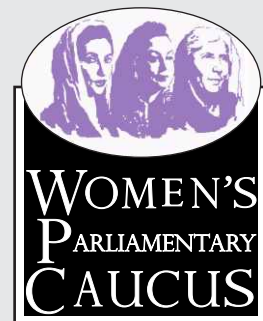
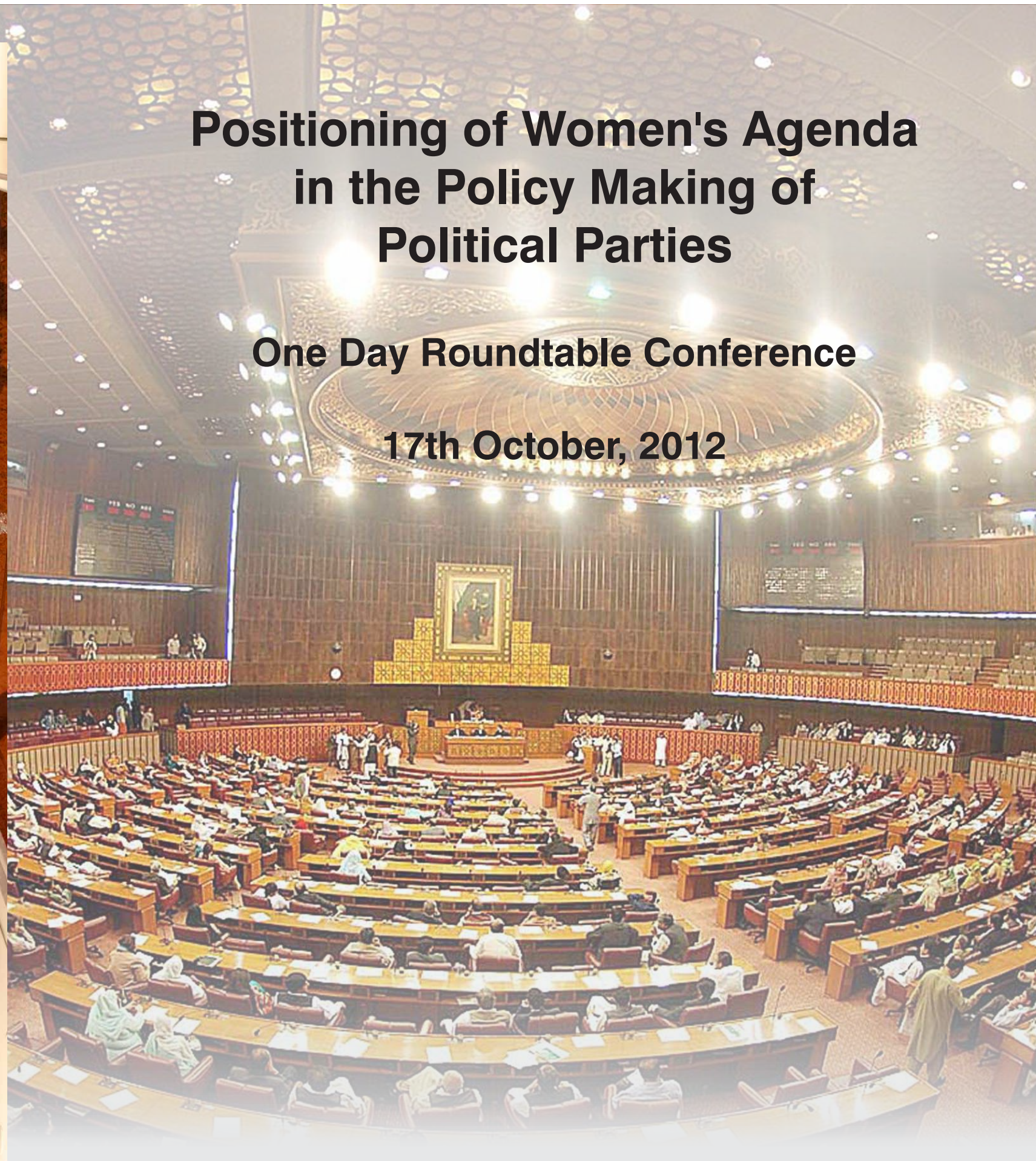


Positioning of Women's Agenda in the Policy Making of Political Parties

One Day Roundtable Conference

17th October, 2012



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in collaboration with

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
PAKISTAN

UN
WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



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WOMEN'S
PARLIAMENTARY
CAUCUS


Strengthening Democracy Through
Parliamentary Development


GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the period of last four years, the women parliamentarians have ably delivered their role of undertaking legislation, oversight and representation. The quota of special reserved women seats in the National Assembly yielded positive results of building 'critical mass' within the House. With support from the first ever Lady Speaker who articulated the first ever Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), further provided a sound platform to the women parliamentarians enabling them to abundantly perform their duties of as law makers. The WPC is an all parties group in the parliament that works to promote and build consensus in the parliament on the social and gender issues, in particular. The spirit behind this vibrant group has been the Speaker National Assembly, Dr. Fehmida Mirza, who had a keen interest in mobilizing the critical mass of women parliamentarians towards assuming a meaningful role as a parliamentarian. This Roundtable Conference was the second in the series of events organized by the WPC that aimed at politically strengthening women. The theme of this Conference was "*Positioning Women's Agenda in the Policy Making of Political Parties*" that was a dialogue with senior leaderships of political parties on positioning women in the realm of politics, particularly at the policy and decision making levels within the political parties' structures to play a rather meaningful role. Senior leaderships of all the parliamentary parties attended.

The scope of this Roundtable Conference was to:

- i. To discuss and deliberate on whether the existing manifestos and party structures are inclusive of women as an essential part of their policy and decision making bodies; and if so, whether these women are permitted to play a meaningful role within these structures; and
- ii. To explore ways and means through which women's representation may further be enhanced and strengthened within the political arena; and to propose recommendations to the political parties on any legislative or policy changes that may be required in this regard.

Around sixty (60) participants from the leading political parties attended the conference including PPP, PML-N, PML-Q, ANP, JI, JUI-F, MQM and PTI. The representatives included senior level political leadership involving head of political parties' Women Wing, Secretary General of the political parties, as well as representatives of the "Manifesto Committees" of the political parties at the national as well as the provincial level. Members of media and key relevant Civil Society were also represented.

The discussions were very candid, positive and productive in which all parties shared their respective

party positions on women's political empowerment. Experiences and best practices were also shared and issues and challenges impeding women's political empowerment were deliberated upon. There were nine key recommendations that were brought out during this one day Conference that were fully endorsed by all the participants.

