



USAID | **AFGHANISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF AFGHANISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT

January – March 2014



30 APRIL 2014

ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF AFGHANISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT: JANUARY TO MARCH 2014

Program Title:	Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan
Sponsoring USAID Office:	USAID Afghanistan
Contract Number:	AID-OAA-I-12-00003/AID-306-TO-13-00004
Contractor:	DAI
Date of Publication:	April 30, 2014
Author:	ALBA Project Staff

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

CONTENTS

- ACRONYMS2
- INTRODUCTION3
- CHAPTER I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY4
- CHAPTER II: SUMMARY OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS6
 - OBJECTIVE ONE - STRENGTHENED LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES.....6
 - OBJECTIVE TWO - IMPROVED OVERSIGHT7
 - OBJECTIVE THREE - INCREASED OUTREACH CAPACITY9
 - OBJECTIVE FOUR - INCREASED INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.....12
- CHAPTER III: PERFORMANCE MONITORING18
- CHAPTER IV: CROSS-CUTTING TASKS.....20
- CHAPTER V: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION21
- ANNEXES22

ACRONYMS

ALBA	Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan
APAP	Afghanistan Parliament Assistance Program
API	Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute
AO	Assistance Objectives
AUAF	American University of Afghanistan
BMP	Branding and Marking Plan
CI	Counterpart International
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contract Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CTAP	Civilian Technical Assistance Program
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DG	Director General
DIPR	Directorate of Information and Public Relations
DSG	Deputy Secretary General
ICLAD	International Consortium for Law and Development
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IR	Intermediate Results
MEC	Independent Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
MJ	Meshrano Jirga
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MSI	Management Systems International
NDI	National Democratic Institute
PACC	Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus
PC	Provincial Council
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PRD	Public Relations Directorate
SG	Secretary General
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WJ	Wolesi Jirga

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT ALBA

The Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA) project is a four-year technical assistance initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI). Work under the project supports the development of the Afghan Parliament to enable it to operate as an independent and effective legislative, representative and oversight body.

USAID's overarching Assistance Objective (AO) 1 for Democracy and Governance in Afghanistan is "Improved performance and accountability of governance." Five intermediate results (IRs) comprise this AO. ALBA supports the third IR, "Strengthened governance and service delivery at national and sub-national levels." Specifically, ALBA supports the following sub-IR: "Institutional capacity and oversight capacity of elected bodies at all levels strengthened."

ALBA will assist in the continued development of the Afghanistan Parliament as a strong, effective, and independent parliamentary institution. The four key areas of the program are: Legislative Support; Oversight; Outreach; and Institutional Development of the Parliament with a major focus on the commissions as a vehicle for many of ALBA's activities.

USAID designed ALBA to prepare both Houses of Parliament for greater self-reliance. ALBA will build on the foundation of USAID's previous programs while expanding support to the Meshrano Jirga (MJ). This approach will include capacity development aimed at immediate and long-term application for practical, on-the-job learning as Members of Parliament (MPs) and staff reduce reliance on embedded advisors and engage in legislative, oversight, and outreach activities alongside government, civil society, and private sector actors.

CHAPTER I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Work under the Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA) project was designed to support the development of the Afghan Parliament to enable it to operate as an independent and effective legislative, representative and oversight body. The report period, which largely coincided with the Fall / Winter parliamentary recess, witnessed activities and progress in all of the four major objectives of ALBA:

Under **Objective One – Strengthened Legislative Processes**, ALBA worked with the HR Directorates of both Houses to conclude an agreement on an interim curriculum for a series of intensive seminars on parliamentary operations and concepts. These seminars were conducted between 27 January and 2 March 2014. The seminars ranged from media and camera techniques for the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to a more broad-ranging seminar on Legislative Policy. Several additional trainings are planned beyond the recess, including a proposed week-long training on GIROA procurement procedures in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, as well as a 2-3 day seminar on Afghanistan Parliamentary rules and regulations. ALBA will continue discussing establishment of a comprehensive program of longer-term courses aimed at providing the permanent staff of the Parliamentary Secretariat with the skills required to become more effective at their jobs, focusing on legislative analysis and research, and budgetary oversight skills.

Under **Objective Two – Improved Oversight**, ALBA continued supporting the development of the Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC), establishing relations between the group and the Independent Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), which included a formal session with the MEC Board of Directors. In addition, ALBA continued working with the group to develop its internal organization, its formal charter and other foundation documents. ALBA continued supporting the Wolesi Jirga (WJ) Women’s Commission, working with it to plan its priorities for the next three months. ALBA is supporting the preparation of the Commission’s annual report, including the Commission’s efforts in the areas of outreach and gender budget analysis. ALBA conducted an assessment of the draft Law on Provincial Councils through a local legislative specialist, from which a series of recommendations were developed as well as a summarization of all the articles of the draft law. Additionally, ALBA closely monitored the consideration and passage of the revised 1393 Budget, which had been initially rejected by the Parliament in December.

Under **Objective Three – Increased Outreach**, ALBA shared its concept for revisions to the parliamentary website with the Head of the WJ Parliamentary Affairs Directorate, which recommends incorporating such features as live audio and video web-streaming of plenary sessions, and dedicated pages for citizens' petitions and complaints. There was additional discussion about reviving the Legislative Tracking Website and Proceedings Reporting/Recording, including plans to conduct an assessment of the existing systems and processes. ALBA continued its outreach to civil society organizations (CSOs), focusing on efforts to monitor the development and final passage of the Criminal Procedures Code, which generated considerable controversy over the impact of provisions, including one that would have prevented family members from testifying in cases of abuse or domestic violence. Additionally, ALBA compiled and translated End of Session Reports for both Houses of parliament.

Under **Objective Four – Increased Institutional Development**, ALBA continued the provision of basic language and IT courses for staff and members of both Houses. We also finalized the process of integrating the staff of the capacity-building sections into Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API) planning and operations through development of a comprehensive interim seminar series for staff conducted during the parliamentary recess of 21 January to 6 March, as mentioned in Objective One. During the API seminar series, ALBA conducted workshops on UN Resolution 1325, the Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Security, and an overall Gender Workshop. In addition, efforts to develop a gender strategy involving both Houses began during this period, with joint planning sessions. Additionally, ALBA staff met with MJ Secretariat leadership to coordinate how ALBA will support the MJ New Member Orientation preparations.

CHAPTER II: SUMMARY OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

OBJECTIVE ONE – STRENGTHENED LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES

Task 1.1 - Institutionalize Legislative Drafting and Analysis

Development of Legislative Staff Training Program – ALBA continued developing the curriculum for the legislative staff training program, a comprehensive package of courses aimed at providing the permanent staff of the Parliamentary Secretariat with the skills required to become more effective at their jobs. The initial discussions on this training began during the previous quarter, and served as an impetus for both a breakthrough in inter-House cooperation and the joint planning of parliamentary staff seminars, which were conducted at the API during the January to March Parliamentary Recess. This first-ever joint planning marks a breakthrough for capacity building, and sets the theme for future trainings and seminars, particularly with regard to the legislative staffs of both Houses. These overall trainings are described in more detail below, in Task 4.1.

Task 1.2 – Developing Effective Communications Processes with Executive

API Seminar: Analysis and Development of Legislative Policy – On 24-25 February, a seminar was conducted at the API to provide the staffs of the Directorate of Legislative Affairs of both Houses with a fundamental understanding and overview of the development and analysis of legislative policy in Parliament. This was the first time that joint training was conducted involving legislative staff of both Houses. The exchange of experiences by MJ and WJ staff was cited by the participants as being an extremely valuable part of the training. ALBA has insisted on joint training for the vast majority of its courses, overcoming the natural rivalry between the Upper and Lower Houses which has been characteristic of their relationship over the past few years. As with all of the API courses, ALBA will assist the capacity building sections to administer a routine questionnaire for all course participants designed to measure how they use the skills and knowledge gained in these training sessions in their daily work in the Secretariat. ALBA and API will adjust future courses based on participant feedback to ensure effective delivery and relevant information.

API Seminar: Working with Databases – ALBA API instructors presented a one-day seminar on 4 February for parliamentary staff on Working with Databases. The workshop focused on managing spreadsheets, trouble-shooting MS Access database

files, and report generation. This particular training was a top priority of both Houses, and follow-up discussions with several participants indicated that the training had positive impact on their performance due to their increased knowledge, particularly in the areas of record keeping, troubleshooting existing databases and designing new databases. As an example, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], reported that:

“I am one of the technical people who had lots of problems in maintaining the personnel records for the WJ, which previously took me hours of searching through hard copy files to respond to requests from the WJ Director of Human Resources. Through this training, I have now developed a simple and useful database for rapid retrieval of personnel files in MS Excel. I am now able to find personnel files in minutes instead of hours.”

The success of this training has resulted in new requests from parliamentary staff for more advanced training, which will be included in upcoming seminar sessions.

Task 1.3 – Strengthen Research Methods for Oversight and Legislation

API Seminar: Library Management – An additional advanced course was delivered on the management of parliamentary libraries and legislative records. The course was attended by 25 staff members of both Houses, and delivered by the head of the [REDACTED], who has extensive previous experience in this area.

OBJECTIVE TWO – IMPROVED OVERSIGHT

Task 2.1 – Increase General Oversight through Commissions

WJ Women’s Commission Priority Planning Session – ALBA met with the WJ Women’s Commission Chair to plan the Commission priorities for the next three months. ALBA is supporting the production of the Commission’s annual report, including the Commission’s efforts in the areas of outreach and gender budget analysis. As with many initiatives, it is hoped that the production and dissemination of this report will serve as a template for other Commissions to begin developing their own annual reports, for both internal and external audiences. In addition, the Chair requested ALBA’s support in the planning and conduct of a day-long planning workshop for the Commission immediately prior to the resumption of Parliament, which would invite female MPs and members of the Ministerial Gender Units to identify legislative priorities

for the next six months. The Ministerial Gender Units, established several years ago, lack specific direction in their activities. ALBA and the Women's Commission consider them to be potentially useful partners in support of gender mainstreaming within the legislative and budgetary cycles.

Task 2.2 – Support Oversight of Provincial Budget Performance and Implementation

Draft Law on Provincial Councils Assessment – ALBA prepared an assessment of the draft Law on Provincial Councils through a local legislative specialist, from which a series of recommendations were developed along with a summarization of all the articles of the draft law. Passed by the WJ on 18 January, the law now goes to the MJ for consideration in the Spring Session. ALBA is following the law, supporting the Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG) efforts to ensure that the role of Provincial Councils remains substantive through the inclusion of oversight responsibilities in the legislation. **(See Annex 1)**

Task 2.3 – Support Parliament's Oversight of Budget Priorities and Implementation

API Seminar: Budget Processes for Secretariat Staff – ALBA, in partnership with the capacity building sections of both Houses, began a series of advanced courses aimed at Secretariat staff. The first of these introduced the staff to the national budget process and in particular focused on the issue of how the Parliament itself can better integrate into the overall budget submission cycle managed by the Ministry of Finance. A total of 65 participants attended the two-day course.



[Redacted Name], opens the Budget Course for Secretariat staff.

Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus Coordination with MEC – ALBA hosted an introductory meeting between the governing board of the MEC and the PACC. The MEC delegation consisted of the following international and Afghan members: [REDACTED]



Members of the MEC meet with parliamentarians at ALBA

The meeting was requested by the MEC in order to establish a relationship with the PACC, considering the MPs to be a critical part of the overall anti-corruption effort. PACC members briefed the MEC on its near- and mid-term priorities, especially in the area of anti-corruption legislation, some of which is expected to appear in the upcoming parliamentary session. In

turn, the MEC briefed the PACC on some of their upcoming research priorities and pledged to support the work of the PACC in a variety of ways, including the provision of analysis and research on legislation and other corruption issues which come to the attention of Parliament.

OBJECTIVE THREE – INCREASED OUTREACH CAPACITY

Task 3.1 – Increasing Interactions with Civil Society

CSO Facilitation: Coordination Meeting with Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) – ALBA met with representatives of IWA to begin coordination of activities prior to the resumption of Parliament in March. The two main issues discussed were: 1) the support ALBA could give to IWA’s research agenda, which is focusing on female members of Parliament and perceptions of corruption; and, 2) the cooperation between IWA and ALBA to support Parliament on the anticipated pieces of anti-corruption legislation to be introduced in the upcoming session, including the Access To Information Law and the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

CSO Facilitation: Criminal Procedures Code – ALBA continued its efforts to monitor the development and final passage of the Criminal Procedures Code, which generated considerable controversy over the impact of its provisions, including an article (Article 26) which would have effectively prevented family members from testifying in cases of abuse or domestic violence.

After considerable international and Afghan protests to the Article 26 language sent by the parliament to the President, President Karzai refused to sign the law and returned it to the Ministry of Justice to draft the changes he desired.

On 22 February, the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice drafted text for the president, which was further amended on 23 February at the request of the CSOs, who cited concerns of the remaining ambiguity of the amendment's language.

Task 3.2 – Strengthening Parliamentary Visibility

Meeting with Director of Parliamentary Affairs of the WJ – ALBA staff met with the [REDACTED] to discuss plans for updating the parliamentary website, as well as conducting a review of the parliamentary reporting process to modernize it and reduce the turn-around time of transcripts of the plenary session from 2-3 weeks to 2-3 days. Additionally, [REDACTED] requested that ALBA conduct a review of the moribund legislative tracking website, which was created during the previous USAID project but was never properly populated or updated. ALBA is pursuing possible alternatives for further development of the existing legislative process software, including legislative tracking modules, and will be contacted to discuss conducting a thorough assessment of the status of the legislative tracking website and providing a report on what resources are needed to update and maintain the site.

