

The header banner features the UNAMA logo in large blue letters, followed by the full name 'United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan' and the unit name 'Strategic Communication and Spokespersons Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan'. A dark blue wavy bar contains the text 'Press Statement' in white. The URL 'http://unama.unmissions.org' is located in the bottom right corner of the banner. A faint globe graphic is visible in the background.

UNAMA
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
Strategic Communication and Spokespersons Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan

Press Statement

<http://unama.unmissions.org>

UNAMA WELCOMES THE DECISION OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION

KABUL, 23 AUGUST 2011: The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Afghanistan, Staffan de Mistura, welcomes the decision of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) announced on Sunday 21 August regarding the membership of the *Wolesi Jirga*. With this decision a long institutional impasse comes to an end.

SRSG de Mistura recognises the efforts made by those involved to seek a conclusion to the 2010 *Wolesi Jirga* elections, in particular the decision of President Karzai to leave the IEC with the sole authority to finalise these results.

The real work must now begin. The people of Afghanistan expect the parliament, government and judiciary to act within their clearly defined areas of competence, and in accordance with Afghanistan's Constitution and other relevant laws, to bring peace, progress and prosperity to their country.

UNAMA remains fully committed to supporting the Afghan people and their democratic institutions.