There was a full consensus that the respect for women and their integrity has to be above all. In this regard the members of WPC and other political parties' representatives adopted the following as part of a "statement" that resulted from the roundtable conference deliberations:

1. Advocacy and promotion for the universal right to education as ordained in Quran & Sunnah
2. While acknowledging the role of media, the need to review and check the exploitation and promotion of negative image of women in media
3. Recognize that while the discriminatory laws have been amended, but the mindsets continue that impede the implementation of women protection laws. The parties must clearly state what policies will they follow in order to address this issue
4. The Speaker as the Patron of WPC must take initiatives to strengthen the internal dynamics of WPC members. She must develop a mechanism to undertake this initiative.
5. In recognition of WPC's contribution and performance in legislative business and promotion of women empowerment, the WPC should be institutionalized formally
6. The Local Government must have at least 33% women's quota in its general elections
7. The Judiciary must include 33% quota for women judges at the High Court and Supreme Courts level
8. Women's ID Cards must only refer to father's name and not the husband's name
9. All issues addressed in the policies and manifestos of political parties should be time bound so as to ensure follow up and accountability

The Conference concluded on passing a unanimous Declaration that committed the participants to enhance, strengthen and position women's representation in legislatures by working within their respective political parties and examining how the systems of elections to the reserved seats could be made more transparent and democratic so that women are represented and positioned at all levels of decision-making in political forums;

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This roundtable conference was second of the series of dialogues initiated by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus. The event was yet another landmark by the members of WPC aiming towards political empowerment of women. Under the able guidance of its Patron, Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly, this one day Round-Table Conference was organized to advocate for positioning women within the decision and policy making structures of political parties.

A lot of hard work went into the organization of this Conference and those who assisted in organizing the Conference need to be acknowledged at the very offset of this report.

The Conference would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of the Hon. Speaker National Assembly and Patron of Women Parliamentary Caucus, Dr. Fehmida Mirza; Members of the WPC Working Council whose keen interest in the issue and political ownership provided beacon in organizing the Conference. In this regard, particular reference needs to be made to Dr. Nafisa Shah MNA and Secretary WPC whose constant supervision and guidance helped in successfully arranging this Conference.

WPC deeply appreciates the invaluable

contribution of the distinguished Resource Persons including Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson NCSW, without whose academic input, the contents of the Conference would have remained insufficient.

The support and assistance of WPC and National Assembly staff including Ms. Huma Chughtai, Consultant WPC; Mohammad Ali Kazmi, Deputy Coordinator; Syed Wasim Kazmi Assistant Coordinator; Mr. Muhammad Junaid Iqbal, Graphic Designer; Mr. Mehboob Gurmani, Director Media; and Mr. Rizwan Maqbool, Naib Qasid, is deeply appreciated as they worked relentlessly towards ensuring a well organized Conference.

Last but not the least, sincere gratitude is extended to WPC's donor partners for their gracious support in funding the costs of this Conference. In this regard, the keen interest and a very kind support of Ms. Britta Petersen, Country Director and Ms. Saima Jassim Head of Program of Hienrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) is sincerely appreciated. From the UNDP's SDPD project, the WPC acknowledges and highly commends the support of Ms. Marvi Sirmad NPM and the entire team of SDPD. A special thanks is also extended to the UN WOMEN for its contribution and supporting this conference.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AJ&K	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
ANP	Awami National Party
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
BNP	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CEDAW	Convention fothe Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CNIC	Computerised National Identity Card
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CPRW	Convention on Political Rights of Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GoP	Government of Pakistan
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
IDW	Internally Dislocated Women
IDP	Internally Dislocated Persons
IPU	Inter Parliamentary Union
KPK	Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MNA	Member National Assembly
MLA	Member Legislative Assembly
MMA	MuttahidaMajlise-Amal
MP	Member Parliament
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
MQM	MuttahidaQaumi Movement
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority

NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
PATA	Provincially Administered Tribal Areas
PLSP	Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League –Nawaz
PNL-F	Pakistan Muslim LeagueFunctional
PML-Q	Pakistan Muslim LeagueQuaid-i-Azam Group
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PPP/S	Pakistan People's Party(Sherpa)
SDPD	Strengthening Democracy Through Parliamentary Development
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
WPC	Women's Parliamentary Caucus

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

The Conference Declaration was unanimously passed as follows:

DECLARATION

We, the Members of Women's Parliamentary Caucus and representatives of political parties, participating in this one day Roundtable Conference on the "Positioning of Women's Agenda in the Policy Making of Political Parties," organized by the Women Parliamentary Caucus held in Islamabad, hereby adopt the following Statement on this day of the October 17th 2012, that has also been declared as the National Voters' Day by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP):

Recalling that:
In Islam women are recognized as integral to strengthening family formation, society, and the nation;
Further recalling that:
The Constitution of Pakistan which recognizes the Quran and Sunnah as the basic source of governance, provides women full rights, rejects all forms of discrimination and promotes their full participation in public life under Articles 25, 34, 35 and 37.
Noting that:
The National and International commitments of Government of Pakistan including the National Policy for the Development and Empowerment of Women (NPDEW) 2002, underscore attainment for women in the public and political spheres.
Paying tribute to:
All the women leaders of Pakistan particularly Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, Rana Liaqaut Ali and Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto whose courage and exemplary contributions in public and political life have greatly inspired, built a sense of confidence and empowered the women of Pakistan.
Recognizing that:
The 18th amendment has preserved reserved seats for women in the Parliament and the provincial assemblies under Articles 51 and 59 of the Constitution, this inclusion has been significant in making women's empowerment agenda as central to democratic values in Pakistan;
Acknowledging that:
Inclusiveness and representation of women and men in political and public decision-making validates the foundations of democracy and renders legitimacy to it;
We, Women Parliamentarians and Political Party Representatives present in this Roundtable Conference today, therefore resolve the following:

- Political parties will review the modality of awarding tickets to women on the party lists to ensure that these are transparent and merit based at all levels;
- Commit to protecting and upholding women's rights as enshrined in the Constitution and ensure that our respective party manifestos provide a central focus to women in party policy so as to ensure social, political and economic empowerment of women;
- Commit to give meaningful representation to women in political parties at all levels of policy and decision making forums, especially in the manifesto committees;
- Further commit to enhance, strengthen and position women's representation in legislatures by working within our respective political parties and examining how the systems of elections to the reserved seats could be made more transparent and democratic; So that women are duly represented and positioned at all levels of decision-making in political forums.

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND AND RATIONAL

Gender equality and empowerment of women have now been recognized as central to the development of any society. Almost all international rights based law has emphasized on this aspect in the recent years. This commitment was operationalized and formulated into a clear action plan at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 where the states committed themselves to the "empowerment and advancement of women", including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief. Thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others, and thereby, guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations."

The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal rights to women and provides for affirmative actions and a commitment towards protection of women at the same time. Further, there has been a considerable progress in recognition of discrimination against women and a realization that proactive and affirmative action can go a long way in addressing gaps in gender main-streaming. Important affirmative action was initiated by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto who created a women's ministry, women police stations, and a women's bank to highlight the importance of placing women in the policy agenda of the government.

One way to measure gender empowerment is to assess the level of economic and political participation of women. In Pakistan, women have made considerable gains in the recent years in political representation and participation both in the national parliament as well as in local and everyday politics. Today, a significant 22.8 per cent representation of women in the parliament has led to a magnification of the issues that concern women. Intra-party dialogue between women and men parliamentarians, as well as political parties' leadership has led to proactive law making, and important legislation concerning women have been carried out.

Simultaneously, a strong and vibrant media is increasingly becoming gender conscious and is providing coverage on women specific issues. In addition, there has been a remarkable growth of women getting higher education and developing as professionals in all major sectors. This trend, however, is limited to the urban areas of Pakistan and the majority of women living in the rural areas are still deprived of their basic rights. Primary education, maternal health, forced and early marriages and economic independence and customary laws are areas which need to be addressed

effectively and on a broader spectrum to attain desired goals.

