

1. Background and Summary of the Report

His Excellency the Attorney General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan invited MEC to carry out a Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment (VCA) in the Attorney General's Office (AGO). The practical work on the assessment started in October 2016. The main purpose of this VCA was to identify the vulnerability factors of corruption and recommend reforms and changes to reduce risks of corruption in the AGO. In July, 2017 MEC released its *Special Report: Vulnerabilities to Corruption in the Afghan Attorney General's Office*. The Report included 51 recommendations for improving the transparency. MEC is monitoring implementation of the recommendations for 24 months. Reports of implementation of the recommendations of this VCA will be provided Quarterly, with this report being the second one.

A remarkable outcome after the issuance of this Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment in the AGO has been the firm commitment of the leadership of the AGO and other stakeholders to support implementation of the recommendations.

Observations of the MEC monitoring team this Quarter indicate remarkable improvements in the implementation of recommendations compared to the First Quarter. Currently, out of 51 total recommendations, 16 recommendations were completely implemented, 23 recommendations were partially implemented, 11 recommendations were implemented to a limited degree, and one recommendation was not implemented at all. These striking improvements of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations since the First Quarter indicate reforms are underway at the AGO. The actions and reforms are as follows:

- Conducting comprehensive training programs including establishing the Directorate of Professional Trainings, Taking action to avoid conflict of interest among prosecutors,
- Preparation of job descriptions for all prosecutors,
- *Tashkiel* reforms, Ratification of Annex Number Two of the Criminal Prosecution Code regarding implementing exchanges for imprisonment and detention,
- Expanding activity at the Directorate of Monitoring Oversight of Jails to avoid illegal and unnecessary detentions,
- Signing a joint MoU among the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the AGO for effective combatting of administrative corruption crimes in the security and defense sectors of the country,
- Opening a reception and information center,
- Involvement of Provincial Appellate Prosecution in planning and budgeting,
- Improvement of necessary monitoring over prosecutors' performance,
- Signing construction contracts of Appellate Prosecution Offices in Kapisa, Laghman, Daikundi and Khost Provinces,
- On-going construction of AG's offices in Kandahar, Logar, and Urozgan Provinces and Aghche District of Jowzjan,
- Construction of an AG's Office for Istalef District of Kabul is planned for the year 2018.

Other Ministries and rule of law related institutions including the Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) and National Legal Training Center (NLTC), showed interest and preparation to implement MEC's

recommendations. The entities also shared updates regarding implementation of the Committee's recommendations.