



Fact Sheet Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV) System



Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV) System for the *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council Elections

- The Single Non-Transferable Vote system (SNTV) is the chosen electoral system in Afghanistan for the 2005 *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council elections.
- According to SNTV, candidates stand for elections as individuals and not as part of a party list. Votes are counted for the individual candidates and not according to party affiliation.
- Candidates stand for election in multi-member constituencies. This means that more than one person represents each constituency.
- According to the SNTV system, candidates who win the most votes fill the available seats for each constituency.
- Even though there will be more than one elected representative from each constituency, each eligible voter casts a single vote on each ballot for their preferred candidate.

How does SNTV work in Afghanistan?

- Each voter casts *one vote only* for his or her preferred candidate, no matter how many seats are available to that province. As decided by the JEMB, each constituency has more than one seat allocated to it in the *Wolesi Jirga* and its Provincial Council. For example, 33 seats are reserved for Kabul, Afghanistan's most populous province, in the *Wolesi Jirga* and 29 in its Provincial Council.
- The most voted candidates on each *Wolesi Jirga* ballot and Provincial Council ballot win the available seats in each assembly.
- Each province also has a number of *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council seats reserved for elected female candidates. Kabul, for example, has 9 seats reserved for women in the *Wolesi Jirga* and, as stated in the Electoral Law, at least one quarter of seats in the Provincial Council reserved for female candidates.
- The candidates who receive the most votes win seats, regardless of gender. If, however, female candidates do not win at least the number of seats reserved by law, the most voted women will be allocated seats as held in the Constitution and the Electoral Law.
- There is no upper limit on how many female candidates can be elected in each constituency.

Key Messages:

- The SNTV system will be used for both the *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council Elections.
- Candidates stand as individuals and are not grouped with parties or coalitions.
- The seat distribution in the *Wolesi Jirga* and Provincial Council has been allocated on the basis of the population figures obtained from the Central Statistics Office.
- Voters will cast one vote for their preferred candidate in each election.
- The candidates with the most votes win the seats allocated to each constituency for each election.
- An already defined number of seats in the *Wolesi Jirga* and each Provincial Council have been reserved for female candidates.