Legislative Tracking Matrix – ALBA continues to follow legislative activity through its legislation tracking matrix, which marks the status of all priority legislation currently under consideration for submission to the Parliament or already introduced in Parliament. **(See Annex 2)**

WJ End of Session Report – ALBA produced a WJ End of Session Report covering the activities of the WJ during the Sixth Session of the 16th term of Parliament, which began on 7 September 2013 and ended on 20 January 2014. Highlights from the WJ End of Session Report are included below:

- The WJ conducted 40 general plenary sessions. Of these 40 plenary sessions, there was one Interpellation session, six Questioning sessions, and two Hearing sessions. The remaining 31 sessions were ordinary plenary sessions.
- Ten bills were passed, and four International Agreements adopted. Additionally, the WJ plenary issued two resolutions, two official decisions, and expressed official positions on various issues.
- On 19 October 2013, the Independent Election Commission introduced eight new Members of Parliament to replace seven Members who resigned and one Member to fill the seat of Ms. Shahnaz Himati, who died in a car accident during the session. These newly introduced members began their duties immediately after being sworn in by the Speaker of the House.
- Two new parliamentary groups were established during the Session. The first was the [REDACTED] (See Annex 3)

MJ End of Session Report – ALBA also produced an MJ End of Session Report covering the activities of the MJ during both the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the 16th term of Parliament, of which the Sixth Session began on 7 September 2013 and ended on 20 January 2014. Highlights from the MJ End of Session Report are included below:

- The MJ conducted 38 general plenary sessions. Out of these 38 plenary sessions, the MJ engaged in 10 oversight field visits and hearings and reviewed 333 citizen complaints and petitions. (See Annex 4)
- 13 bills were passed, 4 International Agreements adopted, and 45 general resolutions were issued, expressing official positions on various policy areas. MJ Commissions conducted 483 general sessions of which over 200 involved Ministers and other high-ranking officials.

Task 3.3 – Developing an Open and Transparent Legislative Process

API Workshop: Journalism Skills in Parliament – On 22-23 February 2014, the API conducted a seminar on Journalism Skills in Parliament for the Directorates of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) of both Houses of the Parliament. The focus of the workshop was to provide the DIPR staff with a fundamental understanding of the use of effective journalism skills in Parliament to better fulfill the needs and further the media and public relations of its two Houses.

OBJECTIVE FOUR – INCREASED INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Task 4.1 - Strengthen the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute

Opening of MJ API Annex – ALBA met with the Secretary General (SG) and Deputy Secretary General (DSG) of the MJ and opened the new API training room located in the MJ Secretariat's office building. The training room will act as a resource for MJ and WJ staff, as ALBA continues to integrate the capacity building activities of both Houses.

API Trainings – Participants in the Training courses at the API Continue to remain strong. Trainings held during the reporting period involved a total of 76 participants in IT classes (56 male and 20 female), of which six were MPs, and a total of 77 participants in English classes (46 male and 31 female), of which six were MPs and 14 were senators.

API Parliamentary Staff Capacity Development – ALBA met with the Capacity Building sections of both Houses, to plan for the 12 January session. The session was designed to determine an overall internal seminar series for both Houses that would be integrated within the existing API curriculum. The 12 January session focused on:

- *Introduction – Initial Course List circulated by ALBA and commented on by both Houses:*
 - *Legislative training modules*
 - *Management courses*
 - *IT courses*
 - *One-off specialist courses*
- *Quick review of the Staff Survey – ALBA staff*
- *Presentation of other WJ and MJ course requirements – MJ and WJ staff*
- *Group discussion to identify priorities for courses*
- *Finalize the curriculum course priorities to set first session of courses*
- *Discussion of course schedules*
- *Staffing the courses– input from WJ and MJ on any recommended instructors*
- *Discussion - Participant selection and evaluation processes:*
 - *Nomination of participants*
 - *Evaluation of participant progress*
 - *Attendance monitoring processes*
- *Process for after-action reports to demonstrate new skills*
- *Discussion – Role of the WJ and MJ Capacity Building Units*

The day-long workshop with both WJ and MJ Human Resources and Capacity Building staff identified priority seminars for the API parliamentary recess schedule. This workshop ensured buy-in from the Secretariat management, and integrated the Capacity Building Sections of both Houses into the overall work of the API. In addition, ***the importance of this joint MJ-WJ planning cannot be understated – this was the first time there has been such coordination between the two Houses in this area.*** The workshop established a draft Workshop Priorities Plan which began implementation on 27 January. (See Annex 5) It is anticipated that some of the priority courses will be undertaken during the second half of the parliamentary recess, when selected staff will be available. The remainder will be scheduled through close coordination with both Houses during the Spring/Summer 2014 Legislative session, and during the Summer 2014 Parliament recess.

Follow up coordination meetings throughout the week produced the final course list for the recess period, which began on 27 January with a two-day course on understanding the budget (for members of the Finance and Admin Directorate) and 29 January with a one-day course on using databases (for all nominated staff members). These two initial courses will be delivered by ALBA using in-house resources, with the majority of other courses slated to use locally-sourced outside instructors.

Parliamentary Recess Workshops and Seminars in February – A total of 15 workshops and seminars were conducted during the reporting period with participants numbers listed in the table below and disaggregated by gender and house. (See Annex 6)

Participants				Grand Total
MJ Staff		WJ Staff		
M	F	M	F	
233	57	263	75	628

Task 4.2 - Support Gender Mainstreaming in the Parliament Planning Session with the Gender Departments – The Gender Units of the General Secretariat of both the MJ and the WJ requested ALBA to technically assist them and facilitate a workshop that would help the gender unit of both Houses to develop the activity plan for the year 1393. This one-day workshop included:

- A brief discussion about the overall ALBA program;
- A short presentation regarding the importance of planning and the planning process;
- A review of the last year’s planned activities and their achievements;

- Establishment of specific goals and objectives; and,
- Identification of the main activities and priorities for this year.

A secondary outcome of the workshop was to establish an increased level of interaction between the gender units of both Houses. ***This is especially important as there was no such interaction prior to this session.*** This is an approach that ALBA is also employing to integrate the work of the Capacity Building sections of both Houses.



Members of the gender units of both Houses participate in a brainstorming session at ALBA.

This planning session was followed up by a final session held on 21 January in which the two units consolidated and finalized a detailed plan (and timeline) for their 1393 activities. The final session focused on furthering the nascent plans of the MJ in particular, and a formal report on its outcomes will be issued early next month after finalization by the Department Head and ALBA.

API Seminar: Gender Workshop – Working with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the API sponsored an interactive workshop on 8-9 February as part of the API Seminar Series regarding the following topics:

- A general understanding of national law and policies including Afghanistan Constitution, Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) related to gender and human rights;

- International policies such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and their focus on women, the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- Identifying the mechanisms by which the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) can be approved; and,
- A closing discussion on the obstacles that hinder women’s engagement in the working environment in fulfilling their rights.

A total of 51 Secretariat staff (21 male and 30 female) participated from both Houses. Every participant was given equal opportunity to participate and discuss their ideas in regard to gender inequity and discrimination in their respective departments.

API Seminar: The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Security (UN Resolution 1325) – On 22-23 February 2014, the API Seminar Series presented a workshop on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 for the staff of the MJ. The seminar



Members of the Parliamentary Security staff participated in the API seminar on Women in Conflict Resolution and Security.

focused on improving women’s human rights, and addressing violence and abuse of women during armed conflict as outlined in UN Resolution 1325. It also covered strategies and approaches for Afghanistan peace-building policies and ensuring the fulfillment of government commitments on the security of women and the sustainability of the peace process. A total of 42 Secretariat staff (15 male and 27 female) participated from both Houses, including parliament security staff. The

inclusion of the security staff was deemed important, particularly as UN Resolution 1325 deals with the role of women in security activities and oversight.

Task 4.3 – Support Meshrano Jirga Activities

Provincial Councils Law Hearings – ALBA supported the convening of the Heads of the 34 Provincial Councils (PCs) to meet with various actors involved in the development of the new PC Law. These meetings included:

- WJ Speaker / WJ Admin Board
- Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on Internal Affairs
- MJ Speaker / MJ Admin Board
- Chairs of all MJ Commissions

The main points discussed were:

- Leadership – This was the most-discussed issue over the two days, as the PC heads stated that a term of two years for the Chair would be appropriate, striking a compromise between elections every year and a proposed four year term.
- Budget / Resources – There was some discussion over the issue of resource allocation to PCs, with the IDLG taking some criticism; however there was not a fulsome debate about how this would / could be changed in the PC Law.
- Reporting – Reporting is a contentious issue, with even ██████████ expressing a strong desire to have PCs report, in some fashion, to the National Assembly, even if only through the MJ. It was generally agreed that monthly reporting was required (as opposed to the current quarterly reporting, to IDLG and the Palace, with no requirement to report to the National Assembly).
- Oversight – The majority of the discussions revolved around the importance of clearly defining “oversight” as it related to the PCs and the provincial line departments / Governor's offices; it was generally agreed that this would be the topic of a regulation resulting from the legislation.
- Responsiveness of the National Assembly – The PC Chairmen raised the issue that requests for support from the National Assembly are often ignored, and they hoped that the PC Law would clarify the relationship between the two institutions.
- Security in the Provinces – The PC Chairmen stressed the deteriorating security situation in their provinces, and reflected the fears of their constituents that the central government has already started to surrender certain areas to Taliban control.
- Elections Preparations – The PC Chairmen also raised the issue of elections preparations, stating repeatedly that it is their opinion that the preparations are seriously behind schedule; the consensus was that it was hard to imagine that credible elections were possible without some dramatic increase in elections preparation activity.

Senate New Member Orientation Planning – Following the elections next quarter for the new PCs, one of the first tasks of the new Councils will be to elect Senators to the MJ. ALBA staff met with [REDACTED] to coordinate how ALBA will support the MJ in its preparations to hold New Member Orientation for incoming Senators.

There will be no election of Senators until all PCs are officially pronounced elected. Based on the IEC calendar, official certification of the winners of the PC races will take place on 21 June. Consequently, the expectation is that the New Member Orientation session will take place in approximately the first week of July, encompassing three to five days. For planning purposes, it was suggested that all publications be printed and ready for distribution by 15 June.

[REDACTED] identified a total of seven publications that the MJ is preparing for the Orientation, and requested ALBA support in reviewing, updating and publishing these materials:

- The Rules of Procedure Handbook, in Pocket Guide format, in Dari, Pashto, and English;
- The MJ Strategic Plan for the 17th Convocation in Dari, Pashto, and English;
- The Committee Procedures Handbook, bi-lingual Dari/Pashto edition;
- Guidebook for MPs, with one edition per language, Pocket Guide format;
- The Role of the Secretariat Handbook, in Dari and Pashto;
- Effective Relations between the Legislature and Executive; and,
- A Glossary of Parliamentary Terms, in Dari, Pashto, and English.

Deputy Secretary General Akifi requested that the Orientation include several international speakers, including MPs or former MPs from US, Canada, UK, France, and India.

API Strategic Planning Workshops – The API sponsored two interactive workshops on 16-17 and 18-19 February discussing the Principles of Strategic Planning for WJ and MJ staff, with each two-day seminar focused on each individual House. The primary focus of these workshops included types of planning, development of organizational visions and mission statements, how to set goals and objectives, implementation strategies, and how to monitor strategic plans once implementation begins. Originally, only one workshop was planned, but at the request of the WJ leadership, a second seminar was conducted, owing to considerable interest by WJ staff.

CHAPTER III: PERFORMANCE MONITORING

This quarter witnessed progress on several key indicators within the ALBA PMEP:

Indicator	Q4	Actual (YTD)	Target Year	Progress	Comments
1.1 Number of laws debated and subject to final vote	5	33	22	150%	During the Quarter the following laws were passed from the Parliament : Commercial Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Child Parentage Law, Law on Structure and Jurisdiction of the Special Court and National Budge Law
1.2 Percentage of legislation produced with input from outside experts and CSOs	0	21%	25%	84%	-No input from the CSOs has been reported for the quarter.
2.1 Number of Executive oversight taken by legislature	21	225	35	642%	These matters were discussed during the executive oversight :International Relation, Internal Security, Finance and budget, Women Affairs, Justice and Judiciary, National Economy, Transportation and Education
2.2 The number of times a standard procedure for questioning Ministers and officials developed by ALBA is used	6	39	6	650	ALBA's budget team designed the format used to question Ministers. The progress for this indicator is high, as the Execution percentage for Development Budget during 1391 was low for most ministries.
2.3 The number of times the service of the budget unit are accessed by commissions	0	3	30	10%	-No progress has been reported for this indicator
2.4 The degree to which Public Accounts Sub Committee mandate is implemented	0	0	0%	50%	An initial concept paper has been developed to address the establishment of this committee.
3.1 Number of interactions between CSOs and legislative bodies	0	2	30	6.7%	-No interactions have been reported during the quarter, as parliament was in recess for a long time.
3.2 Number of public forums in which legislators and members of the public interact	0	3	15	20%	-Same as above

Other Quarterly Indicators – ALBA has established additional indicators that are not included in this Quarterly Report, either because they are reported on an annual basis or because the program has not yet collected data on those indicators. For a description of indicators where the program has not yet collected data please see the July – September 2013 Quarterly Report.

Additional Notes on Indicators – As ALBA completes the last quarter of its first year, it is apparent that some adjustment of the indicators will be required, in light of the significant progress encountered in some objectives, and challenges in others. We will review the indicators as part of Year 2 Work Planning and work with USAID to adjust ALBA indicators in line with our work plan for Year 2. Highlights of progress and challenges to ALBA objectives during Year 1 include:

Passage of Legislation: It is clear that the passage of legislation has been, despite the recurring issues with achieving quorum in both Houses, at a pace greater than initially expected. Legislation passed with the input of CSOs and outside actors is on pace to meet Year One targets but could be improved with a focus on reaching out to relevant CSOs during the Spring 2014 parliamentary session, as there are a number of expected bills that are of interest to various CSOs active in parliament. Lastly, we should see the first of several pieces of legislation initiated within the Parliament (members' bills) in the next session.

Oversight Actions: The indicators relating to oversight by the commissions and plenary sessions of both Houses is significantly beyond the Year One targets, for several reasons. ALBA has engaged Commissions to undertake provincial field visits, and this is expected to increase for the remainder of Year One and into Year Two of the program. In addition, ALBA supported numerous Commissions of both Houses to scrutinize the major Budget documents in a more profound fashion than in previous Budget cycles, calling Ministers to the Parliament to provide testimony on the 1391 Qatia Report, the 1392 Mid-year Budget Review, the 1392 Supplemental Budget and the 1393 National Budget.

Public Hearings: Although the number of field visits by Commissions has dramatically increased through the support of ALBA, these visits have not significantly engaged the public at this point, focusing instead on government operations and provincial line departments. ALBA, in the course of its support to the initial planning of these visits, will encourage the inclusion of more public forums in which the MPs and public interact.

CHAPTER IV: CROSS CUTTING TASKS

Coordination with other donors

UK Embassy Funding – Following the signing of an MOU between USAID and the UK Embassy, approximately [REDACTED] in additional Year One funding was provided by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office specifically to aid ALBA in its parliamentary assistance. An additional [REDACTED] will be provided ALBA in Year Two. The funds will enable ALBA to expand its assistance to the Parliamentarians Anti-Corruption Caucus, expand assistance to Commission activities and other areas.

