

CEC Meeting

Meeting Date: December 17th, 2024

Attendees

CEC Members

1. Sajjad Mustafa Syed
2. Umair Nizam
3. Raheel Iqbal
4. Haris Naseer
5. Dr.Sonia Saleem
6. Nadia Iqbal
7. Munaf Majeed
8. Salman Dar
9. Hassan Bin Rizwan
10. Sheikh Abdul Qadir
11. Usman Akbar
12. Abdul Wahab Ahmed
13. Zohaib Khan (former Chairman)

Secretariat

1. Nadeem Malik

Agenda

- Approval of previous minutes
- Summary of activity of Chairman
- Governance Performance Report and KPIs
- Other Matter (with the permission of Chair)

The meeting initiated with the recitation of Holy Quran.

Discussion Items:

Approval of previous minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Summary of activity of Chairman

The Chairman suggested that the JD for the SG position should include multinational experience. Extensive lobbying efforts were carried out across all stakeholders, including government bodies, to ensure strong support for the IT sector. It was announced that a new licensing regime would be available starting January 1, 2025, with some companies already referred to PTA for VPN service provisioning.

Regarding tax lobbying, an expert from KPMG has been engaged to support policy efforts. The Policy Committee has developed key tax recommendations, including:

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- **Extension of Tax Regime:** Proposal to extend the 0.25% tax regime (Section 154A) until 2030 instead of including it in yearly Finance Bills.
- **IT Industry Tribunal:** Recommendation for FBR to establish a dedicated IT industry tribunal in Karachi.
- **Sales Tax Harmonization:** Advocacy for consistent sales tax policies across federal and provincial levels.
- **Tax Exemption on Outward Remittances:** Proposal to exempt outward remittances to support IT exports.
- **Employee Tax & Remote Work:** Addressing disparities in taxation between employees and remote workers.

Engagement with provincial governments has been initiated, and discussions with federal authorities are ongoing regarding tax reductions on IT employee salaries. The FBR and SBP are expected to analyze relevant data for further assessment.

APICTA Participation

Pakistan recorded its highest-ever participation in APICTA, securing 10 merit awards. The Minister of IT has requested the winners' contact details for a potential meeting with the Prime Minister.

MoU Discipline

It was recommended that all Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) be reviewed and approved by the CEC. MoUs related to member benefits must receive prior approval from the Industry Engagement Committee. Currently, all MoUs are being routed through the Brand Committee for review.

Governance & Financial Oversight

The Governance Committee is conducting a long-term review aligned with DGTO regulations, CEC and Secretariat operations, and financial governance, covering procurement and budget spending. A framework is being developed to define working boundaries among the CEC, SG, Directors, and Secretariat staff. Further discussions covered the Governance Committee's scope, audit requirements, license renewal, SG transition, SECP filing, MoU approvals, Secretariat operations, knowledge sharing, policy folder reviews, member collaboration, and relations with chambers and banks. Additionally, a Member Code of Conduct is under review to enhance organizational governance.

The meeting ended with a note of thanks to the Chairman and members.