

# PAKISTAN

## TRADE SUMMARY

The U.S. goods trade deficit with Pakistan was \$1.9 billion in 2006, a decrease of \$78 million from \$2.0 billion in 2005. U.S. goods exports in 2006 were \$1.9 billion, up 51.6 percent from the previous year. Corresponding U.S. imports from Pakistan were \$3.8 billion, up 17.5 percent. Pakistan is currently the 54<sup>th</sup> largest export market for U.S. goods.

The stock of U.S. foreign direct investment in Pakistan in 2005 was \$1.1 billion (latest data available), up from \$945 million in 2004.

## IMPORT POLICIES

Since 1998, Pakistan has progressively and substantially reduced tariffs and liberalized imports. This effort culminated in June 2002 with the establishment of four maximum import tariff bands of 5 percent, 10 percent, 20 percent and 25 percent. Generally, Pakistan's applied tariffs are below World Trade Organization (WTO)-bound commitments, with its simple average applied tariff at 16.5 percent.

In 2005, Pakistan further reduced duties on imported automobiles to between 50 percent and 75 percent from the previous range of 75 percent to 150 percent. It imposed a 55 percent duty on imported automotive parts that are also manufactured domestically and a 35 percent duty on those automotive parts that Pakistan does not manufacture domestically. Pakistan also further reduced duties on instant print film and instant print cameras to 5 percent from the prior 30 percent to 200 percent range in order to eliminate incentives for smuggling. In its 2006-2007 budget the government eliminated custom duties on agricultural tractors. U.S.-made textile products may be imported into Pakistan, although the tariff on certain synthetic fibers (scheduled to expire in 2008) remains relatively high.

Pakistan continues to ban the import of 30 items, mostly on religious, environmental, security and health grounds. Pakistan also allows only 1073 items to be imported from India, including 300 items that were added to the list in 2006. Pakistan says further opening of trade with India is contingent upon progress the status of Kashmir.

The government of Pakistan reserves the right to grant sector-specific duty exemptions, concessions, and protections under Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs). The government in 2006 exempted all domestically-produced and imported pharmaceutical-related inputs from its General Sales Tax. An SRO issued in August 2002 excepted the following items from the value-added tax: imported filled infusion solution bags; scrubs, detergents and washing preparations; soft soap or no-soap soap; adhesive plaster; surgical tapes; liquid paraffin; disinfectants; cosmetics and toilet preparations; and absorbent cotton wool. In recent years, the use of SROs has decreased. SROs and other trade policy and regulatory documents are published on the Central Board of Revenues website, [www.cbr.gov.pk](http://www.cbr.gov.pk).

In January 2000, the Pakistani government began implementing a transactional valuation system, under which 99 percent of import valuation is based on invoice value, in accordance with the WTO's Customs Valuation Agreement. Currently, about 90 percent to 95 percent of imports are assessed duties pursuant to the transactional valuation system, including Pakistan's major imports such as industrial and power equipment, petroleum and petroleum products, and chemicals. A number of traders in food and nonfood

## FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS

consumer products, however, report the system is not uniformly applied. These products account for close to 4 percent to 5 percent of Pakistan's imports.

A U.S. freight forwarding company reported in 2005 that Pakistan imposed a new SRO requiring that the commercial invoice and the packing list be included inside a container. The SRO is still legally valid but is not being enforced due to practical difficulties. The inclusion of invoice and packing lists is difficult in situations when shipments originate from a location that is different from where the invoice and packing list are created; when, for security, invoices are created after the shipment departs; or, when several companies are involved.

## **STANDARDS, TESTING, LABELING, AND CERTIFICATION**

The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) is the national standards body. As of June 30, 2006 (the end of Pakistan's fiscal year 06), PSQCA had established over 22,000 standards (including 15,500 ISO standards) for agriculture, food, chemicals, civil and mechanical engineering, electronics, weights and measures, and textile products. Current estimates indicate that there are 24 certification bodies operating in Pakistan and close to 3000 enterprises have been issued ISO 9000 certificates. All the certification bodies operating in Pakistan are foreign-based. U.S. industry contends that inconsistent application of standards occasionally results in discrimination against U.S. agricultural products. Generally, however, U.S. exporters have not reported significant problems due to the application of sanitary, phytosanitary, or environmental standards. Pakistan allows the import of U.S. products that meet U.S. standards in cases where there are no Pakistani standards or where the Pakistani standards do not conflict with the U.S. standards. As a result, Pakistan allows the import of the most U.S. products that meet U.S. standards. In addition, some Pakistani standards are based on U.S. standards.

