



**TRADE RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TRTA II)
PROGRAMME**

FIRST MEETING

OF

**PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE STEERING
COMMITTEE (PPDSC)**

Minutes of the Meeting

13 April 2011

Islamabad, Pakistan

TRTA II Programme is funded by the European Commission



**FIRST MEETING
OF
PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE STEERING COMMITTEE (PPDSC)**

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Date and Venue

The first meeting of the Public Private Dialogue Steering Committee (PPDSC) under Component 1 of the TRTA II programme was held on 13 April 2011 in the Committee Room of the Ministry of Commerce in Islamabad.

2. Attendance of Meeting

2.1 Members Present

2.1.1 The following members of the PPDSC were present:

- Mr. Najeeb Khawer Awan, Senior Joint Secretary/Acting Secretary, Ministry of Commerce -- **Co-Chair**
- Mr. Asaf Ghafoor, Director General Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development -- **Co-Chair**
- Prof. Dr. Abid Burki, Lahore University of Management Sciences
- Mr. Talaat Javaid, Joint Secretary Ministry of Textile Industry
- Mr. Hassan Tanveer Malik, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mrs. Yasmin Masood, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Mr. Sheharyar Khan, Joint Technological Advisor, Ministry of Science and Technology
- Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Finance
- Mr. Irfan Javed, S. Secretary Federal Board of Revenue
- Mr. Hamid A. Ghaori, Section officer/Advisor Ministry of Industries and Production

2.1.2 The following officials of the implementing agencies attended the meeting:

- Mr. Jean Sebastien Roure, Advisor on Legal Aspects of Trade, ITC, Geneva
- Mr. Mohammad Owais Khan, Programme Officer (Trade Policy), TRTA II programme

2.2 Members Absent

The following members of the PPDSC were absent:

- Representative of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Representative of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Representative of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Representative of KPK Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Representative of Pakistan Software House Association

2.3 List of Participants

The full list of participants, who attended the PPDSC meeting, is given in the Annex I.

3. Agenda

The agenda of the meeting consisted of the following items:

- (i) Opening remarks by the co-chairs of the meeting
- (ii) Background of the PPDSC and public-private dialogue (PPD)
- (iii) Presentation of survey results concerning trade policy formulation and research in Pakistan
- (iv) Selection of topics for the PPDs
- (v) Selection of targeted research topics intended to feed into PPDs
- (vi) Selection of Executive Committee of the PPDSC
- (vii) Closure of meeting

4. Opening of Meeting

- 4.1 The meeting started with the recitation of the holy Quran. Mr. Najeeb Khawar Awan, SJS (Acting Secretary Commerce) opened the meeting by welcoming members of the Committee and the representatives of the implementing agencies to the first meeting of the PPDSC. He appreciated the achievements made under the EU technical assistance programmes and hoped that TRTA II programme will be a success. He stressed the need for greater participation of the private sector in trade policy design and implementation to achieve the desired results.
- 4.2 Mr. Asaf Ghafoor, Director General PITAD welcomed the participants on behalf of PITAD. He briefly highlighted the role of PITAD in TRTA II programme where it is direct beneficiary of component 1 interventions whereas a focal point for the whole programme. He appreciated the design of component 1 interventions which are aimed at the institutional capacity building of the Pakistani training and research organizations, training of policy makers on key trade policy issues and development of mechanism for public private consultation on trade policy and regulatory reform.
- 4.3 He flagged the importance of public private consultation for coherent trade policy and informed that although weak but public private dialogue already exists in one form or another. He stressed that there is a need to restructure the dialogue process according to international best practices to make it more coherent and participatory, as envisaged under the TRTA II programme. He stated that the PPD planned under component 1 will involve all the stakeholders including academia. He appreciated the involvement of LUMS in the PPDSC.

