



## MANIFESTO

# Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Empowering Pakistan with an equitable, progressive, and inclusive future, safeguarding the dignity and self-respect of its people, firmly embedded in its sovereignty and freedom as guiding lights.

Under the visionary leadership of  
**Chairman IMRAN KHAN**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) envisions a Pakistan that is equitable, progressive, and inclusive, safeguarding the dignity and self-respect of its people, firmly embedded in its sovereignty and freedom as guiding lights.

PTI aims to foster a society where every citizen enjoys equal opportunities and rights irrespective of class, colour, or creed, rooted in the rich Muslim heritage of the subcontinent and inspired by the wisdom and teachings of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal.



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## Preamble

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) articulates a vision for Pakistan deeply rooted in the spirit of the first Muslim State, Medina. This vision is imbued with the sacred Islamic values that aim to shape Pakistan into a sanctuary where Muslims can thrive as a vibrant community, recognizing Allah as the Creator and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the beacon of compassion and mercy. This aspiration transcends a mere acknowledgment of our glorious past, affirming our commitment to national transformation inspired by the principles of Islam and practiced in the state of Medina.

We recognize the profound legacy of Islamic monotheism that has laid the foundation for an integrated state where religious, civil, judicial, and administrative facets of life are harmoniously intertwined. This legacy celebrates the principle of equality, a key factor in the success and resilience of Islamic societies.

At this pivotal moment, Pakistan stands on the threshold of a new era. Drawing inspiration from the philosophies of Allama Iqbal and the guiding principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we are poised to embrace the timeless values of Medina to light our path forward. As Jinnah once said, Pakistan's essence lies not just in its freedom and independence but in preserving the Muslim Ideology—a treasure that we hold dear and wish to share with the world.

Guided by the unwavering determination and teachings of Quaid-e-Azam, we face challenges with courage and resilience, traits deeply ingrained in our nation's character and exemplified by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The PTI envisions a state that mirrors the Spirit of Medina. Its multifaceted role primarily focuses on the welfare and progress of its people. The state serves as a guardian of public welfare, committed to ensuring that every individual, irrespective of their socio-economic status, has access to life-enriching opportunities.

A key aspect of this vision is the protection of the underprivileged and marginalized. In a society where these groups often find themselves overshadowed, the state steps in to shield them from exploitation and injustice. This involves enforcing laws and policies that specifically address their needs, ensuring fair treatment and a voice in society.

Creating an equitable environment is central to our mission. We aim to craft policies that foster equality and break down barriers impeding social, economic, and political progress. Our goal is an inclusive society where diversity is celebrated, and every individual has the opportunity to succeed.

Balancing welfare with development is crucial. The state must focus on sustainable development that benefits not just the present population but also future generations. This requires a forward-thinking approach to governance, anticipating and planning for long-term societal needs while addressing immediate challenges.

Upholding justice and the rule of law is paramount. The state is responsible for creating a legal framework that is fair, transparent, and accessible to all citizens, promoting a culture of integrity and accountability.



Fostering social and economic growth involves investing in key areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. It also means creating an environment conducive to business growth, leading to job creation, innovation, and economic prosperity.

The PTI identifies the root causes of Pakistan's challenges as a distorted social order and an imperfect justice system. We are committed to upholding an equitable society, founded on the values of empathy, justice, unity, empowerment, and faith. These values will guide us on our journey to progress.

Our youth, full of energy and intellect, represent our hope for the future. Inspired by the teachings of Islam and the philosophy of Allama Iqbal, we view them as both an opportunity and a challenge. PTI is dedicated to empowering them through education and health initiatives, turning this demographic into a driving force for national prosperity.

PTI stands as a social movement united in its purpose to create a self-reliant, independent Pakistan. We are committed to a nation rooted in Islamic teachings, echoing the social fabric established over 1400 years ago. Our pledge is to prioritize justice, focusing on the well-being of our citizens and the principles enshrined in our national identity.

In summary, PTI's commitment encompasses several vital components: rebuilding strong institutions for a democratic future, delivering economic and social justice, creating employment and housing opportunities, ensuring education and empowerment, and championing freedom and equality. We stand committed to ensuring equal rights for all, fostering unity, and reclaiming our sovereignty. This comprehensive commitment aims to ensure a just and equitable society, setting forth a roadmap for a prosperous, proud, and resilient Pakistan.



## 1. Ba-Ikhtiyar Awam, Khushal, Azad Pakistan

### 1.1 Towards a Bright Future

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, with its dedicated workers and visionary leadership, is poised to lead the charge towards the destiny that has been 1400 years in the making.

### 1.2 Premise: Islamic Welfare State

Riyasat-e-Madina is based on RULE OF LAW. It is NOT a theocratic state but a Welfare State. State shall always protect and stand by the aggrieved and powerless. The Motto for this new Manifesto is **“Empower the People”** *“Ba-ikhtiyar Awam, Khushal, Azad Pakistan”*

### 1.3 No Prosperity without Justice and the Rule of Law

Riyasat-e-Madina is based on RULE OF LAW. It is NOT a theocratic state but a Welfare State. State shall always protect and stand by the aggrieved and powerless. The Motto for this new Manifesto is **“Empower the People”** *“Ba-ikhtiyar Awam, Khushal, Azad Pakistan”*

Justice and the rule of law form the basic framework of a fair and stable society. Prosperity is indivisible from the principles of justice and the rule of law; they are the cornerstones that sustain and support a thriving society. Sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty and authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan through the chosen representatives of the people in-line with the Quran, Sunnah, and the Constitution of Pakistan.

### 1.4 Foundations of the New Social Order

In our "Azad" Pakistan, the bedrock principles of justice, equality, and welfare for our people are the guiding lights of our society. At the core of these principles lies the concept of sovereignty, which is unequivocally attributed to Allah. Authority, as an extension of this sovereignty, rests within the Pakistani Ummah and is exercised through their chosen representatives. It is through fair and free elections, as stipulated by the constitution, that political parties are chosen to lead the country and serve the populace for a fixed term. This ensures that no undue influence is exerted that overrides the choices and verdict of the people, maintaining the sanctity of the people's will as the ultimate authority in our democratic framework.

### 1.5 Access to justice

Access to justice will be freely available, offering self-representation, legal aid, and alternative dispute resolution methods. Police station and offices of the Local bodies premises will serve as venues for out-of-court settlement through Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism under the guidance of retired judges and lawyers, reducing the burden on our courts.

### 1.6 Enhancing Democratic Local Governance for Community Empowerment

The manifesto articulates a transformative plan for local governance, emphasizing the democratization and empowerment of local bodies. The strategy is to provide these bodies with



constitutional protection, granting them defined tenure and ensuring they possess the necessary financial and administrative powers. The approach also includes a linkage of the National Finance Commission (NFC) to the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC), reinforcing the financial autonomy and administrative capacity of local governments. This integration is expected to bring amendments that will strengthen the foundations of democratic governance, making local bodies directly accountable to the people and capable of addressing community needs more effectively.

## **1.7 Perks and privileges**

The perks and privileges of all Senior Grades/ranks of Government Officers will reflect the simple life style consistent with the economic realities of the State and the principles of Islam. To ensure the government attracts and retains the best talent, attractive policies will be implemented so that public servants are incentivized comparably to their private-sector counterparts. The reward system will be closely linked to delivery and performance, ensuring that those serving the government are not at a disadvantage. All perks and privileges will be monetized, and wage compensation will be aligned with market principles, fostering a meritocratic environment that values contribution and service. The structure of these privileges will be designed to uphold the integrity and austerity expected of public office.

## **1.8 Civil Liberties**

The manifesto's commitment to civil liberties comes with a promise to empower the existing Ombudsman system. The enhanced system is expected to address and resolve complaints regarding misuse of power by government functionaries swiftly, within 30 days of a complaint being lodged. The expeditious resolution of such complaints, coupled with clearly defined and enforceable punishments shall strengthen the accountability of government officials and uphold the rule of law.

## **1.9 Inclusive Education**

We commit to fostering an inclusive and comprehensive national education system that offers both vocational and academic pathways up to the secondary and college levels. Integral to our educational framework is the commitment that the state will ensure free education up to the secondary level. This policy is grounded in the belief that financial constraints should never be a barrier to progress for those who demonstrate merit. Furthermore, our national curriculum will be enriched with the teachings of Seerat ul Nabi and Iqbalayat, cementing them as the ideological cornerstone of our nation's identity. Through this approach, we aim to create an equitable education system that not only fuels academic and professional achievement but also instills a strong sense of national ethos.

## **1.10 Language Policy**

The language policy celebrates the country's diversity by respecting provincial languages, with Urdu as the official language and English as a compulsory subject. Apart from these two languages flexibility may be retained for any other regional language being used as a medium for education.



### **1.11 Vocational Training**

Recognizing the critical role of vocational training in economic empowerment, the manifesto highlights the government's commitment to issuing forecasts of job demands by trade. This proactive measure is intended to guide the youth towards vocations with substantial employment opportunities. Moreover, the manifesto underscores the importance of promoting female vocational institutes, linking vocational training with the broader goal of women's economic empowerment, which is seen as a pathway to overall societal progress.

### **1.12 Shelter for All**

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is dedicated to transforming the lives of millions of Pakistani families through its "Shelter for All" initiative. Recognizing housing as a fundamental right and a cornerstone for community and economic development, PTI's manifesto goes beyond traditional policy-making, aiming to instill dignity, stability, and a sense of belonging among the nation's populace.

### **1.13 Empowering Families Without Homes**

Central to this vision is the transformative impact on families without a home. The provision of stable, secure, and dignified housing is more than just physical shelter; it's a foundation for mental and social well-being. For these families, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized, PTI's initiative promises a new chapter marked by safety, stability, and hope.

#### **1.13.1 Uplifting the Urban and Rural Poor**

The "Shelter for All" initiative is pivotal for both urban and rural poor. In urban areas, it targets overcrowded and substandard living conditions, paving the way for healthier, more vibrant communities. Rural areas, often neglected, will see advancements in living standards, reducing the urban-rural divide and curbing excessive urban migration. Access to quality housing is also intrinsically linked to better education and healthcare, key drivers for social uplift and poverty reduction.

### **1.14 Land Reformation for Equitable Distribution**

PTI recognizes that the poor need assets to sustain their livelihoods, which in case of rural areas are titles to land. It pledges to introduce land reforms that limit maximum land ownership, ensuring equitable distribution and also commits to redistributing State Land amongst the landless. Reasonable compensation will be made for the land acquired and family, rather than individual ceiling shall be applied, as the latter has been grossly abused in the past. We advocate for land to be owned only if it can be cultivated or converted into collective farms.

Another important intervention planned is ending the distribution of agricultural lands to government employees that it sees as essential. Along with land redistribution PTI will focus on water resources that shall remain a state asset, we will secure food sovereignty, carefully allocating water resources to maximize self-reliance and economic gain.





### **1.15 Pioneering Indigenous Energy Solutions**

Energy self-sufficiency is our goal, concentrating on hydroelectric and renewable sources while expanding oil and gas exploration. Revising concessions and moving away from rental power plants will lessen our oil import bills. Investments will flow into solar and wind projects, and the utilization of canals and streams for small dams.

We plan to reform energy dispatch structures and tariffs, fostering import substitution of fuel, ensuring power plants are competitively bid based on local fuel usage, and situating plants strategically for cost-effective electricity delivery.

### **1.16 Revolutionizing Public Transport**

We envision a robust public transport network that includes revamping of Pakistan's railways to drive economic growth and social uplift, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Affordable and safe transit is scarce; thus, we propose mass transit systems through public-private partnerships in cities and affordable intra-city transport.

Special attention will be given to developing local electric two-wheelers, encouraging the use of renewable energy for vehicle charging, and ensuring all public transport operates on eco-friendly fuels to combat smog and reduce import costs. Our focus is clear: accessible, safe transportation for everyone.

### **1.17 Establishing Comprehensive Safety Nets**

Our humanitarian mission is to create the world's largest volunteer service, poised to tackle environmental crises and provide temporary relief and sustenance. We will train and equip this force to act effectively in times of need. With transparency at its core, the management of Zakat Funds, the Worker Welfare Fund, and Workers' Profit Participation will focus on the welfare of the disadvantaged. Our primary resolve is that no Pakistani will go to bed hungry, a solemn vow PTI stands by as our highest priority and commitment to the nation.

## **2. Rule of Law for Equal Rights**

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stands resolutely committed to delivering a radical transformation in Pakistan's societal structure, one that addresses the deep-seated anger and demands of its citizens. This transformation is directed against a system that has historically favored the elite at the expense of the marginalized and poor.

PTI's pledge is not just to reform but to revolutionize, to overturn the status quo and create a just and equitable society for all. To create a future in Pakistan where every citizen enjoys equal rights and legal protection, it's essential to implement comprehensive measures. These measures must address the concerns of marginalized communities, who often face discrimination and lack access to social, economic, and judicial justice.



## **2.1 Abolishing Discriminatory Laws**

We will overhaul the judicial system, abolishing discriminatory laws and practices in favor of legal safeguards that protect marginalized individuals, in line with Islamic principles. Key reforms will include speeding up family court cases related to divorce, custody, maintenance, and Haq Mehr, ensuring resolution within six months.

## **2.2 Inclusivity in the Judiciary**

Our aim is to diversify the judiciary, appointing judges based on merit, diversity, gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic background. This includes increasing the number of female judges for a balanced gender perspective in legal proceedings.

## **2.3 Property Rights and Inheritance**

A legal framework will be developed to clearly define property rights, ensure transparency in land registration, and protect inheritance rights. Special emphasis will be placed on expediting cases for hereditary rights of women, aiming for resolutions within six months. Furthermore, property matters arising from divorce will be entrusted to family courts, targeting resolution within a year.

## **2.4 Protection of Widows and Minor Children**

Laws will be reformed to protect the interests of widows and minor children, especially in urban and agricultural properties, ensuring their rightful share in property and its yield.

## **2.5 Child Labor and Bonded Labor**

We are committed to redefining child and minor rights in our society. Amendments in the law will prioritize increased penalties for crimes related to child trafficking, child pornography, and employment of child domestic workers.

## **2.6 Equal and Just Opportunities in Employment and Education**

We aim to ensure equal opportunities in government posts for all people, irrespective of gender, physical ability, and ethnicity. Access to quality education across all fields of knowledge and professions will be promoted, especially for disadvantaged groups.

## **2.7 Support for Working Women**

Dedicated nurseries for children of working women will be established, alongside improvements in women's access to public transport. Protection and uplift of the women workforce, particularly in industries like agriculture, will be a priority.

## **2.8 Compliance with International Labor Standards**

We aim to align with the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention, providing necessary facilities to women workers in both public and private sectors.



## 2.9 Protection of Home-Based Workers

A comprehensive registration process will be implemented to protect home-based workers from exploitation and ensure fair treatment.

## 2.10 Institutional Reforms

Extensive reforms in state institutions are planned to enhance credibility and transparency, aiming to prevent undue influence by powerful entities.

## 2.11 Access to Justice

We will develop initiatives to provide easier access to justice for all citizens, establishing complaint mechanisms and legal aid services for marginalized individuals.

## 2.12 Public Awareness and Advocacy

Campaigns will be launched to inform citizens of their rights, and we will encourage civil society organizations to promote equal rights and social justice.

## 2.13 Monitoring and Accountability

An oversight body will be established to monitor the implementation of these reforms and their impact on society, utilizing technology and data analytics for real-time insights.

## 2.14 Digital Rights of Every Citizen

Digital rights, including access to the internet and protection against arbitrary shutdowns, will be guaranteed, along with laws to restrict illegal surveillance while balancing security interests.

These comprehensive measures aim to address the systemic issues of discrimination and injustice, moving Pakistan towards a more equitable and just society.

# 3. Justice and the Rule of Law

Pakistan's judicial system, a vestige of the colonial era, is now faced with obsolescence. It is characterized by inefficiency, high costs, and excessive time consumption. Our vision for judicial reform is to modernize this system, making it efficient, rapid, equitable, and transparent. This reform is critical for instilling confidence in both domestic and international investors. We intend to enhance the judicial system, enabling swift and fair resolution of all disputes, including commercial ones. A strong legal system is vital for investor confidence, contributing significantly to the country's economic transformation.

## 3.1 Comprehensive Legal Review

In keeping with the evolving societal needs, we are embarking on a thorough legal review, revising and updating laws to make them more relevant and responsive. This includes a comprehensive



overhaul of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), and the Civil Procedure Code (CPC).

We also aim to reform draconian laws historically used to victimize political opponents and suppress fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and assembly, access to information, and the right to a fair trial. Our objective is to realign our legal framework with the current demands and requirements of justice.

### **3.2 Addressing Poor Governance**

The issue of poor governance, marked by unchecked discretion of officials, abuse of power, and arbitrary decision-making, leads to an erosion of governance quality. This not only adds to the populace's distress but also adversely affects economic growth. Such maladministration results in litigation that burdens our already overstretched judiciary. Our reform efforts will include developing a framework for promptly addressing such grievances. This will involve strengthening laws related to the ombudsman and streamlining regulations concerning postings, transfers, promotions, and career planning, aligning them with international best practices.

### **3.3 An Integrated Vision for Pakistan's Justice System**

Currently, the judicial system is largely inaccessible to the common citizen. We plan to bridge this gap by ensuring access to competent legal representation through legal aid clinics. We also aim to make necessary amendments to the law to eliminate the excessive delays that currently plague our judicial system.

### **3.4 Immediate Governance and Justice Reforms**

The key elements of our judicial reform will focus on prioritizing simplicity to reduce procedural complexity, ensuring equality, streamlining procedures, and enforcing strict adherence to time limits to minimize delays in case decisions.

### **3.5 Empowering Legal Professionals**

The independence and integrity of the judiciary are paramount. We will provide comprehensive training to all legal stakeholders to address current and future legal challenges, including issues related to cyber security, hate speech, transgender rights, and international law. The Judicial Academy will play a central role in this training initiative.

### **3.6 A Special Core Group for Modern Justice**

We propose the establishment of a Special Core Group for Justice Deliverance under the Ministry of Law. This group will lead the transformative efforts and oversee the implementation of high-level decisions, ensuring transparency and accountability.



### **3.7 Implementation/Administration**

Effective implementation of laws is as crucial as their creation. We recognize that many well-intentioned laws remain inactive due to poor implementation. Our approach will ensure robust procedures and a strong bureaucracy for efficient law enforcement.

### **3.8 Enhancing Internal Resolution Mechanisms**

We will strengthen internal complaint and dispute resolution mechanisms within government departments at all levels. This effort will involve close collaboration with Federal and Provincial Ombudsman Offices to address issues of maladministration.

### **3.9 Streamlining Court Processes**

We are committed to updating the Model Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure Codes to modernize laws and expedite judicial decision-making processes.

### **3.10 Addressing Medical Negligence and Malpractice**

We recognize the urgent need to tackle medical negligence and malpractice. Our strategy includes standardizing the regulatory framework for healthcare and formulating a unified code of conduct for all medical professionals in Pakistan.

### **3.11 Forensic Audits for Accountability**

A critical component of our reform program is conducting forensic audits of our governance and judicial system's performance. These audits, carried out by independent experts, will enable us to assess and enhance their effectiveness.

### **3.12 Advocating for Climate Justice**

We acknowledge the necessity for laws that support sustainable development, such as those related to affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, and promoting good health and well-being. These initiatives are integral to our goal of achieving climate justice and positively impacting the environment.

### **3.13 Ease of Doing Business**

We are committed to providing legal safeguards for start-ups and small businesses to foster a conducive environment for business growth.

### **3.14 Improving Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law**

Our proposal focuses on improvements through which the fight against corruption and the upholding of the rule of law in Pakistan can be significantly enhanced, leading to a fairer and more just society.



### ***Streamlined Anti-Corruption Structure***

Currently, there are three independent anti-corruption units directly reporting to the Prime Minister, including the Assets Recovery Unit (ARU), Pakistan Citizens' Portal, and Prime Minister Inspection Commission (PMIC). To streamline efforts and prevent duplication, these units should be amalgamated into a single office under the PM, creating a one-window service. This unified approach will enhance cooperation among units to effectively combat corruption.

### ***Establishment of National Anti-Corruption Policy Cell (NAPC)***

A National Anti-Corruption Policy Cell (NAPC) is crucial to formulate and execute a comprehensive national anti-corruption policy. This cell will standardize, coordinate, and promote awareness efforts, corruption prevention measures, and enforcement through uniform and standardized laws and penalties at both federal and provincial levels.

### **3.14.1 Across-the-Board Accountability**

#### ***Efficient Handling of White Collar Crime Cases***

To expedite the resolution of white-collar crime cases and avoid redundancy in court proceedings, a consistent set of laws and court procedures should be established at both federal and provincial levels. This will ensure swift justice and accountability.

#### ***Creation of Provincial Anti-Corruption Forces***

The establishment of independent Anti-Corruption Forces at the provincial level will enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts and ensure that accountability is maintained across the board.

### **3.14.2 Establishment of an Elite Anti-Corruption Academy**

A world-class Anti-Corruption Academy, adhering to the standards and guidelines of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), should be established. This academy will provide essential investigative skills related to white-collar crimes. It will ensure that law enforcement personnel are well-equipped to combat corruption at an international standard.

### **3.15 Leveraging Modern Technology**

Integrating modern technology into the judicial process will be a game-changer. Our focus will be on building a secure and accessible cyberspace, beneficial for those seeking technological innovation. This tech-driven approach will encompass all court stages, from process service to case management, and will include the full digitization of land registration and the creation of an electronic web portal for centralized data access.

### **3.16 A Video Justice System for Remote Aid**

Our innovative Video Justice System will enhance access to legal aid through administrative justice counters equipped with webcams, enabling remote consultations with legal practitioners. Additionally, we will utilize video communication technology to prevent court proceeding delays due to the unavailability of lawyers and judges, thus expediting decision-making.



### **3.17 Efficiency Measures and Special Costs**

We propose rationalizing the cause lists of judges at all levels and constituting Special Benches in Superior Courts to address specific areas of law. To discourage frivolous litigation, we will empower courts to impose "Special Costs" and enhance the capacity for recording evidence and arguments through video links.

### **3.18 Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

We shall promote ADR to reduce the backlog of cases and enhance the efficiency of our justice system. This includes establishing local-level Committees at the Village and Union Council levels to handle specific types of cases and disputes. Furthermore, we propose establishing Tehsil and Sub Tehsil level Benches of Sessions Courts to improve accessibility.

### **3.19 Improving the Investigative Process and FIR Registration System**

Our objective is to ensure that false and frivolous FIRs are not registered and to remove obstacles in filing genuine FIRs. We will train investigating officers in evidence collection to meet necessary standards, contributing to quicker and more efficient court proceedings.

### **3.20 Improved Evidence Review with Local Judicial Oversight**

We may consider appointing local judges with jurisdiction over areas comprising approximately three Thanas, adjusting the specific number to align with the local population. These judges will oversee the arrest process and the FIR registration process, enhancing its reliability. For this purpose, special investigative teams operating under the judge's authority may be established, responsible for evaluating all evidence before the official filing of an FIR and particularly for approving arrests.

### **3.21 Elevating the Role of Police Stations**

Our strategy includes utilizing police stations and their infrastructure to extend the judicial system to the local level efficiently. This approach, in conjunction with the involvement of local land revenue departments, will effectively resolve local property-related disputes.

### **3.22 Freedom of the Media**

Media stands as the fourth pillar of a modern state. To uphold a truly democratic system, we need to ensure that the media is free from any kind of influence. Journalism should be independent and free from fear. We aim to bring legislation in line with these principles.



## **4. Selection Process for Judges**

The proposed framework for instituting an independent judiciary and refining the process of judge selection in Pakistan signifies a visionary approach, demanding comprehensive overhauls across multiple spheres. Acknowledging the imperative for a resilient and transparent system, this document delineates the fundamental components of the framework and the imperative reforms essential for its seamless execution.

### **4.1 Legal Reforms: Paving the Legislative Path**

In the pursuit of a more effective judicial selection process, a foundational transformation is set in motion through the introduction of new legislation. This legislative cornerstone aims to craft a robust framework, delineating the roles and responsibilities of Independent Judicial Commissions (IJC) and Independent Bodies with precision. The proposed legislation becomes the compass guiding the trajectory of these entities, ensuring clarity and precision in their functions.

#### **4.1.1 Legal Reforms: Adapting Existing Laws**

Simultaneously, the evolution towards a more transparent judicial selection process necessitates amendments to existing laws. Paramount to this progression is the adaptation of current legal structures to accommodate the principles and intricacies of the proposed framework. Through this dual approach of legislation introduction and existing law modification, the legal landscape is not only clarified but also aligned with the overarching objectives of transparency and efficacy.

#### **4.1.2 Constitutional Amendments: Empowering Independence**

In scenarios where the existing constitutional framework presents limitations, the contemplation of amendments becomes a necessity. Constitutional adjustments are considered to confer enhanced powers to an independent judicial body tasked with appointing committee members. This strategic empowerment fortifies the autonomy and efficacy of the proposed bodies, ensuring they operate within a constitutional framework that maximizes their impact and independence.

#### **4.1.3 Constitutional Amendments: Strengthening Autonomy**

Through thoughtful constitutional adjustments, the envisioned amendments seek to strengthen the autonomy of the independent judicial body responsible for appointing committee members. This deliberate enhancement empowers the body, ensuring it possesses the requisite authority to carry out its responsibilities effectively. By bolstering autonomy, the constitutional amendments contribute significantly to the overall integrity and independence of the proposed bodies.

#### **4.1.4 Institutional Reforms: Shaping Operational Excellence**

The success of the envisioned framework hinges on a dual process of restructuring and establishment of key institutions, primarily the Independent Judicial Commissions (IJC) and Independent Bodies. These institutions must operate with a well-defined mandate and operational guidelines, ensuring seamless alignment with broader objectives of judicial independence and





transparency. This strategic emphasis on operational excellence positions the institutions as pillars of strength within the reformed judicial landscape.

#### **4.1.5 Institutional Reforms: Fostering Collaboration**

In addition to effective restructuring, fostering collaboration is essential for the proposed framework's success. The newly proposed bodies, such as the Independent Judicial Commissions (IJC) and Independent Bodies, must harmonize efforts with existing bodies like the Judicial Commission of Pakistan. This collaborative approach ensures a unified and synergetic judicial landscape, where entities work cohesively toward shared goals of transparency, efficacy, and judicial excellence.

### **4.2 Ensuring Independence, Capability, and Commitment to Justice:**

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) underscores the critical importance of ensuring the appointment of judges distinguished by qualities of integrity, competence, and an unwavering commitment to justice, the rule of law, and impartiality.

Against the backdrop of recent events and considering our national context, PTI advocates for the implementation of a meticulous and transparent judicial selection process. We firmly believe that, for the nation to chart a course towards prosperity, the establishment of a truly independent and empowered judiciary is indispensable. This includes a concerted effort to restore the credibility of the judiciary in the eyes of our citizens. PTI remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a judiciary that not only upholds the highest standards of justice but also commands the trust and confidence of the people it serves.

#### **4.2.1 Independent Judicial Commission:**

Establish an independent judicial commission responsible for the selection and appointment of judges. This commission should be free from political influence and include members from diverse backgrounds, such as legal experts, representatives from the bar associations, and civil society.

#### **4.2.2 Transparent Nomination Process:**

Implement a transparent nomination process where potential candidates are invited to apply or are nominated based on their legal expertise, experience, and integrity. The commission should thoroughly vet each nominee's background, qualifications, and professional conduct.

#### **4.2.3 Public Input and Scrutiny:**

Allow for public input by publishing the names of nominees and inviting feedback from the legal community and the general public. This can be done through public hearings or online platforms to ensure a broader perspective on the candidates' suitability.



#### **4.2.4 Merit-Based Selection:**

Prioritize merit-based selection, considering a candidate's legal acumen, judicial experience, academic qualifications, and a history of upholding the principles of justice and the rule of law. Avoid nepotism or favoritism in the selection process.

#### **4.2.5 Interviews and Evaluations:**

Conduct thorough interviews of shortlisted candidates to assess their legal knowledge, judgment skills, and commitment to upholding constitutional principles. Utilize evaluations from legal peers, academics, and members of the judicial community to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

#### **4.2.6 Background Checks:**

Perform rigorous background checks on potential candidates to verify their professional integrity, financial probity, and overall suitability for a judicial role. This should include a review of any past judgments, legal opinions, or potential conflicts of interest.

#### **4.2.7 Judicial Training and Ethics:**

Require mandatory judicial training for newly appointed judges to ensure they are well-versed in ethical standards, the principles of justice, and the rule of law. Emphasize the importance of judicial independence and impartiality.

#### **4.2.8 Tenure and Accountability:**

Implement a system of fixed tenure for judges, coupled with an effective mechanism for accountability. This can include a transparent process for addressing complaints against judges and, if necessary, the removal of judges found to be engaging in unethical or biased conduct.

#### **4.2.9 Protection of Judicial Independence:**

Ensure legal safeguards to protect judges from external pressures, including legislative or executive interference. Establish a strong culture of judicial independence, emphasizing that judges are accountable to the law and the Constitution, not to political or external influences.

#### **4.2.10 Oversight and Review Mechanism:**

Institute an oversight mechanism, such as a judicial conduct board, to periodically review the performance and conduct of judges. This board should have the authority to investigate complaints, conduct audits, and recommend corrective measures or disciplinary actions.

#### **4.2.11 Whistleblower Protection:**

Establish whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage judicial officers and staff to report any undue influence or attempts to compromise the integrity of the judiciary without fear of reprisal.



#### **4.2.12 The process unfolds in three key stages**

Formation of the Independent Judicial Commission:

Transparent Nomination Process:

Nomination Scrutiny Commission:

#### **4.2.13 The Judicial Commission**

To ensure the independence and impartiality of the Judicial Commission, it's crucial to design its composition in a way that minimizes political interference and ensures a diverse and knowledgeable representation. The key principle guiding the composition should be diversity, expertise, and independence. The inclusion of members from various backgrounds – judiciary, legal profession, academia, civil society, and eminent citizens ensures a holistic and unbiased approach to judicial appointments. Strict eligibility criteria, transparency in the nomination process, and clear guidelines for recusal in case of conflicts of interest are essential to maintain the commission's credibility.

#### **4.2.14 Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP):**

The Chief Justice of Pakistan can serve as the ex-officio chairperson of the Judicial Commission. This ensures a high-ranking judicial official with a comprehensive understanding of the legal system presides over the commission.

#### **4.2.15 Senior Judges:**

Include two or more senior judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts as members. These judges should be nominated by their respective Chief Justices based on their experience, expertise, and reputation for upholding the rule of law.

#### **4.2.16 Bar Council Representatives:**

Appoint members from the legal community, such as representatives from the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and provincial bar councils. These individuals should be experienced lawyers known for their commitment to legal ethics and professionalism.

#### **4.2.17 Legal Academia:**

Include legal scholars and academics specializing in constitutional law, human rights, and judicial studies. These individuals can provide valuable insights into the theoretical and academic aspects of the law.

#### **4.2.18 Civil Society Representatives:**

Appoint members from civil society organizations that focus on legal and human rights issues. These representatives can bring a broader perspective and act as a check against any potential biases within the legal community.



#### **4.2.19 Eminent Citizens:**

Include eminent citizens known for their integrity, impartiality, and commitment to justice. This category may include retired judges, respected public figures, or individuals with a distinguished record in upholding constitutional values.

#### **4.2.20 Ombudsman or Human Rights Commissioner:**

Appoint the Federal Ombudsman or the National Human Rights Commissioner as a member to ensure a focus on human rights, ethical considerations, and accountability within the judicial system.

#### **4.2.21 Federal and Provincial Law Ministers:**

Include the federal and provincial law ministers as ex-officio members to maintain a connection with the government while minimizing direct political influence. Their participation should be limited to advisory roles without voting rights.

#### **4.2.22 Nomination by Legal Fraternity:**

Allow professional bodies, such as the Pakistan Bar Council and provincial bar councils, to nominate members to the commission. This ensures that practicing lawyers have a say in the selection process.

#### **4.2.23 Non-Voting Secretary:**

Appoint a non-voting secretary to the commission who is well-versed in administrative and legal matters. The secretary will assist in organizing commission meetings, maintaining records, and facilitating communication.

#### **4.2.24 Public Input Mechanism:**

Establish a mechanism for public input in the appointment process. This could involve soliciting nominations and feedback from the public through online platforms, public hearings, or other inclusive methods.

### **4.3 Nominations of Aspirants**

The process of selecting nominees shall be transparent, involving consultations with legal experts, bar associations, and civil society. It will also consider public input to ensure that the commission represents a diverse range of perspectives and maintains public trust. Additionally, the nominees shall undergo a rigorous vetting process to assess their qualifications, ethical standing, and suitability for the role.

#### **4.3.1 Legal Expertise:**

Nominees should have a distinguished legal career with expertise in constitutional law, administrative law, or relevant areas. A background as a judge, legal scholar, or experienced legal practitioner would be valuable.



#### **4.3.2 Judicial Experience:**

Individuals with a proven track record as judges, demonstrating a commitment to fairness, impartiality, and upholding the rule of law, are well suited for a judicial commission.

