



FORGING NEW TIES

REPORT FROM THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN AFGHAN
AND PAKISTANI WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS



Parliamentarians Network
for Conflict Prevention

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The EastWest Institute is an international, non-partisan, not-for-profit policy organization focused solely on confronting critical challenges that endanger peace. EWI was established in 1980 as a catalyst to build trust, develop leadership, and promote collaboration for positive change. The institute has offices in New York, Brussels, and Moscow. For more information about the EastWest Institute or this paper, please contact:

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Afghan parliament members vote on the new Cabinet after the 2010 elections



FOREWORD

On June 3 and 4, 2011, the EastWest Institute's Parliamentary Network for Conflict Prevention¹ facilitated the first-ever visit of a delegation of Afghan women parliamentarians to Islamabad. There, the visiting politicians met with their female colleagues in the Pakistani National Assembly and leading Pakistani political figures, including His Excellency the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, and the Speaker of the House, Dr. Fehmida Mirza.

During the visit, participants from both countries held discussions aimed at strengthening political ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan, notably among the women parliamentarians themselves. This report summarizes those discussions and presents the Islamabad Action Plan [see Annex I], adopted by participants and endorsed by Dr. Fehmida Mirza. It proposes steps for further cooperation between the two parliaments, and calls for a return visit of Pakistani women lawmakers to Kabul in the fall of 2011.

This report gives an overview of the major topics of the discussions that took place during the visit. It does not intend to fully capture all variations of opinions expressed. It does, however, reflect the predominant views of the participants. The EastWest Institute (EWI) is solely responsible for the content as well as any omissions or errors in this report.

The meetings were convened with the generous support of the Belgian Federal Public Service Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. The meetings would not have been possible without the tremendous dedication of the participants. The EastWest Institute (EWI) would like to thank in particular, Dr. Donya Aziz MP, Ms. Asila Wardak, as well as and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly of Pakistan for their contribution in making the meeting possible, as well as the 'core group' of participants: Ms. Elay Ershad MP, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho MP, Ms. Bushra Gohar MP, Ms. Shinkai Karokhail MP, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah MP, Ms. Gulalei Nur Safi MP, Ms. Razia Sadat MP, and Dr. Nafisa Shah MP for their contributions throughout.

¹ Launched at the European Parliament in Brussels on October 8, 2008, the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention is an initiative of the EastWest Institute (EWI). The Network, comprised of 170 parliamentarians from 58 countries, works to mobilize efforts to prevent violent conflicts through diplomatic initiatives and effective collective action. For more information please visit: www.parliamentariansforconflictprevention.net

Afghanistan and Pakistan share a 1500 mile-long border, strong cultural, religious, and economic ties – and a historically complicated relationship. Today, political leaders in both countries are taking positive steps forward to improve the bilateral relationship, which is vital for the region's overall security. In order for the bilateral relationship to deepen further, women should be actively engaged in fostering dialogue between the two political communities.

In December 2010, the EastWest Institute (EWI) convened an international conference at the European Parliament in Brussels. The aim: to strengthen the political position of Afghan women parliamentarians as they govern and work for peace. Participants concluded that, by meeting regularly, Afghan and Pakistani women parliamentarians would not only gain practical support, but also contribute to building bilateral trust. Both Pakistani and Afghan participants ultimately called for a follow-up dialogue, which led to the first-ever delegation of Afghan women parliamentarians to Pakistan in June 2011.

Before the June meetings, EWI held intense consultations with Afghan and Pakistani women parliamentarians, who identified the main objectives of the delegation:

- Establish a network of trusted political friends to jointly identify and collaborate on issues of common concern in order to help advance the bilateral relationship;
- Develop a common agenda to shape the work of Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers as they begin to collaborate on national and bilateral issues, like advancing the role of women in public affairs and the ongoing reconciliation talks with the Taliban;
- Share knowledge about legal and administrative procedures that have proven successful in Pakistan and then can be successfully implemented in Afghanistan, in particular legislation aimed at protecting women's rights and the development of institutions like the Pakistani Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) which provides research support and capacity building programs for parliamentarians.

