

Press Release

Task Force on Corporate Tax Policy holds meeting with Corporate Bodies

Islamabad – February 1, 2005: The Task Force on Corporate Tax Policy held an extensive meeting with different chambers, associations and Tax Bars at Islamabad. Mr. Justice (retd) Saleem Akhtar, head of the Task Force chaired the meeting, which was also attended by M.S. Lal, Abdul Rahman Qureshi, Abdul Hamid Chaudhary, Ahmed Khan, Mukhtar Ahmed Gondal and Syed Fayyaz Mahmud, members of the Task Force.

The representatives of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and industry, the American Business Council and the Lahore Tax Bar Association held extensive discussions with the Task Force particularly on the issues of discriminatory treatment between the corporates and the non-corporates in matters of tax rates; withholding taxes particularly on supplies and services; minimum tax levied on corporates; sales tax regime; tax audits; double taxation on dividend income; etc. The difficulties faced by the corporates in getting an even-handed treatment and the problems faced by small companies and large companies in application of different taxation and regulatory policies.

The Task Force appreciated the difficulties highlighted by the representatives of the commerce, industry and tax bar and assured them that the matters agitated by them would be given an objective consideration by the Task Force while formulating its recommendations for consideration of the Government so that the discrimination is removed as far as possible without any major disturbance in the Government revenues.

The Task Force decided to hold further discussion with the commercial and industrial chambers, associations and taxation practitioners in its next meeting to be held on 11th and 12th February 2005 at 5th Floor of State Life Building No. 2, Wallace Road, Karachi.

The Task Force also decided to extend an open invitation to the general public and the stakeholders, who may like to provide an input, to walk-in at the above premises on the aforementioned dates to provide and discuss their views which are directed towards elimination or reduction of any discriminatory treatment meted out to corporates vis-à-vis the non-corporates, the steps suggested to rectify the situation and encourage corporatization.