Meeting with DfID on Political Economy Assessment of Parliament – ALBA met with [REDACTED] as he prepares a paper on the political economy of the Parliament, examining such issues as the informal networks, of both influence and patronage, which drive the Parliament and its principal actors. This study is important to ALBA, not only to help its staff understand more fully the behaviors in Parliament, but also because the findings of this paper will help shape the direction of the incoming UNDP project.

API Joint Seminar with French Embassy Project – On 1-5 February 2014 API jointly sponsored the French Embassy Parliamentary Assistance Office with a 5 day seminar on Human Resource Management. Please see activity listed under Task 4.1.

Anti-Corruption

Coordination Meeting with Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) – Staff from IWA met with ALBA to discuss potential support for a research project into cultural and gender issues affecting corruption within the Parliament. ALBA has agreed to facilitate some of the research activities with selected Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators.

Gender

Please see activities listed under Tasks 2.1 and 4.2.

CHAPTER V: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Office Facilities – In light of the requirement for expanded office facilities, ALBA conducted a search for a suitable Annex to its main office during the report period. With the noticeable deterioration of the security situation in Kabul, a priority was placed on obtaining space within the Parliamentary precinct, thus enabling ALBA to benefit from the enhanced security afforded by the Parliamentary security forces, with whom ALBA enjoys excellent relations. An appropriate facility was identified, and the vetting process for the owners was completed. The ALBA program staff plans to complete the move into the site by the first two weeks in April.

UK Embassy Funding, Budget Re-alignment, and Re-organization – ALBA continued its work on the budget re-alignment, and consultations with DAI's Home Office staff were held to finalize details relating to the expanded program activities and resulting staff needs within both the technical and operations teams, including expanding activities made possible by the contribution of [REDACTED] from the UK Embassy to ALBA. The initial budget modifications will be submitted for USAID's consideration and approval in early April.

ALBA COP Washington Visit – [REDACTED] travelled to Washington, DC in March to meet with DAI staff and conduct meetings with USAID and other program partners regarding the work and progress of the project.

Year Two Work Plan – ALBA's management began preparations for the development of the Year Two Work Plan and Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP). To support this effort, [REDACTED] travelled to Kabul in mid-March. Despite the deteriorating security environment in the lead-up to the April 5 elections, the team held discussions with USAID and ALBA's project staff and external partners and stakeholders to further define the following:

- Revised assumptions and challenges;
- Identification of new partners;
- Tasks / activities to be retained;
- Tasks / activities to be revised significantly;
- Tasks / activities to be dropped or shifted down the timeline; and
- Revised performance monitoring framework and indicators.

ANNEXES

NB: All annexes are submitted electronically, in accompaniment to the Quarterly Report.

ANNEX 1: Draft Provincial Council Law Assessment

ANNEX 2: Legislative Tracking Matrix

ANNEX 3: Wolesi Jirga End of Session Report

ANNEX 4: Meshrano Jirga End of Session Report

ANNEX 5: API Workshop Priorities Plan

ANNEX 6: API Seminars and Workshops Matrix – Jan-Mar 2014

Draft Law on Provincial Councils

Analysis and Recommendations Summary

Prepared by USAID Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

Introduction

A new Provincial Council Law has been drafted by the Government, and passed by the Wolesi Jirga. A review was conducted of this draft law, which is to be shared with the Parliament for consideration while the draft legislation is being considered by the Meshrano Jirga, following its passage by the Wolesi Jirga in January 2014.

Afghanistan's traditional form of governmental structures is based on the informal Jirga/Shura model, as set out in the Quran. After Afghanistan established itself as a nation-state in 1921, these structures were formalized for the first time with the creation of a State Council (Cabinet), the Courts and Consultative (Provincial) Councils in 1933.

The role of the Consultative Councils, as laid out in the Constitution at that time (The Basic Agreement) included the following responsibilities:

- Participation and consultation on decisions regarding the promotion and development of Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Education;
- Proposal of taxes, products and other government activities;
- Accountability of relevant authorities with regard to violations of public rights; and,
- Based on Articles 40 and 41 of the Constitution, inform the Chief Executive (the King).

Other responsibilities of the Consultative Councils were laid out in the Basic Organizational Law. While only the first tentative step toward broad public participation in the process of governance, it retained this form until the mid-1960s, when a new Constitution was issued in which the three recognizable pillars of modern governance – Executive, Legislative and Judicial – were defined and pluralism brought into the process. Public participation was focused mainly at the local level and remained so until Mohammad Dawood Khan's coup in the 1970s.

In the years that followed, public participation in the governance process, while given lip service, was essentially non-existent.

In the new Constitution introduced by Mohammad Dawood Khan, the structures of provincial council were ignored, the situation continuing the same after the 1979 coup. People's elective institution of the provincial council joined other democratic freedoms in being ignored, which continued with the introduction of the initial Najibullah Constitution in 1987. However, that Constitution was later amended to allow for the establishment of provincial and district councils, but remained a paper goal.

Beginning with the changes wrought by the Grand Assembly in 2002, much of the governmental process laid out in the 1960s Constitution was restored and Provincial Councils re-established, and a formal Provincial Council Law passed in 2006, which is the current law.

1. Overall objectives

To promote democratic processes in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan through public participation in governmental processes and institutions, the following goals are laid out in the legislation:

- Direct public participation in key national issues through local representatives on provincial councils, including the areas of social-economic development, implementation of developmental budgets, education, health and other social service sectors;
- Creation of a normalized democratic culture, including political pluralism, accountability, transparency in the local governance processes;
- Making the provincial governments accountable;
- Observing and establishing common values in the areas of human rights, civil rights and gender in the provinces;
- Institutionalizing the culture of education;
- Coordination among civil society institutions and provincial government institutions;
- Ensuring the of basic rights citizens;
- Institutionalizing a culture of peace and reconciliation;
- Combat the culture of violence and war;
- Developing the councils political capacity to enable them to fulfill their role in selecting Senators for the Meshrano Jirga;
- Fostering peace and brotherhood;
- Encouraging public awareness and participation in the local governance and other democratic processes, including elections;

- Providing role models for provincial government and civic institutions to ensure people's active, wise and transparent participation of people in presidential and parliamentary elections of Afghanistan.

2. Challenges and opportunities for drafting and introducing the new law

After the establishment of the provisional government by the Loya Jirga of 2003, governance in Afghanistan was to be established on the basis of democratic values, civil rights and international norms. The objective of these basic goals was to ensure the citizens' role in governance through the elected institutions of the country.

In addition to electing the President and the Parliament, the election of Provincial Councils provides citizens with the ability to participate in the local political process to help improve government accountability and achieve developmental objectives. The first formal Law on Provincial Councils – introduced by Presidential Decree in 2005 – aimed to do this, there remained problems because of the newness of the institutions.

In 2007, a new Law on Provincial Councils was enacted by the Parliament to address these problems. However, institutionalization of the democratic culture moves slowly, and the vacuum created by this delay, there is a question of commitment or understanding of that culture at the provincial level executive administration. Many executive bodies at the provincial level consider that the involvement of local representative/legislative institutions in the governance process limits their powers, and consider the provincial councils to be purely symbolic. This attitude leads to a discouragement of the proper democratic development of provincial legislative bodies.

It is further exacerbated by the lack of strong institutional capacity, providing the executive with an argument for restricting the provincial councils to a purely consultative role in the long term. Reflective of this, the Independent Directorate of Local Government (IDLG) proposed drafting a new Law on Provincial Councils to reflect the executive perspective on how to implement policy at the provincial level and the concomitant role of provincial councils in that implementation.

This Analysis reviews the text of the original 2004 Decree, the current law enacted in 2007, and the draft law passed in January 2014 by the Wolesi Jirga and now submitted to the Meshrano Jirga, identifying weaknesses and strengths of the three. This is coupled with consideration of the democratic experiences of the past seven years and should result in an analysis that enriches the eventual final legislation.

The essential basis of the draft legislation currently under consideration by Parliament is that the Constitution should be read in a literal sense, that the role of Provincial Councils

in provincial governance is purely consultative, without oversight powers. Discussion of these and other issues took place at the conference for Provincial Councils held in Kabul on 6-8 January 2014 with participation of parliamentary leadership,

Challenges

Introduction of this proposed law could likely continue to see a certain amount of rivalry between the local executives and the provincial councils, each seeking to stake out its territory and ensure a position of strength. There are two approaches to the role of Provincial Councils: activist and advisory. In the activist approach, PCs would play an active role by having the right to review actions and expenditures of local executive bodies. In an advisory role, the PCs would serve only in a consultative capacity to the provincial governments, with little power and require a centralized authority, such as the Independent Directorate of Local Governance – IDLG, to conduct oversight and review.

Understandably, the provincial governments could see PC oversight powers as an infringement of their power, and going beyond the literal wording of the law. Conversely, the issue of capacity to successfully achieve an activist approach would require a defined framework for review and oversight responsibilities to ensure that PCs would not go beyond the intended role. In this approach, the IDLG would still play a role, but focused on capacity building for PC Members, organizing workshops and conferences to enable Members to understand their role and uniformly perform their responsibilities, thus ensuring the sound implementation of the law.

Opportunities

Since 2002, the rapid growth in mass media – broadcast outlets¹ and print publications, along with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)² supporting civic development and public support for that development – has greatly impacted public dialogue and resulted in public support for strengthening civil society.

The increase in educational institutions, educational opportunities and exchanges with foreign countries, combined with greater public awareness has attracted better quality candidates for office who have broader educational experiences, has laid the necessary groundwork for constituting Provincial Councils that provide the professional and effective capacity for successfully implementing the new law.

¹ There are now more than 150 radio stations in Afghanistan (34 in Kabul alone), 66 television stations (32 in Kabul alone) and thousands of publications.

² Between 2005 and 2013, CSOs have increased from 500 to 3,500.

3. The Draft Law and Local Governance Policy

In 2009, the IDLG drafted a local governance policy aimed at strengthening existing structures. While not implemented, it showed the need to plan for how an effective Provincial Council could conduct local governance in accordance to the public need, with increased participation of civil society in the governing process.

In recommended amendments to the draft law, the governor would be accountable to citizens of the province through the provincial council, and should provide timely reports – such as once a month – to the council. Such accountability would build close cooperation between citizens and local executive government entities. The provincial council would be equally accountable to citizens, providing their own reports to the public through the media, as well as to the President and the National Assembly through the IDLG. This would build an equitable working relationship between the elected institution of the council and the executive institutions within the province, as well as encouraging greater public participation in the process.

Proposed amendments to the draft legislation focus on accountability, transparency, public participation and greater efficiency in the implementation of executive governance. This combination could see greater cooperation in the prevention of poppy cultivation, protecting the environment, reducing losses during natural disasters and improved education and health services to the provinces. This combination would also be more effective in attracting greater national government investment in reconstruction and economic development.

Finally, proposed amendments to the draft could address the issue of citizen complaints and petitions to local government, define the roles and authorities of provincial council members, enhance citizen security, and define relations between the councils and their district and village counterparts.

Provincial Government Relations with Provincial Councils: As noted above, under the proposed draft amendments the Provincial Government would be accountable to the Provincial Council, with the Governor reporting monthly on provincial security and development. During such reports, he/she would answer relevant queries from the Provincial Councilors. At the determination of the Councilors, responses could be requested in writing, prepared by the relevant department or agency, and submitted to the Council in a timely manner. This would enable the Council to provide oversight of the standards of service provided by the Province.

Provincial Development: Accountability in provincial development projects is also included in the proposed draft amendments, entailing visits and progress reports, as well as helps establish greater cooperation with district and village counterparts. This accountability also assists the Council in evaluating citizens' quality of life, seeing that the environment is protected, and that social and health services to women, children and the elderly are delivered properly. Enforcement of human rights and provincial security, as well as combatting un-Islamic practices – forced marriages, domestic violence, and excessive dowries – also provides the necessary foundation for provincial development.

Complaints and Petitions - Government: Provisions are made in the draft amendments to enable citizens to register complaints regarding government services and the people who implement them through the establishment of a mechanism that would be overseen by the Provincial Council. Such petitions would then be followed up by the Council with the relevant entity to ensure that citizens are being properly served by their government.

Accountability to the Citizens: As provincial government would be responsible to the Council, Members of the Council would be accountable to the citizens and the IDLG. Citizens would be able to question the actions and activities of Members by addressing the IDLG or the relevant Council commission.

Provincial Council Committees: Under these draft amendments, Provincial Councils could establish permanent and temporary committees for performing designated responsibilities. Possible committees could cover the areas of complaints; behavior and morality; women, youth, civil society and private sector development; health, education and environment; security and anti-narcotics; and, planning and budget. The committees would submit reports pertaining to their activities to the full Council, who may choose to pursue the issue with the Governor or other relevant provincial institution.

Complaints and Petitions – Provincial Council: In the event that a citizen has a complaint or petition for a local Councilor, submission would be in writing either to the relevant council commission or to the Council Chair, and accompanied by verifiable evidence. In cases where the complaint was against the Council Chair or a committee chair, it would be referred to the relevant committee. If it involves a committee chaired by the Council Chair, the Council Deputy Chair is designated to receive the complaint.

Relations with other Provincial entities: As the elected representative voice of the citizens, the Council would establish working relationships with all relevant provincial

entities: line ministries, independent directorates and commissions, and the justice and judiciary departments. The Council Chair would represent the Council in governmental and non-governmental ceremonies and meetings. Provincial Councils could also cooperate with other Councils to expand their knowledge base and best practices.

Organizational Structure: Each Provincial Council will consist of a Chair, a Deputy Chair, Secretary and as noted above, Committees. Selection will be based on secret ballots. The Chair will preside over Council meetings and represent the Council on public occasions. He/she will ratify decisions and resolutions of the Council and share with the relevant government agencies, as well as citizens and the media. The Deputy Chair will perform duties as designated by the Chair, and acts for the Chair in his/her absence. The Secretary will be responsible for the preparation of Council agendas, notify Members of the agenda along with the time and venue of Council meetings. The Secretary will maintain an attendance record at the meetings, and announce results of any Council vote.