This report summarizes the main conclusions of the delegation's two-day visit. The first section highlights the value of a regular, ongoing dialogue between Afghan and Pakistani women MPs; the second section outlines the concrete issues on which the women agreed they can and should work together; the third section summarizes participants' recognition the need for greater cohesion and a common voice among Afghan women parliamentarians.

During the visit, participants agreed to the Islamabad Action Plan [see Annex I]. The plan outlines the participants' commitment to establish women parliamentarians' advocacy groups in both countries, and to work together on issues of common concern, such as an inclusive reconciliation process and countering militancy. Participants committed to a follow-up visit of Pakistani women parliamentarians to Kabul in the fall of 2011 to monitor progress and determine a common agenda.



Afghan women wait outside a polling station to cast their ballots for the parliamentary elections in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, September 18, 2010.

The Need for Dialogue

Development of a common agenda will contribute to stronger participation of women lawmakers in the politics of the region, including a more active role in building peace and stability.

Throughout the two days in Islamabad, Afghan and Pakistani participants agreed that a regular dialogue between women parliamentarians can and should become an essential part of the bilateral relationship. Such a dialogue would allow participants to build confidence, share information and set joint agendas.

It is clear why a regular dialogue between Afghan and Pakistani women parliamentarians would be mutually beneficial: women in both countries share common concerns and challenges that serve as the basis for a vision of regional cooperation. Namely, social and religious norms in both states relegate women to more traditional roles with limited public and political influence. Women in the public sphere tend to be confined to "soft" issues, like education and social welfare, and excluded from hard political security dialogues. Through a regular dialogue, Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers can contribute to confidence building and enhanced security for both countries. Developing a common agenda will also help women lawmakers participate more strongly in the region's politics, and take a more active role in building peace and stability.

In both Pakistan and Afghanistan, constitutionally-mandated quotas systems ensure that women have minimum representation in parliament: 60 of the 342 seats in the National Assembly of Pakistan and 68 of the 249 seats in Afghanistan's Wolesi Jirga are reserved for women. They are an important step towards equal access to decision-making positions,

but quotas do not bestow women parliamentarians with the same degree of authority and influence as men. Women elected to fill quota seats are seldom perceived as more than mere token players. Quotas may also be used to create a ceiling on the amount of women in the national assembly and preclude women from sitting on general seats (as was the case in the last parliamentary elections when even the women candidates who received more votes than their male colleagues were assigned to quota, rather than general, seats).

The quota system is also applied only to the National Assemblies in both countries. Neither Afghanistan or Pakistan have women judges in the Supreme Court, and Afghanistan has only one female minister and very few women in leading positions throughout the government apparatus. Therefore, during the discussion, participants recommended that a quota system be initiated in other branches of government.