#### **4.3.3 Ethical Conduct:**

Nominees must have a reputation for high ethical standards, honesty, and integrity. A history of ethical conduct in legal practice and public life is essential.

#### **4.3.4 Independence:**

The nominees should be known for their independence and ability to make decisions free from external influence, ensuring the judicial commission's impartiality.

#### **4.3.5 Diversity:**

Consider nominees who bring diversity to the commission, including gender diversity, representation from different legal traditions, and individuals with varied legal expertise.

#### **4.3.6 Public Trust:**

Individuals with a history of public trust and respect within the legal community and society at large are crucial for fostering confidence in the judicial commission.

#### **4.3.7 Commitment to Justice:**

Nominees should demonstrate a strong commitment to justice, fairness, and protecting human rights. A history of contributions to legal reforms and advocacy for justice is beneficial.

#### **4.3.8 Communication Skills:**

Effective communication skills are important for nominees to articulate complex legal issues, engage with stakeholders, and contribute meaningfully to the commission's discussions.

#### **4.3.9 Understanding of Contemporary Issues:**

Nominees should have a good understanding of contemporary legal and social issues, enabling them to address emerging challenges in the legal landscape.

#### **4.3.10 Stakeholder Engagement:**

Those with a history of engaging with legal professionals, civil society, and other stakeholders are likely to bring a broader perspective to the judicial commission.

### **4.4 Scrutiny Commission**

PTI believes that the scrutiny of judicial nominees by an independent body before confirmation is a critical step in ensuring the appointment of qualified, impartial, and ethical individuals to the judiciary and aims to introduce a combination of mechanisms that contribute to a robust scrutiny process designed to instill public confidence in the integrity of the judicial selection process.



#### **4.4.1 Background Checks:**

Conduct thorough background checks on each nominee, including a review of their professional history, financial records, and personal background. This can be done through relevant government agencies, law enforcement, and intelligence services.

#### **4.4.2 Public Disclosures:**

Require nominees to provide comprehensive public disclosures regarding their financial interests, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest. This information should be made available to the public to enhance transparency.

#### **4.4.3 Vetting by Independent Bodies:**

Engage independent bodies, such as legal ethics committees, to vet nominees. These bodies can assess the nominees' ethical conduct, adherence to professional standards, and any potential red flags that may impact their suitability for the judiciary.

#### **4.4.4 Legal and Professional Ethics Review:**

Assess nominees based on their adherence to legal and professional ethics. Evaluate their past legal cases, opinions, and conduct to ensure they have consistently demonstrated a commitment to upholding the rule of law and ethical standards.

#### **4.4.5 Interviews and Questioning:**

Conduct comprehensive interviews with nominees to assess their legal knowledge, judicial philosophy, and commitment to constitutional principles. This process should allow commission members to question nominees about their stance on key legal issues and their approach to judicial decision-making.

#### **4.4.6 Public Hearings:**

Organize public hearings where nominees can address the commission and the public directly. This provides an opportunity for nominees to articulate their judicial philosophy, answer questions, and address any concerns raised by stakeholders.

#### **4.4.7 Peer Review:**

Seek input from legal peers, including members of the legal profession, academics, and former judges, regarding the nominees' professional competence, integrity, and suitability for the role.

#### **4.4.8 Conflict of Interest Analysis:**

Scrutinize potential conflicts of interest that nominees may have, both current and historical. Ensure that nominees have a record of recusing themselves in situations where there may be a perceived conflict.



#### **4.4.9 Public Consultations:**

Involve the public in the scrutiny process through consultations, allowing them to provide input on the nominees. This helps in gauging public trust and confidence in the individuals being considered for judicial appointments.

#### **4.4.10 Independent Reviews and Reports:**

Commission independent reviews or reports from legal experts, bar associations, and civil society organizations. These external evaluations can provide additional perspectives on the nominees' qualifications and suitability.

#### **4.4.11 Performance Assessment:**

Evaluate nominees based on their past performance, including their judicial decisions, legal writings, and contributions to legal scholarship. This can provide insights into their legal acumen and approach to legal issues.

## **5. Information For Freedom and Accountability**

### **5.1 Ensuring a Vibrant and Responsible Free Media in Pakistan**

The proposed information policy, as part of our party manifesto, will focus on creating an environment that is free, fair, transparent, and dynamic to ensure that media can operate independent of political and government pressures. This policy will encourage responsible journalism encompassing rights and responsibilities while safeguarding the freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

In this context, the role of the Information Ministry, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), and other regulatory bodies will be clearly defined and restructured to align with the democratic values of media freedom.

### **5.2 Reinforcing Media Freedom**

#### **5.2.1 Legislative Safeguards**

Enact and enforce legislation that explicitly protects the rights of journalists and media houses from undue influence and harassment.

#### **5.2.2 Protection of Journalists**

Introduce a national strategy for the safety and protection of journalists, ensuring that threats, violence, and other forms of harassment against media personnel are addressed promptly and effectively.



## **5.3 Promoting Responsible Journalism**

### **5.3.1 Journalistic Ethics**

Encourage the development of a robust code of ethics for journalism, designed and upheld by independent media associations, to foster freedom, accountability, and responsibility.

### **5.3.2 Media Literacy Programmes**

Launch media literacy initiatives to educate the public about discerning credible information, thereby promoting responsible content dissemination and consumption.

## **5.4 Autonomy of Regulatory Bodies**

Reinforce PEMRA's role as an independent body free from political influence, with transparent appointment processes for its members to prevent conflicts of interest.

PEMRA's mandate will also be redefined to ensure that it not only regulates, but also facilitates the growth and development of free and fair electronic media in Pakistan.

## **5.5 Information Ministry's Restructured Role**

### **5.5.1 Policy Facilitator**

Transform the Information Ministry into a facilitator that supports the media industry through policies that promote growth, training, and innovation. The Information Ministry will be encouraged to engage in regular and transparent dialogue with media representatives to ensure that the government policies support and do not hinder the development and independence of the media.

### **5.5.2 Equal Access to Information**

Mandate that all media outlets and organisations have equal access to government information and events without any discrimination based on editorial policies or viewpoints.

### **5.5.3 Government Advertising**

Establish clear and transparent criteria for release of government advertising that does not favour or penalize media outlets based on their viewpoint and reporting.

## **5.6 Media Independence**

### **5.6.1 Public Broadcaster Reform**

Reform state-owned broadcasters to ensure their editorial independence and transform them into service institutions that serve the interests of the public, and not the government.

It must also be ensured that public broadcasters represent the entire spectrum of diverse cultures, languages, and opinions within Pakistan.





### **5.6.2 Financial Sustainability of Media**

Create a fund to support media outlets, especially in the digital sphere, to help them remain financially viable without compromising their independence.

### **5.6.3 Tax Incentives**

Introduce tax incentives for media outlets that adhere to ethical standards and support investigative journalism.

### **5.6.4 Digital Media and Freedom**

Uphold digital rights and ensure internet freedom so that online media platforms and social networks can operate freely and securely. Cross-media ownership and monopoly

### **5.6.5 Regulation of Ownership**

Enforce regulations to prevent media monopolies and ensure a plurality of voices in the media landscape, with transparent ownership structures.

### **5.6.6 Accountability and Redress Mechanisms**

Appropriate and robust accountability and redress mechanisms will be introduced for a smooth and transparent operation of media.

## **5.7 Strengthening Regional Media**

### **5.7.1 Fostering Local Voices in Print and Electronic Media**

In our pursuit of a vibrant and responsible free media, special emphasis is laid on the growth and sustenance of regional media in both print and electronic forms.

Recognizing the critical role of local media in reflecting and highlighting regional issues, cultures, and languages, our policy includes targeted measures to nurture and encourage regional media outlets. By implementing these measures, we aim to ensure that the rich tapestry of Pakistan's diverse regions is reflected in its media landscape.

Regional media is not just a means of communication, but a stronghold of community identity and a driver for local development. It is through these focused efforts that regional media can thrive, contributing to a more informed, engaged, and united society.

### **5.7.2 Promotion of Regional Languages and Content**

Establish a dedicated fund to support the creation and dissemination of content in regional languages across various media platforms.

### **5.7.3 Language Diversity**

Mandate quotas for content in regional languages on national media channels to ensure representation of all linguistic groups.



#### **5.7.4 Empowering Local Journalists and Media Houses**

Training and Development: Invest in training programs for local journalists, focusing on investigative journalism, digital media skills, and ethical reporting to enhance the quality of regional journalism.

#### **5.7.5 Support for Local Newsrooms**

Provide subsidies and grants to small and independent media houses focused on regional reporting, especially in underserved areas.

#### **5.7.6 Access to Information and Resources**

Set up regional information bureaus that provide timely and equitable access to government information and resources, ensuring local media are as well-informed as national outlets.

#### **5.7.7 Digital Access**

Promote digital inclusivity by providing the necessary infrastructure and training to regional media outlets, enabling them to transition into the digital space effectively.

#### **5.7.8 Facilitating Regional Broadcasting**

Simplify the process for obtaining broadcasting licenses and allocate frequencies specifically for regional broadcasters to encourage a diverse range of voices in the media landscape.

#### **5.7.9 Technical Assistance**

Offer technical assistance and capacity-building resources to regional broadcasters to improve production quality.

#### **5.7.10 Incentivizing Regional Media Investment**

Provide tax breaks and financial incentives to businesses that advertise with regional media outlets, thereby encouraging local economic support for these platforms. Also facilitate low-interest loans for the establishment and modernization of regional media infrastructure.

#### **5.7.11 Regional Representation in Regulatory Bodies**

Ensure representation from regional media in the governance structures of regulatory bodies like PEMRA to provide a voice for local interests in policy making.

#### **5.7.12 Community Engagement and Media**

Support community media initiatives that cater to local populations, providing platforms for discussion and exchange on regional issues.

#### **5.7.13 Public-Private Partnerships**

Encourage public-private partnerships aimed at developing regional media sectors, leveraging both public funding and private expertise.



#### 5.7.14 Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Support initiatives to archive and document local history and cultural heritage through regional media, preserving it for future generations.

#### 5.7.15 Expanding Reach and Accessibility

Assist in the development of distribution networks that increase the accessibility of regional print media, particularly in remote areas.

#### 5.7.16 Online Platforms for Regional Media

Support the creation of online platforms that aggregate regional media content, making it accessible to a wider audience, both nationally and globally.

### 5.8 Ensuring Job Security and Protection for Journalists in Pakistan

By integrating these strategies into our party's manifesto, we signal a steadfast dedication to championing the cause of press freedom and ensuring the welfare of journalists in Pakistan. These measures, developed in consultation with journalists' associations and civil society forums, will form the foundation of a new covenant between the government and the guardians of our public discourse.

Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf, in pursuit of a more robust and secure environment for journalists in Pakistan, is committed to championing a series of reforms and initiatives designed to safeguard the fundamental rights and job security of media personnel.

Our strategy is outlined as follows:

#### 5.8.1 Legislative Reforms for Media Protection

Understanding that the bedrock of journalist security lies in strong legal frameworks, we propose comprehensive media protection laws. These laws will extend beyond mere policy statements and provide actionable legal protection for journalists facing various risks.

#### 5.8.2 Labour and Safety Laws

We aim to revise existing labour laws to account for the unique challenges faced by media personnel, ensuring that provisions specific to the media industry are in place.

Furthermore, anti-harassment and workplace safety laws will be strictly enforced within media organizations to create a safer working environment for all media workers.

#### 5.8.3 Journalist Safety Fund

No journalist should face financial ruin or persecution for doing their job. To achieve this end, we propose the establishment of a government-backed **Journalist Safety Fund**. This fund will offer a safety net for those in the media industry who encounter distress due to job loss, legal challenges, or threats to their personal safety.



Additionally, it will provide essential support to the families of journalists who have made the ultimate sacrifice in their line of duty.

#### **5.8.4 Fair and Independent Media Oversight**

We will advocate for the creation of an independent media regulatory authority, with fair representation from within the industry, to foster a balanced and impartial oversight mechanism.

This body will not only mediate labour disputes but will also address complaints of unfair treatment and censorship.

#### **5.8.5 Insurance and Compensation**

Acknowledging the risks involved in journalistic work, we will mandate comprehensive insurance coverage for journalists by their employers. This will encompass life, health, and professional liability insurance.

A compensation scheme will also be implemented to support journalists who have been unjustly terminated, offering them financial security as they transition to seeking new employment opportunities.

#### **5.8.6 Training and Professional Development**

In an evolving media landscape, continuous learning is crucial. Our government will fund training programmes that focus on safety, digital security, and the legal rights of journalists.

We will also incentivize media organizations to invest in the continuous professional development of their staff, ensuring their skills remain sharp and relevant.

#### **5.8.7 Encouragement of Fair Employment Practices**

To combat the insecurity that plagues media employment, we will promote the adoption of fair employment contracts. These contracts will provide clear terms regarding tenure, promotion, and severance.

We will also review wages and working conditions periodically to ensure that they are just and equitable.

#### **5.8.8 Support for Independent Journalism**

Independent journalism is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. We will foster the growth of independent public broadcasting and support investigative journalism through grants and subsidies, particularly for those outlets operating in the public interest.

#### **5.8.9 International Collaboration for Journalist Safety**

Our commitment to journalist safety extends beyond our borders.

We will collaborate with international bodies specializing in media protection, integrating global best practices and strengthening the support network available to Pakistani journalists.



### **5.8.10 Protection for Whistle-blowers**

Recognizing the critical role of whistle-blowers in journalism, we will introduce laws to protect the confidentiality and security of journalistic sources. These laws will provide assurances to those who expose corruption or malfeasance, safeguarding the public's right to know.

### **5.8.11 Promoting Public Awareness**

The value of journalism to a democratic society cannot be overstated. Through public awareness campaigns, we will highlight the indispensable role of the media and foster a culture that respects and understands the importance of media work.

### **5.8.12 Monitoring and Rapid Response Mechanisms**

To respond effectively to threats against journalists, we will establish a specialized monitoring unit with a mission for law enforcement. This unit will be responsible for tracking and rapidly responding to any incidents of violence or intimidation against journalists.

### **5.8.13 Upholding Non-Interference Policies**

We pledge to maintain a policy of non-interference in media affairs. We will advocate for editorial independence within media houses, ensuring that journalists can operate free from undue political or commercial pressures.

## **5.9 Enhancing Media Regulation through Independent Oversight**

Our party envisions the establishment of a new, independent media regulatory authority that works alongside existing structures like PEMRA. PTI proposes an independent media authority that builds upon the current regulatory environment, providing a specialized focus on protecting journalists, and ensuring their ability to work without undue influence or pressure. This would not only strengthen the media's role in society, but also fortify public's trust in both the media and the mechanisms that regulate it.

This authority will perform the following key functions:

### **5.9.1 Complementing Existing Structures**

The new body would complement PEMRA by filling gaps in the current regulatory framework, especially in areas concerning journalists' rights, labour issues, and the protection of journalistic freedoms. It would serve as a dedicated institution focusing on the wellbeing and security of journalists, separate from the broader regulatory functions of PEMRA.

### **5.9.2 Independent Operation**

This authority would be characterized by its independent operation, free from governmental interference. It would have the mandate to oversee media practices, mediate disputes, and protect the rights of journalists and media entities with impartiality.



To ensure its independence, the authority would be funded in a manner that does not compromise its autonomy and is governed by a board representing a cross-section of stakeholders including journalists, media owners, and civil society activists.

### **5.9.3 Collaboration and Oversight**

The regulatory authority would work in tandem with PEMRA, ensuring that both bodies collaborate where necessary while maintaining their separate mandates. This approach aims to create a system of checks and balances, promoting transparency and accountability in multi-pronged media regulation.

### **5.9.4 Transition and Integration**

Careful consideration would be given to how this independent authority integrates with the current landscape. A phased approach might be adopted, starting with a comprehensive review of PEMRA's effectiveness and independence. Recommendations from this review would determine the structure and function of the new body, with the ultimate objective of reinforcing the foundations of free and independent media in Pakistan.

## **6. Healing the Nation through Truth and Reconciliation**

For close to eight decades since the creation of Pakistan, the country has gone through turbulence of a myriad kind, never quite able to rid itself of the challenges which have continued growing with time. Nurturing the dream that we shall, eventually and at last, overcome the adversities will be meaningless unless concrete measures are formulated for the purpose that are then meticulously executed.

### **6.1 The Path to Unity and Harmony**

The path to salvation does not lie in further broadening and deepening of societal differences, but finding a mechanism whereby divisions could be bridged, and unity and harmony nurtured.

### **6.2 Key Areas of Societal Division**

Some of the key areas that have torn the society apart since our independence encompass the following:

### **6.3 Wealth Disparities**

Emergence of a ruling elite in the country which controls bulk of the national wealth and how resources are allocated, thus depriving large sections of the society to partake of opportunities which the state is beholden to providing them, thereby giving rise to a culture that extends grossly unequal treatment to the strong or the rich as compared to the poor and the weak.

### **6.4 Rule of Law**

Monotonous violations of the constitution and flouting the bounds of law have rendered state institutions weak and irrelevant. This has created a mindset that, irrespective of the severity of the



crime committed, power and pelf can buy justice and whatever may be required under the given circumstances.

## **6.5 Oligarchies**

The perpetuation of family oligarchies and the evolving of a mindset that is unwilling to forfeit its perceived right to continue ruling the country unchallenged.

## **6.6 Corruption**

The acceptance of corruption as a necessary evil has resulted in the rejection of the need to promote and integrate the concept of transparency and accountability as a necessary ingredient for societal and governance reform.

## **6.7 Democracy Challenges**

The traditional role of the establishment in repeatedly derailing attempts to chart a constitutional and democratic path that is irreversibly committed to securing the foundational objectives of our creation and ensuring the welfare of the people, particularly the weak, oppressed, impoverished, marginalized, and downtrodden communities.

## **6.8 Human Rights**

Tackling human rights issues has brought agony to countless families within the country and tarnished our image in the world and our credentials to stand alongside countries that have successfully confronted this challenge in their societies.

## **6.9 Provincial Imbalances**

The sense of injustice that prevails due to the prevailing structural imbalances that exist within the provinces and the resultant absence of potential for growth among them owing to their size and the allocation/generation of resources.

## **6.10 Sub-Cultures**

Real and perceived threats to various sub-cultures bring harm to national unity and harmony.

## **6.11 Growing Intolerance**

Growing intolerance in the society, which enables a lunatic fringe to dictate, and the danger it poses to fostering unity and harmony.

## **6.12 Systemic Failures**

Systemic failures across state institutions, malevolently promoted by various power centers, result in denying relief to the people and plague the potential of national growth and development.



### **6.13 A Healing Touch for the Nation**

The foregoing matters constitute harrowing inflictions that individually or collectively continue bruising the existent wounds as well as causing fresh incisions. These gashes cannot be left to fester, thus creating tearing people apart through creating untenable divisions and distrust among them.

### **6.14 Charting a Path to Equality and Justice**

These aberrations need a healing touch which can be administered by a leadership that is caring and compassionate and that is driven by the prime objective of creating a Pakistan that is equitable, progressive, and inclusive, safeguarding the dignity and self-respect of its people, and which is firmly embedded in its sovereignty and freedom as guiding lights. It should also be driven by the vision of nurturing a society where every citizen enjoys equal opportunities and rights irrespective of class, color, creed, or religion.

### **6.15 The Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

For the purpose of implementing this charter, PTI proposes the formation of a body along the lines of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to bridge the existing divides in the country and bring people together in fostering unity, equality, equity, and justice for all.

### **6.16 Administering the Healing Touch**

The Commission, when constituted, will be vested with powers to administer the healing touch to festering wounds and create a sustainable foundation on which the edifice of a caring, compassionate, and paternally inclined state would rest.

### **6.17 A Just and Equitable Future**

It will remove the vestiges of an unjust past and ensure that an exploitative class would no longer have the tools to promote their self-serving agenda to the sufferance of the ordinary people of the country.

### **6.18 Constitutional Amendments**

It will put in place sustainable methods and mechanisms to ensure that no one is allowed the license to create policies that would be disadvantageous to any section of the society. It will also be vested with powers to propose amendments to the constitution which ensure that no travesties of the past could be repeated in the future.

### **6.19 Uncompromising Justice for All**

Uncompromising and uncompromisable justice for all will be the foundational pillar guiding the working of the Commission so that we can make enduring reparations to our country and its people and restore to them their dignity and self-respect which have long been compromised.





## 7. Women Empowerment

PTI's manifesto is our covenant with the women of Pakistan. We pledge to implement these policies with unwavering commitment, ensuring that women's rights, protections, and opportunities are not only enshrined in law but are also part of the lived experience of every Pakistani woman. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf resolves to create a Pakistan where women's empowerment is a tangible reality. Our manifesto serves as a commitment to systemic reforms that eradicate barriers to women's progress, ensuring every woman can access the opportunities she deserves.

### 7.1.1 Economic Empowerment Access to Justice

#### *Abolishing Discriminatory Laws*

We will conduct a thorough review of all legislation, identifying and eliminating laws that discriminate against women. New laws will be introduced to protect and empower women, ensuring equality before the law.

#### *Property and Inheritance Rights*

Family courts will be tasked with expediting post-divorce property disputes, aiming for resolution within twelve months. We will also review inheritance laws to strengthen women's property rights and ensure these laws are enforced.

#### *Family Court Efficiency*

We will reform family courts to expedite proceedings, setting a strict six-month deadline for the resolution of cases. This will ensure that women's legal issues are resolved with the urgency they require.

*Gender Representation in Judiciary* A targeted recruitment drive will increase the number of female judges, especially in family courts, to provide diverse perspectives and gender-sensitive adjudication.

### 7.1.2 Women at Work

#### *Workplace Equality*

We will introduce policies to ensure equal pay for equal work across all government roles, and actively support women's education and professional development in all fields.

#### *Support for Working Mothers*

We will mandate the establishment of nurseries in all major workplaces and improve transportation systems to ensure safety and accessibility for working mothers.

#### *Protection for Informal Sector Workers*

A registration system will be established to formalize home-based and informal sector work, securing fair wages and conditions for women workers.

## 7.2 Social and Cultural Development

#### *Combatting Violence and Ensuring Safety*

A holistic approach to combat domestic violence and harassment will include strict enforcement of laws, survivor support services, and nationwide education campaigns to shift societal attitudes.



### ***Education Against Gender Stereotypes***

We will integrate gender studies into the national curriculum to challenge stereotypes and promote gender equality from an early age.

## **7.3 Health and Welfare**

We will enhance women's access to healthcare, focusing on rural areas, and ensure that services are sensitive to the unique health needs of women.

### ***Support for Widows and Orphans***

Policies will be implemented to secure the financial and legal rights of widows and orphans to their inheritances without delay.

## **7.4 Political Participation - Inclusive Governance**

We aim to foster women's participation in politics through leadership training programs, mentorship, and by setting a 25% quota for women in political roles at all levels of governance.

## **7.5 Institutional and Policy Reforms**

### ***Labor Rights and Standards***

We will align local labor laws with international standards, particularly those that protect the working rights of women, and create watchdog agencies to enforce these standards.

### ***Institutional Transparency***

PTI will work to enhance the transparency of state institutions, ensuring that women's issues are given due attention and that institutional decisions are made free from gender bias.

## **7.6 Access to Justice**

We will establish accessible legal aid clinics and support centers for women, staffed by trained professionals who can provide legal and social guidance.

## **7.7 Public Engagement and Advocacy**

Nationwide campaigns will inform women of their rights and the resources available to support them. We will empower civil society organizations to amplify these messages.

## **7.8 Targeted Measures Against Abuse and Harassment**

Reformative measures will include the creation of an independent body to monitor and review complaints of harassment and abuse, ensuring accountability and justice.

### ***Combating Sexual Abuse and Blackmail***

Specialized law enforcement units will be trained and deployed to combat sexual abuse and blackmail, with a focus on preventing the misuse of social media for such crimes.

### ***Preventing Forced Marriages***

Community education programs will be implemented to highlight the legal and social ramifications of forced marriages, and to offer support to victims.



### ***Digital Safety Initiatives***

Digital literacy campaigns will be launched to educate women on safe online practices, with swift legal recourse available for those subjected to cybercrimes.

## **7.9 Government Assistance Programs - Women-Focused Development Initiatives**

All government assistance programs, including Ehsaas, housing schemes, and agricultural support, will be audited and restructured to prioritize women as key beneficiaries. This policy will be applied across the board to ensure that women are the primary recipients of government aid, effectively targeting those most in need and ensuring that aid delivery is both effective and empowering.

## **8. Reforming Pakistan's Political Landscape**

We are unwavering in our commitment to conducting elections at the federal, provincial, and local levels, ensuring that the people's voices are heard across Pakistan. Our program for political reform seeks to establish a more vibrant, representative, and accessible political structure, underpinned by the values of equality, transparency, and justice for the benefit of all Pakistanis.

### **8.1 Reviving Our Political Framework**

In response to the evolving needs of our nation, we envision a revitalized political structure that empowers the people of Pakistan. Recognizing the limitations of our current constitution in reflecting the aspirations of the populace, we are committed to establishing a new social contract through a constitution that is relevant to today's requirements and integrates the wisdom gained over the past five decades.

### **8.2 Empowering a Directly Elected Prime Minister**

We propose a shift towards a more inclusive, representative parliamentary democracy. The Prime Minister, under our plan, will be directly elected, reducing the influence of vested interests and enabling selection of individuals best suited for their roles. This Prime Minister will form a cabinet consisting of up to ten advisors and fifteen experts chosen from the National Assembly, ensuring that qualified individuals are in the right positions to drive the nation forward.

### **8.3 Restructuring Legislative Bodies**

To further bolster our political framework, we intend to restructure the National and Provincial Assemblies to exclusively serve as legislative bodies, focusing on enacting and amending laws. We advocate for smaller, more balanced national constituencies, limited to a maximum of 300,000 residents, thus improving the representation of our people. We propose extending legislative terms to four years, underpinned by proportional representation, to enhance accountability and responsiveness to the citizens' needs.



## 8.4 A Transformed Senate

The Senate will undergo a transformation, becoming a directly elected body based on 50% of the senators elected by proportional representation, with an equal number of seats for each province. This shift ensures fairness and strengthens our federal structure. We propose senate the senate terms to be five years,

## 8.5 Decentralization and Empowerment

Our vision also includes creating new provinces from each existing one, leading to decentralization of power and resources, making governance more accessible to the people, and fostering development in all regions. To strengthen local governance, we aim to increase the number of divisions, enhancing administrative efficiency.

# 9. Empowering Local Governments and Strengthening Local Governance

To enhance local governance in Pakistan, we propose a comprehensive set of reforms to empower local governments and create a responsive administrative structure. By empowering local governments and streamlining administrative processes, we aim to allocate resources more effectively and meet the needs of the people promptly. This multifaceted approach will make local governments powerful engines of positive change, significantly improving the lives of ordinary citizens.

## 9.1 Institutionalizing Devolution

A constitutional amendment is suggested to form Legislative List III, delineating local governments' powers and roles as clearly as Legislative Lists I and II. This move seeks to establish a consistent framework for devolution, decentralization, delegation, and resource distribution, ensuring local governments are empowered with the authority to enforce laws and manage municipal services independently, including the approval of building plans and action against illegal housing schemes. Local councils will also guide the review and future decisions regarding contracts specially Water & Sanitation Services contracts.

## 9.2 Full Devolution of Specific Functions to Local Governments

The provinces are asked to fully transfer ten specific functions to local governments, underpinned by the empowerment of local government employees through enhanced service structures and training. These functions include education up to matriculation, healthcare up to district hospitals, and infrastructure maintenance,

## 9.3 Strengthening Local Governance

Reforms are outlined to enhance local governments, focusing on administrative efficiency and effective resource allocation. These include provisions for timely and fair local government elections,



capacity-building plans for elected officials, and involving local representatives in policymaking related to local governance.

## **9.4 Allocating Resources Strategically**

The next NFC award must include allocations for equitable resource distribution, with a focus on underdeveloped areas and a robust coordination and monitoring mechanism between local government and taxation departments for maximized revenue collection, particularly from Urban Immovable Property Tax with the additional backing of a municipal warden system for efficient tax and penalty collection.

## **9.5 Effective Coordination and Subordination**

PTI will also address the issue of coordination and subordination. The role and involvement of the District Commissioners (DCs) and Assistant Commissioners (ACs) will be redefined and the devolved departments shall be made subordinate to the elected Local Government Representatives, ensuring responsive administration structures. This change will streamline administrative processes, making them more accountable to local leaders.

## **9.6 Restructuring Administrative Roles - *Empowering Local Leadership***

To fortify public service delivery at the grassroots, a strategic redefinition of administrative roles is imperative. This section delves into the empowerment of young, dynamic officers in key positions at the local level and the legal empowerment needed for efficient issue resolution.

### ***Autonomous Decision-Making***

Highlighting the importance of empowering officers to autonomously resolve citizen issues at the local level, reducing dependence on provincial secretariats. This emphasizes the need for a more responsive and agile local administration.

### **9.6.1 Development of District Management Cadres**

#### ***Crafting a Skilled Professional Network***

Detailed exploration of the development of district management cadres covering Grades 1-16 for devolved subjects. This section emphasizes the vision of creating a cadre of skilled professionals dedicated to transparent and efficient local affairs management.

#### ***Roles of Chief Executive Officers***

Focusing on the multifaceted responsibilities of chief executive officers in metropolitan and municipal corporations, as well as district councils. This includes their roles as principal accounting officers, leaders of the district development working party, and heads of district accounts committees.



## 9.6.2 Overhauling Local Government Cadres

### *Revamping Staffing Practices*

A detailed look into the revamping of existing cadres for devolved subjects, emphasizing the strategic assignment of trained professionals to Grades 1-16. This section addresses the departure from the prevalent practice of staffing local roles with underqualified personnel.

### *Transfer of Authority*

Exploring the intricacies of the transfer of staff up to Grade 16, along with their associated financial components, from Provincial Governments to Districts. This marks a shift in authority, with Local Governments taking charge of recruitments and promotions.

## 9.6.3 Phasing Out Outdated Cadres

PTI intends to adopt a phased-out approach to the existing cadres of the Local Government Service and Local Council Service. This section elaborates on the rationale behind replacing these outdated cadres with a more responsive and skill-focused approach.

## 9.6.4 District Public Service Commissions for Recruitment

### *Structured Recruitment Processes*

Detailed insights into the establishment of district public service commissions for the recruitment of officers and high-level professionals. This section emphasizes the importance of independent and eminent individuals in ensuring a structured and impartial recruitment process.

### *Endorsement of Service Rules*

Exploring the significance of service rules, such as promotion, placement, severance, compensation, and benefits, being endorsed by agency boards or departmental heads. This adds a layer of accountability to the recruitment and management processes.

### *Integration of Workforce*

Examining the integration of teachers and health workers into the district management cadre. This addresses concerns related to politically motivated inter-district transfers and ensures job security and accountability for results, often elusive due to frequent transfers.

## 9.7 Coordination between Provincial and Local Governance

The roles of MNAs, MPAs, Elected Local Government Representatives, the administration, and the police will be clearly defined to facilitate the smooth delivery of municipal services and maintenance of law and order through community participation. The District Commissioner's current role will be restricted to the supervision of all non-devolved departments and ensuring cooperation between district and provincial governments.

## 9.8 Democratic Composition and Election of Local Leadership

Local leadership will be elected democratically, with direct elections filling reserved seats for women, non-Muslims, laborers/agricultural workers, and the youth. A nationwide system will be



implemented, adaptable and having the flexibility to adapt to local needs and characteristics, ensuring broad and inclusive representation.

### **9.9 Fiscal Decentralization and Administrative Reforms**

Local governments will gain autonomy in budget management and execution. The PFC will adopt a non-formulaic approach, assessing the financial impact of devolution. Automation of revenue collection via handheld devices will be introduced to minimize discrepancies and enhance the efficiency of departmental contract management.

### **9.10 Empowering Local Authorities with Policy Revisions**

High-caliber officials from the Pakistan Administrative Service will be appointed to executive roles within local governments. These officials will be responsible for enforcing local government laws and improving service delivery through effective coordination with the police and other departments.

### **9.11 Managing Residential Societies and Property Affairs**

Officials of the Residential societies will be elected by the Home Owners and shall regulate private residential societies. These officials will work under the elected Local governments and shall under their supervision manage urban property disputes, and oversee inheritance matters. These officials will also supervise empowered tribunals to address these issues efficiently. To further simplify property A Department of Inheritance will streamline property distribution, aligning with Islamic principles.

### **9.12 Maximizing Resource Allocation**

One of our key reforms will involve transferring a maximum portion of provincial development funds to local governments. This allocation of resources is crucial for the fulfillment of the objectives outlined in the 18th amendment and the responsible management of finances at the local level. The next NFC award should have three types of allocations from the Divisible Tax Pool—(i) Between the Federal and Provincial Governments (ii) Distribution among the provinces and (iii) earmarking a substantial percentage of the provincial allocation to the Local Governments. Provincial Finance Commissions should have statutory responsibilities for distribution among districts, giving preference to backward areas.

