

**TRADE IN GOODS AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC**  
**REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**  
**AND**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TÜRKiYE**

## **Preamble**

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as “Pakistan”) of the one part and The Republic of Türkiye (hereinafter referred to as “Türkiye”) of the other part (hereinafter each individually referred to as a “Party” or collectively as “the Parties”),

**RECOGNISING** their longstanding and strong partnership, their important economic, trade and investment relationship,

**RECALLING** the Framework Agreement Establishing a Free Trade Area between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye signed in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the 22nd day of March, 2016.

**FURTHER RECALLING** Articles 1.4 (Relation with Other Agreements) and 1.5 (Liberalization) of the Framework Agreement, which reflect their commitment to gradually establish the Pakistan - Türkiye Free Trade Area covering trade in goods;

**DESIRING** to further strengthen their economic relationship as part of and in a manner coherent with their overall relations, and convinced that the Trade in Goods Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye (hereinafter this “Agreement”) will create a new climate for the development of trade and investment between the Parties;

**DESIRING** to raise living standards, promote economic growth and stability, create new employment opportunities and improve the general welfare by liberalising and expanding mutual trade;

**SEEKING** to establish clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade and to reduce or eliminate the barriers to mutual trade;

**RESOLVED** to contribute to the harmonious development and expansion of international trade by removing obstacles to trade through this Agreement and to avoid creating new barriers to trade between the Parties that could reduce the benefits of this Agreement;

**BUILDING** on their respective rights and obligations under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 and other multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements and arrangements to which they are party;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of trade facilitation in promoting efficient and transparent procedures to reduce costs and to ensure predictability for the trading communities of the Parties;

**CONSIDERING** the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Türkiye, signed on 12 September 1963, the Additional Protocols to and Decisions made under it relating to trade;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of transparency in international trade to the benefit of all stakeholders;

**DETERMINED** to establish a legal framework for strengthening their trade relations;

Have agreed as follows:

## ARTICLE 1 Objectives

1. This Agreement is incorporated into and made part of the Framework Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.
2. The Parties hereby conclude a preferential trade arrangement on trade in goods and associated rules in accordance with this Agreement.
3. The objective of this Agreement is to establish preferential conditions relating to trade between the Parties and to provide a platform in the future for further trade liberalisation and facilitation of trade between them.

## ARTICLE 2 General Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise specified:

**Anti-Dumping Agreement** means the *Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**Customs Valuation Agreement** means the *Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**days** means calendar days;

**existing** means in effect on the date of entry into force of this Agreement;

**Framework Agreement** means the *Framework Agreement Establishing a Free Trade Area between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye*, which forms part of legal instruments establishing the Pakistan-Türkiye FTA;

**GATT 1994** means the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**Goods** means products as understood in GATT 1994;

**Harmonized System (HS)** means the *Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System*, including its General Rules of Interpretation, Section Notes, and Chapter Notes, as adopted and implemented by the Parties in their respective tariff laws;

**Joint Committee** means the Joint Committee established under Article 6.1 (the Joint Committee) of the Framework Agreement;

**Joint Trade Committee** means the committee established under Article 21 of this Agreement,

**measure** means any measure taken by a Party, whether in the form of a law, regulation, rule, procedure, decision, administrative action or any other form;

**national** means:



- (a) for Pakistan, a Pakistani national within the meaning of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and
- (b) for Türkiye, a Turkish citizen within the meaning of the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye;

**originating** means qualifying under the rules of origin set out in the Protocol Annexed to this Agreement concerning the definition of the concept of 'Originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation;

**person** means a natural person or a juridical person;

**preferential tariff treatment** means the customs duty rate applicable under this Agreement to an originating good;

**Safeguards Agreement** means the *Agreement on Safeguards*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**sanitary or phytosanitary measure** means any measure referred to in paragraph 1 of Annex A of the SPS Agreement;

**SCM Agreement** means the *Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**SPS Agreement** means the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**TBT Agreement** means the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade*, in Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement;