5. Background of The PPDSC and Public-Private Dialogue (PPD)

- 5.1 A presentation on the background of the PPDSC and PPDs was given by Mr. Jean Sebastien Roure, Advisor, International Trade Centre (ITC) Geneva. The presentation covered the following issues:
 - Background of the programme and effectiveness of PPDs
 - Role of PPDSC
 - Linkages between the PPDs under TRTAII and the GOP initiative of year of exports

- 5.2 In his presentation, Mr. Roure elaborated EU funded trade related technical assistance programmes along with a brief account of the current TRTAII programme. He described in detail the interventions envisaged under component 1 of the TRTA II programme which is about trade policy capacity building of the public sector. He expounded the five result areas of the component and detailed the process of PPDs and planned research to feed into those consultations among public sector, private sector and civil society. He particularly emphasized the importance of PPDs to increase opportunities of formulating coherent trade policies.
- 5.3 He informed that nine PPDs have been planned to take place on specific trade policy issues during the programme period 2011-14. He presented the proposed structure of PPDs envisaged under the programme and stressed that the survey conducted earlier should be considered while choosing topics for the PPDs. He proposed that those issues should be selected for the initial PPDs which could be easily addressed in order to build confidence of the stakeholders in the process. By doing so, capacities of all stakeholders will be strengthened, lessons will be learnt, and trust will be built among participants for following PPDs which will tackle issues requiring more debates and lengthy legislative process.
- 5.4 He also elucidated the role of PPDS Executive Committee and its proposed composition to steer the process of PPDs when the PPDS is not in session. He also explained the complementary role of component 1 interventions particularly the PPDs towards the government initiatives to reinvigorate the Federal Export Promotion and Development Board and declaring 2011 as the year of exports. The presentation made by Mr. Roure is given as Annex II to these minutes of the PPDS.

6 Presentation of Survey Results Concerning Trade Policy Formulation And Research In Pakistan

- 6.1 In his presentation the Director General PITAD, Mr. Asaf Ghafoor once again highlighted the importance of public private consultation towards the development of coherent trade policies and regulatory reform. He expounded the role of PITAD as a policy think tank on international trade besides its traditional responsibilities of trade related training and research. He explained PITAD's interaction with donors particularly the EU, World Bank, USDoC etc.
- 6.2 He presented the results of the survey envisaged and conducted under component 1 of the TRTA II programme to identify and prioritize training and research needs on trade policy and regulatory reform besides identification of the trade policy issues most in need of reform through PPDs.
- 6.3 The presentation mainly concentrated on three broad areas namely trade policy training, research on trade policy issues and need and effectiveness of PPDs. The presentation elaborated key findings of the survey, recommendations to address the issues and programme interventions to address the issues with regard to the three broad areas stated above. The DG also presented some areas for holding PPDs in light of the survey results. The presentation of DG PITAD is attached to these minutes as Annex III.

7 Discussion, Selection of Executive Committee and Selection of Topics For PPDs During 2011

- 7.1 After the presentation, the co-chairs opened the house for comments and discussion. The house was also requested to choose two topics for the PPDs planned for 2011 and elect/nominate members for the Executive Committee of PPDS.

- 7.2 In the ensuing discussions, the representative of M/o Industries, Mr. Hamid Ghouri stressed the need to strengthen the training wings of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He highlighted that there is a need to educate the real stakeholders who are involved in trading activities. He proposed that the Chambers that do not have training wings should be helped to establish them for the purpose.
- 7.3 The representative of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry informed that the Chambers are very active in proposing policy measures to the government. He said that members are requested to propose budgetary and trade policy proposals but those members are not educated in trade policy issues. As such they are not capable of comprehending the nitty-gritty of trade policies and the implications of various policy proposals. He stressed the need to educate traders and businessmen on trade policy issues particularly the SPS issues.
- 7.4 Mr. Abid Aman Burki informed about their involvement in undertaking some research studies on services trade for ICTSD (International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) and some other research institutes. He underscored the importance of services trade and lamented the absence of an institutional arrangement within government and the private sector (Chambers) to promote services trade. Mr. Burki commented that trade associations do not have a say in Chambers whereas Chambers represent trading community and not industry. He commented that trade policy does not affect Chambers but industry. He flagged that there is a great potential for trade in services but unfortunately not enough research work has been undertaken in that connection. He also highlighted the potential for agricultural products exports particularly vegetables, flowers etc. Additionally he proposed “Regional Integration” for PPDs in 2011.
- 7.5 DG PITAD informed the house that research study on Pak-Sri Lanka FTA has been completed by PITAD whereas Pak-China FTA analysis is being initiated. According to his views FTAs with big countries are counterproductive while those with small countries could be useful. He observed that US and EU are the two exceptions and FTAs with them would be useful for Pakistan.
- 7.6 Mr. Burki observed that Pakistan should look towards East and not West as are China and India doing for their trade development. He proposed that in addition to EU and US we should concentrate on East.
- 7.7 The representative of FBR denied the assertion that Chambers are not represented by the industrialists in light of his personal experience. He commented that Chambers are adequately represented by industry but the business community is not aware of the facilities legally available to them. He observed with great concern that mostly the apex bodies of trading community request for facilities/concessions in trade policies which are already available to them but they are unaware of that. He proposed that the available facilities should be communicated to trading community in small booklets in local languages so that they benefit from it. He stressed the need for training opportunities for workers. He proposed “Agriculture business exports” and “Regional Integration” for the PPDs in 2011.
- 7.8 The representative of Ministry of Textile industry highlighted the importance of textile industry and stressed the need to involve trade organizations related to textile sector in the dialogue process.
- 7.9 The representative of Ministry of Food and agriculture lauded the TRTA interventions in the agriculture sector and highlighted the recent market access opportunities to the agriculture sector exports in some of Pakistan’s major trading partners. He informed that agriculture exports are facing problems due to SPS issues. He appreciated the process of PPDs as envisaged in the component I of the TRTA II programme.

