Seventh Meeting of Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia
Bandos Island Resort I Male', Maldives I 02-04 August 2016

SUMMARY REPORT
2016

Seventh Meeting of Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)
2nd & 3rd August 2016, Bandos Island Resort, Maldives

Summary Report

The seventh meeting of Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) was held from 02-04 August 2016 at Bandos Island Resort, Maldives. Member countries of the forum; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the meeting. As decided on the previous FEMBoSA meeting, the theme for this year's forum was "Technology for Credible Elections". The proceedings of the seventh meeting of FEMBoSA are summarized below.

The Inaugural Session

The opening session of the seventh meeting of FEMBoSA was inaugurated by the chief guest, Prosecutor General Uz. Aishath Bisham. The inaugural session was facilitated by the Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Ali and was attended by all the member states, invited guests and officials of Elections Commission of Maldives.

- Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Ali welcomed all the delegates of the member countries. He focused his speech on the main theme of this year "Technology for credible elections" and the importance of modernizing election management processes to achieve a better outcome. Further on this, Mr. Ali explained about a web portal to be launched at this opening ceremony. This portal is designed to document all the activities of the forum, including a photo gallery, event news, participating countries information which are directly related to the forum. He stated that, the aim of this forum has been to go paperless or use minimum paper throughout the sessions.

- Keeping with the theme, a flag hoisting animation was orchestrated with national anthems of the member countries being played consecutively. The idea was to project the unity of member countries.

- The Chairperson of the FEMBoSA, Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka, H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya gave the opening speech of the FEMBoSA seventh meeting. He showed a roadmap of how the events of the forum will be commencing. He then, thanked Maldives for the warm welcome and for working closely with Sri Lanka. He concluded his speech by welcoming all the delegates and said he was looking forward for a very fruitful discussion.

- While addressing the opening ceremony, the Chairman of Elections Commission of Maldives, H.E Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman highlighted the importance of working towards

disseminating the results of our current consultations to our citizens and to seek ways in conducting cost-effective elections for the benefit and advantage of the people. He also pointed that we have to seek ways to conduct elections in cost-effective ways for the benefit and advantage of the people. In this manner, it is now incumbent on us to develop electoral bodies with the help of modern conveniences and technology. And concluding requested all the member countries to make the most effective use of this time, to fill their travel trunks with knowledge and experience before returning home, and to commit firmly to the spirit of sharing and give-and-take right now, to utilize fully and in the most beneficial manner this golden opportunity which we have today.

- Chief Guest, Prosecutor General Uz. Aishath Bisham did the honors of launching the web portal of FEMBoSA. A video presentation of the portal was played which showed a glimpse of the portal interphase and what it consists of.

- In the speech of chief guest H.E. Uz Aishath Bisham, she expressed her gratitude for the opportunity presented to her and was proud to be part of the event. She highlighted the work towards introducing e-voting in Maldives and obstacles it could create. She also mentioned that consequences and difficulties arising from it will take some getting used to- and may even face oppositions to some extent. She believes that the Elections Commission will weigh in all aspects of that conversation before going ahead.

- Vice chairman of the Elections Commission of Maldives, Uz. Amjad Musthafa delivered the vote of thanks. In his speech, he thanked Sri Lanka for their kind assistance for this event, and the help they provided to efficaciously host this conference in Maldives. He also took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to the distinguished panel of speakers, delegates, distinguished participants and guests for participating at this event. Moreover, on behalf of Elections Commission of Maldives, he placed on record the excellent contributions and support made by Bandos Island Resort and all supporting third parties in making this conference a successful event. And finally, he thanked all the members of the organizing committee at the Elections Commission of Maldives; without whom this conference would not have been possible.

General Session 1

The general session one was chaired by the outgoing Chairperson of FEMBoSA, Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya. In opening the general session, he thanked all the member countries for participating in this meeting and welcomed the member counties for the seventh meeting of the FEMBoSA. He also thanked the Chairperson of FEMBoSA and Chairman of Elections Commission of Maldives H.E, Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to them.

a) Opening statement:

The outgoing Chairperson, Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka, H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya began by welcoming all the delegates to the seventh meeting of the Forum. He mentioned the important role FEMBoSA plays in bringing together the member countries Election Management Bodies (EMBs) to one platform. The purpose of which has been to discuss the experiences and incidents each country has encountered during election processes. In concluding his welcome note, H.E Mr. Deshapriya thanked Maldives for hosting this year's FEMBoSA meeting at Maldives.

b) Adoption of Agenda:

H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya read the current meeting's agenda and welcomed all the participants to make any inclusion, should they have any need for it. Since none of the participants proposed a change to agenda, the meeting agenda was adopted as it was.

c) Presenting the stewardship report:

Next, the outgoing Chairperson H.E Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya presented last year's stewardship report. H.E Mr. Deshapriya gave a status update on the tasks assigned to the member EMBs from last year's work plan. When a number of tasks were achieved, there was some member EMBs whose tasks were yet to be completed. A fact he shared was some of the updates of the countries has not been incorporated into this report due time constraints. Therefore gave the assurance that they will share the final report with the final updates of the countries with the member EMBs.

d) Handing over of the Chair from Elections Commission of Sri Lanka to Elections Commission of Maldives:

The outgoing Chairperson of FEMBoSA, Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka, H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya moved on to the next item on agenda, the handing over of the chair. It was done by; passing down the medallion representing the chair of FEMBoSA to the incoming Chairperson, the Chairman of the Elections Commission of Maldives, H.E Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman. And then a FEMBoSA logo memento was handed down to H.E, Mr. Sulaiman. The outgoing Chairperson H.E Mr. Deshapriya concluded by thanking all the participants for their support throughout all the endeavors of the past year. And wished the incoming chair a successful term

This event marked the transition of Chairmanship to Maldives for the period of 2016

e) Session Closing

To wrap up the session, Chairperson of FEMBoSA and Chairman of the Elections Commission of Maldives H.E, Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman thanked all the delegates for participating.

