

## **Documents send to both the presidential candidates for their response on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

Women constitute over 52% of the population. They occupy one third of the labor force. Despite these achievements women are still under represented at decision making levels in governance and employment and subjected to economic exploitation.

Eg. Parliament 5.8%, provincial councils 5% and local government bodies 1.9%, Women in public service senior level 12.8%, policy makers 10.3%

The four areas which need priority attention are:

1. Women and poverty alleviation
2. Women in decision making
3. Gender mainstreaming
4. Women in post armed conflict

### **Recommendations:**

#### **Women and poverty alleviation**

- Amend gender discriminatory laws that prevent women's equal access to land, credit, skills and extension services.
- Introduce laws to insure gender sensitive wage policy for women working in the informal sector including domestic workers.

#### **Women in decision making**

- Introduce policy reforms to promote equal opportunities by appointing women to higher decision making levels both in public and private sectors and ensuring its implementation.
- Introduce a quota for women at all levels of governance, national, provincial and local, as recommended by women groups to the Parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms

#### **Women in post armed conflict**

Women have suffered equally or more from war

- Introduce training programs to create awareness among relevant officials regarding the need for gender equality and its gain for national programs
- Introduce training programs for women on leadership and their rights.
- Provide institutional support for women and children affected by domestic and gender based violence and traumatized by war
- Formulate policies to give economic support for women's entrepreneurship
- Design policies for provision of inputs to promote home based industries, with a special emphasis on entrepreneurship training and marketing.
- Provide legal literacy training and legal aid for women.
- Ensure a 50% women in decision making in implementation of reconstruction and reconciliation of war affected areas.