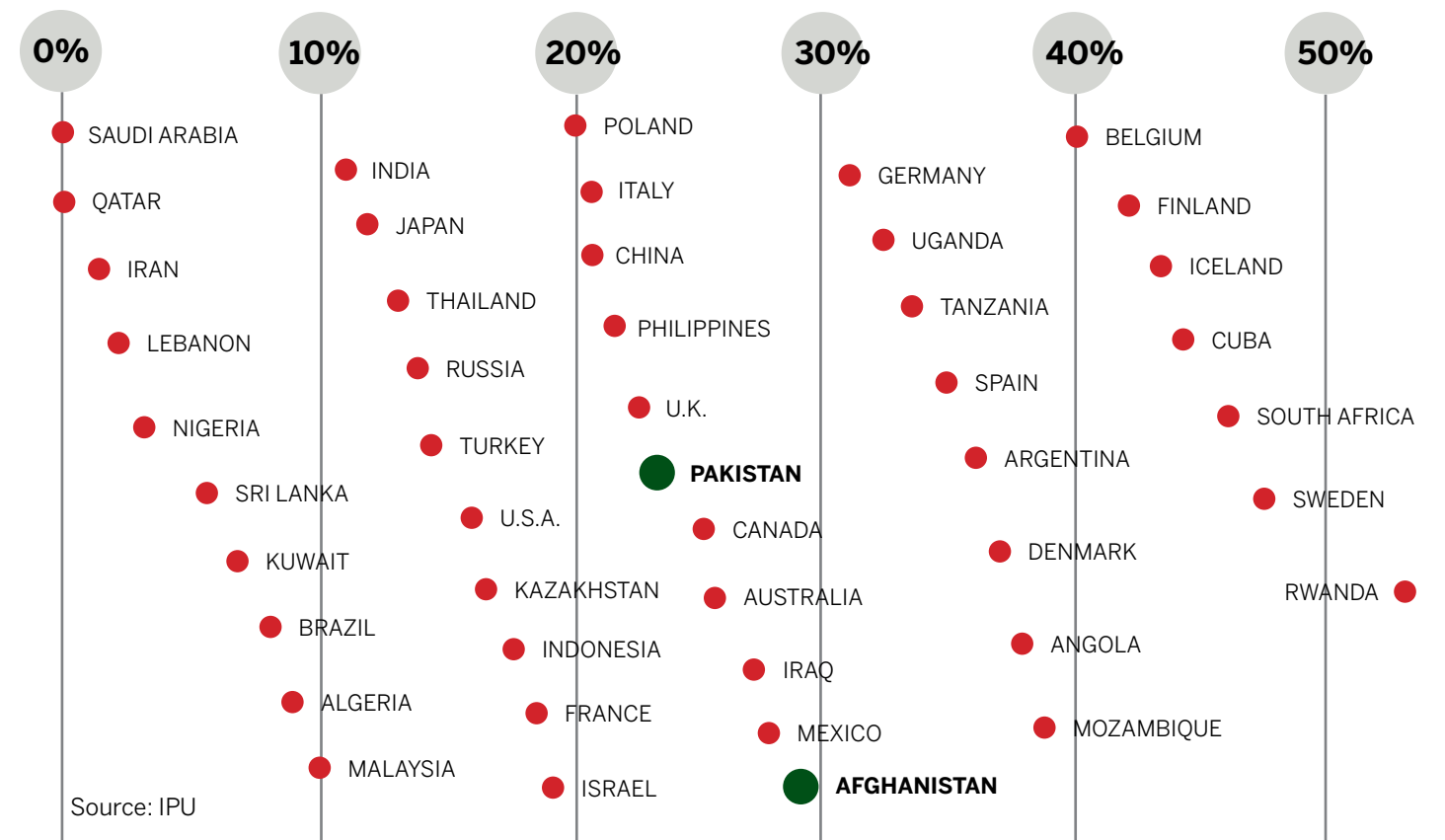
Despite the many problems faced by Pakistani women, Pakistan has been quite successful in dealing with the challenges faced by women in public life. For example, it has been possible for women to attain positions of high authority, such as the late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Fehmida Mirza, the current Speaker of the National Assembly. Not only were these women able to obtain eminent leadership positions, but they also were able to yield their influence and use their authority to rally support and advance the role of women. For example, the support of the Speaker Mirza made it possible to es-



Members of the two delegations. From left to right, in front: Razia Sadat, Nafisa Shah, Shinkai Karokhail, Gulalei Nur Safi, Azra Fazal Pechuho, Asila Wardak. Back row: Fouzia Ejaz Khan, Donya Aziz, Bushra Gohar, Tasneem Siddiqui, Tahira Aurangzeb, Farzana Mushtaq Ghani, Saira Afzal Tarar, Elay Ershad, Irina Bratosin

Women in National Parliaments

Percentage of female members of national legislatures as of June 30, 2011



Participants were keen to share passages from the Koran that supported women's and human rights, and Afghan delegates looked to Pakistan for legislation and religious texts that could be used in support of their political claims.

establish Pakistan's first multi-party caucus, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC). Although the Pakistani experience has significant particularities of its own, it can be of value for the Afghans, and the Afghan participants expressed a particular willingness to look to the experience of Pakistani women MPs.