Although this government has initiated targeted programs on women such as the BISP, there remain several policy gaps in gender main-streaming and women continue to trail behind in access to social services. As elections draw near, there is recognition that the political parties, whose policies can greatly impact law making, must be engaged with regard to the promotion of gender main-streaming and gender equality. The Women's Parliamentary Caucus, comprising of women parliamentarians from political parties who have an electoral presence is strategically placed to provide a forum for a dialogue with the political parties on their gender policy.

Objectives
In line with the afore mentioned, the WPC has initiated a series of dialogue with political parties and their policy making committees on their commitment to gender issues in the forthcoming elections. The strategy to achieve these objectives is two pronged; a) to position and empower women in the realm of politics, particularly at the policy and decision making levels within the political parties structures to play a rather meaningful role, and b) to introduce special women quotas for party tickets to the general elections. These measures are critical in order to comply with the national and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan (GoP), including the equal rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan, and the International Convention on Eliminating all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), to which Pakistan is a state signatory¹. These measures ultimately will facilitate in ensuring a comprehensive implementation of the GoP's gender agenda leading towards substantive policies that would help in enhancing the core issues related to the economic, social and political empowerment of women.

As part of the WPC's initiative for organizing a series of dialogue, a one day Roundtable Conference was convened in September 2011, in which senior leadership (of not less than the Secretary Generals) of all the parliamentary parties were invited to attend. The outcome of this Conference was a unanimous declaration passed by the participants who agreed to review and amend their respective party rules in order to ensure a minimum of 10% quota for women in allocating tickets for the general elections. Following the given objectives, a similar one day Roundtable Conference was organized in October of 2012, that aimed at advocating the need for positioning women within their respective political parties at the policy

¹Article 7 seeks "Equal rights between women and men in political and public life, while Article 8 calls for "Equal opportunities to represent one's government at the international level..."

and decision-making levels i.e. for including women's agenda in the policy making bodies and manifestos of all mainstream political parties in Pakistan. This was expected to call for adopting policies, as part of respective party manifestos, that would address women's agenda as central to their policies.

The scope of this Roundtable Conference was therefore:

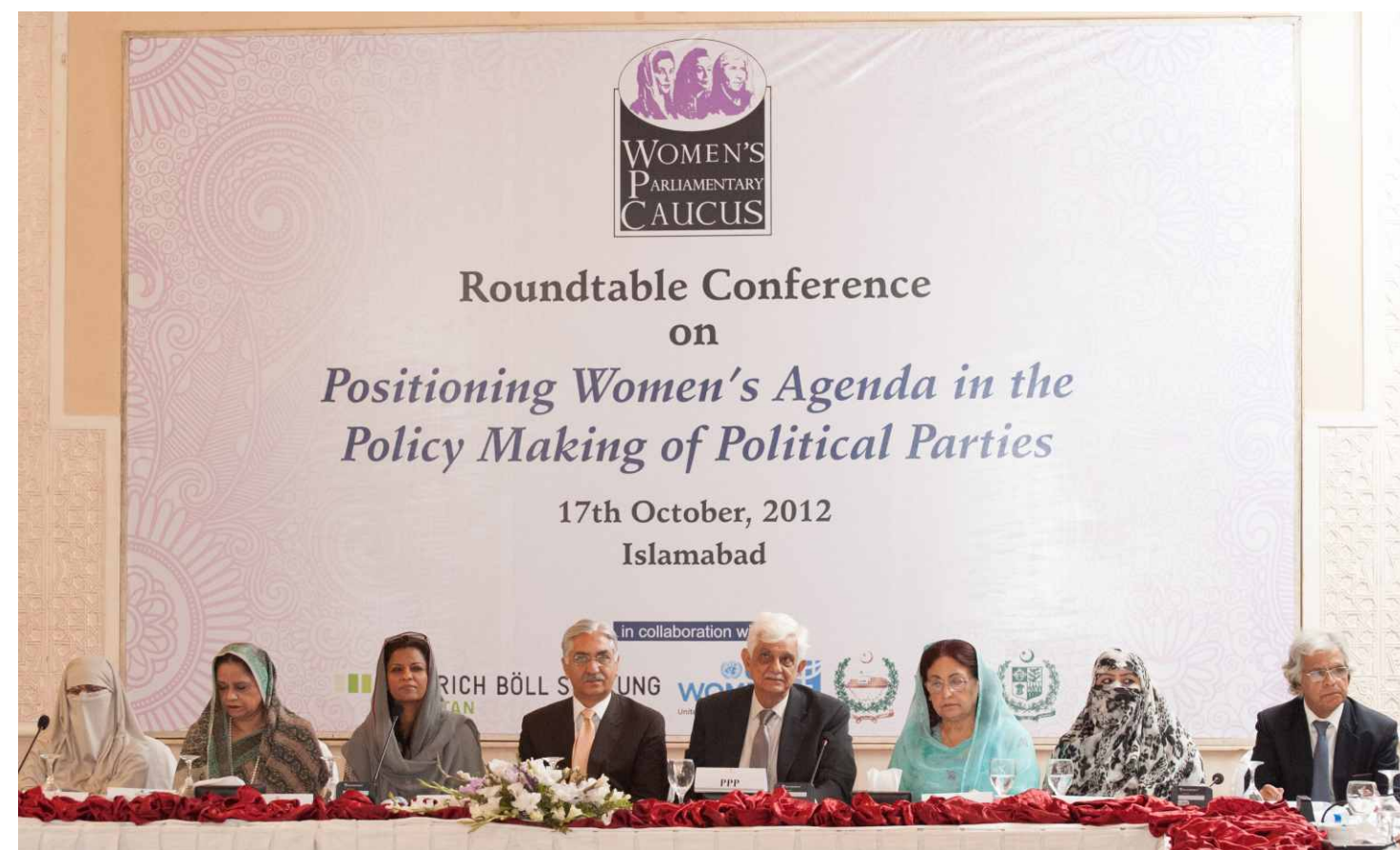
- i. To discuss and deliberate on whether the existing manifestos and party structures are inclusive of women as an essential part of their policy and decision making bodies; and if so, whether these women are permitted to play a meaningful role within these structures; and
- ii. To explore ways and means through which women's representation may further be enhanced and strengthened within the political arena; and
- iii. to propose recommendations to the political parties

on any legislative or policy changes that may be required in this regard.

Participants

In order to bring out some realistic, tangible, and committed results, the following representation was invited to attend:

- Two senior level political parties leadership including;
- Head of the Political Parties' Women's Wing (where applicable), and
- the Secretary General of the political parties
- One representative each of the "Manifesto Committee" of the political parties at the national as well as the provincial level
- Selected relevant representation of the civil society



OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

INAUGURAL SESSION

The Inaugural Session commenced upon arrival of the Chief Guest, Chairman Senate Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari. After the recitation from the Holy Quran, Secretary of Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Dr. Nafisa Shah (MNA) welcomed the Chief Guest and the participants, and introduced them to the theme of the Conference and its objectives.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Nafisa Shah
Secretary, Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)

In her opening remarks, Dr. Nafisa Shah first of all extended her gratitude to the Chief Guest, Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari who was also the acting President of Pakistan that day and yet he fulfilled his promise to be the Chief Guest. This, she stated, was the demonstration of the Chief Guest's commitment to the women empowerment. Dr. Nafisa then lauded the vision of the Speaker National Assembly Dr. Fehmida Mirza and her efforts for making WPC an effective and important forum to bring forth significant policy making concerns and developing unanimity on important matters of political actors.

