The Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan (FEFA) as an election and democracy watchdog organization closely monitors the preparations and flows for the September 28 presidential election. FEFA welcomes the membership of the two foreign commissioners in the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and 2 commissioners in the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) and hopes these commissioners share their technical and professional knowledge with the commissions so that the commissions put efforts to improve the status of elections.

Meanwhile, based on its direct monitoring findings from the technical and political aspects of the process, FEFA expresses its deep concerns about the lack of coordination between the responsible institutions, poor management in the electoral commissions, instability of IEC regarding the legal requirements and commitments and programs of this entity such as lack of use of technology in the process, and roll-back from simultaneous holding of provincial and district councils and Parliamentary election of Ghazni province, delays in operations specially voters registration process and sharing in the election timeline, the lack of a practical program to ensure and clean up the voter lists, the inability to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of electoral staffs in the capital and provinces, the low level of transparency on various issues, especially in the field of timely information sharing /awareness raising on elections with institutions and political parties, amendment and modification of electoral decisions, weak awareness raising on fundamental electoral topics and defective efforts to build confidence in the electoral process. FEFA also express concerns about the political dimension of the election such as commencement of premature campaigns and frequent violation of codes of conduct by some candidates, the efforts of the government leadership for the appointment and dismissal of high ranking officials of government with electoral motivations and failed efforts to resolve the issue of parliamentary election in Ghazni province. It should be mentioned that the organization has strongly expressed its concern about the fragility of the political situation of the election and consider its full of tension and high impact on technical process of the election believe that continuation of such a situation, will undoubtedly challenge the acceptance election results.

Given its vision, FEFA, considers itself a partner for better organization and conducting of election process to this end it has shared certain constractive recommendations time to time with the electoral commissions, government, candidates, international community and other political currents. However the institution provided an executive charter to the presidential office and the country's chief executives’ office for the sound management of the electoral process in the pre-election phase, so that the political crisis of would be appropriately reviewed and managed. But unfortunately, it was not taken serious.
In order to contain the situation, FEFA asks the election commissions to enhance the level of internal coherence and coordination with stakeholders to upgrade in the process of preparations for the elections, the organization also call up on both commissions to enforce Code of conduct of candidates and monitor its implementation seriously and adopt and announce disciplinary measures against cases of its violation and take urgent and timely action regarding it in the light of the law.

FEFA urge the Leadership of the national unity government to refrain from any formal activities that seem like campaigns, dismissal and appointment and transfer of high ranking government officials in the capital and provinces. FEFA also calls on the national unity government to identify and suspend those of officials and civil servants in capital and provincial level who in some way intervene in the election process, considering a mechanism. At the same time, calls on the government to facilitate a joint meeting with the candidates to examine the status quo and pave the ground for a dialogue to increase confidence in the electoral process. In addition, FEFA calls on the government to facilitate the enforcement and implementation of the executive charter, which is strongly recommended and will be partnered with the people of Afghanistan through the press conference. FEFA also calls on the candidates to cooperate and work with the government and the election commission to make the elections transparent and acceptable.

FEFA asks all presidential candidate to act in accordance with the electoral law and procedures, and not to make the political climate of the process cloudy and grave. Accusations and turbulent of political climate of the election, the technical aspects of the process are also affected. FEFA hopes that in a coherence and coordination among all the institutions involved in the process and in light of electoral laws and procedures, the national process is managed in timely and proper manner, and in this regard we will not spare any sort of coopetition.

For more details, please contact to:

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