



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

NEWS RELEASE

MEC calls on Parliament to amend the *Minerals Law* to enhance accountability and issues recommendations for improved oversight of mining revenues

KABUL, Afghanistan, October 21, 2013 – MEC is calling on the National Assembly to improve to the *Minerals Law* to better protect the mining sector against corruption. MEC has written a letter to the National Assembly, calling on legislators to strengthen certain provisions to further promote transparency and accountability and to expedite the approval of the law.

MEC recently conducted a review of the regulatory framework established by the draft *Minerals Law*. The draft law contains many important improvements in terms of attracting investors as well as increasing transparency and accountability. However, more needs to be done to protect revenues and allow Afghanistan to profit from its natural resources. For example there are very few details on the royalty regime, transparency and accountability mechanisms could be clarified and expanded and community engagement should be enhanced.

Furthermore, MEC has issued a recommendation to the Multi-Stakeholder Group, which oversees Afghanistan's compliance with the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) standards, to improve the oversight of mining revenues in the country. This should be done by expanding the scope of revenue that must be reported to the Afghanistan EITI.

Mr. Yasin Osmani, MEC's current Chair, stated:

Preventing corruption in the mining sector is crucial for the economic development of Afghanistan. For this reason MEC as the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan reviewed the draft *Minerals Law* and calls on Parliament to ensure that the law contains the necessary provisions to protect the mining sector from corruption.

MEC is already monitoring the implementation of six of its recommendations and two articles of Presidential Decree 45 related to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the extractives sector. The articles cover a range of issues, including the development of policies, building oversight capacity, the incorporation of anti-corruption mechanisms into existing procedures, and increasing the transparency of the Ministry. MEC will continue to monitor the progress of the new law and the extractives sector in general.

For more information contact the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee +93 (0) 798 750 527 contact@mec.af www.mec.af photos of the Committee available for download: www.flickr.com/photos/mec123/