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Women MPs demand mandatory quota of 10pc of general seats

ISLAMABAD: Women parliamentarians from provincial assemblies of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab and representatives of civil society organisations on Saturday demanded mandatory quota of 10 per cent of general seats in the National Assembly (NA), Senate and the provincial assemblies (PAs).

Addressing a joint press conference here, they re-affirmed their commitment to protect and preserve the provision of reserved seats in the Constitution for women in the NA, Senate and PAs.

The women parliamentarians also asked the political parties to develop

consensus on amending the Political Parties Act so as to provide mandatory quota of 10 per cent of general seats to women for their mainstream participation in the electoral process before the next elections, in addition to the already available reserved seats for them.

"We believe that the provision of the reserved seats is the constitutional right of women under Articles 25, 34, 51 and 106," they said.

Article 25 (3) states: "Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the protection of women and children."

The press conference was attend-

ed by Shehla Raza, Deputy Speaker, Provincial Assembly, Sindh, Dr Ruqiya Hashmi, Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination, Balochistan, Ghazala Gola, Minister for Women's Development, Balochistan, Heer Soho, MPA (MQM), Sindh, Nusrat Saher Abbasi, MPA (PML-F), Sindh, Humaira Alwani, MPA (PPPP), Sindh, Shameela Aslam, MPA (PML-N), Punjab, Ms Faiza Malik, MPA (PPP), Punjab, Amna Butter, MPA (PPP), Deeba Mirza, MPA (PML-N), Punjab, Shazia Tehmas, MPA (PPP), KP, Nargis Samin, MPA (PPP-Sherpao), KP, Noor-us-Sehar (PPP), KP. - APP