PRESS RELEASE

JEMB CERTIFIES ALL FINAL RESULTS FOR WOLESI JIRGA AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
November 12 2005

The Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) announced November 12 that it had completed the certification of all final results from this year’s historic Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections.

Bissmillah Bissmil, Chairman of the Joint Electoral Management Body said: "With the certification of final results for Kandahar and the country-wide Kuchi constituency, we have now completed certification of all final results for both the Wolesi Jirga and the Provincial Council elections. Today marks an important milestone in Afghanistan’s transition to a stable and strong democracy. The newly elected members will go on to represent and serve the people of their provinces and the hopes and aspirations of the people are with them as they work to help rebuild our country."

At the same time the newly elected Provincial Councils have today met across Afghanistan to elect representatives to the Meshrano Jirga. The 102 member Meshrano Jirga will consist of two representatives from each Provincial Council, one of whom will be a transitional member until District Council elections can be held when. A further thirty-four Presidential appointments will complete the Meshrano Jirga.

Mr Bissmil said: “Our plans for the Meshrano Jirga elections are progressing well and most Provincial Councils have today elected their representatives for the new upper house of the National Assembly. We are confident that we will be able to complete the elections for the Meshrano Jirga representatives in the coming days as planned and certify all results by late November, as indicated in our original timeline, giving Afghanistan its first democratically elected National Assembly in decades.”

The JEMB will hold the concluding press conference on the 2005 electoral process once all elected member of the National Assembly have been certified; 68 Meshrano Jirga representatives, 249 Wolesi Jirga representatives and 420 Provincial Council members.

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