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**PAKISTANI POLITICAL PARTIES DEVELOP RULES TO STRENGTHEN
DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES**

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) launched this week a series of workshops on developing rules and regulations (bylaws) for Women and Youth Wings to strengthen democratic practices within political parties.

The first workshop was held in Islamabad with approximately 40 youth and women from the Awami National Party. Similar workshops will be conducted this month with youth and women from the Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League-N, Pakistan Muslim League-Q and Muttahida Quami Movement.

Canadian political expert Gerry Scott in his presentation explained that it is essential for political parties to develop transparent rules and regulations as an effective mechanism to conduct party affairs, increase accountability and create opportunities for the participation of each and every member in the party. “Transparent and accountable mechanisms are a must for ensuring internal democracy in the parties” he said.

NDI Country Director Sheila Fruman added that political parties in Pakistan are at a certain point in their evolution. Like the rest of the country, she said, parties are in a transition to democracy after years of dictatorship and now there is an opportunity to strengthen democratic practices. Rules and regulations, she noted, ensure that everyone understands who is responsible and who is accountable for the work of the party. They also contribute to the flow of information within the party, which helps improve opportunities for members to play an active role at all levels.

Speaking at the first workshop, ANP Additional Secretary General Hashim Babar said that his party encourages stronger participation of women and youth at all levels. He welcomed the opportunity for them to learn more about the need for rules and regulations and how they can help modernize the party as an alternative to tribalism.

Workshop participants will hear presentations from Scott and work in groups for two days to draft rules and regulations for their youth and women’s wings that build a transparent framework for day to day activities that support the party Constitution.

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