Successfully countering the misuse of religious beliefs is a long-term process that should encompass steps towards practical cooperation on legislative issues. Participants were keen to share passages from the Koran that supported women's and human rights, and Afghan delegates looked to Pakistan for legislation and religious texts that could be used to support their political rights.

During the delegation's visit, Afghan participants sought and received detailed information from their Pakistani counterparts regarding practical examples of successful women-led and women-focused legislative initiatives. The following pieces of legislation were shared with the Afghan women MPs: Pakistan Family Law; Women in Distress and Detention Fund Amendment; Bills on Protection Against Harassment at the Workplace; Domestic Violence, Prevention and Protection Act; and the Women Honor Act to name a few.

Members of the WPC shared their experiences in establishing a series of bodies that provide a platform for advancing the role of women in Pakistan's political affairs, such as the WPC, the National Commission on the Status of Women, and the Benazir Income Support Programme². The WPC, in particular, provides the necessary framework for women to exert their collective influence on politics at the national level. Significant legislative advances have been made possible as a result of the WPC, including Protection against Harassment at Workplace Act (2009), the Women Honor Act (2009), and the Domestic Violence, Prevention and Protection Act (2009). Accordingly, the participants discussed in detail how the WPC was established and organized.

² The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) offers financial assistance, with a particular focus on poverty alleviation of disadvantaged women. It was initiated by government of Pakistan with an initial allocation of Rs. 34 billion (approximately \$425 million USD) for the 2008-09 financial year.



Pakistani girl learning the Koran

Speaker Mirza committed to sharing legislative experiences as a practical support of Pakistan's Parliament to the Afghan National Assembly, as well as to sending a letter to her Afghan counterpart advocating for the creation of an Afghan Women's Caucus in the National Assembly.

Participants called for a joint political agenda for Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers, noting that it would help strengthen the role and influence of women parliamentarians on security relations. "It is vital to have a common understanding; this is why it is crucial to establish a regular dialogue and regular visits," said Dr. Fehmida Mirza. "There is no other option but for Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers to work together if we would like to change the face of politics in the region. And through the support of Parliament, women can contribute to reduce tensions in the region."

During the discussions, participants agreed to:

- Support the establishment of regularized inter-parliamentary dialogue as a formal mechanism to address the bilateral trust deficit, such as parliamentary friendship groups embedded within national parliaments;
- Institutionalize dialogue between Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers and, to that end, establish a broad-based consortium of women lawmakers within the Afghan Parliament. This should enable women parliamentarians in Afghanistan to better influence policy making at the national level. More detailed commitments are outlined in the agreed-upon Islamabad Action Plan [Annex 1].

The participants agreed that their future bilateral dialogue should work to:

- Build consensus on a common agenda;
- Bolster women parliamentarians' credibility and visibility within their respective countries so that they are less likely to be relegated to token positions; and
- Build up the confidence and negotiating power of women parliamentarians.

"There is no other option but for Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers to work together if we would like to change the face of politics in the region."

Dr. Fehmida Mirza
SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF PAKISTAN

An Afghan woman walks towards a market in the old city of Kabul, Afghanistan



Working Together: Tackling Modernization

During the visit, participants identified several areas of common concern including: countering anti-constitutional practices; promoting an inclusive and sustainable reconciliation process with the Taliban; and advancing cooperation towards sustainable development in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Anti-Constitutional Practices

Important legislative advances in the status of women have been made in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Constitution of Afghanistan guarantees equal rights for men and women, and the country has developed its first National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which recommends increased participation of women in conflict prevention and peace processes. But anti-constitutional practices such as child marriages, acid burning, or honor killings persist. Women lawmakers in both countries have a strong role to play in countering these anti-constitutional practices and have resolved to work together in this regard.

