



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Annexes Book

Q3 2014

ENHANCING LEGAL AND ELECTORAL CAPACITY FOR TOMORROW Phase II

ELECT II

---

THIRD QUARTER PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT 2014

# ANNEXES

## Contents

ANNEXES.....	2
ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE .....	3
ANNEX 2: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT .....	5
ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR.....	6
ANNEX 4: RISK LOG .....	11
ANNEX 5: ISSUE LOG .....	13
Annex 6: chronology of audit process and conclusion of 2014 presidential elections .....	15

## ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE

The Interim Donor Report for the Period Jan -Sep 2014 for Atlas Award ID: 00063078 - (ELECT II)

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PREVIOUS YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR (2014)						FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected as of 31 Dec 2013 (b)	Cumulative Expenses as of 31/12/2013 (c)	IPSAS Adjustment (d)	Opening Balance e=(b-c+d)	Contribution Revenue 2014 (f)	Other Revenue (g)	Prior Period Adjustment Expenses of (PPE) (h)	Expenses (i)	Closing Balance l=(e+f+g+h-i)	UNDP Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j)	Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (l)	(Future Due) M=(a-b-f)	(Past Due) (n)	Available Resources O=(i-j-k-m)
AusAid	10,472,610	10,472,610	9,674,494	22,531	820,647	-			740,096	80,550		20,654	-	-	59,897
Denmark	6,651,291	4,817,774	3,292,829	19,708	1,544,653	1,833,517			2,357,185	1,020,985	322,192	17,777	-	-	681,016
DFID	31,683,570	26,725,968	16,644,802	(1,865)	10,079,301	2,621,140	20,894		11,894,266	806,175		38,075	2,336,462	-	768,099
EC	26,786,483	8,442,421	6,286,364		2,156,057	13,647,479	12,667		8,161,901	7,641,635	1,320,500	12,667	4,696,583	-	6,308,468
France	2,680,220	2,680,220	-		2,680,220	-			2,375,115	305,106		933	-		304,172
Germany	15,120,012	5,120,012	4,970,430	(114,942)	34,640	4,000,000			1,555,737	2,478,902	2,240,487		6,000,000		238,415
Italy	1,440,000	1,000,000	187,897	-	812,103	440,000			497,998	754,105	32,485	31,591	0		690,029
Japan	24,978,313	24,978,313	1,691,713	-	23,286,600	-			17,581,849	5,704,750	922,360		-	-	4,782,390
Korea	1,872,741	357	-		357	1,872,384			1,256,852	615,889			-		615,889
Netherlands	10,000,000	4,865,000	-		4,865,000	3,135,000			6,867,611	1,132,389	766,871		2,000,000		365,518

Norway	16,906,682	6,971,630	1,838,451	-	5,133,179	5,007,511			7,995,548	2,145,143	38,901	21,250	4,927,541		2,084,991
SDC	1,127,396					679,502			610,766	68,736			447,894		68,736
SIDA	9,002,587	4,542,987	2,565,813		1,977,174	3,070,782			2,354,128	2,693,828	26,700		1,388,819	-	2,667,128
Turkey	1,000,000	1,000,000	985,860		14,140	-				14,140			-		14,140
USA	1,700,000	-	-		-	1,700,000			1,165,643	534,357			-		534,357
USAID	65,720,825	369,567	369,567		-	65,351,258			53,945,088	11,406,170	3,869,175		-		7,536,995
<b>Total</b>	<b>227,142,729</b>	<b>101,986,858</b>	<b>48,508,220</b>	<b>(74,568)</b>	<b>53,404,070</b>	<b>103,358,572</b>	<b>-</b>	<b></b>	<b>119,359,783</b>	<b>37,402,860</b>	<b>9,539,671</b>	<b>142,948</b>	<b>21,797,299</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,720,241</b>

Note:

i) The figures provided in the above statement are provisional; the final figures will be known once the 2014 closure exercise has been completed.

ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exchange applied.

## ANNEX 2: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

### The Interim Donor Report for the Period Jan -Sep 2014 for (Atlas Award ID: 00063078 - (ELECT II))

Project Output ID and Description	2014 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-Jun 2014)	Expenses (Jun-Sep 2014)	Cumulative Expenses (Jan-Sep 2014)	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	8,766,489	4,818,144	647,959	5,466,103	62%
Output 2 (00080394): A sustainable, long-term approach to voter registration in Afghanistan, which also promotes maximum participation of eligible citizens in the 2014 and 2015 elections, is developed and implemented.	1,848,559	1,183,061	124,917	1,307,978	71%
Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	8,219,524	4,244,457	1,213,290	5,457,747	66%
Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	11,254,009	5,583,024	2,243,847	7,826,870	70%
Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	31,402,324	15,969,298	8,283,470	24,252,768	77%
Output 6 (00087513): The electoral dispute resolution mechanisms of the electoral process are enhanced	3,170,981	440,768		440,768	14%
Atlas Output 7 (00083558): Human resource and infrastructural capacity of the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan developed (Japanese support):	23,286,600	14,186,555	3,395,295	17,581,849	76%
Output 8 (00087514): The electoral media regulatory mechanisms are enhanced (Output 7 according to Prodoc)	1,377,495	213,693	444,422	658,115	48%
Atlas Output 9 (00087872) Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow - Phase II (ELECT-II) USAID Support	54,630,433	44,435,868	9,509,220	53,945,088	99%
Atlas Output 11 (00089564): Female searchers*	3,572,384	442,805	1,979,691	2,422,496	68%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>147,528,796</b>	<b>91,517,673</b>	<b>27,842,110</b>	<b>119,359,783</b>	<b>81%</b>

\*Note: This expenditure related to the payments made to female searchers was an initiative of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) supported by the UNDP Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) project. Considering the tight timelines of elections and MoI not being able to make arrangements for payments to female searchers, the funds were therefore channelled through ELECT II to IEC for paying the female searchers alongside the polling staff payments.

### ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR

#### The Interim Donor Report for the Period Jan -Sep 2014 for Atlas Award ID: 00063078 - (ELECT II)

Donor Name	Project Output ID and Description	2014Budget (Revised AWP)***	Expenses (Jan- Jun-2014)	Expenses (Jun- Sep 2014)	Commulative Expenses (Jan-Sep- 2014)	Deliver y Rates
AusAid	Output 2 (00080394): A sustainable, long-term approach to voter registration in Afghanistan, which also promotes maximum participation of eligible citizens in the 2014 and 2015 elections, is developed and implemented.		(23,508)		(23,508)	0%
	Output 3 (ID 00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	94,156	82,552	5,043	87,594	93%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	11,351	6,502	3,817	10,320	91%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	715,140	291,453	374,238	665,690	93%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>820,646</b>	<b>356,998</b>	<b>383,098</b>	<b>740,096</b>	<b>90%</b>
Denmark	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	259,036	251,737	125	251,862	97%
	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	160,500	139,731	12,053	151,784	95%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	1,416,345	591,051	240,242	831,293	59%

	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	1,542,288	752,486	369,760	1,122,246	73%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>3,378,169</b>	<b>1,735,006</b>	<b>622,179</b>	<b>2,357,185</b>	<b>70%</b>
DFID	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	1,500,519	173,221	140,269	313,489	21%
	Output 2 (00080394): A sustainable, long-term approach to voter registration in Afghanistan, which also promotes maximum participation of eligible citizens in the 2014 and 2015 elections, is developed and implemented.	57,967	57,968		57,968	100%
	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	522,160	505,956	8,201	514,156	98%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	1,367,961	789,032	60,128	849,160	62%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	10,467,503	9,022,601	540,023	9,562,624	91%
	Output 8 (00087514): The electoral media regulatory mechanisms are enhanced	1,286,195	152,447	444,422	596,869	46%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>15,202,305</b>	<b>10,701,224</b>	<b>1,193,042</b>	<b>11,894,266</b>	<b>78%</b>
EC	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	5,222,878	3,318,168	212,872	3,531,040	68%
	Output 2 (00080394): A sustainable, long-term approach to voter registration in Afghanistan, which also promotes maximum participation of eligible citizens in the 2014 and 2015 elections, is developed and implemented.	1,790,592	1,148,601	124,917	1,273,518	71%
	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	3,870,444	1,577,555	466,150	2,043,705	53%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner		(860)		(860)	0%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	3,757,481		1,314,497	1,314,497	35%

