

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Industries and Production
(WTO Unit)

Subject: - **Minutes of the Seminar on “Tools to Understand NAMA”**

The WTO Unit (Policy & Planning Wing) of the Ministry of Industries and Production organized a Seminar on “Tools to Understand NAMA” in the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) at 11.00 AM on 28-10-2010. The Seminar was hosted by the ICCI. The WTO Unit of the MOI&P coordinated the interactive proceedings. The objective was to share information on the current issues in the WTO, spread awareness about Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) and to provide an overview of the Ministry’s efforts for industrial development. The Seminar generated active interaction between the participants.

2. Mrs. Shaista Sohail, Joint Secretary (P&P) started off with a presentation on issues in the WTO followed by the current state of play in NAMA. She also informed the participants of the efforts underway by the Ministry for development of various industrial sectors.

3. The JS stated that Pakistan faced supply side constraints like cost of doing business and poor infrastructure. The draft Industrial Policy looked at the constraints and gave holistic recommendations and measures that could effectively address the problems. She urged the participants to be pro-active towards government policies and give their inputs for timely consideration by the government agencies involved. She told the participants that the draft industrial policy was placed on the website of the Ministry for inputs from stakeholders.

3. She stressed the need for the industry to develop, produce quality goods, improve their competitiveness and enhance productivity by cutting down on wastages and utilizing the existing resources efficiently. She emphasized that without export competitiveness, Pakistan will not be able to take advantage of the benefits of the WTO regime that focuses on reduction of tariff barriers and enhanced market access for trade. Where the government should provide policy measures, the private sector should also show willingness to develop and face the challenges.

5. The JS discussed at length the significance of commitments in the WTO which provided transparency, certainty and easy access to information about trade practices of other countries. She touched upon all the areas of NAMA, including trade remedy laws like subsidies and countervailing duties, safeguard measures and ant-dumping laws.

6. The participants put forth questions and comments regarding improvement of government coordination and processes in devising Action Plans and their respective implementation. They also expressed concern over misrepresentation of import/export and other data by some government Agencies and stressed a need for integration within Ministries.

7. Ms. Seema Bokhari, NAMA Specialist, also made a presentation on "Tools to Understand NAMA" with focus on HS Codes. The presentation was made with the objective to introduce the participants to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The system was managed by the World Customs Organization and used by Customs Agencies of a large number of countries world over including Pakistan. She discussed the structure and layout followed by an analysis of the intricacies of the HS in the perspective of the multilateral trading system. The participants expressed their interest in the subject and raised questions regarding the existing duty structure and the system of classification.

8. Mr. Tauseef Zaman, the Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry wrapped up the proceedings with his concluding remarks and thanked the speakers for their informative presentations and the participants for their enthusiastic participation.