References

The Law on Provincial Councils, Afghanistan Official Gazette (#860) 2005
The Law on Provincial Councils, Afghanistan Official Gazette (#1913)
Constitution of King Amanullah Khan in 1928
Basic Law of the State 1931
Constitution of 1963
Constitution of 1978
Constitution of 1987
Local Governance Policy planned and developed by the Independent Directorate of local governance (IDLG)
Interviews with members of Provincial Councils
Interviews with staff members of the UN project on Sovereignty of Law
Interview with members of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance



Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

S/N	Bills	Relevant Commission	WJ Commission	WJ Plenary	MJ Commission	MJ Plenary	Joint Committee	Copy of the Law	Remarks
Legislation Approved									
1	Electoral Law	Legislative	10-Dec-12	Jun-22-13	Jun-26-13	25/ 06/13	July-15-2013	Yes	The President promulgated the electoral law on July 20-2013
2	Law on Structure, Duties & Authorities of the Attorney General Office	Justice and Judiciary	7-Mar-12	Oct-13-12		Jan-15-13	May-8-13	Yes	The law passed and was sent to the government on June 12-2013
3	Law on Social Organization	Women Affairs	7-Mar-12	Dec-15-12		Jan-8-13	May-5-13	Yes	The law passed and was sent to the government on June 12-2013
4	Law on Salary and Expenditures of the President	Budget and Finance	Dec-5-12	Jun-24-13	Jun-26-13	July-7-13	July-21-13	Yes	The law passed and was sent to the government on July 29-2013
5	Law on Salaries of High Ranking Government Officials	Budget and Finance	Dec-5-12	Jun-1-13	Jun-16-13	July-8-13	July-21-13	Yes	The law passed and was sent to the government on July 29-2013
6	Annex Number 4 of the Law on Urban Service fees	Communication	Feb-24-13	July 13-13	July 16-13	Nov 3-13			The law passed and was sent to the government.
7	Amendment to Article 10 & addition of paragraph (2) to Article 59 of Law on Regulating Communications Services	Communication	Aug-8-12	Apr-17-13	Apr-23-13	Apr-30-13	May-20-13	Yes	The law passed and was sent to the government.
8	Law on Structure, Duties, and Authorities of the IEC	Legislative	Apr-20-11	Sep-24-12		Nov-20-12	Mar-23-13		The law passed and was sent to the government.
			29 Apr 2013 president Vetoed	Jun-10-13	Jun-12-13	Jun-23-13	July-13-13	Yes	The law was promulgated by the President.
9	International Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979	Public Welfare	Dec-11-12	Mar-30-13	Apr-2-13	May-24-13			The convention was sent to the government on May 4-2013.
10	Charter for Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	International Affairs Commission		Mar-30-13	Apr-2-13	Apr-21-13			The Charter was sent to the government on Apr 30-2013 .
11	Law of Adjudication of Disputes Related to Properties of the State	Legislative	Mar-16-13	Jun-5-13	Jun-11-13	Jul-21-13	Jun-5-13	July-29-13	The law passed and was sent to the government on
12	Amendment of Article 102 of the Income Tax Law	Budget & Finance	Apr-8-13	Jun-1-13	Jul-16-13	Jun-23-13	July-8-13		The law passed and was sent to the government on Aug 18-2013.
13	Statistics Law	Internal Affairs	Apr 2-11	Sep 22-12	Sep-25-12	Nov 6-12			The law passed and was sent to the government.
14	Supplementary Budget 1392	Budget & Finance	Nov-11-13	Dec- 4-13					The WJ passed the supplementary budget of 1392 and sent it to the government.
15	National Budget 1393	Budget and Finance	Dec-7-13	Jan 04 14	Nov 3-13	Dec 3-13			The Wolesi Jirga Plenary rejected the first draft of the 1393 National Budget, and on 15 January 2014 the WJ Plenary approved the second draft of the 1393 National Budget
				Jan 15 14					
16	Population Registration Law	Defense	Apr-1-13	Jul-15-13	Jul-16-13	Nov-26-13	Jan 01 2014	Yes	The law passed and was sent to the government on Jan 8-2013



Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

S/N	Bills	Relevant Commission	WJ Commission	WJ Plenary	MJ Commission	MJ Plenary	Joint Committee	Copy of the Law	Remarks
17	Law on Financial Lease	Budget and Finance	Mar-20-13	May-15-10		May 30-10	Nov-27-13		The law passed and was sent to the government Jan 15-2013.
18	Annex 5 of Civil Services Reform	Justice and Judiciary					Dec 14-13		The law passed and was sent to the government on Dec 15-2013.
19	MoU between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom & Northern Ireland regarding the Provision of Personnel of the United Kingdom Armed Forces to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy	International Affairs Commission	Jun-5-13	Oct 30-13	Nov-3-13	24-Dec-13		Yes	The MoU was sent to the government on Jan 11-2013
20	Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Friendship and Cooperation	International Affairs Commission	May-29-13	Oct 30-13	Nov-3-13	24-Dec-13		Yes	The Agreement was sent to the government on Jan 21-2013
21	Agreement on the Strategic Partnership between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Denmark	International Affairs Commission	Jun-17-13	Oct 30-13	Nov-3-13	24-Dec-13			The Agreement was sent to the government on Feb 20-2013
Legislation Pending									
1	Partnership Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Finland	International Affairs Commission	Jun-17-13	January. 06. 2014					The WJ plenary had discussion over this agreement, but due to lack of quorum, they did not put this for the final vote
2	Draft Law on Converting IDLG into Ministry of Provincial Affairs	Internal (Members Bill)		Dec-19-12	Jul-2-13	Sep-29-13			Waiting for the Joint Commission
3	Draft Law on Elimination of Violence against Women	Women Affairs	Aug-1-09						The law is currently endorsed as a Presidential Decree. Following an aborted attempt to introduce it in the WJ plenary in Summer 2013, there have been isolated discussions about the re-introduction of the legislation for consideration by the Lower House however at present there is no movement in this area.
4	Law on Usurpation and Occupancy of Government and Non-Government Estates	National Economy	2013	Sep 23-13	Sep 29-13				Pending in the National Economy Commission of MJ



Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

S/N	Bills	Relevant Commission	WJ Commission	WJ Plenary	MJ Commission	MJ Plenary	Joint Committee	Copy of the Law	Remarks
5	Protocol on Cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Tajikistan	International Affairs Commission	Dec-31-12	Mar-30-13	Apr-2-13	May-22-13			The protocol was rejected by the MJ.
6	Amendments to the Media Draft Law	Religious Affairs	Mar-20-13	Sep 28-13	Oct 8-13	Nov 5-13	January 15 14		A Joint Commission was held on the law but due to differences between the WJ and MJ, the law remains pending in in the Joint Commission. The second Joint Committee of WJ and MJ convened on this bill on 15 January 2014. WJ and MJ could not reached out to any agreement, so WJ decided to override it with two third of votes on their return from recess
7	Amendment to Article 52 of the Law on Traffic Department	Internal Affairs	May-21-13						No action taken
8	Commercial Franchise Draft Law	National Economy	Sep-4-13	Nov-2-13	Nov-5-13	Jan.05.2014	Jan 20-14		The Joint Committee approved the Bill, and after incorporation of the final changes the bill will be sent to the government for endorsement
9	Commercial Contracts Draft Law	National Economy	Sep-4-13	January 08 2014	January 18 2014				The bill was sent to MJ on the January 18 2014
10	Law on the Structure and Jurisdiction of Special Courts	Justice and Judiciary	Aug-26-13	Dec-7-13		Jan 06 2014	Jan 20-14		The Joint Committee approved the Bill, and after incorporation of the final changes the bill will be sent to the government for endorsement
11	Law on Control of Tobacco	Health	May-27-13	January 06 2014	January 18 2014				The bill was sent to MJ on the January 18 2014
12	Land Management Law	National Economy	Jun-5-11	Jun-22-13					Inactive
13	Mining Law	Natural Resources	Jun-10-13						The Natural Resources Commission called on a joint committee (18 Commission of WJ) on Sunday 19 January 2014, but MPs didn't show up
14	Law on Fighting against Corruption	Justice and Judiciary	Jun-25-12						No action taken
15	Law on Higher Education	Religion & Higher Education	May-16-12						Due to controversial articles, the law remains pending in the plenary (Inactive)
16	Banking Law	Budget and Finance	Feb-19-13						No action taken



Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

S/N	Bills	Relevant Commission	WJ Commission	WJ Plenary	MJ Commission	MJ Plenary	Joint Committee	Copy of the Law	Remarks
17	Law on Medals, Badges & Honorary Titles	Religion & Higher Education							The Commission on Religion & Higher Education sent the bill back to the government due to commission concerns, requesting the government to amend the draft legislation. The government has not returned the law to Parliament.
18	Law on Children's Parentage	Justice and Judiciary	May-16-11	Nov-27-13	Dec-8-13	Jan 06 2014	Jan 20-14		The Joint Committee approved the Bill, and after incorporation of the final changes the bill will be sent to the government for endorsement
19	Annex Number 4 of the Penal Code	Justice and Judiciary	Oct-24-10						Under discussion in the leading WJ commission.
20	Amending paragraph 1 of Article 40 of the Labor Law	Public Welfare & Workers							No action taken
21	Amendments to the Law on Fire Arms and Explosives	Internal							This Bill not yet submitted to the Parliament.
22	Anti-Money Laundering Law & the Proceeds of Crimes								This Bill not yet submitted to the Parliament.
23	Law on Access to Information								This Bill not yet submitted to the Parliament.
24	Law on Combating the Financing of Terrorism								This Bill not yet submitted to the Parliament.
25	Law on Municipalities	Communication							This Bill not yet submitted to the Parliament.
26	Value Added Tax (VAT) Law	Budget and Finance	May-18-13						A WJ joint committee is expected
27	World Trade Organization Accession Package								This Bill has not yet reached the Parliament
28	Criminal Procedure Code	Legislative	Mar-10-12	Jun-5-13	Jun-11-13	January 05 2014	Jan 20-14		The Joint Committee approved the Bill, and after incorporation of the final changes the bill will be sent to the government for endorsement
29	Agreement on Strategic Partnership between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Norway	International Affairs Commission	Aug-6-13						This agreement has been sent to 17 commission for consideration
30	Local Governance Draft Law	Internal Affairs	Aug-6-13						The leading commission's amendments were sent to other commissions for consideration. (inactive this week)



Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA)

S/N	Bills	Relevant Commission	WJ Commission	WJ Plenary	MJ Commission	MJ Plenary	Joint Committee	Copy of the Law	Remarks
31	Law on Provincial Councils	Internal Affairs	Mar-27-13	Jan 11 14	January 18 14				The bill was sent to MJ on the January 18 2014
32	Convention on the Rights of Children	International Affairs	Apr-18-11						No action taken
33	Protocol on Reform of Counter Narcotics Treaty 1961	International Affairs	Apr-19-11						No action taken
34	Cooperation Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	International Affairs	Jul-14-13	January 06 14		January 19 14			Approved by the MJ plenary
35	Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the Status of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan	International Affairs	Mar-19-12						No action taken
36	International Treaties and Convention Draft Law	International Affairs	Oct-1-13						The copy of this draft Law is sent to 17 commissions for their consideration
37	Amendments to some articles of the Electoral Law (Decree)	Legislative	Oct-1-13	21-Dec-13	22-Dec-13	24-Dec-13			The Amendment in Electoral Law, which was about reservation of a seat for Hindu WJ need a joint committee between WJ and MJ



Wolesi Jirga End of Session Report

Sixth Session: 7 September 2013 to 20 January 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wolesi Jirga (WJ) conducted 40 general plenary sessions during the Sixth Session of the 16th term of Parliament, which began on 7 September 2013 and ended on 20 January 2014. Of these 40 plenary sessions, there was one Interpellation session, six Questioning sessions, and two Hearing sessions. The remaining 31 sessions were ordinary plenary sessions.

During this session, ten bills were passed, and four International Agreements adopted. Additionally, the WJ plenary issued two resolutions, two official decisions and expressed official positions on various issues.

On 19 October 2013, the Independent Election Commission introduced eight new Members of Parliament to replace seven Members who resigned and one Member to fill the seat of Ms. Shahnaz Himati, who died in a car accident during the session. These newly introduced members began their duties immediately after being sworn in by the Speaker of the House.

Two new parliamentary groups were established during the Session. The first was the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Additionally, the Wolesi Jirga honored athletes of National Afghan teams who brought the nation pride and success, awarding them with honorary medals and financial reward.

LEGISLATION

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED*	LENGTH	DATE INTRODUCED	COMMENTS
The Law on Usurpation and Occupancy of Government and Nongovernment Properties	3 Chapters 17 Articles	23 September 2013	Individual Member's Bill

The Law on Mining	20 Chapters 116 Articles	30 September 2013	
The Law on Banking	15 Chapters 178 Articles	30 September 2013	
The Law on the Control of Tobacco	5 Chapters 25 Articles	30 September 2013	
The Law on Children's Paternity	5 Chapters 27 Articles	30 October 2013	
The 1393 National Budget	n/a	7 December 2013	
The Law on Commercial Contracts	18 Chapters 143 Articles	6 January 2014	

**Unless otherwise noted, all bills are government sponsored.*

LEGISLATION APPROVED*	LENGTH	DATE APPROVED	COMMENTS
The Law on Usurpation and Occupancy of Government and Nongovernment Properties	3 Chapters 17 Articles	23 September 2013	Individual Member's Bill
Amendments to the Law on Mass Media (Articles 42,43,44)	3 Articles	28 September 2013	
The Law on Commercial Franchising	5 Chapters 34 Articles	2 November 2013	
The Law on Children's Paternity	5 Chapters 27 Articles	27 November 2013	
The Law on the Structure and Duties of Special Courts	4 Chapters 22 Articles	7 December 2013	
Rejection of Amendments to of the Electoral Law on reserving one seat to Hindu Minority in the Wolesi Jirga	n/a	14 December 2013	Presidential Decree
The Law on the Control of Tobacco	5 Chapters 25 Articles	6 January 2014	
The Law on Commercial Contracts	18 Chapters 143 Articles	8 January 2014	
The Law on Provincial Councils	7 Chapters 41 Articles	11 January 2014	
Rejection of Amendments to the Law on Structure and Duties of Judiciary	n/a	20 January 2014	Presidential Decree

**Unless otherwise noted, all bills are government sponsored.*

BUDGET BILL	APPROVED/ REJECTED	DATE	COMMENTS
1391 Qatia	Rejected	30 November 2013	
Supplementary 1392 Budget	Approved	4 December 2013	
1393 National Budget	Rejected	4 January 2014	Returned to Ministry of Finance
1393 National Budget	Approved	15 January 2014	

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT OR AGREEMENT	APPROVED/ REJECTED	DATE	COMMENTS
Cooperation Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	Approved	30 October 2013	
Strategic Agreement between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Denmark	Approved	30 October 2013	
Friendship Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Indonesia	Approved	30 October 2013	
Cooperation Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Approved	31 December 2013	

OVERSIGHT

A. Interpellation Sessions

1. Interpellation of Minister of Migration and Repatriation Affairs with respect to the immense corruption within the Ministry, held 9 November 2013.

