



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

B A C K G R O U N D E R

MEC provides latest assessment of the fight against corruption in Afghanistan

MEC (Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee) was established to independently monitor national and international efforts to fight corruption in Afghanistan

- MEC develops anti-corruption recommendations and benchmarks, which are monitored to ensure that they are effectively implemented.
- MEC monitors and evaluates national and international anti-corruption efforts.
- MEC is comprised of three national and three international senior anti-corruption experts.
- MEC reports to the public, parliament, the president and the international community every six months.

In the past months MEC monitored the implementation of its recommendations

- MEC has continued to monitor the implementation of the Kabul Bank recommendations. Although Kabul Bank receivership has made some progress in receiving money from the sale of the recovered assets, there has not been a serious effort to recover money that was laundered internationally. The Government and the international Community must make a stronger effort to recover the international funds. Furthermore the proceedings at the Court of Appeal could be strengthened if the Court chooses to rehear the evidence.
- MEC's recommendations led to a review of UNHCR financial and administrative practices. UNHCR recommendations related to double salary payments and secondary accounts have shown progress and UNHCR has started to review its financial and administrative practices.
- MEC issued two recommendations to the IEC regarding methods to ensure that unethical employees are not recruited and to enhance the registration of voters in insecure areas. IEC developed a fraud mitigation strategy, which will be closely monitored by MEC.
- The resolution of National Military Hospital related issues continues to be prolonged. MEC is concerned about the ineffectiveness of the various investigations, the lack of cooperation between national and international institutions and weak prosecution, despite the multiple hearings at the Anti-Corruption Court.



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Since its existence MEC has developed more than one hundred recommendations and benchmarks

- MEC has issued 110 recommendations in the areas of governance, prevention and law enforcement affecting a variety of government and international institutions.
- Recommendations are based on extensive research and consultation with clearly articulated problems and policy goals.
- In March 2013 MEC released its 5th set of recommendations and benchmarks with a wide variety of government ministries and institutions; the international community; civil society; and academics. There have been already some positive steps taken in its implementation; however a few have been essentially ignored.

Furthermore MEC has issued reports on special issues such as the Kabul Bank case and anti-corruption related articles of Presidential Decree 45 and the Committee has conducted nine missions to Afghanistan.

- MEC monitored the implementation of 38 anti-corruption-related articles of the Presidential Decree 45.
- MEC has initiated several vulnerability to corruption assessments and has completed draft reports in the areas of land distribution to repatriates; the examination processes in the institutions of higher education; and certificates for graduate students.
- As part of its mandate, the Committee holds quarterly missions to Afghanistan. During their missions the Committee meets representatives of government and international institutions, conducts outreach sessions with civil society organizations and visits to provinces, and approves new recommendations and benchmarks. To date, the Committee has conducted nine missions to Afghanistan.

MEC has conducted several outreach visits to provinces

- During its last mission in May – June, the Committee visited Bamyán Province and met with Provincial, the Chief Prosecutor, the Head of the Anti-Corruption Tribunal, CSOs, members of the Provincial Council, and the Community Council of Haji Gak.
- Members of MEC Secretariat conducted consultations in Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Kunar to conduct regional consultations and follow up MEC's recommendations.
- MEC acts as a key facilitator and coordinator among actors in the fight against corruption in Afghanistan. MEC has initiated stakeholder working groups to identify corruption issues and solutions. To date MEC has met over one hundred individuals from over one hundred government institutions and civil society organizations, as well as the international community.



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MEC will give an independent perspective on a variety of other legislative and programmatic issues such as the Anti-Corruption Law, Anti Money Laundering Law and a draft public inquiry act on land usurpation

- MEC reviewed the Anti-Corruption Law and gives recommendations how to improve the law.
- MEC is reviewing the Anti Money Laundering Law and will advise how to improve the law.
- MEC decided to conduct a public inquiry into the land usurpation issue and give recommendations how to address shortcomings that may have occurred.

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