The growth of religious fundamentalism and other factors that support anti-constitutional practices greatly affects citizen security in both countries and was recognized as one of the crucial impediments to peace and security in the region. Participants discussed concrete ways to counter fundamentalist interpretations and abuse of religious beliefs, such as opening the public space for debates on these issues, identifying and engaging religious leaders willing to speak in such debates, and increasing the use of media and mobile telephones to raise awareness among the population of their rights.

Reconciliation

Possible reconciliation with the Taliban is an internal Afghan issue, but has important implications for Pakistan as well. Participants agreed that women's rights and role in public life could be undermined by a reconciliation process that is not inclusive and does not explicitly protect the rights of women. Gulalei Nur Safi, an Afghan MP and member of the High Peace Council stated: "Women must be in negotiations – we do not want to lose the achievements that we've made in these ten years." As negotiations with the Taliban continue, it is increasingly important that women be included in peace and security dialogues to safeguard and develop the role of women parliamentarians in Afghanistan's public affairs.

All participants were sensitive to the tremendous overall difficulties involved in reconciliation and the crucial role of the bilateral relationship. President Zardari stressed the need for an Afghan-led process supported by the international community.

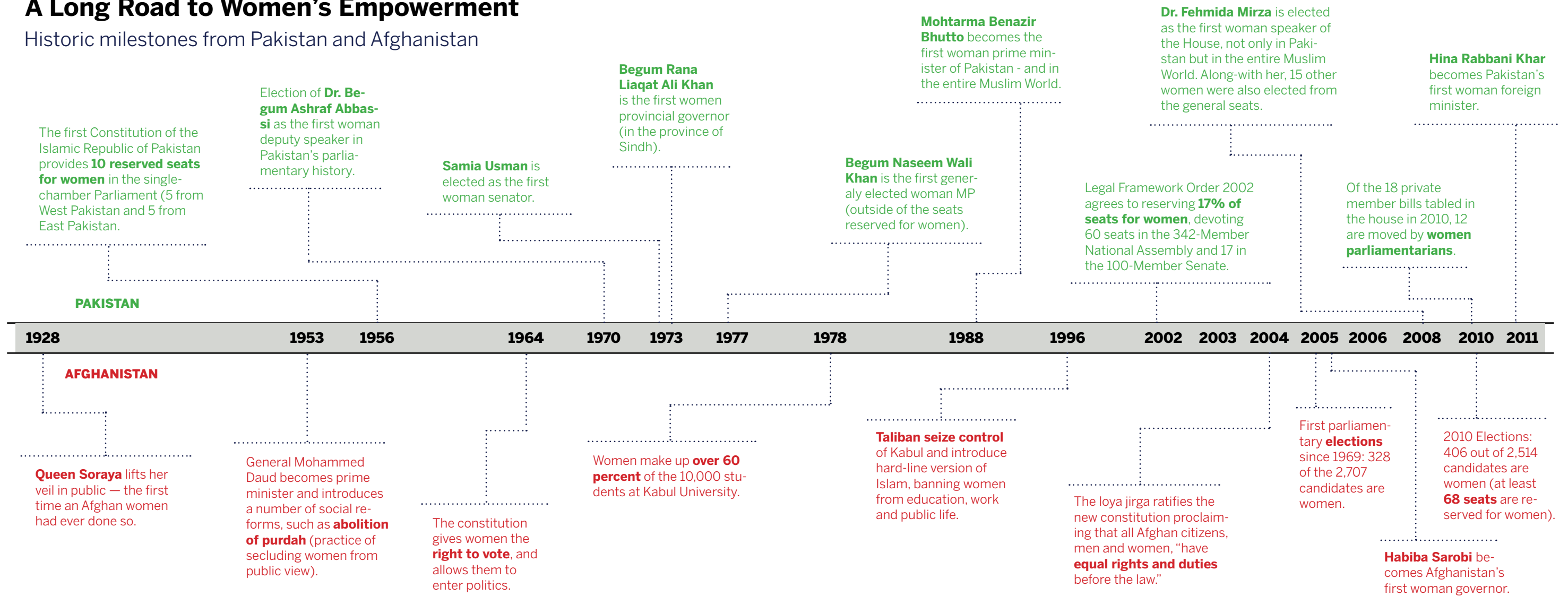
Women lawmakers from both Afghanistan and Pakistan have a joint interest in working together towards reconciliation. Participants stressed the vital need for a successful outcome, which will not be possible if women are excluded. "Reconciliation and regional stability will not be sustainable if it excludes the perspective of half of the population" one participant stated. Reconciliation must be based on a broad-based consensus in Afghanistan and supported by neighboring countries. Participants strongly advocated for the inclusion of women in all bilateral talks and relevant bodies dealing with recommendations. The Afghan High Peace Council under the Chair-