**territory** means:

- (a) for Pakistan, land territory, internal waters and territorial sea as well as and any maritime area situated beyond the territorial sea which has been or might in future be designated under its national law, in accordance with international law, as an area within which Pakistan may exercise de facto and de jure sovereign rights or jurisdiction with regard to the sea, sea-bed, the subsoil and the natural resources, and
- (b) for Türkiye, the land territory, internal waters, the territorial sea and the airspace above them, as well as the maritime areas over which Türkiye has sovereign rights or jurisdiction for the purpose of exploration, exploitation and preservation of natural resources whether living or non-living pursuant to international law;

**WCO** means the World Customs Organization;

**WTO** means the World Trade Organization; and

**WTO Agreement** means the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization*, done on April 15, 1994.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Relation to Multilateral Agreements**

The Parties affirm their rights and obligations with respect to each other in accordance with the WTO Agreement, including the GATT 1994, GATS and its successor agreements and other multilateral agreements to which both Parties are party.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**Scope**

The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to the goods originating in the territories of the Parties that are specified in Annex I and Annex II of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**Reduction or Elimination of Customs Duties**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party shall reduce or eliminate its customs duties on originating goods of the other Party in accordance with its Schedule included in Annex I and Annex II of this Agreement.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, neither Party may increase any existing customs duty or adopt any customs duty on an originating good of the other Party covered by this Agreement.

3. Where a Party provides preferential tariff treatment for an originating good of the other Party within tariff quota, this provision shall not apply to the Party's imports out of the tariff quota.

4. If, at any time a Party reduces or eliminates its applied most-favoured-nation (hereinafter referred to as "MFN") customs duty rate after the entry into force of this Agreement, that duty rate shall apply as regards trade in goods covered by this Chapter, as long as it is lower than the customs duty rate calculated in accordance with the Party's Tariff Schedule in Annex I and Annex II.

5. On request of either Party, the Parties may consult each other on the possibility of accelerating and broadening the scope of the reduction or elimination of customs duties on imports between them.

**ARTICLE 6**  
**Customs Duty**

For the purpose of this Agreement, a customs duty includes any duty or charge of any kind imposed on, or in connection with, the importation or exportation of a good, including any form of surtax or surcharge imposed on, or in connection with, such importation or exportation, but does not include any:

- (a) internal taxes or other charges equivalent to internal taxes imposed consistently with Article 8 (National Treatment);
- (b) anti-dumping duties imposed consistently with the Anti-Dumping Agreement;
- (c) countervailing duties imposed consistently with the SCM Agreement;



(d) fees or other charges imposed consistently with Article 11 (Fees and Other Charges on Imports).

(e) Safeguard Measures consistent with Article XIX of GATT 1994 and Agreement on Safeguard Measures.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

##### **Classification of Goods**

The classification of goods in trade between the Parties shall be that set out in each Party's respective tariff nomenclature interpreted in conformity with the Harmonized System.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

##### **National Treatment**

Each Party shall accord national treatment to goods of the other Party in accordance with Article III of GATT 1994, including its interpretative notes; and to this end, Article III of GATT 1994, including its interpretative notes, is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

##### **Rules of Origin**

1. The Parties agree to apply preferential rules of origin in trade between them.
2. The Protocol to this Agreement on Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures (The Protocol) lays down the rules of origin and related methods of administrative cooperation.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

##### **Import and Export Restrictions**

1. Neither Party shall adopt or maintain any prohibition or restriction other than duties, taxes or other charges on the importation of any good of the other Party or on the exportation or sale for export of any good destined for the territory of the other Party, except in accordance with Article XI of GATT 1994, including its interpretative notes; and to this end, Article XI of GATT 1994, including its interpretative notes, is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

2. Each Party shall ensure the transparency of its non-tariff measures permitted under paragraph 1 of this Article and that they are not constituted, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary restrictions to trade between the Parties.

#### **ARTICLE 11**

##### **Fees and Other Charges on Imports**

Each Party shall ensure that all fees and charges of whatever character (other than customs duties and the items that are excluded from the definition of a customs duty under Article 6 (a), (b), (d) and (e) imposed on, or in connection with, importation are limited in amount to the approximate cost of services rendered, are not calculated on an ad valorem basis, and do not represent an indirect protection to domestic goods or taxation of imports for fiscal purposes.

