



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

NEWS RELEASE

MEC Asks for Amendments to the New *Anti-Money Laundering Law*

KABUL, Afghanistan, June 3, 2014 – MEC welcomed the submission of the *Anti-Money Laundering Law* to the National Assembly by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, however significant changes are needed to turn it into an effective instrument against corruption.

The proposed law allows for the confiscation of money and assets, criminalizes money laundering, and applies preventive measures for the financial sector and other designated sectors in the fight against money laundering.

As the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan, MEC has conducted a review of the law and has submitted a letter to the National Assembly requesting significant changes to further strengthen the law and calling for quick consideration and passage.

Among other changes, MEC requests strengthening the operational independence of the Financial Intelligence Unit and enhancing cooperation among national law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Currently, the lack of coordination between the government authorities and the absence of coordinated policies hinder the efforts to address money laundering.

MEC would also welcome stronger provisions on special investigative techniques and a clearer role of FinTRACA in the fight against money laundering.

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

A new Anti-Money Laundering Law would be an important step in the fight against corruption. We are calling on the National Assembly to include the amendments proposed by MEC and quickly pass the law. We stand ready to provide a detailed assessment to the National Assembly as it considers the law.

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