

Report of the
Fifth Meeting of High Level Trade Officials of D-8 Countries
January 5-6,2006
Islamabad, Pakistan

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan hosted the 5th Meeting of High Level Trade Officials (HLTO) of the D-8 Countries in Islamabad, on January 5-6,2006. The delegations from all Member States attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.
 2. In his opening address by D-8 Commissioner of Pakistan Mr. Tariq Osman Hyder mentioned that one of the primary objectives of the D-8 Countries was the development of trade relations among the member states. In this regard the finalization of Preferential Trade Agreement is the most significant step for the fulfillment of that objective. The text of his opening remarks is attached as **Annex II**.
 3. Syed Asif Shah Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan in his key note address highlighted the existing potential among the D- 8 member countries and urged the need to exploit it through early finalizing the Preferential Trade Agreement. He called upon the need to come forward and join hands and further liberalize the trade regimes. The text of his address is attached as **Annex-III**.
 4. The Member countries elected Mr. Shahid Bashir, Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade) Government of Pakistan as Chairman of the meeting.
 5. The agenda of the meeting (**Annex IV**) was adopted unanimously.
 6. The Meeting considered the 4th Version of the Preferential Trade Agreement along with the amendments proposed by Malaysia and the text of Preferential Trade Agreement (**Annex V**) was adopted, ad referendum. However, following observations were recorded:
 - a. Turkey undertook to reconfirm the 8% coverage of tariff lines under Article 5 of the Agreement
 - b. Bangladesh would also reconfirm the period of implementation of six years for the LDCs under Article 5 of the Agreement.
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7. Implementation Of Tariff reduction is dependent upon agreed Rules of Origin (RoO). Pakistan undertook to table a draft RoO for consideration during Sixth meeting of the HLTO.
 8. It was decided that The Fifth Version of the Draft Preferential Trade Agreement be submitted to D-8 Executive Director and circulated to all Member Countries for final approval in the next meeting of HLTO.
 9. On the offer by the Indonesian Delegation it was decided that the next HLTO meeting will be held in Indonesia in the first week of April 2006. The D-8 Secretariate is requested to make necessary coordination in this regard.
 10. The meeting took note of the suggestions that Investment and Trade in Services can also be included in the Regional initiative.
 11. The Head of the Delegation of Egypt, on behalf of all participating delegates expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the chairman for conducting the meeting in very positive and constructive manner and under his able guidance the participants developed consensus on the draft PTA. They also appreciated the Government of Pakistan for hosting the Fifth meeting of HLTO in Islamabad.
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