**ARTICLE 12**  
**Affirmation of the SPS Agreement**

1. The Parties affirm their existing rights and obligations with respect to each other under the SPS Agreement.

2. The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary measures with a view to increasing the mutual understanding of their respective systems and facilitating access to their respective markets subject to pest risk analysis and phytosanitary import conditions.

3. Neither Party shall apply its sanitary and phytosanitary measures as an arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between them.

4. Upon request, a Party shall give appropriate consideration to proposals that the other Party makes for cooperation under the terms of this Article.

**ARTICLE 13**  
**Affirmation of the TBT Agreement**

1. The Parties affirm their existing rights and obligations with respect to each other under the TBT Agreement which is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

2. The Parties shall ensure that technical regulations are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between them.

3. The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation in the field of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures with a view to increasing the mutual understanding of their respective systems and facilitating access to their respective markets.

4. The Parties shall promote bilateral cooperation between their respective institutions in the field of halal standards and certification and accreditation.

5. Upon request, a Party shall give appropriate consideration to proposals that the other Party makes for cooperation under the terms of this Article.

**ARTICLE 14**  
**Cooperation on Customs Matters and Trade Facilitation**

1. The Parties affirm their commitment to the facilitation of the legitimate movement of goods and shall exchange expertise, including exchanging customs personnel, on measures to improve customs techniques and procedures in bilateral trade, and on computerized systems.

2. The Parties recognize that technical cooperation between them is fundamental to facilitating compliance with the obligations set forth in this Agreement and to achieving high levels of trade facilitation.

3. In order to enhance cooperation on customs matters, the Parties shall, *inter alia*:



(a) exchange information, to the extent possible, concerning their respective customs legislation, its implementation, and customs procedures, particularly in the following areas:

- (i) simplification and modernization of customs procedures;
  - (ii) border enforcement of intellectual property rights by the customs authorities
  - (iii) transit movements and transshipment; and
  - (iv) relations with the trade and business community;
- (b) consider developing joint initiatives relating to import, export, transit and other customs procedures, as well as trade facilitation instruments;
- (c) assist, to the extent practicable, each other on customs issues such as tariff classification, valuation and determination of origin;
- (d) work together on customs-related aspects of securing and facilitating the international trade supply chain in accordance with the SAFE Framework; and
- (e) strengthen coordination in international organizations such as the WTO and the WCO.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **Relation with the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as diminishing the rights and obligations of the Parties under the provisions of Section I of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **Transparency**

1. Each Party shall ensure that its customs and other trade-related laws, regulations and general administrative procedures and other requirements, including fees and charges, are readily available to all interested parties, via an officially designated medium and, where feasible and possible, official website.

2. Each Party shall designate or maintain one or more inquiry or information points to address inquiries by interested persons concerning customs and other trade-related matters.

3. For the purposes of this Article, the inquiry/information points shall be:

- (a) in the case of Pakistan, the Ministry of Commerce, Foreign Trade-III Wing, or its successor; and
- (b) in the case of Türkiye, the Ministry of Trade, Directorate General for International Agreements and EU, or its successor.



## **ARTICLE 17**

### **Customs Valuation**

Customs Valuation Agreement shall govern customs valuation rules applied to trade between the Parties without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **Trade Remedies**

1. Each Party retains its rights and obligations under Article XIX of the GATT 1994 and the WTO Safeguards Agreement, and any other relevant provisions in the WTO Agreement, and their successors.

2. This Agreement does not confer any additional rights or obligations on the Parties with regard to actions taken pursuant to Article XIX of the GATT 1994 and the WTO Safeguards Agreement, and their successors.

3. The rights and obligations of the Parties related to antidumping and countervailing measures shall be governed by Article VI of the GATT 1994, the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and their successors.

4. This Agreement does not confer any additional rights or obligations on the Parties with regard to the application of antidumping and countervailing measures, referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

5. The provisions of this Article shall not be subject to Article 22 (Dispute Settlement) of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **Exceptions**

1. Article 7.1 Taxation, Article 7.2 Balance of Payments Exceptions, Article 7.3 Security Exceptions of Chapter 7 (Exceptions and Final Provisions) of the Framework Agreement shall apply for the purposes of this Agreement.

