



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

### Karachi

September 17, 2021

The meeting was chaired by President PAJCCI. Attendance sheet is attached herewith:

- The meeting started with recitation from Holy Quran.
- Secretary General PAJCCI presented Activity report including membership, financial and operational aspects.
- Zubair Motiwala retiring President deliberated on the progress and achievement report of PAJCCI. He also highlighted how issues affected the conduct due to delay in license renewal whereas shared NoCs shared by MoC Afghanistan and Pakistan on PAJCCI's outstanding performance due to which it has been granted license as the only joint chamber fulfilling this new criteria. He also referred to case of election abeyance in last tenure and established that after several hearings the guidance from DGTO has been received, which is applied herewith. This time election schedule is conducted in light of this new criteria whereby all seats are contested for. Next year criteria will be guided by DGTO after AGM is conducted and reported.
- PAJCCI's audited statement of accounts were taken up and ratified. The same was disseminated to all stakeholders and has been uploaded online.
- Junaid Makda, Returning Officer, highlighted the issue of contested seats and how on missing the important details led to disqualification. He showed the forms also to the all present to ensure credibility. Announcement of office bearers were also done (list attached)
- New President, Jawaid Bilwani, welcomed the new team and elaborated 3 year plan developed by the Secretariat for operational preview.
- PAJCCI also discussed and decided names of members to be nominated for upcoming FPCCI elections
- The auditor for the upcoming year was retained as Reanda Haroon Zakaria & Company (Chartered Accountants)
- The membership fees which was not changed since inception was taken up and agreed to be raised to 15000 from 10000 and 7500 from 5000. Additionally women discount made applicable for sole proprietor or entrepreneur category only.

Subsequently, the agenda items for stakeholders meeting with respect to economic issues were deliberated fully and the following resolutions were identified:



**PAK-AFGHAN TRADE SHOULD BE FACILITATED IN PKR**

<p><b>Current Scenario</b></p>	<p>The exports of Pakistan to Afghanistan had reached to US\$ 2.7 billions in 2010-2011 but it has seen drastically declining since and the figure reduced about 50% till to date.</p> <p>Since, the new regime has taken over the administration, Afghanistan is facing an acute shortage of US dollars preceded the halt in their banking systems. The Afghan businessmen are willing to use PKR for trade as a temporary this time being.</p> <p>The Chairman PAJCCI, embarked upon the current situation and strongly recommended that the trade with Afghanistan should be allowed in PKR instead of US\$, it will not only strengthen PKR value but would also help reduce our current trade deficit.</p> <p>The recommendation to trade in PKR has already been endorsed by our Honorable Finance Minister but the State Bank of Pakistan has not issued the notification yet to trade in PKR which is causing the bilateral trade to suffer.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p>Seeing opportunities to enhance our trades with Afghanistan, it is strongly recommended that the government of Pakistan should exert State Bank of Pakistan to issue notification to facilitate trade in PKR for temporary period.</p> <p>With relatively more friendly government in Afghanistan, the trade can easily be enhanced to US\$10 billion in long run and US\$5 billion within the next couple of years. If SBP allows to trade in PKR for this time being, the trade quantum can move upto US\$ 2 billions in couple of months.</p>

**2. Custom Procedural Hindrance in AFGHANISTAN**

<p><b>Current Scenario</b></p>	<p>In the past few months, the closure of borders on Pakistan and Afghanistan sides resulted a massive congestion in transit trades.</p> <p>The GOP was compelled to close its borders with Afghanistan when Taliban captured the Afghan border towns, that left the trade insecure.</p> <p>When GOP allowed Torkham and Chaman borders to reinstate their operations, the cargo is moving gradually. One major hurdle, nevertheless, still relates to Afghan side: the border is not operational 24/7.</p>
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	<p>Currently around 350 containers are in transit, and the delay caused by the procedural hinderance has risen the shortage of containers. The lack of officials at Afghan border to receive and clear containers is resulting delay in deliveries The lack of human resource in customs creates hindrance,a job of 8 hrs is taking 44 hrs to be processed.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p>An immediate meeting sought to be convened between the government of Pakistan and Afghanistan to discuss the effective border management and expedited clearance. If both governments are paving ways to enhance their trades, these issues need to be resolved ASAP.</p> <p>The multiplication of resources specially human resources at Customs would also reduce the processing time.</p> <p>The participants from Quetta Chamber highlighted that the government of Pakistan and Afghanistan should exempt or subsidarise custom duties on the transit trades in this time of opportunity.</p>

### 3. THE LAND OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS – AFGHANISTAN

#### AFGHAN INVESTORS DESIRE TO INVEST IN PAKISTAN

<p><b>Current Scenario</b></p>	<p>Afghanistan is a land of potential investors. The Afghan businessmen desire to invest in Pakistan which can be an adequate additon in our economy. But, the policies and structures with Afghanistan do not encourage the initiative.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p>The Chairman PAJCCI, conveying message of Afghanistan side, “Afghanistan is willing to work with Pakistan”.</p> <p>It has been observed that proficient structures and policies for foreign investments for countries like UAE and Turkey contributed effectively in the economy.</p> <p>An immediate initiative should be taken by the government of Pakistan and Afghanistan to formulate policies and structures with mutual consents and</p>



	benefits to help grow economies.
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#### 4. ACCESS TO CIS COUNTRIES – A SECURE LAND ROUTE

<b>Current Scenario</b>	After, the new regime of Taliban in Afghanistan, the land transits through Afghanistan to CIS countries is not being considered as secure and reliable.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>Director PAJCCI, the finalization of APTTA agreement and the facilitation in accessing CIS countries is of critical importance. The secure and reliable land transit through Afghanistan is essential for Pakistan's business growth.</p> <p>The Government of Pakistan should define a framework for safeguarding business interests across regions.</p> <p>The participant from Sarhad Chamber, the GOP should ensure secure land routes to CIS and Iran.</p>