B. Questioning Sessions

1. Summoning of the Minister of Mines on lack of transparency in the mining industry, held 2 October 2013.
2. Questioning of the Security Organ officials on security situation in the country, held 5 October 2013.
3. Questioning of the [REDACTED] on the Bilateral Security Agreement with United States, held 16 November 2013.
4. Questioning of the Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries and Head of Central Bank in relation with increase of food prices and decrease in value the Afghani currency, 11 December 2013.
5. Questioning of the Emergency Response Committee on preparations made for the winter season in vulnerable provinces and districts, held 1 January 2014.
6. Questioning of Independent Election Commission officials on the Commission's preparations for the upcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections in April held 18 January 2014.

C. Hearings

Hearing on the report of the Independent Election Commission on preparations of the upcoming elections, held 28 January 2014.

1. Hearing on the report of the Emergency Response Committee on winter preparations, held 26 October 2013.

D. Votes of Confidence and No-Confidence

[REDACTED] Vote on nomination for office of Minister of Interior, held on 25 September 2013.

2. ██████████ Vote on nomination for office of Minister of Borders and Tribes, held on 25 September 2013.
3. ██████████ – Vote on nomination for membership on the Supreme Court High Council, held on 25 September 2013.
4. Mr. Lotfurahman Saeed – Vote on nomination for membership on the Committee on Overseeing of Implementation of the Constitution, held on 25 September 2013.
5. ██████████ – Vote on nomination for membership of Committee on Overseeing of Implementation of the Constitution, held on 25 September 2013.
6. ██████████ – Vote on nomination to the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs, held on 25 December 2013.
7. ██████████ – Vote on nomination to the office of Minister of Energy and Water, held on 25 December 2013.
8. ██████████ – Vote on nomination to the office of Minister of Commerce and Industries, held on 25 December 2013.
9. ██████████ Vote on nomination to the office of Minister of Mines, held on 25 December 2013.
10. ██████████ – Vote on nomination to the office of Minister of Counter Narcotics, held on 25 December 2013.
11. ██████████ – Vote on nomination for membership on the Supreme Court High Council, held on 25 December 2013.
12. ██████████ – Vote on nomination for membership on the Supreme Court High Council, held on 25 December 2013.

E. Decisions and Resolutions

1. Resolution on the martyrdom of the Logar Governor assassinated by the Taliban on the first day of Eid held on 19 October 2013.
2. House agreement of explanations of Minister of Migration held on 9 November 2013.
3. Resolution on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan (EVAW) held on 14 December 2013.

4. House decision on questioning [REDACTED] based on the findings provided in the oversight report of the WJ Telecommunication Commission held on 8 January 2014.

F. Co-option of New MPs

[REDACTED]

Representation

Members made presentation to the Wolesi Jirga in plenary, reflecting the current environment in Afghanistan, particularly related to constituency issues. The plenary discussed more than 930 constituent cases and sought solutions from the relevant government authorities.

Commission Sessions

The WJ Standing Commissions held numerous sessions including Hearings, Questionings, Extraordinary, Regular and Consultative sessions, as well as considering 1,010 petitions during this Session.

1. International Relations Commission

The International Relations Commission held 31 commission sessions of which five were meetings with high ranking officials, four were hearings, one was a joint session and the remaining 26 were regular sessions.

Approved Legislation, Treaties and Agreements

The International Relations Commission adopted the following international treaties and conventions that were submitted to the Wolesi Jirga:

1. The Cooperation Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland;
2. The Strategic Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Denmark;
3. The Friendship Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Indonesia; and,
4. Cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pending International Treaties and Conventions

- The Cooperation Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Finland;
- The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) academic institute charter;
- The Border Cooperation Agreements between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Tajikistan; and,
- The Strategic Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Kingdom of Norway.

Hearings

1. Summoning for hearing Minister of Mines for briefing the commission on mining contracts with foreign companies on 1 October 2013.
2. Hearing briefing of officials of Rights and Treaties Department of Foreign Ministry on draft law on treaties and international agreements on 3 November 2013.
3. Summoning for hearing recommendations of [REDACTED] on how to implement the law on Diplomatic and Consulate officials and the fundamental lines of foreign policy of Afghanistan on 7 January 2014.
4. Hearing briefing of Director of Rights and Treaties Department of Foreign Ministry on draft law on treaties and international agreements on 12 January 2014.

Outreach and Oversight

1. International Relations Commission on 26 October 2013 met with Deputy of special envoy of United States for Afghanistan and Pakistan on US economic assistance and security challenges in Afghanistan beyond 2014.
2. The commission on 8 November 2013 met with Iranian ambassador regarding parliamentary cooperation between two countries.
3. The commission on 17 November 2013 met with Parliamentary Delegation of NATO Assembly on Afghanistan`s situation after withdrawal of International Community.
4. The commission on 10 December 2013 met with the Egyptian ambassador regarding assistance to Afghanistan.
5. The commission on 23 December 2013 met with President Hamid Karzai on current situation of Afghanistan.

Establishment of Inter Parliamentary Committees

International Relations Commission of Wolesi Jirga established inter parliamentary committees with Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Egypt, Bulgaria, Czech and Slovakia.

2. Internal Affairs (Internal Security, NDS, and Local Governance)

The Internal Affairs Commission held 50 sessions, in which, one was Extraordinary, eight were Questionings, five were Hearings, 35 were Ordinary, one was Joint and five were oversight visits.

Approved Legislation

The Legislation passed by the commission:

1. Provincial Council Bill

Pending Legislation

1. Article 52 of the Traffic Law
2. The Law on the Directorate of Local Governance

Questioning Sessions

1. Questioning Local Police Commander of Ministry of Interior and Chief of Police of Nangarhar on inappropriate condition of local police in Kandahar, Konar and Ghor and police casualties during operation in Sherzad District of Nangarhar on 15 September 2013.
2. Questioning Security Deputy of Ministry of Interior and Head of Intelligence of the Ministry on 24 September 2013.
3. Questioning financial heads of Ministry of Interior and National Directorate of Security on transparent expenditure of 1391 and 1392 Budget on 22 October 2013.
4. Questioning Finance and Administration Deputy Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs and the Ministry's Finance Director on 1392 Qatia expenditures and challenges in 1393 national budget on 27 October 2013.
5. Questioning [REDACTED] on insecurity causes in capital and provinces in particular on highways as well as their preparations for the upcoming presidential elections on 12 November 2013.

6. Questioning Deputy Ministers for Procurement and Finance from the Ministry of Interior on contract issues on 8 December 2013.
7. Questioning Administrative Deputy Minister of Interior, the General Commander of Borders and the Kabul Chief of Police on increases of armed robbery, murders and kidnapping in Kabul on 15 December 2013.
8. Questioning Police Director of Ministry of Interior and Paktika Chief of Police on abusing remaining property of PRT in that province on 12 December 2013.
9. Questioning [REDACTED] on late compensation to the local police forces on 17 December 2013.
10. Questioning [REDACTED], the Deputy Minister for Policy of Interior, Director of Detecting Electronic Crimes, Deputy of ATRA, Deputy of Etisalat Company on the selling of unregistered SIM cards and the high rate of communication in Afghanistan on 24 December 2013.
11. Questioning Head of Prisons of Ministry of Interior, Head of Pul Charkhi Prison, and Kabul Chief of Police on challenges inside the prisons and committing immoral activities there on 29 December 2013.
12. Questioning Minister of Interior, Head of Intelligence and Kabul Chief of Police on inappropriate behavior of police towards people in Uruzgan and Ghor as well as latest insecurity in the country on 31 December 2013.

Hearings

1. Hearing briefings of Operational Deputy of NDS on kidnapping, exchange and release of Ms. Feriba Ahmadi Kakar member of WJ on 22 September 2013.
2. Hearing report of Deputy Minister of Finance, Technical Deputy of Ministry of Telecommunication and Deputy Minister for Administration of Interior on not delaying of E- Tazkera distribution 29 September 2013.
3. Hearing briefings of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on kidnapping of Ms. Feriba Kakar member of WJ on 1 October 2013.
4. Hearing report of [REDACTED] on their achievements in identifying and abandoning of a private company on Bagrami District who was illegally producing armored vehicles on 28 October 2013.

5. Hearing briefings of Human Resources Director of Ministry of Defense, Interior and NDS on promoting some officers to the General Rank on 3 November 2013.
6. Hearing briefings of Afghan National Insurance Director on amending article 52 of the Traffic law on 17 November 2013.
7. Hearing oversight findings of assigned delegation of Ministry of Interior to Uruzgan province on 22 December 2013.
8. Hearing Admin Deputy of Directorate of Local Governance along with HR advisor on process of electing and recruiting deputy governors on 23 December 2013.
9. Hearing report of Traffic Department officials on digitalizing license and distribution of temporary car plates on 15 January 2014.
10. Hearing report of Director of Crime investigation of Ministry of Interior on child abuse and child trafficking as well as pederasty on 14 January 2014.

Extraordinary Session

1. By participation of Minister of Interior, an extraordinary session was held on discussing and finding solution to the current challenges ahead of Uruzgan and Ghor Police Directorates on 20/January/2014

Outreach and Oversight

1. Visit to Wardoj District of Badakhshan province in leadership of [REDACTED] on 28 September 2013.
2. Visit to Herat province to oversee reason of hunger strike of prisoners there on 30 September 2013.
3. Visit to Logar province to investigate assassination of Arsala Jamal the late Governor of Logar.
4. Visit to Herat province to oversee living situation of internally displaced people from Ghor province on 17 December 2013.
5. Visit to General Commandant of border forces on 18 January 2014.

6. Visit to women prison in Badam Bagh to oversee situation of women prisoners on 18 January 2014.

3. Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission

The Defense and Territorial Integrity Commission of WJ conducted 38 sessions of which four were Hearings and 33 ordinary sessions, with one oversight visit.

Pending Legislation

- Military Conscription Law

Hearings

1. Hearing report of investigation Director and policy deputy of Ministry of Defense on security of the country in particular the insecurity in Wardoj of Badakhshan on 22 September 2013.
2. Hearing briefings of Defense Minister, Interior Minister, Agriculture Minister and security deputy of Ministry of Interior on security situation and challenges ahead of reconstruction projects on 12 November 2013.
3. Hearing report of Dr. Hasamudin the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Legal Deputy of Ministry of Defense and Budget Director of Ministry of Finance of non-execution of retirement benefits for military retirees on 26 November 2013.
4. Hearing report from the Deputy for Structure Directorate and Policy Manager of Ministry of Defense for not distributing 560 plots to on-duty officers, DDR officers and retired officers on 7 January 2014.

Outreach and Oversight

1. The Commission Chairman and the members met with [REDACTED] on the withdrawal of NATO Forces and transition of power to the Afghan Security Forces beyond 2014 and financial assistance of Sweden in development, education, economic and women issues on 27 October 2013.

4. Finance, Budget & Public Accounts Commission

The Budget and Finance Commission held 47 sessions, of which 14 were Questionings, 11 Hearings, nine joint sessions with nine ordinary sessions, and one extraordinary.

Approved Laws

1. 1391 Qatia
2. 1392 Supplementary Budget
3. 1393 National Budget
4. Amendment paragraph (1) of Article (102) of the Income Tax law

Pending Legislation

1. Procurement Law
2. Banking Law
3. Value Added Tax Law

Questioning Sessions

1. Questioning [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] about the low expenditure rate of the 1391 development budget on 3 November 2013.
2. Questioning Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of Interior, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance for not expending 1391 development budget on 5 November 2013.
3. Questioning Director of Atomic Energy of Afghanistan, Chief Executive Officer of Kabul City Development, Deputy Head of Geology and Cartography for spending less than 55% of their development budget in 1391 on 8 December 2013.
4. Questioning [REDACTED], Kabul Mayor, Head of Emergency Response Committee, Head of Olympic and Secretary General of Human Rights Commission for spending less than 55% of their development budget on 9 December 2013.
5. Questioning Finance and Admin Deputy of the President Protection for spending less than 55% of their development budget on 15 December 2013.
6. Questioning [REDACTED] and the Infiltration Head of Kabul Bank on work progress of Kabul Bank issues on 12 January 2014.

Hearings

1. Hearing report of Deputy Higher Education Minister for Finance and Administration and the Ministry of Finance Budget Director for not allocating separate budget for construction of Kunduz, Nangarhar, Takhar and Logar Universities on 15 September 2013.
2. Hearing briefing from Director of Central Bank regarding the lack of transparency in hiring employees in that bank on 17 September 2013.
3. Hearing to Central Audit Director, Deputies of Ministries of Defense, Interior, Head of IDLG and Budget Director of Ministry of Finance for 1391 Qatia Report on 29 September 2013
4. Hearing report of [REDACTED], Deputies and Directors of Ministry of Finance on 1391 Qatia Report on 8 October 2013.
5. Hearing recommendations of Deputy Head of Policy and Rights of Ministry of Finance, Head of Customs Department and professional member of Legislative Institute of Ministry of Justice on the Law on Value Added Tax (VAT) on 28 October 2013.
6. Hearing briefings from Deputy Head of Customs Department, Revenue Head of Ministry of Finance, Legislative Director of Ministry of Justice, Policy Director of Ministry of Commerce and Industries on Value Added Tax Law on 17 November 2013.
7. Hearing report of [REDACTED] on the 1393 National Budget on 7 January 2014.

5. Commission on Complaints & Petitions

The Complaints & Petitions Commission held a total of 45 sessions, of which two were questioning sessions, 21 were ordinary sessions, 23 were hearings and three were oversight visits.

Questioning Sessions

1. Complaints & Petition Commission summoned for questioning the Minister of Information and Culture regarding the complaint of Afghanistan Journalists Council (AJC) disagreeing with the Minister on electing two members of the AJC for the membership of the Media High Council on 29 September 2013.

2. Complaints & Petition Commission questioned [REDACTED] Agriculture Director in provincial affairs, Kabul Agriculture Director for the disasters due to flood in Soroobi of Kabul on 27 July 2013.