### **9.13 Enhancing Coordination at the Tehsil Level**

Coordination is essential for the success of local governments. The elected LG Head and the elected MNAs and MPAs will collaborate to form Coordination Councils, working closely with Elected Head of Local Government. This coordination will facilitate efficient communication and collaboration between different levels of government, streamlining operations and improving service delivery.

### **9.14 Mayors and Tehsil Chairmen in Action**

Mayors and Chairpersons will take on more prominent roles in local governance. They will be responsible for budget allocations and business development in their respective Cities and Tehsils,



with a strong emphasis on transparency. This change will ensure that resources are allocated judiciously and that the needs of local residents are met.

### **9.15 Smaller Provinces - Devolving Administration**

We will support the creation of new provinces, enabling greater power devolution and an increase in local governance structures. This decentralization will expand access to state resources and foster more power centers across the country. Additionally, we will increase the number of divisions to enhance administrative capacity. As a first step, Sub-Secretariats will be set up at the regional level so that all current provincial departmental functions are devolved to the regional level to allow for better coordination, more informed decision-making and improving accessibility. This will enhance the interaction of local government and improve coordination between the province and the different tiers of local government.

### **9.16 Empowering Local Authorities**

The police will be made answerable to elected officials through Coordination Councils comprising of parliamentarians, elected Heads of Local Government of the District. These Elected Representatives will ensure that the police force serves the community effectively and responds to local needs.

### **9.17 Regulation of Residential Societies**

Officials will be elected by the Homeowners and shall regulate private residential societies. These officials will be autonomous in their day-to-day workings but shall be monitored by the elected Local governments and shall under their supervision manage urban property disputes, and oversee inheritance matters. These officials will also supervise empowered tribunals to address these issues efficiently. To further simplify property distribution, a dedicated Department of Inheritance will be established at the local government level, aligning Section 4 of the Muslim Family Law with Islamic principles.

## **10. Rural Development Initiatives**

In Pakistan, addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities necessitates a multifaceted approach. A comprehensive rural development strategy is essential to improve the quality of life, boost economic opportunities, and preserve the environment, thereby creating a sustainable model for lifting communities out of poverty. This strategy aims to foster vibrant, self-sustaining rural areas that remain deeply connected to their ancestral lands.

PTI believes that Pakistan can create a thriving and sustainable rural sector and seeks to adopt an approach that not only improves the quality of life in rural areas but also unlocks the potential of its communities, particularly women and youth. Collectively, these efforts we believe shall ensure that rural Pakistan remains a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking part of the nation.





### **10.1 Enhancing Education and Healthcare**

Key to this strategy is the establishment and maintenance of educational institutions and healthcare facilities. Prioritizing accessible education and healthcare in rural areas is crucial. This involves building schools and dispensaries and ensuring quality services through specialized training for health workers and teachers. Such initiatives not only improve the general wellbeing of rural residents but also lay a foundation for long-term societal growth.

### **10.2 Resource Allocation and Small-Town Development**

An increase in resource allocation to rural development projects, particularly those focusing on infrastructure and public services, is vital. Encouraging community participation in decision-making ensures that these resources are used effectively. Additionally, developing small towns, as hubs of civic activity will bring essential services closer to rural residents. Enhancing connectivity to these towns and providing amenities will enrich rural living, reducing the need for migration to urban areas.

### **10.3 Infrastructure Improvements**

Infrastructure development, especially electrification and the construction of safe road networks, is crucial. Prioritizing these developments in villages with significant populations can drastically improve access to markets, healthcare, and educational facilities. This not only enhances the quality of life but also stimulates economic growth.

### **10.4 Economic Development and Employment**

Creating employment opportunities through the establishment of local industries is a cornerstone of this strategy. Alongside this, vocational training programs will equip residents with necessary skills, fostering a skilled workforce. Empowering artisans and farmers (Karigars) through technical training centers and providing financial support via Karigar Banks will further stimulate local economies.

### **10.5 Environmental Stewardship and Agriculture**

Environmental conservation is a key aspect of sustainable development. Initiatives like afforestation and protecting natural resources will preserve the local ecosystems. Promoting diversified agriculture, such as horticulture and sustainable farming practices, will enhance food security and create economic opportunities. Additionally, managing pastures and grazing lands effectively, coupled with veterinary centers focusing on livestock care, will benefit rural agriculture extensively.

### **10.6 Empowering Women and Youth**

Special emphasis is placed on empowering women and youth. This includes implementing skill development programs in modern agriculture, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship. Encouraging participation in local governance and decision-making processes ensures that the voices of these critical demographic groups are heard. Moreover, establishing microfinance institutions and entrepreneurship development centers will support young and female entrepreneurs, fostering economic independence and leadership.



### **10.7 Connectivity and Infrastructure**

Expanding internet access and connectivity in rural areas is pivotal for educational and economic development. Improving transportation infrastructure will further facilitate access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, enhancing the overall mobility and connectivity of rural residents.

### **10.8 Empowering communities through Rural Infrastructure projects**

PTI aims to introduce the "Community-Managed Rural Infrastructure Project," a initiative designed to empower local communities, enhance transparency, and optimize resource allocation for rural development in Pakistan. This approach will be applied to specific smaller scale infrastructure projects, with a focus on improving project efficiency and reducing the risk of corruption. The selection, of a local contractor, accounts and material procurement as per specification, will be jointly managed by the local Government and communities along with phased wise payments will ensure that proper monitoring of quality and progress is carried out.

### **10.9 Technology, Innovation, and Health**

Embracing technology and innovation is crucial. Promoting digital literacy and training in information and communication technology (ICT) will open doors for rural youth to global knowledge and job markets. Setting up innovation hubs and business incubators focused on agricultural technology and renewable energy can transform rural areas into centers of modern innovation. Furthermore, specialized health programs addressing women's health and establishing youth sports and wellness centers will enhance the physical and social wellbeing of the community.

### **10.10 Cultural Development and Environmental Initiatives**

Ensuring gender-inclusive education and developing programs that encourage youth to engage with and preserve local cultures will bridge the gap between traditional and modern lifestyles. Youth-led environmental initiatives like community gardens and recycling programs, and training in sustainable practices, will foster environmental stewardship.

### **10.11 Integrating Tourism**

Tourism presents a unique opportunity to stimulate economic growth and promote cultural exchange. Developing rural tourism through cultural and ecotourism initiatives showcases Pakistan's heritage and natural beauty, while creating employment opportunities. Training programs in hospitality and tourism, coupled with community-based tourism projects, will empower women and youth. Sustainable tourism practices and conservation efforts will ensure that tourism development is eco-friendly and culturally respectful.



## **11.A Pledge for Progressive Administration**

This document presents a structured approach to redefining governance by decentralizing power, enhancing community participation, and incorporating modern strategies for effective administration.

This restructuring is more than a change in governance structure; it is a pledge towards creating an adaptive, efficient governance system. By aligning departments directly under the Chief Minister and relevant ministers, we commit to empowering the provincial bureaucracy to contribute effectively to a responsive, progressive, and community-centered administration.

### **11.1 Bureaucratic Transformation**

The PTI manifesto commits to a significant transformation in the provincial bureaucracy, proposing the abolition of the Chief Secretary role and restructuring departments to fall directly under the Chief Minister and relevant ministers. This groundbreaking move marks a shift towards a decentralized, community-focused administration, aiming to enhance efficiency and responsiveness to local needs.

### **11.2 Restructuring the Provincial Secretariat**

In the absence of a Chief Secretary, the provincial secretariat's functions will be restructured to incorporate a more collaborative and inclusive approach. Responsibilities traditionally held by the Chief Secretary will be distributed among various departments or positions, promoting collective decision-making and reducing bureaucratic hierarchy. This restructuring includes fostering departmental collaboration, establishing advisory councils with experienced professionals, involving elected representatives in decision-making, integrating technology for efficient communication, and forming interdepartmental task forces for specific projects or issues.

#### **11.2.1 Formation of Specialized Departments**

Our vision includes the reorganization of the provincial bureaucracy into specialized departments, each led by experienced officers. Focusing on crucial areas such as finance, health, and education. This restructuring aims to streamline operations and align departmental activities with sector-specific requirements. The goal is to optimize efficiency and leverage expertise for improved service delivery.

#### **11.2.2 Utilizing Existing Provincial Cadre**

The existing provincial cadre can be realigned to support the decentralized structure. This involves reassigning officers to specialized departments, advisory roles, oversight functions, training, interdepartmental coordination, and policy development, all aligning with decentralization principles.



### **11.2.3 Advisory Roles for Experienced Officers**

In tandem with departmental restructuring, senior officers will assume advisory roles. Their experience and knowledge will be instrumental in guiding elected representatives and local administrators. This integration of seasoned expertise into the decision-making process is expected to enrich governance with depth and informed insights.

### **11.2.4 Oversight and Monitoring**

A key aspect of our reformed bureaucracy involves establishing robust oversight and monitoring mechanisms within the provincial cadre. These measures will ensure uniform standards and policy adherence across various local governments and departments, fostering consistency and excellence in governance.

### **11.2.5 Enhancing Training and Capacity Building**

Recognizing the importance of a skilled workforce, we plan to use the expertise within the provincial cadre for comprehensive training and capacity-building initiatives. These programs aim to develop a more competent and effective local government workforce, better equipped to address the specific needs of their communities.

### **11.2.6 Promoting Interdepartmental Coordination**

To ensure cohesive and efficient governance, we will emphasize roles that foster interdepartmental coordination. By encouraging collaboration and information sharing among departments, the restructured system aims for seamless policy implementation and operational synergy.

## **11.3 Policy Development Informed by Experience**

Our approach to policy development will heavily involve experienced officers ensuring decisions are rooted in a blend of innovative thinking and practical, time-tested administrative practices. This strategy is expected to yield policies that effectively address contemporary challenges while benefiting from a wealth of institutional knowledge.

## **11.4 A Commitment to Inclusive and Effective Governance**

### **11.4.1 Roles of Chief Minister and Ministers**

In the absence of a traditional Chief Secretary role, the Chief Minister and Ministers retain critical responsibilities. Their roles shall encompass policy direction, collaboration with local governments, direct communication with local representatives, policy formulation, and public engagement.

### **11.4.2 Law Enforcement in Decentralized Governance**

Local law enforcement agencies would report to elected local officials, supported by regional coordination and provincial oversight. The Chief Minister or a designated Minister would oversee public safety, with certain centralized functions remaining at higher levels.



### **11.4.3 Strategies Against Corruption and Inefficiency**

Addressing corruption involves transparent governance, accountability mechanisms, citizen engagement, merit-based recruitment, professional development, technology integration, legal reforms, cultural change, community policing, and historical reckoning of colonial legacies.

### **11.4.4 Building a Competent and Professional Cadre**

Strategies for developing a skilled cadre include merit-based recruitment, professional development programs, leadership training, performance evaluation, mentorship, professional certifications, an inclusive work environment, clear career paths, recognition, feedback mechanisms, and technology integration.

### **11.4.5 Involving the Private Sector**

Incorporating the private sector in governance enhancement requires public-private partnerships, consultative forums, regulatory reforms, digitalization, single-window clearance, predictable policies, public procurement reforms, capacity building, feedback mechanisms, incentives for innovation, and joint task forces.

### **11.4.6 Managing Licensing, Registration, and Revenue Functions**

Efficient governance in licensing, registration, and revenue involves engaging private agencies and technology solutions. This includes private handling of applications, online platforms, revenue collection, data management, customer service centers, audit and compliance services, technology solutions, public awareness campaigns, and training programs.

## **11.5 Establishment of Sub-Secretariats for Streamlined Governance**

The PTI manifesto heralds a significant shift in the administrative framework of provinces with the introduction of sub-secretariats at the regional level. This innovative approach is a strategic step towards the creation of smaller, more manageable provinces, enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of governance. These sub-secretariats, positioned as intermediary tiers, will bridge the provincial secretariat and local district and tehsil governments, embodying a progressive move towards decentralization.

### **11.5.1 Responsive and Accessible Governance**

The establishment of sub-secretariats, as proposed in the PTI manifesto, marks a transformative approach to provincial governance. By fostering a closer connection between provincial authorities and local governments, and aligning regional administration with overall provincial strategies, this model promises to make governance more efficient, responsive, and attuned to the unique needs of each region. It represents a commitment to a governance framework that is not only more efficient but also more accessible and responsive to the citizens it serves.

### **11.5.2 Structure and Function of Sub-Secretariats**

The sub-secretariats are envisioned to serve as regional administrative hubs, overseeing all provincial departments that are not delegated to the district level. This arrangement is designed to



streamline the administrative process, allowing for more focused and region-specific governance. They will be the epicenter of coordination for provincial ministries and regional department heads, who will be based within these regions to facilitate direct and effective management across the districts.

## **11.6 Roles and Responsibilities**

### **11.6.1 Intermediary Governance Role:**

The sub-secretariats will function as critical conduits between the provincial secretariat and lower tiers of government. Their role is to ensure that policies and directives from the provincial level are effectively communicated and implemented at the district and tehsil levels.

### **11.6.2 Administration of Non-Devolved Departments:**

Managing departments that require broader oversight, the sub-secretariats will handle significant sectors such as infrastructural development and regional economic planning.

### **11.6.3 Coordination and Support for Districts:**

A key function will be to ensure uniform policy implementation across districts, adapting strategies to meet specific local needs and circumstances.

### **11.6.4 Efficient Response and Regional Advocacy:**

Positioned closer to district realities, sub-secretariats will respond more effectively to regional needs and challenges, advocating for regional priorities at the provincial level.

### **11.6.5 Community Involvement and Accessibility:**

By situating governance closer to the citizenry, these sub-secretariats will enhance community involvement in decision-making processes, making government services more accessible and user-friendly.

### **11.6.6 Streamlining Regional Services:**

The sub-secretariats will focus on tailoring services and responses to regional contexts, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of government initiatives.

### **11.6.7 Integration with Provincial Secretariat and CMO**

The sub-secretariats are integrally linked to the provincial secretariat, functioning under its overarching jurisdiction while aligning regional administration with broader provincial objectives.

### **11.6.8 The Regional Context**

They will receive resource allocation and administrative support from the provincial secretariat and play a vital role in implementing and adapting provincial-level policies to the regional context.



### **11.6.9 Planning and Monitoring**

They shall be responsible for contributing to the strategic planning and regional development initiatives by providing feedback to the provincial secretariat on regional needs and challenges. Maintaining a direct communication line with the CMO for high-level intervention and oversight through regular reporting mechanisms and performance evaluations, monitoring adherence to governance standards and thus ensuring accountability.

#### **11.6.10 Transforming Governance at the District Level**

The PTI manifesto commits to a groundbreaking transformation in the governance system, emphasizing decentralization and community participation. The proposed reform involves the abolition of current administrative positions, such as the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners, at the district level.

In their place, we envision implementing elected local councils, composed of representatives directly chosen by the community. These councils will be responsible for district affairs, ensuring that community voices are not just heard but are central in decision-making processes. This shift promises to foster a more inclusive and responsive governance structure, bridging the gap between the government and its citizens.

#### **11.6.11 Empowering Local Governments**

To replace the current bureaucratic system, the manifesto proposes empowering local governments by providing them with greater autonomy and strengthening their structures. Ensuring that these local governments are adequately resourced and have the necessary capacity to effectively manage their responsibilities is a key aspect of this commitment. This shall allow communities to play a more direct role in decision-making processes, enhancing the responsiveness to local needs, increasing accountability, and promoting a more participatory and democratic form of governance.

#### **11.6.12 Decentralized Administration and Community Engagement**

The manifesto envisions a system where bureaucratic functions devolve to the grassroots level. Devolved departments within local governments will be responsible for specific services or functions, operating with a focus on localized administration. These departments will make decisions based on the specific needs and priorities of their local communities, engaging community members directly in decision-making processes. Such engagement ensures that policies and services align with the unique requirements of each area.

#### **11.6.13 Resource Allocation and Accountability**

Adequate resource allocation to these devolved departments is crucial for addressing local challenges effectively. Additionally, the establishment of transparent reporting mechanisms and accountability measures will ensure that these departments are fully accountable for their actions and outcomes. This approach will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of local governance.



#### **11.6.14 Capacity Building and Interdepartmental Coordination**

The PTI manifesto emphasizes the importance of capacity building and training for local administrators, enhancing their ability to deliver effective services. Additionally, despite local autonomy, there will be mechanisms for coordination between devolved departments and higher levels of government to address broader issues and ensure consistency in governance.

#### **11.7 Development of District Management Cadres**

Detailed exploration of the development of district management cadres covering Grades 1-16 for devolved subjects. PTI emphasizes the vision of creating a cadre of skilled professionals dedicated to transparent and efficient local affairs management.

#### **11.8 Overhauling Local Government Cadres**

A detailed look into the revamping of existing cadres for devolved subjects, emphasizing the strategic assignment of trained professionals to Grades 1-16. This section addresses the departure from the prevalent practice of staffing local roles with under-qualified personnel.

##### **11.8.1 Transfer of Authority**

Exploring the intricacies of the transfer of staff up to Grade 16, along with their associated financial components, from Provincial Governments to Districts. This marks a shift in authority, with Local Governments taking charge of recruitments and promotions.

##### **11.8.2 Phasing Out Outdated Cadres**

PTI intends to adopt a phased-out approach to the existing cadres of the Local Government Service and Local Council Service. This section elaborates on the rationale behind replacing these outdated cadres with a more responsive and skill-focused approach

##### **11.8.3 Structured Recruitment Processes**

Detailed insights into the establishment of district public service commissions for the recruitment of officers and high-level professionals. This section emphasizes the importance of independent and eminent individuals in ensuring a structured and impartial recruitment process.

##### **11.8.4 Endorsement of Service Rules**

Exploring the significance of service rules, such as promotion, placement, severance, compensation, and benefits, being endorsed by agency boards or departmental heads. This adds a layer of accountability to the recruitment and management processes.

##### **11.8.5 Integration of Workforce**

Examining the integration of teachers and health workers into the district management cadre. This addresses concerns related to politically motivated inter-district transfers and ensures job security and accountability for results, often elusive due to frequent transfers.





## 12. Transforming the Bureaucracy: A People-Centric Approach

In recognition of the historical context surrounding the Central Superior Services (CSS) structure from colonial rule, we advocate for a sweeping transformation. This initiative encompasses reforms across induction, recruitment, training, performance evaluation, promotion, career progression, compensation, and retirement of civil servants. The overarching objective is to cultivate a Civil Service not only efficient, neutral, and impartial but also responsive to the diverse needs of the populace.

### 12.1 Building an Employer of Choice

Embracing a commitment to introducing a modern alternative within the next three years, our focus is centered on revitalizing the CSS structure. This transformation seeks to open CSS to specialists, thereby fostering a level playing field founded on merit, competence, and performance. The new structure draws inspiration from global best practices in civil service models, emphasizing meritocracy.

### 12.2 Optimizing Privileges

To empower employees in building their financial capital, curtail corrupt practices and reduce government expenses on maintenance and repairs, the PTI proposes the monetization of salary benefits. This strategic move also aims to provide individuals with the means to accumulate personal capital over time, fostering financial stability and independence. This strategic approach aims to monetize perks and privileges gradually, mitigating expenses, and preventing the misuse of manpower. The phased implementation of this strategy is set to unfold over the course of a year thus allowing ample time for individuals within the system to adjust seamlessly to the impending changes.

### 12.3 Pay for Performance

Under the PTI manifesto, the principle of "Pay for Performance" takes center stage in creating a dynamic and competitive work environment. Salaries will be meticulously benchmarked against market standards, commencing at a minimum of 50% and progressively moving to 75% within a five-year timeframe. Furthermore, salary increments will be intricately tied to both inflation rates and individual performance, discouraging across-the-board increases. A notable two-fold difference in compensation will be maintained between excellent and average performers, while below-average performers will not receive salary increases. Regular performance reviews will be instituted at all levels of provincial government. Officials will be assessed against established KPIs and benchmarks, and 360-degree feedback assessments will be conducted to gather input from peers, subordinates, and superiors.

### 12.4 Training and Career Development Initiatives

Recognizing the significance of continuous learning and career growth, the PTI manifesto outlines comprehensive training and development measures. The annual appraisal system will undergo a substantial revamp, incorporating a bell curve distribution for equitable evaluations. Additionally, a



semi-annual performance review system will be implemented, complemented by robust career planning initiatives. Qualified appointments for pivotal roles, such as Chief Financial Officers, Human Resource Heads, Chief Technology Heads, and specialized market inductions, will be emphasized to ensure expertise and competence in critical areas.

## **12.5 Strong Accountability and Zero Tolerance for Corruption**

The PTI manifesto places a strong emphasis on instilling accountability and eradicating corruption within the government. A zero-tolerance policy will be strictly enforced to create a work environment characterized by transparency, ethical practices, and a commitment to the highest standards of integrity.

### **12.5.1 Swift and Transparent Actions**

A commitment to swift and transparent actions against non-performing officials or those under investigation will be upheld. A clearly defined process for disciplinary measures will be implemented, accompanied by a system to communicate disciplinary actions to the public, thus promoting transparency and accountability.

## **12.6 Meritocracy in Recruitment and Promotions**

In our pursuit to transform the Government of Pakistan into an "Employer of Choice," the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) manifesto prioritizes the establishment of a meritocratic system. This entails conducting recruitment and promotions based on a stringent merit-based selection process, ensuring fairness and impartiality in all aspects of employment.

### **12.6.1 Standardized Recruitment Process**

In the quest for a reformed administrative structure, a standardized and transparent recruitment process based on merit will be implemented. This process ensures the selection of candidates through open competition, evaluating qualifications, skills, and experience objectively. The establishment of clear criteria and evaluation methods will be instrumental in fostering fairness in the selection process.

### **12.6.2 Independent Recruitment Oversight**

To fortify the merit-based recruitment process, an independent body will be introduced to oversee the entire process. This body serves as a safeguard, ensuring adherence to meritocratic principles and maintaining fairness in candidate selection.

## **12.7 Professional Streams in Bureaucracy**

All Ministries and Divisions will be categorized into different professional streams and the Federal Service Commission shall induct candidates with requisite qualifications for each group of Ministries cum Divisions separately. Lateral postings in various streams other than on experts/practitioners slots shall be prohibited. As an interim measure induction into various positions on a permanent basis of professionals will be done alongside engaging people on deputation in specialized



divisions/ministries. The measures of merit-based promotion and training and development of bureaucracy and revamping of vertical promotion system of various lower tiers of echelons to higher BPs shall also be revisited.

## **12.8 Checks and Balances**

The implementation of a comprehensive vetting system will be a pivotal component of our restructuring efforts. This system scrutinizes candidates' backgrounds, qualifications, and previous work experiences, ensuring their suitability for respective roles. Reference checks and verification mechanisms will enhance the credibility of the selection process.

### **12.8.1 Appeals Mechanism**

To uphold fairness and transparency, an appeals mechanism will be instituted. This mechanism provides an avenue for candidates to address concerns or disputes related to the recruitment process, reinforcing the overall transparency and integrity of the system.

## **12.9 Efficiency and Transparency Measures**

### **12.9.1 Technology Integration**

A fundamental aspect of modernization involves the implementation of a comprehensive e-governance system. This system aims to digitize and streamline administrative processes, reducing paperwork, and enhancing overall efficiency. Automation tools will be introduced to minimize delays, errors, and bureaucratic bottlenecks, fostering a more technologically advanced operational environment.

### **12.9.2 Performance Metrics**

The introduction of key performance indicators (KPIs) for each department and role will be instrumental in measuring efficiency and effectiveness. This data-driven approach is coupled with a feedback mechanism, allowing employees and citizens to report issues or suggest improvements in service delivery, thereby promoting transparency.

## **12.10 Optimizing Resource Allocation**

### **12.10.1 Monetization Strategy**

A phased approach to monetizing perks and privileges will be initiated, with a focus on phasing out non-essential benefits. Simultaneously, performance-based incentives will be introduced to motivate officials. Periodic audits will track and control resource allocation, ensuring responsible and accountable use of public funds.

### **12.10.2 Performance-Based Budgeting**

A strategic shift towards performance-based budgeting is envisioned. This model ties budget allocations to the achievement of predefined performance targets, ensuring that budget decisions align with the strategic priorities and development goals of the province.



## **13. Strengthening Democracy Through Election Reforms.**

In a concerted effort to bolster democracy, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) necessitates comprehensive reforms that enfranchise all citizens, including those abroad. This document proposes an integrated approach to reinforce the ECP's autonomy while affirming the democratic participation of overseas Pakistanis.

### **13.1 Legal Reforms and Voter Accessibility**

Amendments to election laws are imperative to augment the independence and authority of the ECP, ensuring transparent regulations are in place for campaign finance and political party funding. Additionally, simplifying the voter registration process for overseas Pakistanis through an online portal and embassy-based assistance is essential for upholding their democratic rights.

### **13.2 Transparency, Accountability, and Electoral Process Integrity**

The adoption of electronic voting systems will be a leap forward in enhancing transparency and reducing the potential for fraud. The electoral process's integrity, particularly for votes cast abroad, will benefit from the scrutiny of esteemed international observers, ensuring the legitimacy of the electoral proceedings.

### **13.3 Voter Education and Empowerment**

A nationwide education initiative is vital to inform both local and overseas voters about their rights and the electoral process. Additionally, the availability of postal voting and secure electronic platforms will empower overseas Pakistanis, guaranteeing their ability to vote securely and conveniently.

### **13.4 Civil Society, Media Engagement and Public Awareness**

An engaged civil society is crucial for the oversight of elections, as is a free and responsible press that can report with integrity. Promoting public dialogue and active citizenship will be instrumental in preserving a strong democratic society.

### **13.5 International Observers and Legal Accountability**

Welcoming international monitors to observe the elections will confirm the process's impartiality and fairness. Concurrently, establishing prompt judicial mechanisms to resolve electoral disputes will ensure accountability and uphold the electoral process's sanctity.



### **13.6 Political Party Responsibility and Ongoing Evaluation**

Political parties must demonstrate a commitment to democratic principles and face accountability for their electoral conduct. An independent body dedicated to the ongoing evaluation of the electoral process and the ECP will play a crucial role in maintaining lasting electoral integrity.

### **13.7 Nominating an Impartial, Incorruptible Election Commission**

Forming a non-partisan committee to oversee the ECP head selection process will protect against partisan influence and bias. A transparent selection process with public applications and stringent qualifications will reinforce the commission's credibility and impartiality. The ECP's leadership will also adhere to a fixed term and a strict code of conduct to maintain impartiality.

Incorporating public input and conducting thorough evaluations of candidates' commitment to democracy are paramount. Rigorous background checks followed by parliamentary approval will cement the appointees' legitimacy and ensure bipartisan support.

### **13.8 Implementing Electronic Voting and Secure Overseas Voting**

Initiating pilot programs for electronic voting, coupled with comprehensive voter education campaigns, will address technical or security issues while acclimating voters to the new systems. Ensuring robust encryption and digital security measures for the electronic voting system will confirm the security and accessibility of votes cast by overseas Pakistanis. Moreover, an independent verification system for electronic voting results will establish public trust in the electoral mechanism.

By intertwining essential ECP reforms with the active inclusion of overseas Pakistani voters, this strategy aims to create an electoral milieu characterized by inclusivity, transparency, and accountability. These endeavors are designed to strengthen the democratic framework of Pakistan, emphasizing the fundamental principle that every citizen's right to vote is inalienable and must be supported, no matter their residence.

### **13.9 Intra-Party Elections - Government and ECP Technological Support**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is spearheading a groundbreaking initiative to mandate thorough intra-party elections at all levels, from the grassroots to the party chairman. Recognizing the critical importance of these elections in fostering a truly democratic ethos, the plan is to implement a centralized electronic voting system. This initiative is expected to fortify democracy within party structures, allowing members to have a direct say in their leadership.

### **13.10 Formation of a Steering Committee**

The first step in this initiative is the formation of a task force or committee. This will be a diverse group, including IT specialists, Election Commission representatives, and party members, tasked with the oversight of the system's roll-out.



### **13.11 Financing the Technological Transition**

The financial backbone for this undertaking will be laid by securing funds either from the national treasury or through international aid. These resources will be directed toward developing and deploying the requisite tech infrastructure.

### **13.12 Database Integration and Management**

A partnership with IT professionals is vital for establishing a secure, standardized member database. The system will focus on precise data entry and consistent updates, ensuring that new member details are accounted for.

### **13.13 Secure Voting Verification System**

In line with ensuring the authenticity of the voting process, an integration with ECP's voter lists will be conducted. This will help in confirming the polling regions for every party member, tailoring the voting to respective administrative divisions.

### **13.14 Advancement of Electronic Voting**

A significant component of this strategy is the development of a secure electronic voting platform. This entails linking mobile and CNIC numbers for identity verification, implementing robust two-factor authentication, and developing a foolproof and user-friendly voting application.

### **13.15 Ensuring Credibility, Accountability and Educating Stakeholders**

To navigate this digital shift, education and training programs will be provided for both party officials and members. These will cover the operational aspects of the new system and emphasize the security protocols safeguarding the voting process. Before a full-scale launch, the government will run tests and pilot programs to refine the system and support mechanisms like a helpdesk will also be in place to address any technical concerns during the voting period.

### **13.16 Privacy and Security Measures**

The initiative prioritizes the protection of members' personal information with strict data privacy and security strategies. This will include continuous audits and updates to the security apparatus to preempt any threats.

### **13.17 Legal and Public Engagement Framework**

The adaptation of electronic voting within parties will need to be backed by a robust legal framework. Additionally, public awareness campaigns will be essential to educate party members about the nuances of electronic voting.

### **13.18 Independent Oversight**

To uphold transparency and fairness, independent oversight and monitoring systems will be established. This will ensure the integrity of the electronic voting process is maintained at all times.



## 14. The Imperative for Economic Reforms

Pakistan's economy has long been in need of comprehensive and significant reforms. Since the 1990s, it has been evident that the country struggles to generate the kind of sustained, inclusive growth driven by private investment and exports that have been achieved by its more dynamic South Asian neighbors. This underperformance is due to several structural challenges that remained unaddressed by prior governments. These challenges include a low saving rate, growth funded primarily by debt, weak fiscal sustainability, reduced productivity and competitiveness, policies unfavorable to exports, the near-collapse of the energy sector, and the absence of an environment conducive to private sector investment.

### 14.1 Navigating Through Challenges

The PTI government, during its initial years, faced a series of unprecedented challenges that tested the resilience of Pakistan's economy. Firstly, a severe balance of payments crisis emerged in 2018-19, with a Current Account Deficit (CAD) of \$19 billion against meager State Bank of Pakistan reserves of \$9.8 billion. This was followed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021, which precipitated a global economic downturn, the worst since the Great Depression. Additionally, a commodity super-cycle starting in January 2021 resulted in skyrocketing prices for oil, food, and freight, unseen since 2011. Despite these hurdles, the government not only stabilized the economy but also set it on a path of robust growth. In 2018, the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) government embarked on what can be termed as the most comprehensive and extensive economic reforms in Pakistan's recent history. These reforms were aimed at addressing the various structural issues plaguing the economy.

### 14.2 Overview of PTI Government's Economic Achievements

The PTI government's tenure was marked by a comprehensive approach to economic management, achieving notable success in stabilizing and growing Pakistan's economy amidst significant global and domestic challenges. Under the PTI government, Pakistan's economy witnessed substantial growth and diversification. The GDP growth rates of 5.7% in 2021 and 6.0% in 2022 were the highest recorded in two consecutive years since 2006. A significant achievement was the increase in exports, which rose from US\$ 24.5 billion in 2018 to an impressive US\$ 32.5 billion in 2022, surpassing the growth seen during the combined tenures of the PMLN and PPP governments. This included a remarkable surge in IT exports, which escalated from US\$ 1 billion in FY18 to US\$ 2.7 billion in FY2022.

#### 14.2.1 Agricultural and Industrial sectors

The agricultural and industrial sectors also showed remarkable progress. The agricultural sector experienced record production in key crops, leading to an unprecedented increase of Rs 1.1 trillion in farmer incomes. The industrial sector, buoyed by favorable policies, grew by 11.5% for two consecutive years, with listed corporates recording profits of Rs 929 billion in 2021.



### **14.2.2 Financial Reforms and Social Safety Measures**

Tax reforms under the PTI regime led to an improvement in the Total Tax-GDP ratio from 8.6% in 2018 to 10.1% in 2022, alongside a 59% increase in tax filers. The period also saw the highest-ever remittances in Pakistan's history, reaching US\$ 31 billion in FY2022.

In terms of energy, the government successfully renegotiated IPP agreements, which resulted in substantial cost savings and a significant reduction in the monthly circular debt.

### **14.2.3 Energy Sector Reforms**

IPP agreements were renegotiated, saving Rs 856 billion in costs. This led to a significant reduction in monthly circular debt from Rs 37.5 billion in FY2018 to Rs 10.3 billion in FY2021.

### **14.2.4 Expanded Social Safety Nets**

The government also deployed the largest social safety nets in Pakistan's history and was internationally recognized for its effective handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, ranking among the top three globally.

