

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING

TASK FORCE ON AUSTERITY MEASURES & GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Date: 12th October 2018
Time: 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Venue: Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad

The 3rd meeting of the Task Force on Austerity Measures & Government Restructuring was held at Prime Minister's Office under the chair of Dr. Ishrat Hussain. Following is a re-cap of the key areas of discussion and decisions regarding them.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	DECISIONS
Restructuring of the Federal Government	<p>After a briefing by the chair on the second Working Paper regarding restructuring of the Federal Government, a general discussion was held on the subject. The chair invited members to give their critical views on the working paper.</p> <p>The Chair also informed the Task Force members regarding Prime Minister's decision to constitute a</p>	<p>It was decided that the members will give their detailed recommendations on Working Paper II which has already been shared with the members.</p>

	<p>committee of some cabinet members to review an earlier proposal regarding re-structuring of the federal government made by the Task Force.</p> <p>Detailed discussion on Corporate Governance and role of Auditor General was also held in the context of working of Corporate Companies/Listed Companies of the Government. There was a consensus to modernize the auditing system by introducing concepts like Risk & Materiality.</p>	<p>Mr. Asad Ali Shah and Mr. Salman Siddique were requested to give proposals on Corporate Governance.</p> <p>Following members were added in the Sub group on review of Federal Government Rules of Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roshane Zafar 2. Salman Siddique 3. Hassan Khawar
<p>Presentation on E-Government by Sub-Group</p>	<p>A presentation on the road map and recommendations for e-government was made by the subgroup headed by Syed Asad Ali Shah.</p> <p>Following recommendations were discussed in detail to achieve the goal of Digital Pakistan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Making Digital Transformation Committee (DTC) 	<p>It was agreed to draft a Summary for the Prime Minister's approval based on the recommendations of the subgroup on E-Government.</p>

Comment [NY1]: May be Changed to "Public Sector Companies/Statutory Bodies"

effective by evaluating appropriateness of its existing composition and TORs.

b) Enabling National Information Technology Board (NITB)

Short Term Strategy

- Provision of Necessary Funding for ICT Infrastructure and Central Procurement through NITB
- Mandatory use of official email addresses for all federal government departments
- Updated Websites and Standardized content for all government departments
- Mandatory implementation of E-Office across federal government. NITB to provide training workshops for this purpose.
- Revision of Secretariat Instructions to align them with digital environment.

Medium Term Strategy

- Setting a target date for achievement of

	<p>Level 5 (E-Office) for all Ministries by June, 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of e-Office with PIFRA for automation of Public Financial Management • Establishing a mechanism for sharing good practices between Governments • Ministry of Information Technology to organize a conference on Digital Pakistan Strategy <p>c) Shifting the Federal Government Inter & Intra communication on one domain (gov.pk).</p> <p>d) An end-to-end secure E-Filing/Sharing System, for paperless government.</p>	
<p>Presentation by Sub Group on Public Financial Management</p>	<p>Mr. Abdullah Yousaf made the presentation on behalf of Sub group on Public Financial Management. It was highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforms on Public Financial Management are essential to maintain a control on Fiscal Balances in times of macro uncertainty and instability • Federal government is a natural home to initiate 	<p>The Sub group was requested to propose an action plan for the vision presented to the Task Force for improving the framework for public financial management.</p>

	<p>PFM Reforms due to presence of Ministry of Finance, Federal Board of Revenue and Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Its essential to build accountability over National Finances• The main actors in PFM in Federal government are Finance Division, Planning Division, Controller General of Accounts and Auditor General of Pakistan.• There is lack of a comprehensive Public Finance Law• Lack of Medium and Long Term Vision for Economic Management• Considerable in-year changes in Budget undermines the credibility of the Budget• Lack of Transparency on Supplementary Grants, Release Processes, Resource Management <p>Following Short and Medium Term Reform Strategies were proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streamlining of the review and presentation of the Public Finance Bill• Update the Regulatory Framework for PFM including the Rules of Business, Pre-approval and	
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	<p>roll out of PFM Reform Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening the Finance functions at line ministries including introducing professional CFOs, improving Debt Management & Financial Management• Roll out of PIFRA to line ministries• Evidence Based Budgeting and empowering of Public Accounts Committee	
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