

**Joint Declaration of the Fourth Meeting of the Istanbul Forum
for Economic Cooperation between Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan
25 January 2010**

1. Representatives of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Afghanistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) came together for the fourth meeting of the Istanbul Forum on January 25, 2010 in Istanbul.
2. Forum members emphasized the importance of a trilateral business dialogue mechanism between the three countries and the progressive steps taken on the ground.
3. Forum members acknowledged the viability of the three-pronged strategy that was put forward in the second and third meetings of the Ankara Forum and included actions on (i) industrial zone with agro-business focus, (ii) capacity building programs for institution building in public and private sector as well as non-governmental organizations, and (iii) business development centers with micro credit focus. Forum members have agreed that this strategy is workable for the long term, however there needs to be a shift of focus in the short to medium term because of the deteriorating security situation.
4. Forum members emphasized the need for a project to be designed to contribute to human resource development in Afghanistan. In particular such a project shall be geared towards building of two institutes, namely National Institute for Teacher Training and National Institute for Curriculum Development.
5. In the Forum meeting, a number of capacity building initiatives for both Afghanistan and Pakistan focusing on vocational training center, business development center, chamber development, and capacity building for estate and border management was also discussed. Forum members have expressed the need to develop concrete projects in these areas.
6. The Forum members welcomed the establishment of the Institute for Private Sector and Economic Development (IPSED) and the Training and Research Institute for Public Policy (TRIPP) at the TOBB University of Economics and Technology, which were based on the decision of the third meeting of the Istanbul Forum. Forum members particularly welcomed the successful implementation of two training programs that were organized on June and July 2009 for the Pakistani Competition Authority. Forum members expressed their desire to continue for such training programs.
7. The Istanbul Forum decided to have its fifth meeting in the second half of 2010.