



A Joint Press Release

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CSOs Concerns on Preparation's for Next Elections and the Electoral Reforms

Afghan Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are very concerned about the processes of Electoral Reforms and preparations for upcoming Elections, pointing to the below factors:

- Draft proposals of the Special Electoral Reforms Commission's or SERC on the amendment of Electoral laws, Selection Committee, Independency of the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), voting system and other issues have been ignored by the National Unity Government.
- The Electoral Law was amended by Government without consulting CSOs, Political Parties and other relevant stakeholders that is why now it constitutes obvious flaws.
- The Selection process of Commissioners for the Electoral Commissions carried non-transparently under the influence of political groups. Eligible individuals were not allowed to make their way to (EMBs).
- Differences among the Election commissioners on appointing senior Secretariat Staff of both Election Bodies have declined its credibility at the eyes of people.
- No progress has been made in implementing important programs such as preparing voter's list, balancing polling stations, splitting electoral constituencies and public awareness programs.
- To date, no consultation is carried with political parties, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders on creating a political consensus in relation to Electoral reforms and getting readiness for upcoming Parliamentary and District Councils' Elections.

Given the above reasons, CSOs propose below suggestions:

- ✓ Consultations should be carried with Political Parties on establishing a Political Consensus as soon as possible.
- ✓ A joint delegation, comprising representatives from Government, Political Parties, CSOs and Media Outlets should be created to evaluate the Electoral Reforms and share its viewpoints on the flaws with Government.
- ✓ The Government should determine the fate of both Secretariat's of Election Bodies as soon as possible.
- ✓ The process of preparations for the voters' registration, balancing polling centers and fixing a timeframe for Elections should be implemented as soon as possible. The

distribution process of electronic identity cards should be launched by the Population Registration Department in attempt to support and strengthen voter's registration.

- ✓ The fate of drafting Electoral Constituencies which was halted at the Government cabinet is required to be determined and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance should provide necessary assistance to (IEC) in determining district's borders.
- ✓ Security Entities should provide a comprehensive plan to ensure the security of Elections and stabilizing volatile Districts.
- ✓ Access to information from the functions of Afghan Electoral Management Bodies should be guaranteed on a regular basis in accordance with the Law, the Secretary and the Spokesperson fate of the Election Commission should also be determined as soon as possible through internal Elections of the Election Commissioners.

Toward Fundamental / Essential Reforms in Afghan Election Process

In Solidarity