### **14.2.5 Institutional and Regulatory Reforms**

The tenure also saw significant institutional and regulatory reforms, including the implementation of civil service and government reforms, and compliance with FATF-related measures. These reforms were pivotal in enhancing governance and regulatory compliance, further stabilizing the economic landscape of the country.

### **14.2.6 Transforming the Growth Model - Export-Led Growth**

The PTI government shifted Pakistan's growth model to focus on export-led growth, making the export sector regionally competitive. This included expanding the range of traditional exports, increasing value addition, and geographic diversification. A significant initiative in this regard was the bolstering of IT exports through dedicated policy and budgetary measures.

### **14.2.7 Overhauling Tax Policy and Compliance - Tax Reforms**

A series of groundbreaking initiatives were introduced to restructure tax policy and compliance. These initiatives led to a 59% increase in tax filers, the implementation of a Track & Trace system, the installation of a network of POS machines for retail outlets, and the establishment of a National Single window for customs clearance. These reforms were complemented by efforts in value chain documentation and tax compliance.

### **14.2.8 Ensuring Central Bank Independence**

The PTI government enacted central bank independence, ensuring an independent monetary policy without government interference. A market-based exchange rate regime was introduced, which led to an increase in SBP reserves. Other notable initiatives included the Roshan Digital accounts to attract new investment of \$4.5 billion, the Raast digital payment platform to boost e-commerce and digital services, the SBP Aasan scheme to enhance non-collateralized bank lending to SMEs, the





Temporary Emergency Relief Fund (TERF) for SMEs, corporates, and businesses, and financial inclusion schemes for unbanked women and youth such as Mera Ghar (MGMP), Kamyab Jawan, and Kamyab Pakistan.

#### **14.2.9 Governance and Institutional Reforms**

The PTI government-initiated governance and institutional reforms, strengthening regulators such as SBP, SECP, CCP, NEPRA, and OGRA. They conducted a triage exercise to restructure State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), leading to a reduction in losses compared to previous governments. The Public Finance Management Act, 2019, was implemented, which included the rollout of a Single Treasury account.

#### **14.2.10 Reforming the Energy Sector**

A comprehensive plan was developed to reform the energy sector. This included renegotiating tariffs and guaranteed returns with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), launching a Circular Debt Management Plan, and introducing marginal cost pricing for industries to encourage on-grid consumption, thereby reducing the buildup of circular debt.

These reforms represent a significant effort by the PTI government to rectify longstanding economic challenges and set Pakistan on a path of sustainable growth and development.

### **14.3 Focusing on Labour-Intensive Sectors for Job Creation**

#### **14.3.1 Agriculture and Manufacturing Growth**

The Agriculture Emergency program under PTI led to the highest crop growth in the last two decades. The manufacturing sector showed remarkable growth, with an 11.5% increase in FY21 and 11.7% in FY22, the highest since 2005, buoyed by monetary and fiscal incentives.

#### **14.3.2 Tourism and Construction Boom**

Domestic tourism revenue doubled during the PTI regime. The construction package triggered substantial new investments, amounting to Rs 3 trillion as per the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

#### **14.3.3 Trade Policy Revamp**

Over 4,000 product tariffs were rationalized, benefiting the export sector and incentivizing investments in emerging industries like phone manufacturing and electric vehicles.

#### **14.3.4 Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

SEZs under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were operationalized, opening doors for new investments.

### **14.4 Pension Reforms**

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) enacted pension reforms in FY2022, introducing a direct contribution scheme while the Federal and Punjab governments finalized recommendations for performance-based pay and pension reforms in 2022, awaiting enactment.



## 14.5 Ancillary Non-Economic Reforms

### 14.5.1 Climate Change Mitigation

#### *Billion Tree Tsunami*

Pakistan achieved the Bonn Challenge through the Billion tree tsunami initiative. The 10 billion tree tsunami was then launched to combat climate change.

#### *Green Energy Initiatives*

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) offered financing schemes for renewable energy at subsidized rates. Pakistan also launched its first green bond worth \$500 million in 2021.

### 14.5.2 Public Health Care Revamp

#### *COVID-19 Vaccination*

64% of the population (140 million citizens) received free COVID vaccinations, amounting to a \$2 billion subsidy, marking the largest vaccination drive in Pakistan's history.

#### *Universal Health Insurance*

Pakistan introduced its first universal health insurance, the SEHAT card, in various regions including KPK, Punjab, Islamabad, AJK, GB, and some districts in Sindh and Balochistan.

### 14.5.3 Expanded Social Safety Nets

This included cash transfers, Kifalat, Kamyab Jawan, and Kamyab Pakistan subsidized loans for youth, EHSAAAS Emergency Relief for COVID-affected households, EHSAAAS ration scheme for subsidized essential food items, and establishment of Panagahs/Langar Khana in major urban centers.

### 14.5.4 International Success

#### *FATF Compliance*

Pakistan successfully implemented the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)/Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) action plan, moving out of the grey list in 2022, thus avoiding potential sanctions.

#### *Negotiation Wins*

Pakistan saved \$1.2 billion in penalties through negotiations with the Karkey rental power project in 2019 and resolved the Reko Diq dispute, saving \$11 billion in penalties. This also led to a new \$7 billion investment pledge from Barrick Gold company.

## 14.6 Agenda for Economic Transformation – Pakistan at the Cross-Roads

### 14.6.1 Lives Worth Living For

Imam Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, a prominent reformer from the fifth century Hijrah, emphasized the principles of maqasid al-Shari'ah, which prioritize the well-being of people in their faith, self,



intellect, posterity, and wealth. These principles serve as the foundation of our economic transformation agenda.

#### **14.6.2 Dialectical Change and Historical Context**

Drawing inspiration from historical dialectics, where societies evolve by shedding old roles and institutions to form a rationally ordered community, we recognize the need for change.

Since 1973, Pakistan adopted a Constitution aimed at equitable progress. However, over five decades, key State institutions have often favored elites, leading to divisive politics and inequality. This model prioritized rent-seeking by elites, resulting in economic sovereignty loss, widespread poverty, and income inequalities. To address these challenges, PTI advocates holistic reform of State institutions and fostering a competitive private sector, with effective governance and macroeconomic stability.

### **14.7 High-Level Goals for a Heroic Transformation**

Structural Reforms to Revamp Development Implementation.

#### **14.7.1 Cooperative Federalism**

PTI prioritizes the National Economic Council (NEC) to foster balanced growth, empower disadvantaged groups, and reduce poverty by streamlining economic roles between the Federation and Provincial Governments

#### **14.7.2 Enhancing Development Impact**

PTI will critically review projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs) to ensure sustainable use of resources, infrastructure rehabilitation, and private sector participation.

#### **14.7.3 Right-sizing Government**

An inter-disciplinary Commission will review rules of business, propose legislative changes, and enhance government officials' technical capacity while reducing government size.

### **14.8 Embedding Macroeconomic Stability**

#### **14.8.1 Legislative Framework**

PTI aims to enact legislation making macroeconomic stability a constitutional responsibility. Within three months, PTI will present a roadmap for medium-term macroeconomic stability, guided by the Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board.

#### **14.8.2 Prudent Fiscal Policy**

PTI will adopt a prudent fiscal policy, gradually reducing the tax burden, government expenditures, and aligning elitist perks with tax revenue mobilization. Funding social safety nets will involve integrated pools comprising tax revenues, zakat, and philanthropic donations.



## 14.9 Achieving Macroeconomic Stability

### 14.9.1 Sequenced Adjustment Policies

Proper sequencing of adjustment policies is essential to minimize adverse economic consequences, paving the way for sustainable economic growth and the transition from the extractive economic system to Naya Pakistan – Lives Worth Living For.

### 14.9.2 Envisioning a Vibrant and Innovative Market Economy

Over five decades, government policies have favored rent-seeking in the private sector. PTI seeks to rectify this by promoting a dynamic and innovative private sector.

### 14.9.3 Holistic Exports-Led Growth Strategy

PTI's holistic approach aims to transform wealth generation through an exports-led strategy, including enhancing market governance, changing the national mindset, policy convergence, and redesigned fiscal and financial incentives.

## 14.10 PTI's Vision for Economic Transformation

As Pakistan transitions to Naya Pakistan, PTI envisions an economic transformation agenda that supports globally competitive growth engines, job-intensive industries, and a higher value-added production structure. This vision is central to PTI's goal of creating a vibrant and innovative market economy fostering sustainable growth and prosperity for all its citizens.

## 14.11 Key Principles of PTI Economic Policy

The economic policy of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is guided by several key principles aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable growth over the long term. The party's vision aims to eliminate boom-bust cycles and establish a more stable economic trajectory.

### 14.11.1 Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

PTI's economic plan places a strong emphasis on inclusive and sustainable growth. The objective is to achieve economic expansion driven by productivity gains, private investment, and individual initiative, all facilitated by government support where necessary. This approach seeks to create a more resilient economic environment that benefits all segments of society.

### 14.11.2 Corporate Accountability

Our policy entails withholding tax incentives and subsidies from major businesses that don't engage in exporting goods or provide employment to a significant workforce. Large businesses will be classified as those with revenues exceeding Rs. 1 billion.



#### **14.11.3 Efficient State-Run Entities**

We propose running state-owned entities like Pakistan Railways, Airlines, and Steel Mills through Public-Private Partnership schemes. This approach will reduce the state's salary burden and encourage lean employment while maintaining pension benefits for workers.

#### **14.11.4 Harnessing Abundant Minerals**

We plan to increase exploration, development, processing, and export of the abundant mineral resources within Pakistan, creating new economic opportunities.

#### **14.11.5 Tourism Promotion**

Multi-Billion Dollar Industry: Tourism will be promoted as a multi-billion-dollar industry, with incentives provided to small and medium enterprises associated with tourism

#### **14.11.6 Boosting Remittances**

We aim to attract investments from Pakistanis abroad to increase remittances.

#### **14.11.7 Reducing Oil Dependency**

We're committed to minimizing our reliance on imported oil by enhancing production and using improved technology to bring new wells in existing blocks into production within a period of twelve months.

#### **14.11.8 Agriculture Sector Focus**

A critical focus of PTI's economic strategy is enhancing productivity in the agriculture sector. This emphasis is intended to address issues such as reducing inflation, decreasing food imports, and promoting high-value-added exports. We will invest in Artificial Intelligence and advanced technology. We shall establish Research and Development centers for local seed development through Public-Private Partnerships at the provincial level. By bolstering the agriculture sector, Pakistan will achieve greater food security and expand its presence in international markets.

#### **14.11.9 Shift from Debt-Driven Growth to Trade and Investment**

PTI is committed to shifting the country's growth model away from one reliant on debt towards a more sustainable trade and investment-driven approach. This shift aims to reduce the vulnerabilities associated with a debt-driven model and promote greater economic stability.

#### **14.11.10 Inflation Control and Fiscal Responsibility**

PTI has set the target of reducing inflation to a range of 5% to 7% through appropriate fiscal and monetary measures. Achieving this target is crucial for maintaining price stability and safeguarding the purchasing power of citizens. Additionally, PTI is dedicated to enhancing domestic savings through the reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and the streamlining of government functions.



#### **14.11.11 Budget Deficits and Tax Policy**

Efforts to reduce budget deficits and pursue a tax policy that is both equitable and efficiency-enhancing are central to PTI's economic plan. The party aims to manage public debt in accordance with fiscal responsibility laws while adhering to the "golden" fiscal rule, ensuring fiscal prudence.

#### **14.11.12 Sustainable Growth and Resilience**

PTI envisions sustained, sustainable, inclusive, labor-intensive, export-oriented, and agriculture-led growth. This multifaceted approach aims to create a resilient economy capable of withstanding challenges, including the impacts of climate change. PTI is committed to prioritizing "green" sources of economic growth and making the economy climate-proof, with particular attention to the agriculture sector.

#### **14.11.13 Regional Development and Social Inclusion**

PTI recognizes the importance of addressing regional disparities and promoting socio-economic development in lagging and under-developed regions. Special regional development policies will be implemented, with a focus on areas such as Balochistan, southern Punjab, Sindh, southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Gilgit Baltistan, and ex-Federally Administered Tribal Areas (ex-FATA). These policies aim to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared widely.

#### **14.11.14 Institutional Strengthening and Accountability**

Improving economic management is a cornerstone of PTI's economic agenda. The party seeks to enhance the institutional framework for economic governance, placing transparency and accountability at the forefront of its governance approach. These principles are pivotal in ensuring the effective implementation of PTI's economic reforms and fostering trust in the government's actions.

### **14.12 Major Targets**

PTI's economic reforms plan is guided by a commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth sets itself some major targets. It places a strong emphasis on productivity, private investment, and accountability, with the goal of transforming Pakistan's economic trajectory for the betterment of all its citizens. These targets represent PTI's comprehensive vision for Pakistan's economic transformation, focusing on both short-term stability and long-term growth and development. Achieving these objectives will require concerted efforts in economic policy, governance, and institutional reform.

#### **14.12.1 Short Term Targets**

In the short term, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has set forth specific objectives to restore macroeconomic stability and address immediate economic challenges:

**Restore Macroeconomic Stability:** PTI aims to restore macroeconomic stability, including the rebuilding of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reserves to cover three months of import requirements. This is crucial for maintaining financial resilience.



**Inflation Reduction:** The party is committed to reducing inflation to a range of 5% to 7% through the implementation of appropriate fiscal and monetary measures. This reduction is essential for maintaining price stability and protecting the purchasing power of citizens.

#### **14.12.2 Government Size Reduction**

PTI intends to reduce the size of the government, which includes downsizing the cabinet and minimizing the number of ministers. This streamlining of government functions aims for greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

#### **14.12.3 Tax Revenue Increase**

While pursuing fiscal reforms, PTI aims to increase tax revenue while simultaneously reducing the tax burden on citizens. This balance is crucial for sustainable fiscal management.

### **14.13 5-Year Targets**

Over the course of five years, PTI has laid out ambitious targets to achieve lasting economic growth and transformation:

#### **14.13.1 Export Growth**

The party aims to increase exports of traditional goods to 15% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) within five years, with the goal of reaching 20% of GDP within a decade. This emphasis on exports seeks to boost the country's external trade and economic stability.

#### **14.13.2 Investment Ratio**

PTI targets an increase in the investment-to-GDP ratio, aiming for it to reach 20% within five years and 30% within ten years. This is intended to attract both domestic and foreign investment, driving economic expansion.

#### **14.13.3 IT Exports**

PTI aspires to raise annual Information Technology (IT) exports to \$30 billion within five years, highlighting the importance of the IT sector in the country's economic future

#### **14.13.4 Job Creation**

The party's goal is to create 10 million new jobs, with an annual target of 2 million new jobs in the private sector. Employment generation is pivotal for reducing unemployment and fostering economic growth.

#### **14.13.5 Public Debt Reduction**

PTI seeks to reduce public debt to below 60% of GDP, ensuring sustainable fiscal management and reducing the burden of debt on future generations.

**Universal Healthcare:**

The party is committed to providing universal healthcare for all citizens of Pakistan, aiming to enhance the overall well-being of the population.



#### **14.13.6 Quality Education**

PTI intends to enable ten top universities in Pakistan to achieve accreditation for international degrees. This initiative will open avenues for Pakistani youth to enter the global workforce and contribute to the knowledge economy.

#### **14.13.7 Technical Institutes**

PTI plans to establish ten new specialized technical institutes, similar to the Pak-Austria Fach Hochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). These institutes will enable youth to obtain global technical certifications, enhancing their employability and technical skills.

### **14.14 Main Recommendations**

#### **14.15 Fiscal Reforms - Restoring Fiscal Viability**

In summary, Pakistan's fiscal reforms aim to address taxation, expenditure, intergovernmental relations, debt management, pensions, state-owned enterprises, and institutional arrangements comprehensively. By pursuing these reforms, Pakistan seeks to restore fiscal viability and promote economic stability, ultimately benefiting its citizens and ensuring a more prosperous future.

One of the central objectives of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) economic reform agenda is to restore the fiscal viability of Pakistan. This overarching goal encompasses a multifaceted approach, with seven key reform areas playing a pivotal role in reshaping the nation's economic landscape.

##### **14.15.1 Tax Reforms - Enhancing Revenue Generation and Accountability**

Taxation lies at the heart of fiscal reforms. The reform agenda includes a comprehensive redesign of the tax system, spanning both federal and provincial levels. This redesign aims to simplify and streamline tax processes, making them more efficient and equitable. Additionally, restructuring tax administration, with a focus on Public Sector Development Programs (PSDP) and Annual Development Programs (ADPs), seeks to enhance accountability and transparency. The mobilization of revenue at both federal and provincial levels is a priority, and measures are being put in place to ensure transparency and accountability in revenue collection efforts.

##### **14.15.2 Expenditure Rationalization - *Efficient Resource Allocation***

Effective fiscal management also involves rationalizing expenditures. This means streamlining spending at both federal and provincial levels, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to maximize their impact. A key focus here is to enhance transparency in the execution of programs like PSDP and ADPs, ensuring that funds are utilized effectively for the benefit of the population.

##### **14.15.3 Centre-Provinces Interface - *Resolving Fiscal Issues***

The relationship between the central government and provincial governments is vital to fiscal stability. Reform efforts include addressing issues related to revenue sharing through mechanisms like the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. Clarifying constitutional assignments for fiscal responsibilities ensures that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. Furthermore, efforts are





underway to improve revenue collection mechanisms and promote fiscal devolution from provinces to Local Governments (LGs), empowering local governance.

#### **14.15.4 Debt Management - Ensuring Fiscal Stability**

Debt management is a crucial aspect of fiscal reforms. A robust strategy for managing public debt is being implemented to ensure fiscal stability through prudent debt management practices. This includes careful monitoring and control of public borrowing to avoid unsustainable debt levels.

#### **14.15.5 Pensions Reforms - Enhancing Financial Security**

The redesign of the pension system is seen as a separate vertical for reform. This entails revisiting and revamping the pension system to make it more sustainable and equitable. Lessons learned from successful pension reforms in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are being replicated to ensure financial security for retired individuals.

#### **14.15.6 State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs): Improving Efficiency**

Comprehensive reforms in State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) are a critical component of fiscal reforms. Models that have proved successful in Punjab and KP are being adapted and implemented at the federal level. This effort aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of SOEs, reducing the burden on public finances.

#### **14.15.7 Institutional Arrangements: Strengthening Governance**

Effective institutional arrangements are essential for sound fiscal management. This involves strengthening the overall Public Financial Management system to ensure transparency and accountability in financial transactions. The establishment of a National Tax Council facilitates coordination and collaboration among relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, coordination of the macroeconomic framework and debt management among key entities, including the Ministry of Finance (MoF), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Planning Commission, Economic Affairs Division (EAD), and provincial governments, is crucial for maintaining fiscal discipline. Efficient management of pension funds and enhancing the capabilities of Tax Policy and Macro Fiscal Units contribute to better governance and fiscal control.

### **14.16 Key Objectives**

These objectives represent PTI's comprehensive vision for economic reform, with a focus on revenue adequacy, equity in taxation, transparency, and accountable tax administration. Achieving these objectives will require systematic and coordinated efforts across various facets of economic governance and policy implementation.

#### **14.17 Achieve Revenue Adequacy**

One of the primary objectives of the economic reforms plan is to achieve revenue adequacy, ensuring that government finances are robust and sustainable:



#### **14.17.1 Fully Financing Current Expenditure and SDGs**

PTI aims to finance current expenditure and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fully from own-source revenue. This approach promotes financial self-sufficiency and reduces reliance on external sources.

#### **14.17.2 Mobilize Provincial and Local Tax Bases**

The plan seeks to mobilize provincial and local tax bases, distributing fiscal responsibilities across different tiers of government and ensuring equitable resource allocation.

#### **14.17.3 Build Fiscal Resilience/Buffers**

PTI is committed to building fiscal resilience and buffers, which are essential for managing economic shocks and unforeseen challenges effectively.

#### **14.17.4 Reduce Public Debt Burden**

The party aims to reduce the burden of public debt, freeing up fiscal space for critical investments and development initiatives.

### **14.18 Introduce Fairness and Equity in Taxation**

Another central objective is to inject fairness and equity into the taxation system:

**Greater Progressivity in Taxes:** PTI seeks to make taxes more progressive, ensuring that those with higher incomes pay a proportionally greater share of their earnings in taxes.

### **14.19 Transparency, Accountability, and Purpose**

The plan emphasizes the importance of bringing transparency, accountability, and a clear sense of purpose to public expenditure, ensuring that tax revenues are used efficiently and effectively.

### **14.20 Broaden and Deepen Documentation of the Economy**

Efforts are also directed towards broadening and deepening the documentation of the economy:

#### **14.21 Low and Predictable Tax Burden**

PTI aims to achieve a low and predictable tax burden for economic agents, providing them with a stable and favorable business environment.

#### **14.22 Reducing Business Costs**

There is a focus on reducing the cost of doing business and ensuring ease of payment for taxes, streamlining administrative processes for businesses.

#### **14.23 Incentives for Carbon Minimization**

To address environmental concerns, the plan aims to provide incentives for firms and households to minimize carbon use, promoting sustainability.



## **14.24 Transparency and Accountability**

Transparency and accountability are core principles of PTI's economic reforms plan:

**Collection of Tax:** The plan promotes transparency in the collection of taxes, ensuring that tax collection processes are open and accountable.

### **14.24.1 Use of Public Funds**

PTI is committed to transparency in the use of public funds, with a clear focus on efficient and accountable expenditure.

### **14.24.2 Taxpayer and Public Expenditure**

**Audits:** Regular taxpayer and public expenditure audits will be conducted to maintain accountability and track the effective utilization of funds

### **14.24.3 Accountable Tax Administration**

Finally, PTI emphasizes the need for an accountable, arms-length tax administration that leverages modern information management tools like blockchain and big data:

**Simplification with Modern Tools:** The plan calls for major simplification in tax administration, coupled with the use of modern information management technologies, such as block-chain and big data, to streamline processes and enhance efficiency.

## **14.25 Tax System Improvements**

### **14.25.1 Revenue Mobilization Measures**

In the pursuit of bolstering revenue mobilization, PTI's economic reforms plan includes a series of measures aimed at broadening and deepening the tax base, especially in untaxed and lightly-taxed sectors. These measures include:

### **14.25.2 Introduction of a Modern VAT**

PTI intends to introduce a modern, integrated, technology-driven Value Added Tax (VAT) with minimal exemptions. This move is designed to enhance revenue collection efficiency.

### **14.25.3 GST Regime Improvement**

Until the integrated VAT is implemented, PTI seeks to improve the coverage, enforcement, and overall administration of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. This involves harmonizing the GST base across provinces, standardizing definitions of "goods" and "services," ensuring uniform rates, and focusing on enforcement, compliance, and transparency in refund processes.

### **14.25.4 Greater Progressivity in Personal Income Tax**

PTI plans to introduce greater progressivity in the personal income tax system, ensuring that those with higher incomes contribute proportionally more in taxes.



#### **14.25.5 Wealth/Asset Taxation**

The introduction of wealth and asset taxation is on PTI's agenda to generate additional revenue sources.

#### **14.25.6 Elimination of Income Tax Exemptions**

The plan includes the elimination of income tax exemptions provided to various segments of the population, aiming to create a fairer tax structure.

#### **14.25.7 Addressing Distortions in Tax Code**

PTI aims to eliminate distortions in the tax code arising from the recognition of non-filers as a "legal" entity and frequent introductions of tax amnesty schemes.

#### **14.25.8 Efficiency Improvements**

PTI focuses on improving the efficiency of tax administration in areas such as Sales Tax (C-efficiency), refunds (accuracy and fraud prevention), and litigation.

#### **14.25.9 Prioritization of Property and Real Estate Transactions**

Property and real estate transactions, along with the agricultural value chain, are prioritized for taxation purposes at the provincial level. Curbing Mis-invoicing: Measures will be taken to curb mis-invoicing, which can lead to revenue leakage.

#### **14.25.10 Carbon Tax Introduction**

PTI intends to introduce a carbon tax on fossil fuels, not only as a revenue measure but also to offset environmental impacts.

### **14.26 Documentation Initiatives**

The economic reforms plan also includes several documentation initiatives to enhance transparency and tax compliance:

#### **14.26.1 Digital Identity**

PTI plans to roll out a digital identity system, providing a unique tax identifier to individuals.

#### **14.26.2 Track & Trace System**

The party aims to complete the rollout of the Track & Trace System and broaden its application, which can aid in tracking taxable activities.

#### **14.26.3 Point of Sales Machines**

The rollout of Point of Sales (PoS) machines, initiated under PTI's government, will be completed to facilitate digital payments.



#### **14.26.4 Supply Chain Digitalization**

A plan for supply chain digitalization will be launched to streamline tax processes.

#### **14.26.5 Taxpayers' Data Integration**

Efforts will be made to integrate taxpayers' data, enhancing monitoring and compliance.

#### **14.26.6 Digital Invoicing System (SWAPS)**

PTI intends to launch a digital invoicing system known as the Synchronized Withholding Payments System (SWAPS) to modernize invoicing processes.

### **14.27 Efficiency-Enhancing Measures**

The plan incorporates various efficiency-enhancing measures to simplify taxation and reduce costs:

#### **14.27.1 Reducing Withholding Taxes**

PTI aims to reduce the number of withholding taxes to streamline tax collection.

Eliminating Business Cost Taxes: Taxes that add to the cost of doing business for firms, such as turnover tax and minimum tax, will be eliminated.

#### **14.27.2 Streamlining Income Tax Refunds**

The party is committed to streamlining the process of income tax refunds, ensuring quicker and more accurate disbursement.

#### **14.27.3 Reducing Reliance on Trade Taxes**

PTI aims to reduce reliance on taxes related to international trade to ease the burden on importers and exporters.

#### **14.27.4 Corporate Tax Rate Reduction**

Over the medium term, the plan calls for reducing corporate tax rates to align with regional averages.

### **14.28 Improved Governance**

The economic reforms plan also emphasizes the need for improved governance and transparency in tax administration:

#### **14.28.1 Accountable Tax Administration**

Measures will be taken to ensure that the tax administration operates accountably and at arm's length.

#### **14.28.2 Professional Organizational Development**

PTI plans to initiate a professional Organizational Development (OD) program for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).



### **14.28.3 Incentives for Business Climate Improvement**

Tax administration incentives will shift from a singular focus on tax collection to also consider their impact on the business climate and investment facilitation.

### **14.28.4 Behavioral Insights for Compliance**

Behavioral psychology insights will be used to enhance taxpayer compliance and improve enforcement.

### **14.28.5 Discontinuing Tax Amnesty Schemes**

By legislative amendment, PTI aims to discontinue the introduction of new tax amnesty schemes, fostering a culture of consistent tax compliance.

## **14.29 Centre-Provinces Fiscal Interface**

Restoring overall fiscal viability is a top priority for PTI, which involves achieving a better balance in revenue and expenditure responsibilities between the Centre and provinces:

### **14.29.1 Rule-Based Contribution**

PTI plans to ensure rule-based contributions by all provinces to national defense expenditure and interest payments on public debt.

### **14.29.2 Energy Circular Debt Burden-Sharing**

The plan addresses the burden of energy circular debt, calling for burden-sharing between the Centre and provinces.

### **14.29.3 Eliminating Federal 'Vertical' Programs**

PTI aims to eliminate federal 'vertical' programs in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).

### **14.29.4 Collection Charges Increase**

PTI intends to increase collection charges from the reduced rate of 1% to at least 3%.

### **14.29.5 Permanent National Finance Commission**

The plan proposes the establishment of a permanent National Finance Commission with representation from each province. The Commission would conduct research on improving fiscal decentralization and monitor fiscal reforms at the provincial level.

### **14.29.6 Performance-Based Revenue Transfer**

A performance-based revenue transfer mechanism will be developed. A substantial portion of the divisible pool will be released to provinces based on performance in service delivery.

### **14.29.7 Provincial Finance Commissions**

To devolve fiscal decentralization to the local government



## **14.30 Expenditure Rationalization**

The third major focus area of PTI's economic reforms plan includes drastic measures for expenditure rationalization, aimed at reducing government spending, increasing its efficiency and ensuring responsible fiscal management.

### **14.30.1 Civil Service Salaries and Allowances**

PTI acknowledges the need to address civil service salaries and allowances and has put forth the following recommendations:

### **14.30.2 Implementing Institutional Reforms**

PTI intends to implement the recommendations of the Institutional Reforms Committee to streamline the government structure and re-engineer processes to boost productivity.

### **14.30.3 7th NFC Handover**

Completion of the 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) entails handing over ministries and divisions to provinces, putting an end to overlaps in functions and associated costs.

### **14.30.4 Monetizing Staff Perks**

The party plans to monetize staff perks and raise the benchmark pay to the 50% to 75% percentile of the market, creating a more cost-effective compensation structure.

## **14.31 Subsidies**

PTI recognizes the need for targeted, needs-based, time-bound, and budgeted subsidies. The plan emphasizes that energy subsidies are closely linked to sector reforms and are addressed separately under overall energy sector recommendations.

SOEs Bailouts. Recommendations for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) bailouts are discussed in a separate section, outlining measures to address their financial sustainability.

## **14.32 Main Non-Discretionary Expenditure Heads**

### **14.32.1 Interest Payments and Pensions**

Interest payments and pensions are categorized as non-discretionary expenditures. Further details on these categories are provided under debt management and pensions liability management, respectively.

### **14.32.2 Public Procurement**

Efforts to review and rationalize public procurement are imperative. PTI's recommendations for public procurement include:



### **14.32.3 Tightening PPRA Rules**

PTI plans to tighten Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules, particularly concerning competitive bidding processes and accountability.

### **14.32.4 Cabinet Oversight**

Strengthening cabinet (Economic Coordination Committee - ECC) oversight of large-ticket public procurement contracts to ensure transparency and efficiency.

### **14.32.5 Institutional Capacity Strengthening**

Enhancing the institutional capacity of PPRA, particularly concerning international contracting.

### **14.32.6 Increased Transparency**

PTI aims to increase transparency in public procurement contracts, pricing, and terms. This includes instituting formal and regular auditing processes, covering compliance, financial aspects, and performance-related assessments.

## **14.33 Public Sector Development Program (PSDP)**

The Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) is a significant area that requires review and rationalization. PTI's recommendations for PSDP include:

### **14.33.1 National Development Framework**

Aligning PSDP and provincial Annual Development Programs (ADPs) with a National Development Framework.

### **14.33.2 Geo-Mapping and Geo-Tagging**

Conducting a geo-mapping and geo-tagging exercise for PSDP- and ADP-funded physical infrastructure projects. Implementing rules-based approval for new projects.

Portfolio Cleaning: Undertaking a portfolio cleaning exercise, including foreign-funded projects.

### **14.33.3 Moratorium on New Projects**

Introducing a two-year moratorium on the approval of all large new infrastructure projects, except for high-return quick-gestation projects.

### **14.33.4 Foreign Borrowing Moratorium**

Implementing a two-year moratorium on fresh foreign borrowing with immediate effect.

### **14.33.5 Project Completion/Closure Facility**

Introducing a project completion/closure facility to fund project closure costs incurred by loan cancellation, if necessary.





#### **14.33.6 Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)**

Shifting 50% of projects to the PPP mode to encourage private sector participation.

#### **14.33.7 Privatization and Commercialization**

Reducing the government footprint through privatization of partially completed projects and commercialization of projects where possible to generate revenue.

#### **14.33.8 Asset Rehabilitation and Upgrade**

Prioritizing the rehabilitation and upgrade of existing public assets, ensuring adequate funding for operations and maintenance.

#### **14.33.9 Review of Federal Projects**

Post-18th amendment, a review of projects and programs in the Federal jurisdiction is necessary to eliminate those that no longer fall under federal purview.

### **14.34 Public Debt Management**

PTI advocates for the implementation of an appropriate debt management strategy that seeks to strike a balance between managing costs and mitigating risks. This strategy is founded on several key principles:

#### **14.34.1 Lengthening Debt Maturity**

Efforts will be made to lengthen the maturity profile of government debt, reducing the need for frequent refinancing and minimizing interest rate risk.

#### **14.34.2 Diversification of Debt Portfolio**

Diversification of the public debt portfolio is essential, encompassing a broad investor base and a variety of debt instruments. This approach helps reduce reliance on a single source of financing.

#### **14.34.3 Risk Mitigation**

PTI aims to avoid high concentrations of exposure, thereby mitigating risks associated with debt.

#### **14.34.4 Cash Reserves**

Maintaining adequate cash buffers is crucial for managing debt obligations efficiently, ensuring the government's ability to meet its financial commitments.

#### **14.34.5 Lower Borrowing Costs**

The strategy seeks to achieve lower borrowing costs for the government over the medium term, which contributes to fiscal sustainability.



### **14.35 Energy Circular Debt Resolution**

PTI acknowledges that a significant portion of government borrowing in recent years has been related to the energy circular debt. The party has addressed this issue separately, recognizing its importance in ensuring the financial viability of the energy sector.

### **14.36 Improved Public Financial Management**

PTI emphasizes the importance of enhanced fiscal discipline and improved public financial management as essential components of sound public debt accretion and management.