	Output 6 (00087513): The electoral dispute resolution mechanisms of the electoral process are enhanced	2,540,981			-	0%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>17,182,376</b>	<b>6,043,464</b>	<b>2,118,437</b>	<b>8,161,901</b>	<b>48%</b>
France	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	297,973	180,122	67,603	247,725	83%
	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	1,223,458	508,630	614,648	1,123,279	92%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	299,279	16,355	164,881	181,236	61%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	859,512	395,471	427,404	822,874	96%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>2,680,222</b>	<b>1,100,578</b>	<b>1,274,537</b>	<b>2,375,115</b>	<b>89%</b>
Germany	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	10,800	9,251		9,251	86%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	3,989,200	19,470	1,527,017	1,546,486	39%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>28,720</b>	<b>1,527,017</b>	<b>1,555,737</b>	<b>39%</b>
Italy	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	264,960	22,159	(1,026)	21,133	8%
	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	403,390	77,182	44,187	121,370	30%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	369,749	199,721	1,736	201,457	54%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	214,000	154,039		154,039	72%
<b>Sub-Total**</b>		<b>1,252,099</b>	<b>453,101</b>	<b>44,897</b>	<b>497,998</b>	<b>40%</b>
Japan	Output 7 (00083558): Human resource and infrastructural capacity of the Independent Election Commission of	23,286,600	14,186,555	3,395,295	17,581,849	76%



	Afghanistan developed (Japanese support): Linked / contributing to Output 1					
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>23,286,600</b>	<b>14,186,555</b>	<b>3,395,295</b>	<b>17,581,849</b>	<b>76%</b>
Korea	Output 11 ( 00089564): Female searchers	1,872,384	420,958	835,895	1,256,852	67%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>1,872,384</b>	<b>420,958</b>	<b>835,895</b>	<b>1,256,852</b>	<b>67%</b>
Netherland	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	175,480	111,264	4,206	115,470	66%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	4,244,632	2,808,548	658,562	3,467,110	82%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	3,579,886	2,252,187	1,032,844	3,285,031	92%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>7,999,998</b>	<b>5,171,999</b>	<b>1,695,612</b>	<b>6,867,611</b>	<b>86%</b>
Norway	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	54,495	403	270	673	1%
	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	1,472,155	971,517	52,415	1,023,932	70%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	3,325,474	1,051,430	1,059,494	2,110,924	63%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	5,235,043	3,078,685	1,753,648	4,832,333	92%
	Output 8 (00087514): The electoral media regulatory mechanisms are enhanced	53,500	27,686		27,686	52%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>10,140,668</b>	<b>5,129,720</b>	<b>2,865,828</b>	<b>7,995,548</b>	<b>79%</b>
SDC	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	679,502		610,766	610,766	90%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>679,502</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>610,766</b>	<b>610,766</b>	<b>90%</b>
SIDA	Output 1 (00080393): The IEC's institutional competencies, systems and facilities are improved	1,166,628	872,335	227,846	1,100,181	94%

	Output 3 (00080395): The IEC's engagement and informational outreach with key stakeholders and the electorate is enhanced.	297,781	270,070	6,388	276,458	93%
	Output 4 (00080396): The IEC's operational management functions and the project support services are provided in a transparent, efficient and effective manner	208,418	111,994	54,986	166,980	80%
	Output 5 (00087512): The conduct of polling, counting and result management operations by the IEC is improved	362,769	2,908	333,272	336,181	93%
	Output 6 (00087513): The electoral dispute resolution mechanisms of the electoral process are enhanced	630,000	440,768		440,768	70%
	Output 8 (00087514): The electoral media regulatory mechanisms are enhanced	37,800	33,560		33,560	89%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>2,703,396</b>	<b>1,731,636</b>	<b>622,491</b>	<b>2,354,128</b>	<b>87%</b>
USA	Output 11 ( 00089564): Female searchers	1,700,000	21,848	1,143,796	1,165,643	69%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>1,700,000</b>	<b>21,848</b>	<b>1,143,796</b>	<b>1,165,643</b>	<b>69%</b>
USAid	Output 9 (00087872) under Atlas Award ID: 00063078 - Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow - Phase II (ELECT-II) USAID Support Linked to All/ contributing to Output 1	54,630,433	44,435,868	9,509,220	53,945,088	99%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>54,630,433</b>	<b>44,435,868</b>	<b>9,509,220</b>	<b>53,945,088</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>147,528,796</b>	<b>91,517,673</b>	<b>27,842,110</b>	<b>119,359,783</b>	<b>81%</b>

Note:

AUSAID negative expenditure is due to the change accounting practice in ATLAS, UNDP has changed its capitalization threshold on Assets  
 EC negative expenditure is due to the change accounting practice in ATLAS, UNDP has changed its capitalization threshold on Assets  
 Netherland expenditure on output one is due to last year purchase orders which are liquidated in 2014, the project will consider this in next budget revision

## ANNEX 4: RISK LOG

ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Mitigation	Author
1	Political / institutional	Q3 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electoral integrity issues affect the credibility of the electoral management bodies in the aftermath of the presidential and provincial council elections</li> </ul>	high	<p><u>Political measures:</u> International and domestic stakeholders to address with IEC/IECC and government the issue of electoral impunity. <u>Technical measures:</u> ongoing enhancement of anti-fraud measures and adjusted DFC procedures for next elections (based on IFES integrity mission findings).</p>	ELECT II CTA / UNDP CO / UNAMA / IC
2	Electoral - operational	Q3 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complexity of district council elections could risk timely and successful preparations and conduct: issue of boundary delimitation, candidate nomination, women's participation, customized public outreach, PC/PS allocation, logistics, local security, counting, observation, etc.</li> </ul>	high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electoral boundary delimitation (AGCHO-CSO data integration)</li> <li>- Comprehensive and credible electoral timeline and subsequent planning</li> </ul>	ELECT II CTA
3	Electoral - legal	Q3 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female representation could be severely hampered at district council elections due to lack of quota and educational criteria rather detrimental for women.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in case of renewed discussion on legal reform, proposals to amend the electoral law including review of quorum and educational criteria</li> <li>- ELECT II and IEC to focus specifically on district level public outreach to engage potential female candidates</li> </ul>	ELECT II CTA / gender + legal advisor

					- reimbursement of female candidates of deposit regardless of vote result	
4	Political / Legal	Q3 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kuchi constituencies are not defined for the WJ elections while it is unclear how the 30% female seats will be allocated, undermining the Kuchi representation process in the WJ.</li> </ul>	medium	Raising the issue of Kuchi constituencies and female representation as an important agenda topic of electoral reform discussions	ELECT II CTA / UNAMA
5	Electoral operations	Q1 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The e-Tazkira system is not yet fully operational for the WJ/DC elections to compensate for a uniform voter registry, risking to affect the credibility and acceptance of the results.</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>close coordination with e-tazkira implementers</li> <li>exploration of temporary provincial level VR top-up</li> </ul>	ELECT II CTA
6	Organizational	Q3 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing vacant high-level managerial positions in IEC lead to loss of electoral knowledge and capacity.</li> </ul>	High	Advising partners, including the government of the risk of protracted recruitment process for IEC CEO/D-CEO	ELECT II CTA / UNDP CO / UNAMA
7	Organizational	Q2 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demotivated or resigning IEC staff undermine ongoing capacity building efforts</li> </ul>	medium	Continued capacity development efforts, including at system-level beyond individual capacity	ELECT II CTA / Pillar I - II
8	Organizational	Q3 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radical civil service reforms introduced before WJ/DC elections undermine the IEC's organizational capacity developed</li> </ul>	medium	ELECT II HR to assist IEC with restructuring and oversight	ELECT II CTA / Pillar II
9	Organizational	Q3 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competing (project) priorities given total focus of ELECT II on the conduct of the full audit, negatively affecting other activities and tasks part of the project's objectives.</li> </ul>	medium	Revision of ELECT II scope if necessary	UNDP CO – ELECT II CTA
10	Institutional	Q2 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IEC long-term sustainability is at risk beyond 2015 (end of ELECT II project).</li> </ul>	High	- International partners and government to define a long-term financial sustainability plan for the IEC/IECC	UNAMA

