

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### TASK FORCE ON AUSTERITY MEASURES & GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Time: 10:00 Am to 1:30 pm  
Venue: Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad

The 4th 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.

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>DECISIONS</b>
<b>Restructuring of the Federal Government</b>	<p>The second Working Paper on restructuring of the Federal Government was presented to the members and they were invited to give their recommendations. Key areas discussed were as under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The balance of power between heads of Ministries, Attached Departments and</li></ul>	<p>A Working Paper on Functional Classification of the Federal Government will be shared in the next meeting.</p> <p>It was also decided that in view of the overlapping areas</p>

	<p>Autonomous Bodies and the relevant Ministers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The need to move towards standardization by separation of policy making from regulatory and operational activities of the Federal Ministries.</li><li>• The importance of decentralization and reducing discretionary powers.</li><li>• The possibility of appointment of a domain expert/ technical advisor with Ministers.</li><li>• The need for delineating role of Minister and Secretary in relation to policy making and implementation.</li><li>• Improving functional efficiency of the government by reducing tiers e.g. Section Officer</li></ul>	<p>under consideration, the working papers will be shared across Task Forces.</p> <p><b><u>Sub Group on JD of Minister &amp; Secretary was Constituted</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mr. Wajid Rana (Lead)</li><li>2. Mr. Tariq Khosa</li><li>3. Ms. Tasnim Aslam</li></ol> <p>It was decided that the group will firm up its recommendations on Job Description of Minister vis-a-viz Secretary and present these in the next meeting. The Task Force approved the idea of the appointment of Technical Advisors with Ministers to enhance their policy making potential and facilitate decision making.</p>
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<p><b>E-Government</b></p>	<p>A presentation was made by Executive Director of National Information Technology Board (NITB) on the proposed timelines for implementation of E-Governance.</p>	<p>The Task Force approved the timelines and it was agreed that a Summary for the Prime Minister may be moved through Ministry of Information Technology.</p>
<p><b>Presentation on Action Plan on Public Financial Management</b></p>	<p>Mr. Abdullah Yousaf, made the second presentation on Action Plan for Public Financial Management. Following points were discussed in detail and the remaining Outputs were categorized as medium term goals, to be taken up subsequently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Output 1: Presentation of the Public Finance Bill in the Parliament</li> <li>• Output 2: Update the Regulatory Framework and Rules of Business</li> <li>• Output 3: Approval and Roll-out of the PFM Reforms Strategy</li> <li>• Output 5: Roll out of PIFRA Module (FAB) for Line Ministry Level Budgeting</li> <li>• Output 7: Institutionalizing CFOs</li> <li>• Output 11: Improvements in Accounting and Audit</li> </ul>	<p>Following cut-off dates and guidelines were decided for the Outputs:</p> <p>Deadline for Output 1: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019</p> <p>Deadline for Output 2: March 15, 2019</p> <p>For Output 7: It was decided that a working paper be prepared by the subgroup on PFM and be presented in the Task Force on appointments of CFO's in the Ministries.</p>

	<p>Functions.</p>	<p>For Output 11, the members of the Task Force agreed that there was a need to separate Audit and Accounting functions in letter and spirit by separating the cadres. Three areas identified for immediate action were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Roll out of PIFRA Module (FAB) for Line Ministry Level Budgeting</li><li>2. Improvements in Accounting and Audit Functions.</li><li>3. Institutionalizing CFOs</li></ol> <p>The Sub-group was requested to focus on these three areas and submit refined proposals regarding these to the Task Force in the next meeting. It was decided that PFM Strategy will be presented by</p>
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		<p>the Additional Secretary Finance to the Task Force in the next meeting</p> <p>Mr. Wajid Rana was added to the PFM Subgroup on recommendation of the Task Force.</p> <p>It was decided that DG FAB, Mr. Ammar Naqvi would provide secretarial support to the sub-group.</p> <p>Executive Director, NITB should coordinate with DG FAB and see if there were overlapping interfaces of NITB's Module with FAB to avoid duplication of work.</p>
<p><b>Rules of Business</b></p>	<p>The Task Force was informed that the relevant sub group has had several meetings.</p>	<p>Rules of Business sub group will present its final recommendations in the next meeting of the Task Force.</p>