### **14.37 Institutional Arrangements for Debt Management**

To strengthen public debt management, PTI outlines plans for improving institutional arrangements. These measures include:

#### **14.37.1 Centralized Debt Management Division (DMD)**

The creation of a Centralized Debt Management Division in the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to centralize and streamline debt management functions.

#### **14.37.2 Autonomy for Debt Division**

The debt division will have financial, hiring, and operational autonomy, ensuring flexibility and efficiency in its operations.

#### **14.37.3 Professional Management**

The DMD will be staffed with professional management that is equipped with the expertise needed for effective debt management.

#### **14.37.4 Pensions Liability Management**

PTI's government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab (2018-22) initiated significant reforms in public pensions. Key measures implemented included:

#### **14.37.5 Introduction of DC Pension Scheme**

The introduction of the Defined Contribution (DC) Pension Scheme for new civil servants is planned, offering a structured and sustainable approach to pension benefits.

#### **14.37.6 Reforms to DB Pension Scheme**

Reforms were made to the Defined Benefit (DB) Pension Scheme for existing civil servants, ensuring sustainability and alignment with fiscal constraints.

#### **14.37.7 Retirement Age Increase**

The retirement age for Civil Servants was increased, a measure aimed at better aligning pension liabilities with workforce demographics.

The next steps in pension liability management include:



#### **14.37.8 Abandoning Universal Pay Scales**

PTI plans to discontinue Universal Pay Scales and allow provinces to establish their own pay scales, creating flexibility and sustainability.

#### **14.37.9 Claw-Back Mechanisms**

The introduction of claw-back mechanisms through Professional Tax and other means to ensure a fair and balanced approach to pension benefits.

These successful reforms initiated at the provincial level will be replicated at the federal level, contributing to the responsible management of pension liabilities and ensuring their long-term sustainability.

### **14.38 Financial Sector - Key Objectives**

#### *GoP Debt Redistribution, Systemic Liquidity Enhancement, and Professionalizing Debt Management*

One of PTI's primary objectives is to effectively manage government debt while enhancing systemic liquidity. To achieve this, the following measures will be implemented:

#### **14.38.1 Reallocation of Government Debt**

PTI aims to reallocate a higher proportion of government debt outside of banks. This redistribution will reduce the government's reliance on the banking sector and contribute to overall financial stability.

#### **14.38.2 Reduction of Currency in Circulation**

To increase the pool of loanable liquidity, PTI plans to reduce the amount of currency in circulation. This measure will encourage banks to lend more to businesses and individuals, stimulating economic growth.

#### **14.38.3 Facilitation for Credit Offtake**

PTI is committed to streamlining the credit application and approval processes. By reducing bureaucratic hurdles and improving transparency, the government aims to encourage businesses and individuals to access credit more easily.

#### **14.38.4 Reorganization of Debt Management Office**

The debt management office will undergo a comprehensive reorganization to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in managing government debt. Professionalizing this office is crucial for sound financial management.

#### **14.38.5 SME Credit**

PTI recognizes the importance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in driving economic growth. To support these businesses, the government plans to create opportunities for SMEs to access credit, thereby boosting economic activity and employment.



#### **14.38.6 Devolution of Funding Structure**

The funding structure will be devolved to promote regional economic development. This decentralization will empower local governments to allocate resources based on their specific needs and priorities.

#### **14.38.7 Enablers for Growth**

PTI is committed to introducing various policy enablers that will stimulate economic growth. These may include regulatory reforms, investment incentives, and infrastructure development projects.

### **14.39 Public Sector Development Finance Initiatives- Short-term Measures**

#### **14.39.1 Primary Dealer System**

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will actively work to attract more non-bank Primary Dealers (PDs) towards the Primary Dealer System. Additionally, the government will implement tightened PD rules to ensure compliance and effectiveness in the market.

#### **14.39.2 Utilization of Banks' Branch Network**

PTI recognizes the importance of banks' branch networks. The government will explore ways to optimize the utilization of these networks to enhance financial access for individuals and businesses.

#### **14.39.3 Digital Web Portal**

SBP will develop a user-friendly digital web portal dedicated to small and retail investors. This portal will provide easy access to investment opportunities and information.

Facilitate Access of Foreign Investors: PTI aims to facilitate foreign investors' access to the Pakistani market by simplifying processes and removing unnecessary barriers.

#### **14.39.4 Tax Structure for Government Debt**

The government proposes a simplified tax structure for government debt instruments, including Market Treasury Bills (MTB), Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIB), Government Investment Bonds (GIS), and National Savings Schemes (NSS). A flat 15% tax on profits from these instruments, deducted at the source, will be implemented.

### **14.40 Public Sector Development Finance Initiatives- Medium/Longer-term Measures**

#### ***Identify Adequate Assets***

PTI will conduct a thorough assessment to identify adequate assets that can be leveraged to support development finance initiatives. These assets may include government-owned properties, land, and other valuable resources.

#### ***Asset Light Sukuk***

The government will explore the introduction of an Asset Light Sukuk structure. This structure will be primarily based on future cash-flows, providing a unique investment opportunity.



#### **14.40.1 Short-term Sukuk for Commodity Operations**

PTI plans to evaluate the issuance of short-term Sukuk to finance government commodity operations. This approach will help stabilize commodity prices and ensure a steady supply of essential goods.

#### **14.40.2 Reducing Currency in Circulation**

To promote digital payments and reduce the reliance on physical currency, PTI will implement several initiatives:

#### **14.40.3 Merchant On-Boarding**

The government will incentivize businesses to adopt digital payment methods by simplifying the process of on-boarding merchants.

#### **14.40.4 Tax Removal**

PTI will eliminate taxes on service fees (Federal Excise Duty - FED) associated with customer card and digital payment transactions. This removal will make digital transactions more cost-effective for consumers.

#### **14.40.5 Exemption of Taxes and Duties**

Taxes and duties on digital payment devices, such as point-of-sale (POS) terminals and card readers, will be exempted. This measure aims to encourage the adoption of digital payment technology.

#### **14.40.6 Digitization**

PTI will drive the digitization of various financial transactions, including school, college, university fees, and government receipts and payments. This transition to digital channels will enhance convenience and transparency.

#### **14.40.7 Advance Tax Removal**

All kinds of advance taxes on digital transactions will be eliminated, ensuring that businesses and consumers do not face unnecessary financial burdens when conducting digital payments.

#### **14.40.8 Digitalization of CDNS**

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) will undergo digital transformation, providing direct access to retail investors. This move will simplify the process of investing in National Savings Schemes and enhance financial inclusion.

### **15. Environmental Policy for a Sustainable Pakistan**

We through a set of measures aim to safeguard our environment and efficiently power our nation, promoting sustainability and green energy solutions for a brighter future. Our environmental and energy policy takes a holistic approach to ensure a sustainable and green future for Pakistan. With a focus on renewable energy, indigenous resources, and eco-friendly practices, we aim to safeguard



our environment and power our nation efficiently. Here's a comprehensive look at our combined initiatives:

### **15.1 Harnessing Renewable Energy**

Emphasis is placed on the utilization of smaller dams and run-of-the-river electric generation, to generate renewable energy at a local level.

### **15.2 Solar and Wind Power Prioritization**

Solar and wind power projects, especially in regions like Baluchistan and Sindh, will be prioritized to harness the potential of these clean energy sources.

### **15.3 Promoting Environmentally Friendly Practices**

#### **15.3.1 Eco-Friendly Construction**

We will promote research and utilization of environmentally friendly building materials, ensuring that the construction industry contributes to a greener Pakistan.

#### **15.3.2 Reducing the Carbon Footprint**

**Taxing Heavy Polluters:** We will impose higher taxes on heavy polluting industries, encouraging them to reduce their carbon footprint and transition to more sustainable practices.

#### **15.3.3 Championing Recycling Initiatives**

**Sustainable Recycling:** Our support for recycling initiatives, including projects like using recycled plastics in road construction, will contribute to a more eco-conscious and sustainable society.

#### **15.3.4 Reducing Imported Fuel**

To decrease our dependence on imported fuels, we have a clear roadmap to limit the use of fossil fuels to just 20% of our energy mix within the next decade.

### **15.4 Continuing the Billion Tree Tsunami**

**Sustaining Reforestation:** The Billion Tree Tsunami project will be extended nationwide to continue our efforts in reforestation, combat deforestation, and promote a healthier environment.

### **15.5 Addressing the Indus Delta Crisis**

**Balancing Water Usage:** Management of the Indus Delta crisis, stemming from over-irrigation and unchecked canal use, will be a priority. Sustainable water management practices are essential.  
**Exploring Local Energy Resources**

We will explore indigenous energy sources like coal, biofuel, and ethanol, ensuring that energy generation is sustainable and minimizes our reliance on imports.



## 15.6 Smaller Dams and Run-of-the-River Electric Generation

We prioritize the use of smaller dams and run-of-the-river electric generation, reducing the environmental impact and enhancing local energy production capacity.

## 16. PTI's Roadmap for Energy Sector Reforms

Through these initiatives, PTI aims to create a more efficient, self-reliant, and environmentally sustainable energy sector that meets the needs of Pakistan's growing economy and population. Energy reform under PTI's economic plan is anchored in several overarching themes that aim to reshape the energy sector comprehensively.

### 16.1 Restructuring of Legal, Regulatory, and Governance Framework

PTI proposes the integration of the Power Division and Petroleum Division within the Ministry of Energy. The unification of energy regulators (NEPRA and OGRA) into a single regulator is advocated. An Integrated Energy Plan for Pakistan, modeled on IEA's World Energy Model, will be developed.

#### 16.1.1 Transparency and Capacity Building

There will be transparent and merit-based appointments for members of the regulatory board with market-based compensation. Capacity building of ministry, regulator, and other energy sector institutions is also prioritized.

#### 16.1.2 Overall policy Established

An overarching National Energy Policy with sub-policies for Exploration & Production, Oil Refining, Power, and more will be established.

#### 16.1.3 Deregulation

Energy efficiency standards for power generators, electrical and gas appliances, and buildings will be strictly enforced. A roadmap for complete deregulation of the energy sector will be outlined.

### 16.2 Rationalization of Energy Prices

PTI aims to establish a unified framework for pricing all energy substitutes based on their respective heating values. Carbon taxes will be levied based on the environmental cost of fuels. Cross-subsidies in energy tariffs will be removed, and direct/targeted subsidies will replace them. Competitive industrial electricity tariffs will be introduced to discourage captive power generation.

### 16.3 Indigenisation of Energy Supply

Efforts will be made to encourage upstream activities and their expansion into under/unexplored regions. This will be facilitated by providing adequate security, simplifying approval processes, and offering better wellhead pricing, particularly for tight gas. The substitution of imported coal will be promoted through blending in existing power and cement plants, with feasibility studies and test



projects for coal gasification. The enormous renewable energy potential in hydro, solar, and wind will be harnessed.

#### **16.4 Privatization of Public Sector Energy Companies**

PTI plans to initiate the privatization of Distribution Companies (DISCOs), beginning with one weaker DISCO from each province.

#### **16.5 Electrification of Energy Use**

PTI will aggressively promote the electrification of public transport and two-wheelers. Solarization of tube wells and the use of solar geysers to save natural gas will be encouraged.

#### **16.6 Oil & Gas Exploration and Production**

PTI's strategy for the oil and gas exploration and production sector includes several key measures:

##### **16.6.1 Regular Bidding Rounds**

PTI will conduct regular bidding rounds for exploration blocks to encourage investment.

##### **16.6.2 Revival of Block Award Process**

The party aims to revive the block award process of the 1994 Petroleum Policy, facilitating exploration activities.

##### **16.6.3 Streamlined Regulatory Approvals**

The post-discovery regulatory approval process will be streamlined to expedite project development.

##### **16.6.4 Security Clearance**

PTI will implement a prescribed process for security clearance of exploration blocks.

##### **16.6.5 Bringing Surrendered Blocks to Market**

Blocks that have been surrendered or revoked will be reintroduced to the market to attract investment.

##### **16.6.6 Improved Tight Gas Pricing**

Measures will be taken to improve the pricing of tight gas, making it more attractive for investors.

##### **16.6.7 Third-Party Access**

PTI will allow third-party access to stranded/non-producing gas fields, encouraging efficient utilization.

##### **16.6.8 Launch of Reconnaissance Permits**

The party plans to launch open area Reconnaissance Permits to facilitate exploration activities.





### **16.6.9 Transformation of DGPC**

The Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions (DGPC) will be transformed into a regulatory body for effective oversight.

## **16.7 Gas Distribution**

PTI's approach to gas distribution includes various measures:

### **16.7.1 Rationalization of Consumer-End Tariffs**

PTI seeks to rationalize consumer-end natural gas tariffs for fairness and sustainability.

### **16.7.2 Restructuring of Pricing Framework**

The pricing framework for natural gas will be redefined to align with market dynamics.

### **16.7.3 Long-Term Vision**

A revised long-term vision for the gas distribution sector will be developed to address future needs.

### **16.7.4 Supply Based on BTU Needs**

Natural gas supply to end-users will be based on their specific BTU (British Thermal Unit) requirements.

### **16.7.5 Corporate Restructuring and Privatization**

PTI will undertake corporate restructuring and privatization efforts in the gas distribution sector.

### **16.7.6 Review of Return Formula**

The return formula for gas companies will be reviewed to ensure it is equitable and conducive to investment.

### **16.7.7 Expansion of Import and Storage Infrastructure**

PTI will focus on expanding gas import and storage infrastructure to enhance supply reliability.

### **16.7.8 Coal-to-Gas Policy**

The party plans to develop a coal-to-gas policy to explore alternative energy sources.

### **16.7.9 Enforcement Laws Against Gas Theft**

Laws against gas theft will be reviewed and enforced more rigorously to curb illegal activities.  
Oil Refining

## **16.8 Strategy for Oil Refining - Comprehensive Analysis and Planning**

### **16.8.1 Modernization of Existing Refineries**

Modernizing existing refineries and establishing new ones is a capital-intensive venture. Any government-driven plans for such projects will be based on exhaustive analysis and in-depth studies.



### **16.8.2 Energy Forecasting Model**

An integrated energy forecasting model will be developed to create long-term demand forecasts for key fuels and petrochemicals, considering macroeconomic projections and energy transition policies.

### **16.8.3 Assessment of Existing Refineries**

A detailed assessment of the technical and financial capabilities of existing refineries will be conducted. This will determine which refineries are suitable for modernization/expansion, repurposing into storage facilities, or mothballing.

## **16.9 Power**

PTI's strategy for the power sector involves several key initiatives:

### **16.9.1 Flattening Capacity Payments**

Capacity payments will be flattened by extending the tenors of project debts. This process shall start with public sector projects, including all types of plants including hydro, and RLNG-based power plants.

### **16.9.2 Boosting Demand for Grid Electricity**

PTI aims to boost demand for grid electricity through electrification of energy use, incentivizing the shift from captive power generation to the grid, and integrating the networks of NTDC and KE.

### **16.9.3 Private Sector Participation**

Power transmission will be opened up to private sector participation to promote efficiency and investment.

### **16.9.4 Privatization of DISCOs**

The privatization of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) will commence, beginning with one weaker DISCO from each province.

## **17. PTI's Blueprint for Industry, Exports, and IT Sector Development**

Through these extensive policy measures, PTI aims to strengthen the industrial base, expand exports, and foster a vibrant IT sector, thereby transforming Pakistan into a hub for modern manufacturing, diversified exports, and technological innovation.

### **17.1 Promoting Local Industry and 'Make in Pakistan' Initiative**

PTI is committed to bolstering the local industry under the 'Make in Pakistan' banner, recognizing the vital role of competitive energy provisions in industrial growth.

### **17.2 Energy Reforms for Industry Competitiveness**

The manifesto outlines a plan for ensuring the availability of electricity and Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) at competitive regional tariffs for a minimum of five years. It advocates for the



deregulation of the energy market to foster competition and efficiency. The privatization of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) is proposed to improve distribution efficiency and align energy prices with market dynamics. The party also suggests that private LNG terminals should operate based on market pricing to enhance competitiveness.

### **17.3 Strategic Development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

The development of SEZs near ports and along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) routes is a priority, with plans to provide necessary utilities, infrastructure, and the option for long-term leases. The conversion of land near Karachi designated for the Textile City into a Special Economic Zone under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) is also proposed, including incentives like no minimum turnover tax.

### **17.4 Revision of Tax Structure for Industry Growth**

A significant reduction in the Corporate Tax Rate from 29% to 20% is planned, along with the abolition of the minimum turnover tax and tax on inter-corporate dividends. PTI also intends to limit Workers' Welfare Fund (WWF) and Workers' Profit Participation Fund (WPPF) applicability to manufacturing operations only.

### **17.5 Export Enhancement Measures**

PTI's manifesto includes a variety of export-related incentives, aiming to diversify export markets and enhance technological and industrial exports. It plans to secure market access similar to the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) plus for countries like South Korea, Japan, Canada, and Australia, renegotiate the Free Trade Agreement with China for preferential access, and ensure the continuation of GSP plus status with the European Union.

### **17.6 Policy Measures to Support the IT Sector/Exports**

PTI recognizes the importance of the Information Technology (IT) sector and outlines policy measures to support its growth:

#### **17.6.1 Financing and Gender Equality in IT**

Establishing a digital economy development bank is a key policy to finance industries, technologies, and businesses that are pivotal to the new age economy. PTI emphasizes promoting gender equality in the labor market.

#### **17.6.2 Investment in Green Technologies**

Investing in green technologies, renewable energy, and energy efficiency is slated to be a cornerstone of PTI's digital economy strategy.

#### **17.6.3 Digital Economy Positioning**

Developing a comprehensive digital economy strategy paper and conducting roadshows to position Pakistan as a progressive, digitally intensive economy is part of PTI's plan to attract investment and foster growth in the IT sector.



#### **17.6.4 Healthcare Technology and Infrastructure Expansion**

PTI plans to invest in healthcare technology and expand internet access, speed, and affordability. Developing human capital in cyber security, artificial intelligence, data science, and quantum computing is also a priority.

#### **17.6.5 Collaborations and Commercialization**

The party proposes to develop a collaborative approach with defense industries to commercialize technologies for the private sector and to remove barriers to growth that align with the digital economy model.

#### **17.6.6 Technological Clusters and Regional Integration**

Identifying startups, new economy initiatives, and relevant educational institutions to create national technological clusters, akin to Silicon Valley, is also highlighted. PTI aims to make targeted investments into these clusters to maximize economic impact and integrate with regional digital ecosystems and supply chains.

#### **17.6.7 Building BPOs and Consultancy Services**

Building Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) operations and shared service centers to service domestic and international companies, with a trajectory to extend into consultancy and software services, is another critical area of focus.

### **18. Agricultural Policy for Equitable Growth and Sustainability**

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government is committed to a comprehensive transformation of the agricultural sector, recognizing the imperative to adapt to changing market dynamics and environmental realities. The current agricultural policy framework, primarily focused on food security and limited agri-exports, must evolve into a forward-looking, ambitious long-term vision. The overarching objective is to position Pakistan as a dominant force in agri-food production, capitalizing on the sector's potential to drive growth, generate employment, reduce poverty, and enhance nutrition, particularly in rural areas.

#### **18.1 Policy Framework for a Sustainable Agriculture**

To realize this vision, a substantial shift in the policy framework is imperative. It necessitates a collaborative consensus-building process involving consultations among Federal and Provincial Governments, farmers, and private sector stakeholders. The goal is to harmonize policy measures and instruments, ensuring that incentives align with the broader objectives of sustainable agriculture.

#### **18.2 Public Spending Redirected**

Redirecting funds from inefficient subsidies and price support measures toward critical public goods and underdeveloped subsectors such as livestock, horticulture, pulses, and oilseeds is a key recommendation. Simultaneously, increasing public investments in agronomic research, animal



health, food safety, and rural infrastructure will foster an environment conducive to private sector investments.

### **18.3 Streamlining Regulations**

Streamlining and harmonizing the policy and regulatory framework between Federal and Provincial Governments is crucial. This will attract increased private investments and create equal opportunities for farmers regardless of their size or income level.

### **18.4 Land and Water Management**

#### **18.4.1 Canals and waterways**

Investing in sustainable land and water management practices is essential. This will promote natural resource conservation and enhance productivity. Simultaneously, improving irrigation services and adopting a holistic approach to managing canal water and groundwater will mitigate environmental degradation and ensure reliable water access for all farmers. A major initiative under this policy is the lining of 73,078 water courses across all provinces within five years. This ambitious project aims to save 9 million Acre-Feet of water, equivalent to the capacity of the Basha Dam, and is expected to yield an economic benefit of approximately USD 3.5 billion.

#### **18.4.2 Rainwater Capture Dams for Agriculture**

A major program will be launched to incentivize the private sector to finance and build numerous rainwater capture dams. The objective is to increase arable land, enhance food security, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. This initiative will stimulate local economies by creating jobs in dam construction and maintenance.

#### **18.4.3 Water Management and Farmer Education**

Implementing modern water management practices in agriculture to optimize water use efficiency, particularly in regions benefiting from rainwater capture dams. Educational programs will equip farmers with modern techniques, improving productivity, income, and food production.

### **18.5 Assisting Smallholder Producers**

Replacing inefficient subsidies with targeted support tailored to different categories of farmers, with a primary focus on assisting smallholder farmers, is a strategic move. Simultaneously, facilitating small farmers' access to markets, reducing information disparities, and rebalancing the bargaining power dynamics along the agri-food value chains will empower them.

### **18.6 Supporting Higher Value Crops**

Enhancing the overall wheat value chain is pivotal. This will boost competitiveness and alleviate fiscal burdens. Simultaneously, reallocating resources currently allocated to wheat production to support higher-value and more nutritious crops will improve small farmers' incomes and enhance the nutritional status of rural children.



### **18.7 Crop Diversification**

The strategy is to promote crop diversification to maximize arable land utilization, reduce reliance on a single crop, and enhance food security. Encouraging the adoption of sustainable farming practices and crop rotation to maintain soil health will be a key focus

### **18.8 Addressing Feudalism and Land Inequality**

The policy confronts the longstanding feudal structures prevalent in Pakistan, focusing on the critical issues of absentee landlordism and resulting inequality in land ownership. These issues have been significant catalysts for increasing social conflicts and stalling agricultural growth. The policy's primary objective is to elevate the livelihoods of those at the heart of the agricultural sector, aiming for a more equitable distribution of land and resources.

### **18.9 Progressive Land Reforms for Empowerment**

A key aspect of this policy is the transformative era of land ownership reforms. These reforms are particularly focused on empowering women, who have demonstrated exceptional farming capabilities. The goal is to ensure that every person working the land, particularly women, has a meaningful stake in it. The policy proposes a cap on land holdings to dismantle the concentration of land among a few and distribute it to the landless. This is especially aimed at enhancing women's land ownership, acknowledging their superior farming performance compared to their male counterparts.

### **18.10 Tailored Land Reforms for Diverse Provinces**

Acknowledging the distinct land tenure patterns across provinces, we will introduce customized land reforms that reflect the unique agricultural landscapes of each region, ensuring that the proposed changes are effectively aligned with local needs.

### **18.11 Investment, Technology, and Cooperative Development**

The policy includes a significant upswing in agricultural investment to subsidize necessary farming machinery and inputs such as fertilizers and seeds. This is crucial for modernizing agriculture and augmenting efficiency. To foster a collective approach to farming, the policy supports the creation and growth of Small Farmers Cooperatives. This initiative aims to empower small landowners with access to shared resources and specialized facilities, thus enhancing their productivity and profitability. Establish technology extension services to educate small farmers on modern and sustainable farming practices. We shall also be providing subsidies or incentives for the adoption of technology, such as precision farming tools and climate-resilient crop varieties.

### **18.12 Research, Market Integration, and Sustainable Practices**

The policy prioritizes innovation through state-funded agricultural research, focusing on developing high-performance crop varieties that are suited to local conditions. Agricultural extension services will be expanded to educate farmers on contemporary farming techniques. Alongside this, the policy includes the development of infrastructure to facilitate direct market access for small farmers. This



approach ensures equitable compensation for their produce and implements comprehensive crop insurance schemes to mitigate agricultural risks. Sustainable farming practices such as zero-tillage and crop diversification will be promoted through subsidies and education. These methods focus on biodiversity conservation and aim to minimize the environmental impact of farming operations.

### **18.13 Expansion of the 'Karez' System**

The policy also includes the improvement and expansion of traditional irrigation systems, particularly the 'Karez' system, which is vital for arid regions in Pakistan. This initiative will ensure the efficient use of water resources, directly benefiting the agrarian communities.

### **18.14 Financial Assistance and Cooperative Development**

Making financial assistance more accessible to farmers (Kissans) is a key component of the policy. This is aimed at addressing the challenges faced by small landowners and facilitating their access to necessary resources. The policy encourages the establishment of land cooperatives for small landowners. These cooperatives are designed to provide the necessary support to secure shared ownership, pool resources, and engage in collective bargaining. PTI commits to introducing targeted credit facilities with preferential interest rates for small farmers to enhance their access to capital. In order to increase the effectiveness of this initiative financial literacy programs will be promoted to ensure small farmers understand and can fully utilize the financial services offered.

### **18.15 Crop Insurance**

In essence, the introduction of crop insurance in Pakistan demands a comprehensive approach, including risk assessment, stakeholder collaboration, tailored product development, farmer education, and adherence to a robust legal framework. This approach will help in creating a sustainable and effective crop insurance system that addresses the unique challenges of Pakistani agriculture. Introducing crop insurance in Pakistan involves the following several key steps, each critical to ensuring the program's success and relevance to the local agricultural context.

#### **18.15.1 Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement**

Initially, understanding the specific agricultural risks in Pakistan is essential. This includes identifying major risks like floods, droughts, and pest infestations, and recognizing the regional differences in agricultural practices. Collaborating with key stakeholders such as the government, farmers, and insurance companies is also crucial. This ensures that the policies developed are both practical and widely accepted.

#### **18.15.2 Product Development and Education**

Developing insurance products tailored to the needs of Pakistani farmers is next. These products should be affordable, simple, and accessible. Educating farmers about the benefits of crop insurance is equally important. Workshops and effective marketing strategies can facilitate this understanding and encourage widespread adoption.



### **18.15.3 Implementation and International Cooperation**

Implementing the program through pilot projects can help in refining these insurance products. Establishing a clear legal and regulatory framework is also vital. Additionally, learning from global best practices and seeking assistance from international organizations experienced in agricultural insurance can provide valuable insights.

### **18.16 Re-launching the National Agriculture Emergency Program**

The PTI government plans to re-launch and expand the National Agriculture Emergency Program, which was initially launched in 2019. This program represents the most significant investment in agriculture since the 1960s and has led to record-high production of major crops and unprecedented increases in farmer incomes.

### **18.17 Key Agricultural Initiatives**

#### **18.17.1 Higher Yields**

The policy includes plans to increase wheat productivity by 7 mounds per acre, potentially adding 3.14 million tons to annual wheat production. Higher wheat productivity will also free up 2 million acres for oilseeds and other crops, aiming to cut the edible oil import bill by USD 500 million. The target for rice productivity is set to increase by 10 mounds per acre, potentially boosting annual exports by \$1 billion.

#### **18.17.2 Fisheries**

In the fisheries sector, the development of shrimp farming clusters in saline areas of Punjab and Sindh is planned, utilizing over 150,000 acres of wasteland water. Cage structure fish farming along lakes, rivers, dams, and coastlines, with a potential yield of 50,000 tons of fish per year, valued at USD 100 million, is also part of the initiative. Trout farming in KPK, AJK, and GB is targeted to produce 2,400 tons of trout annually, generating revenues of Rs.1,400 million per year.

#### **18.17.3 Livestock and Poultry**

For livestock development, initiatives like the 'Save the Buffalo Calf' and fattening programs are designed to boost meat exports and enhance farmer incomes. The establishment of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free zones will meet global export standards. Backyard poultry programs for landless rural families aim to combat malnutrition and supplement incomes. Furthermore, increasing the supply of quality milk and reducing adulteration is addressed by tackling the current lack of processing and cold storage facilities.

#### **18.17.4 Market Access and Climate Resilience**

Facilitating access to local and international markets for agricultural products to boost income for farmers and contribute to the overall economy. Incorporating climate-resilient practices in agriculture to adapt to changing weather patterns and mitigate the impact of climate change on food production will also be prioritized. The establishment of modern markets and storage facilities is envisioned to increase competition, reduce wastage of perishable goods, and improve price





discovery for small farmers, thus enhancing their access to finance. Develop and enhance market infrastructure, including the establishment of farmer markets and storage facilities, to reduce post-harvest losses.

## 19. PTI's Blueprint for Affordable and Sustainable Housing

### 19.1 Building Homes for All

PTI envisions a Pakistan where every citizen can afford a home—a fundamental right that underpins a prosperous nation. We aim to make this dream a reality by offering access to affordable financing, ensuring competitive market pricing, and facilitating self-construction for landowners. Simplifying the housing process—from permits to planning and loans—is essential for this transformation.

### 19.2 Uplifting the Urban and Rural Poor

Our "Shelter for All" initiative aims to address the needs of the urban and rural poor by transforming substandard living conditions and its program of advancing living standards shall bridge the urban-rural divide necessary to alleviate the intense pressure of migration. Access to quality housing is a key driver for social uplift and poverty reduction, closely tied to improved education and healthcare outcomes.

### 19.3 Enhancing Quality of Life Through Housing

Housing plays a crucial role in enhancing people's quality of life by reducing disease and boosting economic activity. With local raw materials accounting for a large part of construction, the housing industry is a significant employment generator. Recognizing its importance, PTI intends to promote housing as a key economic segment.

### 19.4 Key Housing Sector Initiatives

Our strategy to catalyze the housing sector includes:

- **Affordable Financing:** Interest rates for housing loans will be capped at single digits for at least five years post-possession.
- **Building Maintenance Laws:** We will establish laws to ensure the upkeep and longevity of buildings.
- **Property Lien Rights:** After satisfying governmental and society dues, lien rights on property will be prioritized.
- **Material Standardization:** Mass production of standardized building materials will lead to cost reductions.
- **Technological Integration:** Implementing technology to expedite construction and lower costs.



- **NPV Analysis:** Builders and developers shall be encouraged to adopt Net Present Value (NPV) analysis in their sales approach to clarify the long-term financial benefits of home ownership for buyers, ensuring informed investment decisions.
- **Social Housing:** Social housing on a rental basis will be provided for those not in a position to buy homes. Additionally, factory owners using the Workers' Profit Participation Fund benefiting laborers during their employment shall build labor colonies.

### **19.5 Focus on the Underprivileged**

We will develop land for low-cost housing, with an emphasis on incremental construction on small-sized plots. A substantial non-utilization fee will discourage land hoarding. The private sector will play a role in developing community infrastructure, and land installment payment plans will be introduced to enable ownership and incremental building.

### **19.6 Mortgage Simplification and Urban Redevelopment**

We aim to streamline mortgage processes, permitting liens to facilitate ownership transfer and reduce land-carrying costs. Redeveloping Katchi Abadis into vertical dwellings is a priority to eliminate urban blight and provide fair housing alternatives.

### **19.7 Rationalizing Land Use**

Proper land utilization is crucial for sustainable housing development. We will promote vertical growth and higher Floor Area Ratios (FAR), issuing building permits competitively to ensure housing meets the people's needs.

### **19.8 National Standards and Rural Housing Initiatives**

Our housing vision includes Qasba development programs in rural areas to provide land to low-income families, ensuring initiatives cater to joint ownership models. Social housing funded through workers' welfare and participation funds will offer housing for factory workers. The use of Zakat funds will prioritize basic needs: first food, then shelter.

### **19.9 Energy-Efficient and Eco-Friendly Construction**

Commitment to environmentally sustainable construction is paramount. We will incentivize the use of green materials and practices, like sun-dried bricks, and reduce reliance on steel and cement. Tax incentives will encourage the building of eco-friendly homes, supported by ready-to-use standard designs and transparent material sourcing.

### **19.10 Accessible loans are vital for housing development.**

PTI has demonstrated the viability of this through tax incentives for banks, subsidies for the poor, and by ensuring the security of financial institutions. We will introduce building maintenance laws to preserve property value, essential for bank funding. Adjusting lien rights on property will aid in infrastructure development and land installment sales, fostering a market that benefits small and medium enterprises.



### **19.10.1 Introducing the Pakistan Housing Bank**

PTI intends to set up the Pakistan Housing bank for a more robust and efficient housing finance system.

### **19.10.2 Regulating the Housing Finance Sector**

The Pakistan Housing Bank, set up as a subsidiary of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), shall assume a pivotal role in overseeing and shaping the housing finance sector within the country. This institution shall be designed to function as a regulatory authority, with the primary purpose of facilitating the establishment and supervision of housing banks and housing finance companies throughout Pakistan. Its mission is to enhance the stability, transparency, and efficiency of financial activities related to housing, thereby contributing to the growth and accessibility of affordable housing for the Pakistani population.

### **19.10.3 Fostering Long-Term Capital**

One of the key functions of the Pakistan Housing Bank will be to assist housing banks in raising long-term capital for the housing sector. This strategic role is essential for ensuring the sustained growth and development of housing finance in Pakistan.