					- ELECT II continues to look into to reduce electoral costs	
11	Security	Q1 2012	Security threats remain a risk to the project, the IEC and electoral operations.	High	Ongoing security coordination IEC, UNDP, UNDSS, ANSF	ELECT II CTA / UN DSS

## ANNEX 5: ISSUE LOG

ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Mitigation	Author
1.	Security	2012	Security threats are not only a risk but also an ongoing issue, as it requires constant mitigation planning and flexibility of staff moral to deal with it – including difficulties for the project regarding recruitment and staff retention in this environment.	High	ELECT II security and UNDP CO security work closely together with UN DSS as well as IEC security, and nation security (ANSF) partners.	ELECT II CTA
2.	Electoral Operational	Q3 2014	Uncertainty about the electoral timeline for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council Elections, affecting all upcoming electoral planning.	High	Development of different timeline possibilities/options	ELECT II CTA
2.	Organizational	Q3 2014	Three senior ELECT II managers (including CTA) to be replaced	High	Intensified recruitment process to find and recruit suitable candidates	UNDP CO
3.	Organizational	Q3 2013	Ongoing vacant high-level managerial positions in IEC hampers ELECT II's counterpart work at managerial level.	High	Advising partners, including the government of the risk of protracted recruitment process for IEC CEO/D-CEO	ELECT II CTA / UNDP CO / UNAMA
4.	Regulatory / Operational	Q4 2012	Issue of operational control by UNDP on IEC financial expenditures under NIM.	Medium	More oversight functions for ELECT II advisors; third party monitoring; Exploring different DIM/NIM options	ELECT II CTA / Operations Manager

5.	Operational	Q2 2014	ELECT II resource mobilization for 2015 vice versa unclear timeline for electoral planning for the Wolesi Jirga and District Council elections.	High	ELECT II submits a provisional 2015 AWP to donors; with a revised version including electoral operations once the electoral timeline provides more clarity.	ELECT II CTA / UNDP CO
----	-------------	---------	---	------	---	------------------------

## Annex 6: chronology of audit process and conclusion of 2014 presidential elections

4 July: In a meeting facilitated by UNAMA, the political and technical teams of both presidential candidates agreed on the need for an in-depth audit of the ballots, although they did not reach an agreement on specific criteria.

4-9 July: the IECC held a series of open sessions relating to the adjudication of 2,576 complaints and appeals alleging polling and counting violations.

6 July: The Independent Election Commission (IEC) Media Commission held a media conference to announce that 25 media outlets have been fined due to violation of the media regulations during the campaign and silence periods.

6 and 7 July: UNAMA, with ELECT II input, continued to meet both presidential candidates and their campaign teams to discuss different criteria for an audit.

6 to 9 July: The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) held four days of open sessions to investigate 2,576 cases reported during the run-off election.

7 July: IECC Commissioner Aryafar expressed his opinion that the conduct of these sessions is unlawful as long as one of both candidates (Dr. Abdullah Abdullah) still disengages with the electoral bodies, and that he therefore does not participate in the IECC's open sessions.

7 July: The IEC received a letter from Dr. Abdullah Abdullah regarding requested audit criteria.

7 July: The IEC announced the preliminary results of the run-off election, which placed Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai in the lead with 56.44% of votes, ahead of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah with 43.56% of votes.

7 July: Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai shared a letter with the IEC regarding the announcement of the preliminary results.

7 July: The Director of the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, Craig Jenness, arrived in the country to facilitate the electoral process.

8 July: The IEC announced at a press conference that both candidate teams can file complaints against the IEC preliminary results within 24 hours until the morning of 9 July.

8 July: In a press release, UNAMA called upon both candidates to exercise restraint and not to claim victory. It urged the IEC and IECC to conduct, within their mandate, additional audits – notably, those supported by both candidates, which relate to ballots from more than 7,000 polling stations

8 July: Dr. Abdullah Abdullah addressed his supporters in a political gathering in Kabul and stated that he does not recognize the preliminary results announced by the IEC.

8 July: At a press conference, Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai said that he accepted the results based on the law and suggested that the IECC conduct an audit of 7,000 polling stations.

9 July: The IECC announced that it had registered 376 complaints against the preliminary results by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai. The IECC further indicated that a potential audit of more than 7,000 polling stations had not been officially referred to the IECC, but was considering audits of six or seven provinces.

11 July: After extensive consultations with both candidates and their representatives, UNAMA proposed at a meeting convened by President Hamid Karzai, high-level government officials, and the Chairs of the IEC and IECC, an additional audit of 8,050 polling stations (44% of the votes), based upon five criteria proposed by the UN according to international based practices.

- Is there any identical or significant patterns of the same markings on ballots?
- Is there evidence of tampering with the results sheet and coherence with the number of ballots in the box?
- Does the results sheet copy match that processed in the National Tally Centre?
- What is the relevant information from the polling station journal and list of voters?
- Ballot boxes receive particular attention from international and domestic observers and agents when they register results that, according to best international practices, require special scrutiny (e.g., when there are significant differences between first and second round tallies).

11 July: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Kabul, urging both candidates to break the political stalemate; including a suggestion to audit 11,350 polling stations (57.4% of the votes), which elaborates on the audit framework proposed by the United Nations. Specifically, it was suggested that the entire audit should take place in Kabul.



12 July: At a press conference, US Secretary of State John Kerry announced in the presence of both presidential candidates and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Ján Kubiš, that all of the eight million ballots will be audited in Kabul, in a process monitored by international observers. Both candidates committed themselves to participate in the process and to accept the results. The agreement further specifies that the eventual winner will become the president of a government of national unity.

12 July: UN SRSG Ján Kubiš requested President Karzai's consideration to postpone the inauguration ceremony for the new president of Afghanistan – scheduled for 2 August 2014 – by approximately one month as this time is required to complete the comprehensive audit agreed by both candidates.

13 July: The UN welcomed in a press statement the return of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's Reform and Partnership team to the electoral process.

13 July: UN EAD Director Craig Jenness chaired a meeting of national and international observers groups to brief on the latest developments and the audit plan.

13 July: The IECC welcomed in a press conference the political agreement between both candidates and announced that its staff will observe the audit process, including the transport of material from the provinces. The IECC will continue with the adjudication of complaints. Candidates can appeal to the IECC against IEC Audit Decisions within 24 hours of publication. The IECC will decide within 48 hours, under EL Article 58(3).

13 July: IEC Chairman Yusuf Nuristani, IECC Chairman Abdul Sattar Sadaat, and the UN SRSG Ján Kubiš, held a joint press conference when they announced the audit plan following the agreement between both candidates and in accordance with Afghan law. Both the IEC and IECC Chairs appreciated the support of the SRSG and the U.S. Secretary of State for their mediation efforts in reaching a 'reasonable and acceptable' agreement between both candidates and to break the impasse.

13 July: With ELECT II input and advice, the IEC commenced with developing the operational plan for the 100% audit in Kabul of all ballots cast in the run-off round.

13 July: The IEC Public Outreach department started to develop a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to explain the 100% audit.

15 July: Representatives of both candidates, the IEC (including Chairman Nuristani), ELECT II, and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) met to discuss the transport of ballot boxes from IEC provincial offices to the IEC's HQ in Kabul in order to undertake the 100% audit.

15 July: The IEC Commissioners gave their consent to the audit operational plan and approved the audit checklist.

15 July: the IECC issued a press release on the right to file a complaint before the IECC within 24 hours of the IEC decision regarding the audits. The press release indicated that the IECC shall decide within 48 hours of the registered complaint.

16 July: The IEC held a briefing for international observers outlining the upcoming audit process.

16 July: The IEC provided training to its staff on the exact procedures and steps of the audit, including the checklist. ELECT II staff were briefed on the specifics of the audit checklist and the supervisory role of the process by the UN. IFES and UNOPS advisers to the IECC attended as well the ELECT II briefing.

16 July: At a meeting convened at and facilitated by the US Embassy, candidate representatives, ISAF, and ELECT II further discussed plans to transport the ballot boxes from the provinces to Kabul.

