



Press Statement

Richard Boucher, Spokesman

Washington, DC

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Afghanistan's National Elections

The United States welcomes the decision of the UN-Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) to schedule Afghanistan's presidential elections in October and parliamentary elections in Spring 2005. These elections will represent another major milestone in Afghanistan's transition to a constitutional, representative government.

We join the Afghan Government in fully supporting the Electoral Body's decision and will do our part to assist these historic elections. Despite threats and attacks by the Taliban, the Afghan people have shown their strong desire to exercise their democratic rights, and they are registering in large numbers for the elections.

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