### **19.10.4 Enhancing Foreclosure Law - Collaborating with the Judiciary**

In addition to its primary objectives, the Pakistan Housing Bank will be committed to collaborating with the judiciary to further improve the implementation of foreclosure laws in the country. This collaboration aims to streamline and enhance the foreclosure process, making it more effective and equitable for all stakeholders.

### **19.10.5 Benefits of Improved Foreclosure Laws**

Improving foreclosure laws is not just a legal matter; it has far-reaching implications for the housing finance ecosystem in Pakistan. Enhanced foreclosure laws will contribute to a more robust and efficient housing finance system, benefiting both lenders and borrowers. This, in turn, will promote the availability of affordable housing options across the nation.

## **19.11 Standardization and Technology in Construction**

Standardizing building components like windows and doors can save costs by up to 15%. We will collaborate with industry experts to develop designs that reduce cost and construction time without compromising quality or increasing maintenance costs.

## **19.12 Social Housing: A Pillar for Elevating Living Standards**

Social housing is a cornerstone of PTI's agenda to uplift the 40% of Pakistanis living in poverty. Recognizing housing as a key to better living standards, health, and social welfare, PTI aims to provide more than just housing—these will be homes with necessary infrastructure and amenities available for rent. The initiative takes precedence at federal and provincial levels to promptly



improve conditions for the impoverished, including the elderly, disabled, and single-parent households, giving them the stability needed for a more secure future.

## 20. Health

### 20.1 Introduction

We propose a comprehensive transformation of Pakistan's healthcare system. Our aim is to ensure universal access to high-quality healthcare services, reducing health inequities, improving health outcomes, and fostering a healthier more resilient nation. Safe and quality healthcare must be accessible to all citizens and the following steps Universal Healthcare Access

To establish a single-payer, publicly funded healthcare system ensuring that every Pakistani citizen has equitable access to a range of key healthcare services, regardless of financial status. We are committed to the Creation of a central entity to be responsible for healthcare funding, guaranteeing that healthcare is based on need rather than the ability to pay.

### 20.2 Health Cards Nationwide

#### 20.2.1 Revolutionizing Healthcare

##### *Unified Health Cards*

We aim to introduce unified health cards across Pakistan, fostering equitable healthcare access and bolstering the country's healthcare system. These cards will improve data management, service efficiency, healthcare access and uniformity of quality.

##### *Data-Driven Care*

Unified health cards will facilitate data-driven healthcare, enabling comprehensive health records and information sharing among providers, leading to better-informed medical decisions and improved patient care.

##### *Efficient Services*

Streamline service delivery, ensuring prompt and effective medical attention, ultimately enhancing the overall patient experience and making healthcare accessible to all.

#### 20.2.2 Decentralized Service Delivery

Implement truly devolved healthcare system to provide care at the community level.

Strengthen primary care services, including involvement of primary care doctors, clinics, and community health centers.

Enhance secondary and tertiary care facilities to ensure specialized treatments are readily accessible.

#### 20.2.3 Electronic Health Records (EHR)

Develop a comprehensive EHR system that stores patient data, medical history, and treatments securely and is able to interface with EHR platforms.

Enable healthcare providers to access these records for informed, coordinated care.



#### **20.2.4 Preventive Healthcare**

Invest in public health initiatives, including vaccination programs, disease prevention, and health education. Encourage a culture of proactive healthcare and health promotion and screening for treatable conditions. .

#### **20.2.5 Quality Standards and Monitoring**

We shall establish clear quality standards for healthcare facilities and providers by implementing robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms that ensure these standards are met.

Strengthen provincial health care commissions and enable them to be effective, science-driven champions and enablers of safe health care to citizens.

#### **20.2.6 Workforce Development**

Strengthen and enable health work force regulators at the federal level to coordinate the production of a calibrated number of safe and appropriately qualified and trained health providers.

Plan future health care manpower needs in line with anticipated needs in the country.

#### **20.2.7 Equitable Resource Allocation**

Allocate healthcare resources based on the specific needs of communities. This will be met by the distribution of funding and services to address healthcare disparities among regions and demographics.

#### **20.2.8 Health Financing**

Fund the system through general taxation, ensuring that healthcare is funded collectively. It will be important that in order to achieve this we introduce fair contributions to the healthcare system to maintain financial sustainability.

#### **20.2.9 Public Engagement**

Encourage public participation in healthcare planning and decision-making through community health councils thus fostering a sense of ownership among the public regarding their healthcare services.

### **20.3 Strengthening Primary Healthcare**

#### **20.3.1 Strengthening Primary Care Facilities**

Governance reform of the current network of public sector primary and secondary facilities with the aim of a responsive and agile decision-making process. This will allow adequate resource allocation to Basic Health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) as well as effective monitoring This includes consistent availability of essential medicines of approved quality.



Enable systems to engage existing health care practitioners in a systematic, verifiable and evidence-based set of primary care interventions.

### **20.3.2 Community Health Workers**

A comprehensive training program for community health workers will be developed. Incentives and support systems will be created to retain and motivate these essential workers. We will design a robust reporting and supervision system for community health worker activities.

### **20.3.3 Health Education and Promotion**

We will develop and launch health education campaigns targeting various communities. Different media channels and community engagement strategies will be employed, and the impact of these campaigns will be closely monitored, with adjustments made as necessary.

### **20.3.4 Telehealth Services**

Resources will be allocated to invest in telehealth infrastructure and mobile health applications. Ensuring accessibility for both healthcare providers and patients, particularly in remote areas, is a priority. We will regularly assess the effectiveness and user satisfaction with telehealth services, making necessary improvements.

## **20.4 Enhancing Secondary Healthcare**

### **20.4.1 Upgrading District Hospitals**

Reform of governance mechanism will be implemented to ensure that these facilities remain responsive to the needs of the citizens they serve and are able to effectively and dynamically allocate resources to serve this objective.

Districts in need of hospital upgrades will be identified and prioritized. Resources will be allocated for infrastructure development and the expansion of services. Collaborating with specialized tertiary centers for consultation and referral will enhance the quality of healthcare services.

### **20.4.2 Human Resource Development**

Healthcare workforce recruitment and training programs will be developed to meet staffing requirements. Partnerships with medical universities and educational institutions will be established to ensure a skilled workforce, and strategies for retaining healthcare professionals, including competitive salaries and career development opportunities, will be implemented.

### **20.4.3 Medical Equipment and Facilities**

A comprehensive list of required medical equipment and facilities will be developed. Modern medical technology and facilities will be procured, with a focus on maintenance and regular upgrades.



#### **20.4.4 Quality Assurance**

Quality assurance programs with clear quality benchmarks will be implemented. Regular audits of healthcare facilities will ensure compliance with quality standards, and encouraging patient feedback and participation in quality improvement will be emphasized.

#### **20.4.5 Electronic Health Records (EHR)**

Use of electronic health records will be leveraged to deliver transparent and consistent care.

### **20.5 Specialized Tertiary Healthcare**

#### **20.5.1 Governance reform**

Major institutions will be governed via modern, effective and responsive governance structures that are enabled and empowered to allocate resources and monitor performance.

#### **20.5.2 Specialized Care Centers**

Suitable locations for specialized care centers, considering factors like population density and healthcare needs, will be identified. Adequate funding and resources will be allocated for their establishment and operation, with collaboration with international experts for guidance.

#### **20.5.3 Medical Research and Education**

Medical universities and teaching hospitals will be established or enhanced, and research grants and incentives will encourage research activities. International collaborations will be fostered for research and knowledge sharing.

#### **20.5.4 Health Insurance Programs**

To alleviate the financial burden on patients, we will implement universal health coverage or health insurance programs. These programs will be designed for broad coverage, especially for underprivileged populations, and monitoring and program adjustments will be integral to addressing evolving healthcare needs. This program shall ensure every Pakistani citizen has equal access to a defined range of healthcare services, regardless of financial status guaranteeing that healthcare is based on need rather than the ability to pay. In order to achieve this PTI intends to further strengthen and expand its Health Card program.

#### **20.5.5 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

Areas where PPPs can enhance healthcare services and infrastructure will be identified. Clear guidelines and legal frameworks for public-private partnerships will be established, with rigorous monitoring of PPP projects and ensuring accountability.

#### **20.5.6 Telemedicine**

We will promote the use of telemedicine, especially in underserved areas. Ensuring accessibility for both healthcare providers and patients is essential, and establishing telemedicine quality standards and guidelines is crucial to maintaining service quality.



## 20.6 Disease control programs

Disease of national and international significance, like tuberculosis, hepatitis, malaria, vector borne diseases, water borne disease will be supported and funded via specific programs with an aim to streamlining these special programs into the main health care stream.

Focus on pandemic preparedness and disease notification systems will be ensured.

Many chronic and debilitating diseases like diabetes, cancer, mental health conditions and the challenges of caring for the elderly require special programs. These objectives are to be achieved via augmentation of the National Institute of Health and its constituent centers.

### 20.6.1 Medical Tourism

Investment in infrastructure development for medical tourism will be a focus to attract international patients and generate revenue. International marketing of Pakistan's healthcare services will be promoted to attract medical tourists, and a robust system for managing medical tourists' healthcare needs and follow-up care will be developed.

## 20.7 Cross-cutting Initiatives

Several cross-cutting initiatives are essential to the success of the healthcare revolution:

### 20.8 Regulatory Reforms

Regulators of health care including those for personnel (doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and allied health personnel), healthcare delivery organizations (healthcare commissions) and drug and device regulators will be reformed, strengthened with appropriately qualified staffed and backed by modern technologies to enable independent professional regulators whose missions are aligned with the the manifesto's goals, streamlining licensing and accreditation processes to reduce bureaucracy, enhance efficiency and ensure a qualified workforce is provided to citizens.

Healthcare regulations will be reviewed and updated to align with the manifesto's goals, streamlining licensing and accreditation processes to ensure streamlined processes that ensure the public can have confidence in a qualified work force.

### 20.9 Data Collection and Analysis

A national healthcare data system will be implemented to monitor progress and analyze healthcare data. Regular analysis of healthcare data will be carried out to identify trends and evaluate the effectiveness of healthcare policies.

### 20.10 Public Engagement

Engaging with the public through town halls, surveys, and public consultations will be emphasized to ensure that all stakeholders' voices are heard and considered.

### 20.11 Budget Allocation

Adequate and transparent distribution of funds for healthcare services and infrastructure development will be ensured, with ongoing monitoring and oversight.





## 21. Charter of Education

### 21.1 Pakistan's Education Challenge

Pakistan is facing a profound education crisis that threatens the future of our nation. This crisis is marked by a multitude of deeply entrenched issues, which significantly impede the comprehensive development and progress of our children and youth, hindering their ability to keep pace with the advancements seen in developed nations worldwide. It's crucial to understand the gravity of these challenges before delving into our vision and the way forward.

#### 21.1.1 Learning Poverty

A staggering reality confronts us - over 75% of ten-year-old children in Pakistan struggle with basic reading comprehension. This dire situation is what we commonly refer to as Learning Poverty, where our children are unable to read and comprehend age-appropriate text. Moreover, it's not just literacy that demands urgent improvement; our condition in numeracy is even more dismal. This alarming statistic not only paints a grim picture of our education system's inadequacies but also underscores the pressing need for comprehensive reforms to address both literacy and numeracy challenges.

#### 21.1.2 Enrollment Challenges

While we've made progress in increasing net enrollment ratios, it's crucial to recognize that the challenge extends beyond late entry into primary school. A significant number of children not only enter school late but more importantly, there is also a sizable population that remains un-enrolled altogether. This dual issue of late entry and non-enrollment must be addressed comprehensively, making early enrollment a top priority to ensure that every child has an equitable and timely start to their educational journey.

#### 21.1.3 Lack of Early Childhood Education

One of the fundamental pillars of a strong education system is early childhood education. The lack of a robust foundation in a child's early years significantly impacts their future learning. Unfortunately, insufficient enrollment in early childhood education leaves our children ill prepared for formal schooling. Recognizing the paramount importance of Early Childhood Education, we will place special emphasis on this critical phase and establish a strong system to ensure highest possible enrollment and monitoring the progress of children at this level.

#### 21.1.4 Continual Improvement in Curricula

Continuous improvement in curricula is paramount in ensuring that education remains relevant and effective. Educational landscapes evolve, influenced by societal changes, technological advancements, and emerging knowledge. Regularly revisiting and updating curricula allow us to integrate these shifts into educational frameworks, providing students with the most current and applicable knowledge and skills. This ongoing process of refinement ensures that educational content stays dynamic and responsive to the needs of a changing world. It is a commitment to



staying current, adaptable, and proactive in preparing future generations for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

#### **21.1.5 Interesting Textbooks**

We envision a transformation that goes beyond traditional content delivery, aiming for textbooks that house not only relevant material but also vibrant and engaging illustrations. These enhanced educational resources are designed to be more than just instructional tools; they are envisaged as dynamic companions for both teachers and students, aiding in the seamless achievement of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

#### **21.1.6 Revamping Examination System**

The examination system plays a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape, and its importance cannot be overstated. Particularly in classes up to the middle level, where foundational learning takes place, a well-designed examination system, with a strong emphasis on formative evaluation, becomes indispensable. Formative evaluation, which includes continuous assessment, feedback, and student engagement, is instrumental in gauging not just the final outcome but the entire learning process.

By placing emphasis on formative evaluation in the examination system, we create an environment that supports comprehensive learning encouraging students to not only excel in exams but to truly grasp and retain the knowledge, fostering a lifelong love for learning.

#### **21.1.7 The Grade System**

Matric and Inter exams will align rigorously with Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) delineated in the curricula. To promote a healthier learning environment, transition from a position-based system to a more comprehensive grade system is imperative. The introduction of the Grade system underscores our dedication to a fair and holistic assessment approach that prioritizes the development of well-rounded, academically proficient individuals.

#### **21.1.8 Gender Disparities**

Gender disparities persist, creating substantial barriers for girls in accessing quality education. Challenges related to distance, overcrowded classrooms, and inadequate facilities hinder the educational journey of girls. Ensuring equal access to education is not just a goal; it's a fundamental right we must vigorously uphold.

#### **21.1.9 Impact of Pandemic and Natural Disasters**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the floods of 2022 further exacerbated the education crisis. Extensive school closures and learning setbacks have significantly widened the education gap, making it a more urgent issue to address.



## **21.2 Vision for Pakistan's Educational Renaissance**

In response to these challenges, we present a comprehensive vision for Pakistan's educational renaissance. Our commitment is to build a society where education is the cornerstone of progress and opportunity.

### **21.2.1 Elevating Teachers as Beacons of Knowledge**

Our vision centers on elevating teachers as beacons of knowledge and guardians of wisdom. We envision a Pakistan where teachers are esteemed for their pivotal role in nurturing the nation's future leaders. To realize this vision, we are committed to introducing comprehensive pre-service and in-service training programs for teachers. This initiative aims to enhance both their pedagogical skills and subject knowledge, ensuring that our educators are well-equipped to impart quality education.

By investing in continuous professional development, we aim to elevate the status of teachers and align their service conditions with the reverence they deserve. Our educators will not only be torchbearers of enlightenment but also exemplify excellence in education through continuous improvement and mastery of their craft.

### **21.2.2 Strengthening Central Institutions and Increasing Education Spending**

We recognize the importance of strengthening central institutions and significantly increasing education spending. Our strategy includes:

#### **21.2.3 Strengthening Central Institutions**

Enhancing the technical capacity of central institutions to support education delivery at the local level is crucial. Improving textbook, teacher, and assessment development, as well as data collection and monitoring units, will align these institutions with the needs of schools. We will adopt technology, recruit skilled resources, and introduce feedback mechanisms.

#### **21.2.4 Channeling Investments into Learning**

This vision heralds an era where resources are strategically redirected towards education. We envision a financial renaissance for learning, achieved by eliminating non-productive expenditures. A significant increase in educational funding promises a brighter future for the generations to come. We will gradually increase education spending in the first 5 years to 4% of GDP, up from the current 2.4%. According to the World Bank, an additional 3% of GDP is required to ensure universal access to education and basic skill acquisition. This financial commitment is a cornerstone of our strategy to revitalize Pakistan's education system.

#### **21.2.5 Quality-Centric Education**

Our educational renaissance prioritizes quality over quantity. The focus will shift from mere infrastructure to the substance of learning. A revolution in teaching methodologies, curriculum, and assessments will ensure that every child receives a high-quality education, setting them on the path to success.



### **21.2.6 Empowering Through Knowledge**

We visualize a future where knowledge is the foundation of progress. Primary education and technical skills will be our primary focus, empowering the youth with practical abilities for a dynamic world. A multitude of scholarship programs will provide opportunities to those with dreams and ambitions, with merit as our guiding star. Steam education will be aimed to be incorporated from the first step of advanced learning for students. STEAM education approach that incorporates project-based learning will be introduced to enable students to practically work on various distinctive projects that help them to develop their problem-solving skills, think out of the box and find the optimal solutions.

### **21.2.7 Unlocking Cultural and Moral Wisdom**

Our vision includes unlocking the cultural, moral, and historical treasures of Islam through education. The wisdom of Allama Iqbal will inspire generations. We see a progressive approach that harnesses the potential of mosques and madrassas for providing primary education, recognizing Khateebis for their valuable contributions. PTI shall make a comprehensive policy on education of schools and madrassas: ascertaining their roles and empowering their Regulators to be vigilant.

### **21.2.8 Imparting Values and Character Building**

Our vision extends to imparting values in the tradition of the State of Medina, focusing on character building alongside the curriculum. We aim to cultivate a society where integrity, empathy, and responsibility are as important as academic knowledge. Our education system will foster students' moral and ethical development, creating well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society.

### **21.2.9 Empowering Women and Fostering Hands-On Learning**

We visualize a Pakistan where women have equal access to quality education. Our vision is to empower women alongside their male counterparts by the creation of educational opportunities. Collaborations between industrial enterprises and the educational sector will ensure hands-on learning and skill development, preparing a skilled workforce for the future.

### **21.2.10 Digital Transformation and Academic Freedom**

Our educational renaissance recognizes that the primary role of a university extends beyond imparting knowledge; it involves the active generation of knowledge by meaningful research. Embracing technology as a transformative tool, we envision a future where our universities play a dynamic role in both knowledge dissemination and creation. This forward-looking approach involves the implementation of standardized curricula, seamless integration of the internet and social media platforms, and extensive use of technology to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of education. Central to our vision is the promotion of full academic autonomy for universities, fostering an environment that encourages innovation and research. Through these strategic measures, our universities will not only be centers of learning but also vibrant hubs for the continuous generation and dissemination of knowledge.



### **21.2.11 Envisioning a Brighter Future**

Our vision for Pakistan's educational renaissance is a beacon of hope, illuminating the path to a brighter and more informed future. We aspire to create a society where education is the key to individual and national progress, where knowledge is cherished, wisdom is celebrated, and values are at the core of our educational journey.

## **21.3 The Way Forward - Sustainable and Resilient Solutions**

Our commitment to sustainable and resilient solutions encompasses a comprehensive approach, short-term and long-term strategies, strengthening central institutions, and increasing education spending.

### **21.4 First Year Priorities**

#### **21.4.1 Building School Capacity**

We will not only enhance the capacity of our schools but initiate the process of rationalization. This dual approach seeks to optimize the educational landscape by ensuring that schools not only have the necessary resources and infrastructure to meet the needs of students but are also strategically organized for efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore, we will address classroom shortages, with a special focus on girls' education. Ensuring safe and conducive learning environments is a priority

#### **21.4.2 Prioritizing Foundational Skills**

Implementing daily literacy and numeracy lessons in public schools is essential for strengthening foundational skills, especially in early education.

#### **21.4.3 Embracing Multi-grading**

Supporting teachers in schools particularly in remote areas with limited resources, where multi-grade teaching is necessary, will improve the quality of education.

#### **21.4.4 Adopting Data-Driven Decisions**

Utilizing of education data to enhance governance, track progress, and establish standardized targets is integral to monitoring and improving our education system.

### **21.5 Within Five Years**

#### **21.5.1 Expanding Access to Schooling**

We will prioritize expanding access to schooling, particularly for girls, through public-private partnerships and targeted enrollment campaigns.

#### **21.5.2 Investing in Early Childhood Education**

Early childhood education will receive significant investments to ensure children are adequately prepared for formal schooling.



### **21.5.3 Language-Based Education**

Enhancing language-based education will enable children to learn in a language they understand, improving learning outcomes.

### **21.5.4 Increasing Education Budget Efficiency**

Significantly increasing the education budget will help boost school enrollment, retention, and overall learning outcomes, thereby addressing financial disparities.

## **21.6 Five-Year Priorities**

### **21.6.1 Supporting Teachers with the Right Skills**

Ensuring equitable distribution of teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge is essential for quality education delivery.

### **21.6.2 Further Investment in Early Childhood Education**

Expanding high-quality early childhood education and parenting programs will continue to be a priority.

### **21.6.3 Enhancing the Education Budget and Efficiency**

Amplifying the education budget to reduce financial burdens on households and address inequalities in access and learning is critical.

### **21.6.4 Empowering Local Administrative Units**

Granting greater capacity, autonomy, and authority to local administrative units will address regional disparities in education access and quality.

### **21.6.5 Transforming Education with Technology**

In our pursuit of social development through education, technology emerges as a powerful catalyst. Here's how technology can transform education in Pakistan:

### **21.6.6 Nationwide Adult Literacy Program**

Our goal is to achieve 90% national literacy within 5 years. An innovative adult literacy program will combine Educational Technology and AI to provide education to adults with limited literacy skills.

### **21.6.7 Providing Solar-Powered Tablets/Laptops**

Collaboration with the Pakistani diaspora to collect donated solar-powered tablets or laptops with pre-installed curricula for adult learners.

### **21.6.8 Online Tuition and Literacy Classes**

Working in partnership with mobile telecom operators and social impact organizations to provide online tuition and literacy classes to out-of-school children.



### **21.6.9 Programming and Foreign Language Skills Centers**

Establishing a network of centers nationwide to offer specialized courses in programming languages and foreign language skills tailored to target export markets.

### **21.6.10 Summer Internship/Externship Programs**

Launching summer internship and externship programs for Pakistani students, providing valuable industry exposure through partnerships with major software firms worldwide.

These initiatives harness technology to provide accessible and quality education, aligning with our vision for a brighter future through education.

## **21.7 Reshaping Higher Education in Pakistan**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is dedicated to reshaping higher education in Pakistan. We aim to create a dynamic and inclusive educational landscape that empowers students and nurtures academic excellence.

### **21.7.1 Enhancing Funding and Budgetary Allocation**

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is committed to revitalizing higher education in the country by addressing critical issues through strategic measures. Our primary focus is on enhancing funding and budgetary allocation to ensure a vibrant academic ecosystem.

#### **Solving the Issues of Underfunding**

To tackle the pervasive underfunding problem in higher education, PTI pledges to allocate substantial resources to bridge this gap. Adequate funding is the cornerstone of a thriving educational system.

#### **Meeting the Growing Demands for Quality Education**

Our commitment extends to meeting the ever-growing demands for quality education. We recognize that the pursuit of academic excellence requires sufficient budgetary allocation to sustain and expand educational opportunities.

#### **Facilitating Research Opportunities**

We envision a future where research thrives in Pakistani universities. PTI is dedicated to making available adequate funding to support research endeavors, fostering innovation and intellectual growth.

#### **Investing in Faculty Development**

To achieve overall academic excellence, PTI emphasizes the importance of faculty development. We will invest in the training and professional growth of educators, ensuring a highly qualified teaching staff.

### **21.7.2 Improving Quality of Faculty**

PTI acknowledges the critical role of educators in shaping the future of higher education. We are committed to improving the quality of faculty in the following ways:



## **Overcoming the Shortage of Qualified Educators**

We will actively address the shortage of qualified educators by implementing targeted recruitment strategies and incentivizing academic careers.

## **Reducing Reliance on Temporary or Under-qualified Staff**

Minimizing reliance on temporary or under-qualified staff is a priority for PTI. We will establish mechanisms to ensure a competent and stable faculty.

### **21.7.3 Improvement of Infrastructure**

Modern infrastructure is pivotal for a conducive learning environment. PTI is determined to improve higher education infrastructure with the following objectives:

#### **Providing Modern Facilities**

We will invest in providing modern facilities, including state-of-the-art classrooms, libraries, and recreational spaces, to enhance the learning experience.

## **21.8 Updating Outdated Laboratories**

To accelerate research activities, PTI will update outdated laboratories, ensuring that students have access to cutting-edge equipment and technology.

### **21.8.1 Guaranteeing Curriculum Relevance**

To prepare graduates for the evolving needs of industries and the global job market, PTI commits to guaranteeing curriculum relevance:

#### **Aligning Curricula with Industry Needs**

We will ensure that curricula are in sync with the evolving needs of industries, equipping students with skills in high demand.

#### **Regular Curriculum Updates**

PTI will actively update curricula to keep pace with changing demands, ensuring that graduates are well-equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

### **21.8.2 Warranting Access and Inclusivity**

Access to higher education is a fundamental right. PTI places a strong emphasis on ensuring access and inclusivity for all:

#### **Enhancing Access for Underrepresented Groups**

We will work tirelessly to ensure access to higher education, especially for female students, transgender individuals, minorities, persons with disabilities, and those from remote areas.

#### **Scholarship Programs**

PTI will establish robust scholarship programs to support deserving students, removing financial barriers to education.





### **21.8.3 Encouraging Research and Innovation**

PTI is committed to fostering a culture of research and innovation in Pakistani universities:

#### **Supporting Research Initiatives**

We will ensure that research initiatives receive adequate funding and support.

#### **Promoting Innovation**

PTI will actively encourage innovation through various programs and incentives.

### **21.8.4 International Collaboration**

Global partnerships are essential for academic growth. PTI will promote international collaboration:

#### **Foreign University Partnerships**

We will encourage partnerships with foreign universities and institutions, such as the example of Fach Hochschule Pak-Austria University.

### **21.8.5 Accountability**

PTI is dedicated to upholding academic integrity and accountability:

#### **Combatting Plagiarism**

We will take punitive action against plagiarism, ensuring that academic work is conducted with integrity.

#### **Addressing Toxic Environments**

PTI will assess and address sections within universities that perpetuate a toxic environment, ensuring a safe and inclusive educational experience.

### **21.8.6 Students' Participation and Advocacy**

PTI values the voice and role of students in higher education:

#### **Student Participation in Decision Making**

We will explore possibilities for students to actively participate in decision-making processes, empowering them to shape their educational experiences.

## **22. Pakistan's Foreign Policy**

In our vision for Pakistan's foreign policy, we see a country that stands firm on its Islamic principles, fosters equitable global relationships, supports the rights of the oppressed people of the world, and advocates for justice and human rights without discrimination on any basis. Pakistan will be a beacon of diplomatic respect, forging alliances rooted in shared values that contribute to a more cohesive, peaceful, and harmonious world.



## 22.1 Charting a Path of Diplomacy

Pakistan's foreign policy shall be deeply rooted in the nation's Islamic identity, principles, and the pursuit of global peace and cooperation. As an Islamic Republic, Pakistan will uphold its unique place in the world, maintaining and safeguarding its neutrality, and advocating for justice and the rights of the oppressed.

## 22.2 Pakistan First

We'll follow a policy of "Pakistan First", thus safeguarding and promoting its multi-faceted interests worldwide. This approach will guide our interactions on the regional and global stage, emphasizing the principles of justice, equality, equity, and peace among communities and nations.

## 22.3 Trade-Based Relationships: Nurturing Global Partnerships

Our foreign policy envisions strong, trade-based relationships with key global players, including the Muslim world, Europe, the US, China, Russia, and Africa. Through mutually beneficial trade relations, we aim to enhance Pakistan's economic interests, thus paving the way for it to play a vital role in global commerce.

## 22.4 Moral Compass in Foreign Affairs

As part of our commitment to Islamic principles, our foreign policy will adhere to the values of justice, equity, and peace when selecting coalition partners for any task or project. We shall refuse to participate in wars but shall not only readily become a stakeholder in all peace efforts throughout the world but shall promote it through all means available to the state and its institutions.

## 22.5 Choosing a Path of Peace

We shall endeavour to leave behind the historical baggage which entangled us in contracts and agreements which do not agree with the cause of working for peace in the world.

Our foreign policy envisions learning from the past and accepts that agreements such as the Baghdad Pact, CENTO, and as a non-NATO ally have not served Pakistan's intrinsic interests. These have often soiled our relations with other countries. We shall initiate concrete measures to distance ourselves from alliances that cause fragmentation, terrorism, and social disruption in our society.

## 22.6 Standing Up for the Oppressed

Our foreign policy shall remain committed to championing the rights of Kashmiris and Palestinians, focussing on their right to self-determination. We will never compromise on these fundamental human rights and values, and our diplomacy shall be a vehicle for promoting justice and fairness.

## 22.7 Pursuing Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence

Our vision includes pursuing peaceful coexistence with all other countries of the world, particularly our neighbours and regional countries. We shall also endeavour to maintain and further promote our special relations with countries of the Muslim world as well as our all-weather ally China.



We shall also expand our outreach to expand and deepen the scope of our relations with other countries of the region. We will utilize the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to raise issues of Islamophobia and unite Muslim nations in advocating for justice and grant of equitable rights to people of the oppressed nations.

## **23. Transportation- A Driving Force**

The PTI government envisions a transportation system that not only meets the needs of our present but also paves the way for a brighter future.

Building a Sustainable Transportation System embodies PTI's vision to tap into the immense potential for transportation in a country with a population of 250 million, spread across a vast expanse of land. We recognize that this demographic advantage, coupled with our strategic geographical location, presents a unique opportunity to transform transportation into a driving force for economic growth, social development, and national progress.

### **23.1 Challenges and Solutions**

In Pakistan, the quality of infrastructure is severely compromised by corruption and a lack of transparent institutional oversight and safeguards. Addressing this issue necessitates a heightened focus on safety and environmental concerns, all while considering the financial constraints. The transportation challenge has emerged as a top priority for city, provincial, and federal governments, largely fueled by the substantial increase in rural migration to urban areas.

The failure to implement effective urban planning has resulted in the inability to provide affordable, efficient, and sustainable transportation systems in urban centers. To mitigate this, it is imperative to prioritize local manufacturing of buses and other modes of transportation. This strategic move aims to reduce the current annual import expenditure of \$1 billion USD in the transportation sector.

We understand that funding such ambitious projects is a challenge, and we are committed to exploring innovative financing mechanisms. By promoting public-private partnerships, tapping into indigenous resources, and considering alternative funding sources, we aim to ensure that our transportation initiatives are economically viable and sustainable.

### **23.2 The Journey**

As we embark on this journey, we remain acutely aware of the economic realities that shape our nation. Our commitment to fiscal responsibility ensures that our transportation initiatives are not just visionary but also grounded in practicality. It is our belief that Pakistan's vast population and geographical diversity can be leveraged to create a transportation network that not only serves the immediate needs of our citizens but also lays the foundation for sustained prosperity.

### **23.3 An Autonomous Entity to End Fragmentation**

Currently, the Ministry of Communication oversees transportation policy, managing various aspects through separate departments such as the National Highway Authority, Motorway Police, Post Office Services, and the Research & Development Department. Sea transport and logistics fall under the



jurisdiction of the Port and Shipping Ministry, while Pakistan Railways is administered by the Ministry of Railways, and air services are overseen by the Ministry of Aviation & Communication.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of coordination and significant overlap in responsibilities, rendering this sector counterproductive and inefficient. This fragmentation has hindered the adoption of internationally accepted practices and timely fulfillment of international obligations and assignments. Hence, it is of utmost importance to establish an independent autonomous body with a regulatory framework tasked with coordinating, overseeing, and implementing the comprehensive policy for Transportation and Logistics. This autonomous entity will systematically monitor all transport-related matters and assess their effectiveness.

## **23.4 A multi-Module Approach**

To attain this objective, a multi-module approach will be employed, incorporating modern technology in rail, buses, and trucks to make public transport affordable, safe, and economical. The core responsibilities of this autonomous body will include regulatory and policy functions, while the operation and management aspects will be handled through public-private partnerships.

### **23.4.1 Fostering Competition**

The government firmly believes in the importance of competition to prevent monopolies and ensure that the benefits of commercial ventures reach the public. Our strategy involves creating an environment that encourages and rewards private sector participation across various sectors, with a specific focus on transportation.

### **23.4.2 Regulatory Vigilance**

To safeguard fair market dynamics and promptly address monopolistic behavior, we will enact and enforce robust antitrust regulations and policies. Regular monitoring of market dynamics will be conducted, and swift action will be taken when monopolistic behavior is identified.

## **23.5 Government Intervention for Investor Protection**

### **23.5.1 Risk Mitigation**

Recognizing that private sector investments may sometimes face high risk or low returns, the government will strategically intervene to mitigate these risks. This intervention aims to ensure that investors receive a fair and reasonable return on their investments, fostering investor confidence.

### **23.5.2 Support for Low-Profit Public Transport**

In situations where certain areas of public transport may not be highly profitable, we commit to stepping in to subsidize and support these services until they become financially sustainable. This ensures that essential public transportation services are available to all citizens, even in less economically viable areas.