Hearings

1. Hearing briefings of Public Protection Deputy of Ministry of Interior, Head of Local Police and Senior Advisor of NDS for complaints of residence of Wardak, Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand, Farah and Herat with respect to insecurity on the highways on 15 September 2013.
2. Hearing report of Deputy Minister for Education of the Higher Education Ministry and the Chancellor of Parwan University regarding a lack of competent professors and irresponsibility to the challenges of the students on 29 September 2013.
3. Hearing [REDACTED] for insecurity on the Kabul-Herat highway on 1 October 2013.
4. Hearing report of Deputy of Industries and Recruitment Officer of Ministry of Commerce and Industries in respect to terminating employees of Industries Directorate on 6 October 2013.
5. Hearing report of Admin and Finance Deputy, Director of Properties and Distribution Manager of Kabul Municipality regarding petition of [REDACTED] for exchanging one plot in Padola Desert of Kabul on 8 October 2013.
6. Hearing report of Kabul Migration Director and Chief of Command of Bagrami District for not distributing one plot to [REDACTED] of Shawali despite completion all the required legal procedure in Mamozai residence in Bagrami District.
7. Hearing to [REDACTED] or not hiring him despite succeeding the Civil Service Test on 5 November 2013.
8. Hearing report of Education Director of Ghazni Province on 10 November 2013.
9. Hearing briefings of Deputy of Shadab Zafar Construction Company for not granting apartments to those who have already paid to the company but did not receive their apartments on 11 November 2013.

10. Hearing report of the District Governor of the Sozma District of Sar-e-Pul in relation to ██████'s petition for usurping her house by the District Governor on 17 November 2013.
11. Hearing report of Samangan Governor and its Education Director for building one school on 18 November 2013.
12. Hearing petition of ██████ in presence of Property Manager of Deh Sabz District of Kabul on 1 December 2013.
13. Hearing report of Admin Deputy of Ministry of Higher Education in relation with petition of Paktia University professors upon their conversion from Paktia University to Kandahar University on 8 December 2013.
14. Hearing report of requisition Director of Kabul Municipality regarding petition of Kabul Market shopkeepers for ruining their shops and emerging it with the PD1 on 10 December 2013.
15. Hearing report of Head of PD one with regards to petition of ██████ in lack of police assistance in which his property was disrupted by unknown persons on 15 December 2013.
16. Hearing briefing of Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries upon petition of Khwaja Rawash residents for treasuring 250 liters of fuel in residential area of Khwaja Rawash which would in case of fire create a life danger to all of the people living over, on 16 December 2013.
17. Hearing petition of Director of Revenues of first zone on 22 December 2013.
18. Hearing report of Kabul Migration Director regarding land usurpation in Mamozai District on 23 December 2013.
19. Hearing explanations of Chancellor of Speenghar Private Medical University regarding petition of the student for lack of labs for medical experiments and demand of fee in holidays on 24 December 2013.
20. Hearing briefings of assigned delegation of the commission on land usurpation in first District on 29 December 2013.
21. Hearing to Admin and Finance Deputy of Ministry of Health, Student Deputy of Higher Education and Head of private universities on challenges of medical students on 31 December 2013.
22. Hearing to Deputy Minister of Public Works regarding not constructing some key highways on 5 January 2014.

23. Hearing to Deputy Minister of Public Works for accusing Uruzgan Governor and Head of Public Works in that province for embezzlement in contracts on 19 January 2014.

Outreach and Oversight

1. The commission met with USAID ALBA Budget staff on 26 November 2013.
2. The commission met with tribal elders of Uruzgan province on their challenges in health, agriculture, power and education sectors on 3 December 2013.
3. The commission had an oversight trip to Herat province on 17 December 2013.

6. Commission on Legislative Affairs

The Legislative Affairs Commission of WJ conducted a total of 41 sessions, of which five were hearings, two were joint commissions and the remaining 34, ordinary sessions.

Legislative Action

1. Rejected the proposed amendments to the Electoral Law (Presidential Decree for reserving a seat for Hindu ethnic in WJ).

Hearings

1. Hearing briefings of Policy and Coordination Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics and professional member of Civil Law Department of the Ministry of Justice on Control of Tobacco on 8 October 2013.
2. Hearing report of Acting Head of Central Statics and General Director of Population Registration of Ministry of Interior regarding the latest figures of Hindu population in Afghanistan on 27 October 2013.
3. Hearing ██████████'s report on Hindu population on 29 October 2013.
4. Hearing recommendations of Customs Deputy of Finance Ministry, General Director of Revenues, and Acting Head of Legislative Department of Ministry of Justice on Value Added Tax Law on 5 November 2013.
5. Hearing briefings of Red Crescent Community, Deputy Minister of Migration affairs, Head of IOM and UNHCR regarding the status of Afghan refugees in foreign countries on 10 December 2013.

7. Commission on Women's Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights

The Women Affairs, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission of WJ held 44 sessions, of which three were hearings, four were questioning sessions, two were consultative with the remaining 35 ordinary sessions, plus three oversight visits.

Pending Legislation

1. Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW Law)

Questioning Sessions

1. The Commission summoned Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Interior for not releasing female prisoners after completion of their prison term as well as their lack of access to defense lawyers on 29 October 2013.
2. The Commission summoned Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Niyazi the Hajj and Endowment Minister on lack of female guides to the women during Hajj and also lack of preaches on family rights and elimination of violence against women during Friday prayers on 22 December 2013.
3. The Commission questioned Minister of Hajj and Endowment, Minister of Interior, Minister of Women Affairs, representative of Supreme Court, Attorney on elimination of violence against women and CSOs with respect to noticeable increase of violence against women and slow process of prosecution of women rights violators within courts on 7 January 2014.

Hearings

1. The Commission summoned Minister of Justice for briefing on draft Family Law and 1391 Qatia report on 5 October 2013.
2. The Commission summoned officials from the Directorate of Local Governance on standards for establishing new provinces or districts on 18 November 2013.
3. The Commission summoned Minister of Public Health regarding awareness rising on strategy of decreasing maternity rate and expenditure of gender budget on 10 December 2013.
4. The Commission summoned Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and Agriculture Minister regarding facilitating job opportunities for women on 8 December 2013
5. The Commission summoned Minister of Higher Education and Professional

Deputy of Women Affairs for their 1393 development strategy in betterment of women situation in education sector on 15 December 2013.

6. The Commission summoned technical and professional deputies of Ministry of Education and Women affairs for their 1393 development strategy in betterment of women situation in education sector on 17 December 2013.
7. The Commission summoned Minister of Justice regarding draft policy on sexual harassment of girls in schools and universities on 20 January 2014.

Outreach and Oversight

1. The Commission visited Mashal Private University on 22 September 2013.
2. The Commission headed to Kapisa province to oversee registration process of the voters, oversee women prison and children detention center, meeting with director of women affairs of Kapisa on 8 October 2013.
3. The Commission went to Herat province in recognition of 25 November the elimination of violence against women day on 28 November 2013.

8. Justice and Judiciary Affairs (Administrative Reforms & Anti Corruption)

The Justice and Judiciary Affairs (Administrative Reforms & Anti-Corruption) Commission held a total of 46 sessions, of which three were hearings, four were Consultative, seven were Joint sessions, one oversight visit and 32 ordinary sessions

Approved Legislation

1. Law on Children Paternity
2. Law on Structure and duties of Special Courts
3. Rejected presidential decree on amending some of the articles of the law on Structure and duties of Judiciary

Pending Legislation

1. Annex Number 4 of the Penal Code
2. Law on Fighting against Corruption

Hearings

1. The Commission summoned officials from Judiciary and High office of Anti Corruption on sharing amendments of the commission on the anti corruption law. 29 September 2013.
2. The Commission summoned officials from Civil Service Commission for their quarter report in first six months of 1392, on 27 October 2013.
3. The Commission summoned Minister of Justice, Head of Civil Service Commission, and a member of the committee on overseeing implementation of the constitution on the law on essential structure of the government and its effectiveness, on 12 January 2014.

9. Commission on National Economy, NGOs, Rural Development and Agriculture & Livestock

The National Economy, NGOs, Rural Development Agriculture & Livestock held 43 sessions, of which 12 were questioning sessions, two were hearings, there were joint WJ commissions, on Joint Committee session, and 24 ordinary sessions.

Approved Legislation

1. Law on Commercial Agencies
2. Law on Commercial Contracts

Questioning Sessions

1. The National Economy Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED], Advisor of DA Afghanistan Bank, Operational Head of the Bank and Deputy Head of Finance Department of the Pashtany Bank on 22 August 2013 in respect to the proposal of the Central Bank regarding the printing of Two Billion Afs, oversight mechanism of the printing and discuss policy of the central bank regarding the values of Afghan currency.
2. The National Economy Commission in its questioning session with [REDACTED] on 24 September 2013 regarding the expenditure of the 1392 budget and economical programs after 2014. The Commission also discussed the issue of import of sub-standard petroleum.
3. The National Economy Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 1 October 2013 discussed the issue of import of sub-standard petroleum.

4. The National Economy Commission held questioning session on 6 October 2013 with participation of Mr. Wafiullah Iftekhhar, Head of the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA). The commission invited him for not spending the development budget and lack of support of industries and bureaucracy in issuance of lenience to companies.
5. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 8 October 2013 in respect to give clarification regarding the spending of 62% development budget.
6. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 3 November 2013 regarding the implementation of the TAPI and Central Asia and South Asia Electricity Trade and Transmission Project (CASA).
7. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Dec 3-2013 regarding the increase of prices of food stuff and petroleum.
8. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 17 December 2013 regarding the complaints of traders about the corruption by security organs in custom departments.
9. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of Kabul and importers of petroleum on 17 and 26 November 2013. Discussed the increase of price of lease of Hairatan Port.
10. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 5 November 2013 regarding the complaints of the people about electricity load-shedding in Kabul city.
11. The National Economy Commission questioned [REDACTED]

Questioning Sessions

1. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics questioned General Director of Prisons and Pule-Charkhi Jailer on 1 October 2013 regarding the condition of prisoners.

Hearings

1. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics summoned [REDACTED] on 13 October 2013 about the allocation of budget for addicts.
2. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics invited Acting Head of Addicts Department of the Ministry of Public Health on 4 November 2013 to present the report about the government for not considering the budget for addicts in 1393 National Budget.
3. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics summoned Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics on 10 December 2013 regarding the elimination of narcotics corps in the country.
4. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics invited officials of the Ministry of Public Health on 5 November 2013 about the government for not considering the budget for addicts in 1393 National Budget.
5. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics in a hearing session with [REDACTED] on Dec 15-2013 discussed increased of cultivation of narcotics in the country.
6. Commission on Narcotics, Toxic Substances & Ethics in a hearing session with [REDACTED] on Dec 22-2013 discussed number of addicts in the country.

11. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities

Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities held a total of 40 sessions, of which one was a hearing, one was a joint committee, one was a Questioning session and remaining 27 were ordinary sessions.

Questioning Sessions

1. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned General Director of Civil Aviation and Director of Legal International Transportation Agreements Department on 15 September 2013 about the increase of ticket prices of airlines.
2. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned Deputy Minister of Water and Energy on 3 November 2013 regarding the slow work on Kamal Khan, Kajaki, Soroobi, Salam and Pashdan Dams.
3. Commission on Transport, Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities Questioned the [REDACTED] on 10 November 2013 for not spending the 1391 budget.
4. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned [REDACTED], Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Director and Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation on 17 November 2013 regarding the unfair competition between the airlines as well as difficulties in obtaining Iranian Visas.
5. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities the Minister of Telecommunication, Acting Deputy Minister for Policy of the Ministry of Interior, Director of MTN and Director of ATRA on Dec 31-2013 regarding the penalty on MTN Mobile Company
6. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned the Deputy Minister of Telecommunication, Director of ATRA and Directors of Mobile companies on 7 January 2014 regarding the penalties on Mobile companies and unregistered SIM cards
7. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned the Director of Water Supply of Kabul City on 3 November 2013 regarding sewerage of Kabul city.
8. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned [REDACTED] on 5 November 2013 regarding the expenditures listed in the 1391 Qatia.
9. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned [REDACTED] and Director of Procurement Department of the Ministry of Finance on 15

December 2013 regarding the implementation of Road Project in Helmand province.

10. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned General Director of Operations of the Ministry of Interior and Director of MTN Mobile Company on 12 January 2014 regarding the penalties on mobile companies and unregistered sim-cards.
11. Commission on Transport Telecommunication, Urban Development, Water, Electricity and Municipalities questioned Director of Treaties and Agreements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 December 2013 about the MoU signed between Afghanistan and UAE regarding Air services.

Hearings

The Commission held Hearing session with Director of Legal and Policy of the Ministry of Finance on 6 October 2013 regarding the Value Added Tax Law.

Outreach and Oversight

1. Commission on Transportation and Telecommunication along [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] oversight distribution process for apartments in Kabul City.

12. Commission on Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education

The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held 34 sessions, of which three were hearings, three were joint committees, one was Consultative, seven were Questionings and the remaining 19, ordinary sessions.

Approved Legislation

1. Amendment and Addition to the Media Law

Pending Legislation

1. Higher Education Law

Questioning Sessions

1. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED] October 2013 about expenditure rate of Qatia of 1391.
2. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] er on 5 November 2013 in respect to the expenditure rate of Qatia of 1391.
3. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about the scholarships and University Entrance Exam of 1393.
4. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED] on 22 December 2013 regarding the violation and insult of some governmental and non-governmental officials by electronic and Print Media.
5. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED] on 1 October 2013 regarding Wikipedia.
6. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with [REDACTED] on 1 December 2013 regarding the problems and complaint of students and Teachers of Jamhoriyat High School.
7. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with Deputy Minister of Ministry of Higher Education on 31 December 2013 about the cancelation of University Entrance Exam.
8. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held questioning session with Deputy Minister for Student Affairs on 12 January 2014 about the problems of Ustad Rabani University Students.

Hearings

1. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission in its Hearing session invited [REDACTED] on 29 September 2013 regarding the mechanism of donors with the Ministry of Education.
2. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission summoned [REDACTED] on 26 November 2013 regarding the corruption in Balkh provincial Directorate of Education.
3. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission Hearing invited the Deputy Minister of Student Affairs of the Ministry of Higher Education,

Director of Student Affairs and Coordination Director of the Ministry about the education certificates of the five introduced ministers for the vote of confidence.

Outreach and Oversight

1. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission visited Jamhoriyat High School on 11 November 2013 and heard complaints of the students about the misbehavior of the school principal.
2. The Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission also conducted field visit to Zabul Province and visited Provincial Education Directorate and some schools.
3. The Chairman and Members of the Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission met with students of Zabul on 29 December 2013 and discussed why they were unable to make their way to higher education.
4. The Chairman and Members of the Religious, Cultural Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission met with students on 12 January 2014 regarding the scholarship to Saudi Arabia.

13. Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth

The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth held 22 sessions, of which two were questioning sessions, five were Hearings, two were joint sessions, one was an extraordinary session and the remaining 11, ordinary sessions.