Technical Sessions

Technical Sessions were organized such that in each session member EMB is given a maximum of 45 minutes to present a pre-decided topic on the theme "Technology for Credible Elections". The technical sessions were presented in the alphabetical order of the country representing member EMB's. Each technical session was chaired by the EMB other than the one presenting, and the discussion of the presentation was facilitated by another EMB. An Additional session was also included as an add-on to the meeting. This session was presented by a former Elections Commissioner of Maldives.

All the technical sessions of the meeting were moderated by the Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Ali.

A summary of nine technical sessions are as follows.

Technical Session 1

Topic: Use of GIS (Geographic Information System) in Elections

Presentation: Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan

Presented by: Mr. Zmarai Qalamiar, Director of Operations

Chair: H.E, Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Nepal

Discussant: H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan

Paper Summary:

(GIS), which is a computer-based database system that is used to store, analyze, and manipulate geographically referenced data. What makes a GIS so powerful is its ability to layer thematic maps vertically, such as a population density map over a city map, and calculate distances between two or more locations accurately. In GIS, thematic layers can be used to create a multidimensional view of a geographic area over time. This type of mapping can show changes in population density, fluctuations in air quality, or evolving political-party affiliation. If they are developing or debating a new piece of legislation, they can use GIS tools to run possible scenarios to get relative answers.

GIS Tool generates Maps, Graphs, Reports, administrative boundaries and population information. IEC collected the data on hardcopy forms from the field through district employees and then entered the information in the GIS database along with digital pictures. Electoral geography is interested in the study of elections to understand spatial variations of political phenomena. The

results of spatial analysis are dependent on the locations of the objects being analyzed which seek to explain patterns of human behavior and its spatial expression in terms of mathematics and geometry. IEC used spatial analysis tool to determine the number of polling stations in reference to the population data and the GSM coverage on the map for field staff. In addition, IEC helped the security forces in showing the threat level on the map using different colors in the analysis. Future Plans include, Population data satellite imagery, Material tracking through GPS device and online access to voters.

Discussion:

The Director of Operations Mr. Zmarai Qalamiar, in his presentation stated that, GIS manages to capture the targeted audience in a very effective manner where, boundary delimitation was generated by considering a number of factors. He also said it empowered EMBs to do better planning and in taking informed decisions. One of the main problems they had previously faced was the allocation of the polling stations at the wrong locations which created confusions and conflicts among the people residing in these areas. Hence, to eliminate this problem they have been using GIS tool.

He also mentioned that they have created different types of maps that help in planning for security, polling center assigning and in dividing the polling station areas systematically. By creating different layers of maps over a region, they were able to better understand the situation and assess the vulnerability, on which targeted solutions were sorted. For example the population density of the locations gave them the opportunity to do delimitation accurately. Concluding the presentation, he said to further on GIS, they are planning to use small GPS devices on the election materials being transported to different locations for keeping track of the thinks and take actions promptly.

After the presentation by Afghanistan, session discussant Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, opened the floor for discussion. To begin the floor he mentioned, that they are already on the verge of using GIS in allocating polling stations and requested Afghanistan for their technical advice on implementing it at Bhutan. They also stated that, apart from EMBs this tool is very effective at the policy level as well.

Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka, H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya said that they have been facing the problem of Gerry Mandering effect that has created unfair opportunities for some and GIS tool can limit this effect substantially. Sri Lanka, under 19 amendments, has elected a permanent delimitation committee of which the TOR is being processed.

India delegate made a suggestion of, member EMBs to agree on standard layers and parameters in deciding the allocation of polling stations to be used on the GIS. This will maintain the uniformity among the EMBs.

To conclude, session chair Chief Elections Commissioner of Nepal H.E, Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, commented on the usefulness of the GIS tool. And given the insight they had on this tool he

believed that though it is useful not everyone is tech savy, hence, it would be more effective if everyone in the EMB were to be educated on it prior using it.

Technical Session 2

Topic: Use of Technology in Elections Management in Bangladesh

Presentation: Elections Commission of Bangladesh

Presented by: H.E, Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Chief Elections Commissioner

Chair: Mr. Amjad Musthafa, Vice Chairman of Elections Commission of Maldives

Discussant: H.E, Mr. Achal Kumar Joti, Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of India

Paper Summary:

In the ECB the technological tools being used are database system, election management system and GIS. In 2007-2008, prepared electoral roll with photographs and biometric. It is now possible to provide National Identity Cards to all voters of Bangladesh. ECB introduced Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in a small-scale.

A decision was taken that a National Identity Card (NID) for every voter would be issued through the registration process. Voters' data is collected through a prescribed form by the enumerators visiting door to door. A central database is prepared after merging Upazilla databases and pruning out duplicate records by AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) matching. Duplicate voters are automatically rejected by this process. To keep the database up to date all field offices receive application from voters for different types of corrections. The person, who wants to migrate, has to physically visit the concerned election office of migrated place. Voters can apply for migration through online also

CMS was used for collecting candidate's information, scanning candidate's asset disclosure and uploading data directly to website. CMIS is CMS with additional functionality. The System is designed to rapid result tabulation process and publication of result. In our election law it is clearly stated that returning officer should not select a polling station which is near by any candidate's influential area. This is a web based application, field offices enter data which is centrally monitored by election branch and IT.

EC developed an election budget related database, so that it will be easy to forecast future elections. Election Budget System is a web based application where the users are head office and all field offices. Election Calendar is also a web based system, running on secured VPN. An

inspection manual has also been developed and is in use. Head of the office login to the system with their user and send the report of office inspection for each month. ECS intranet was established to collect information speedily. Polling Station Information through SMS and website was first tested in local government bodies elections held in 2008. After that, ECB is providing this service in all local elections. ECB gives an access to Telecom operator/ service provider in main data center through secured Application Program Interface (API).Approximately 5%-10% of the total voters of each City Corporation avail this service.

ECB created a database of polling personnel, so that the panel can be re-used in subsequent elections. This is updated from time to time A PKI hash is used in the barcode as security feature, which cannot be regenerated by any unauthorized person. The issuance of national ID card now ECB has developed an integrated NID based access mechanisms that is integrated with different citizen e-service application like opening bank accounts, renewal of passport, SIM registration etc. ECB has decided to replace all paper based laminated cards by a smart card, which will ensure strengthening the e-governance and ensure service received by the correct person.

