

## 26th March, 2015- “Women Development and Power” —Ms. Khawar Mumtaz

### Key Messages:

- Ms Khawar highlighted the issues of women development and empowerment from a historical perspective using various policies to support her argument. She discussed three types of policies as far women development is concerned:
  1. Prescriptive Policies,
  2. Policies based on process, &
  3. Policies based on research and information.
- The speaker stated that policies directions come from advocacy hence one needs to dig and raise the issues persistently to sensitize the policy makers to develop a policy regarding the issues that need to be addressed. According to Ms. Khawar, in case of Pakistan most of the policies are weak and without any planning. She said that it was 6<sup>th</sup> 5 year plan, framed in sixties where chapter on women and women and development was included for the first time.
- According to the speaker the first time women’s right committee was formed in 1970s under the chairpersonship of Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, the then Attorney General. It was a cross sector group that looked into women issues and prescribed what was needed to be done for political participation. The next report on women issues came in 1983 from a committee headed by Begum Zari Sarfaraz.
- Due to advocacy by various women action forums/groups numerous legislation have been enacted and policies have been framed that seek to address the lot of the women and gender discrimination.
- The first full policy regarding women was developed 2002 through process and females participated in legislating and executing policies like women policy, and national conservation strategy. Women not only closely worked and were involved regarding environment issues in Pakistan but were active in executing a case for environment protection.
- According to Ms. Khawar implementation and execution is a role of the government which is based on resources and priorities. Hence, the government should revise labor policies. The Population policy together with health policy also needs to be revised and updated. She argued for a research based inputs which would ultimately make a strong policy.