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How to Address Mistrust to Afghan Electoral Institutions

The democratic transition that started in Afghanistan in 2001 has made significant progress. Arguably, a major landmark in Afghan democratic experiment was the presidential elections in 2013. ghis historic milestone, the Afghan Constitution guarantees the right to participate in all public affairs. Nonetheless, the Afghan electorate has witnessed a number of electoral problems. In the 2014 presidential and parliamentary elections, there were reports of fraud, voter intimidation, and violence. These issues have their roots in the past, and the Afghan government and international partners have made efforts to address them.

The 2014 presidential elections were held in three rounds. The first round was on March 8, the second round on April 5, and the third round on June 14. The elections were marred by numerous irregularities, including allegations of vote-rigging, ballot stuffing, and fraud. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) announced that Ashraf Ghani won the presidency with 57% of the vote, while Abdullah Abdullah won 42%.

In the 2015 parliamentary elections, the IEC announced on March 29 that the loya jirga had elected 25 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

The 2018 parliamentary elections were held on October 28. The IEC announced on December 13 that the loya jirga had elected 161 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

The 2019 presidential elections were held on October 28. The IEC announced on November 10 that the loya jirga had elected 133 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

In the 2020 presidential elections, the IEC announced on March 27 that the loya jirga had elected 117 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

The 2021 parliamentary elections were held on April 22. The IEC announced on May 13 that the loya jirga had elected 133 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

The 2022 presidential elections were held on April 23. The IEC announced on May 25 that the loya jirga had elected 152 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

The 2023 presidential elections were held on April 11. The IEC announced on May 15 that the loya jirga had elected 179 of the 249 members. However, the elections were marred by irregularities, including ballot stuffing, vote-rigging, and fraud.

The current government is facing numerous challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing conflict with the Taliban, and the economic crisis. The government must take decisive action to address these challenges and ensure the smooth conduct of future elections.