

Pakistan's objectives

Pakistan is now well aware of the benefits of liberalization of the services sectors in terms of new entrants local as well as foreign and most of all the important gains likely to stem from increased competition and efficiency of production as Pakistan has experienced in its telecommunications and financial services sector. Secondly, the Government of Pakistan is following a conscious policy of liberalizing its trade and investment regimes to promote growth through increasing value added exports as have other developing countries.

No negative effects have been experienced as a result of autonomous liberalization in services sectors. In this scenario it is felt that by locking in our commitments in services sectors, the Government will be reinforcing its policy in both 'goods' and 'services' sectors and giving the green signal to International investors of its predictable, transparent and stable business environment.

Mode 4 liberalization has not progressed in a way that allows developing countries like Pakistan to use their comparative advantage in low and medium skill labour intensive services since strict and discretionary visa and licensing requirements, lack of recognition of qualifications, burdensome procedures and economic need tests act as barriers.

Pakistan has tabled a number of papers with a group of developing countries and a paper entitled Mode 4 related issues, TN/S/W/57 dated 6th December 2005 (is the latest. This paper offers practical suggestions on how developed countries can make substantial Mode 4 commitments without worrying about security related issues or the apprehension that these short term workers may turn into illegal immigrants.

Pakistan's offensive interests lie in getting predictable market access for our Mode 4 temporary service providers globally. Our interests also lie in Mode 1 in the area of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). However, we are seeking full commitments in all Modes i.e. 1, 2, 3 and Mode 4 from members to remove all barriers to market entry.