Discussion:

In his presentation, Chief Elections Commissioner of Bangladesh H.E Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said that the introduction of Smart Identification Cards (ID) with the 25 security features could be used as a secure travel document. The chip inside has the capacity to contain a number of important data on the individual. He further stressed on the security of the identification card where the possibility of hacking would be almost none.

He highlighted an issue on the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM). They had previously tried to integrate EVM into their election process and had used it on the city polls. However due to errors found in the systems they had to stop using it. He also talked about the importance they place on correcting their electoral rolls. Each year they make a camp at union council office or near polling stations where pictures and biometric data are taken. And for disabled people they visit homes. Their electoral coverage is an impressive 60%.

Session Discussant Elections Commissioner of Elections commission of India H.E Mr. Achal Kumar Joti, opened the floor for discussion by complimenting Bangladesh for their gradual integration of technology into the election process. And of updating their electoral rolls each year as it is the basic data on which the free and fair election is built upon.

And regarding the EVM machine, India delegate related an incident they had during the introduction of EVM to India. When they had initially started using the EVM a lot of criticism and objections came from the public saying the machine was manipulative. Matter was taken to Supreme Court where the verdict was to make an EVM machine to verify and ensure the voters vote was correctly recorded. So after much deliberation a new EVM machine was introduced with a paper machine attached. ECI open challenged to all the Information Technology (IT) firms to show if the machines can be manipulated. None of the firms were able to do so and it was established the

EVM cannot be manipulated. Hence, it all depends on the quality of the machines. India advised the delegates to use good quality EVM.

Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Nepal, H.E, Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav talked about an issue they have been facing regarding the electoral roll. The Nepalese living outside the country is not captured as the prime document used for registration is the citizen certificate. He inquired from Bangladesh how they are managing it. H.E Mr. Ahmad stated that in Bangladesh, though the person can fill the online forms, they still need to physically be present to take all the biometric data. Enumerators and neighbors will be used to verify the authenticity of the person. However, this still creates some gaps in capturing the entire segment. A law reform is needed to address this issue comprehensively.

At the conclusion of this session, Vice Chairman of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Amjad Musthafa, stated that Maldives too is considering the option of moving towards electronic voting system and requested technical support from all the member countries in undertaking this endeavor.

Technical Session 3

Topic: SMS based Poll Information System – Prompt and Efficient Election Result Compilation

Presentation: Elections Commission of Bhutan

Presented by: H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, Chief Elections Commissioner

Chair: Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, Director General of Elections Commission of Pakistan

Discussant: H.E, Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Nepal

Paper Summary:

The Elections Commission of Bhutan considers SMS based poll information system as important technology for prompt and efficient election result compilation. Helps to compile and consolidate four hourly voter turnout reports, age wise category voter turnout and election results and ensures safe and secure maintenance of the records of election data for future reference. The system starts with a SMS gateway with the phone number 1919 registered with the local telephone companies and configured at the ECB Head office. The coding and key words were put in place to authenticate the authorize user before the SMS is recognized and taken for compilation to respective format by the SMS gateway.

When the system was first tried, all the mobile phone numbers of the election officials was registered in the SMS system. All the authentic SMS messages received from the registered mobile

phone numbers are acknowledged and goes into a MYSQL Database table, which can be directly viewed by the respective Returning Officers, Commission and the general public with the turn out reports uploaded available on the Commission's website immediately.

List of features were added on to the SMS based Poll Information System to make it user friendly with shortened SMS Message formats and Developed Mobile Apps that enabled the users with smart phones to send voter turnout reports and election results from the EVM Machines by simply filling up a simple form.

New mobile app developed and coded with SMS system will be new way of relaying the information. EC is building core competencies in each district election officials with training on the SMS System which in turn will train Presiding and Counting Supervisors who would involve in relaying the information need by the commission. Our improved version will be used in 2016 Local Government Elections. The mobile app which will run without internet facilities was tested recently and is ready for use

Discussion:

In his presentation Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan H.E Mr. Ugyen Chewang, said SMS based poll information system has been effective in collecting election related information. It is a user friendly system that enables people without much IT knowledge to grasp it. Previously they used to communicate verbally by mobile phone. This created some miscommunication in transmission of the information. SMS based polling information system has so far been very effective in transferring information at real time.

Initially they wanted to use internet based information systems but due to low 3G coverage they had reverted to SMS based poll information system. Bhutan has 100% mobile coverage as of now making this system a convenient technology to use. Previously they relied on facsimile for information but with this system they have been able to get information faster and it has been more reliable as well.

By opening the floor for discussion, Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Nepal H.E Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, said that SMS based polling information system has some limitations that we need to address. Sometimes due to technological errors and sometimes finger moving over the number key, gives a different figure from the intended one leading to wrong information being transferred. Also, it is an application that can be controlled.

H.E Mr. Chewang said to minimize the errors they have introduced a new feature to the system. When sending information, system will automatically ask to verify the information typed, giving the sender opportunity to double check before sending.

At the closing of this session, Director General of Elections Commission of Pakistan Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain complimented Bhutan for the technology they are applying to compile data as technology

is needed for efficient result applications. And Nepal delegate added on to it saying they have used SMS based poll information system in their country which has been very useful for them as well.

Technical Session 4

Topic: Some Observations and Considerations Regarding the Use of Technology in the Electoral Process

Presentation: Elections Commission of Maldives

Presented by: Ibrahim Waheed, Former Elections Commissioner of Maldives

Chair: Mr. Mohamed Shakeel, Commissioner, Elections Commission of Maldives

Paper Summary:

The processes involved in conducting elections, are always fraught with problems. This scenario makes the electoral process an imperfect tool. Despite its detractors, this imperfect tool remains the only viable one available by free choice to any community that aspires to true democracy. It is incumbent on us to endeavor to keep this tool as sharp as possible. This is where the much-touted magic pill called "technology" comes into the electoral process. I define technology as the development and use of any tool that humans use! Some basic considerations that need to be made before considering the modification of or change of technologies already in use in the electoral process are as follows.