8 Decisions

- 8.1 The house decided that the Executive Committee of the PPDSC should be chaired by the government representative, Director General PITAD and should have two members, one each from Academia (Mr. Abid Aman Burki, LUMS) and Private sector (Chamber of Commerce and Industry). Regarding the private sector member DG PITAD consented to approach FPCCI or LCCI for nomination of private sector representative. The house also agreed at the request of the representative of Ministry of Industries and Production, Mr. Hamid A. Ghouri to keep him as co-opted member of the Executive Committee.
- 8.2 The house selected Services sector and Regional integration for PPDs during 2011.
- 8.3 It was further decided that the topic for research studies aimed at feeding into the PPDs would be selected and research studies would be awarded by the Executive Committee of the PPDSC.

9. Closure of Meeting

- 9.1 The co-chairs thanked members for their active participation and engagements in the deliberations of the PPDSC meeting.
- 9.2 The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on 13 April 2011 with a vote of thanks to the co-chairs.

ANNEX I

List of Participants

Annex I

List of Participants

A. Members Present

1. Mr. Najeeb Khawer Awan,
Senior Joint Secretary/Acting Secretary,
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Tel: 051-9202621
nka54@hotmail.com
2. Mr. Asaf Ghafoor,
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3. Mr. Irfan Javed,
S. Secretary
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4. Prof. Dr. Abid Aman Burki,
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Lahore
burki@lums.edu.pk
5. Mr. Talaat Javaid,
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Textile Industry
Islamabad
6. Mr. Hassan Tanveer Malik,
Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry
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7. Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan,
Deputy Secretary
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dsefc@finance.gov.pk

8. Mr. Hamid A. Ghaori,
Section officer/Advisor
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soluvii@yahoo.com
9. Mrs. Yasmin Masood,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Food and Agriculture
10. Mr. Sheharyar Khan,
Joint Technological Advisor,
Ministry of Science and Technology

B. Officials of Implementing Agencies

11. Mr. Jean-Sébastien Roure
Adviser on Legal aspects of Trade
Business and Trade Policy
International Trade Center (ITC)
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C. Others

13. Mr. Mohib Zaman
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14. Mr. Itrat Rasool Malhi
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Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MinFA)
Naphis.pk@live.com
15. Mr. Shafiq A. Shahzad
Director
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16. Mr. Kamran Ahmad
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17. Mr. Umar Farooq
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ANNEX II

**Survey Results Concerning Trade Policy
Reformulation and Research in Pakistan**

by

Mr. Asaf Ghafoor

Director General

Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development



**SURVEY RESULTS CONCERNING
TRADE POLICY FORMULATION
AND RESEARCH IN PAKISTAN**

**Mr. Asaf Ghafoor
Director General
Pakistan Institute of Trade and
Development**

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Policy think tank
- Trainings (occupational, executive development)
- Trade related research
- Knowledge platform
- Trade policy formulation and analysis (STPF 2009-12)

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Donor coordination
 - Focal point (EU TRTAID)
 - WB-NLTA, TRTA (III & IV), US DoC, USAID
- Survey envisaged in the inception report of TRTA II component 1 for further enrichment of the intended component 1 interventions

OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

Survey of the trade related government ministries and departments was conducted as provided in the inception report with the following objectives:

- Experiences of training on trade policy issues
- Areas of trade policy which may require training, or additional focus than at present;
- The greater use of public-private dialogue (PPD) between government, business and civil society as a way in which to promote well-informed government trade policy design
- Suggested areas of research on trade policy