The government of Pakistan approved biosafety guidelines and rules in April 2005 and also approved an action plan to implement these guidelines. As part of the action plan, the government has established a National Biosafety Committee within the Environment Ministry. The Committee has the mandate to approve applications and register biotechnology products. Currently there are no restrictions on importing genetically modified products from the United States as long as they meet U.S. standards.

## **GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

Pakistan is not a signatory to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement. Government contracts are often awarded through publicly issued tender notices or are issued to registered suppliers. The government established the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority in May 2002 in order to strengthen procurement practices. The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority is an autonomous body responsible for prescribing regulations and procedures for public procurement by public sector entities and for monitoring procurement by such organizations. In 2004, the Authority enacted a regulatory framework for public procurement which was to establish transparent public procurement practices. Pursuant to the 2004 Regulatory Framework, international tender notices now are publicly advertised and sole source contracting using company-specific qualifications has been eliminated. There are no official "buy national" policies. More time will be needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes made to improve public procurement neutrality and transparency.

Political influence on procurement decisions, charges of official corruption, and long delays in bureaucratic decision-making have been common. Suppliers have reported instances when the government used the lowest bid as a basis for further negotiations, rather than accepting the lowest bid under its tender rules. The Pakistani government does not invite tenders from private-sector companies

## **FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS**

for the transportation of crude oil and requires all transport of crude oil to be conducted by the state-owned Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

## **EXPORT SUBSIDIES**

Pakistan actively promotes the export of Pakistani goods with measures such as tariff concessions on imported inputs and income and sales tax concessions. Subsidies in FY2006 were confined mostly to wheat and totaled roughly \$15.9 million, according to government sources. The government also provides freight subsidies to some products and these subsidies totaled close to \$18.3 million in FY 2006. Pakistan established its first Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Karachi in 1989, with special fiscal and institutional incentives available to encourage the establishment of exclusively export-oriented industries. The government subsequently established additional EPZs in Risalpur, Gujranwala, and Sialkot in Punjab Province, and Saindak and Duddar in Balochistan Province. Principal government incentives for EPZ investors include an exemption from all federal, provincial, and municipal taxes for production dedicated to exports; exemption from all taxes and duties on equipment, machinery, and materials (including components, spare parts and packing material); indefinite loss carry-forward; and access to Export Processing Zone Authority "One Window" services, including facilitated issuance of import permits and export authorizations.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) PROTECTION**

The government of Pakistan continued to take noticeable steps during 2006 to improve copyright enforcement, especially with respect to optical disc piracy. Nevertheless, Pakistan does not provide adequate protection of all intellectual property. Book piracy, weak trademark enforcement, lack of data protection for proprietary pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical test data, and problems with Pakistan's pharmaceutical patent protection remain serious barriers to trade and investment. The U.S. Government placed Pakistan on the Special 301 Watch List from 1989 to 2003 due to widespread piracy, and continuing IPR violations prompted the U.S. Government to place Pakistan on the Special 301 Priority Watch List in 2004 and 2005. In early 2005, Pakistan was among the world's leading producers of pirated optical discs and other copyrighted material. However, Pakistan took significant steps to shut down optical disc production and exports of pirated optical discs over the last two years. In April 2006, in recognition of the government of Pakistan's efforts, USTR lowered Pakistan from the Special 301 Priority Watch List to the Watch List. This was based, in part, on the closure of numerous pirate optical disc factories and improved centralization of enforcement efforts through the creation of the Intellectual Property Rights Organization (IPO) (see below). In 2006, Pakistan committed to formalize a system to prevent marketing approval of unauthorized copies of drugs and it pledged to provide safeguards to protect test and other data submitted by pharmaceutical companies seeking marketing approval for their products.

The government of Pakistan has identified intellectual property protection as a key area for its second generation economic reforms. Pakistan has enacted five major new laws relating to patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs and layout designs for integrated circuits in the past few years, but their impact has been limited by weaknesses in the legislation and/or enforcement.

In 2005, measures were implemented that, if sustained, could lead to improvement in several longstanding IP problem areas. In August 2005, in response to longstanding domestic and international criticism of Pakistan's lack of a central IPR regulatory and enforcement authority, as well as the need to implement its obligations under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Pakistan's President created the IPO of Pakistan. The IPO, an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Government's Cabinet Division, consolidates into one body authority

## **FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS**

over trademarks, patents, and copyrights -- areas that were previously handled by three separate ministries. The IPO is beginning to monitor the enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights through cooperation with law enforcement agencies, in addition to dealing with other IPR related issues. While establishment of the IPO represents an important milestone, its success will be gauged by measurable results in terms of increased public awareness of intellectual property rights, stepped-up enforcement, and prompt action to address specific legislative and policy weaknesses.