A thorough evaluation of the smooth and efficient functioning of the EMB itself, any prudent EMB will address these basic considerations, and more as circumstances demand, and will find very positive indicators within the outcomes of all these evaluations before any changes are made. Some basic considerations that need to be made after specific areas for possible modification of technologies in use have been identified. Once the decision has been made that technological change must be considered within an electoral territory, I suggest that professional EMB's must give careful thought to a few ground realities before considering any modification to the technology already in use within an electoral territory. I would recommend that the following areas be addressed, with the attendant questions being asked and answered fully before going any further; Existing technology, paying for the upgrade or the new technology, the obsolescence factor, the usability and security factor, Suitability to the greater environment, Acceptability and transparency to stakeholders.

Some basic considerations that need to be made when commitments have been made with respect to technology modification or installation of new technology, Consult, consult, consult. Pilot first! Be prepared to course-correct! Once the modified of newly-installed technology is in place and

running. Continued vigilance is essential. Continued consultation and timely relevant action must be taken. Backup! Fallback.

A final recommendation I have is System-wide education, Technology training and widening the scope. The electoral process is an imperfect tool. It is still remains the most widely-subscribed-to tool, to keep this tool as useful and as sharp as possible without it being subjected to intentional or unintentional abuse. The magic of technology does not always and unfailingly solve problems. Something it can unfailingly do is to present challenges to its users

Discussion:

In his presentation, Former Elections Commissioner of Maldives, H.E, Mr. Ibrahim Waheed stated that the content of his presentation is entirely based on personal observations. He began his presentation with a brief introduction of what technology actually means. He said that technology is any new ideas, things and ways that seep into our society. Every innovation is a technology. He also said when integrating technology into the electoral system, there are a number of things we have to look into before leaping. As such, he recommended an internal assessment of the entire institute to identify the gaps which can determine the capacity of the institute when transitioning into a new way of doing things. And given we have the capacity, the question of how committed are we in actually doing it is an important thing to address. He said using technology should be a commitment but not just a consideration if we want to go ahead with it. If we are indeed committed, we need to educate our staff and all the stakeholder groups to become familiarized with the concept which will lead to a smooth transition. He made the suggestion of educating the children on the new concepts by integrating it into the school curriculum as well.

He further weighed on the pros and cons of using technology in the electoral system. Bhutan delegate stated that with the speed at which the world; the people; are moving towards technology, we might be lagging behind if we don't move with it. He also said we EMBs should not be afraid to move ahead with technology. If we fail, we will get up and move forward and that election comes with solutions but not problems. Nepal delegate said that for successful execution we need technology, though technology is not the answer to everything. He also said a challenge to most of the EMBs is the issue of bringing the political parties and voters onboard with the new changes and the legal limitations. Hence, we need a legal reform to implement technology in the electoral system more profoundly.

Another thing H.E, Mr. Waheed highlighted was why do we need technology? What is wrong with the current situation? And is technology the solution? He believes that unless there is something to be corrected there is no point in changing the things as it is.

At the conclusion of the session, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Shakeel, thanked H.E Mr. Waheed for sharing his insightful knowledge on using technology in the election process and directing all the delegates' attentions towards the importance of looking at it at a more grass route level.

Concluding for Day 1

To conclude for the day, the moderator, Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Ahmed Ali noted the valued contributions and the constructive arguments by the member countries. As such, wrapping up the session he stated that technology helps to speed up our processes and makes the system more efficient. Furthermore he ended the session by highlighting the agenda for second day of the meeting.

Technical Session 5

To begin the second day of the meeting, moderator Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Ahmed Ali welcomed the delegates back and recapped the previous day's sessions. To open for the next presentations, Mr. Ali said he was looking forward for more engaging discussions.

Topic: Information and knowledge sharing with stakeholders

Presentation: Elections Commission of India

Presented by: Dr. Sandeep Saxena, Deputy Commissioner

Chair: H.E Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka

Discussant: Mr. Ahmed Ali, Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives

Paper Summary:

ICT has three main purposes, namely providing easier access to electors for service delivery, greater transparency and better election management. Some of the ICT based systems used are, Electoral Rolls Management System (ERMS), National Voter Service Portal (NVSP), ECI Portal/ Web site, Public Grievance Forum (PGRMS), Political Party Information and Registration (Web), Web Portal for Candidates, Election Expenditure Monitoring System, and election related Complaint Monitoring System (Samadhan), Single window clearance for permission related to campaigning (Suvidha), Management of vehicles hiring and deployment system (Sugam), Web Casting and CCTV at Polling booth, SMS Poll day Events and Queue information System, Pre-Counting Genesys (General Election System) (Web), Counting Application (Window Application with Web services, Trends and Result Management System, Index card data Entry and Statistical report generation (Window Application with Web services), Geographic information system (GIS), ECI on Social Media and Mobile APPs to share information among stakeholders.

In Capturing of election related information (Pre-counting) from all over the Country, they capture information (Pre-Counting) from State headquarters and District headquarters. It is then disseminated through the official website and display of scanned copy of affidavits submitted by the contesting candidates along with nomination papers and ballot papers. There are various exception reports that can help the State's CEO to monitor the data entry.

Discussion:

In his presentation, Deputy Elections commissioner of Elections Commission of India Dr. Sandeep Saxena, highlighted in his presentation that ICT is the key for their success. He also mentioned that before, geo tagging was done for only polling stations however now geo tagging is being done for individual voters. He further stated that geo tagging; through GIS can make it possible to generate any information. And also his presentation highlighted that Geo tagging piloting has been done in India and they are trying to rope in youth to educate them over ethical voting, right to vote and etc.

After the presentation Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Ahmed Ali, opened the floor for discussion.

Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed questioned about the public grievance system of India. Whether the Elections Commission of India gets clocked down by false complains or not. This was then answered by Dr. Saxena saying that they do get false complaints, and as an example he mentioned that 40% of complaints in one district were false. He stated that however they still follow up on the complaints as they consider each complain, and each complain is logged as a complain as through these complaints they capture a high proportion of voters.

