



For immediate release

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Elections as a national process shouldn't be challenged more:

The Alliance of Observer Groups for Elections Transparency express critical concern about the recent elections development regarding the vote counts - auditing - the gradual announcement of the preliminary results and the invalidation(nullification) the votes of Kabul by the Electoral Complaints Commission.

The alliance has consistently encouraged electoral commissions to cooperate and coordinate their legal competencies in order to clean up valid and fraudulent votes and to verify fairly with the incidents that took place on Election Day. But, unfortunately, they did not pay much attention to this request of observer Groups. As a result, we have witnessed strokes and, at the same time, a conflict between the two commissions.

The alliance of observer groups believed that recounting, audit, and investigating violations and electoral fraud by the IEC and Electoral Complaints Commission could perhaps revive people's confidence over the process and take the steps necessary to ensure transparency and well-being of election.

But, the non-professional behavior of the election commission, the lack of coordinated mechanisms for dealing with cases between the two commissions, the existence of corruption in the aftermath of polling- days, and the neutralization of the legal prosecution process of the accused ones and those involved and arrested, lack of capacity for specialized audits in the provinces, and Kabul, ambiguous and vague procedures for recruiting and appointing staff for recount and audit, especially in Kabul, the existence of differences in official figures, especially regarding the Kabul polling centers reported by the Kabul Provincial Office, the diligent behavior of the Electoral Commission with observer institutions and civil society organizations, the existence of Election Commission's discriminatory procedures in granting credentials for candidate observers and political parties' observers, The indifference of the Electoral Commission to the role of stakeholders in the electoral process, and dozens of other cases that, unfortunately, have been examined by the monitors of the alliance.

The alliance strived to act timely in preventing the situation between the two commissions and to work on mediation hypotheses, but unfortunately, the request was rejected by the election commission.

The alliance consider the recent decision of the Electoral Complaints Commission legitimate and at the same time worthy of praise, but the feasibility of this decision and the morale of legitimacy in its current situation and unfortunately challenging state. The enforcement of the law on recondition of elections in the Kabul constituency does not seem to be feasible with this capacity and ruling spirit in the election commission. At the same time, the ruling situation between the two commissions in regards with the implementation of next stages of election, is fragile and accompanied with problems which has become a major challenge.

The alliance of observer groups also considered this necessary that the complaints commission should have consulted these institutions before making the decision to nullify the entire votes of Kabul, so that a practical and comprehensive solution would be provided, but unfortunately that did not happen and eventually the electoral process has also been the victim of the autocratic act of both commissions.

In order to the go out of the current deadlock, the alliance suggests to the complaints commission to re-consider its decision and to take the following measures:

- 1 Characteristics of the implementation of the provision of article 94 of the Electoral Law regarding the Kabul province, which is a matter of fairness, secrecy and directness, should be explicitly reviewed. In the first step, the invalidation of Polling centers and polling stations where signs and symptoms of fraud are obvious shall take place;
- 2 In the second step, the veracity and falsehood of the remaining polling centers and stations that have not been nullified is also to be assessed whether they are fair in terms of fairness and other legal principle and to ensure that there is no serious problem in this regard to questions the nature of the election;
- 3 Eventually, if it is found that the majority of PCs and stations do not overrule the explicitly of Article 94 of the Electoral Law, and that the fairness of the election is questionable, then a nullification order should be implemented;
- 4 The Alliance considers the implementation of the same procedure to be necessary in all provinces and encourages the Commission to make decisions and treat all provinces equally.

Given the realities of today that the election commission no longer has the ability to lead and manage the electoral process, the alliance calls on Afghan government's leadership, to suspend the duty of the members and the leadership of the election commission, until the appointment of the new leadership of IEC, and form a special committee of electoral experts, to supervise parliamentary affairs and put end to this dilemma.

The alliance calls up on the candidates and the respectful people of Afghanistan, especially the Kabul electorate, to maintain their calmness and collaborate together for a successful and credible electoral process, in order to allow favorable and generally acceptable election results for Afghanistan

The Alliance of Observer Entities for Ensuring Transparency in Election