Approved Legislation

1. Law on Control of Tobacco

Questioning Session

1. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth summoned Administrative Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Health on 1 December 2013 about the contracts with donors, lack of medicines and lack of staffers within the hospitals.
2. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth held another questioning session with Minister and Deputy Minister of Work, Labor and Social Affairs on 10 December 2013 regarding the worse condition of children on the roads as well as 1393 National Budget.

Hearings

1. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth summoned [REDACTED] on 24 September 2013 and discussed problems of private hospitals as well as Health Regulation of the Clinics of the private hospitals.
2. Hearing to the report of [REDACTED] for the treatment of addicts on 11 November 2013 regarding the government for not considering the budget for the addicts as well as maternity.
3. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth invited the [REDACTED], and Representatives from Civil Society on 10 November 2013 regarding the Law on the Control of Tobacco.
4. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth invited [REDACTED] 19 January 2014 in respect to the report of activities in 2013 and plans for the year 2014.
5. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth invited [REDACTED] on 12 November 2013 regarding the plans about sports in the country.

Outreach and Oversight

1. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth along with association of private hospitals discussed problems of private sector on 15 September and 1 October 2013.
2. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth visited the National Olympic Committee on 22 August 2013 and discussed transfer of One Million USD to the National Football Team.
3. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth conducted oversight field visit to the Stadium of National Cricket Team on 4 November 2013.
4. The Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth conducted oversight field visit on 3 December 2013 to a private laboratory in Pamir Cinema Area.
5. Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth conducted oversight field visit to the National Olympic Committee and discussed the problems within the committee.

6. Commission on Health, Sports, Labor and Youth conducted oversight field visit to the skin hospital in Kabul city on 17 December 2013.

14. Commission on Martyrs, Disabled Dependents and Widows

The Commission on Martyrs, Disabled Dependents and Widows held 26 ordinary sessions and three oversight visits.

Outreach and Oversight

1. Commission on Martyrs, Disabled Dependents and Widows met with dependents of martyrs and representatives of the provincial councils on 10 September 2013 in order to discuss problems of their problems.
2. Commission on Martyrs, Disabled Dependents and Widows met with dependents of martyrs on 29 October 2013 and discussed their problems ahead.
3. Commission on Martyrs, Disabled Dependents and Widows met with representatives of coalition of 29 entities on 1 October 2013 to discuss lack of coordination to solve problems of the disables.

15. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs

The commission held 24 sessions, of which seven were hearings, five were oversight visits, and 17 were ordinary sessions.

Hearings

1. The Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs held a hearing session with participation of General Director of Nomads Affairs with Director of the Budget Department of the Directorate of Nomads on 1 October 2013 and discussed problems of Nomads within the education, health, higher education sectors.
2. The Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs held another session with. [REDACTED] along with participants from WJ commissions regarding the allegation of corruption against Mr. Jamaheer Anwari on 28 October 2013
3. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs held a hearing session with [REDACTED] on 26

November 2013 in the presence of Nomads representatives regarding the potable water for Nomads.

4. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs invited Head of Nangarhar Development Council on 29 December 2013 regarding the potable water for Nomads.
5. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs summoned Mr. Jamaheer Anwari, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation and Deputy Agriculture on 10 December 2013 about the distribution of residential land to Nomads in Mesri Khan Township.
6. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs invited Director of Land Department on 31 December 2013 regarding the distribution of lands to governmental officials in Lugar province.
7. Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs summoned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 17 November 2013 regarding the facilities provided to Nomads.

Outreach and Oversight

1. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs visited Nangarhar, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak and Sarobi District of Kabul on 17 November 2013 and discussed implementation of developments projects as well as problems of nomads in terms of potable water
2. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs met with representatives of Mamozai villages on 22 December 2013 regarding the threat from the Directorate of the Refugees to leave the area.
3. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs met with elders of Khaki Jabar District on 29 December 2013 to solve their problems.
4. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs met with graduates of Rahman Baba High School on 31 December 2013 and discussed their problems.
5. The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Nomads, Tribes and Immigrants Affairs met with residents of Bamyán and Helmand and discussed environmental problems.

16. Natural Resources and Environment Commission

The Natural Resources and Environment Commission held a total of 32 sessions, of which there were 21 ordinary sessions, one hearing, one Questioning session, eight Joint sessions and one oversight visit.

Pending Legislation

1. Mining Law

Questioning Session

The Natural Resources and Environment Commission held questioning session in the presence of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and members of some commissions of WJ discussed problems of displaced people of Ghor and Badghis.

Hearings

1. The Natural Resources and Environment Commission held a hearing session with participation of [REDACTED], Acting Minister of Mines and presented a comprehensive report regarding the Mining Law.

Outreach and Oversight

The Chairman and Members of Natural Resources and Environment Commission met with officials of Afghanistan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on Dec 29-2013 and discussed Afghanistan mines.

17. Rights, Immunities and Members Privileges Commission of Wolesi Jirga

The commission throughout the session held one Consultative session, one hearing session one oversight visit and nine ordinary sessions.

Pending Legislation

1. Draft Law on Rights, Immunities and Privileges of the Members of the National Assembly (Members Bill)

Hearings

1. The Commission on Rights, Immunities and Privileges of Members of Wolesi Jirga summoned officials of the Ministry of Interior and National Directorate of Security (NDS) on 20 January 2014 and discussed security of MPs during winter recess.

Consultative Sessions

The Commission on Rights, Immunities and Privileges of Members Commission of Wolesi Jirga conducted joint commission with participation of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Department of WJ and Research Team of the WJ discussed the Law on Rights, Immunities and Privileges of the Members of the National Assembly (Members Bill) on 12 November 2013.

Outreach and Oversight

The Chairman and Members of the Commission on Rights, Immunities and Privileges of Members Commission of Wolesi Jirga met with political officials of the American Embassy on 24 September 2013 in order to discuss different issues including Presidential elections, BSA, Peace talks with opponents as well as presence of American troops in Afghanistan after 2014.

18. Commission for Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation

The commission held nine Questioning sessions, two Hearings, one Consultative session and 26 ordinary sessions.

Questioning Sessions

1. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ questioned General Director of Brishna Company on 22 August 2013 about the complaints of the people regarding the tariffs of electricity.
2. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ summoned Director of Pharmacy Enterprise of the Ministry of Public Health on 29 September 2013 based on the complaints of pharmacy shopkeepers regarding the extension of contracts of the apartments where they live.
3. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ invited Director and Deputy Director of the Mili Bank about the pension of the retired people.

4. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ questioned the HR [REDACTED].
5. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ questioned the Head of Security of the National Assembly and other officials of the MoI on 25 November 2013 for not paying attention to the ID cards of the Members of the National Assembly.
6. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ held questioning session with presence of Deputy Minister of the Higher Education, Head of International Relation and Director of Academic Coordination on Dec 12-2013 regarding the distribution of scholarships of developed countries.
7. [REDACTED]. The commission also discussed interference of some MPs in MoI affairs while dismissing or appointing Police Chiefs in some provinces.
8. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ summoned invited Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Governor and Advisor of the Da Afghanistan Bank and Deputy of the Mili Bank on Dec 24-2013 about the pension of the 28 staffers of the Milli Bank.
9. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ questioned General Director of Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance and Execution Director of Budget of the Ministry of Urban Development regarding the fate of 1.5 million USD in the development budget.

Hearings

1. Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ held hearing session with Director of Revenues, Director of Audit and some experts of the Ministry of Finance on Oct 1st 2013 regarding the Value Added Tax Law.
2. Hearing to report of Advisor of Central Population Department, Director of Plan and Policy of the IDLG on Dec 11, 2013 about the Local Governance Law especially about Article 72 of the Law on Establishment of New Provinces and Districts.

Consultative Sessions

Central Audit and Oversight on Law Implementation Commission of WJ held consultative sessions inviting University Lecturers, Experts on 5, 7 & 12 January 2014 to

discuss the Mining Law. The participants of the commission objected the change of name of the Ministry of Mines to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum without the approval of the National Assembly.

Committee of Chairs

Committee of Chairs is inclusive of Administrative Board, Chairman of standing commissions and heads of parliamentary groups of WJ. The Committee of chairs prepare weekly agenda for the plenary sessions, approve scope of work for standing commissions, evaluate and decide about important issues and problems of the plenary,. During sixth session of 16th legislative term, totally 11 sessions were conducted by the committee of chairs and decided over 66 different issues of WJ. In the light of decisions of the committee, plenary session, commissions and Secretariat accomplished their duties and presented their reports to the committee.

Special Commission on Oversight of Government Activities

Special Commission on oversight of Activities of the government was established based on article 89 of the constitution and article 36 of the Rules of Procedure of WJ in order to evaluate usurpation of governmental lands and identify (Land Usurpers and investigate corruption in development projects of Kabul Municipality and how to establish townships in the start of Aqrab in 1391. The commission is compose of 23 members from WJ and started work under the chairmanship of Fazal Azeem Zalmi Mujadedi. The commission presented its first three months report in fourth session and was published by the legislative department of WJ. The commission started its tasks from beginning in fifth session , during this period, the commission conducted 36 sessions (17) Hearing Sessions with participation of Ministers, Deputy Ministers, officials of Agriculture, urban development, Defense, Commerce and industries, Advisor to the President in construction affairs, Kabul Mayor, Director of New Kabul city project and Director of Onex etc. Adding to that, the commission held joint commission with participation of WJ standing commissions discussed need of the usurpation Law on governmental and non-governmental Estates; the commission also conducted three oversight visits to townships in Kabul city.

The commission continued its activities during sixth session as follow:

A. Usurpation of governmental and non-governmental lands:

Based on the report of the Ministry of Agriculture, 1,279,700 acre governmental land is usurped by 15,831 usurpers across the country. And according to Ministry of Defense 357,000 out of 1,279,700 is the property of the MoD and only 452,484 acre of land was retaken by the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to information about the usurpation of lands in Nangarhar, Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, and Balkh as follow:

1. Usurpers usurped 138,996 acres of land
2. Usurpers who usurped more than 1,000 acre of land, total area is 109,631 acre
3. Usurpers who usurped 100 to 999 acre, area 65,810 acre of land
4. Usurpers who usurped 10 to 99 acre, area 18,284 acre of land
5. Usurpers who usurped 1 to 9 acre, area 4,384 acre of land
6. Usurpers who usurped One acre of land is, area 265,184 acre of land

B. Land usurped for the construction of Townships:

Around 355 planned and unplanned townships are built in Kabul, Kandahar, Konduz, Takhar, Paktika, Khost, Helmand, Ghazni, Parwan, Nangarhar and Herat. The government allocated 109,262 acre land for 94 townships and remaining 262,537 acres of land was usurped by the owners of townships and around two million people are living in these townships.

1. Around 20 townships have proper documentation.
2. Around 40 townships have documentation but level of infrastructure is medium
3. Around 100 townships has documents but infrastructure is not ready
4. Remaining township neither has documentation nor the infrastructure.

C. Kabul Municipality Projects

Based on report and evaluation of the special commission on oversight of the activities of the government activities, projects of Kabul Municipality from 1382 (2003) to 1389 (2010) represents that projects were non-standard, lack of technical documentation, engineering maps, roads profile and contracts were combined of defects and this led to corruption in projects. From the Commission point of view, the reason for slow work of Kabul Municipality projects is the lack of cooperation between Kabul Municipality and Ministry of Urban Development. The Kabul Municipality sent several letters to the Ministry of Interior, National Directorate of Security and to Attorney General's Office to stop construction of illegal townships on usurped lands in 22 areas of Kabul city. The commission view is that the Kabul municipality didn't provide services to the inhabitants of Kabul.

It is worth mentioning that Special Commission on Oversight Activities of the Government proposed three points in order to fasten reclamation of Estates in Afghanistan:

1. Approval of a legislation regarding the usurpation of government and non-government Estates.
2. Establishment of a special court in order to deal with illegal usurpation of government and non-government Estates.
3. Establishment of special commission within the framework of standing commissions to evaluate activities of the government and follow usurpation of the government and non-government Estates.

Therefore the commission conducted joint commission of WJ commissions on 23 September 2013 on the Law on Usurpation and Occupancy of Government and Non-Government Estates, the WJ plenary session approved the law.

Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API)
Workshops and Seminars Datasheet

S/N	Activity	Description	Date		Participants								Total Participants	Implementer	Remarks
			Start	End	MPs		Senators		MJ Staff		WJ Staff				
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
1	Budget Process and implementation	The overall purpose of this workshop was to train technical staff of both houses to get in depth knowledge of national budget and role of parliament as a law makers.	27-Jan-14	28-Jan-14	0	0	0	0	11	0	40	13	64	Budget Team ALBA	
2	Library Management	The purpose of this training was to training the legislative and library technical staff to have keep records of laws and track them on time.	29-Jan-14	29-Jan-14	0	0	0	0	3	1	20	8	32	UNDP	
3	Human Resource Development	The purpose of this workshop was to train the technical staff to further improve the existing HR system of national assembly.	1-Feb-14	2-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	15	0	23	3	41	French Embassy	
4	Database	This training was designed as per the frequent request of both houses to train their IT officers on database and solve their problems.	4-Feb-14	4-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	8	2	20	7	37	API-Computer Instructors	
5	Good Governance	The purpose of this workshop was to train the directors and department heads of both houses to get in depth knowledge of good governance as best international practices	8-Feb-14	9-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	18	1	21	3	43	Hawk Vision Consultancy	
6	Annual Performance Evaluation of Civil Servants for MJ staff members	The overall purpose of this training was to enable the staff of MJ to understand on how to fill the annual performance evaluation forms, and have better and effective performance management in place	10-Feb-14	10-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	36	2	0	0	38	IARCSC	
7	Annual Performance Evaluation of Civil Servants for WJ staff members	The overall purpose of this training was to enable the staff of WJ to understand on how to fill the annual performance evaluation forms, and have better and effective performance management in place	11-Feb-14	11-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	37	3	0	0	40	IARCSC	
8	International Conventions Related to Gender	The Overall Purpose of this workshop is to enable staff members of the both houses realize the gender concepts, conventions, commitments and the mechanism on how to mainstream and integrate gender in to the national assembly	10-Feb-14	11-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	3	14	18	16	51	MoWA	
9	Parliamentary Reception and VIP meetings arrangements (Protocol)	The Overall objective of this workshop was to enhance skills on how to accompany VIP and other high officials	12-Feb-14	12-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	16	0	17	3	36	MoFA	
10	Strategic Planning and it's difference with policy and mid-term plan for MJ Staff	The overall goal of this training workshop was to enhance the knowledge of participants in all types of planning, vision, mission statement, difference between policy and strategy and on how to develop a strategic planning	16-Feb-14	17-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	39	2	0	0	41	Hawk Vision Consultancy	
11	Strategic Planning and it's difference with policy and mid-term plan for WJ Staff	The overall goal of this training workshop was to enhance the knowledge of participants in all types of planning, vision, mission statement, difference between policy and strategy and on how to develop a strategic planning	18-Feb-14	19-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	11	56	Hawk Vision Consultancy	

Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API)
Workshops and Seminars Datasheet

S/N	Activity	Description	Date		Participants								Total Participants	Implementer	Remarks
			Start	End	MPs		Senators		MJ Staff		WJ Staff				
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
12	Journalism Skills (News and writing) in Parliament	The overall purpose of this workshop is to enable all the DIPR and other relevant directorates and staff members learn the basics of journalism including the report writing and writing skills and publishing news	22-Feb-14	23-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	8	1	12	3	24	SSHEO	
13	Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Security as per the 1325 UN declaration	The overall aim of this training workshop was to enable the staff members of the MJ understand what the 1325 UN declaration is, the role of women in conflicts resolution and security issues and participation of women in all spheres of the society	22-Feb-14	23-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	15	27	0	0	42	MoWA	
14	Legislative Drafting, Analysis and Development of Legislative Policies	The overall purpose of this training workshop is to enhance the skills of national assembly staff members to draft legislative policies, analyze and how to develop the legislative policies	25-Feb-14	26-Feb-14	0	0	0	0	15	4	29	4	52	Afghan Blumberg Legal Consultancy Service	
15	Camera and Recording Skills	The overall purpose of this training workshop was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the national assembly staff members on how to operate and use different cameras, which parts to be taken and which parts to be prevented to be taken and how to censor and edit pictures and videos	2-Mar-14	2-Mar-14	0	0	0	0	9	0	18	4	31	Kosha Media	
Total					0	0	0	0	233	57	263	75	628		

Draft Joint MJ and WJ Prioritized Seminars and Workshop Plan

Date: 12 January 2014

S/No	Training	Priority	Date	Identified Resources	Duration	Remark
MJ						
1	Policy Development	A	TBD		TBD	
2	Strategic Planning and its difference with policy and mid-term plan	A1	During Recess		3 full days	API's Conference Hall
4	Type of Management and Time Management	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
5	Communication and Fundamental of leadership	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
6	Good Governance	A1	During Recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
7	HR Management Planning and development	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
8	Legislative Drafting (scrutiny and amendment techniques)	A1	During Recess		1 full day	API's Conference Hall
9	Procurement Law	A1	During Recess		3 days	API's Conference Hall
10	Income Tax Law	C	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
11	Camera and recording skills	A1	TBD		1 full day	API's Conference Hall
12	Journalism skills (News and writing) in Parliament	A1	During Recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
13	Picture amendment for media	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
14	Quick Books	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
15	Proposal Writing	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall

Draft Joint MJ and WJ Prioritized Seminars and Workshop Plan

Date: 12 January 2014

16	Parliamentary reception and VIP meeting arrangement (protocol)	A1	During Recess		1 day	API's Conference Hall
17	Work planning for commission and Committee chairs	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
18	International law	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
19	Study Tour to the parliament of other countries	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
20	Establishment and development of inter-parliamentary committees	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
21	Effective internal audit	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
22	International Convention related on Gender	A1	During recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
23	Role of women in conflict resolution and security as per the 1325 UN declaration	A1	During recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
24	Civil service laws and other legislative related to gender	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
25	Legal and Sharia Rights of woman in the civil law	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
26	Gender management and gender responsive budgeting	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
27	Program Budgeting	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
28	Special English Conversation Class for Directors and Unit Heads	A1	3 x week (2 hours, afternoon)		Continue	API's Conference Hall
29	Database	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
30	Administrative Rights of Afghanistan	A1	TBD		3 days	API's Conference Hall

Draft Joint MJ and WJ Prioritized Seminars and Workshop Plan

Date: 12 January 2014

WJ						
1	Comparative Law (comparison of constitution of Afghanistan with regional countries)	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
2	Legislative Drafting	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
3	Internal role of procedures	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
4	Analysis and development of legislative policies	A1	During recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
5	Committee procedure	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
6	Report writing	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
7	Management and Leadership	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
8	Database	A1	During recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
9	Web-designing	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
10	Parliamentary Reception (protocol)	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
11	National budget analysis and accountability	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
12	Qatia	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
13	Legislative Scrutiny and amendment	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
14	Analysis and comparison of UN conventions and declaration	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall

Draft Joint MJ and WJ Prioritized Seminars and Workshop Plan

Date: 12 January 2014

15	Library management and record keeping of video and audio of committee meetings	A1	During Recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
16	Comparison of procedures with Laws	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
17	Digitalization of library	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
18	Parliamentary oversight	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
19	Time Management	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
20	Management and Leadership	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
21	Presentation Skills	B	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
22	Effective event and meeting management	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
23	Basic policy development and guidelines for gender	A1	During Recess		2 days	API's Conference Hall
24	Afghanistan civil servant working law	A	TBD		TBD	API's Conference Hall
25	Annual Evaluation of civil servants	A	TBD	IARCSC	1 day	API's Conference Hall

A1= Top Priority MJ and WJ joint training during recess

A= Second Top priority after recess

B= Third Priority to be conducted in the future



Meshrano Jirga End of Session Report

Sixth Session: 7 September 2013 to 20 January 2014

During the fall session, the Meshrano Jirga (MJ) conducted 38 general plenary sessions during the Sixth Session of the 16th term of Parliament, which began on 7 September 2013 and ended on 20 January 2014. In addition to these 38 plenary sessions, of which XX sessions were Questions with Ministers and other high-ranking officials, the MJ engaged in 10 oversight field visits and hearings and reviewed 333 citizen complaints and petitions.

During this session, 13 bills were acted upon, 11 passing and two rejected, four International Agreements adopted and 45 general resolutions were issued, expressing official positions on various policy areas. MJ Commissions conducted 483 general sessions of which over 200 involved Ministers and other high-ranking officials.

Approved Legislation

1. Amendment to the Law on Income Tax, Article 72, Paragraph One
2. Annex Four, the Law on Urban Service Fees
3. Amendments to the Law on Mass Media
4. Law on Population Registration
5. MJ Recommendations to the 1393 National Budget
6. Amendments to the MJ Rules of Procedure
7. Law on Parliamentary Rights and Privileges (Member's Bill)
8. Law on Children's Paternity
9. Law on the Structure and Duties of Special Courts
10. Criminal Procedure Code
11. Law on Commercial Franchises

Rejected Legislation

1. Conversion of IDLG into the Ministry on Provincial Affairs
2. Presidential Decree amending the Electoral Law on Hindu Ethnic reserved seat in Wolesi Jirga

International Treaties and Conventions

1. Cooperation agreement between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom;
2. Cooperation agreement between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Danish Kingdom;
3. Cooperation agreement between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Indonesia; and,
4. Cooperation agreement between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Legislation under Joint Committee Review

1. Law on Salary and Expenditures of the President (Approved)
2. Annex Four, the Law on Urban Service Fees (Approved)
3. Law on Population Registration (Approved)
4. Law on Financial Leases (Pending)
5. Amendments to the Law on Mass Media (Approved)
6. Criminal Procedure Code (Approved)
7. Law on Children's Paternity (Approved)
8. Law on Structure and Duties of Special Courts (Approved)
9. Amendments to the Law on Elections on reserving a seat for Hindu ethnic in Wolesi Jirga (Rejected)

MJ in the Sixth Session

During the Sixth Session of the 16th term, the MJ Commissions discussed fundamental problems of the people and urged the relevant organs to solve those issues. The commissions discussed 333 petitions in Sixth Session of the 16th term, as well as issues national and international importance. The Commissions issued 45 manifestos, resolutions and messages.

Oversight

Oversight of the executive branch is one of the most important duties authorized for the parliament in the Constitution of Afghanistan. During the Sixth Session of the 16th term, the MJ questioned government officials regarding the structure of the Ministries, and evaluated work plans. The MJ also conducted 10 oversight visits and field visits to the provinces and in Kabul.

Plenary Sessions

In accordance with the MJ Rules of Procedure, plenary sessions are held two days per week and commission sessions three days per week. The MJ held 38 sessions in the Sixth Session

of the 16th term, and approved 12 bills and adopted four international treaties, conventions and agreements. The MJ questioned the Ministers in respect to national and international important issues and following officials were invited to the commission sessions. In addition, 51 government officials were summoned for hearings and questionings.

1. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was summoned in respect to the proper coordination regarding the invitation of the governmental officials.
2. Invitation of the Head of the IEC and Secretary of the IEC regarding the preparation to Presidential and Provincial Council elections.
3. Invitation of the Head of National Olympic Committee, National Football Team Coach regarding the achievement of Afghan football team.
4. The MJ summoned Minister of Defense, NDS acting head and Acting Minister of Interior regarding the security situation across the country.
5. Invitation of the Heads of the IEC, ECC and Secretaries of the IEC and ECC regarding the complaints of the Provincial Council candidates about the upcoming elections.
6. The MJ summoned the Minister of Finance and Budget team of the Ministry regarding the 1393 National budget.
7. The MJ summoned Minister of Telecommunication and Information about the clarification of internet services and protection of phone-calls of the citizens.
8. Invitation of the Heads of 34 Provincial Councils and Coordination Directors of Provincial Councils regarding the betterment of their affairs.
9. The MJ summoned Minister of Urban Development and the Kabul Mayor regarding the city's polluted water.
10. Invitation of the Administrative Deputy of the Ministry of Interior regarding the distribution of electronic ID card (Tazkera).
11. Invitation of the Minister of Education regarding the condition of education across the country.
12. The MJ summoned Head of IEC in respect to the distribution of voter cards.
13. The Minister of Interior and Minister of Defense were summoned regarding the transition process to Afghan Security Forces.
14. The Minister of Works and Social Affairs was invited regarding the increased unemployment rate.
15. The Head of National Cricket Team along with 40 member of the team were invited and was honored by the MJ.
16. The MJ summoned Minister of Counter Narcotics and Minister of Public Health regarding the elimination of cultivation of narcotics and treatment of drugs addicts.
17. Minister of Urban Development, Kabul Mayor and Director of IDLG (Independent Directorate of Local Governance) discussed implementation of the Kabul Master Plan.
18. The MJ invited Minister of Refugees and Repatriation and Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the problems of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.
19. The MJ summoned Minister of Interior, Minister of Defense and Acting Director of NDS regarding the increased insecurity, suicide attacks and security of polling stations across the country.

20. Invitation of the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Higher Education regarding the protest of lecturers and students of Kabul University.
21. The MJ summoned Minister of Hajj and Endowment regarding the Hajj quota for Senators.

Commission Sessions

Defense and Internal Affairs Commission

Defense and Internal Affairs Commission held 39 committee sessions of which 25 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. Meanwhile the commission received 16 petitions and all were followed up and referred to the relevant authority. A total number of 135 letters were received and 218 were sent. The commission has made a total of 21 decisions and conducted one oversight trip.

Women Affairs and Civil Society Commission

Women Affairs and Civil Society Commission held a total of 44 committee sessions of which 27 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. The commission also reviewed and approved 16 laws, agreements and decrees, as well as accepted eight petitions. A total number of 76 letters were received and 47 were sent. The commission made a total of 42 decisions, and conducted two oversight trips.

Public Welfare and Environment

Public welfare and Environment Commission months held 38 committee sessions of which 24 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. This commission have also reviewed and approved nine laws, agreements and decrees, as well as accepted three petitions. A total number of 87 letters were received and 90 were sent. The commission has made a total of 46 decisions, and conducted one oversight trip.

Transportation and Telecommunications Commission

Transportation and Telecommunication Commission held 45 committee sessions of which 44 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. The commission also reviewed and approved eight laws, agreements and decrees, as well as accepted 29 petitions. A total number of 77 letters were received and 156 were sent. The commission has made a total of 45 decisions, and conducted one oversight trip.

Tribes and Borders Commission

Tribes and Borders Commission held 42 committee sessions of which 23 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. This commission have also reviewed and approved 30 laws agreements and decrees, as well as accepted 19 petitions. A total number of 54 letters were received and 24 were sent. The commission has made a total of 33 decisions.

Petitions and Complaints Commission

Petitions Commission held 48 committee sessions of which 62 were hearing and questioning session of high-ranking government officials, and accepted 251 petitions. A total number of

44 letters were received and 213 were sent. The commission has made a total of 202 decisions, and conducted one oversight trip.

Provincial Council, Immunities and Privileges Commission

Provincial Council, Immunities and Privileges Commission held 33 committee sessions of which eight were hearing and questioning of high-ranking government officials. Commission has also approved 17 Bills, Agreements and Decrees, and accepted two petitions. A total number of 111 letters were received and 60 were sent. The commission has made a total of 33 decisions and had one oversight trip.

National Economic Commission

The National Economy Commission during the last four months held 41 committee sessions of which 33 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. Commission also passed 17 Bills, Agreements and Decrees. Meanwhile commission received 30 petitions. A total number of 201 letters were received and 90 were sent. The commission has made a total of 31 decisions.

Religious Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission

The Religious Affairs, Education and Higher Education Commission held 38 committee sessions of which 33 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. The Commission also passed 12 Bills, Agreements and Decrees, and accepted 23 petitions. A total number of 41 letters were received and 67 were sent. The commission has made a total of 13 decisions.

International Relations Commission

The International Relations Commission held 43 committee sessions of which four were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. Commission has also passed 10 Bills, Agreements and Decrees, and accepted three petitions. A total number of 31 letters were received and 24 were sent. The commission has made a total of 42 decisions.

Legislative Affairs, Justice and Judiciary Commission

The Legislative Affairs, Justice and Judiciary Commission held 44 committee sessions of which 13 were hearings and questionings of high-ranking government officials. Commission has also passed seven Bills, Agreements and Decrees. Meanwhile commission received 37 petitions. A total number of 211 letters were received and 190 were sent. The commission has made a total of 22 decisions.

Disabled and Immigrants Affairs Commission

The Disables and Immigrants Commission held 42 committee sessions out of 59 from which 5 were hearing and questioning of Government high rank officials and authorities. Commission also passed eight Bills, Agreements and Decrees. Meanwhile commission received three petitions. A total number of 56 letters were received and 31 were sent. The commission made a total of 40 decisions, and conducted two official trips this session.