TRAINING ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES

Key Findings

- A large number of respondents were completely or partially not aware of their potential role in trade policy
- Some respondents were not satisfied with the roles their organizations were playing in trade policy
- Most of the respondents have not benefitted from trade related trainings while some have availed such trainings in longer than a year period
- short term courses, assistance in research on trade policy issues and workshops/ seminars were considered the most desirable types of trainings
- Foreign trainings were preferred to domestic trainings. Suggestions were received to improve domestic trainings

TRAINING ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES CONTINUED

Recommendations

- Trainings on trade policy issues be arranged
- Local expertise on trade related issues should be developed to provide trainings to a large number of public sector stake holders at a relatively less cost
- Inter ministerial coordination for trade policy should be improved
- Enhanced participation of all stake holders in all stages of trade policy should be ensured
- Suggested topics for trainings and suggestions for improvement of domestic trainings should be seen in the report.

TRAINING ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES CONTINUED

Programme interventions

- Institutional capacity building and transfer of international expertise to local training and research organizations
- Development of partnership among local organizations for training and research on trade policy issues
- Organization of short/ad-hoc trainings for policy makers in Pakistan
- Review and enrichment of current PITAD trainings under international mentoring,
- Training of master trainers under international mentoring on specific trade policy issues
- WTI would deliver lectures through video conference in the short trainings arranged under component 1

PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE FOR COHERENT TRADE POLICY

Key findings

- PPDs are useful and need to be developed
- The existing dialogue process is weak and unsystematic
- There is a lack of effective inter-ministerial consultation which results in duplication of efforts
- Identification of key stakeholders and their continuous participation in the process is required
- Inconsistencies in government policies need to be addressed
- Arbitrary selection of policy choices and vested interest of the private sector
- Indoor policy formulation marred by a lack of transparency

PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE FOR COHERENT TRADE POLICY: CONTD.

Recommendations

- Undertake mapping of the key stakeholders
- Institutionalise a transparent, well informed and regular consultative mechanism among stakeholders on issues related to trade policy and regulatory reform
- The dialogue should be reinforced and supported by concrete research; scoping and assessing various policy choices
- The outcome of such dialogues/consultations should be properly captured and made available to the stakeholders and interested parties and available participants through electronic medium to ensure greater transparency

PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE FOR COHERENT TRADE POLICY: CONTD.

Programme Interventions

- PPDS has been established to steer the process of PPDs and policy research
- 9 PPDs would be held on specific trade policy issues
- Research studies; scoping and evaluating various policy options would be commissioned to feed into the PPDs
- Outcome of dialogue would be properly captured and presented before the stakeholders and government

RESEARCH ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES AND REGULATORY REFORM

Key findings

- There is a need to
 - build domestic capacity for trade policy research
 - conduct policy research on trade policy issues
- Respondents suggested a number of topics to carry out policy research (hard copy provided)
- Collaborative research among various research organizations was recommended

RESEARCH ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES AND REGULATORY REFORM

Recommendations

- Collaborative research on trade policy issues should be encouraged
- Research should be conducted on selected trade policy issues to gauge the possible effects of competing policy choices
- Any deliberation among stakeholders should be supported by concrete policy research findings
- The following areas are recommended to conduct policy research:
 - Regional integration and strategy to benefit from trade with Central Asian Republics, China, India etc
 - Tariff policy for effective industrial growth and protection
 - Enhancing export competitiveness with a focus on the agriculture sector and SMEs

RESEARCH ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES AND REGULATORY REFORM: CONTD.

- SPS/TBT/Certification and standardization requirements
- Effective use of trade defence laws
- Promotion of services exports including environmental services
- Market and product diversification
- Trade policy analysis for impact assessment and development of participatory approach in formulation and implementation
- Cross cutting issues including intellectual property rights, investment, competitiveness, etc.

RESEARCH ON TRADE POLICY ISSUES AND REGULATORY REFORM: CONTD.

Programme interventions

- It is envisaged to conduct a number of research studies on key trade policy issues to feed into the public private dialogue to be conducted under result area v.
- Peer review mechanism would be established for the research conducted
- The research thus conducted would examine and evaluate alternate policy choices and provide plausible findings for the consideration of all the stakeholders including the government
- Research findings would feed into PPDs

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR PPDs FOR DISCUSSION

Issues pre-identified by respondents are mentioned below.
The house is now open for discussion and selection of specific issues for PPDs and related research during 2011.

