

## Press Release

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### ACSEN Vision on Gov't Negligence in Executing Electoral Reform

Afghanistan Civil Society Network for Elections (ACSEN) which seriously follows the electoral reform process is very concerned about recent changes made into the Selection Committee which is against the proposed draft provided by Special Electoral Reform Commission (SERC).

ACSEN believes decreasing the representation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and increase representation of state departments in Selection Committee (SC), the balance deemed essential for impartiality and credibility of Selection Committee is eradicated and has brought the principle of meritocracy under question.

At the same time, appointment of speaker and chairman of the two houses of parliament and chief justice of Supreme Court as members of SC is in disregard with article 152 of the constitution and can damage legal credibility of this committee.

The existing status increased fears of the government efforts to place further influence on democratic processes and marginalize CSOs and people from such processes.

ACSEN concerns while bringing free and real electoral reform is the only way to restore confidence of people and CSOs back on government and democratic processes, but negligence of authorities in this context can direct the country toward another political crisis.

ACSEN asks government to facilitate the ground for electoral reform as soon as possible and provide comprehensive support for the selection procedure of new commissioners considering the principle of meritocracy and free from any political interference.

ACSEN also calls on the representatives of people in parliament, civil society, independent media outlets and political elites to support free and transparent process of electoral reform and play their national responsibility in succeeding this process.

With Respect

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