vulnerable to corruption, specifying the measures to close these gaps and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

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