

**FEFA's second roundtable to
discuss the MPs performance
in 2016:**

The program of Parliamentary Monitoring was organized in 2012 by FEFA with the aim of providing accurate reports on Afghanistan parliament activities to the public. The Parliamentary Monitoring Goals are ensuring the application of the principle of transparency in the legislative, monitor the performance of government by parliament, raising public awareness from the performance and achievements of the Parliament and Strengthening cooperation and coordination between the parliament and civil society.

The parliamentary monitoring (PM) prepares their observation reports as weekly in each sessions and shares with stakeholders, beside for the first time the PM team prepared the first FEFA's Parliamentary findings within a year from both (Upper and Lower) houses which is a great achievement for the FEFA.

Therefore the PM conducted a roundtable on "FEFA's Parliamentary finding 2016" with the participation of MPs, National Unity Government (NUG) representatives, political parties, civil society organizations, legislators, university students and media members with total 103 participants at Safi Landmark Hotel, Kabul Afghanistan February 27, 2017.

There are some critical issues that need attention of MPs and the government of Afghanistan to address it through discussion made by MPs, CSOs, and Political Parties, Legislators, Lecturers, Human Rights activists and students. FEFA facilitates discussions under name of Roundtable to figure out solutions to those critical issues and prepare a report based on recommendations provided by the participants of these roundtables. It was a plan that FEFA share the report with MPs to discuss it in their plenary session and play their role in overcoming those issues by considering the recommendations listed in the report.



Participants at FEFA's Roundtable

According to FEFA's findings reflected in its brief report prepared based on monitoring from sessions of both houses of Mishrano Jirga and Wolessi Jirga during 2016, the internal rule violation (absenteeism, talking out of three minutes time limit provided, not sharing agenda for next plenary session, etc....) were key challenging issues that needed discussion on how to overcome it as it would have an overall effect on the efficiency of both houses and will overshadow their performance. It also diminishes the public trust and believe on MPs and will result in a gap between public and MPs.

It is worth mentioning that this second roundtable is part of FEFA's 2016 action plan and postponed to 2017 due to delay in funding. FEFA has two roundtables each year under ADAPP- II and the first one was successfully conducted in 2016.

FEFA aimed to facilitate a discussion among 103 participants including three MPs from Wolesi Jirga and a member from Mishrano Jirga (Abdul Qadar Zazai, Jafar Mahdawi, Hamida Akber and Safiullah Hashmi from Mishrano Jirga) to find out the root causes for the aforementioned issues and ways to avoid it in the future by conducting a roundtable on Feb 27 at Safi Landmark hotel Kabul.



Participants at FEFA's Roundtable

At the beginning of session, the brief report prepared by FEFA was shared with all participants. FEFA's Parliamentary Monitoring (PM) team briefed all participants about its findings on performance of both houses throughout the 2016. It is worth mentioning that the progress in performance of MPs was also reflected in FEFA's report such as number of laws approved during 2016. Subsequently, MPs talked about the findings of FEFA and appreciated the initiative took by FEFA that according to them, will help in improving the performance of MPs by considering the weak points listed out in the report.

The participants had questions from MPs regarding their effectiveness and violation of internal rules made by them and MPs provided their answers (will be shared in detailed report as Annex).

At the end of discussion, the participant's suggested some recommendations as follows:

- The MPs should not interfere in recruitment processes in government offices.
- The laws passed by the parliament should be implemented in the community.
- The government should pay attention to the resolution of Parliament.
- In Monitoring of Government performance, the Parliament should develop new methods.
- The Commissions of each houses should review the laws properly and carefully.

Those Experts and consultants employed in the commission of the Parliament Must be

"FEFA's observational findings are invaluable and is also admirable. Also the parliamentary reports and surveys should be conducted in accordance with fundamentals and necessary criteria. Said by a MP Jafar Mehdawi."

"If you (FEFA) don't point us our weak points, how would we know about our own weakness and there is no way to work on it unless we know about it. I do agree with the violation of internal rules by (some) MPs and

"FEFA's Parliamentary findings was considered a major achievement, this work can be a practical open way to make the society. Said by University Teacher, Shahla Farid."

"FEFA has been able to build the relationship between MPs and their clients in a right and proper way. Said by a MP, Hamida Wardak."