



National Conference Outcomes

- 1) Pakistan has been experimenting with different local government models for the last sixty years which is unfortunately still going on.
- 2) We have not learned from our past experiences and mistakes and are still trying to introduce different models. A good example is the different LG system being proposed for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces by the PTI government which rules in both provinces.
- 3) There are two key issues with changing the LG system frequently: First it causes confusion among the elected representatives, bureaucracy and more importantly the beneficiaries – general public. Secondly the elected representatives require extensive training and capacity building every time they are elected which is a major drain on resources.
- 4) To overcome these issues, majority of the mainstream political parties and other stakeholders feel that a basic structure and functions of the LG should be defined in the constitution as a separate chapter similar to the federal and provincial governments. This should be done without compromising the autonomy of provincial governments.
- 5) The Supreme Court of Pakistan in its current judgement has also supported this view by declaring LG as the Third Tier of the State and suggested to include a separate chapter about LG in the constitution.
- 6) The Local Councils Associations has been meeting different mainstream political parties to introduce a bill in the parliament to this effect. This will ensure similarity and continuity to the LG system and considerable improve service delivery at the grassroots level.
- 7) The commitment of Pakistan Government to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 also demands that LG system is



established and empowered because more than 60% of the goals fall within the domain of the local government.