Next, the Commissioner of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr.Ismail Habeeb Abdul Raheem inquired about how the security of the system is managed and how the trust among the stakeholders is being maintained. Responding to this Dr. Saxena stated that there are 5 layers of security in the system and that depending on the environment; they have disaster recovery remote servers. He also indicated that mirror images of the servers are made and 2 mirrors are available during elections. And if a scam does hit, they will be shutting down one of the mirror images. And he stated that to maintain the trust among the Stakeholders, Continuous dialogues with the stakeholders, electoral practices, conventional and non-conventional methods to pass messages, is being practiced to encourage stakeholders to try it. Delegate from Bhutan suggested that false complaints can be handled differently, to which Dr. Saxena responded that if they receive complaints continuously from the same number, they record it separately and keep track of it for future reference.

At the conclusion, session chair Chairman of the Elections Commission of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr Mahinda Deshapriya agreed with the views shared by the member countries and encouraged the member EMBs to conduct capacity building programs for the election officials.

Technical Session 6

Topic: Election Modernization

Presentation: Elections Commission of Maldives

Presented by: Mr. Mohamed Shakeel, Commissioner

Chair: H.E Dr. Abdul Rahman Hotaki, Acting Chairman & Deputy Commissioner of Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan

Discussant: Mr. Mohamed Mahdoom Mohamed, Additional Commissioner of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka

Paper Summary:

ECM has the legal mandate to hold elections that are democratically acceptable for all stakeholders, so that results are considered a valid representation of the voters, while facing challenges in managing the different phases of the electoral process in an efficient way. To begin with the modernisation process, it is important to understand different areas of election process which is needed to be modernised and the while understanding the consequences of the changes. This paper highlights the current situation of the Maldives electoral process with reflect to the changes which are being made to achieve the modernized electoral process, and also how election modernization programs would be helpful pre-election, on election day and post-election.

ECM introduces voter list checking application to overcome the problem which shows significant improvement in the time taken to identify the voter. With current modernization plan introduces a more convenient and flexible hardware/software solution. With the introduction of Election Result Processing (ERP) module to existing EMS, ECM is able to reduce the result consolidation time considerably.

Discussion:

In the presentation, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Shakeel, talked about election modernization concept. He said an election is acceptable when the process is secure and transparent. And that we should use multiple outcome indicators to determine the effectiveness of modernization of the election processes. He then stressed on the tools ECM uses in the election process. Election Management System (EMS) is the main platform to collect, compiles, generate and disseminate electoral data.

By opening the floor of the session, Additional Commissioner of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka Mr. Mohamed Mahdoom Mohamed, stated that the main activities of an election are casting of the vote, counting, tabulation, Electoral roll and other electoral roles. He said we should apply election modernization in the planning activities of electoral process. In Sri Lanka, voter registry has now

been computerized as it is not stipulated in the election act. However, we are still not able to introduce EVM in the election process due to election process being clearly stipulated in the election act. Hence, an amendment to the legislation is required to fully adopt the modernization of election processes.

In Maldives, the number of parliamentary members is 85 and the constituency is created with a 5000 per constituency basis. One of the main concerns shared by Commissioner Mr. Shakeel was the media interference during the result announcement. In Maldives, media sometimes announces the results prior to ECM announcing the official results. This happens due to having multiple ballot boxes at different polling stations for the same constituency. Hence, ECM announces the cumulative results from all the relevant ballot boxes whereby, media announces the result of the ballot boxes in the polling station where they are observing. This creates confusion and sometimes a level of misconceptions. Bhutan delegate said that they too have a similar system but do not allow media to be present at the result counting time. Hence, the room for miscommunication is almost to none.

Session chair, Acting Chairman & Deputy Commissioner of Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan H.E Dr. Abdul Rahman Hotaki, thanked the delegates for sharing their experiences in delimitation process in different contexts. And thanked Mr. Shakeel for a very interesting presentation.

Technical Session 7

Topic: Use of Technology in Voter Registration in Nepal

Presentation: Elections Commission of Nepal

Presented by: H.E, Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, Chief Elections Commissioner

Chair: H.E, Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bangladesh

Discussant: Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, Director General (Elections) of Elections Commission of Pakistan

Paper Summary:

Voter lists essentially exist for the purpose of allowing individual voters to vote only within a given constituency and at a given polling station/center. A Biometrics and Photograph based voter registration system is in action since 2010. The electoral rolls of 16 districts were for the first time computerized and the election to the National Panchyat was held. The strategic plan of the Commission has emphasized to produce accurate, up-to-date and reliable voters' lists which will enable eligible voters to fully exercise their constitutional rights.

Interacted with stakeholders on voter registration based on Digital Data Capture System (DOCS) and implemented the VR with Photo Program. While enumerating and registering voters list, government requested to collect info for national ID from 16 years and above having citizenship certificate.

Voter registration with photograph and biometrics was conducted in the 7 VDCs of 5 districts to trial revealing 99% of the voters were registered during the program compared to the voters in 2007.d 2.Primary teachers were mobilized as an enumerator to collect names of the eligible voters and also potential voters of having age 16 years and above. Each voter had to produce citizenship certificate to fill up the registration form and to register his/her name in the computer at the registration center. Primary teachers were mobilized and a comprehensive voter education program conducted prior to enumeration. Registration centers were established in each polling location (around 10 thousand). All collected data has been stored and managed from the ECN Central Data Center. It was continued round the year, closing it only during the 75 days before Election Day. The Mobile Registration System has also been practiced.

The voter registration with photograph was implemented in different phases. In the first phase it was launched in 58 municipalities and in the second phase in all VDCs. The main challenge was identity in the Eastern Hill and issue of citizenship certificate in the Teri. And other issues are the difficulty with capturing fingerprint and photograph, not able to deliver required service in some remote areas effectively and timely, data security and transfer and the high cost.

Future challenges in the use of Technologies in voter registration are, online registration, registration of voters abroad, Printing and display for claim and objection, Fingerprint based de-duplication, Verification and correction, increasing cost etc.

Discussion:

In his presentation, Chief Elections Commissioner of the Elections Commission of Nepal, H.E Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav said that Nepal has very stringent measures so that faults and errors in registration could be eliminated.

