

**Joint Declaration of the Second Meeting of the Istanbul Forum for Economic  
Cooperation between Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan  
28 January 2008**

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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 on 28 January 2008 in Istanbul.
2. The participants shared their condolences over the tragic death of Ms. Benazir Bhutto on December 2007.
3. The meeting primarily consisted of a discussion on possible alternative projects that could be undertaken by the three parties on the ground. The participants focused on the need for job creation in the region in order to contribute to stability and the three parties' relevant strengths for concrete trilateral projects.
4. The discussions first focused on the principles that led to the formation of the Istanbul Forum. The delegates listed their respective country's main problems. Then shared problems were identified. Finally, implementable projects were raised that could enhance trilateral economic cooperation.
5. The projects discussed were under eleven headings including: trade facilitation, border management/modernization, transport/logistics, business development centers with micro finance focus, organized industrial zones, education, health, agro-business, SME development, construction and capacity building.
6. Istanbul Forum decided to focus on three priority areas: business development, organized industrial zone with agro-business focus and capacity building programs for the chambers. Pre-feasibility reports for these projects will be completed by April 2008 after consultations with the stakeholders.
7. Having specified the projects and business areas for trilateral cooperation, the Forum will then design mechanisms to implement the project/s for cooperation.
8. The Istanbul Forum decided to have its third meeting in Islamabad by early April 2008.