

The logo for UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) features the acronym 'UNAMA' in large, bold, blue capital letters. To the right of the text is a faint, stylized blue globe showing the outlines of the continents.**United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan**

Strategic Communication and Spokespersons Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan

**Press Statement**<http://unama.unmissions.org>**UNITED NATIONS NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION IN KABUL TO GAUGE UN ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHAN ELECTIONS**

**KABUL, 3 December 2012** – At the invitation of the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC), the United Nations Electoral Affairs Division is currently conducting a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) in Afghanistan. The 2014-15 elections will be Afghan managed and Afghan led. The IEC requested that in view of the large-scale preparations required for elections “it would be valuable if the United Nations Needs Assessment Mission could be undertaken as soon as possible.” The assessment is a UN mechanism to consider the most appropriate forms of UN electoral assistance.

A three-person team arrived in Kabul for an initial visit on 27 November. The mission is meeting with diverse electoral stakeholders from across the Government, IEC, National Assembly, political parties and civil society. The purpose of NAM is to evaluate the political and electoral environment in the country, the legal and institutional framework governing the electoral process and the capacity and needs of the various election stakeholders. A second visit will be undertaken in early 2013. The Mission will then advise United Nations leadership on the most appropriate parameters for electoral support in line with UNAMA’s mandate to support the improved sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the next electoral cycle in line with mutual commitments in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework.

Under the UN Security Council Resolution 2041 endorsed on 22 March 2012 on Afghanistan, UNAMA can play a supporting role and provide assistance to the relevant Afghan authorities and institutions, at their request.

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- The UN Security Council Resolution 2041 [2012] specifies that “UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within their mandate and guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts, in accordance with the London and Kabul Conference Communiqués and the Bonn Conference Conclusions”. It also calls for a particular focus on providing “support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, the organization of future Afghan elections, as well as to strengthen, in support of the Government of Afghanistan’s efforts, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, as agreed at the London, Kabul and Bonn Conferences, and provide capacity building and technical assistance to the Afghan institutions involved in this process”.

- In addition the Resolution “*Underscores* the importance of a sustainable democratic development in Afghanistan with all Afghan institutions acting within their clearly defined areas of competence, in accordance with the relevant laws and the Afghan Constitution.” It *welcomes*, in this regard, the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan at the Kabul Conference, reaffirmed at the Bonn Conference, to deliver further improvements to the electoral process, including addressing the sustainability of the electoral process, and, taking into account the commitments by the international community and the Afghan Government made at the London, Kabul and Bonn Conferences. The Resolution “*reaffirms* UNAMA’s supporting role, at the request of the Afghan Government, in the realization of these commitments, and *requests* that, upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA provide assistance to the relevant Afghan institutions to support the integrity of the electoral process; and further *calls upon* members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate”.

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**United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Kabul, Afghanistan**

All media contact details are online at: <http://unama.unmissions.org>