## 23.6 Applying the Philosophy Across All Modes of Communication

**Air Transportation:** In the aviation sector, our approach involves promoting private sector participation while ensuring fair competition among airlines, in modernizing and expanding rail infrastructure, participation in road construction and maintenance and in the development and optimization of ports and shipping facilities. The promotion of the private sector through transparent, accountable and fair competition will not only lead to improved quality but also stimulate economic growth. To ensure seamless transportation systems, we will establish an integrated approach that considers road, rail, air, and maritime modes. This comprehensive strategy aims to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of our transportation network.

### 23.6.1 Ensuring Transparency and Fair Practices

#### *Transparent Procurement*

To provide equal opportunities for private sector entities, all transportation projects, whether related to air, rail, road, or sea, will follow transparent and competitive procurement processes. This transparency ensures that the best interests of the public are upheld.

#### *Regulatory Oversight*

Regulatory bodies will be established or strengthened to oversee private sector activities in transportation. These regulatory bodies will play a crucial role in ensuring fair practices, upholding healthy competition, and protecting the interests of consumers.

#### *Public-Private Collaboration*

The government will actively engage with private sector stakeholders, seeking their input and expertise in shaping transportation policies and projects. This collaborative approach fosters innovation and efficiency across all modes of communication.

### 23.6.2 Revitalizing Infrastructure

Our government firmly believes that infrastructure development is the cornerstone of economic growth. To accelerate Pakistan's economic rejuvenation, we intend to harness indigenous resources, create jobs, and bolster our economy. Our primary focus will be on roads, dams, rail tracks, infrastructure, and housing. Recognizing the need for substantial investments, we commit to modernizing and expanding our transportation infrastructure. These investments will be critical for our economic growth and prosperity.

### 23.6.3 Road Quality and Maintenance

Our road network is essential for economic prosperity, but it faces challenges. To address this, we will embark on a comprehensive plan to improve road quality, extend their lifespan, enhance maintenance practices, and manage traffic more effectively. This includes implementing a state-of-the-art vehicle inspection system, introducing private sector inspectors, and clearing the backlog of driving licenses.



#### **23.6.4 Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Every infrastructure project will undergo rigorous cost-benefit analysis. Priority will be given to projects with shorter payback periods and higher benefits. Quality assurance will be ensured through third-party inspections, and strict consequences will be in place for those involved in malpractices.

#### **23.6.5 Long-term Planning**

For high-value public works, we will create a ten-year development plan that offers constitutional and legal protection. This ensures project continuity despite changes in government. The Planning Division will play a pivotal role in establishing project priorities and maintaining a long-term vision.

#### **23.6.6 Land Acquisition Laws**

To prevent unnecessary delays in infrastructure projects, we will reform land acquisition laws. Compensation will be based on ten years of income from the land, and the law will not allow holdout landowners to hinder progress.

#### **23.6.7 Rural Connectivity**

Recognizing the importance of rural development, we commit to connecting towns where the road's value and transportation cost allow for a ten-year payback. Farm-to-market roads will be a minimum of 14 feet wide with 4 feet shoulders on each side, directly benefiting rural communities and enhancing economic prospects.

#### **23.6.8 Efficient Transportation**

To lower transportation costs and improve the efficiency of exports and imports, we will prioritize cost-effective road and motorway construction. These projects will be determined by thorough cost-benefit analysis and financed through collaboration with banks and infrastructure bonds.

#### **23.6.9 Road Maintenance and Management**

Proper maintenance is crucial for sustaining infrastructure quality. We will allocate and utilize funds efficiently, holding management, consultants, and contractors accountable. Strict inspection and adherence to standards will be mandatory for all road maintenance efforts. Effective road management systems will be implemented to allocate resources cost-effectively and maintain road networks properly, ensuring their longevity and reliability.

#### **23.6.10 Collaboration with Development Agencies**

Collaborating with development agencies planning satellite towns and industrial zones is an integral part of our strategy. Revenue generated from developments within 0.25 km from the road centerline will be allocated to the National Highway Authority (NHA) for maintenance and to offset construction costs.



### **23.6.11 Bypasses and Sustainable Roads**

To reduce travel time, enhance safety, and promote environmental sustainability, we will construct bypasses around cities with populations over half a million. All roads will align with our Billion Tree Tsunami program, utilize local materials, and emphasize recycling and congestion reduction in their design.

### **23.6.12 Urban Mobility**

Urban mobility demands a carefully strategized prioritization of public transport over private modes, aiming to enhance traffic mobility. The substantial urban sprawl resulting from rural-to-urban migration, driven by the quest for employment, education, and healthcare, has occurred without proper urban planning or government oversight. This unchecked growth has led to escalating public congestion and bottlenecks, posing a formidable challenge to major cities across Pakistan. We will develop ten-year development plans for mass transit schemes in major urban centers, with a focus on Light Rail Transit (LRT), Metro trains, suburban trains, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Public-private partnerships (PPPs) will play a key role in financing these projects. Urban Transportation System

### **23.6.13 Planned Urban Transportation**

A meticulously planned urban transportation system holds the key to Pakistan's economic development, offering cost-effective and superior modes of transportation, swift mobility, and a commitment to environmental sustainability. Encouraging the private sector to deliver efficient and high-quality public transport services for the poor and middle class is vital.

The government's role involves providing soft loans, reducing custom duties, and offering tax incentives to facilitate these objectives. Systems such as the metro bus, bus rapid transit (BRT), and circular railway can significantly contribute to efficient and reliable public transport. Designating bus lanes and creating bicycle and pedestrian walkways further improve overall urban mobility and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## **23.7 Air Travel**

Our government will prioritize Pakistani airlines for facility use. Licensing processes will be reviewed and made transparent to ensure a level playing field, and monopolies will not be allowed to hinder competition and choice for consumers.

### **23.7.1 Ports & Shipping**

Efficient port development is a priority for our government. PTI also intends to enhance the capacity of concerned Provincial and Local Governments so that the smaller ports are managed by local governments. We will provide software and training to enhance port management, thus promoting the blue economy and facilitating trade.



## **23.8 Digitalization and Technology Integration**

### **23.8.1 Traffic Management Systems**

We will deploy advanced traffic management systems that utilize real-time data and artificial intelligence (AI) to optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, and minimize travel times. Features such as smart traffic lights, dynamic lane allocation, and predictive traffic analytics will be implemented to enhance transportation efficiency.

### **23.8.2 Digital Payment Solutions**

Contactless digital payment solutions for tolls, parking, and public transit will streamline transactions, reduce cash handling, and make transportation safer and more convenient for all citizens.

### **23.8.3 Connected Vehicles**

We will actively promote the use of connected vehicles and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication to improve road safety. Connected vehicles can receive real-time traffic information, warnings, and updates, ultimately reducing accidents and enhancing overall road safety.

### **23.8.4 Data-Driven Decision-Making**

Data analytics will play a pivotal role in our decision-making processes. These analytics will provide valuable insights into transportation patterns, identify bottlenecks, and allow for more effective infrastructure planning and upgrades.

## **23.9 Logistics and Supply Chain Optimization**

### **23.9.1 Logistics Hubs**

The establishment of strategically located logistics hubs and distribution centers will significantly reduce transit times and transportation costs. These hubs will serve as consolidation points for goods before reaching their final destinations, thus enhancing supply chain efficiency.

### **23.9.2 Intermodal Transportation**

We will actively promote intermodal transportation, facilitating the seamless transfer of goods between trucks, trains, and ships. This approach will improve efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of freight transport.

### **23.9.3 Customs and Trade Facilitation**

Simplifying customs procedures and reducing trade barriers are pivotal steps in expediting the movement of goods across borders. These measures will stimulate trade, spur economic growth, and benefit our nation.





#### 23.9.4 Safety and Training

**Driver Training Programs:** Comprehensive driver training programs will be instituted, emphasizing defensive driving, strict adherence to traffic rules, and responsible road behavior. Licensing authorities will ensure that drivers meet stringent training and testing requirements, prioritizing road safety.

#### 23.9.5 Vehicle Inspections

Regular vehicle inspections will be mandatory, targeting both public and commercial vehicles. Any vehicles found to be unsafe or non-compliant with regulations will be taken off the road until necessary repairs are made, further enhancing road safety.

#### 23.9.6 Traffic Enforcement

Strict enforcement of traffic regulations through the use of traffic cameras and effective policing will deter reckless driving and reduce accidents. Automated systems will penalize traffic violations, promoting greater adherence to road rules.

### 23.10 Environmental Sustainability

#### 23.10.1 Clean Energy

Our commitment to promoting the use of electric and hybrid vehicles, supported by the development of charging infrastructure, will contribute to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, fostering a cleaner and healthier environment.

#### 23.10.2 Eco-Friendly Practices

Integrating eco-friendly practices into infrastructure development, such as green landscaping and the use of sustainable construction materials, will minimize the environmental footprint of transportation projects and promote sustainability.

#### 23.10.3 Public Transit

Expanding public transit networks, including the introduction of electric buses and metro systems, will encourage the use of mass transit over private vehicles. This shift will further reduce emissions and improve air quality.

### 23.11 Regional Connectivity

#### 23.11.1 Cross-Border Infrastructure

Investing in cross-border road and rail connections will facilitate the movement of goods and people, opening up new trade routes and opportunities for economic growth. Strengthening regional connectivity is a key component of our strategy.



### **23.11.2 Customs Harmonization**

Harmonizing customs procedures and trade regulations with neighboring nations will reduce trade barriers and encourage cross-border commerce. These efforts will foster stronger regional cooperation and economic development.

## **23.12 Rural Connectivity**

### **23.12.1 Farm-to-Market Roads**

Building and maintaining farm-to-market roads will ensure that agricultural produce reaches markets promptly. This will reduce wastage and increase farmers' income, contributing to rural economic development.

### **23.12.2 Affordable Public Transport**

The introduction of affordable public transport options in rural areas will improve mobility and provide rural communities with access to essential services and economic opportunities, addressing rural development disparities.

## **23.13 Research and Development**

Collaboration with Institutions: Collaborative partnerships with universities and research institutions will drive research and development in the transportation sector. These efforts will fuel innovation in transportation technology, safety, and sustainability.

### **23.13.1 Innovation Hubs**

The establishment of innovation hubs and centers of excellence in transportation will facilitate the development and testing of cutting-edge solutions, positioning Pakistan as a leader in transportation innovation.

### **23.13.2 Funding for Research**

Allocation of funds for transportation-related research will support ongoing efforts to improve and advance our transportation infrastructure, ensuring it meets the needs of our evolving society.

### **23.13.3 Public Awareness and Engagement**

Public Consultations: Gathering public feedback through consultations and surveys will be integral to our transportation planning process. We are committed to involving citizens in shaping transportation policies and projects.

### **23.13.4 Local Community Involvement**

Involving local communities in project planning and decision-making will ensure that transportation initiatives are sensitive to local needs and preferences, fostering inclusivity and community engagement.



### **23.13.5 Accessibility and Inclusivity**

Ensuring universal access to transportation systems is a core principle of our strategy. We aim to make transportation accessible and inclusive for all citizens, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities.

### **23.14 Long-term Vision**

**Comprehensive Master Plan:** Developing a comprehensive national transportation master plan will serve as the guiding document for our long-term vision. This plan will anticipate future transportation needs, trends, and challenges, providing a roadmap for sustainable and efficient transportation systems.

#### **23.14.1 Anticipating Future Needs**

Addressing future transportation demands and trends is a critical aspect of our strategy. We will continuously assess evolving needs and adapt our transportation systems to meet them effectively.

#### **23.14.2 Cross-Government Collaboration**

Collaborating with various stakeholders and government agencies will ensure that transportation initiatives are aligned with broader national objectives. This cross-government collaboration will promote synergy and efficiency in transportation planning and implementation.

### **23.15 Strengthening Strategic Connections**

#### **23.15.1 Corridor Selection and Economic Viability**

Identifying strategic corridors based on their economic potential will guide our infrastructure investments. Projects will be evaluated based on their economic viability, ensuring that resources are allocated to initiatives that generate substantial economic benefits. Implementing revenue-sharing models for corridor maintenance and expansion will ensure the long-term sustainability of these critical transportation routes.

### **23.16 Pakistan Railways' Challenges and Strategic Goals**

Pakistan Railways (PR) has been an integral part of the country's transportation network, linking distant areas and enabling the movement of goods and people. Yet, it has struggled financially, hampering its service quality and expansion capabilities. To address these challenges, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) manifesto outlines a comprehensive strategy aimed at transforming PR into a self-sustaining entity. This approach involves leveraging PR's assets, forming strategic partnerships, and implementing innovative solutions. By executing these strategies, PR can reduce its dependence on government subsidies and significantly contribute to Pakistan's economic development.

#### **23.16.1 The Role of the Private Sector**

The proposed transformation of the railways involves the creation of three distinct corporate entities, each tasked with specific responsibilities to modernize and optimize the rail system while generating revenue. By implementing these changes, the railways aim to modernize and improve



their services while harnessing the potential of private sector participation and real estate assets to ensure long-term sustainability and growth.

### **23.16.2 Backbone Infrastructure Corporation**

This entity will serve as the backbone of the railway system, responsible for managing tracks, signals, and stations. The PTI manifesto thus aims to encourage private investment in upgrading railway tracks under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) or Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) models. This approach aims to enhance operational efficiency while reducing maintenance costs.

To meet the demands of a growing and modernizing society, significant upgrades will be necessary. This includes the implementation of state-of-the-art signaling technology, track maintenance, and station renovations to enhance safety, efficiency, and passenger experience.

### **23.16.3 Independent Train Operations Company**

To introduce competition and innovation, trains will operate through an independent company. This move opens the door for private sector companies to participate in the rail industry, fostering competition and improving service quality. Passengers can expect more choices and potentially improved services with this approach.

### **23.16.4 Carriage and Ancillary Services Corporation**

All other aspects of railway operations, such as carriage services, catering, and ancillary services, will be consolidated into a third corporate entity. This entity will be privatized, allowing private companies to invest and innovate in these areas. Privatization can lead to increased efficiency and better customer experiences in services like catering and carriage comfort. In addition to restructuring these core components, the railway system will also leverage its extensive real estate holdings to generate cash flow.

### **23.16.5 Railway Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)**

A key aspect of PR's revitalization involves monetizing its extensive real estate holdings, particularly in urban areas. The plan proposes identifying underutilized lands and partnering with private sectors to develop them into commercial spaces like malls, plazas, and hotels. This initiative is expected to generate significant revenue, aided by a transparent process for land allocation and revenue sharing.

Railway real estate will be strategically sold, either directly to interested buyers or through Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). This approach unlocks the potential value of prime real estate assets, providing a substantial source of funds that can be reinvested in railway infrastructure and services. Establishing a Railway REIT to pool funds for property investments will thus create a steady income stream for PR. This initiative allows public investment in PR's real estate assets, offering potential dividends and capital growth.



### **23.16.6 Railways Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

The establishment of SEZs on PR lands is proposed to attract businesses and boost local economies. These zones, selected for their transportation connectivity and economic potential, would benefit from tax incentives under the SEZ Act, such as duty exemptions and income tax holidays.

### **23.16.7 Modernization of Railway Workshops & Factories**

The strategy includes collaborating with international partners to modernize PR's workshops and factories, such as the Carriage Factory Islamabad and Mughalpura Workshop. These upgrades are intended to enhance maintenance capabilities and align with international standards.

### **23.16.8 Transit-Oriented Development**

Revitalizing major railway stations into vibrant commercial hubs forms another part of the strategy. This development aims to integrate transportation with commercial activities, attracting private investments for various facilities.

### **23.16.9 Enhancing PR's Signaling System**

Upgrading the signaling system of Pakistan Railways is crucial for improving safety and operational efficiency. The plan involves implementing advanced technologies and training personnel to manage these upgraded systems.

### **23.16.10 Improving Passenger Experience**

A focus on upgrading passenger facilities at railway stations aims to enhance the overall commuting experience. This includes digital ticketing solutions, improved waiting areas, and collaboration with private enterprises for additional services.

### **23.16.11 Comprehensive Freight Solutions**

PR's strategy includes offering complete freight solutions, from warehousing to last-mile delivery, in partnership with e-commerce platforms and logistics companies. This move is aimed at enhancing PR's competitiveness in the freight sector.

### **23.16.12 Privatization of Non-Core Services**

The manifesto proposes privatizing PR's healthcare and education services to focus more on its core transportation operations. This privatization is expected to improve service quality through private sector efficiency.

### **23.16.13 Solarization and Creation of Solar Parks**

Utilizing solar energy to power railway assets and establishing solar parks on railway lands are also part of the plan. This not only reduces operational costs but also generates additional income by selling surplus energy.



### **23.16.14 Drafting the RIDAA Act**

The development of the Railway Infrastructure Development Authority Act (RIDAA) is crucial for attracting foreign direct investment. This legislative support is essential for PR's infrastructure development.

## **24. Social Welfare**

The PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) manifesto is guided by a resolute commitment: to harness our nation's resources, strengthen our institutions, and elevate governance standards, all aimed at enhancing the quality of life for every citizen, especially the marginalized. Our vision draws inspiration from the ideals of the State of Medina, where justice, the rule of law, and the provision of essential safety nets stand as pillars of a just society. In this manifesto, every initiative is purposefully aligned with this noble vision. Whether it's reforming governance, revolutionizing healthcare and education, or ensuring a robust safety net for our citizens, our focus remains unwavering. The PTI manifesto revolves around these core objectives, and our proven track record stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to turning these ideals into reality, and our commitment to the future. It presents a comprehensive set of cross cutting initiatives aimed at creating a social welfare state in Pakistan.

### **24.1.1 Economic Adversity in Pakistan**

This manifesto emphasizes social justice, equality, and the overall well being of every citizen. In order to achieve these goals we acknowledge that a move towards Universal Social Protection is particularly critical in the current, unprecedented times of economic adversity in Pakistan. The devastating floods of 2022, followed by supply shortages and import restrictions led to major growth losses, with negative GDP growth of -0.5% in FY 2022-23, and expected growth of 2.5% in FY 2023-24. These adverse macroeconomic conditions have translated into increased hardship for ordinary families, who have to grapple with record inflation rates and are struggling to make ends meet, with short term inflation hitting a record 48% in May 2023 and continuing to remain above 40% in recent weeks, as of November 2023. Consequently, poverty in Pakistan rose to 39.4% as of last fiscal year, with 12.5 million additional people falling into poverty as of the last fiscal year. With an estimated 95 million Pakistanis now living in poverty, an integrated and universal protection approach is the need of the hour, to mitigate the immediate and long-term consequences of economic challenges.

This will ensure that no family is pushed into extreme poverty due to unforeseen circumstances such as job loss, illness, or economic downturns. By providing a safety net for all, PTI aims to stabilize communities, foster economic recovery, and create an environment where every citizen can actively participate in the nation's progress.

### **24.1.2 The Challenge**

The devastating floods of 2022, followed by supply shortages and import restrictions led to major growth losses, with negative GDP growth of -0.5% in FY 2022-23, and expected growth of 2.5% in FY 2023-24. These adverse macroeconomic conditions have translated into increased hardship for ordinary families, who have to grapple with record inflation rates and are struggling to make ends



meet, with short term inflation hitting a record 48% in May 2023 and continuing to remain above 40% in recent weeks, as of November 2023. Consequently, poverty in Pakistan rose to 39.4% as of last fiscal year, with 12.5 million additional people falling poverty as of the last fiscal year.

## **24.2 Overarching Initiatives**

This challenge must be dealt with in order to protect populations, address ageing trends, expand sustainable systems and promote socio-economic recovery. Social protection both reduces poverty, and prevents people from falling into poverty. With political will, sound design, costing and fiscal space analysis, as well as inclusive social dialogue, even in times of austerity, social protection systems, including social protection floors, can be progressively established and strengthened. PTI In order to move effectively towards this vision is committed to implement overarching measures outlined in various sections of its manifesto that shall play a pivotal role in achieving this transformative objective.

### **24.2.1 Justice and Rule of Law**

Strengthening the justice system and the rule of law is fundamental to ensuring that all citizens have equal access to justice and protection of their rights. PTI recognizes that a robust justice system and the rule of law are the bedrock of a just society that in PTI's belief is a basic requirement for the well being of citizens. To achieve our goal we are committed to the overhaul of the judicial system in order to enhance efficiency and reduce backlogs. We will expand legal aid services to provide representation and support to those who cannot afford it. Additionally, we'll promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to expedite dispute resolution, ensuring timely access to justice.

### **24.2.2 Land Reforms and Distribution of State Land**

Land reforms can help address land inequality and promote land ownership among marginalized communities. PTI understands that land reform is a key driver of economic empowerment. Our approach includes equitably redistributing state land among landless and impoverished households. We will prioritize land allocation to landless farmers and marginalized communities, ensuring that they have the opportunity to uplift their economic status. Furthermore, we will encourage sustainable agricultural practices through supportive policies.

### **24.2.3 Technical Training and Quality Education**

Quality education and technical training empower individuals with skills needed for employment and entrepreneurship. PTI recognizes the importance of quality education and technical training in uplifting individuals and communities. We will establish modern technical and vocational training centers to bridge the skills gap, ensuring that our workforce is well prepared for the job market. Additionally, we will reform curricula to integrate modern teaching methods, critical thinking, and creativity. Equal access to quality education is a prerequisite to provide opportunities to the marginalized for their social uplift and will be ensured by improving educational quality and infrastructure specially in under serviced areas.



#### **24.2.4 Road Infrastructure and Rural Hubs**

Road Infrastructure and Rural Hubs: Enhancing road infrastructure in rural areas facilitates economic development and access to markets.

Our commitment to rural development includes focusing on rural road development to stimulate economic growth and improve access to markets. We will establish rural hubs to improve living conditions, foster community development, and create vibrant local economies, ensuring that rural areas thrive alongside urban centers.

#### **24.2.5 Labor-Intensive Economic Programs**

Labor-intensive programs create job opportunities and reduce unemployment, improving the economic well being of families. PTI is dedicated to job creation and economic stability. We will implement labor-intensive programs to reduce unemployment and enhance livelihoods, particularly in sectors with the potential for high employment generation. These programs will not only create jobs but also contribute to poverty reduction and social stability.

#### **24.2.6 Agriculture and Cooperative Farming**

Agriculture and Cooperative Farming: Supporting agriculture, including cooperative farming, ensures food security and rural livelihoods.

Agriculture forms the backbone of Pakistan's economy, and PTI recognizes its importance. We will support agriculture, particularly through cooperative farming, to enhance food security and improve rural livelihoods. Our policies will encourage sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term stability and prosperity for farming communities.

#### **24.2.7 IT and Vocational Training**

IT and Vocational Training: IT training and vocational skills development prepare individuals for the digital economy and diverse job opportunities.

PTI understands the significance of equipping individuals with digital skills for the modern job market. We will establish IT training and vocational skills development programs, preparing individuals for diverse job opportunities in the digital economy. Access to soft loans and subsidies will be provided to encourage entrepreneurship and economic self-sufficiency among the youth.

#### **24.2.8 Inexpensive Housing and Social Housing Initiatives**

Inexpensive Housing and Social Housing Initiatives: Affordable housing initiatives improve living conditions and housing security for low-income families.

Housing security and affordability are key aspects of PTI's agenda.

#### **24.2.9 Universal Social Protection**

With an estimated 95 million Pakistanis now living in poverty, an integrated and universal protection approach is the need of the hour, to mitigate the immediate and long-term consequences of economic challenges. This will ensure that no family is pushed into extreme poverty due to





unforeseen circumstances such as job loss, illness, or economic downturns. By providing a safety net for all, PTI aims to stabilize communities, foster economic recovery, and create an environment where every citizen can actively participate in the nation's progress.

We are committed to providing Universal Social Protection in Pakistan, which will be a comprehensive, inclusive, and integrated set of policies designed to provide income security and support to all, paying particular attention to the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. This approach goes above and beyond only targeted assistance, given that economic shocks can affect anyone, regardless of their initial socio-economic status. This plan is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal

### **24.3 Our Mission**

“Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable” A move towards Universal Social Protection is particularly critical in the current, unprecedented times of economic adversity in Pakistan.

#### **24.3.1 The Journey Has Just Begun**

Here, we provide an overview of some of the significant milestones achieved in this journey. Our plan for Universal Social Protection will build on the foundational social welfare reforms introduced by the PTI government in its previous government. We will increase spending on social protection from the current under 1% to more than 3% of the GDP.

#### **24.3.2 Flagship Social Protection Initiatives**

The flagship social welfare programs of the PTI government encompass the Ehsaas Program; the Kamyab Pakistan Program, including the low-cost housing component; the Kamyab Jawan Program, and Sehat Sahulat.

#### **24.3.3 Ehsaas Program**

##### **Past successes**

Ehsaas was the biggest and boldest pro-poor programme ever launched in the country, and was aimed at the extreme poor, especially marginalized communities such as women, orphans, the homeless etc. Ehsaas’ shock-responsive framework comprised 16 internationally acclaimed programs in four categories—cash transfer initiatives, care services, poverty graduation initiatives and programs to target subsidies. We achieved 80% of the targets in Ehsaas’ First Five Year Strategy, with PKR 720 billion+ worth of benefits being delivered.

#### **24.3.4 Ehsaas Emergency Cash - One of Many Initiatives**

We supported 15 million families under Ehsaas Emergency Cash and distributed cash to 7 million families every quarter via Ehsaas Kafaalat. We launched Ehsaas Roshan Riayat program, a globally



first end-to-end digital targeted commodity subsidies, with plan to provide subsidies to 10 million families.

We started a national scale-up of Ehsaas Tahafuz, Pakistan's first shock-oriented precision safety net health care program. Through Ehsaas School Stipend/Taleemi Wazaef, we enrolled 7.87 million children. We also launched Ehsaas Nashonuma, a health, and nutrition conditional cash transfer program to prevent child stunting. We offered Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarships at 135 public universities nationwide.

Ehsaas Amdan To support livelihoods, we offered Ehsaas Interest Free Loans in 123 districts and also ran Ehsaas Amdan an asset transfer program. We opened 184 Langarkhanas, several Panahgahs (shelter homes for labourers), and supported 50+ Dar-ul-Ehsaas (orphanages).

We piloted Ehsaas Rehriiban, a program to protect and formalize informal street vending, receiving immensely successful outcomes.

#### **24.3.5 Governance Reforms**

We introduced a number of governance reforms through the Ehsaas Building and Rebuilding Institutions (BRI) initiative, including an Ehsaas Delivery Unit and One Window Ehsaas Centers. We completed a dynamic national socio-economic registry after a lag of 10 years and institutionalized data analytics was institutionalized, and use of digital interfaces for beneficiary empowerment mad

#### **24.3.6 Future commitments**

Going forward, we commit to further strengthening and scaling Ehsaas to achieve the vision for Universal Social Protection. While Ehsaas will continue to build on all original programs, we will particularly focus concerted efforts on two flagship programs: Ehsaas Riayat combined with the Ehsaas Card, and Ehsaas Rehriiban.

#### **24.3.7 Digitalizing Subsidy**

We will continue the journey to create an end-to-end digital ecosystem which was started in 2019, to provide subsidies on essential items and to digitize the kiryana store network of ~1 million vendors. We will take a multi-pronged approach, offering subsidies on a range on commodities though kiryanas, utility stores, Canteen Stores Department stores and the network of minimarts across Pakistan, all through a digital subsidy platform. We will also add subsidized essential medicines to this platform, to be disbursed via pharmacies.

#### **24.3.8 Ehsaas Multi Purpose Accounts and Ehsaas Cards**

Over time, we will integrate other government transfers, such as cash transfers to the same platform, with dedicated, multi-purpose Ehsaas accounts offered to beneficiaries, along with Ehsaas Cards, to act as debit cards at points of sale, enabling a shift towards cashless payments. We aim to make Ehsaas Riayat accessible for at least ~16 million families living in poverty, with an approximate annual budget of PKR 250 Billion.



### **24.3.9 Ehsaas Rehriban**

We also commit to scaling up the Ehsaas Rehribaan program nationally, to benefit 1 million+ informal street vendors and affecting 10 million livelihoods. We will bring these vendors within the fold of the formal economy through licensing and investments. By providing legal status and social security to these entrepreneurs, PTI seeks to empower them economically, recognizing their contribution to the cultural and economic fabric of our cities. There is potential for this to contribute billions to the national exchequer through government revenues.

### **24.3.10 Kamyab Pakistan Program and Kamyab Jawaan Program**

#### **24.3.11 Past successes**

The Kamyab Pakistan Program (KPP) was launched in PTI's first tenure and was meant to provide interest free loans to the poorer segments of the society, who had previously been excluded from accessing credit via financial institutions. The program was open to families registered with Ehsaas Program, aimed to reduce poverty, generate employment, and revitalize the economy through resource mobilization at grass roots level.

The program had five components; namely, (i) Kamyab Kissan (ii) Kamyab Karobar (iii) Naya Pakistan low-cost housing (iv) Kamyab Hunarmand and (v) Sehatmand Pakistan. Similarly, the Kamyab Jawaan program aimed at uplifting the youth by offering them loan opportunities to utilize their entrepreneurial potential.

KPP was offered in Baluchistan, KPK, GB, AJK and poorest districts of Sindh and Punjab. PKR 2.6 billion were disbursed to ~15,000 beneficiaries in the first four months of the program.

#### **24.3.12 Future commitments**

Going forward, we commit to expanding the Kamyab Pakistan Program nation-wide. We aim to provide cumulative loans of Rs. 407 billion in year 1, and Rs 1000 billion by year 3, with the government picking up the subsidy of Rs 56 billion in year 1 and Rs. 168 billion in year 3 respectively. Our detailed plan for expanding the Naya Pakistan low-cost housing component of the KPP has already been described in detail as a separate section of the Manifesto.

#### **24.3.13 New Initiatives**

We will also add new components to this program, such as Kamyab Overseas Pakistanis, for providing microloans to Pakistanis that secure overseas employment offer but do not have enough resources to pay for travel, visa and allied expenses. This will ultimately help in improving foreign remittances. Similarly, we commit to expanding the Kamyab Jawaan Program, aiming to empower youth across Pakistan, and to invest in youth skills and entrepreneurship. These loans will be tailored to the specific needs of young business owners and will serve as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth. By empowering young minds with the financial means to transform ideas into viable businesses, PTI aims to create a generation of self-reliant and dynamic entrepreneurs



## 25. Addressing Population Growth and Family Planning

Pakistan, like many other countries, faces the critical challenge of rapid population growth. To effectively address this issue, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) must implement a comprehensive strategy that promotes family planning and addresses the associated challenges. This section outlines the issue at hand, the challenges it presents, and the way forward for PTI, along with potential incentives for encouraging family planning.

### 25.1.1 The Issue

Pakistan's population growth rate has remained alarmingly high for decades, leading to various socio-economic challenges. With over 220 million people, Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous country, and its population is projected to exceed 400 million by 2050 if current trends continue. This rapid population growth, strains essential resources, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities thus making it a pressing issue that requires immediate attention.

### 25.1.2 Historical Reference and Data

Historically, Pakistan's population growth has been substantial. To illustrate, consider that in 1951, Pakistan's population was approximately 33 million. By 1998, it had risen to over 130 million, and as of 2022, it stood at around 220 million. This rapid growth is amongst others due to factors such as high fertility rates, lack of awareness and limited access to family planning services.

### 25.1.3 High Fertility Rates

Pakistan has consistently had one of the highest fertility rates globally, with an average of around 3.6 children per woman. This is primarily due to limited awareness and access to family planning methods.

### 25.1.4 Lack of Education

Low levels of education, particularly among women, contribute to higher fertility rates. Education is often linked to delayed marriages and smaller family sizes.

### 25.1.5 Limited Access to Healthcare

Inadequate access to healthcare services, especially in rural areas, results in limited access to family planning services and reproductive health information.

### 25.1.6 Socio-cultural Norms

Deep-rooted cultural and religious beliefs sometimes hinder family planning efforts, leading to early and frequent pregnancies.

### 25.1.7 Gender Inequality

Gender disparities in Pakistan limit women's decision-making power regarding family planning, as many women have little say in reproductive matters.



### **25.1.8 Lack of Awareness and Cultural Norms**

Many Pakistanis lack awareness about family planning methods and their benefits. Combined with deep-rooted cultural and religious beliefs hinder acceptance of family planning.

### **25.1.9 Limited Access to Healthcare**

Rural areas often lack access to healthcare facilities and family planning services.

### **25.1.10 Economic Factors**

High fertility rates are often linked to poverty and a lack of economic opportunities.

### **25.1.11 A Sustainable Population Growth**

Arresting Pakistan's rapid population growth requires a holistic approach that addresses cultural, educational, healthcare, and gender-related factors. By implementing these policy steps and actively involving communities, Pakistan can work toward achieving sustainable population growth and ensuring a better future for its citizens.

## **25.2 The Way Forward**

### **25.2.1 Education and Awareness Campaigns**

PTI shall invest in comprehensive public awareness campaigns highlighting the benefits of family planning and dispelling myths.

