



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

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

**National and international institutions have made some progress in implementing MEC's recommendations, but a lot more needs to be done to fight corruption**

*The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) 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 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.

*To date, MEC has developed and monitored 74 anti-corruption recommendations in aimed at strengthening the justice sector's response to corruption, and enhancing accountability for development funds, among other areas*

- MEC has issued 74 recommendations in the areas of governance, prevention and law enforcement affecting a variety of government and international institutions.
- Recent results of MEC's monitoring and evaluation efforts reveal that 78% of MEC's recommendations have been fully (20%) or partially implemented (58%), with the remaining 22% not being implemented.

*The Afghan government has generally been responsive to MEC's recommendations*

- Examples of the most responsive ministries include the Ministry of Mines which recently published the vast majority of mining contracts in Afghanistan and retained experienced lawyers to assist in the negotiation of future contracts.
- Additionally, the Ministry of Finance has made several efforts to introduce measures to strengthen accountability of development funding.

*However, there has been a lack of progress in some important areas, including the coordination of anti-corruption efforts and the lack of cooperation from some international institutions*

- The justice sector and the High Office of Oversight have not had the same success registered in other areas by the government. The AGO has not prioritized the initiatives that have been identified under MEC's recommendations and benchmarks and many of MEC's recommendations for government coordination and public awareness have not been fully implemented.



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- The international community has also showed reluctance in registering their development projects with the Ministry of Finance as well as the verification of tax-exempted goods imported into the country under military agreements.
- The most prevalent inhibitors to success are political will and prioritization within some implementing institutions and the international community. Other factors include the institutional understanding of recommendations and the capacity to implement them.

### *MEC has had other significant achievements during the recent reporting period*

- MEC completed a public inquiry into the Kabul Bank crisis in November 2012, which considered extensive documentary evidence and interviews. The report included 48 recommendations directed at a number of government institutions.
- MEC monitored the implementation of 38 anti-corruption-related articles of the Presidential Decree 45. MEC will release its evaluation in the coming days.
- 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.

### *MEC has also released its 5<sup>th</sup> set of recommendations containing 36 new recommendations for the Afghan Government and international community to fight corruption*

- The 36 recommendations and benchmarks have been developed during MEC's most recent meetings to address policy gaps that exist in the national or international effort to fight corruption.
- More specifically, the recommendations are aimed at increasing aid effectiveness, preventing impunity, ensuring transparency in elections, preventing corruption in infrastructure projects and combating land usurpation.
- Recommendations are based on extensive research and consultation with clearly articulated problems and policy goals. In developing the 5<sup>th</sup> set of recommendations, MEC met with a wide variety of government ministries and institutions; the international community; civil society; and academics.

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