



MINISTRY OF COMMERCE INITIATES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF DGTO IN COLLABORATION WITH PAKISTAN SINGLE WINDOW AND REMIT

The Ministry of Commerce has launched a digital transformation project for the Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO), to be implemented by Pakistan Single Window (PSW) with support from the UK-funded Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade Programme (ReMIT). The initiative will automate DGTO's regulatory processes, introduce an electronic archiving system, and improve transparency and service delivery for Pakistan's trade bodies.

An initial review meeting was held in the Ministry of Commerce, chaired by the Director General DGTO, Mr. Bilal Khan Pasha, with participation from DGTO, MoC's Trade Policy Wing, PSW, and ReMIT. Discussions focused on the strategic direction of the project, estimated timelines and implementation roadmap for DGTO's transition to a modern, technology-enabled regulatory environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General (Trade Policy), Ministry of Commerce Mr. Shafiq A Shahzad noted that the initiative supports Pakistan's broader commitment to modernize regulatory institutions. "Digitalizing DGTO's operations will strengthen Pakistan's economic modernization agenda, improve ease of doing business, and align our regulatory institutions with international best practices. Strong digital governance is essential for boosting investor confidence and supporting long-term economic growth."

The DG DGTO described the engagement as a milestone for DGTO. "Under this initiative, not only will be reducing the time and cost of regulatory compliances for the chambers and other trade bodies but will also be enhancing transparency in DGTO operations and strengthening the trade bodies capacity to deliver as per their respective mandates. We are grateful to ReMIT's support in undertaking this project and look forward to working closely with PSW in transforming the DGTO in line with international best practices."

Under the current leadership, the Ministry of Commerce has taken a proactive approach towards streamlining and digitalizing various functions related to regulation of domestic and cross border trade. The DGTO initiative is in line with the MoC's vision to completely transform the Ministry and its attached organizations to help it respond to the continuously evolving needs of commerce and trade.

The engagement also marks an important step in PSW's institutional growth as it undertakes the first commercial project with a development partner for the digital transformation of a national entity reflecting its expanding role as a national digitalization partner. "I am happy to note the growing confidence of our national and international partners in PSW's technical capabilities and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to delivering a reliable, user-focused system for DGTO that meets global standards and supports improved governance," stated Syed Aftab Haider, Chief Executive Officer of PSW.

ReMIT is an FCDO funded project working towards improving Pakistan's investment climate and business competitiveness through support to the Board of Investment (BOI) and provincial Investment Promotion Authorities along with other government agencies in Pakistan. Under its trade component, REMIT is working towards addressing the capability gaps in developing effective and impact trade policy in a sustainable manner.