



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

NEWS RELEASE

**IEC must develop campaign financing regulations to ensure that
candidates do not run illegal campaigns**

KABUL, Afghanistan, November 4, 2013 – Reports from past elections in Afghanistan have raised concerns that the 2014 Presidential election is vulnerable to corruption and fraud, including the use of government resources and illicit financing of political campaigns.

In response, MEC has issued recommendations calling on the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Ministry of Finance to work with the High Office of Oversight to monitor and verify the financing and expenditures of candidates and political parties in the upcoming elections.

MEC is also calling on the IEC to ensure that polling officials are properly trained to mitigate fraudulent activity noted in past elections.

MEC's recent review identified monitoring gaps that create opportunities for corruption and fraud, including the abuse of official positions or government resources. An effective regime to register and verify all income sources for parties and candidates, and to monitor expenses, is essential in mitigating the potential for abuse. However, it is unclear how the IEC and Ministry of Finance intend to regulate and monitor election campaign financing and expenditures.

The IEC should set requirements for candidates to register their assets and expenditures to increase transparency in the elections. In addition, the IEC and the Ministry of Finance should respectively verify the source of income and assets of candidates and parties in cooperation with the High Office of Oversight.

The past Presidential election also faced allegations of widespread ballot stuffing, intimidation and other electoral fraud. Although the IEC has initiated a fraud mitigation strategy, it needs to enhance the training and monitoring of polling station staff to mitigate against past abuses.

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

The general environment of corruption and conduct of past elections in Afghanistan raises concerns that future elections are susceptible to corruption and fraud. For this reason, MEC as the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan asks the IEC to increase transparency in the election campaign financing by implementing a mechanism to register, verify and monitor campaign expenditures.

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