

## Islamic Republic of Pakistan

### 1. *Industrial Strategy (including objectives/goals)*

Pakistan's industrial policy has the following key objectives:

- Stimulate economic growth by boosting the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP
- Enhance productivity and efficiency in various sectors
- Create employment opportunities, particularly in manufacturing and technology-driven sectors
- Increase the share of exports in the national economy by enhancing the competitiveness of local industries. This includes improving product quality, adapting to international standards, and exploring new markets
- Encourage the adoption of modern technologies and practices to improve productivity and innovation. This includes support for research and development (R&D) initiatives
- Promote balanced regional development by encouraging industries to set up operations in less developed areas through incentives and infrastructure development
- Create an industrial base that is environmentally sustainable and inclusive, benefiting various segments of society, including women and marginalized communities
- Enhance local value addition in primary sectors (like agriculture) to reduce import dependence and increase export potential

Pakistan's Strategic Trade Policy Framework is based on the following key pillars:

- Establishing exports as a national priority and the central driver of economic growth, ensuring that this growth is both inclusive and sustainable, and serves as a crucial source of foreign exchange
- Boosting exports through a coordinated national effort that involves all relevant ministries, departments, government agencies, and the private sector, aimed at achieving policy consistency
- Implementing strategic measures in priority sectors as part of the 'Make in Pakistan' initiative, with specific actions outlined in the Action Matrices
- Ensuring that the trade policy is aligned with the macroeconomic framework and other national policies, including those related to taxation, revenue, textiles, and industrial policy
- Encouraging collaboration between the government and the private sector through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), to facilitate investment, improve infrastructure and enhance innovation.
- Attracting Foreign Direct investment (FDI) through policy incentives, streamlined regulations, and establishment of Special Economic Zones.

- Prioritizing sectors such as textiles, automotive, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and agro-based industries. These sectors were identified based on their potential for growth, exportability, and job creation.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. **Digital (Development) Strategy**

Digital Pakistan Policy aims to enhance the knowledge-based economy and drive socio-economic development.<sup>2</sup> The policy has the following main objectives:

- Establish a unified and comprehensive digital strategy
- Sectoral digitalization
- E/M-Commerce Growth
- Create sustainable opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship among the tech-savvy youth.
- Launch digital skills programs and collaborate with international partners to enhance innovation.
- Establish incubation centers in major cities to support IT startups.
- Boosting software exports and domestic market
- Promote digital inclusion
- Advance e-governance
- Attracting investment

## 3. **Main Constitutional Provisions**

Article 18 of the Constitution of Pakistan emphasizes the promotion of industry and commerce as a means to enhance economic development. The state is tasked with creating an environment conducive to industrial growth.

## 4. **Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments**

- Prevention of Electronic Crime Ordinance 2009
- Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016
- Cybersecurity Law 2016
- Information Technology Act 2002
- Electronic Transactions Ordinance 2002

Policy developments that regulate industrial activities include:

- Cybersecurity Policy 2021: aims to establish a secure, resilient, and continuously evolving digital ecosystem that guarantees the confidentiality, integrity, and

---

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Commerce, *Strategic Trade Policy Framework* <<https://www.commerce.gov.pk/strategic-trade-policy-framework/>> accessed 12 September 2024; see Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, *Pakistan Vision 2025* <<https://www.pc.gov.pk/>> accessed 12 September 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, *Digital Pakistan Policy* <<https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/ZTA5MTI4ZWUtMzdhMS00ZDRhLWE0YmUtZjJjNTlhYTdjNzdl>> accessed 13 September 2024.

availability of digital assets, promoting socio-economic growth and national security.<sup>3</sup>

- Digital Pakistan Policy 2021: aims to promote digital transformation across various sectors, including e-governance, digital economy, and technology-driven services.<sup>4</sup>
- Investment Policy 2023: provides tax incentives for high-tech industries and foreign investment.
- Broadband Policy 2013: The policy aims to expand affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband internet service in both commercial and residential sectors throughout Pakistan.<sup>5</sup>
- Pakistan Cloud First Policy 2021: The policy aims to encourage investment in cloud services by local and international service providers and to foster a digital entrepreneurship ecosystem by providing readily available cloud services.<sup>6</sup>
- Start-Up Ecosystem Initiatives: The government has launched initiatives to foster a start-up ecosystem, including funding programs and technology transfer initiatives to support innovation.<sup>7</sup>

## 5. *(Regional) Economic Treaties to Which the State is a Signatory*

Pakistan is a signatory to several regional economic treaties.<sup>8</sup>

## 6. *Plurilaterals*

Pakistan is a part of the following plurilaterals:

- South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)
- South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA)
- Protocol on Trade Negotiations (PTN)
- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP)<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Information, Technology and Telecommunication, *Cybersecurity Policy 2021* <<https://moitt.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/National%20Cyber%20Security%20Policy%202021%20Final.pdf>> accessed 12 September 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Information, Technology and Telecommunication, *Digital Pakistan Policy* <<https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/ZTA5MTI4ZWUtMzdhdMS00ZDRhLWE0YmUtZjJjNTNhYTdjNzdl>> accessed 12 September 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Information, Technology and Telecommunication, *Broadband Policy 2013* <<https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/ZTA5MTI4ZWUtMzdhdMS00ZDRhLWE0YmUtZjJjNTNhYTdjNzdl>> accessed 12 September 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Information, Technology and Telecommunication, *Pakistan Cloud First Policy* <<https://moitt.gov.pk/Detail/ZTA5MTI4ZWUtMzdhdMS00ZDRhLWE0YmUtZjJjNTNhYTdjNzdl>> accessed 12 September 2024.

<sup>7</sup> 'Ecosystem | Startup Punjab' <<https://startup.punjab.gov.pk/ecosystem>> accessed 13 September 2024.

<sup>8</sup> 'WTO | Regional Trade Agreements' <<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>> accessed 16 September 2024.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*

**7. *Proceedings initiated against the state, or by it, before international fora for the adoption/implementation of industrial policy measures (e.g., before WTO panels, the WTO's AB)***

- *DS36 - United States Against Pakistan (patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical Products)*<sup>10</sup>

Amna Zaman (Last updated 10 February 2025)

---

---

<sup>10</sup> 'WTO | Dispute Settlement - Map of Disputes between WTO Members' <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/dispu\\_maps\\_e.htm?country\\_selected=PAK&sense=e](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_maps_e.htm?country_selected=PAK&sense=e)> accessed 15 September 2024.