Dr. Nafisa Shah emphasized the need to enhance the role of women as political actors and policy makers. She underscored the need to put concrete policies in place in order to position women within the political parties' structures as well as in the political processes. She said that this was the right time to raise and discuss these issues especially when the political parties are preparing for the next general elections and are in the process of developing their manifestoes. While referring to the Constitution of Pakistan, Dr. Nafisa reminded that the Constitution of Pakistan unequivocally provided for equal rights to women and gives space in taking affirmative and special measures for ensuring dignity for women and their empowerment with special reference to the enjoyment of their political rights.

While highlighting the key challenges being faced by women in seeking options and solutions in this regard, Dr. Nafisa pointed out several policy gaps that impeded gender mainstreaming in Pakistan. These gaps are also reflected in laws and policies on account of which women continue to trail behind. While quoting the recent attack on innocent Malala Yousafzai as an example, Dr. Nafisa



pointed out that there is still, in many areas, threat to women and girls for seeking access to these services. Violence against women and girls continue to persist, and women's participation in public life is below the mark. To make up to these gaps, Dr. Nafisa underscored the need to include and position women within the policy and decision making processes. Women need to adequately represent their case at the legislative and policy making levels in order to play a meaning and substantive role.

Dr. Nafisa Shah lauded the Election Commission for proclaiming October 17, 2011 as **NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY** that raised awareness amongst the voters across Pakistan to vote and let vote with special emphasis to discouraging low women voter turnout. Dr. Nafisa said that the women in Pakistan have always been fortunate as compared to most of the women around the world as they have had the right and opportunity to be part of the political processes including the right to vote, right to contest elections, and the opportunity of having special quota of women's reserved seats since the very inception of Pakistan. Currently, the quota of reserved seats is 17% for women. She said that in the recent past, however, some areas in Pakistan have deprived women from voting that needs to be strongly dealt with by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Dr. Nafisa emphasized on the ECP to take special measures to ensure that the women are able to duly cast their votes and are given protection at the polling stations/booths, especially in the conflict areas. As for the responsibility of the political parties in this regard, Dr. Nafisa stressed upon the parties to commit on educating the voters on the value of women's votes and ensuring their participation by facilitating the making of their ID cards.

Dr. Nafisa Shah underscoring the need to look into the future for an expanded and rather meaningful role of women parliamentarians. Time has come, women parliamentarians have proven their worth, and they need to be valued and positioned within their respective party structures, she said. Meaningful spaces for women within the decision and policy making echelons of the political parties would go a long way in strengthening the democratic values, advancing women empowerment agenda, and ensure sustainable development, she added.

Towards the end, Dr. Nafisa hoped that this roundtable would provide an opportunity to the parties to find ways and means to not only make women central to party policy in their manifestos but also to expand the space occupied by women in the political parties. In addition, the parties' manifestoes would include commitments to take special measures to promote and

safeguard women's rights, which if agreed, would be considered as the most important step forward by the WPC she said.

Message from Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker, National Assembly:



(The Message was read out by Begum Ishrat Ashraf, MNA, as desired by the Hon. Speaker)

The Speaker National Assembly Hon. Dr. Fehmida Mirza, in her message, underscored the significance of the Conference Theme. She thanked the participants and senior political parties' leaderships present at the Conference for attending this Conference and agreeing to deliberate on such an important issue. She hoped that there would be a positive outcome of this Conference. The Hon. Speaker also thanked Dr. Nafisa Shah and her team for putting efforts in organizing the Conference.



Address of the Chief Guest

Chairman Senate Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari

Chairman Senate Syed Nayyar Bokhari was the Chief Guest of the Conference. In his address, the Chairman first of all lauded the work and contribution of WPC in furthering gender agenda within the policy and legislation making in Pakistan. He observed that the role of WPC was critical in establishing true democratic procedures and values that are representative and inclusive in nature. Gender equality and empowerment of women stand globally recognized as central to democratic values as it impacts the development of any society. It is with this spirit that the People's Party Government has always believed in women empowerment and ensuring equal rights to them through economic, social, legal and political measures, he said.

Syed Nayyar Bokhari recalled the struggle of Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto in promoting and strengthening women in political processes; she had always stood for the rights of the vulnerable groups of the society and for the women's empowerment at all levels,



and had laid her life for what she believed in, he recalled. The Honorable Chief Guest further lauded the vision and mission of WPC that has become a part of the longstanding struggle of Mohtrama Fatima Jinnah, Rana Liaqat Ali Khan and Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto for women empowerment and social transformation in the country. He accentuated that women parliamentarians could become the catalyst that can benefit the entire nation. While lauding Speaker Dr. Fehmida Mirza for her vision and her full support in establishing the WPC, he acknowledged that WPC would not have been possible if it was not for her as the Speaker.

Touching upon the ongoing fight against extremism, the Chief Guest aspired that the Caucus shall continue to play its role in not only empowering women politically, economically and socially but shall also play a significant role in striving for peace in the country.

While concluding his address, the Chairman Senate/Acting President of Pakistan, said that he was fully aware of the WPC's tremendous work and felt that women are now strengthening themselves politically. The respective political parties of Caucus members need to recognize their abilities and give them their due space within the political structures at the policy and decision making levels. He reaffirmed that time had come for the Caucus members to assert and position themselves. He extended his full support to the Women Parliamentarians whenever so required. The Chief Guest also recalled and fully supported the declaration that came out of last year's Roundtable Conference seeking a minimum 10% quota for women from their respective political parties in awarding tickets for general seats. He reasserted that this was a very valid demand and hoped that the political parties leaderships would stand by their commitment in reviewing their party rules in this regard.

DELIBERATIONS: 1ST HALF OF THE DAY

GROUND SETTING

Session I: "The Role of Political Parties in Making Gender Agenda Central in their Working and Manifestoes: An Overview of International Best Practices"

Panelists:

- Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)
- Ms. Nasreen Azhar, Member, NCSW
- Mr. Ihsan Wyne, Secretary General, Awami National Party (ANP)
- Mr. Taj Haider, Senator, Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP)
- Ms. Farzana Banuri, Jamiat Ulema e Islam (JUI-F)
- Ms. Kishwar Zehra, In-charge Women Wing, Mutahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)
- Dr. Rukhsana Jabin, Head of Women's Wing, Jamat-e-Islami (JI)

Panel Chairs and Moderators:

- Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, MNA (PML-Q)
- Ms. Asiya Nasir, MNA (JUI)

PRESENTER:

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, NCSW

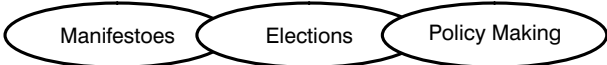


Ms. Khawar Mumtaz in her presentation recalled the Pakistan Movement as initiated by the group of activists including women for the betterment of people that was the very first example of unity and effort brought forth by women in Pakistan. Today the women wings of political parties are active in

highlighting the issues and problems concerning women and finding out solutions to those. Over the years, she stated, the representation of women in the political parties has increased. A significant difference in the manifestoes of political parties is seen since last elections, as women's issues are highlighted and brought forward on the agenda of political parties.

