Short report

Of the

Parliamentary Dialogue with Youth

(A glimpse on work of Wolesi Jerga)

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ACKU- Kabul University
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Introduction

Women and PEACE Studies Organization (WPSO) is one of the leading civil society organization registered with Ministry of Economy. The o is working in the field of parliamentary monitoring from three years to increase the transparency and accountability of parliament. Therefore, WPSO conducted its first Parliamentary Dialogue with Youth to increase the knowledge and awareness of youth from the works and functions of parliament MPs.

How we started:

“Public awareness” an effective tool for creating a platform for more engagement of community. Ensuring transparency and accountability is an objective and needs to be ensured through a defined process in which citizens inclusion should be guarantee. For achieving this objective, public engagement and citizens awareness is must. Individuals should be encourage for this and young generation, who are the future leaders and can carry this legacy and make it more democratic and inclusive. The PW Dialogue initiative Publicized through the Social Media platform and encouraging youth to participate and enhance and empower the relationship between MPs and citizens. In addition, the aim was to increase the knowledge of Youth and students about from three main responsibilities of Wolesi Jirgar:

1. Oversight government performance
2. Representation
3. Legislation

Outcomes of the Dialogue:

1. Above 100 university students participation.
2. Open discussion of three main responsibilities of WJ.
3. Next dialogue topic also discussed as per their suggestions.
4. Sharing problems, issues and expectation of youth from WJ.
5. Discussing the current issues the WJ are facing overall.
Key learning points and challenges:

1. Communities are suffering due to not having regular interaction with MPs and issues, problems at different level are not addressed. The representation responsibilities by MPs are not satisfactory and citizens’ problems are not solved. The reasons are; lack of MPs meeting with youth and communities, absence of precise information from the parliament and MPs works.

2. Challenges inside Parliament among the MPs, are also a serious barriers. It has impacted and made weak most of the important activities. Lack of complete quorum, Absence of MPs.

3. Lack of not having political parties-driven parliament. Mostly goals, objectives are individual based not based on political parties.

Recommendations:

WPSO as a civil society organization regularly oversight parliament and attend general sessions. Despite of achievements, still it has many challenges, for ensuring accountability and transparency, the following are the recommendations:

1. Different types of discrimination exist in Parliament, such as, ethnocentric, linguistic and many more. It should be abandoned among MPs in the parliament.

2. Trust and confidence between two powers (Legislative & Administrative) must be empowered and authorities and responsibilities as per constitution should be respected.

3. The presence of political parties in parliament should be encouraged. Citizens vote for the party of their choice and in this way, oversight and influence of government will be more meaningful.

4. Weak public participations and engagement in assisting MPs in area of legislative & oversight of government activities.
Annex

No of participants: 113

The participants were from various public, private universities and NGOs as follows:

1. Gawharshad University
2. Ibnesina University
3. Gharjistan University
4. Kabul University
5. Shahid Rabani University
6. Kateb Univrsity; and,
7. Representative of many local organizations