

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN
(Public Relations Wing)

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, the 8th March, 2017: - A high level meeting was held in the Election Commission of Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad under the chairmanship of Secretary, Election Commission, Mr. Babar Yaqoob Fateh Muhammad. The meeting was attended by all senior officers of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Foundations for Electoral System (IFES) and Free And Fair Elections Network (FAFEN) representatives. Deliberation was made on one point agenda as to how to increase women participation in the electoral process and thus, bridging the gap in male, female voters on the electoral rolls.

The outreach to different national institutions i.e educational institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Political Parties and Local Government Organizations, were also discussed. The recent interaction with students and faculty members of National University of Modern Languages (NUML) was highly appreciated and invitation to the students of Quid-e-Azam University (QAU), International Islamic University (IIUI) and National University of Science and Technology (NUST) of Islamabad Capital Territory was endorsed in the meeting. The meeting however, expressed its concerns over the silence of major political parties who were addressed through a letter by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner in January, seeking their cooperation in this regard.

Various proposals were being taken into consideration such as, to form campaign committees on the pattern of polio campaign for the purpose of enhancing women registration as voters.

It was decided to devise a practical strategy to address the issue of low women registration as voters. It has also been decided to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to bring maximum number of women on the Electoral Rolls before the next General Elections-2018. The strategy will revolve around state institutions with active participation from the Civil Society and Political Parties.