In August 2005, in an effort to improve the protection of intellectual property within Pakistan, the government of Pakistan transferred interagency responsibility for the enforcement of intellectual property laws to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). FIA staff has received specialized training in intellectual property enforcement and associated technological tools, which has enabled the agency to expand enforcement operations to target manufacturers of pirated goods. Key challenges ahead will be to expand manpower and increase training at the FIA, in particular the planned establishment of a dedicated IP enforcement unit.

Pakistan is a party to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In July 2004, Pakistan acceded to the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property. Pakistan has not yet ratified the WIPO Copyright Treaty nor the WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty. A draft law concerning plant breeders' rights that had not moved forward for the past two years is now close to approval because in 2006 the government of Pakistan obtained the approval of three of Pakistan's four provincial governments to introduce such a law (the approval of two or more provincial governments was required). Administrative formalities are expected to take 6 months to 12 months before the law is officially enacted.

### **Patents**

Pakistan enacted a patent law in 2000 that protects both process patents and product patents in accordance with its WTO obligations. Under this law, both the patent owner and licensees can file suit against those who infringe patent rights. Unfortunately, a Patent Ordinance passed in 2002 weakened the 2000 law by eliminating use patents, restricting patent filings to single chemical entities, limiting protection for derivatives, and introducing barriers to patenting biotechnology-based inventions. This generated great concern among U.S. pharmaceutical firms seeking to sell patented drugs in Pakistan.

Pakistan does not adequately protect against unfair commercial use of test or other data. The Pakistani government has authorized the sale of pharmaceuticals without requiring checks confirming that another firm does not hold an active patent on the compound. Although courts have issued injunctions against firms licensed by the Ministry of Health that sell drugs in violation of patent holder rights, such orders are not consistently enforced. Patent theft is exacerbated by the fact that it often takes one or two years to register drugs in Pakistan. As part of the registration process, the government also sets prices -- often at levels that do not reflect the cost of developing the product.

### **Trademarks**

In 2000, Pakistan developed its Trademarks Ordinance, which provided for the registration and better protection of trademarks and for the prevention of the use of fraudulent marks. Implementing rules were enacted in April 2004 to enforce this Ordinance. The government has eliminated the requirement that generic names be given at least equal prominence to the brand name. Trademark infringement, however, remains widespread.

## **FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS**

## **Copyrights**

According to the International Intellectual Property Association, copyright piracy rates in 2005 in Pakistan remained at high levels for records, music and business software (no figures were available for motion pictures, entertainment software, or published books). Until recently, Pakistan had been a major exporter of pirated optical discs.

Pakistan significantly intensified enforcement activity against pirated optical discs in 2005 and 2006. In May 2005, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) raided and closed six major illegal disc plants outside of Karachi. In June 2006, the FIA raided the first major CDR (compact disc read-only) duplication facilities in Lahore that led to the seizure of 273 CDR burners from a private apartment. More than 22,000 pirated CDRs were confiscated, and two brothers who ran a CD shop in Lahore were arrested. Additional raids on other production facilities continued throughout the year resulting in 27 registered cases, 34 arrests and over one million pirated CDs and DVDs being confiscated through October of 2006. All those arrested have been released on bail and their cases are pending before Pakistani courts. These raids correspond with anecdotal reports of fewer pirated copyright goods available in the markets of Pakistan. Book and business software piracy still remain serious problems.

## **SERVICES BARRIERS**

Pakistan generally permits foreign investment in services, subject to certain provisions, including a minimum initial capital investment of \$150,000 for most sectors except banking. Changes in 2000 to the government's investment policy permitted foreign investors to hold up to a 100 percent equity stake and allowed 100 percent repatriation of profits in most sectors. The \$300,000 minimum initial capital investment requirement in the services sector was also reduced and the requirement that foreign investors accumulate 40 percent local equity within five years of initial investment was eliminated. The cap on repatriation of profits at a maximum of 60 percent of total equity or profits was also abolished. Foreign investors in services and other non-manufacturing sectors (including international food franchises) are allowed to remit royalties and technical fees, subject to certain conditions. In information technology services, including software development, foreign investors are not subject to the requirements for minimum initial investment.