- Trade in agriculture and agro based industries
- Trade in services including environmental goods and services
Value chain management and export of value added products
- Technology up-gradation and foresight for export competitiveness
- Development and export of branded products
- Development of joint ventures
- Regional integration and how to benefit from the FTAs signed by Pakistan
- Multilateral negotiations at WTO, policy options and strategy for Pakistan
- Development of regional infrastructure and cross border connectivity
- Problems and prospects for enhancing exports from SMEs



THANK YOU

ANNEX III

Background of Component 1

PPD

Process and Envisaged Role of PPDSC

Background of Component 1 PPD process and envisaged role of PPDSC

Part 1: Background

- EU funded TRTA programmes (TRTA I,II,III,IV)
- TRTA II-10 million EUR
- Component 1: Trade policy capacity building (ITC)

- Component 2: Export development through improvement of quality infrastructure (UNIDO)

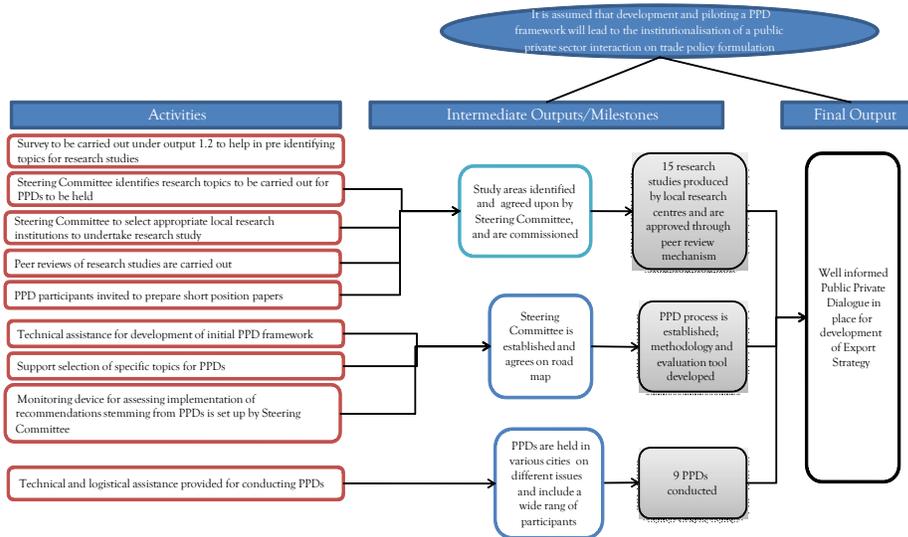
- Component 3: Strengthening of the intellectual property rights system (WIPO)

Component 1: expected result as per Financing Agreement “improved Formulation and implementation of trade policy through enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Commerce and improved participation of the private sector in this process”

Result for Component 1: Coherent trade policy and regulatory reform for export competitiveness

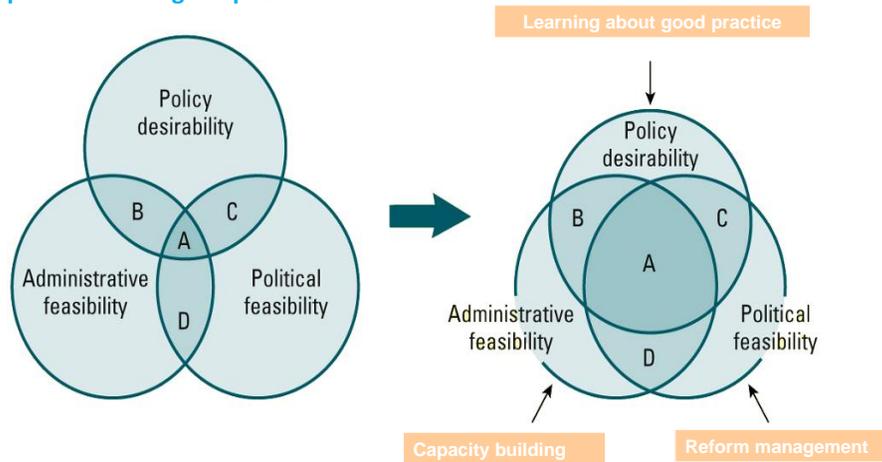
- The Pakistan Institute for Trade and Development (PITAD) institutional capacity is strengthened
- PITAD's and other research institutes' expertise on trade policy is strengthened
- Government officers' capacity on specific trade policy and international trade negotiations is strengthened
- **Research studies contributing to the development of a national export strategy are conducted**
- **Public-private dialogue for a coherent national export strategy**

