

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Industries and Production
Policy and Planning Wing
(WTO Unit)

Subject: - **Minutes of the Seminar on "NAMA Negotiations and Industrial Sector Analysis"**

The WTO Cell of the Ministry of Industries and Production organized a Seminar on "NAMA Negotiations and Industrial Sector Analysis" in the conference room of WTO Unit Office at 11.00 AM on 30-12-2010.

The objective of the seminar was to share information on the current issues in the NAMA negotiations, its importance for Pakistan, flexibility options and impact analysis of flexibility options on industrial sectors of Pakistan. Representatives from different government organization/departments such as Ministry of Commerce, FBR, IPO and Islamabad & Rawalpindi Chambers of Commerce and Industry participated in the Seminar. The Seminar generated active interaction between the participants.

2. Ms. Seema Raza Bokhari, Chief WTO Unit made a detailed presentation on the subject matter. She was of the view that the major objective of the seminar is to create awareness among the stakeholders and sensitize them to issues confronting the industry in the context of ongoing NAMA negotiations. She briefed the participants about the aims of the NAMA negotiations, product coverage under NAMA, Swiss Formula along with its characteristics, flexibility options with different coefficients. She stressed upon the NAMA importance for Pakistan in terms of enhanced market access, export diversification, new markets and emerging industrial sectors. During deliberations, the comparison of effective tariffs and bound rates, average reduction after applying coefficients 20&22 and range of reduction corresponding to lowest and the highest bound rates were discussed in detail.

3. Chief WTO unit briefed the participants about the industrial sectors which have potential for export growth in the future. Different options and strategies were discussed to enhance productivity and improve efficiency to enter into new markets with diversified products. There is a need to identify potential industrial sectors with select products and explore new markets for exports.

4. Director IPO was of the view that lack of confidence between public and private stakeholders is the major cause in formulating concrete proposals for discussion in the negotiations. Concrete measures should be taken to minimize

confidence gap between all stakeholders. Representative of the M/o Commerce added that consultation with the private sector, Chambers of Industry and other stakeholders is much needed to make workable proposals.

5. Representatives of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) requested to arrange such seminars in the RCCI to sensitize the matter and to aware the private sector about the NAMA negotiations so that they can prepare themselves to become a part of global supply chain. Representative of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry stressed upon the industry-academia linkages to achieve the goals. He added that there should be integration of WTO-NAMA related work among different ministries and the departments to avoid duplication of work.

6. The participants put forth questions and queries regarding the NAMA Agreement, the modalities including coefficients, flexibility options and its implications for Pakistan. The participants of the seminar thanked the speaker for her informative presentation and requested to continue this exercise for better understanding of the issues and enhanced communication to all stakeholders.