2. Without prejudice to Paragraph 1 of this Article, the Parties affirm that their existing rights and obligations under Article XX (General Exceptions) of GATT 1994, including its interpretative notes, which is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, shall apply to trade in goods covered by this Agreement, mutatis mutandis.

3. The Parties understand that before taking any measures provided for in subparagraphs (i) and (j) of Article XX of GATT 1994, the Party intending to take the measures shall supply the other Party with all relevant information, with a view to seeking a solution acceptable to the Parties. The Parties may agree on any means needed to put an end to the difficulties. If no agreement is reached within 30 days of supplying such information, the Party may apply measures under this Article on the good concerned. Where exceptional and critical circumstances requiring immediate action make prior information or examination impossible, the Party intending to take the measures may apply forthwith the precautionary measures necessary to deal with the situation and shall inform the other Party immediately thereof.

## ARTICLE 20

### Bilateral Safeguard Measures

For purposes of this Chapter:

- (a) **Competent authority** means:
  - (i) in the case of Pakistan, the National Tariff Commission, Ministry of Commerce, or its successor; and
  - (ii) in the case of Türkiye the Ministry of Trade or its successor.
- (b) **Domestic industry** means, the producers as a whole of the like or directly competitive with the imported product or those producers whose collective production of the like or directly competitive product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of such product;
- (c) **Directly competitive product** refers to the product which is not identical to the imported product yet, fulfils similar functions of the latter, and satisfies similar needs, and is commercially substitutable;
- (d) **Like product** refers to the identical product, that is, the product that is the same in all aspects as the imported product, or in the absence of such a product, to another product which, in spite of not being the same in all aspects, has characteristics closely resembling to those of the imported product;
- (e) **Serious injury** means a significant overall impairment in the position of a domestic industry;
- (f) **Threat of serious injury** means serious injury that is clearly imminent and shall be determined on the basis of facts and not merely on allegation, conjecture, or remote possibility; and
- (g) **Transition period** means ten years for the fast-track products, i.e. products whose tariffs are eliminated from entry into force of this Agreement; for the products in remaining tracks, transition period means the period beginning on its date of entry into force of this Agreement and ending eight years from the date of completion of tariff elimination/reduction for that product.

#### Article 20.1 Imposition of a Bilateral Safeguard Measure

During the transition period, if as a result of the reduction or elimination of a Customs duty pursuant to this Agreement, an originating product of a Party is being imported into the other Party's territory in such increased quantities, in absolute terms or relative to domestic production, and under such conditions as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to a domestic industry producing like or directly competitive products, the other Party may, to the extent necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and facilitate adjustment, apply a safeguard measure.

If the conditions in the first Paragraph are met, a Party may, to the extent necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury, or threat thereof, or to facilitate adjustment:

- (a) suspend the further reduction of any rate of duty provided for under this Agreement on the product;



- (b) increase the rate of duty on the product to a level not to exceed the lesser of:
  - (i) the most-favored-nation (MFN) applied rate of duty in effect at the time the measure is taken, and
  - (ii) the MFN applied rate of duty in effect on the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

## **Article 20.2 Standards for a Definitive Bilateral Safeguard Measure**

- (a) Neither Party shall maintain a safeguard measure:
  - (i) except to the extent and for such time as may be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury or threat thereof as the case may be;
  - (ii) for a period exceeding three years, except that the period may be extended by up to two years if the competent authorities determine that the safeguard measure continues to be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and that there is evidence that the industry is adjusting as the case may be;
  - (iii) beyond the expiration of the transition period, except with the consent of the Party against whose originating product the measure is taken.
- (b) No safeguard measure shall be applied to the import of a product that has previously been subject to such a measure, unless a period of time equal to half of that during which the safeguard measure was applied for the immediately preceding period has elapsed.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b), a safeguard measure with a duration of 180 days or less may be applied again to the import of a product if:
  - (i) at least half a year has elapsed since the date of introduction of a safeguard measure on the import of that product; and
  - (ii) such a safeguard measure has not been applied on the same product more than four times during the transition period immediately preceding the date of introduction of the measure.

## **Article 20.3 Notification, Investigation and Consultation**

- (a) A Party shall promptly notify the other Party when:
  - (i) initiating an investigation under this Article;
  - (ii) applying a provisional measure;
  - (iii) making a finding of serious injury or threat thereof, caused by increased imports;
  - (iv) taking a decision to impose or extend a definitive safeguard measure.
- (b) Consultations may be held in person or by any technological means available to the Parties.



