



POLITICAL PARTIES JOINT COMMITTEE ON FATA REFORMS

Standing United for a Brighter, Prosperous FATA

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Nine Political Parties Join to Move FATA Reforms Forward

Political Parties Joint Committee on FATA Reforms Calls on President Asif Ali Zardari to Implement Announced Reforms

Islamabad – Nine mainstream political parties adopted a resolution on FATA reforms as the first formal initiative of the *Political Parties Joint Committee on FATA Reforms* in Islamabad on 24 February 2011, demonstrating a strong consensus on the need to move forward with reforms in FATA. The committee is comprised of representatives from ANP, JI, MQM, NP, PkMAP, PML-N, PML-Q, PPP and PPP-S.

The parties called upon President Asif Ali Zardari to implement the reforms announced on 14 August 2009 as a first step. In particular, they highlighted the importance of extending the Political Parties Order of 2002 to FATA. In addition, they urged the President to initiate a consultation process with the people of FATA and the political parties to develop and implement an economic development package for the Tribal Areas to reduce the development gap between FATA and the rest of the country.

The political parties represented on the committee agree that political, economic, social and administrative reforms in FATA are necessary to obtain and sustain peace and development in the area. In addition, all the parties have complete agreement that the values and traditions of the citizens of FATA should be duly respected and taken into consideration in the implementation of reforms.

The parties joined to form the *Political Parties Joint Committee on FATA Reforms* to demonstrate their shared commitment to promote debate on FATA reforms throughout Pakistan and to call for the implementation of reforms in the tribal areas. In the future, the committee plans to engage in discussions with stakeholders from FATA, as a way to build consensus and to call for the implementation of reforms.

The National Democratic Institute of International Affairs (NDI), which has been supporting democratic development in Pakistan for over 20 years, facilitated the meetings at which the political parties decided to form the *Political Parties Joint Committee on FATA Reforms*. This program, supported by the British High Commission in Islamabad, builds upon past activities related to FATA reforms. In 2008 NDI, in collaboration with the Shaheed Bhutto Foundation (SBF) engaged tribal leaders, political parties and civil society during a series of regional workshops in FATA. More than 300 tribal representatives participated in the workshops and identified their reform priorities that they presented to President Zardari in January 2009. Later that year, NDI and SBF hosted a series of roundtable events with political parties where they clearly defined their party positions on FATA reforms.



For information contact:
Suleman Kakar
Mobile: 0333 7918982