Component 1 Vision: Development of a PPD framework for informing trade policy



Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme

Why are PPDs important for trade policy formulation: To increase opportunities for good policies

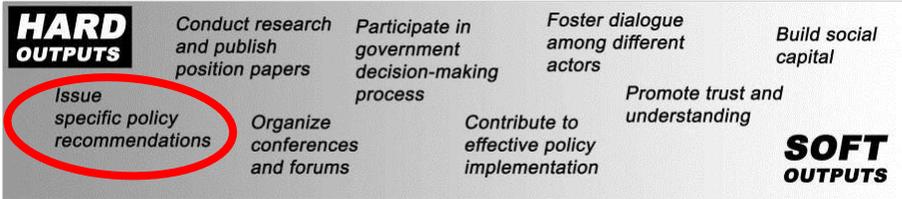


Source: World Bank



PACE: Poverty Alleviation through Competitive Exports

What are the typical outputs for PPDs



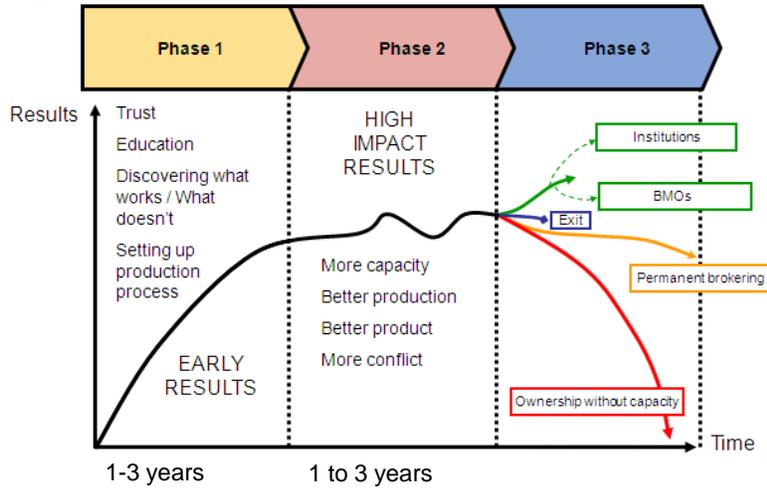
Focusing on this will bring the others

Source: World Bank

Typology of Outputs

Output type	Examples
Analytical outputs	“Think pieces” that survey the investment climate territory and set recommendations in context. These include policy papers, position papers, reviews and assessments. All need to be informed by evidence-based research.
Specific Reform Recommendations	Specific recommendations for reforms to policies, laws or regulations, including suggested texts for draft new laws or amendments when appropriate.
Structure and process outputs	Conferences, meetings, functional monitoring and information dissemination programs. While these outputs are ultimately futile if they do not lead to any other kind of output, it can nonetheless be worth setting targets for them.
“Soft” outputs	Increases in trust, understanding and cooperation between stakeholders; building of social capital.

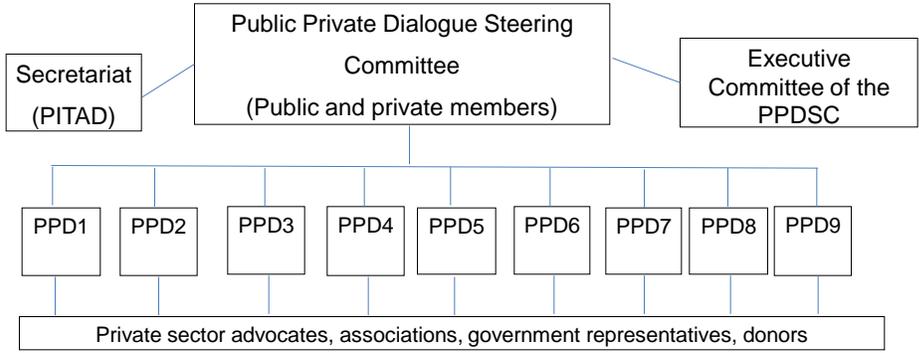
What is the typical life and death of PPD?