17 July: The IEC organized a briefing and training for candidate agents prior to the launch of the audit. Some IECC staff also attended this briefing. The IECC conducted a 2 hour briefing session on the audit and principles of observation for the IECC observers.

17 July: The IEC Secretariat, representatives of both candidate teams, as well as ELECT II and UNAMA under the lead of UN EAD Director Craig Jenness, met in the morning to discuss details of the audit procedures.

17 July: The IEC held a media conference before the launch of the 100% audit. At the press conference, UN EAD Director Craig Jenness underscored the UN's full support to the audit process. A total of 32 boxes from Kabul province were audited by 30 audit teams during two hours of auditing. There was a high turnout of media, including international media organisations. There was also a strong observer presence, with 31 international observers and 62 domestic observers.

17 July: The IEC resumed its daily updates

17 July: The IEC issued a press release on the ceremonial commencement of the 100% audit. The release quotes UN EAD Director Craig Jenness who said at the afternoon IEC media conference: "We will be with you throughout the entirety of this process," adding that, "We are all members of the UN." The release also notes that in support of the audit, the European Union (EU) Election Assessment Team has trained 135 observers from the EU, US and elsewhere so far; and expects to train an additional 70 in the coming days.

17 July: UNAMA issued a press statement, welcoming the start of the audit. The UN Mission praises the extraordinary efforts of the international community in deploying the necessary number of international election observers to carry out the 100% audit.

18 July: The 100% audit of all 22,828 ballot boxes (8,109,493 votes) from the run-off round of Afghanistan's 2014 Presidential Election entered its second day, with thirty teams auditing ballot boxes from Kabul province, in a morning and afternoon shift. (Media organisations reported from the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and have been allowed access every day of the audit.)

18 July: IEC Chairman Dr. Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani received the United Nation's Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, at the IEC. During the informal visit, the Chairman escorted the SRSG around the IEC warehouses to view the audit.

19 July: The number of audit teams per shift increased from 30 to 41. The audit was, however, halted due to ambiguity over audit procedures and invalidation criteria, coupled with questions about the UN and the IEC's roles in terms of final decision-making. The audit process was suspended shortly after 4 p.m. after candidate agents of Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai walked out.

20 July: UNDP ELECT II Chief Technical Advisor Deryck Fritz addressed candidate agents, observers, plus staff from the IEC, Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC), and ELECT II, to clarify the roles of the various stakeholders in the process. He stressed that the IEC's mandated role was to organize and conduct electoral activities; that the IECC was to "accompany the process" as it will carry out its own activities at a later stage; that candidate agents were to monitor the process and respectfully request clarification or raise questions to ensure that the IEC works transparently and according to procedures; and that observers were to monitor and provide additional "legitimacy and confidence-building". He said that the role of UN staff is to "ensure quality control, resolve differences of opinion by clarifying procedures, and make recommendations". The CTA emphasized that any acts of intimidation would not be tolerated and that the audit should be conducted clearly and consistently with respect shown by all stakeholders.

20 July: After the meeting, the IEC and the UN held in-depth discussions about the process and the procedures with technical and electoral advisors from both presidential candidates.

21 July: The audit resumed with a total of 42 teams working in two warehouses, auditing ballot boxes from Kabul, Balkh, Wardak and Laghman.

21 July: A briefing was held for international observers at the IEC HQ.

22 July: The audit process continued with the number of audit teams increasing to 122. In the late afternoon, candidate agents of Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai left the process following a dispute over the issue of similar marked ballots and the presence of an unidentified observer allegedly. Candidate agents of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah complained about the lack of international observers at each audit station.

23 July: UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom, chaired a meeting at the IEC. In attendance were audit supervisors of both presidential teams, together with international and domestic observers, embassy officials, and IEC and ELECT II staff. The purpose of the meeting was to capture best practices developed during the last six days of auditing, to continuously refine the procedure for dispute resolution, to improve security access protocols, and to further clarify the roles of the various participants. It was agreed that the audit process needed to proceed more rapidly but at the same time in a more orderly and respectful environment. Issues had been raised the day before regarding the consistency of recommendations made by UN supervisors, as well as security, warehouse access, crowd control, and practical logistics.

23 July: The IECC formally adopted the plan for the run-off complaints process, drafted with assistance from UNOPS and IFES. Throughout the first week of the audit, the IECC deployed around 50 staff members on a daily basis to accompany the process ahead the adjudication phase.

24 July: The audit process resumed with 72 audit stations across three warehouses. Since the start of the process, as of 24 July, around 1,360 audit boxes had been audited.

24 July: The UN presented its proposal to the IEC in the context of the technical agreement reached by the two Presidential candidates, which asked the UN to propose the manner for the supervision of the audit. Both candidates indicated to the United Nations that they had their own respective concerns with the proposal, but were prepared to proceed with it as a good faith effort based on international best practice to bridge their positions. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai expressed their shared view that it was in the national interest to finalise the regulatory framework of the audit.

24 July: The IEC Commissioners endorsed the following regulatory decisions, strengthening the legal framework of the audit:

- IEC Decision 27-1393 (27/2014) – Endorsement to audit 100% of polling stations of the Presidential run-off election. Approved on 14 July 2014.
- IEC Decision 28-1393 (28/2014) – Approval of the operational plan for the audit of 100% of polling stations of the Presidential Run-off election. Endorsed on 14 July 2014.
- IEC Decision 29-1393 (29/2014) – Transport of all ballot boxes from the provinces to IEC HQ in Kabul for the purpose of auditing 100% of polling stations of the Presidential Run-off election. Endorsed on 15 July 2014.
- IEC Decision 30-1393 (30/2014) – Endorsement of the audit check list for the audit of the 100% of polling stations of the Presidential Run-off election. Approved on 15 July 2014.
- IEC Decision 31-1393 (31/2014) – Establishing the commence date of the audit process of 100% of polling stations of the Presidential Run-off election. Endorsed 15 July 2014.

- IEC Decision 32-1393 (32/2014) – IEC recommendation to the Attorney General Office for prosecution of media outlets – violation of the Election Law (Afghan and Dawat TV). Endorsed on 21 July 2014.

25 July: The audit process continued with the number of audit stations increasing to 86 across three warehouses. By the end of the day a total of 1,671 ballot boxes had been audited since the start of the process.

26 July: The audit process was suspended for a third time after disputes arose in the morning concerning procedures and criteria, culminating in candidate agents refusing to sign Audit Checklists. The agents criticized the lack of sufficient numbers of international observers. The IEC decided to suspend the audit process until after the Eid al-Fitr holidays. During this period, the IEC and ELECT II, together with ISAF and ANSF support, looked into security improvements at the IEC compound.

26 July: The two Presidential candidates indicated to the UN that they supported the IEC in adopting the UN proposal for a regulatory decision covering criteria for recounts and invalidations of ballots as part of the ongoing comprehensive audit of the country's Presidential election run-off. (The UN had presented its proposal to the IEC on 24 July.)

30 July: The IEC formally adopted the procedures for "Audit and Recount of the 2014 presidential run-off elections" as well as the regulatory Decision number 33 of "Recount and Invalidation Criteria for the audit of all polling stations of the 2014 Presidential Election Run-off", as part of its 100% audit. The adoption of the criteria is consistent with the laws of Afghanistan and the mandate of the IEC. The criteria are based on a proposal of the UN, finalized after extensive consultations with the campaign teams of both presidential candidates. The IEC's adoption of recount and invalidation criteria completed the regulatory framework for the audit.

30 July: UNAMA welcomed the IEC's decision to adopt the criteria for the invalidation and recount of ballots. UN SRSG Ján Kubiš said: "This decision will ensure that the audit process will lead to the invalidation of fraudulent ballots while all valid votes will be counted, thus honouring the courage and determination of the Afghans who voted in both rounds of the Presidential election." He also said that he looked forward to the candidate teams focusing on large-scale irregularities rather than contesting individual ballots. Earlier in the day, the SRSG met with the IEC Board of Commissioners.

31 July: The IEC and UN held a joint media conference following the IEC's formal adoption of criteria for the recount and invalidation of ballots. UN SRSG Ján Kubiš said: "While we fully respect the laws of the country and the mandates of the respective institutions, electoral institutions – in this case, the IEC – we are also very much honoured that the IEC accepted this international supervision and partnership". He added: "This is unprecedented, and we are very

proud that we can work together hand-in-hand.” He confirmed that the international community had enough election observers and that the UN had a “sufficient number” of UN supervisors in place to support the audit process.

