ECC Statement

June 25, 2005

The six-day Display and Challenge period, in which the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) accepted challenges to the candidacy of citizens standing for the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections, came to a close on June 9.

Since then, over 600 cases have been forwarded to the ECC by Provincial Election Commissions (PECs) throughout the country. Citizens from across Afghanistan have exercised their right to participate in this process, the first of its kind in Afghanistan’s history. The ECC has already begun investigating and adjudicating these cases and will continue to do so until July 1.

On July 2, the ECC will publish a List of Provisional Exclusions, showing which candidates may be disqualified from standing for office in the Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections. The list of people provisionally excluded will be available for public viewing at provincial offices of the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB).

Individuals provisionally excluded will have the right to respond by filing a formal response between July 2 and July 7 at either a JEMB provincial office or directly with the ECC in Kabul.

If the ECC does not receive a satisfactory response to a given challenge by July 7, it will tell the JEMB to exclude that individual from the Final Candidate List. That list will be certified by the JEMB on July 12.

A number of prospective candidates already have been identified as commanding or belonging to an illegal armed group by the Joint Secretariat of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission. These candidates have been advised by the ECC of the actions they must take in order to qualify for the Final Candidate List.

Before the end of the response period, the Joint Secretariat of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission will provide a final assessment to the ECC. If the ECC does not receive confirmation from the Joint Secretariat of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission that identified candidates have disarmed fully by that time, they may be excluded from the Final Candidate List. Such candidates should address any questions or concerns about the disarmament process, as opposed to the provisional exclusion list, to the Provincial Disarmament Committee in the province where they hope to run for election, or to the Joint Secretariat of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission.

It is hoped that this process will contribute to genuinely democratic elections for Afghanistan.

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