"Women must be in negotiations – we do not want to lose the achievements that we've made in these ten years."

Gulalei Nur Safi
AFGHAN MP AND
MEMBER OF THE HIGH
PEACE COUNCIL

A Long Road to Women's Empowerment

Historic milestones from Pakistan and Afghanistan



manship of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani should proactively pursue the inclusion of women in all its activities.

The Speaker of the House, Fehmida Mirza, highlighted the contributions women make in ensuring success of political outcomes when they play a stronger role. For example, 60% of the private member bills tabled in the Pakistani Parliament are undertaken by women lawmakers, who are among the most active parliamentarians, regularly putting forward legislative proposals, bills and amendments on all topics. This sentiment was reiterated in meeting with President Zardari and with Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Each pledged their support to advocate for the inclusion of women in future reconciliation efforts and more broadly in bilateral security-related dialogues.

Cooperation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

The FATA region is characterized by some of the lowest levels of economic and social development in Pakistan and some of the highest levels of militancy. Participants pointed out that stability and security in the FATA region is key to peace in both countries and committed to making the achievement of this a policy priority.

According to participants, the most important priorities for addressing the FATA issue are:

- **Sustainable development:** Afghanistan and Pakistani lawmakers must work together on harnessing the region's developmental capacity.

Success in supporting the development of the FATA region will have impact not only on Pakistan but will also allow for transferable practices to Afghanistan's border regions;

- **Invest in human capital:** Education, especially for girls, was identified as the main developmental priority for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Participants said that public education is a necessary counter to the influence of madrassas;
- **Increased accountability and transparency of funds to enhance aid effectiveness:** Participants expressed frustration about the lack of dividends from the billions of dollars of pledged investments in the region and called upon efforts for genuine, sustained development. There should be a more efficient system

of checks and balances imposed on NGOs working in the region. Participants also recommended that donors fulfill their aid commitments and invest the entire amount pledged. For example, although the U.S. committed \$750 million in assistance to the FATA region for the 2007-2011 period, by the end of FY 2009, less than \$150 million had actually been distributed.

- **Support for private investment:** Participants acknowledged the potentially positive role the private sector could play in fostering development in the FATA region. Private sector investments could provide a longer-term alternative to international aid funds.

Strengthening the Role of Afghan Women MPs in Political Processes

By reaching a common position, women can advocate for and achieve significant legislative advances towards the improvement of the social status of women in Afghan society.