Today, the WPC has set an example in which women parliamentarians from across party lines can join hands in advancing women's agenda by raising issues and concerns and building consensus to address those issues through an act of parliament. Ms. Mumtaz said that the WPC has the multiplier effect for the progression of

women issues and, therefore, has become a turning point for the women parliamentarians in playing a meaningful role. She said that the political parties are the pulse of the people that revolve around:



This paradigm shift is not automatic but there are different factors involved in it e.g.:

- Linkages with the women outside the parliaments like members of academia and the civil society
- Organized pressure groups like Women Action Forum (WAF)

Khawar Mumtaz said that the women issues were put forth in political parties agendas in 1985. She highlighted that in 2008, the political parties included women agendas in their manifestos such as;

- i. women's empowerment – PPP,
- ii. dignity and respect of women – PML (N),
- iii. discriminatory practices against women – MQM, and
- iv. Domestic violence issues – PML (Q).

Khawar Mumtaz stated that the manifestos of the political parties encompass several issues and policy measures, but can all issues be addressed, policy measures be implemented and targets achieved, were questions needed to be answered. Hence, there was a need to identify gaps in manifestoes and implementation of agendas, she said. To do so, she identified three indicators that could be taken into account:

- a. Are women serving at higher positions in political parties, i.e. are they represented at the decision and policy making levels?
Only PML-N has the largest number of women at high positions in the party whereas even India and Bangladesh lack behind in such measure at political party level.
- b. Status of women coming on reserved seats as compared to the directly elected women. The important aspect considered in it is that direct elections lead to constituencies.
- c. Implementation of political parties agendas remain weak. There is a need to identify the gaps in setting the agenda and its implementation. For instance, the party has the general agenda for the respect and dignity for women but lacks the specifications,

concrete measures, deadlines, challenges and hurdles to overcome in achieving it.

Civil society and other institutions of the society are there to support political parties in achieving their agendas such as birth registrations, CNIC, registration of voters for elections, education etc. but linkages have to be

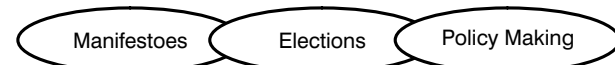
created between them.

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz concluded by stating that there is a need to set the mechanisms in place in order to implement the manifestoes and achieve the respective agendas.

Comments by Dr. Attiya Innayatullah on Ms. Khawar Mumtaz presentation:



Ms. Mumtaz emphasized on three areas to focus upon for political parties i.e.



Dr. Attiya commented that Constitution of Pakistan provides to build the critical mass and gives provisions for affirmative actions that need to be realized in order to empower women. Political parties need to recognize the provisions given in the Constitution of Pakistan and reflect those in their manifestoes. She emphasized on the need to address and advance women issues properly and effectively by the triangle _ civil society, parliamentarians and media.

Dr. Attiya also raised certain questions for the consideration of the political parties. Including:

- How to keep the WPC intact and effective in future?
- What political parties have in their manifestoes regarding local government for coming elections?
- What is the status of regular versus reserved seats? Have parties considered to give 10% constituency and 10% general seats to women?
- It is high time to implement various laws and to monitor; how political parties are addressing this matter?
- We need to know which parties are focusing and working on the areas for policy making on women in conflict, status of rural women, anti-social and anti-religious practices against women, and empowering women headed households?

Session II: Existing Setup & Mechanisms within Political Parties and Party Positions

In this session, the political parties representatives gave an overview of their respective party positions on the status of women within their party structures. Each representative was given upto 7-10 minutes for the presentation.

Mr. Ihsan Wyne, Secretary General, ANP initiated his presentation with the brief historical background of his party. ANP was established in 1956 as a secular party to work in line with the Constitution of Pakistan. He informed that ANP always supported women and extends equal rights to them in the party as that of men. Women have always been encouraged and supported at decision making positions.



Begum Naseem Wali Khan is an example who was once head of the party and had got elected through direct election process. Mr. Wyne said that the quota system has to be adopted only due to societal factors and in context of promoting women at decision making positions.

Mr. Wyne informed that ANP was essentially a gender sensitive party and is working on different areas to improve the status of women by advocating for:

- Reserving women seat to 33% at policy making level;
- Promote direct elections for women;
- Seeking for Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) of women with only their fathers' name instead of their husband's on it;
- Realize the presence and rights of rural women and making them a part of political process

Mr. Wyne concluded his presentation by mentioning that media has to be engaged for disseminating the information and mass aware masses.

Comments by Dr. Attiya Innayatullah and Response by Mr. Ihsan Wyne:

Question: Does the party have any particular policy on the areas it is working on?

Response: The focus of ANP has remained on the economic independence of women

Suggestion to be forwarded by WPC to political parties; Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) of women should only have their fathers' name instead of husbands

Mr. Taj Haider, (PPP) shared the initiatives and achievements of the party. He said that the PPP has always promoted women on general seats and Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan is one of the glaring examples. He said that his Party has a strong women wing and the manifesto committee is coordinated by a woman i.e Ms. Fouzia Habib. Moreover, the manifesto committee has five (05) women members and 80% work on it is being done by women. The party has adopted the holistic approach to ensure direct support to the beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) without involvement of any third party or bureaucracy. The party administered poverty survey to ensure the transparency and set strategies; the same approach is being adopted in other sectors, he added.

Mr. Haider updated the participants on forthcoming plans of his party that were under serious consideration as well as some of his own perceptions, including:

- 33% representation of women judges in high court.
- There's a need to revisit family laws as Ijtihad is required. He suggested that women should be given Haq e Talaq (right to divorce) as practiced in Iran. Following the divorce system as of Iran, assets should also be divided equally at the time of divorce.
- Tickets to women for general and reserved seats do not ensure women in taking the position. He agreed that there was a need to work beyond general and

- Reserved seats now; He emphasized that the local governments should also include 30% seats for women's general seats, while quota of reserved seats for them in LGs upto 33%.
- Amendments in Constitution of Pakistan to be made to abolish all discriminatory laws that contradict internationally signed treaties and conventions.
- Protocols for media need to be developed to depict positive and strong image of women as women should not be portrayed as victims alone.

Mr. Haider concluded by highlighting that the fabric of our society is rapidly changing, with more and more women coming forwarding and participating in different walks of life. Political parties also need to review their respective policies and mind-set to remove the impediments in women's progression and should promote positive measures to enable them to enjoy all their fundamental rights, hence, encouraging women to reach their full potential.



Comments by Dr. Attiya Innayatullah

The suggestions to be sent to political parties for discussion and endorsement are:

- WPC should move a resolution for 33% representation of women judges in high court;
- Local government should add in 30% seats to women whereas 33% is reserved.
- Protocols for media should be developed to stop negative portrayal of women



Ms. Farzana Banuri, JUI-F informed that the JUI-F is a democratic party that is working for the prosperity of the country and welfare of the people. Social, economic and social infrastructure of the society is destroyed and women are the worst victims of it. Despite the fact that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) laid the foundations for

the women's emancipation they continue to be treated badly and are made victims of worst atrocities, she said.

