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PRESS RELEASE

Jeddah- May 23, 2011:- **Pakistan Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that Women of Muslims Countries should joined hands to explore venues for Women empowerment and welfare. She said this while addressing Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) (Women Chapter) here today.**

The Minister said that it was encouraging to see that women Saudi Arabia are engaged in economic activities and decision making, while observing the Islamic tenets and values. Emphasizing the role of civil society for women empowerment, the Minister said that NGOs and Civil Society play key role in creating awareness and solving socio-economic problems. She said that private public partnership a must for expediting social welfare and developmental activities. She also emphasizes the importance of pro-women legislation for promotion of women cause and women empowerment. The Minister underlined the need for joined efforts for women empowerment in the Muslims Countries from the platform of the OIC countries. She also stressed the need for more interaction and exchange of delegations between the Women Chambers of Commerce of the two countries. The Minister said that holding of trade exhibitions and joined women commission will promote socio-economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Earlier Mrs. Fatin Bundugji, member of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI-Women) briefed the Minister and her delegation about the efforts of the JCCI (Women) Members for creating awareness and Women empowerment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She said that women in the Kingdom were confronting challenges which we are trying to over come. She said that Saudi women were playing active role in all walks of life, yet they had to go a long way to achieve the objectives. She expressed her optimism about their success.

The Pakistan Minister for Information and Broadcasting invited Mrs. Fatin, members of the (JCCI-Women) and the Vice President of the JCCI to visit Pakistan.

**(Muhammad Tariq)
Press Counsellor**