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Pakistan demonstrates the exponential impact that women parliamentarians can have when they form an organized and cohesive group. Participants at the meetings agreed that women are the drivers of their own future and recognized the need for women in Afghanistan to have a focal point and a common agenda: only by working together can Afghan women lawmakers succeed in upholding the achievements of the last ten years. Participants agreed that an Afghan Women's Parliamentary Caucus should be established to:

- **Engage members from across different parliamentary committees to advocate for a commonly agreed-upon agenda and mainstream priority political issues into all debates.** Because of the current structure of the Afghan parliament, lawmakers can be part of only one committee, onto which they are voted by their peers. A Women's Parliamentary Caucus would provide an informal space to bring together women lawmakers, without the restrictions that come with being formally associated with a committee, such as the existing Women's Affairs Committee, thereby allowing for the inclusion of participants from a broader spectrum of backgrounds and affiliations;
- **Provide a focal point for coordinating actions within the Afghan Parliament.** This will contribute to a stronger involvement of women in security dialogues and enhance their

leverage in political debates, including debates on security issues. By reaching a common position, women can advocate for and achieve significant legislative advances towards the improvement of the social status of women in Afghan society. This will increase women lawmakers' power to push for legislative reforms and raise their visibility nationally and internationally;

- **Give greater visibility and recognition to women lawmakers in the international community.** The caucus can help women lawmakers establish formal contact with and gain support from legislators worldwide. The caucus will be well-placed to receive official delegations that can publicly express their support for the inclusion and active participation of women lawmakers in decision-making processes. The Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention could help facilitate communication between the caucus and lawmakers worldwide, and help the initiative to garner necessary international exposure and support.

Challenges

Past attempts to establish networks or groups of women lawmakers in Afghanistan have faced the following challenges, which need to be addressed in order for the Afghan's Women's Parliamentary Caucus to become a reality:

- Internal divisions among Afghan women MPs, along ethnic and tribal



Meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari

President Zardari met the Afghan and Pakistani participants and expressed his firm commitment to supporting women's full participation in all regional peace and security processes. He spoke proudly of the political strides far beyond gender-specific issues made by Pakistani women, not least his late wife Benazir Bhutto. Bhutto, assassinated in 2007, was the first female prime minister of the Pakistan - and in the entire Muslim world.

Zardari declared, "The world would be a better place if more women were in positions of power and women of the region were brought closer together. Bringing together of women of the region will make this region more tolerant, more peaceful and more secure."

Delegates discussed a range of topics with President Zardari, including bilateral trade, education for Afghan women and girls and, most pressingly, the need to jointly address common challenges for Afghans and Pakistanis. Stronger ties between women parliamentarians were seen as a necessary way to improve bilateral relations.

lines in particular, contribute to tense relations. Several lawmakers have tried to revive the previously established Women's Parliamentary Caucus, but efforts to this end have not been successful because of these internal divisions. This situation is further complicated by the power struggle between leading women political figures who have the charisma and leadership appeal to garner support, thereby hindering the formation of coalitions within the parliament;

- The long history of armed conflict has deeply eroded confidence among and between Afghan communities. Lack of confidence and trust is currently part of the day-to-day relations in the Afghan Parliament, and this equally hinders attempts at coalition building;

- The lack of official and logistical support from the highest political level in the parliament – in particular, from the Speaker of the House – contributes to this stalemate. Without the official endorsement of or support from the Speaker of the House, and the designation of a meeting space within the parliament, it will be difficult for a caucus to be established and run efficiently.

In spite of significant challenges and divergence of views regarding the "how" and "when" a caucus should be established, participants clearly agreed that women lawmakers in Afghanistan need to establish such a body. Given concern over the outcome of negotiations with the Taliban, this is a vital moment for women lawmakers to once again try to launch an initiative that can leverage their collective influence and power.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Create a focal group of Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers committed to regional peace and security, and to engaging in a regular inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Afghan and Pakistani women parliamentarians should address common challenges and build their leverage in national and regional political processes, which is why participants committed to:

1. Creating a focal group of Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers committed to regional peace and security, and to engaging in a regular inter-parliamentary dialogue, which includes lawmakers from different political parties, perspectives, languages and ethnic groups. A steering committee for the group consisting of three women parliamentarians from each country will also be created.
2. This focal group shall meet biannually to develop and address a jointly agreed-upon agenda of priority issues, especially relating to peace and security, and the protection and promotion of women's rights (particularly women's inclusion in peace negotiations and security dialogues).
3. The focal group will determine priority issues of joint-advocacy within their respective National Assemblies. Preliminary advocacy points identified during the Islamabad meetings were:
 - a. **Education:** At least one-third of the scholarships given to Afghan students to study in Pakistan should be reserved for women.
 - b. **Representation:** A quota system should be developed to ensure that women are represented in all branches of government, including the judiciary and executive.

