The Fourth Step of Democracy in Afghanistan

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T
do day is the second day of electoral campaign and start of dia-

bates to run for the fourth presidential election in Afghan-

istan. Since 2001, there have been three presidential elections

and this one will be fourth election which is going to take place after

another 9 years. In fact, it is the first presidential election when there is

electoral democracy in the country. All previous elections were very

important but the 2019 presidential election is to be more significant

because Afghanistan lies on a crossroad of democratic system and so-
called Islamic Emirate System. Failure and success of this election is
critical and decisive for the nascent democracy of Afghanistan.
Therefore, the presidential election is a historic opportu-
nity and everyone has to do his best to make it successful.
We had a lot issues and challenges in past elections but they played
essential role in consolidating political system and democracy in the
country. Regardless of its quality, merely holding elections and pay-
ing attention to vote is constructive. Now, the fourth presidential election is more sensitive and more important than any other

election in the past. Today, we put the first step towards the fourth round of presidential elections while enemy of democracy

has revolved more than ever. Taliban extremists group and other ter-
rorist groups activated more than ever. They are overtly opposed to

any political system which is based on people’s votes.

Moreover, there are elections campaigns which are open to

terrorism, withdrawal of foreign troops and further intensification of the war during elec-
tions are the steps which lead to the failure of Afghan political

and election process. For this reason, the fourth presidential election of 2019 considered a historic step to overcome the current crisis. If

this step is failed under any pretext, Afghanistan will probably once again become a center of international terrorism and the future of the
country. On other side, if the upcoming presidential election success-

fully passes this milestone, then no power will be able to prevent the progres-
sion and institutionalization of democracy in the country.
Out of above mentioned factors, the security issue seems to be more

objectionable. Security is the heart of any process, especially in the case of upcoming elections and election campaigns in the country.
In addition to preventing the intensification of conflict, the security parts of the country will prevent the participation of people in insecure
areas that are involved in the war or doubtful communities, as well as protect the electoral safety of the voters and the election

officials. The country’s defense and security organs have informed of maintaining safety, there concern is to main-
tain better security and safety of the electoral campaign. Therefore, it

is believed that the country’s security organs should maintain security of voting stations.

According to government security officials and Independent Elec-
tion Commission’s (IEC) officials, there is no problem in starting the electoral campaign and holding elections. The Afghan government has provided each candidate with bullet-proof vehicles and security officers to ensure their safety. Meanwhile, the electoral teams have already prepared facilities and resources to ensure that the security of the central and provincial offices of these candidates were ready and

all necessary preparations were made for these offices. But herein, their campaigns will intensively through those offices.
Thus, the ministry of interior has informed of a comprehensive secu-

rity plan which covers security of all election campaign ceremonies, expenses for each candidate. The experience of past elections shows that candidates will use from every option, including money, power and human resources in the fourth presidential election.

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