



## KARACHI PORT TRUST

No.S-20/1617

Dated

22 JUN 2018

From:

**Shafique Ahmed Faridi**  
Secretary

The Secretary General  
Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber  
Of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI)  
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**SUB:- COMPREHENSIVE DRAFT ON PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN BILATERAL AND TRANSIT TRADE ISSUES & PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS.**

Ref:- Secretary General Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Karachi's letter No. PAJCCI-PK/SEC/1383 dated 30-05-2018.

With reference to above, I am directed to state that the contents of attached Draft on Pak-Afghan Bilateral and Transit Trade Issues & Proposed Resolutions have been examined and apparently found in order. Though mostly the draft pertained to Customs policies however, KPT views / comments on the item below are as under:

### **Shipping Companies Security Deposits and Detention Charges**

The Shipping Companies / Agents & Freight Forwarders are private entities and running their business independently without involvement of KPT in their working. The recovery of charges by shipping Lines / Shipping companies and Private Terminals etc under various heads is an old issue. The Ministry of Commerce at the request of Ministry of Maritime Affairs has convened several meetings with all stakeholders to harmonize the port related charges however, results / improvement is awaited. Ministry of Commerce is also establishing a **Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO)** however, concrete and specific Law / mechanism is required to resolve different trade issues pertaining to various organizations.

2. The Karachi Port and its management with established procedures is the pioneer port in handling the Afghan in-transit cargo from very beginning. The management of the port always shown interest in attracting / handling the Afghan In-transit cargo and in this regard number of measures, were adopted and additional benefits been given to the Afghan In-transit cargo however, to attract Afghan Transit Trade through Pakistan following is important to be highlighted:

a. At KPT the Afghan In-Transit cargo handling is facilitated however, timely clearance is generally the main challenge for Afghan importers. In this regard from very beginning the Afghan importers / Exporters are demanding for lifting of cargo from Pakistani Ports through their own transport.

b. The Afghan In-transit trade can be attracted through an arrangement by FBR i.e. the facility of a bonded area outside the Port for In-Transit Containers so that the storage charges be kept at lower side and the storage services rates be economical to them without any congestion at private Container Terminals.

c. A contact group of Ministry of Commerce, FBR and Pakistan Railways may be considered for dedicated Railways facility to Afghan In-Transit containers.

d. The Afghanistan trade through Pakistani ports, especially from KPT have edge being age old established practices / relations with Afghan Importers / Exporters, therefore, we may revitalized build up the same by meetings, conferences, seminars of small contact groups etc.

  
SECRETARY