1 August: The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) welcomed the deployment of professional international observers and UN experts ahead of the audit. More than two hundred full-time international observers – hailing from the European Union and including its Election Assessment Team (EU EAT) and the American non-government organizations National Democratic Institute (NDI), Democracy International (DI) and Creative as well as Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) – will play a key role in providing complete international scrutiny of the audit, while dozens of experts from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) will be based in the audit warehouses where they will provide advice on international best practices and provide good offices for dispute resolution.

1 August: A UN senior expert on elections, Jeff Fischer, arrived in country. He will work with the IEC during the adjudication of the findings of the audit. He will stay in Afghanistan for “as long as necessary”, according to the SRSG. Jeff Fischer served as chief electoral officer for the Popular Consultation for East Timor and headed the Joint Registration Taskforce in Kosovo. IFES deployed another international senior election expert, Staffan Darnolf, who will provide additional support to the audit process on behalf of the UN, in particular with regard to similar marked ballots.

1 August: The IEC, accompanied by the UN, provided briefings for international observers as well as domestic observers and candidates, to explain the audit procedures approved by the IEC, including the invalidation and recount procedures. IEC staff and ELECT II staff received further trainings.

1 August: The IEC Audit Committee held a technical meeting to finalise details regarding the audit.

2 August: The audit was set to resume after the Eid al-Fitr holiday with 100 audit stations across five warehouses, with extended hours from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., and under the supervision of 50 UN supervisors. Given the ongoing discussions with one of the candidate teams, however, the IEC decided to postpone the audit for another day.

2 August: IEC chairman Dr. Nuristani met Daniel Feldman, the newly-arrived U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP), at the IEC HQ office. They discussed the progress of the audit.

2 August: UN DSRSNG Nicholas Haysom, assisted by ELECT II CTA Deryck Fritz and UN elections expert Jeff Fischer, had a meeting with presidential candidate Dr. Abdullah Abdullah to discuss outstanding issues regarding invalidation criteria. Immediately afterwards, UN SRSG Ján Kubiš continued the discussion with Dr. Abdullah Abdullah.

2 August: As of 2 August, ELECT II had augmented its team with an additional 30 international staff members having arrived in the country, while further awaiting confirmation of more than a dozen other staff with electoral experience.

2 August: As of 2 August, a total of 19,586 ballot boxes from 30 provinces had been retrieved to the IEC HQ in Kabul without any major problems. The four outstanding provinces, from the Central Highland and North East regions, are scheduled to be fully completed within the next couple of days. The retrieval is being conducted by the UN with support from ISAF.

2 August: This was the original scheduled date for the inauguration of the new president.

3 August: The audit resumed in the afternoon with 100 audit stations across four warehouses.

5 August: The 100% audit of some 8.1 million ballots, cast in the run-off round of the Presidential Election on 14 June, continued. There were 100 audit stations, working from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., split into a morning and an afternoon shift. The audit is being conducted by the Independent Election Commission (IEC), under the supervision of the United Nations and with the participation of agents from both presidential candidate teams. A day earlier, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative (SRSG) for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, noted that the UN had been jointly requested by the two Presidential candidates, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, and also separately by the authorities of Afghanistan, to co-ordinate international supervision of the audit. "At a time of political and electoral impasse and deep uncertainty, the UN agreed to take on the responsibility in order to help the country," he said.

5 August: The UN decided to increase the number of its audit advisors to between 100 and 120. The audit began under the supervision of 25 ELECT II electoral-technical experts, supplemented by additional staff from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA.)

5 August: The retrieval of all 22,828 ballot boxes from the provinces to the IEC HQ was completed with the arrival of the last remaining ballot boxes from Badakhshan. This was a major logistical exercise that was completed successfully and without any significant incidents. The retrieval operation was carried out primarily by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), with support from UN assets. While ISAF took responsibility for road movements and large-scale air transport, ELECT II and UNAMA aircraft performed 85 flights. As part of the agreement between the presidential candidates, the movement of all ballot boxes took place under international security escort.

5 August: ELECT II held a meeting to update its donor partners about surge capacity for UN supervision of the audit; project expenditure and funding status; and planning for the project mid-term review.

5 August: ELECT II started to run regular training sessions (held on most days during the reporting period) for UN staff based in Afghanistan and for UN staff from other countries who arrived to augment the number of UN advisors.

5 August: A total of 29 European states, plus Australia and Canada, and the European Union, issued a letter to the two Presidential candidates, underscoring that “the rules and regulations, which both camps have accepted and committed to, are sufficient to deliver a legitimate result of the election”, and that “the audit process must continue in good faith, without interruptions, until the job is done, as this is what the Afghan people expect and what the Afghan nation needs”.

6 August: the IECC held a Technical Working Group meeting to provide updates on the status of PIECC Commissioners and temporary legal staff; the IECC observation on the audit and its plan for the run-off complaints process; the status of provincial council complaints; and the status of the complaints relating to the presidential run-off.

7 August: UNOPS has contracted for, and overseen and managed, the provision and installation of 35 air coolers to four IEC warehouses where audit process took place. A lease contract was also put in place to provide power supplies by six generators.

6 August: The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC), together with its advisory partners UNOPS and IFES, held a technical working group meeting with donor partners to demonstrate its readiness for the adjudication stage and to provide details about its preparations.

7 August: US Secretary of State John Kerry was in Kabul to follow-up on his earlier visit on 11-12 July. He met both presidential candidates, as well as President Hamid Karzai. He encouraged both candidates to help accelerate the audit process which they are both participating in, and to make progress on the details of the political framework that they agreed to during the Secretary’s previous visit.

8 August: At a UNAMA-hosted news conference, both presidential candidates, in the presence of US Secretary of State John Kerry, spoke about their new agreement on the way forward with the audit and the related political processes, including the formation of a government of national unity. Mr. Kerry noted that the audit was “the largest audit that the United Nations has ever conducted in any country in history, the deepest audit that they have ever conducted”. The UN welcomed the two candidates’ new agreement and noted that it looked forward to progress on their pledge to move ahead on forming a national unity government.



8 August: Both candidate teams agreed at the IEC Audit Committee to an audit procedure clarification document, facilitated by ELECT II and UNAMA, that complements the IEC's 'Audit and Recount Procedures of the 2014 Presidential Run-off Elections' which was approved by the IEC and accepted by the candidates on 30 July. (The audit procedure clarification document had not been approved by the end of this reporting period).

8 August: ELECT II produced a 'Guidelines for UN audit advisors' document that was sent to all UN advisors and shared with the IEC and both campaign teams.

9 August: This was the last day of broadcast for an IEC Public Service Announcement about the audit. The PSA was shown on five television stations over six days. It was also uploaded to YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfXDE5Kxn3A&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfXDE5Kxn3A&feature=youtu.be>

9 August: ELECT II provided IEC staff with additional training on the audit procedure clarifications.

9 August: UN SRSG Ján Kubiš provided a briefing for the entire ELECT II/ UN audit teams on the latest political agreement between both presidential candidates on 8 August, brokered by US Secretary of State John Kerry.

10 August: UN experts tested software, which has been installed in computers at the IEC National Tally Centre (NTC), ahead of the start of the entry of data from audit checklists and result forms.

10 August: The IEC approved the Code of Conduct for candidate agents, drafted with input from ELECT II. ELECT II distributed copies of the Code of Conduct with candidate agents at the Audit Committee Meeting later in the day. All candidate agents enrolled in the audit process will have to sign this document.

10 August: ELECT II finalized and the IEC approved a clarification document on similarly marked ballots.

10 August: the IECC added 12 additional provincial staff to their audit observation team at the IEC. UNOPS facilitated and covered the expenses (DSA) for 83 Provincial Office staff (out of the total 121 staff) that are part of the process.

11 August: ELECT II briefed the IEC Board of Commissioners and SRSG Ján Kubiš on the status and procedures for the entry of data at the NTC from audit checklists and results forms.

