

Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan
Minister for Commerce
Intervention at Ministerial Meeting
Trade In Services Agreement (TiSA)
June 4, 2015

Pakistan's presence here today indicates our intention to engage substantively with all our TiSA partners towards a successful outcome

Pakistan wishes to see the TiSA process move apace with due deference to the principles of transparency and inclusiveness. We wish to reiterate our position on remaining open to welcome any WTO members.

Excellencies, one of the main challenges for the TiSA Parties is making the right mix of political choices regarding the scope of several annexes. All parties must show willingness to agree to achieve a high level of ambition. We must have a balanced approach in treating, at par, all the modes of services supply.

A lot of negotiating capital has gone into shaping the annexes – but now more focused work ought to be undertaken in these politically sensitive areas that have so far lagged behind. It is imperative that Parties promptly address this unfinished work - in order to have a balanced and coherent approach in TiSA. Introducing new Annexes at this point will not be very useful and may serve to further delay the work.

Pakistan sees maximum opportunities in Mode 4 and Professional Services. It would be a missed opportunity to dovetail mode 4 with Immigration and other Border-related issues that impede the supplying of services.

Similarly, cumbersome licensing requirements for the supply of Professional Services must also be suitably dealt – facilitating trade in services within these rather than creating

barriers. Coupled with the liberalization of Capital flows, factor mobility has the potential to tap the trade potential that complementarities usher in.

We have instructed our negotiators to speed up the remaining work, focusing on market access as well as key issues in the core text by addressing crucial elements such as clauses on national treatment, most-favored-nation and most importantly, dispute settlement. Any successful market access negotiations are tied to ensuring that the final text is solid and unambiguous on these core disciplines.

A lot of hard work is underway in Pakistan to finalise our initial offer. We recently held our largest national TiSA stakeholder consultations to-date. I am delighted to report that Pakistan will make its initial offer sooner rather than later.

We are looking forward to the July stock-taking. It will be critical to provide a practical insight on the state of play, prioritizing our future work, cultivating a sense of balance and proportionality among offers, dealing with the rightsizing of the annexes and to bring TiSA to its logical, successful, and mutually beneficial conclusion.

Thank you
