

must work closely with the accredited election observers to investigate all complaints. A written explanation of all conclusions should be made available to the general public as quickly as possible.

- The international community should encourage the new government to set aside its campaign rhetoric once the polling is complete. The first priority should be to form a working coalition rather than settle old political scores, especially through highly-charged public hearings. If the opposition forms a new government, it should be persuaded to proceed with its promised corruption investigations in a thoughtful and legal manner.
- The importance of cordial inter-ethnic relations should be one of the main components in forming a new government. The exclusion of the major Albanian parties from government could lead to an increase in domestic instability. Given the current situation in neighbouring Kosovo and Albania, the new government must ensure that it does not encourage radicalisation of the sizeable ethnic Albanian minority in Macedonia by intentionally blocking them from shaping the new government. International assistance should be predicated on the new government's commitment to improving inter-ethnic relations.
- At least half of the new parliament may be comprised of candidates who have no prior legislative experience. It is important that these new legislators receive adequate training. Many of them may have emerged from bruising campaigns and are not prepared to work with party opponents. The international community should encourage European and US political parties and associations to initiate contacts with the newly-elected officials. The ethnic Macedonian political parties have benefited from campaign advice but now require practical guidance on how to govern in a multi-ethnic government.
- The legislature is the vehicle through which people engage the government and through which parties compete for citizen loyalties. Effective legislatures must have the organisational, procedural and human resources to manage themselves, to make public policy, to pass legislation, to understand and amend the executive budget and to oversee the implementation of government policy. It is critical that legislative reform be implemented to strengthen legislative capabilities in these areas.

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