He also pointed out that Bhutan has already started the biometric voting election. However, many of the people had problems with the fingerprint where the finger prints were not recognized or identified by the machine. More, finger print of people who are handicapped cannot be also captured. Due to this they have faced lot of difficulties in registration. H.E Mr. Yadav highlighted that Nepal has faced the same problem, and so, they have made changes to the software where if any finger is not captured by the fingerprint reader machine, a special comment is written regarding the issue.

Director General of Elections Commission of Pakistan Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain by opening the floor welcomed the delegates to discuss on the presentation of Nepal.

The delegate of India stated that Bangladesh and Nepal has similar biometric system to record voter registration and raised the question of the similarities and difference in these two systems and the technical details of both countries. In answering the question, H.E Mr. Yadav stated that there are duplication issues as they do not currently look at finger print analysis and they still compare photographs of voters to eliminate duplication.

H.E Mr. Yadav stated that methodology of applying the technology is different. Nepal collects data by going door to door campaign as well as collecting from particular polling stations and enumerators who were the teachers who undertook voter education previously.

Head of Policy and Planning Coordination Division of Elections Commission of Bhutan Mr. Mani Kumar stated that they are going down on biometrics. He also requested for some technical advice on the problem that many finger prints are not working and a lot of people cannot be identified at the polling station. In return, the Bangladesh delegation advised that the quality of the technology and machine also determines more error free situations and eliminate or resolve finger print issues.

H.E Mr. Yadav stated that they had problems at the beginning as without giving fingerprint they could not move forward. Hence, they made changed in the software that if none of the fingers are captured in the software, they insert a comment stating that. And as for the handicap people, software operators write in the comment box in it.

By concluding, Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bangladesh H.E, Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, commented that they have very robust software to compare finger prints which though is very expensive.

Technical Session 8

Topic: Use of Mobile SMS for Broadcasting voting information

Presentation: Elections Commission of Pakistan

Presented by: Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, Director General (Elections)

Chair: H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan

Discussant: H.E, Dr. Abdul Rahman Hotaki, Acting Chairman & Deputy of Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan

Paper Summary:

In June, 2011 ECP entered into a contract with NADRA for preparation of error-free electoral rolls through Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS). Establishing of camps near the polling stations should be banned forthwith, where candidate's gives perchis with their info printed on it on the

day of polling issue. ECP decided to introduce the Electronic-extract (perchis). Hence, SMS based Electoral Rolls Verification Service (8300) on 30th November, 2011. SMS service includes CNIC number, census block code, serial number in the electoral roll, electoral area name, polling station name and location, constituency and district.

Virtual Display Centre" over SMS whereby Electoral Roll is displayed on mobile phone via SMS to facilitate the general public by allowing them to view their voting details in the Electoral Rolls. When a request is generated by the subscriber by sending his CNIC number to 8300, it passes through security layer to NADRA SMS center which generates the reply from National Data ware through internal security layer and provides the requisite voting details to the subscriber within few seconds.

Push (network sends SMS to client for info) and Pull (client sends SMS to network for info) SMS methods. Advantages include the most effective mode of communication, it addresses every citizen, It knocks every household of the nation, More concise than a phone conversation, Less Time – as compared to phone or e-mail, Convenient for all (hearing-impaired people), Message is delivered even if mobile is off and Availability 24hours, 7days a week, 365 days a Year.

SMS (8300) Project of Elections Commission of Pakistan is largest in the World in terms of its Data Density of more than 90 Million of Voters (at present) which is available in real time for around 135 Million mobile customers across the country.

Discussion:

In his presentation, Director General of the Elections Commission of Pakistan Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, highlighted the use of mobile SMS for broadcasting voting information. While pointing out the two different types of SMS methods; Push (network sends SMS to client for info) and Pull (client sends SMS to network for info) method he also noted the advantages of the systems. However, the push system is faster since it is given more importance. Mr. Hussain also said that this system is only used for registration concerns and for users to get their registration details. For instance, the location of respected individual's polling station.

Opening the floor, Acting Chairman & Deputy of Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan H.E, Dr. Abdul Rahman Hotaki, stated that the presentation gave a good basis to begin this system in Afghanistan, since they believe this to be a very effective system.

Chief Elections Commissioner of the Elections Commission of Nepal, H.E Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav while questioning the effectiveness of this system in having a free and fair election, pointed out that only information on registration and polling station are provided and that the results are not put up through SMS; it is just information which is shared.

Head of Policy and Planning Division of Elections Commission of Bhutan Mr. Mani Kumar Ghalay stated that regarding push and pull; disseminating information is push button and push button is more effective as it is given more priority in Bhutan.

Chairman of the Elections Commission of Sri Lanka, H.E, Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya while sharing an experience related to SMS system stated that introducing the SMS system without contemplating the public's knowledge on how to text from a mobile phone, has caused a number of people to struggle in sending SMS causing jamming and polling officials being overburdened. Hence, they are considering including a junior polling staff to look into SMS issue. India shared their knowledge as a solution to the SMS issue of Sri Lanka by stating that the voter can give a miss call and receive the SMS consisting of the polling information.

By concluding session, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, complimented all the delegates for their insightful discussion.

Technical Session 9

Topic: Use of ICT in the Elections Commission

Presentation: Elections Commission of Sri Lanka

Presented by: Mr. Rizan Manzil Abdul Hameed, Coordinating Secretary to the Chairman of the Elections

Chair: H.E, Mr. Achal Kumar Joti, Commissioner of Elections Commission of India

Discussant: Ms. Jesmin Tuli, Joint Secretary of Elections Commission of Bangladesh

Paper Summary:

This paper mainly consist of the use of ICTs, and how it can positively impact election management, especially in making some processes quicker and more efficient – and indeed accurate. It also highlights the ICTs solutions which carry risks, which often suffer from unrealistic expectations, and how it may not be appropriate in some contexts. This paper also briefly shares how the Sri Lankan Commission has employed ICT to enhance the democratic rights of the Sri Lankan people in exercising their free and unfettered franchise to choose representatives. It also highlights the challenges faced while adopting ICT, and some recommendations on how to overcome these challenges. The biggest challenge is ensuring a sustainable, appropriate, cost effective and transparent use of technology.