(c) In the investigation to determine whether increased imports have caused or are threatening to cause serious injury to a domestic industry, the Party shall comply with the requirements of Article 4.2(a) of the Safeguards Agreement and to this end, Article 4.2(a) of the Safeguards Agreement is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **Article 20.4 Compensation for Loss of Trade and Suspension of Concessions**

(a) A Party applying a bilateral safeguard measure shall consult with the other Party in order to mutually agree on appropriate trade liberalising compensation in the form of concessions having substantially equivalent trade effects or equivalent to the value of the additional duties expected to result from the safeguard measure. The Party shall provide an opportunity for such consultations no later than 30 days after the application of the bilateral safeguard measure.

(b) If the consultations under paragraph (a) do not result in an agreement on trade liberalising compensation within 30 days after the consultations begin, the Party whose goods are subject to the bilateral measure may suspend the application of substantially equivalent concessions to the Party applying the safeguard measure.

(c) The right of suspension referred to in paragraph (b) shall not be exercised for the first three years during which a bilateral safeguard measure is in effect, provided that the measure has been taken as a result of an absolute increase in imports and that such measure conforms to this Agreement.

#### **Article 20.5 Provisional Bilateral Safeguard Measures**

(a) In critical circumstances where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair, a Party may apply a provisional safeguard measure pursuant to a preliminary determination that there is clear evidence that the increased imports have caused or are threatening to cause serious injury to a domestic industry.

(b) The duration of the provisional safeguard measure shall not exceed **200 days**. The duration of any such provisional safeguard measure shall be counted as a part of the initial period and any extension of a definitive safeguard measure.

(c) The right to exercise compensation (retaliation) shall not be applicable on the imposition of a provisional safeguard measure.

### **ARTICLE 21 Joint Trade Committee**

1. A Joint Trade Committee comprising representatives of both Parties is hereby established. The Joint Trade Committee shall be co-chaired by representatives of both Parties shall be represented by its senior officials.

2. The Joint Trade Committee shall hold its first meeting within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Joint Committee shall meet at such times as may be agreed by the Parties. The Joint Committee may meet in person or by other means, as agreed between the Parties.

3. To ensure this Agreement operates properly and effectively, the Joint Trade Committee shall:

- (a) review and monitor the implementation and operation of this Agreement and, if necessary, make recommendations to the Parties to ensure the proper functioning of this Agreement;
- (b) supervise and coordinate the work of subcommittees, working groups or other bodies established under this Agreement;
- (c) adopt at its first meeting its own rules of procedure; and
- (d) consider any other matter under this Agreement as the representatives of the Parties agree.

4. To ensure this Agreement operates properly and effectively, the Joint Trade Committee may:

- (a) establish, merge or dissolve subcommittees, working groups or other bodies and determine their composition, function and duties;
- (b) recommend to the Parties amendments to this Agreement;
- (c) at the request of either Party, adopt decisions to amend any Annex or Protocol to this Agreement to ensure its proper functioning;
- (d) adopt interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement, which shall be binding on the Parties and all subcommittees, working groups or other bodies set up under this Agreement;
- (e) make recommendations to assist in the resolution of disputes between the Parties; and
- (f) take any other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

5. With the objective of maintaining and developing close economic and trade relations between them, the Parties shall consult at the Joint Trade Committee for undertaking a review of this Agreement including the concession lists in the fifth calendar year following the calendar year in which this Agreement enters into force and, unless otherwise agreed by both Parties, every five years thereafter. Either party may request for consultations for an additional review at any time after coming into force of this Agreement. Such a request shall be favorably considered by the other Party. In such consultations, the Parties shall consider to hold further negotiations on replacing or modernising any existing areas of this Agreement, and expanding the coverage of this Agreement to additional areas agreed upon.

6. The Joint Trade Committee may take decisions where provided for in this Agreement. Decisions of the Joint Trade Committee shall be binding on the Parties. The Parties shall take the necessary measures to implement the decisions.

