



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission Secretariat
Information & External Relations Department

Press Release on Completion of Electoral Law Draft June 19, 2012

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) established a working group to provide the electoral law draft after it had been officially requested by the Ministry of Justice. The IEC Working Group was comprised of IEC commissioners and a number of senior secretariat staff. They have started their work taking into account the Constitution, lessons learned from 2009 and 2010 elections, imperfections exist in the previous electoral laws, accepted international electoral standards, conditions, resources and values of the society and also recommendations of various stakeholders including the national and international observation groups. After a long process of internal discussions within the IEC, the working group completed its work by providing a comprehensive list of suggestions for amendments to be included in the Electoral Law draft. The suggested changes for amendment include structural and procedural changes focusing on the following four main areas:

- The authorities of the IEC provided in the Constitution
- Technical and operational changes to improve electoral administration
- Changes in electoral systems, and
- Establishment of a legal and effective mechanism to adjudicate electoral complaints and challenges

Given the importance of the role of the electoral stakeholders including political parties, electoral observer organizations, civil society, academic and scientific institutions and other organizations involved in the electoral process, the IEC decided to conduct an extensive consultation process on the Electoral Law draft. For this purpose and in order to obtain opinions and views of experts across the country, the IEC conducted one day consultation conferences on the regional level in Kabul, Balkh, Kunduz, Bamyan, Ningarhar, and Paktia provinces after it had prepared the Electoral Law draft. The conferences which were attended by representatives of the Executive and the Legislature, representatives of political parties, civil society, media, the international community, university lecturers and students, discussed the Electoral Law draft.

After receiving and including in the Electoral Law draft the viewpoints and recommendations, the drafts proposed by political parties and civil societies in the consultation meetings, the IEC will, within (17) chapters and (68) articles, send the Electoral Law draft to Ministry of Justice along with a proposed attachment for further processing.

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