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Independent Joint Anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Press Release

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**Quarterly Monitoring Report: 16 Anti-Corruption Recommendations Have Been Fully Implemented in the Education Sector**

Kabul, Afghanistan – June 25, 2018:

Within the first quarter of monitoring the implementation of MEC anti-corruption recommendations, efforts and proposed reforms in the education sector, 16 out of the total 113 recommendations are considered to be fully implemented.

Much of the progress is in teacher recruitment at the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), as well as at the Ministry of Education (MoE). The achievements include transparency measures such as announcing all positions through the IARCSC website, receiving online applications, digitalizing recruitment, and announcing the list of applicants and shortlisted candidates.

In addition, a detailed Reform Plan for restructuring various elements of the MoE clearly outlines the successful changes and ongoing implementation progress of MEC's recommendation in regard to reducing the size of the Ministry for the purpose of better management. These accomplishments include shifting responsibility of rural schools construction to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MoRRD) and that of urban schools to the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). Furthermore, a Presidential Decree dictated that the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program be removed from the MoE structure with formation of an Independent TVET Board.

The MoE has also implemented a major milestone with regard to guaranteeing a wide net of female participation within the country's education system by allocating half of the 8,000 vacant teachers positions to female candidates. Additionally, this quarter, the MoE has revised the curriculum framework, including specification that the number of textbooks for each grade would be reduced and has also made substantial progress with revision of policies, documents and regulations that will help improve the education sector.

In this reporting period, 12 diverse recommendations were achieved up to 50 percent, 5 recommendations were achieved up to 25 percent, and work and/or study has started on other 38 MEC Recommendations. However, 31 recommendations are still considered pending while no action was identified on the remaining 13 recommendations.

The MEC released its Ministry-wide Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment of the Ministry of Education on October 26, 2017. Based on findings from this Assessment, MEC identified key areas of vulnerability to corruption and issued 66 recommendations for improving different aspects of education and bringing much needed reform to the sector and the MoE. These were subsequently refined into 113 more specific recommendations.