



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

## **NEWS RELEASE: MEC Announces New Recommendations Aimed at Improving the Afghan Government's UNCAC Self-Assessment**

(February 15, 2015) After extensive study, today MEC is releasing two new recommendations on the self-assessment that the High Office of Oversight (HOO) conducted of Afghanistan's compliance with the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Afghanistan became a signatory to the UNCAC in 2004 and ratified it in 2008. Consequently, as a State Party to the Convention, the Afghan government is required to comply with its provisions and conduct a two-phase review of their implementation. The previous government entrusted this crucial task to HOO. Unfortunately, HOO's assessment of Afghanistan's compliance with the UNCAC is deficient in myriad ways.

For example, instead of analyzing the relationships between existing Afghan laws and the UNCAC, the version of the report that HOO provided to MEC relied on perfunctory assertions to "prove" that Afghanistan was in compliance with the Convention. Moreover, HOO failed to specifically address questions about whether the Afghan legal code and justice system are capable of adequately responding to and prosecuting corruption-related offenses. In too many instances, HOO cited a particular—and, often, irrelevant—Afghan law or regulation, declaring that its mere existence was sufficient to satisfy UNCAC's requirements.

Therefore, to address the manifest inadequacies of HOO's self-assessment report, MEC is recommending that the new government:

- (1) conduct a comprehensive review of the first-phase of the self-assessment to evaluate accurately its gaps and weaknesses; and
- (2) designate a more competent agency to oversee the second phase of the self-assessment, which is slated to begin this year.

In its current form, the self-assessment provides scant insight into the efficacy of Afghanistan's anti-corruption regime. HOO's superficial, incomplete, and often misleading report represents a missed opportunity for the Afghan government to evaluate its legal and institutional anti-corruption framework. By adopting MEC's two new recommendations, the government can take a positive step towards ensuring that the UNCAC review process serves its intended goals and becomes a useful tool for policy makers in the future.

MEC will provide an update on the status of the implementation of these recommendations in its next Six-Month Report, which is scheduled to be published next month.

**For further information, please direct all inquiries to [contact@mec.af](mailto:contact@mec.af). For more information on MEC, please our website ([www.mec.af](http://www.mec.af)) or our Facebook page ([mec.afghanistan](https://www.facebook.com/mec.afghanistan)).**