Rolls are revised annually with reference to the 1st of June as the qualifying date for enrolment every year. One polling card is given to each voter to avoid a fraudulent double vote. Incorporating details of a particular election, the polling station in addition to the voters' information available in the database has been very easy. Existing data in 25 electoral databases is to be imported to a

single database structure in order to facilitate a centralized database management system. The Elections Commission of Sri Lanka does not heavily rely on election results processed by an electronic tabulation system. In order to tally the results obtained through a laborious manual calculation, computers are used. This is clear evidence that we still have a backup other than an electronic tabulation.

A special short code for tracking election violence was introduced and a considerable number of complaints were handled. This is being integrated into the new electronic complaints management system using GPS technology on-line. Active maps, using GPS data, will flash where the complaints are coming from and also indicate if abuses are focused on any particular area

The evaluation reports and related documents can also be used to increase transparency of the election, improve the dialogue between EMBs and voters, and increase the EMB's credibility. "Do we have a Plan-B if our Plan-A with the new technology malfunctions?" and most importantly "Does the contemplated technology enhance our democratic rights, especially with respect to voter participation?" opportunities vs. challenges

Discussion:

In his presentation, Coordinating Secretary to the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Rizan Manzil Abdul Hameed said that an immediate action should be taken to resolve complaints to minimize the violence and tense during the elections. He pointed out the interest Sri Lankan Elections Commission has in introducing a disaster recovery system in the future. More, he also said that Sri Lanka is looking forward to get rid of the paper system which occupies a large number of space.

As per Mr. Hameed, Elections Commission of Sri Lanka is also planning to introduce a mobile application which will be available in Google Play, and this will be beneficial as this will provide more information. He also said that only 25% of the complaints lodged are genuine complaints, hence the tracking system they started will hit false sms and call complaints. More, he also highlighted the importance of having a real system, where the message can be given very fast and an action can be taken immediately. Hence, GIS will help the police to reach the polling station within 15 minutes. He highlighted that one of the main issues was frequent change of requirements has been the biggest challenge in this project.

Joint Secretary of Elections Commission of Bangladesh Ms. Jesmin Tuli opened the floor for discussion.

The India Delegate highlighted that the E system has no fixed solution and the whole South Asia has been facing the same challenges. They also raised the question as to how complaints could be reduced to make elections fair and free.

Chief Elections Commissioner of the Elections Commission of Nepal, H.E Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav while questioning the rate of violence in the last elections of Sri Lanka pointed out the remark

made by the Chairman of Elections Commission of Sri Lanka to shoot in the head of anyone who do violence in 2015. In answering the question, Mr. Hameed said that this remark had made a remarkable change in the Presidential Elections of 2015, and also no major violence was recorded in the Parliament Elections.

In concluding the session, the Chair of the session Commissioner of Elections Commission of India H.E, Mr. Achal Kumar Joti, highlighted the need of an Electronic system for a free and fair election.

General Session 2

Chairperson of FEMBoSA and Chairman of Elections Commission of Maldives, H.E, Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman noted that Bhutan has worked lengthy on making FEMBoSA a success throughout the years. He also said, Bhutan has hosted the most number of FEMBoSA meetings upto now. Hence to acknowledge this, he requested Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang to chair this session. This session was moderated by the Secretary General of Elections Commission of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Ali.

a) **Suggestions for Draft Work plan 2016-2017:**

- Session chair, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, requested delegates to deliberate on the work plan activities progress and the way forward.

- Discussions were carried forward on the task allocations for 2016-2017 workplan and of how to tackle the problem of tasks unfinished in 2015-2016 workplan. It was discussed whether last year's FEMBoSA chair, Sri Lanka should complete the unfinished works of last year's tasks and then handover to Maldives in carrying forward the tasks of this year. As such, it was decided that Sri Lanka will only be finishing the tasks assigned to them and upon the finalization of this year's workplan, Maldives will handle all the unfinished works carried forward to this year. On behalf of Maldives, Vice Chairman of Elections Commission of Maldives Mr. Amjad Musthafa, stated that they are willing to handle the unfinished tasks of last year and assured the member EMBs that Maldives will monitor the progress of all the works and will work diligently to complete all the said tasks.

- Chief Elections Commissioner of Elections Commission of Nepal H.E Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, brought to notice the task of Nepal Research Institute that was part of last years (2015-2016) work plan. He proposed to include this task in this year's (2016-2017) workplan and invited all member EMBs to discuss further on this. As such, member EMBs agreed that since it is a task assigned to Nepal, Nepal can carry it forward to this year's work plan and if they can allocate funds for it, over different phases they can carry out the task. Member EMBs also agreed that they will be providing technical assistance needed to undertake this task by Nepal.

- After the discussions, the activities were decided and work plan was finalized.

- The approved and finalized work plan was uploaded to the FEMBoSA web portal for all the delegates to view and the activities were assigned to countries who volunteered to do those activities.

b) Adoption of new theme:

- Session chair, Commissioner of Elections Commission of Bhutan H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang invited all the delegates to suggest a theme for the 8th FEMBoSA meeting to be held in the Afghanistan. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka suggested for the next year theme, to select an all-inclusive election theme. And Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh weighed on a theme that could address the difficult problem of dispute resolution.

- A list of proposed themes was compiled by the secretariat and uploaded on to the FEMBoSA web portal. Main themes proposed are as follows:

<u>Themes for the Next Meeting</u>

Afganistan	1. Result Management
	2. Enhancing Voters Participation in Elections
	3. Campaign Finance Management
Bangladesh	
Bhutan	1. Institutional strengthening and capacity development of EMBs
	2. Towards Greater Voter Turn-Out
	3. Role of EMBs in electoral and democratic reforms
	4. Strengthening/promoting participation of people with disabilities in elections and political processes
India	1. Healthy Electoral Rolls for ensuring free and fair Elections
	2. Code of conduct in Elections.
	3. Capacity building of stakeholders for inclusive Elections.
Maldives	1. Women Participation for all-inclusive Election
	2. Youth Empowerment and inclusivity
	3. Elimination of gender disparities in Elections

	4.Electoral Dispute Resolution
Nepal	1. Youth Engagement in Election
	2. Role of Media in Election
	3. Electoral Dispute Resolution
Pakistan	1. Strategies for encouraging women's participation in Electoral process.
	2. Transparent delimitation in basic requirement for credible elections.
	3. Monitoring of political finance.
Srilanka	

After a lengthy discussion the participants agreed to short list the themes to mellow mentioned 4 themes.

