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ISLAMABAD: Chairperson NCHD, Nafisa Shah, speaking at a programme organised by USAID at a local hotel.—Agencies

Govt 'initiates' programmes on women's empowerment

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD - Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus Dr. Nafisa Shah has said that government has initiated various programmes for the empowerment of women in the country. She was addressing the 100 years celebrations of International Women's Day and launch of National Advisory Forum on Gender Equity Programme here on Saturday. It was jointly organised by Aurat Foundation and USAID.

Dr. Nafisa Shah said women play an important role in the Society for the development of the country side by side with the men. She said government is committed to

work for women's empowerment and ensuring their participation in governance for creating a socially just, democratic and humane society in Pakistan. Paying rich tributes to Pakistani women, she said they started the movement for their rights during the dictatorship of General Zia-ul-Haq.

Dr. Nafisa Shah said during the PPP government, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto gave empowerment to the women and provided them employment opportunities in every sector and opened Women Bank and Women Police Stations aimed at resolving their problems. She said the present government is also making the women more powerful economically through Benazir Income Support programme enabling them

to feed their families. She said we are trying to give the land ownership to the women through legislation.

Wife of US Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Marilyn Wyatt addressing the forum said that United States has made a long term commitment to improve the lives of women in Pakistan. She said all US development strategies reflect the importance of women's core role in raising families, providing health care, running businesses, education and feeding children. Ministers of Women Development of all the provinces and Adviser to Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan highlighted the importance of women's empowerment for a prosperous Pakistan and women's achievements.