



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

NEWS RELEASE

**Afghanistan's ranking in the *Corruption Perception Index*
highlights the need for MEC's recommendations to be effectively
implemented**

KABUL, Afghanistan, December 4, 2013 – Afghanistan is again perceived as one of the most corrupt countries according to Transparency International's *Corruption Perception Index*. Effective implementation of MEC's anti-corruption recommendations could have helped Afghanistan's performance in this year's index and MEC is calling on the government to quickly move forward with the implementation of outstanding recommendations.

The surveys underlying the *Corruption Perception Index* score for Afghanistan measure expert perceptions regarding the prosecution and penalization of public officeholders who abuse their positions, corruption affecting businesses in Afghanistan, accountability of the executive and public employees, access to information and state capture.

As the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan, MEC has issued several recommendations addressing these critical points over the past years. These include recommendations to pass the *Access to Information Law*, to include anti-corruption considerations in the government's *Doing Business Action Plan* and to enhance accountability in the justice sector.

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

Many of the underlying issues affecting the *Corruption Perception Index* score are consistent with concerns raised by MEC. Afghanistan could have scored higher if the government effectively implemented MEC's recommendations. MEC is again calling on the government to implement all of its recommendations – particularly those related to justice and governance – to effectively fight corruption.

Transparency International published its annual *Corruption Perception Index* on December 3. The Index scores 177 countries based on at least 3 of 13 perception surveys, which are weighted and averaged. The underlying surveys are perceptions based only and do not measure actual corruption. Afghanistan was ranked 175 (from 177) and scored 8 points, on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). This means that Afghanistan is – as last year – together with Somalia and North Korea in the last position, being perceived as one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

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