



CONTINUED FOCUS REQUIRED TO ADVANCE AFGHANISTAN'S ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORMS – UN REPORT

KABUL, 20 May 2019 - Continued focus and effort are essential for building on the progress made in implementing Afghanistan's anti-corruption strategy, finds a new United Nations report released today.

"Fighting corruption remains a truly fundamental necessity in Afghanistan," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. "The United Nations welcomes the progress Afghanistan has made, but all Afghan institutions, along with every segment of society, must persevere in their efforts to advance integrity, accountability and transparency in the country."

UNAMA's third anti-corruption report, titled 'Afghanistan's Fight against Corruption: Groundwork for Peace and Prosperity,' reviews the progress Afghanistan has made in anti-corruption reform and provides analysis and recommendations to support Afghanistan's institutions in combatting corruption to improve the lives of all citizens who must grapple with this challenging issue each day.

The report describes how corruption continues to affect all aspects of life in Afghanistan, eroding public trust and confidence in government institutions and hindering efforts to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the country.

"Corruption undermines rule of law and opens the door to more crime, creating a vicious cycle that fosters a culture of impunity," said the UN envoy, who is also head of UNAMA. "Even more importantly, corruption puts at risk prospects for peace, as a negotiated settlement for Afghanistan's future must be based on integrity and justice."

The report makes several recommendations, recognizing that the government's ongoing anti-corruption efforts have yet to impact the lives of most Afghans, and concludes that, notwithstanding the many legal and policy reforms that have been undertaken, corruption remains a substantial obstacle to Afghanistan's long-term peace and prosperity.

A key recommendation in the report is for Afghanistan to develop a long-term strategy to build on the gains of past reform efforts and leverage the growing public will to fight corruption.

"The United Nations appreciates the government trying to set up many institutional reform measures this year and last, and we encourage pursuing further reform," said Yamamoto. "The upcoming elections are a test case for implementing lessons learned."

The United Nations remains committed to supporting Afghanistan in further implementing its obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption, which Afghanistan ratified in 2008.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The majority of United Nations Member States are parties to the Convention.

The full report on Afghanistan's fight against corruption is available here: unama.unmissions.org/corruption.

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UNAMA supports the Afghan people and government to achieve peace and stability. In accordance with its mandate as a political mission, UNAMA backs conflict prevention and resolution, promoting inclusion and social cohesion, as well as strengthening regional cooperation. The Mission supports effective governance, promoting national ownership and accountable institutions that are built on respect for human rights. UNAMA provides 'good offices' and other key services, including diplomatic steps that draw on the organization's independence, impartiality and integrity to prevent disputes from arising, escalating or spreading. The Mission coordinates international support for Afghan development and humanitarian priorities.