11 August: Deputy SRSG Nicholas Haysom said that the UN has got the "balance right" in supporting Afghanistan's complex audit. In an interview, he acknowledged that the UN would inevitably draw criticism from both candidate teams. He said: "Afghans wanted us to assist them and we have accepted it." He added: "Inevitably, we will draw criticisms from both sides to the extent that we have drawn some sorts of criticisms, and you can see it in the tweets. I think we have more or less got the balance right, that both [candidates] appreciate our role but both sides have criticisms as well."

13 August: The Abdullah and Ghani campaign teams agreed with a proposal to pay 'special scrutiny' to 6,000 ballot boxes. As part of the proposal, each candidate team submitted to the IEC and the UN a list of 3,000 polling stations that they want to go straight to recount.

13 August: The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) held a press conference, providing an update on adjudication of complaints and appeals for presidential and provincial council elections, and outlining the process for potential complaints against IEC decisions on audit outcomes.

14 August: Data entry of audit checklists (and new results forms from recounted ballot boxes) began at the NTC. Fifty data entry stations were open. The NTC will be operational from 8 a.m to 4 p.m. every day. IEC staff entered the audit data in the presence of media, observers, candidates' agents, and UN officials.

14 August: ELECT II finalized and the IEC approved a clarification on the audit checklist question Number 16. (ELECT II provided a Dari version to the IEC on 16 August for distribution to IEC staff on the same day).

14 August: ELECT II produced a Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet that was shared with UNAMA and the IEC. The IEC plans to upload the document to its website by August 18.

14 August: ELECT II administered an obligatory written test to all UN audit advisors, to evaluate the advisors' knowledge of the IEC audit checklist and recount criteria. Advisors who scored below the pass score will be retrained and retested. This test ensures that UN advisors have the necessary technical knowledge to provide correct and high quality advice and recommendations that meets IEC rules and procedures.

14 August: The audit process was halted in the late afternoon after a walkout by candidate agents from the Abdullah team.

15 August: This was the first full day of operations of data entry at the NTC. Fifty work stations were operational.

15 August: The IEC, in discussion with the UN and candidate teams, decided that it was impractical to isolate the ballot boxes that had been selected for special scrutiny as the ballot boxes are not stored in the warehouses according to their serial numbers. As such, it was agreed that when a ballot box arrives

at an audit station, the IEC audit team there will check a list to see if it is a box for special scrutiny. If it is, then the box will be transferred to a separate section of the warehouse (or maybe to another warehouse) where special teams of UN advisers, IEC workers, and candidate agents, will recount the box. Observers will oversee the process.

16 August: Recounts of ballot boxes selected by candidate teams for special scrutiny (based on Number 16 of the audit checklist) started today. There were 24 audit stations dedicated to special scrutiny (this will increase to 30 from 17 August and later to 50 teams). A total of 48 ballot boxes that were subjected to special scrutiny were completed.

16 August: As of the end of the day, a total of 9,540 ballot boxes (41.79%) had been audited, of which 3,633 (38.08%) were recounted.

16 August: As of the end of the day, data from 1,287 polling stations was under process at the NTC.

16 August: the IECC conducted a lessons learned event with all PIECC commissioners. The one-day session included discussion on challenges and recommendations for a smoother complaints process. On the same day, recounts of 992 polling stations started at the IEC warehouse for Provincial Council elections in Kabul. The recount was conducted by both the IEC and IECC. Provincial council candidates and agents were present to observe the recount. A series of recounts were conducted in several provinces in August and September.

17 August: The number of audited ballot boxes surpassed 10,000 – a symbolic milestone.

17 August: Ahmad Jawed Habibi was appointed as the acting Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Election Commission (IEC). Jawed was the former Deputy CEO.

17 August: The United Nations issued a statement, welcoming improvements to the audit process. "The objective of the unprecedented audit agreed to by Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani is to identify and excise large-scale fraud from the millions of valid votes," said the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan (SRSG) and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Ján Kubiš. The SRSG also said that the new special scrutiny procedure would install confidence. (Both candidate teams agreed on 12 August to select 3,000 ballot boxes each that would go immediately to recount, under the supervision of the most experienced UN staff. The recount of these boxes started on 16 August). He said: "Operationalising the special scrutiny provision is important to promoting broad acceptance of the result of the audit. Now both candidates can have the confidence that the polling stations about which they had the greatest concerns will not just be audited but also receive full recounts under the close monitoring of the most experienced IEC staff, UN experts and observers."

19 August: There was a clash in the late afternoon between supporters of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's campaign team and daily wage labourers from the IEC. The audit was halted for the rest of the day as a result of the brawl. In the evening, IEC Commissioners met with senior representatives of both Presidential candidates and UNAMA. The Commission and both campaigns shared responsibility for the incident and agreed to address their respective staff and agents accordingly. Greater collaborative effort will be made to secure the IEC premises and to ensure that the audit warehouses are strictly weapon-free. The presence of the Afghan National Police (ANP) will be increased.

19 August: The number of teams dedicated to auditing/recounting the 6,000 ballot boxes selected by the candidate teams for special scrutiny, increased from 30 to 50.

20 August: The UN condemned the clash the previous day between Dr. Abdullah Abdullah supporters and the IEC workers. "The UN deplores the violence that took place," said the UN SRSG, Ján Kubiš. He added: "All parties – campaign teams, IEC, UN and observers - engaged in this important process must abide by relevant Codes of Conduct, and conduct themselves with professionalism and with high standards worthy of the millions of Afghans who cast their vote in the election. They must treat each other with respect. Supervisors of the respective groups are responsible for guiding them and for controlling the situation, not to let disputes deteriorate into confrontation."

22 August: The number of overseas-based UN staff and consultants, mobilized as part of a surge capacity to act as advisors during the audit, reached 121. These experienced electoral workers augmented Afghanistan-based staff from various UN agencies, including UNDP staff from ELECT II.

23 August: The UN urged both campaign teams to co-operate fully with the country's electoral authorities in order to expedite the audit. The UN SRSG, Ján Kubiš, said: "We expect that besides the rapid conclusion of the vote audit process, the two presidential candidates will also at the earliest time reach an agreement on the establishment of a national unity government, which will lead Afghanistan from the current situation to stability."

23 August: SRSG Ján Kubiš met both presidential candidates, President Karzai, and the IEC Board of Commissioners, to discuss the progress of the audit.

24 August: The number of special scrutiny audit stations increased to 70.

24 August: At the Audit Committee Meeting, the candidate teams raised a number of concerns. The Ghani team highlighted what they considered to be inconsistent implementation of criteria by UN and IEC staff. They requested that the IEC be more assertive. They also raised concerns about the slow speed of auditing for special scrutiny boxes. The Ghani team reiterated the need for the process to start if one of the two sides is absent; this was agreed by both campaigns but it had not been implemented. The Abdullah team complained that decisions agreed upon during ACM should be circulated and implemented

but this was not happening. In particular, the two-hour ceiling for special scrutiny cases was not being enforced. The UN DSRSG, Nicholas Haysom, stressed the need for agents to behave respectfully towards IEC and UN staff. With regard to serious incidents occurring in warehouses, ID cards of those involved should be removed and they should not go back to the floor. Both campaigns agreed.

25 August: The IEC Commissioners started to make decisions on audited ballot boxes. Candidate agents, national and international observers, UN advisors, and media were present. The Commissioners will meet daily at the National Tally Centre (NTC) to make decisions about the results of all ballot boxes that have been subjected to a recount. The publication of decisions by the IEC triggered a 24 hour complaints filing period, and started the IECC adjudication period for complaints related to the audit process.

25 August: The UN welcomed the IEC's first official decisions from the inaugural open session regarding the findings from the 100% audit. "The first set of official decisions from this unprecedented audit is an important milestone towards the goal of separating fraud from valid votes," said the SRSR, Ján Kubiš. He added: "However, it is still premature to draw conclusions about the final audit result based on these initial findings. All parties should continue to respect the process so as to not create unrealistic expectations."

25 August: The number of stations dedicated to special scrutiny ballot boxes had increased to 110. For the first time, the number of special scrutiny boxes that were processed (217) exceeded the number of regular boxes (216).

