

Strengthening National and Provincial Legislative Governance in Pakistan

**Briefing Session for Parliamentarians on
*The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) – Advantages and
Challenges for Pakistan***

February 23, 2004
Hotel Marriott, Islamabad

PROGRAMME

Serial No	Subject/ Topic/Activity	Time
1	Registration of Participants	9:30 - 10:00 am
2	<p>Inaugural Session (Session 1)</p> <p>Session Chair:</p> <p>Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the Briefing Session <p>Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob Executive Director PILDAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief introduction and background - Overview of the SAARC Economies - Main points of the agreement - Implications for Pakistan - Issues in Implementation <p>Mr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking Advantage of Regional Trade: South Asia in Comparative Perspective <p>Mr. Richard Newfarmer Economic Advisor, International Trade Department The World Bank</p>	<p>10:00 - 10:15 am</p> <p>10:15 – 10:45 am</p> <p>10:45 – 11:15 am</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A/Discussion 	11:15 – 12:15 pm
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Session Chair 	12:15 – 12: 30 pm
3	Lunch & Prayer Break	12:30 – 1:30 pm
4	<p>Session 2:</p> <p>Session Chair:</p> <p>Senator Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh Federal Minister for Privatisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion The economic and political impact of SAFTA on Pakistan <p>Professor Khurshid Ahmed Member of Senate, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies</p> <p>Dr. Akmal Hussain Consultant/Economist</p> <p>Mr. Amjad Rafi Executive Committee Member, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Former President KCCI</p> <p>Mr. Ilyas Ahmed Bilour Member of Senate</p> <p>Mr. M. Ziauddin Resident Editor, The Dawn</p> <p>Mr. Kunwar Khalid Yunus Member National Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A/Discussion • Remarks by Session Chair 	<p>1:30 – 3:30 pm</p> <p>3:30 – 4:45 pm</p> <p>4:45 – 5:00 pm</p>
5	Tea & End of the Session	5:00 pm

Note:

- The programme may be modified in the coming days depending on availability of session chairs and speakers
- Break Timings may be adjusted to suit prayer times
- The session proceedings will be bilingual and can be conducted in Urdu or English