- c. **Increase people-to-people contact:** Visa relaxation programs, educational exchanges and sports programs (among other proposals) would help foster positive relationships, give a "human face" to political discussions, and contribute to improving personal relations between Afghans and Pakistanis.
4. Participants agreed that there needs to be a collective body for Afghan women parliamentarians, like a women's parliamentary group or caucus. To this end, participants agreed to:
 - a. **Organize** broad consultations with women lawmakers from all ethnic and political divides, and rally support for this process from leading women lawmakers;
 - b. **Identify** representatives and like-minded people who are ready to help drive the process forward, and create an inclusive steering committee. The committee should have a broad-based representation, including members from a range of ethnic divisions and political affiliations;
 - c. **Define** the internal work dynamics, mechanisms and procedures for decision making; and
 - d. **Set** an agenda that includes agreed-upon issues for collective work. Topics of common concern which readily invite agreement, such as women's health or education, should be prioritized.

Islamabad Action Plan

On June 3 and 4, 2011, the first Afghan Women Parliamentarians delegation visited Pakistan for a series of meetings with representatives of Pakistan's National Assembly and government. The delegation contributed to building confidence and trust between the two countries and advanced the role of women lawmakers in peace and security in the region. The delegation was hosted by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly of Pakistan and facilitated by the EastWest Institute.

As an outcome of the two days discussions, the participating lawmakers adopted the following action plan:

Recognizing the importance of women lawmakers in strengthening relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and of agreeing on a common strategic vision for sustainable peace in the region;

Noting that this will require significant and ongoing efforts from both countries and cannot be done without the active engagement of women parliamentarians;

Stressing that the shared legacy of culture, history, language and religion provides the foundation for a common understanding to address the challenges;

Recalling the importance of an inclusive approach to ensure long and durable results, and the vital contribution that women parliamentarians make to the democratic process;

Re-emphasizing that conflict impacts women differently than men and that women play a unique role in conflict resolution, peacemaking and peacebuilding;

Stressing the importance of building a strong regional network of women parliamentarians from Afghanistan and Pakistan to contribute to sustainable peace and stability in the region;

Welcoming the first Afghan women parliamentarians delegation to Pakistan as a stepping stone in building relations and cooperation between the two countries;

Commending the Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus for their efforts and leadership on increasing the visibility and contribution of women in Parliament;

Appreciating the EastWest Institute for the first-ever initiative that brings together women parliamentarians from Afghanistan and Pakistan to engage in advocacy for peace and security in the region;

Acknowledging that more efforts have to be made and that the establishment of an ongoing dialogue is necessary.

Commits to:

- The Afghan delegation will activate the process of reviving an inclusive Women Parliamentary Caucus, and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Pakistan will extend its full support;
- Actively promote a sustained dialogue between women parliamentarians between both countries, including a return visit to Kabul by a select group of Pakistani women parliamentarians in the autumn of 2011;
- Develop an effective and sustainable bilateral focal group of women parliamentarians, which is responsive to the core issues in relationships between Pakistan and Afghanistan, especially relating to peace and security. A steering committee will be established, consisting of three women parliamentarians each from the two countries;
- Develop a jointly agreed agenda of priority issues, especially the protection and promotion of women's rights, that should be advocated for by both women lawmakers in their respective National Assemblies;
- Act as an advocacy group in both countries for the inclusion of women in all peace negotiations and security dialogues;
- Strengthen the capacity of Afghan and Pakistani women lawmakers through regular policy briefings and advocacy opportunities with regional and international lawmakers.

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