25 August: According to IEC warehouse records, 353 agents of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and 364 agents of Dr. Ashraf Ghani were present. There were 720 IEC staff; 104 IECC staff; 377 national observers; 248 international observers; and 113 UN audit advisors. These numbers have been consistent throughout the reporting period.

25 August: As of close of operations, 15,846 ballot boxes had been processed (69.4% of the 22,828 ballot boxes) under the UN-supervised process. This number comprises of 14,805 audited ballot boxes, plus 1,041 'special scrutiny' ballot boxes that were automatically recounted. (Each candidate team selected 3,000 such ballot boxes for special scrutiny). Of the 14,805 audited non-special scrutiny ballot boxes, 4,695 of them (31.7%) were subject to recount.

26 August: The United Nations highlighted the exceptional levels of consultation with both presidential candidates, Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, and their teams on the 100% audit of the run-off round of voting on 14 June. Since 12 July, the UN leadership has held more than 30 meetings with the two presidential candidates to discuss the audit, as well as daily meetings with both teams at the technical level. The UN Special

Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, underscored the prominence of both parties in designing the procedures, the audit checklist, and the invalidation and recount criteria, as well as the hands-on role in the actual audit.

26 August: The 24-hours complaints filing period against the Independent Election Commission (IEC) first decision on 25 August expired. The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) had received 25 complaints from the campaign team of Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

27 August: The campaign team of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah decided to leave the electoral process. Their agents withdrew from the IEC audit after Dr. Abdullah Abdullah stated that a series of technical demands about the audit, made by his campaign aides the previous day, were not met.

27 August: After being halted in the morning, the IEC audit resumed in the afternoon in the presence of UN experts, IEC staff, plus international and national observers, but without agents of either candidate. The UN regretted the decision of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah to withdraw from the audit process. In the interests of protecting the integrity of the audit process, the UN requested the team of Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai to also review their own participation, as the audit must be seen to be even-handed by all Afghans. The UN pledged to redouble its support to the Afghan electoral authorities in order for the expeditious completion of a thorough and credible audit.

27 August: The IEC held its second decision-making session in an open meeting. After having reviewed evidence collected during the audit process, the IEC Commissioners:

- Confirmed the validity of results from 1,853 standard polling stations
- Approved the recount of results from 498 standard polling stations
- Confirmed the need for closer investigation of 85 standard polling stations, and deferred decision-making on these particular cases, accordingly
- Approved the invalidation of results from 64 standard polling stations.
- Approved the invalidation of results from 11 special scrutiny cases
- Approved the recount of results from 263 special scrutiny cases
- Confirmed the need for closer investigation of 226 special cases, and deferred decision-making on these particular cases.

28 August: The IECC adjudicated in an open session (1) the 25 complaints that it had received from of Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's campaign team against the IEC's first audit decision on 25 August; within 48 hours of receipt of the complaints as provided by law. The IECC dismissed 23 complaints and reversed two IEC decisions, hence re-validating results from two polling stations.

28 August: The UN SRSB for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, briefed President Hamid Karzai. He stressed that given the absence of candidate agents from the audit, the UN experts engaged in the audit would continue to conduct their work with strict impartiality, professionalism, and with even greater vigilance. Mr. Kubiš said that a rigorous and credible audit required time but could be completed around 10 September.

28 August: The IEC conducted its third decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- validation of results from 1,807 polling stations
- invalidation of results from 69 polling stations
- partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 628 polling stations.

The Commissioners confirmed the need for closer investigation of 496 polling stations, and deferred decision-making on these particular cases, accordingly.

30 August: The UN received a letter from Dr. Abdullah Abdullah with a claim related to the presence of similar signatures and/or handwriting on the results sheets of different polling stations. The claim implicated that the similar signature and/or handwriting is evidence of fraud through the falsification of results across a group of polling stations. The letter also refers to other claims related to irregularities across different polling stations; these patterns of similar cases of fraud across different polling stations had so far not been dealt with in the scope of the original audit process approach.

30 August: The UN SRSB for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, met with the two presidential candidates. At their request, he briefed them on the progress of the audit. Ambassador of the United States to Afghanistan, James Cunningham, attended the meeting.

31 August: In an open adjudication session (2), the IECC decided on 15 complaints filed by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's team against the IEC audit decision of 27 August: 11 complaints were dismissed while in four cases the IECC reversed the IEC decision because of insufficient evidence in the checklist.

31 August: The IEC conducted its fourth decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- Validation of results from 1,837 all standard polling stations
- Invalidation of results from 236 polling stations (of which 191 were standard audit cases and 45 were special scrutiny cases)
- Partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 2,165 polling stations (of which 915 were standard audit cases and 1,250 were special scrutiny cases)

Commissioners also confirmed the need for closer investigation of 762 polling stations (of which 514 were standard audit cases and 248 were cases of special scrutiny).

1 September: In a press release, the UN underscored that even as the audit of the presidential run-off approaches completion, the world body continued to respond to new technical issues and concerns when raised by the presidential campaigns. This is part of its previously stated commitment to work with both campaigns to respond to any issues that would further the overall objective of the audit to separate fraudulent ballots from valid votes.

1 September: ELECT II Senior Technical and Election Operations Advisor Daniel Hinchcliff was appointed as Officer-in-Charge of ELECT II as Chief Technical Advisor Deryck Fritz took up a new position with UNDP in the region.

2 September: The IEC conducted its fifth decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- Validation of results from 520 polling stations (all of which were standard audit cases)
- Invalidation of results from 50 polling stations (of which 37 were standard audit cases and 13 were special scrutiny cases)
- Partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 1,070 polling stations (of which 287 were standard audit cases and 783 were special scrutiny cases)

Commissioners also confirmed the need for closer investigation of 360 polling stations (of which 256 were standard audit cases and 104 were cases of special scrutiny).

2 September: In an open adjudication session (3), the IECC decided on 16 complaints filed by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's campaign team against the IEC audit decision of 28 August: 14 complaints were dismissed while two IEC decisions were reversed.

2 September: The UN passed on Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's letter regarding the claim of similar signed result forms to the IEC. The UN further decided to establish a special team of international experts, headed by electoral specialist Richard Chambers, to assist the IEC in auditing ballot boxes with similar signed result forms.

3 September: In an open adjudication session (4), the IECC decided on 81 complaints filed by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's campaign team against the IEC audit decision of 31 August: 75 IEC decisions were confirmed while 6 IEC decisions were reversed.

3 September: The IEC held a co-ordination meeting with international observers on the status of the audit process.

4 September: The IEC completed the regular audit process of all ballot boxes.



4 September: The IEC conducted its sixth decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- Validation of results from 562 polling stations (all of which were standard audit cases)
- Invalidation of results from 72 polling stations (of which 48 were standard audit cases and 24 were special scrutiny cases)
- Partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 1,133 polling stations (of which 344 were standard audit cases and 789 were special scrutiny cases)

Commissioners also confirmed the need for closer investigation of 233 polling stations (of which 146 were standard audit cases and 87 were cases of special scrutiny).

4 September: The IEC agreed to initiate a mechanism to review the claims of similar signed results forms.

4 September: The ELECT II mid-term review team presented its first finding in a meeting with donor partners as well as UNDP and ELECT II. A final report is expected to be circulated in October.

5 September: UN specialists conducted a training session with IEC staff on how to identify and audit similar signed result forms.

6 September: In an open adjudication session (5), the IECC decided on 15 complaints filed by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's campaign team against the IEC audit decision of 31 August: 14 complaints were dismissed while one IEC decision was reversed.

7 September: The IEC Media Commission released its 'Election Media Commission's Performance Report' for the Month of August 2014.

7 September: In an open adjudication session (6), the IECC decided on 28 complaints filed by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai's campaign team against the IEC audit decisions of 4 September: two IEC decisions were reversed while the other 26 complaints were dismissed.

7 September: ELECT II conducted a lessons learned workshop with the recruited UN auditors to review the audit process and reflect on observations, challenges, and issues.

7 September: In the presence of observers and supervised by the UN, the IEC commenced the audit process of polling stations with similar signed results forms.

7 September: UNDP audit experts finalized and submitted to the IEC the draft procedures for the review of claims of similarly signed results sheets. See Annex 1.

