



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

NEWS RELEASE

**MEC welcomes Presidential Candidates' Anti-Corruption Pledge
and renews call for stronger action from other stakeholders**

KABUL, Afghanistan, December 9, 2013 – MEC marked *International Anti-Corruption Day* by participating in many anti-corruption events around Kabul hosted by key stakeholders. The Committee was pleased to witness several presidential candidates sign an anti-corruption pledge and will continue to monitor those commitments.

MEC is renewing its call on the broader Afghan government and international community to increase their focus on the fight against corruption.

MEC is taking its role as the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan seriously and continues to monitor the effectiveness of the anti-corruption efforts and give an independent perspective on a variety of other legislative and programmatic issues.

Over the past year MEC has issued dozens of recommendations highlighting the need for reform in a variety of areas. Since its inception MEC has developed and is monitoring more than hundred recommendations and benchmarks addressing policy gaps that exist in the national and international efforts to fight corruption. Furthermore MEC published four Six-Month reports, one report on Presidential Decree 45, one report on Kabul Bank and conducted five Vulnerability to Corruption Assessments.

Mr. Drago Kos, MEC's current Chair, stated:

Corruption is preventing Afghanistan's progress in all areas which has to be addressed through identifying causes to effectively fight corruption. Carrying out reforms against corruption is the task of Afghan government institutions and international bodies. MEC's role is to help this process by holding them to account by monitoring the implementation of its recommendations.

Since the passage of the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*, *International Anti-Corruption Day* takes place every year on December 9. The purpose is to raise awareness about corruption and promote integrity.

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Photos of the Committee available for download: www.flickr.com/photos/mec123/**