1. Theme 1: "No voter left behind"
2. Theme 2: "Elections and Dispute Resolutions"
3. Theme 3: "Youth Engagement in Elections"
4. Theme 4: "Campaign Finance"

- All the member EMBs agreed that if they focus on one topic the forum for discussion would become very narrow and all the countries will have to deliver similar content. After much deliberation, a vote was cast to nominate two topics. As such the topics agreed by the member countries for next year was **"No Voter to be Left Behind"** which was adopted by India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. And the second theme for next year was **"Elections and Dispute Resolution"** adopted by Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan.

General Session 3

a) Plenary Session for Maldives Resolutions:

- The delegates of the member EMBs put forward their proposals during the plenary session for inclusion in the Maldives Resolution. The draft Maldives Resolution, after consultation and incorporating the appropriate amendments, was unanimously adopted on 3rd August 2016 during the concluding Session of the seventh FEMBoSA meeting held in Bandos Island Resort, Maldives.

- The unanimously Adopted Maldives Resolutions (2016) consist of the following:

1. Commended the excellent role played by the Elections Commission of Sri Lanka as Chair in Office during 2015-2016 in implementing the Work Plan and playing a pivotal and active role for effective coordination among EMBs;

2. Decided to implement the Work Plan as approved by the member EMBs in the seventh Meeting of FEMBoSA;

3. Agreed to develop and adopt modern technology for conducting free and fair elections in the member EMBs;

4. Agreed to make elections process further inclusive with special focus on differently abled electors;

5. Agreed to share mechanism on Elections Dispute Resolution (EDR) among the member EMBs;

6. Agreed to actively share knowledge in ICT tools and modules being used by the member EMBs and to develop standards for use of ICT in elections for sustainability;

7. Agreed that member EMBs may strengthen nodal cell for better coordination;

8. Agreed to share the information among the EMBs through the web portal;

SEVENTH FEMBoSA WORKPLAN 2016-2017

No	Program of work	Assigned Member Status
1	Study on the current status of Campaign Finance; Organize Regional Seminar; Establish a Regional Research Network on Campaign Finance; Prepare the minimum requirements in the Member States	**Bangladesh** **Bhutan** **India**
2	Study on the use of technology to conduct free and fair elections of EMBs; Prepare a Road Map on the way forward	**Bhutan** **Maldives** **Nepal**
3	Conduct a study on Media involvement, Media monitoring (including Social Media); Develop regulations in the Member States	**Nepal** **India** **Afghanistan**
4	Include gender equality in overall electoral processes in the Member States	**Bangladesh** **Bhutan** **India**
5	Introduce systems to promote Voting Rights for citizens living out of the country	**India**
6	Conduct capacity building programs for officials in the Electoral Administration	**India**
7	Introduce means of promoting Voter Education among females	**Bangladesh** **Nepal** **Maldives**
8	Publish the Report of the seventh meeting of FEMBoSA	**Maldives**
9	Publish Research Papers prepared by the Member States, Academics and Professionals	**Sri Lanka**
10	Conduct the 8th meeting in 2017 on the theme: **Elections and Dispute Resolution** *(Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan)* **No voter to be left behind** *(Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh)*	**Afghanistan**
11	Setting up of a mechanism of Members (i.e: Clearing House for dispute resolution). Consisting of nominees of the respective EMBs; Civil Society and relevant political parties for resolving of disputes among stakeholders	**Sri Lanka**
12	Prepare template for research papers and share to member countries of FEMBoSA (member countries will use their template based on their context)	**Maldives**
13	Establish a research study institution in FEMBoSA countries	**Nepal**

SCHEDULE OF DELEGATES / PARTICIPANT LIST

Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan

H.E, Dr. Abdul Rahman Hotaki, IEC acting Chairman & Deputy

Mr. Abdul Rahim Nawakhtyar, Head of External Relations Department

Mr. Zmarai Qalamiar, Director of Operations

Elections Commission of Bangladesh

H. E, Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, Chief Elections Commissioner

Mr. Mohammad Abdul Mobarak, Elections Commissioner

Ms. Jesmin Tuli, Joint Secretary

Elections Commission of Bhutan

H.E, Mr. Ugyen Chewang, Commissioner

Mr. Mani Kumar Ghalay, Head of Policy & Planning Coordination Division

Mrs. Dema, Electoral Registration Officer

Elections Commission of India

H.E, Mr. Achal Kumar K. C. Joti, Elections Commissioner

Dr. Sandeep Saxena, Deputy Elections Commissioner

Mr. Rajesh Lakhani, Chief Electoral Officer

Elections Commission of Nepal

H.E, Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, Chief Elections Commissioner

Mr. Govinda Ram Paneru, Senior Computer Officer

Mr. Ram Krishna Aryal, Section Officer

Elections Commission of Pakistan

Mr. Zafar Iqbal Hussain, Director General (Elections)

Mr. Naeem Ahmed, Deputy Director

Department of Elections, Sri Lanka

H.E, Mr. W. W. Mahinda Deshapriya, Chairman of the Elections Commission

Mr. Mohamed Mahdoom Mohamed, Additional Commissioner of Elections

Mr. Rizan Manzil Abdul Hameed, Coordinating Secretary to the Chairman of the Commission

Elections Commission of the Maldives

H.E, Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman, Chairman and Commissioner of the Elections Commission

Mr. Amjad Musthafa, Vice Chairman and Commissioner of the Elections Commission

Mr. Ismail Habeeb Abdul Raheem, Commissioner, Elections Commission

Mr. Mohamed Shakeel, Commissioner, Elections Commission

Mr. Ahmed Akram, Commissioner, Elections Commission

Mr. Ahmed Ali, Secretary General, Elections Commission

Special Invitee

As a guest presenter,

Mr. Ibrahim Waheed, Former Elections Commissioner of Maldives