Ms. Banuri further added that the JUI-F believed that our society needs to divide the assets equally amongst people through various mechanisms by the state with accountability and transparency as its main components. She said, local government should have been active at grass root level but it is not so.

Ms. Banuri suggested that;

- Media and civil society should have regular interaction with the elected representatives in order to

initiate dialogues on critical issues within our society to find resolve to the emerging issues and challenges;

- To keep WPC alive and its role effective, the WPC should be institutionalized;
- While contradicting the suggestions made to fix 10%

quota for women on general seats she said that the women are financially weak and dependent that serves as a major impediment for them to contest on general seats. She warned that the quotas for general seats will only draw the rich and affluent women who may not be aware of women's issues on ground.

Comments by Dr. Attiya Innayatullah

Question: Are women present in the decision making processes within the party? What is the number of women members in JUI-F Central Working Committee?

Response: Women are part of the processes, but the number of women present in the party's Central Working Committee was not confirmed.



Ms. Kishwar Zehra, MQM In-charge Women Wing, appreciated WPC's efforts in enhancing women's role in parliamentary issues. She reiterated that 52% population of the country i.e. women, cannot and should not be left behind.

Ms. Zehra informed that all MQM's activities ensure participation of atleast 50% women including party rallies and meetings. The party's slogan is **"Ba-ikhtiyar Aurat, Mazboot Pakistan"** (Empowered Woman - Strong Pakistan). She further informed that despite specific structure and functions of the Party's Ladies Wing, the women are present in each section of the party structure. MQM has passed a **"Qaraardad"** (Resolution) for the women of **"shohada"** (martyrs), and thousands of women are signatory to it. The party organizes programs for the widows of martyrs to support them such as holding vigils and **"Quran Khawani"** (sending blessings to the deceased) and provide opportunities for economically empowering the widows and dependents of the martyred.

The vision and mission of the MQM is **"Parrho aur Barrho"** (read and prosper) based on the division of widows of martyrs in three categories i.e.

- who are graduates but unemployed,
- are educated up to grade 6 & 7, and
- Illiterate who cannot even sign their signatures.

Adult Literacy Program was initiated by the party while focusing on Pakistan Studies, understanding political and societal processes, civic education and interfaith harmony/tolerance. She informed that the adult literacy program also covered trainings of educated women teaching the illiterate, dealing with different calamities, working on and improving communication, administrative and interpersonal skills etc. In addition, Ms. Zehra informed that the party also organizes first aid trainings and computer skills classes for women. She concluded by emphasizing that WPC has to be institutionalized in order to play an active and effective role to counter terrorism.

Another MQM member, Senator Nasreen Jalil, further added that the MQM is a liberal and progressive party. Empowering women is a high priority on its agenda and party manifesto; The Party holds public awareness campaigns to repeal discriminatory laws against women and encourages monetary incentives for the NGOs working for women rights and empowerment. MQM has 40 departments with 600 workers out of which 150 women are working on the decision making positions. However, the number of women needs to be increased in Rabta Committee. The member warned that nepotism cannot be avoided in reserved seats for women, therefore the MQM, in its 2008 manifesto has specified 25% tickets for general seats for women.



Dr. Rukhsana Jabeen, Head of Women Wing, Islami Jamhuri Jamat apprised that the party has independent structure for women that has its own **shura** (council) that is lead by a woman general secretary; the men party members only facilitate women shura. The party has an organized women wing

that has its own agenda, program and budget to run its activities. Policy making is the responsibility of male **shura** though participation of women in this process is mandatory. Women members sit in **pardah** (veil) in the policy making process; one of the chosen woman member represents the rest of party women and is also responsible to pass their messages in writing to male **shura** across the veil. Their Party has **shuras** at **zilla** (district) level; the **zilla shura** selects the women it deems capable to perform duties in the activities of **zille shura**. The **markazi-e-aamla** (Central Committee) of the party deals with urgent matters.

Dr. Jabeen further informed that the party generates funds from its party members and from public **Qarz e Hasna (Loan)**; the women's wing generates its own funds and is independent to use those in an appropriate manner.

While referring to the party's programs, Dr. Jabeen informed that they help women on legal matters, education, health and political issues. For example, Dr. Jabeen said that the Party is currently raising awareness among women on breast cancer through media. In addition, the party has women and family commission

departments in various cities that undertake research and develop policies, and run crisis centers named **Ghaush e Aafiyat** (Place of Protection), and a Center for children.

The Sessions then broke for Lunch.

DELIBERATIONS: 2ND HALF OF THE DAY

Session II Continued: Existing Setup & Mechanisms within Political Parties and Party Positions

Panelists:

- Ms. Malaika Raza, PTI
- Begum Nuzhat Sadiq, PML-N
- Begum Farrukh Khan, PML-Q
- Ms. Mehreen Anwar Raja, PPPP

Panel Chairs and Moderators:

- Ms. Nasreen Jalil, Senator, MQM
- Ms. Tasneem Siddiqui, MNA, PML-N



Ms. Malaika Raza, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) introduced herself as someone with no previous political affiliation or influential background. She presented PTI as a relatively new party that requires guidelines. She informed that her Party is working to include as many people as possible in its political processes. While

explaining her Party structure and policy she said that it is active and has structures at central, provincial, district and union council levels. She reiterated that people from all walks of the society including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) helped in developing her party's policies. The Constitution of the party provides for atleast 24% women members across the board. As a result, the Party has women representatives in all party structures.

Ms. Raza informed that her party's Central Committee consists of 17 members out of which 04 are women. There is around 17% women representation in decision, policy making and core committees. The Party's mainstream body has 24% quota for women, though women can contest on both general and reserved seats.

Ms. Raza further informed that her Party has many professional and educated women on board, and the women's wing is an autonomous and an effective component of the Party. The women's wing has its own budget to manage its activities. Moreover, women member of the Party have double vote right.

While concluding her presentation, Ms. Malaika Raza

gave an overview of the party position on women's reserved seats as follows:

- Party recommends increasing the reserved seats to 33% in National Assembly;
- The Party notes that there are no reserved seats for women from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA);
- Party is focusing particularly on provinces of Punjab and KPK to increase the number of voter registration. According to the Party, Punjab has a wider gap in male - female registration ratio as women do not have CNICs and are thus not registered voters;
- At Union Council level, the party is focusing on raising awareness amongst women voters to get their CNICs and become registered voters;
- The Party is in the process of finalizing its manifesto which is in Urdu language but would later be translated in regional languages of Pakistan.

Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Pakistan Muslim League -Nawaz (PML-N), Member Manifesto Committee

explained that the PML-N is an active party that envisions and seeks to ensure dignity and respect for women as bestowed by Islam. The party promotes full participation of women in national development and therefore, aims at the social, economic and political empowerment of women.



Begum Nuzhat Sadiq informed that the PML-N's manifesto is the result of intensive consultative process led by Mr. Sartaj Aziz along with a team of 13 party members out of which 06 were women. The party believes that manifesto provides policy guidelines for the people and, therefore, it has to be futuristic and realistic. Education is the cornerstone of the party's manifesto and there is a special emphasis on ensuring women's dignity

and respect.