7. The Joint Trade Committee may make recommendations relevant for the implementation and operation of this Agreement.

8. Decisions and recommendations of the Joint Trade Committee shall be made by consensus and adopted either in person or in writing.



## **ARTICLE 22**

### **Dispute Settlement**

1. Chapter 5 (Dispute Settlement) of Framework Agreement shall apply to this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement references made to the "Joint Committee" under Chapter 5 of the Framework Agreement shall be read as "Joint Trade Committee".

3. In cases where the matter of concern, referred to the Joint Trade Committee in accordance with the rules and procedures provided in Chapter 5 Article 1 (Consultations) of the Framework Agreement, directly relates to, or indirectly results, including through import restrictions, in one Party's failure to fulfill its obligations under Article 5 (Reduction or Elimination of Customs Duties) and its commitments provided in its Tariff Schedule in Annex I and Annex II of this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavour to resolve the dispute promptly through consultations at the Joint Trade Committee within 90 days after the receipt of the request for consultations. The Joint Trade Committee may propose, if required, any appropriate trade liberalising compensation in the form of concessions having substantially equivalent trade effects or any temporary suspension of equivalent concessions by the Other Party. In relation to suspension of concessions within the context of Bilateral Safeguard Measures applied in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 4 of Article 20 shall apply. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to limit the Parties rights under Article 19 of this Agreement.

4. If the consultations under paragraph 3 do not result in an agreement within 90 days after the receipt of the request for consultations, the requesting Party may itself temporarily suspend substantially equivalent concessions to the other Party and notify The Joint Trade Committee. The Joint Trade Committee may decide whether to amend or abolish these measures. Priority should be given to measures least disturbing the overall functioning of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 23**

### **Confidentiality**

1. Any information provided by persons or authorities of a Party to the authorities of the other Party pursuant to this Agreement shall be treated as being of a confidential or restricted nature, depending on the laws and regulations applicable in each Party. It shall be covered by the obligation of official secrecy and shall enjoy the protection extended to similar information under the relevant laws and regulations of the Party that received it.

2. Information referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be used by the authorities of the Party which has received it for purposes other than what it has been provided for without the express permission of the person or authority providing it.

3. Other than with the express permission of the person or authority that provided it, the information referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be published or otherwise disclosed to any persons, except where obliged or authorised to do so under the laws and regulations of the Party that received it in connection with legal proceedings. The person that provided the information shall be notified of such disclosure, wherever possible, in advance.

4. Where an authority of a Party requests information pursuant to this Article, it shall notify the requested persons of any possibility of disclosure in connection with legal proceedings.



**ARTICLE 24**  
**Entry into Force**

1. This Agreement shall be approved by the Parties in accordance with their own procedures.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month, following the date of the exchange of the written notifications through diplomatic channels, by which the Parties inform each other that all necessary requirements foreseen by their domestic legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled, or on such other date as the Parties may agree.

**ARTICLE 25**  
**Duration**

1. This Agreement shall be valid indefinitely.

2. Either Party may notify in writing the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

3. The termination shall take effect six months after the notification under paragraph 2 of this Article.

**ARTICLE 26**  
**Annexes, Protocols, and Notes**

The Annexes, Protocols, Joint Declaration and Notes to this Agreement shall form an integral part thereof.

**ARTICLE 27**  
**Amendments**

The Parties may agree, in writing, to amend this Agreement. An amendment shall enter into force on the first day of the second month after the Parties exchange written notifications certifying that they have completed their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures, or on such other date as the Parties may agree. The amendments shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 28**  
**Customs Unions and Free Trade Areas**

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the maintenance or establishment of customs unions, free trade areas or other arrangements between either of the Parties and non-parties, insofar as they do not alter the rights and obligations provided for in this Agreement.

2. On request of a Party, consultations between the Parties shall take place within the Joint Committee concerning agreements establishing or adjusting customs unions or free trade areas and, where required, on other major issues related to the Parties' respective trade policies with non-parties.

3. In case of accession of Türkiye to the European Union, the Parties shall enter into consultations on the consequences of the accession.

## **ARTICLE 29**

### **Authentic Texts**

This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the English and Turkish languages, each of these texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Islamabad, Pakistan, in duplicate, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August two thousand and twentytwo.