



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

NEWS RELEASE

**Afghanistan Loses a Substantial Amount of its Revenue due to
Ineffective Customs Control**

KABUL, Afghanistan, June 10, 2014 – MEC – as the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan – observed that many goods entering Afghanistan are not properly registered causing a negative impact on Afghanistan’s customs revenue. In response, MEC is issuing recommendations to reduce opportunities for corruption at the borders.

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

Afghanistan loses a substantial amount of revenue due to corruption and smuggling at its borders. MEC’s recommendations will help to reduce corruption and increase government revenues.

Available information indicates that there is a discrepancy of approximately \$1.5 billion in goods entering Afghanistan versus what was actually registered by the Afghanistan Custom Department in 2012. Influential individuals and groups, as well as officials within the Afghanistan Customs Department, have contributed to the portion of unregistered goods by engaging in corruption, smuggling and other illegal activities at the borders.

Although there are legal requirements and procedures for presenting and verifying goods, reports indicate that goods are not being effectively registered, presented and verified by customs officials. The lack of sharing import / export data amongst customs departments of countries bordering Afghanistan has made it difficult to verify that goods are being registered properly, and some brokers enter false data to misguide the system into selecting specific representatives for customs verification purposes.

MEC recommends implementing cross verification of customs data with Pakistan to fill gaps in the system, reduce opportunities for corruption and increase the government’s revenue. Additionally the Afghanistan Customs Department should develop a technological mechanism to ensure that data entered into the system by customs brokers and verified by customs officials is accurate; and reassess activities of brokers involved in customs proceedings and create a blacklist of those found to be abusing the system.

MEC will monitor the effective implementation of its recommendations to reduce opportunities for corruption and increase government revenues.

**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/**