She informed that the PML-N's manifesto states its vision for women development through its exclusive eight (08) agenda points. The manifesto recognizes the need to empower women socially, politically and economically alongwith protection of their property and land entitlement rights. The party developed and launched a comprehensive "Women's Empowerment Package – 2012" that promotes and protects women's rights to inheritance.

Senator Nuzhat further informed that her party believes in empowering women and supports:

- Legislations to combat and curb violence against women and child abuse; and abolish discriminatory, unjust and illegal practices against women
- Promotion of micro-credit schemes to empower women economically
- Raising budgetary allocations for education with special attention to the education of women and girls

Senator Nuzhat Sadiq concluded her presentation by informing that her Party envisages a comprehensive long term development program to empower women.

Begum Farrukh Khan, President Women's Wing PML-Q

thanked Dr. Nafisa Shah and her team for organizing the conference on such an important topic, and appreciated the steps taken by the present government towards women empowerment. Women are working on key positions in the present government; Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Ms.



Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Sherry Rehman are just a few examples. She said that UN Human Development Report presents a far better picture of Pakistan than other Muslim countries. However; the increase in political representation /participation of women still requires more efforts she observed.

Ms. Khan stated that PML-Q believed in protecting the fundamental rights of women, and aims at abolishing all customary ill-practices especially against women. She informed that the PML-Q's manifesto includes taking special measures to empower women because a nation cannot progress without the inclusion of women in its development processes. Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah remains a beacon and a model for the women of Pakistan, particularly in the PML – Q, she said.

Ms. Farrukh Khan explained that the manifesto of the PML-Q envisions to:

- Increase women political participation and at leadership positions (even more than 10% based on merit)
- Restore local government system with special women's quota
- Focus on women's health, especially the reproductive health. Ch. Shujaat Hussain's ladies health visitors' programme is an example of the Party's successful initiative in this regard;
- Reactivate schools in rural areas including those of girls
- Promote education, especially free education for girls

Mrs. Farrukh Khan further explained that her party is mindful of the fact that 10 million women of Pakistan do not have CNIC. There are also some areas where women are not allowed to vote; likewise areas where women do not vote but there votes are counted.

For women's empowerment, the PML- Q has further following suggestions as shared by Mrs. Khan:

- The Party welcomes a bill that makes it mandatory for each polling station to have at least 10% women voters otherwise the result of the polling station will be considered null and void.
- Political parties would ensure quota for women in the ministries during their government along with general seats in the local government
- Micro-finance schemes by the political parties should be initiated to support women's political participation
- NGOs working for women's rights and empowerment should be financially supported
- Free immunization programs should be initiated for women especially vaccination of IPV virus that helps preventing cervical cancer in women
- GDP allocated for education to be revisited and re-allocated
- Provinces would allocate and spend atleast 10% of their budget on education

Ms. Mehreen Anwar Raja, (PPP) enunciated that PPP has the honor of having the first Woman Prime Minister of Pakistan. PPP launched the largest Ladies Health Visitors (LHVs) Program in Asia, and also introduced the First Women Police Stations and the First Woman Bank.



Ms. Raja highlighted PPP government's initiatives and programs including:

- Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) that financially aided the poorest of women and indirectly raised the number of women with CNIC
- Girl child program – part of BISP
- Launched a program at provincial level through which landless women attaining land for farming

- Working for female friendly legislations
- Provided policies on health and education to provinces according to the devolution program

Ms. Raja while closing her remarks stated that all women political parties' representatives present in the conference should share their learnings from this conference with the decision and policy makers of their own respective parties.

CONCLUDING SESSION

CONCLUDING REMARKS



Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuhu, MNA - PPP concluded the conference by thanking the participants for bringing in diverse thoughts and ideas that enriched the deliberations and suggest further avenues for progress and development of women. She acknowledged the emerging voices from the conference that "Position We All Take is Pro-Women". She said that we all realize and recognize the important role of women in the society including as house-wives. Women are significant contributors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) she highlighted.

Dr. Pechuhu summarized the conference and reiterated that PPP encourages quota for women on general and reserved seats as well as in private industry and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Pechuhu accredited MQM's mentoring program as inspirational and the one being in cognizant with the urban issue that should be reviewed and replicated by other parties as well. She appreciated JI's well organized party structure and inclusion of women in it's processes and said that this practice should be adapted by other parties as a best practice.

While referring to the parties' manifestoes, Dr. Azra emphasized that the political parties need to bring issues like education, health, political education, socio cultural rights, and related legislations and their implementation in the forefront. She accented that "what we carry in manifestoes are also promises we have to keep to the people and should be able to stand accountable for them."



DISCUSSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

During the Presentations, some interesting discussions took place and questions raised. These discussions generally focused around three key Questions:

- 1) What are the key issues and challenges being faced by women in positioning themselves at the decision and policy making levels within their respective political parties and in assuming a meaningful role?
- 2) Identifying the opportunities and entry points that could facilitate women's positioning at the decision and policy making levels within their respective political parties and in assuming a meaningful role?
- 3) Recommendations – Options and Alternatives?

The discussions and deliberations between the party leadership were quite encouraging. There was an agreement amongst the participants that the political parties need to review the structure of their respective parties to include women in the mainstream decision making processes and to also take initiatives for granting tickets to women for the general elections. As a result there was unanimous consent to review their respective parties' structures that allow for greater inclusion and positioning of women within their parties' structure.

The crux of those discussions and some of the relevant questions answers is summed up below:

	Why we do not focus on Islam and its principles despite looking at outside resources? - MNA JUI
	There's a need to clarify that Islamic parties are not against women rights. JUI-F did not have women wing that was established after much debate and discussion. JUI-F has always supported women political participation at district, provincial and national level. The party is also not against of women coming in National Assembly on general seats; the only concern is that of women's economic dependency. This is the reason for which the JUI-F does not support women's 10% seats in National Assembly as obligatory
	Why is Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) not progressing? Please talk on this in your parties.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- JUI-F supports all pro-women legislations.- Three to four bills are tabled and in process but haven't been enacted or passed due to delays like devolution and other challenges. Pending bills include child corporal punishment, reproductive health bill and citizenship act.
	Suggestions and Key Recommendations
	<p>There were nine key recommendations that were brought out during this one day Conference that were fully endorsed by all the participants.</p> <p>There was a full consensus that the respect for women and their integrity has to be above all. In this regard the members of WPC and other political parties' representatives adopted the following as part of a "statement" that resulted from the roundtable conference deliberations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advocacy and promotion for the universal right to education as ordained in Quran & Sunnah2. While acknowledging the role of media, the need to review and check the exploitation and promotion of negative image of women in media3. Recognize that although the discriminatory laws have been amended, the mindsets continue that impede the implementation of women protection laws. The parties, therefore, must clearly state what policies will they follow in order to address this issue

4. The Speaker as the Patron of WPC must take initiatives to strengthen the internal dynamics of WPC members. She must develop a mechanism to undertake this initiative.
5. In recognition of WPC's contribution and performance in legislative business and promotion of women empowerment, the WPC should be formally institutionalized.
6. The Local Government must have atleast 33% women's quota in its general elections
7. The Judiciary must include 33% quota for women judges at the High Court and Supreme Courts level
8. Women's ID Cards must only refer to father's name and not the husband's name
9. All issues addressed in the policies and manifestos of political parties should be time bound so as to ensure follow up and accountability



PICTURE GALLERY



ANNEXES

Annex 1

CONCEPT NOTE

Women's Parliamentary Caucus Roundtable Conference on “Positioning Women's Agenda in the Policy Making of Political Parties”

Background

Gender equality and empowerment of women have now been recognized as central to the development of any society. Almost all international rights based law has stressed on this aspect in the recent years. This commitment was operationalized and formulated into a clear action plan at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 where the states committed themselves to the “empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations.”