### **25.2.2 Overcoming Religious and Social Barriers**

PTI believes it is important to approach this issue with respect for individual beliefs and cultural sensitivities. Efforts should be made to focus on finding common ground and promoting family planning within the framework of religious values. The key is to engage with qualified scholars who can provide guidance in accordance with an individual's specific circumstances and beliefs. Ultimately, the principles of responsible parenthood, the well-being of mothers and children, and the importance of considering individual circumstances are often emphasized in Islamic teachings and can be used to support family planning efforts within an Islamic framework.

### **25.2.3 Collaborating for Success**

It's crucial to approach this issue with sensitivity and without imposing external values. The goal should be to find common ground, respect individual beliefs, and provide information and options that allow individuals and couples to make informed choices regarding family planning within the framework of their faith. Collaborating with religious leaders and communities is key to achieving this balance.

### **25.2.4 Engage Religious Leaders**

Work with respected religious leaders and scholars who can provide interpretations of religious texts that are supportive of family planning. Many religious traditions have room for diverse interpretations, and highlighting these can help.



### **25.2.5 Promote Dialogue**

Create opportunities for open and respectful dialogue between religious leaders and family planning advocates. This can foster understanding and potentially lead to a more nuanced view of family planning within religious communities.

### **25.2.6 Religious Text Interpretation**

Highlight aspects of religious teachings that emphasize the importance of responsible parenthood, caring for children's well being, and the value of women's health.

### **25.2.7 Community Engagement**

Engage with local religious leaders and communities to address misconceptions and concerns about family planning. Provide platforms for discussions and questions.

### **25.2.8 Cultural Sensitivity**

Tailor family planning programs and messaging to be culturally and religiously sensitive. Acknowledge and respect the cultural and religious diversity within Muslim communities.

### **25.2.9 Showcase Positive Role Models**

Highlight individuals or families within the religious community who have embraced family planning while remaining committed to their faith. Personal stories can be powerful influencers.

### **25.2.10 Collaborate with Faith-Based Organizations**

Partner with faith-based organizations that may be open to promoting family planning within the context of their religious values. These organizations can serve as bridges between religious beliefs and family planning services.

### **25.2.11 Emphasize Health and Well-being**

Frame family planning discussions in terms of the health and well-being of mothers and children. Highlight the benefits of family planning in reducing maternal and child mortality.

Respect Autonomy:

Emphasize that family planning decisions are a matter of personal choice and should be made voluntarily. No one should be pressured to make decisions contrary to their religious beliefs.

### **25.2.12 Education and Awareness**

Provide education about family planning methods and their compatibility with Islam. Ensure that religious communities have access to accurate information. Launch extensive public awareness campaigns highlighting the benefits of family planning and dispelling myths. These campaigns should target both urban and rural areas.



## **25.3 Arresting Rapid Population Growth**

### **25.3.1 Accessible Healthcare**

Improve healthcare infrastructure, particularly in underserved regions, and ensure the availability of family planning services and reproductive health care. Make contraceptives widely available and affordable, especially in rural areas, through government health facilities and outreach programs.

### **25.3.2 Women Empowerment**

Another important aspect that needs to be addressed in order to make family planning in Pakistan a success is the empowerment of women by promoting gender equality, empowering women economically, and resultantly enhancing their decision-making power regarding family planning.

### **25.3.3 Education Reform**

Prioritize education, especially for girls, as higher education levels are associated with delayed marriages and smaller families. Scholarships and incentives can encourage families to invest in their daughters' education.

### **25.3.4 Vocational Training and Skill Development**

Create job opportunities, particularly for women, to address the economic factors driving high fertility rates. This could include vocational training and skill development programs.

### **25.3.5 Legal Reforms**

Strengthen legal protections against early and forced marriages, as well as child marriages. Enforce laws that support women's rights and autonomy.

### **25.3.6 Data-Driven Policy**

Continuously monitor demographic trends and adjust policies accordingly to ensure their effectiveness in addressing population growth.

## **25.4 Incentives for Smaller Families**

Addressing Pakistan's population growth and promoting family planning is a complex but essential task. The PTI must implement a multi-pronged approach that tackles the challenges associated with this issue and incentivizes family planning to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the nation. We will offer financial incentives and facilities in tandem with awareness campaigns to encourage family planning.

### **Health Care, Maternal and Child Health Benefits**

Improve healthcare infrastructure and ensure the availability of family planning services in rural and underserved areas. Provide additional healthcare benefits to families practicing family planning along with providing affordable or free contraceptives to low-income families.



#### **25.4.1 Employment, Education and Skill Development**

Support families with access to education and skill development opportunities for their children. Prioritize job opportunities, for women from small families, to alleviate the economic factors driving high fertility rates. Offer scholarships or educational grants to children in families adhering to the family planning guidelines, thus ensuring a brighter future for their offspring.

#### **25.4.2 Direct Financial Support**

Provide financial assistance or cash transfers to small families, particularly those from low-income backgrounds.

#### **25.4.3 Priority Access to Healthcare**

Grant priority access to quality healthcare services for families that maintain a smaller family size, thereby promoting better maternal and child health.

#### **25.4.4 Housing Benefits**

Provide housing subsidies or low-interest loans to eligible families to improve their living conditions. Prioritize these families in government housing initiatives.

### **25.5 Discouraging Early Marriages**

Offering incentives to parents of girls who stay unmarried until the age of 21 can be a powerful way to promote gender equality, education, and delayed marriages. Here are some incentives that can be considered: These incentives can create a supportive environment that encourages families to prioritize their daughters' education and well being over early marriages. By extending these incentives from middle school until the age of 21, PTI can ensure that girls have the opportunity to complete higher education and pursue their aspirations before considering marriage, ultimately contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **25.5.1 Educational Scholarships**

Provide scholarships or financial grants to girls who continue their education beyond middle school, making it more affordable for families to support their daughters' schooling.

#### **25.5.2 Vocational Training Opportunities**

Offer vocational training programs to help girls develop skills and gain qualifications that enhance their employability.

#### **25.5.3 Healthcare Benefits**

Ensure access to quality healthcare for families with unmarried daughters, including reproductive health services and awareness programs.

#### **25.5.4 Employment Support**

Collaborate with local businesses to create job opportunities for young women who complete their education, thereby incentivizing families to delay marriages.





### **Financial Incentives**

Provide financial assistance directly to parents of unmarried daughters, with increasing amounts as the girls progress in their education, to alleviate the economic burden.

### **25.5.5 Community Recognition**

Recognize and honor families in the community who support their daughters' education and delayed marriages, setting positive examples for others.

### **25.5.6 Counseling and Support Services**

Offer counseling and support services for families to address any societal or familial pressures to marry their daughters early.

### **25.5.7 Legal Protections**

Strengthen legal protections against early and forced marriages, ensuring that parents who support their daughters' education and delayed marriages are not subject to legal consequences.

## **26. Empowering Pakistan's Youth for a Prosperous Future**

Pakistan's distinctive demographic landscape, marked by a substantial youth population, presents a dual facet of challenge and opportunity for the nation. To leverage the inherent potential within this demographic dividend, it becomes imperative to empower the youth through targeted capacity-building training and comprehensive financial support.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), cognizant of the fact that empowering the nation's youth extends beyond a mere social obligation—it stands as an economic imperative. In concerted collaboration with private sector stakeholders and international partners, PTI is committed to fostering an environment conducive to youth development to pave the way for a more prosperous and dynamically evolving Pakistan. With unwavering determination and meticulous strategic planning,

PTI firmly believes that Pakistan possesses the means to unlock the vast potential residing in its youth. By doing so, the nation can chart a course towards sustained growth and prosperity, realizing the promise embedded in its demographic richness.

### **26.1 The PTI Vision:**

Our vision for the youth transcends conventional boundaries, aspiring to instill values akin to the rich tradition of the State of Medina, with a primary focus on nurturing character. We aspire to cultivate a society where integrity, empathy, honesty, and simplicity are not just upheld but revered as foundational principles.

PTI's overarching goal is to not only undertake tangible initiatives for capacity building and economic empowerment but also to place substantial emphasis on the moral and ethical development of the youth. In doing so, we aim to shape well-rounded individuals who, through their positive contributions, become pillars of a socially harmonious and ethically grounded society.



## **26.2 Education Sector:**

PTI manifesto is committed to transforming the education sector, empowering the youth with the knowledge and skills necessary for a progressive and prosperous Pakistan.

## **26.3 Quality Education Reform:**

Prioritize education reform to ensure quality and accessible education for all. Invest significantly in teacher training programs to elevate the standard of education delivery, fostering an environment of academic excellence.

## **26.4 Modern Infrastructure and Digital Learning:**

Commit to modernizing educational infrastructure, ensuring that schools and colleges provide conducive learning environments. Simultaneously, focus on fostering digital literacy by providing access to online educational resources, bridging the digital divide.

## **26.5 Empowering Students through Scholarships:**

Introduce robust scholarship programs to support deserving students, with a particular emphasis on those from underprivileged backgrounds. By reducing financial barriers, these initiatives aim to make quality education accessible to every aspiring student.

## **26.6 Mental Health Support:**

As part of our holistic approach to youth development, PTI aims to establish mental health services and awareness campaigns. These initiatives will address the psychological well-being of youth facing stress and uncertainty, providing vital support and promoting emotional resilience.

## **26.7 Sports and Culture:**

PTI recognizes the transformative power of sports and cultural engagement for youth development. We will invest substantially, not only in sports programs and cultural activities but also in the development of infrastructure. This includes creating modern facilities in both urban and rural areas, ensuring equitable access and fostering talents nationwide. These efforts aim to nurture physical well-being, instill discipline, and cultivate a sense of national identity among the youth.

## **26.8 Youth Representation:**

PTI is committed to elevating the influence of youth in the political arena. To achieve this, we propose lowering the age for political candidacy and ensuring active youth representation in decision-making bodies. Facilitating increased youth participation in politics, PTI strives to create a more inclusive and representative governance structures.

## **26.9 International Standards:**

In the pursuit of global competitiveness, PTI plans to establish specialized institutes in strategic locations for each sector with modern facilities. These institutes will not only impart knowledge but



also offer practical exposure. PTI aims to develop industry-relevant curricula and seek international accreditation. Simultaneously, PTI will facilitate affiliations with foreign universities and institutions for joint programs and certifications. This ensures that diplomas and certifications earned are internationally recognized, enhancing the employability of graduates.

### **26.10 Network of Institutes:**

By creating a network of specialized institutes with international affiliations, Pakistan can not only provide its youth with high-quality education and training but also position them competitively on the global stage. This approach would contribute significantly to the empowerment and employment of the nation's youth.

#### **26.10.1 Institute Establishment:**

Establish specialized institutes for each sector (IT, agriculture, construction, hospitality, etc.) in strategic locations across the country. Ensure these institutes are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and resources necessary for quality training.

#### **26.10.2 Curriculum Development:**

Develop industry-relevant curricula in collaboration with experts, industry professionals, and foreign partners if required. Continuously update curricula to keep pace with evolving technologies and industry trends.

#### **26.10.3 International Standards:**

Work towards achieving international accreditation and recognition for these institutes to ensure that their programs meet global standards. Seek partnerships with renowned international institutions for guidance and benchmarking.

#### **26.10.4 Foreign Affiliation and Certification:**

Facilitate affiliations with foreign universities and institutions to offer joint programs and certifications. Ensure that diplomas and certifications earned from these institutes are recognized internationally, enhancing the employability of graduates.

#### **26.10.5 Internship Programs:**

Collaborate with industry leaders to provide internship opportunities for students, allowing them to gain practical experience. Ensure that internships are an integral part of the training curriculum.

#### **26.10.6 Quality Assurance:**

Establish a regulatory body or authority responsible for monitoring and maintaining the quality of education and training provided by these institutes. Conduct regular audits and assessments to ensure adherence to international standards.



### **26.10.7 Scholarships and Financial Support:**

Offer scholarships and financial assistance to deserving students to make quality education accessible to all. Encourage public-private partnerships to fund these initiatives.

### **26.10.8 Industry Advisory Boards:**

Create industry advisory boards for each institute, consisting of experts and professionals who provide guidance on curriculum relevance and industry needs.

### **26.10.9 Research and Development:**

Promote research and development activities within these institutes to foster innovation and address industry-specific challenges.

### **26.10.10 Language Proficiency Programs:**

Provide language training programs, especially in English, to enhance graduates' communication skills, a critical component for international recognition.

### **26.10.11 Continuous Improvement:**

Establish mechanisms for continuous improvement, feedback, and evaluation to adapt to changing industry dynamics. Monitoring and Evaluation: Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of these institutes and the employability of their graduates.

## **26.11 Sectorial Initiatives**

Recognizing that education is just one element in the larger tapestry of youth empowerment, PTI envisions a comprehensive strategy spanning various sectors. In adopting this multi-sectoral approach, PTI aims to create a seamless pathway for the youth, ensuring that they not only have access to opportunities but are also well-equipped to seize them. The emphasis is on practical skills, hands-on experience, and creating pathways for sustainable growth and employment opportunities.

### **26.11.1 IT Sector:**

In this era of technological advancement, PTI plans to establish advanced IT training centers and coding boot camps. The goal is to equip young individuals with programming and digital skills, fostering innovation through startup incubators that provide seed funding for tech startups. Additionally, PTI aims to facilitate internships and on-the-job training in collaboration with IT companies.

### **26.11.2 Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal Husbandry:**

In the realm of agriculture, PTI will offer not only theoretical knowledge but also hands-on experience. Agricultural courses and workshops focusing on modern farming techniques will be a cornerstone. Simultaneously, PTI aims to encourage the formation of youth-led cooperatives for the collective management of farming ventures. The plan also involves allocating government land to young farmers, providing essential financial support for their initial investment.



### **26.11.3 Construction Industry:**

In the construction sector, PTI seeks to develop vocational programs that go beyond traditional training. These programs will train youth in various construction trades, establish certification systems to validate their skills, and ultimately increase employability. Moreover, PTI aims to promote youth participation in government construction projects by offering opportunities and incentives.

### **26.11.4 Hospitality and Tourism:**

The hospitality and tourism sector is a promising avenue for youth. PTI plans to provide courses in hospitality management, culinary arts, and tourism. Simultaneously, PTI will invest in tourism infrastructure and marketing to attract visitors, thereby creating job opportunities. Additionally, PTI supports small accommodation ventures through low-interest loans for young entrepreneurs.

### **26.11.5 Small Business:**

In the realm of entrepreneurship, PTI has crafted comprehensive training programs. These programs cover various aspects, including business planning, marketing, and financial management. Simultaneously, PTI aims to facilitate access to microloans and grants for young entrepreneurs while establishing mentorship programs to guide them in their ventures.

### **26.11.6 Financing Support:**

In terms of financing, PTI is committed to establishing dedicated loan schemes with favorable terms and interest rates for young entrepreneurs. This approach aligns with PTI's broader vision of providing financial support to promising initiatives. PTI also seeks to provide grants and subsidies to support youth-led initiatives. Additionally, PTI will offer financial literacy programs to ensure effective fund management.

### **26.11.7 Capacity Building:**

Capacity building is a key focus for PTI. Beyond technical skills, PTI aims to enhance communication, leadership, and teamwork skills through soft skills training. This approach aligns with PTI's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals. Moreover, PTI will teach youth market research, business planning, and adaptability. Creating networking opportunities for them to connect with industry professionals and potential partners is a crucial part of this strategy.

### **26.11.8 Youth Guidance Centers:**

To tie these initiatives together, PTI envisions the establishment of centers nationwide. These centers will serve as resource hubs, connecting youth to relevant training and sectors. PTI aims to provide more than just information – these centers will be catalysts for real change. Offering linkages to funding sources and assisting with small business feasibility studies, these centers will be instrumental. Moreover, these centers will offer access to government incentives and support programs for aspiring entrepreneurs and job seekers.



## 27. Town Planning Strategy

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is committed to addressing the pressing issues of urban and rural development in Pakistan. Our manifesto aims to provide a clear vision for comprehensive town planning, encompassing urban and rural areas, to create sustainable, livable, and vibrant communities.

PTI remains unwavering in its commitment to transforming town planning in Pakistan. By addressing governance challenges, strengthening the rule of law, and implementing effective funding mechanisms, we aim to create sustainable and inclusive urban and rural communities.

Our strategy represents a significant step towards building a prosperous and livable future for all Pakistanis, where town-planning decisions are made with the utmost transparency, fairness, and consideration for the people and the environment.

### 27.1 Key Issues and Challenges:

#### 27.1.1 Urban Areas:

**Overcrowding and Congestion:** Rapid urbanization has led to overcrowding in cities and exacerbated traffic congestion.

**Inadequate Infrastructure:** Many urban areas lack essential infrastructure for clean water supply, sewage systems, and transportation, leading to health and environmental problems.

**Housing Shortages:** The increasing urban population often faces shortages of affordable housing, leading to the growth of informal settlements and slums.

**Pressure on Green Spaces:** Urbanization can result in the loss of green spaces, negatively impacting residents' quality of life and environmental sustainability.

**Zoning and Bylaws Enforcement:** Inconsistent enforcement of zoning regulations and building bylaws has given rise to unauthorized construction.

#### 27.1.2 Rural Areas:

**Basic Infrastructure Deficiency:** Basic infrastructure in rural areas is sorely lacking, with inadequate roads and healthcare facilities being a primary concern.

**Limited Employment Opportunities:** The dearth of job opportunities has spurred rural-to-urban migration.

**Digital Divide:** Access to digital services and education remains limited in rural regions.



## **27.2 Rule of Law for Better Town Planning:**

By addressing governance, legal, and institutional challenges, the PTI aims to significantly improve the town planning landscape in Pakistan: Enhanced transparency and accountability will lead to better decision-making and resource allocation. The rule of law and a fair judicial system will protect the rights of all stakeholders while ensuring that town planning aligns with long-term development goals.

## **27.3 Legal and Judicial Reforms:**

Strengthen the legal framework governing town planning and land use. Establish an efficient judicial system that can resolve land disputes and violations promptly. Ensure that landowners' rights are protected while maintaining the broader community's interests.

## **27.4 Addressing Governance and Capacity Issues:**

### **27.4.1 Strengthening Governance and Institutional Capacity:**

Implement transparent and accountable decision-making processes within town planning departments. Tackle corruption and streamline administrative procedures to ensure efficient resource allocation. Establish clear lines of communication and collaboration among different government agencies involved in town planning.

### **27.4.2 Strengthening Bylaws and Regulations:**

Update and modernize existing zoning regulations to align with long-term development goals. Strictly enforce building codes and bylaws to prevent unauthorized construction and ensure safety standards are met. Regularly audit compliance to maintain integrity in the urban planning process.

### **27.4.3 Public Awareness and Participation:**

Engage with communities, NGOs, and local stakeholders to ensure their input in the planning process. Educate residents about the importance of sustainable urban development and the consequences of haphazard growth.

### **27.4.4 Achieving Ambitious Transition through Better Governance:**

The PTI manifesto recognizes that achieving these ambitious targets requires a fundamental shift in governance structures and practices. We will work tirelessly to establish a robust legal framework, transparent processes, and efficient institutions, ensuring that town planning decisions are made in the best interest of the people.

### **27.4.5 Problem Identification and Data Collection:**

Conduct thorough surveys and data collection to identify areas with high migration rates and the emergence of slums and katchi abadis. Analyze demographic trends, economic factors, and social conditions driving migration. : Conduct comprehensive surveys to gather data on urban and rural development trends. Analyze demographic, economic, and social factors driving migration and



urbanization. Utilize data for evidence-based policymaking, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are needed the most.

#### **27.4.6 Review and Adaptation:**

Regularly review and update the urban development strategy based on changing needs and emerging issues. Encourage research and innovation to find sustainable solutions to urban challenges. This strategy should be tailored to the specific needs and conditions of each city or urban area, considering its unique characteristics and challenges. Continuous evaluation and adaptation are key to ensuring the strategy's effectiveness in addressing urban migration, slums, land use, and related issues.

#### **27.4.7 Urban Sprawl Control:**

Implement urban growth boundaries to contain sprawl and encourage infill development. Provide incentives for developers to invest in existing urban areas rather than expanding outward.

#### **27.4.8 Monitoring and Enforcement:**

Establish a dedicated department for monitoring and enforcing zoning regulations and bylaws. Use technology, such as GIS mapping and remote sensing, for real-time tracking of land use and development.

#### **27.5 Upgrading and Regularization of Slums and Katchi Abadis:**

Develop a plan to upgrade existing slums and katchi abadis with proper infrastructure, including water supply, sewage systems, and electricity. Regularize land ownership and provide legal rights to residents to ensure security and incentivize them to invest in their communities.

#### **27.6 Land Use and Creation of Open Spaces:**

Implement a comprehensive land-use plan that designates zones for residential, commercial, industrial, and green spaces. Encourage mixed-use development to reduce commute times and promote walkability. Set aside land for parks, green belts, and recreational areas within urban zones.

#### **27.7 Infrastructure Development:**

Invest in water supply and sanitation infrastructure to ensure access to clean water and proper sewage disposal. Develop an efficient public transportation system to reduce traffic congestion and pollution.

#### **27.8 Special Initiatives**

A special Focus will be on providing housing to the homeless by developing a plan to upgrade existing slums and katchi abadis with proper infrastructure, including water supply, sewage systems, and electricity. Regularize land ownership and provide legal rights to residents to ensure security and incentivize them to invest in their communities. These initiatives will be taken in various forms in both Urban and Rural areas.





## **27.9 Vertical Housing and Green Space Integration:**

By integrating green spaces into vertical housing projects, urban areas can benefit from improved air quality, reduced heat island effect, enhanced aesthetics, and opportunities for recreation while simultaneously releasing land for more extensive public parks and green zones in the city.

### **27.9.1 Urban Parks:**

In densely populated areas the design of vertical housing projects with allocated spaces for urban parks and green areas within or adjacent to the developments will be undertaken. This will also include the incorporation of community gardens on rooftops or within high-rise buildings to promote local food production and green spaces.

### **27.9.2 Pocket Parks:**

We shall endeavor to create pocket parks and small green spaces within residential high-rises to provide residents with accessible recreational areas.

### **27.9.3 Green Roof Tops and Vertical Forests**

Encourage the construction of green rooftops on high-rise buildings, improving insulation, reducing energy consumption, and creating green oasis. Furthermore to enhance the greenery in urban settings the concept of vertical forests, where buildings are designed to host a significant number of trees and plants on their facades and balconies shall be introduced with builders and homeowners given incentives for the upkeep of such elements.

### **27.9.4 Mixed-Use Developments:**

Combine vertical housing with commercial or office spaces that include green courtyards or atriums for a pleasant living and working environment.

### **27.9.5 Public Plazas:**

Include public plazas and squares at the base of high-rise developments, fostering community engagement and social interaction.

### **27.9.6 Green Connectors:**

Plan pedestrian-friendly pathways and green connectors that link different vertical developments and green spaces within the city.

### **27.9.7 Biodiversity Preservation:**

Ensure that green areas within vertical housing developments support local biodiversity, including native plants and wildlife.

## **27.10 Creation of Planned Qasbas in Suitable Peripheral Areas**

Conduct feasibility studies to identify peripheral areas for rural areas that are suitable for planned qasbas, considering factors like accessibility and future growth potential. These developments will



be small and somewhat dependent on nearby Towns for employment opportunities. The main objective of these planned Qasbas to control the migration to urban areas that has resulted in overcrowding in smaller towns and is resulting in an uncontrolled urban sprawl. These will provide quality infrastructure and recreation facilities.

#### **27.10.1 Infrastructure Development:**

Develop essential infrastructure in these qasbas, including roads, utilities, schools, healthcare facilities, and public transportation.

#### **27.10.2 Affordable Housing**

Promote the construction of affordable housing units in these planned qasbas to reduce pressure on urban centers.

#### **27.10.3 Green Spaces**

Allocate land for parks and green areas within these qasbas to ensure a high quality of life for residents.

#### **27.10.4 Employment Opportunities**

Encourage the establishment of businesses and industries in these areas to create job opportunities locally.

### **27.11 Satellite Towns in Strategic Location**

Identify strategic locations for satellite towns that are well-connected to the main city centers but at a reasonable distance to reduce congestion. The Satellite Town initiative will be taken in large urban centers across the country.

#### **27.11.1 Comprehensive Planning**

Develop comprehensive master plans for satellite towns that include residential, commercial, and industrial zones along with essential infrastructure.

#### **27.11.2 Transport Connectivity**

Ensure efficient transportation links between satellite towns and the city center to reduce commuting times.

#### **27.11.3 Environmental Sustainability:**

Design satellite towns with a focus on environmental sustainability, incorporating green building practices and renewable energy sources.

#### **27.11.4 Public Services:**

Provide essential public services, including healthcare, education, and security, to make these towns self-sufficient.



#### **27.11.5 Incentives:**

Offer incentives for businesses and residents to relocate to satellite towns, such as tax breaks or subsidies for housing.

#### **27.12 Funding Mechanisms:**

Comprehending the indispensable role of funding in the successful execution of our comprehensive town planning strategy, the PTI proposes a versatile range of funding mechanisms, including:

##### **27.12.1 Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):**

Collaborating with the private sector to finance and execute infrastructure projects.

##### **27.12.2 Municipal Bonds:**

Issuing municipal bonds to raise funds for town planning initiatives.

##### **27.12.3 Foreign Investment:**

Attracting foreign investments to fuel sustainable urban and rural development projects.

##### **27.12.4 Local Taxes:**

Leveraging local taxes to finance town planning projects and infrastructure.

##### **27.12.5 Land Value Capture:**

Implementing mechanisms to capture a portion of the increased land value resulting from improved planning and infrastructure.

##### **27.12.6 Establishment of Development Authorities and Investment Funds:**

We are poised to create dedicated entities to mobilize funds and oversee urban and rural development projects.

##### **27.12.7 Green Financing and Crowdsourcing:**

Innovation is at the heart of our financing strategy. We aim to explore innovative funding options such as green financing and actively involve communities through crowdsourcing for specific projects.



## 28. Climate Change - A silent Killer

PTI's Climate Change Policy for industry typically focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon emissions, to mitigate the impact of climate change. We shall engage with industry representatives, environmental experts, and local communities to develop and implement climate policies collaboratively. To achieve our goals we shall invest in workforce training and education to build the capacity to implement and manage climate policies effectively.

### 28.1 Directions and Policy Implications

In the context of Pakistan, addressing climate change in the industrial sector requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the country's unique challenges and opportunities. PTI intends to set clear direction, policies, implementation plans, monitoring strategies, and incentives that will set us on the path to confront these challenges effectively.

### 28.2 Renewable Energy Transition

Climate change policies for industry shall be diverse and tailored to the specific challenges and opportunities within each sector. They aim to reduce carbon emissions, encourage sustainable practices, and drive innovation in cleaner technologies.

### 28.3 Technology Adoption

PTI pledges to promote the adoption of energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies in industries through research and development grants and technology transfer programs.

### 28.4 Carbon Pricing

We will consider implementing a carbon tax or cap-and-trade system to put a price on carbon emissions, providing a financial incentive for industries to reduce their emissions.

### 28.5 Energy Production

The energy sector, especially fossil fuel-based energy production, is a major contributor to carbon emissions. Transitioning to cleaner energy sources is crucial. PTI will encourage industries to shift to renewable energy sources like solar and wind power by providing incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies for renewable energy installations.

### 28.6 Energy Efficiency Standards

Heavy industries like cement, steel, and chemicals are carbon-intensive. We shall aim to reduce emissions through cleaner production processes. Develop and enforce energy efficiency standards and provide incentives for industries, including manufacturing and textiles, to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.



## **28.7 Implementation Plans**

### **28.7.1 Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building**

We shall engage with industry representatives, environmental experts, and local communities to develop and implement climate policies collaboratively. We recognize the importance of investing in workforce training and education to build the capacity to implement and manage climate policies effectively.

### **28.7.2 Regulatory Framework and Funding Mechanisms**

PTI shall develop a comprehensive regulatory framework that outlines emission reduction targets, reporting requirements, and penalties for non-compliance. We shall in order to facilitate this establish funds or grants to support industries in implementing cleaner technologies and practices.

### **28.7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation through Independent Audits**

Emissions Reporting: Require industries to report their carbon emissions regularly. Implement a transparent and standardized reporting system. To ensure that this is effective independent audits shall be conducted to verify emissions data and compliance with regulations.

### **28.7.4 Environmental Impact Assessments**

We shall ensure that major industrial projects undergo thorough environmental impact assessments to evaluate their carbon footprint and potential mitigation measures.

### **28.7.5 Industrial Impact**

PTI's Climate change policies for industry shall be diverse and tailored to the specific challenges and opportunities within each sector. They shall aim to reduce carbon emissions, encourage sustainable practices, and drive innovation in cleaner technologies.

### **28.7.6 Energy Production**

The energy sector, especially fossil fuel-based energy production, is a major contributor to carbon emissions. We will facilitate the crucial transition to cleaner energy sources.

### **28.7.7 Transportation**

The transportation sector, including cars, trucks, ships, and airplanes, is a significant source of carbon emissions. Our policies shall target fuel efficiency and the promotion of electric vehicles. Details of which are provided in the Transport section of the manifesto.

### **28.7.8 Manufacturing**

Heavy industries like cement, steel, and chemicals are carbon-intensive. Policies and their proper implementation through technology and effective monitoring will be implemented to reduce emissions through cleaner production processes.



### **28.7.9 Agriculture**

Agriculture contributes to emissions through activities like livestock farming and deforestation. Policies will encourage sustainable farming practices, utilization of clean energy and reforestation.

### **28.7.10 Buildings**

Energy-efficient building codes shall be improved and implemented. PTI shall as a priority give attractive incentives for Manufacturers, Builders, Developers and Contractors for green construction.

### **28.7.11 Waste Management**

Emissions can result from landfill waste decomposition. Policies will promote recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy technologies. The private sector shall be facilitated and given incentives to play an effective role in this process.

### **28.7.12 Aviation and Shipping**

International transport industries, such as aviation and shipping, have significant emissions. We shall ensure the implementation of International agreements like the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) initiatives to address these emissions.

### **28.7.13 Monitoring**

PTI believes that effective policy implementation and monitoring are crucial to achieving climate goals in Pakistan's industrial sector. We shall regularly assess progress, adjust policies as needed, and ensure transparency in reporting and compliance. Additionally, PTI shall engage with international organizations and seek assistance in funding and technical expertise to support these initiatives.

## **28.8 Incentives**

### **28.8.1 Public-Private Partnerships**

PTI will open avenues of collaboration with private sector organizations on climate projects and provide incentives for such partnerships.

### **28.8.2 Tax Benefits**

Offer tax incentives for industries that reduce their carbon emissions significantly or invest in clean energy projects.

### **28.8.3 Financial Support**

Provide low-interest loans or grants to support green technology adoption and energy efficiency improvements.

### **28.8.4 Recognition and Awards**

Establish awards and recognition programs to acknowledge industries that excel in reducing their carbon footprint.



### **28.8.5 Research and Development Grants**

Allocate funds for research and development projects focused on climate-friendly industrial innovations.

### **28.8.6 Carbon Credits**

Enable industries to participate in carbon credit markets, allowing them to earn revenue by reducing emissions below mandated levels.

## **28.9 Special Initiative - Deployment of 500MW to 1GW by 2028**

Pakistan can attract private sector investments, create jobs, reduce reliance on imported energy equipment, and increase access to clean and distributed power in remote regions while achieving its renewable energy deployment goals. PTI plans to identify and develop multiple sites in phases at suitable locations across Pakistan.

### **28.9.1 Subsidized Tariff**

Offer a subsidized tariff for renewable energy projects in Baluchistan, Sind, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, GB and AJK for an initial period of 10 years. This incentivizes private sector investment in these regions and structures the tariff to cover a significant portion of project costs during the initial years to attract investors.

### **28.9.2 Regulatory Framework**

Establish clear and investor-friendly regulations for renewable energy projects to ensure they benefit from the subsidized tariff scheme.

### **28.9.3 Monitoring and Compliance**

Implement a robust monitoring and compliance system to ensure that projects meet their deployment targets and adhere to subsidy conditions. Encourage public-private partnerships to accelerate project development and leverage government resources effectively.

### **28.9.4 Grid Integration**

Invest in grid infrastructure to integrate the new renewable energy capacity into the national grid seamlessly.

### **28.9.5 Local Community Involvement**

We shall involve local communities in the projects, ensuring they benefit from employment opportunities and other social and economic advantages.

### **28.9.6 Local Wind Turbine and Hydro Manufacturing Facilities**

PTI will prioritize establishing by identifying suitable locations particularly within Baluchistan and Sind for wind turbine manufacturing facilities. We shall estimate capital expenditure for construction



and ongoing expenditure, promote technology transfer agreements, identify funding sources and involve the private sector effectively.

#### **28.9.7 Establish Micro/Run-of-the-River Hydro Manufacturing**

Identify suitable locations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, GB, and AJK for micro hydro turbine manufacturing facilities. Estimate Capital and Operating Expenditure for construction and ongoing operations and promote technology transfer agreements.

#### **28.9.8 Local Workforce Development**

We shall invest in training and skill development programs to build a skilled local workforce capable of operating and maintaining the manufacturing facilities.