Source: World Bank

**Part II: What is the Role of Component 1
Public Private Dialogue Steering
Committee?**

What is the proposed structure for Component 1 PPD?

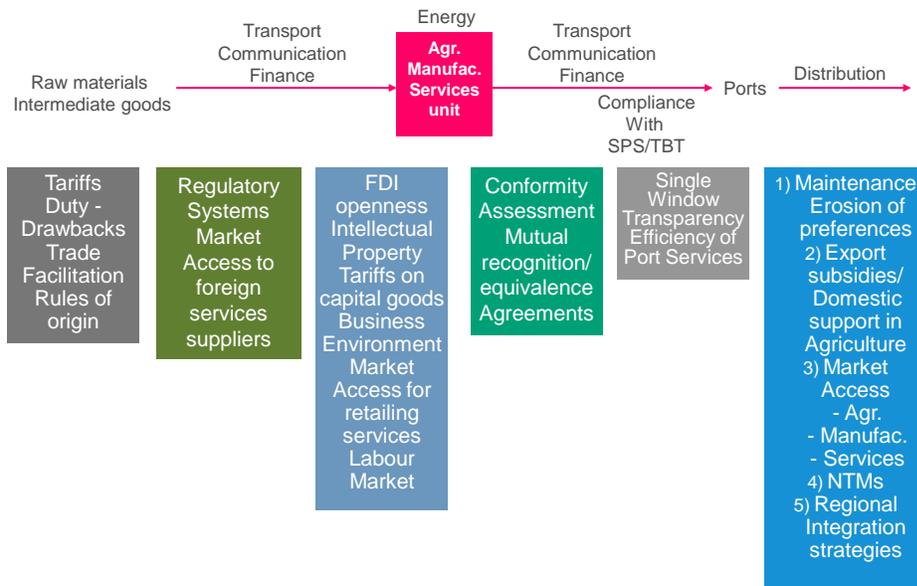


1) Identify relevant trade policy and/or regulatory environment issues that should be addressed through PPDs

Consider :

- Component 1 survey findings
- Dialogue on specific policy issues (Possibly starting with easier reform issues to build stakeholder confidence in the process of PPD)
- Issues can be sectoral or cross-sectoral in nature.

Competitiveness/Trade Policy Interface



Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme

2) Identify the trade policy issues on which research should be undertaken to inform PPDs and identify the research organization/consultant to undertake research studies

- Research studies available to inform PPD, or follow up on issues raised (List of possible research candidates provided by the Secretariat)
- Seek policy position papers from the private sector



PACE: Poverty Alleviation through Competitive Exports

3) Following the holding of the PPDs, ensure that the consolidated views of the stakeholders are appropriately captured and relayed to Government in the form of policy recommendations documents

- Ensure policy recommendations to government arising from a PPD are clear and well-researched
- Ensure legitimacy of proposals through inclusive interaction and transparent filtering process
- Act as a channel of transmission for issues/recommendations arising from PPD to relevant Ministries, key-line agencies and the trading community
- Monitor and report on reform proposal
- Monitor the impact of measures once implemented

Role of the Executive Committee

1. Make decision on behalf of the PPDSC when it is not in session
2. All decisions made by the Executive Committee will be presented in the next meeting of the PPDSC
3. 3 members:
 1. Co-Chair
 2. Public sector representative
 3. Private sector representative



Part 3: Linkages of TRTA1 PPD initiative and Supporting role of the Secretariat



Linkages: How Component 1 intends to compliment the GOP Year of Exports Initiative?

- Support for sectoral committees
 - Utilize PPD platform to clarify/derive consensus of stakeholders views
 - Sharing of concrete policy recommendations
- Encouragement of Pakistan exporters to submit proposals and views to further boost exports
 - Stakeholders submit well structured policy recommendation





Support to the PPDSC/PPD will be provided by the Secretariat

- The Secretariat of the PPDSC/PPD will be conducted by PITAD, to be supported by the ITC Islamabad Office. It will provide all requisite logistic and secretarial services to assist the functioning of the PPDSC/PPD. Key secretariat functions:
 - Prepare a draft agenda for adoption at the meetings
 - Issue letters of invitation for the meetings
 - Prepare supporting documents relevant to the draft agenda items
 - Prepare minutes of the meetings
 - Submit to the Government recommendations of the PPDSC on policy issues
 - Disseminate information about the PPD process to stakeholders



International
Trade
Centre



PACE: Poverty Alleviation through Competitive Exports