Pakistani constitution guarantees women equal rights but also provides for affirmative action and a commitment towards protection of women at the same time. Further, there has been a considerable progress in recognition of discrimination against women and a realization that proactive and affirmative action can go a long way in addressing gaps in gender mainstreaming. Important affirmative action was initiated by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto who created a women's ministry, women police stations and a women's bank to highlight the importance of placing women in the policy agenda of the government.

One way to measure gender empowerment is to assess the economic and political participation of women. In Pakistan women have made considerable gains in the recent years in political representation and participation both in the national parliament and in local and everyday politics. Today, a significant 22.8 per cent representation of women in the parliament has led to a magnification of the issues that concern women. Intraparty dialogue between women parliamentarians has led to proactive law making, and important legislations on women have been carried out.

Simultaneously, a strong and vibrant media is increasingly becoming gender conscious and providing coverage on women specific issues. In addition, there has been a remarkable growth of women getting higher education and developing as professionals in all major sectors. This trend, however, is limited to the urban areas of Pakistan and the majority of women living in the rural areas are still deprived of their basic rights. Primary education, maternal health, forced and early marriage and economic independence and customary laws are areas which need to be addressed effectively and on a broader spectrum to attain desired goals.

Although this government has initiated targeted programs on women such as the BISP, there remain several policy gaps in gender mainstreaming and women continue to trail behind in access to social services. As elections draw near, there is recognition that the political parties, whose policies can greatly impact law making must be engaged, with regard to promotion of gender mainstreaming and gender equality. The Women's Parliamentary Caucus, comprising of women parliamentarians from political parties who have an electoral presence is strategically placed to provide a forum for a dialogue with the political parties on their gender policy.

Objectives

In line with the afore mentioned, the WPC has initiated a series of dialogue with the political parties and their policy making committees on their commitment to gender issues in the forthcoming elections. The strategy to achieve these objectives is two pronged; a) to position and empower women in the realm of politics, particularly at the policy and decision making levels within the political party's structures to play a rather meaningful role, and b) to introduce special women quotas for party tickets to the general elections. These measures are critical in order to comply with the national and

international commitments of the Government of Pakistan (GoP) including the equal rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan, and the International Convention on Eliminating all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to which Pakistan is a state signatory to². These measures ultimately will facilitate in ensuring a comprehensive implementation of the GoP's gender agenda leading towards substantive policies that would help in enhancing the core issues related to the economic, social and political empowerment of women..

As part of the WPC's initiative for organizing a series of dialogue, a one day Roundtable Conference was convened in September 2011 on the later, in which senior leadership (of not less than the Secretary Generals) of all the parliamentary parties attended. The outcome of this Conference was a unanimous declaration passed by the participants who agreed to review and amend their respective party rules in order to ensure a minimum 10% quota for women in allocating tickets for the general elections. Following the given objectives, a similar one day Roundtable Conference is now being organized this year that aims at advocating the need for positioning women within their respective political parties at the policy and decision-making levels i.e. for including women's agenda in the policy making bodies and manifestos of all mainstream political parties in Pakistan. This would call for adopting policies, as part of party manifestos, that would address women's agenda as central to their policies.

The scope of this Roundtable Conference would therefore be:

- To discuss and deliberate on whether the existing manifestos and party structures are inclusive of women as an essential part of their policy and decision making bodies; and if so, whether these women are permitted to play a meaningful role within these structures; and
- To explore ways and means through which women's representation may further be enhanced and strengthened within the political arena; and to propose recommendations to the political parties on any legislative or policy changes that may be required in this regard.

Expected Participants

In order to bring out some realistic, tangible, and committed results, the following representation is expected to attend:

- Two senior level political parties leadership including;
- Head of the Political Parties' Women's Wing (where applicable), and
- the Secretary General of the political parties
- One representative each of the "Manifesto Committee" of the political parties at the national as well as the provincial level
- Select representation of the civil society

Date and Venue
October 17, 2012, Islamabad

² Article 7 seeks "Equal rights between women and men in political and public life, while Article 8 calls for "Equal opportunities to represent one's government at the international level..."

Annex 2

PROGRAM AGENDA

Women's Parliamentary Caucus
Roundtable Conference on
“Positioning Women's Agenda in the Policy Making of Political Parties”
October 17, 2012

The Plenary

- 1000 - 1005:** Recitation from the Verses of the Holy Quran
- 1005 - 1015** Introduction to the Theme and Objectives of the Roundtable by the Secretary WPC Dr. Nafisa Shah MNA
- 1015 – 1025** Message by the Speaker National Assembly
- 10:25 – 10:40** Address by the Chief Guest, H.E. Senator Nayyar Bokhari, Chairman Senate of Pakistan
- 10:40 – 11:00** Tea Break

Session I Ground Setting

- 1100 – 1145** **Co-Chairs:** **MNA Dr Attiya Inayatullah (PML-Q), and
MNA Ms. Asiya Nasir (JUI)**
- Presentation by Ms. Khawar Mumtaz on**
"The Role of Political Parties in Making Gender Agenda Central in their Working and Manifestos
including - An Overview of the International Best Practices"
- 1145 – 1300** Existing Setup & Mechanisms within Political Parties and their respective Party Positions (@ Upto
7-10 minutes per party)
- 1300 – 1330** Question and Answer
- 1330 – 1400** Lunch and Prayer Break

Session II

- 1400 hrs:** **Co-Chairs:** **Senator Nuzhat Sadiq (PML – N)
MNA Khushbakht Shujaat (MQM)**
- 1400 – 1530** Discussions:
- What are the key issues, challenges being faced by women in positioning themselves at the decision and policy making levels within their respective political parties and in assuming a meaningful role?

- Identifying the opportunities and entry points that could facilitate women's positioning at the decision and policy making levels within their respective political parties and in assuming a meaningful role?
- Recommendations – Options and Alternatives?

- 1530 – 1600** **Concluding Session:**
Co-Chairs: **MNA Yasmeen Rehman (PPPP), and
MNA Jamila Gillani (ANP)**

Proceedings will include:
Commitment and adoption of a Declaration by Parties’ Leaderships to revisit their respective existing manifestos and mechanisms for positioning women within the policy and decision making processes; and ensuring the implementation of their gender agenda as central to their mandates.
-Adoption of Declaration by Participants

- 1600 – 1640** **Concluding Remarks by MNA Dr. Azra Pacheho**

- 1640 – 1650** Vote of thanks by the Secretary WPC, Dr. Nafisa Shah
Formal Closure of the Roundtable Conference