

Press Release

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Implementation of electoral reform is a precondition for rebuilding public trust in election and electoral commission. Therefore, the civil society organizations relevant to election, welcome appointment of new members of electoral commissions and consider it a positive step toward implementation of next phases of electoral reform and rebuilding public trust in the electoral commissions and process. However, implementation of other phases of electoral reform and rebuilding public trust depends on performance of new members based on laws and working values of electoral commissions. The Electoral Organizations Joint Working Group present the following recommendations to new members of electoral commissions to successfully implement the electoral reform process, rebuilding public trust in the electoral commissions and break the barriers before coming elections:

1. There is limited time for implementation of electoral reform. Hence, the new members of electoral commissions must begin their work soon and get preparation to hold the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections, after reform, next year.
2. Observance of impartiality is a basic condition for legitimacy of election process. Therefore, the new members of electoral commissions are requested to prove their impartiality and independency in practice and act based on the provisions of electoral laws.
3. From now on, implementation of electoral reform is the duty of new members of electoral commissions. Therefore, they are recommended to develop an electoral reform strategy in consultation with civil society organization relevant to election and share the electoral timeline with public.
4. Electoral commissions were marginalized after 2014 elections and their relation worsen with their stakeholders. Thus, the new members of electoral commissions are recommended to improve the electoral commissions' relations with their stakeholders.
5. Given the lessons learned and experiences of previous elections, new members of electoral commissions are recommended to work for independency, professionalization and accountability of electoral commissions and try to share information with public on time.
6. The new members of electoral commissions are recommended to work for self-sufficiency of electoral commissions and decrease electoral expenditures. Likewise, they are recommended to use the sources properly in all electoral stages.
7. Preparation of voters' list and delimitation of electoral boundaries is the duties of new members of electoral commissions. Therefore, they are recommended to do the mentioned missions in consultation with civil society organizations, political parties and

stakeholders. They are recommended to try to prepare the voters' list through reregistration of all eligible voters based on the provisions of law.

8. The electoral commissions are recommended to fill their vacant positions in HQ and provincial level through a transparent employment process and employ honest and impartial individuals.
9. The electoral commissions are recommended to follow up the cases of electoral staff who had hand in electoral frauds and violations.
10. Government and all political institutions must prevent influence in affairs of electoral commissions. They are recommended to support the independency of electoral commissions.