8 September: The IEC conducted its seventh decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- Validation of results from 279 all standard polling stations
- Invalidation of results from 94 polling stations (of which 41 were standard audit cases and 53 were special scrutiny cases)
- Partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 1,703 polling stations (of which 259 were standard audit cases and 1,444 were special scrutiny cases)

8 September: Both presidential candidates gave a separate press conference. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah reconfirmed his dissatisfaction with the audit process while Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai expressed his wish to see swift conclusion of the electoral process and a release of the final results by the IEC.

8 September: The IEC filed a second objection to a decision of the IECC related to the audit.

10 September: In separate telephone calls with Afghanistan's two presidential candidates, Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, stressed the need for both of them to abide by their public commitments and conclude the political agreement on a government of national unity.

11 September: The IEC Commissioners concluded the formal approval of the IEC's Regulatory Decision regarding the 'Review of results sheets from specified groups of polling stations from the 2014 Presidential Election Run-Off'. See Annex 2.

11 September: The UN's Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, visited Kabul and underscored the UN SG's call for a successful conclusion to Afghanistan's presidential election process when he met the two presidential candidates.

12 September: The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative (SRSG) for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, met with the IEC Commissioners in Kabul. He officially briefed them on political developments related to the electoral process for the country's new president, including the telephone call between the UN Secretary-General (SG), Ban Ki-moon, and the two presidential candidates, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, and the subsequent visit to Kabul by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman.

12 September: The IEC conducted its eighth decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- Validation of results from 1,459 polling stations
- Invalidation of results from 95 polling stations
- Partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 2,304 polling stations
- Commissioners also confirmed the need for closer investigation of 405 polling stations

13 September: ELECT II advisors assisted the IEC with the collection and final investigation of outstanding audit forms and the final storing of all ballot boxes and sealing of the IEC warehouses.

13 September: In an open adjudication session (7), the IECC decided on 21 complaints filed by Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai campaign team against the IEC audit decision of 8 September. The IECC confirmed 15 IEC decisions while six IEC decisions were reversed, out of which partial invalidations of three polling stations. It was the first time the IECC made a partial invalidation of a polling station, supported by technical advice from IFES.

14 September: The IEC conducted its ninth and final decision-making session on audit results of ballots, in the presence of national and international observers, UN advisors and media. In accordance with criteria detailed in IEC Decision 33-1393, the decisions led to:

- Validation of results from 44 polling stations;
- Invalidation of results from 276 polling stations; and
- Partial-invalidation (recount) of results from 85 polling stations.

Furthermore, the IEC invalidated 78 polling stations out of the 69 district cases in total submitted by both candidates as suspicious 'Similar Signed Result Forms' consisting of 1,683 polling stations.

With the ninth open session, the IEC concluded adjudication of the audit results. All decisions are reported in detail on the IEC website:

<http://www.iec.org.af/runoff-audit>.

14 September: The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) received 176 complaints from the team of Dr. Ashraf Ghani's Continuity and Change team against the IEC decisions made on Friday 12 September.

14 September: Following the final IEC decision-making session on the findings from audited ballot boxes, the UN welcomed the completion of the nationwide audit. According to their respective mandates and responsibilities, the relevant Afghan electoral institutions will next hear complaints regarding

the audit findings and certify and announce the final result. “Today’s decisions marks the end of the supervisory role over the IEC-conducted audit which the two candidates requested the United Nations to play,” said the UN Senior Adviser to the IEC, Richard Chambers. “This particular role of the UN is over.” The UN extends its gratitude to the IEC for its efforts and co-operation as well as to all of the international and Afghan observer organisations and diplomatic missions that contributed monitors in order to enhance the transparency of the exercise. In his third quarter report to the UN Security Council, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke of the courage and determination of the millions of Afghan women and men who participated in the two rounds of polling as voters, as well as the candidates, campaign and electoral workers, and observers. He underscored that “their wish to achieve a peaceful, democratic leadership transition must be respected”.

15 September: The IEC started and completed a quality control exercise for all of the 9,671 polling stations that were subject to recount. This exercise involved checking the physical results sheets with the numbers entered electronically into the NTC recount database.

16 September: Ten UN election specialists performed a secondary quality control exercise on 2,960 randomly selected polling stations that were subject to recount. From these, UN staff identified minor input errors for three polling stations, which were subsequently corrected.

18 September: The Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, briefed the United Nations Security Council’s quarterly meeting on Afghanistan at UN Headquarters in New York.

18 September: the IECC held its final complaints adjudication session.

18 September: the IECC held a press conference to announce its final decisions on all Election Day complaints, all complaints on partial and preliminary results, appeals against 2,341 Provincial IECC (PIECC) decisions, and 389 complaints against IEC audit decisions. All IECC decisions were sent to the IEC on 18 September, following the public announcement of decisions by the IECC. The IECC held a total of eight open sessions to adjudicate all complaints on IEC audit decisions from August 27 until September 16.

The adjudication of complaints relating to the IEC audit lasted 25 days, beginning on 26 August when the IECC received the first complaints against IEC decisions.

By the end of the adjudication process for all complaints and appeals, IECC made:

- 389 decisions on complaints related to IEC audit decisions: 92.5% of IEC decisions were confirmed (360 decisions); 7.5% of IEC decisions were reversed (29 decisions: 26 decisions completely reversed and 3 decisions partially reversed).

- 2,579 decisions on polling and counting complaints from Election Day complaints: 108 PS were invalidated. IECC also imposed sanctions: warnings (9), fines (25), and referrals (2).
- 376 decisions on complaints regarding partial and preliminary results: all dismissed, as the initiation of the 100% audit made these complaints moot.
- 3 decisions on 3 objections made by the IEC against IECC decisions on 7, 8 and 19 September: 1 objection accepted, and 2 rejected.

The IECC held a series of open sessions relating to polling and counting complaints and appeals from 5 to 9 July. The IECC also held eight open sessions to adjudicate all complaints on IEC audit decisions (27, 31 August, and 2, 3, 6, 7, 13, and 16 September).

19 September, the IEC formally filed an objection againsts IECC decisions invalidating 118 PS from Election Day complaints. On the same day, the IECC rejected the Objection for 108 noting that it had the authority to invalidate, and had sufficient evidence of fraud to invalidate these polling stations.. The IECC considered also no need to adjudicate the remaining 10 PS because 7 PS were closed on Election Day and hence no voting took place (2 in Nuristan and 5 in Paktika). Also, the count of 3 PS was repeated in Badghis.

21 September: Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates ended six months of political deadlock by signing a power-sharing agreement that paves the way for the installation of a new president. In a televised ceremony at the presidential palace, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai signed the deal to create a national unity government. The short ceremony was hosted by the outgoing president, Hamid Karzai, and attended by cabinet members, and other high-level government officials. UN SRSJ Ján Kubiš and US Ambassador James Cunningham were present at the signing.

21 September: The Independent Election Commission declared that Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai was the winner of the election.

21 September: The UN welcomed the agreement signed today by the two presidential candidates, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, to establish a government of national unity as an important step to move the country towards a period of stability.

21 September: The UN welcomed the IEC's announcement, completing the presidential election 2014, and warmly congratulated Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai as the President-elect of Afghanistan.

21 September: The IEC issued a press release (in Dari and Pashto) about the final announcement of the Presidential election run-off results.

On 21 September, the EU EAT welcomed the political agreement signed to form a national unity government. The EU EAT regretted that no precise results figures were yet published and "concluded that, even after the full audit, questions remained on the electoral process and [...] on the final outcome, in particular as the audit failed to bring full clarity on final results".

On 24 September, the observers group National Democratic Institute (NDI) welcomed the conclusion of the presidential elections and the political agreement. The NDI underscored the need for a “thorough inquiry into the vulnerabilities that allowed high levels of fraud to take place, and the identification and prosecution of those responsible for it.” It also state that “while electoral fraud as well as certain problems in the audit process make it impossible for any official results to precisely reflect the votes cast, evidence was not unveiled that would cause the outcome to be reversed”.

26 September: The IEC presented President Elect Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai with the winner certificate.

29 September: Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan’s new leaders. Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai succeeded outgoing President Hamid Karzai in the country’s first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan’s history, while Dr. Abdullah Abdullah himself took up the newly-created post of Chief Executive Officer, a position similar to that of prime minister.