## **Telecommunications**

In July 2003, the Pakistani government announced it was deregulating the telecommunications sector in order to comply with its WTO commitments and encourage growth in the sector. Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) lost its monopoly on basic telephone services and the government issued 14 licenses to long distance telephone companies (12 of which have commenced operations), 72 licenses to local loop regional telephone companies (four of which are operating) and 92 licenses to wireless local loop companies (four of which are operating). In early 2005, the government of Pakistan invited international bids on a 26 percent stake, along with management control, in PTCL. Etisalat, a UAE-based company, was named the winning bidder in July 2005. The ability of telecommunications companies to operate in Pakistan will continue to depend on access to PTCL infrastructure, however. In 2005-06 the government combined 15 value-added services including Internet service provision (ISP), vehicle tracking system, and data network operations into one license, the Class Value Added (CVA) license. The government gave those who applied prior to announcement of this policy the option either to continue their old licenses or convert to CVA licenses. To date the government has issued 56 new CVA licenses and converted 71 old licenses to CVAs. At present, the government does not issue licenses specifically for Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP), but long distance telephone license holders may also provide VoIP services. Competition among service providers is already allowed

## **FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS**

in cellular telephony. The government of Pakistan permits 100 percent foreign equity in most telecommunications services, including mobile phone services, pre-paid telephone services, paging services, and voice mail services.

### **Limitation on Foreign Films**

The government of Pakistan prohibits the importation of films that are deemed inconsistent with local religious and cultural standards. Films from neighboring India are routinely denied entry via cable transmission or video/digital media, but are widely available in pirated form.

### **Banking and Insurance**

Pakistan improved its financial services commitments in the WTO Financial Services Agreement in December 1997. These commitments grant foreign firms the right to establish new banks as well as grandfathering acquired rights of established foreign banks and foreign securities firms. Foreign banks are permitted to open banking companies via the establishment of branches as well as wholly owned, locally incorporated subsidiaries subject to the condition that they have a global tier-1 paid up capital of \$5 billion or more or they belong to countries which are part of regional groups and associations of which Pakistan is a member (e.g., the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) or the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)). Foreign banks not meeting these conditions are capped at a 49 percent equity stake with a mandatory 51 percent local ownership. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan's central bank, has changed its branch licensing policy and has eliminated restrictions on the number of branches foreign banks may have. Currently, foreign banks, like local banks, have to submit an annual branch expansion plan to the SBP for approval. The SBP approves new branch openings based on the bank's net worth, adequacy of its capital structure, future earning prospects, credit disciplines, and the needs of the local population.

Foreign brokers, like their Pakistani counterparts, must register with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Over the past several years, Pakistan has privatized the majority of its commercial banks (most of which previously had been nationalized). As of January 2006, 80 percent of the commercial banking sector was privately owned, and the government of Pakistan only retains an ownership stake in the National Bank of Pakistan, the nation's largest commercial bank.

The government has opened the insurance market as one of its financial sector reforms. Foreign investors are allowed to hold up to a 51 percent equity share of companies operating in the life and general insurance sectors. Foreign investors are also required to bring in a minimum of \$2 million in foreign capital and raise an equal amount of equity in the local market. There are no restrictions on the repatriation of profits and capital investment made in this sector can be repatriated with the permission of the SBP. Pakistan does not regulate insurance premiums. The government issued a new insurance law in 2000 that raised capital adequacy standards and enhanced policyholder protections. The government permits only the parastatal National Insurance Company to underwrite and insure public sector firms. Private sector firms must meet their reinsurance needs within the country. Firms may seek foreign reinsurance facilities only if domestic insurance companies cannot meet these needs. Market domination in the insurance sector may pose a significant barrier to entry, as the state-owned State Life Insurance Company holds over 76 percent of this market, although that number has been declining over the past several years. Five domestically-owned companies account for 78 percent of the general insurance (property, casualty, and health) market.

## **Other Services**

Foreign professionals may provide legal and engineering consultancy services with 100 percent equity participation. This reflects a 2004 change that eliminated the requirement that Pakistanis hold 40 percent local equity for five years and reduced the minimal capital requirement from \$300,000 to \$150,000. A legal consultant need not be licensed to practice law in Pakistan. Foreign lawyers, however, may not appear in court or otherwise formally litigate cases unless licensed, even if they work with local lawyers. The Islamabad-based Pakistan Bar Council licenses attorneys in Pakistan, and no *de jure* prohibition exists against the admission of foreign lawyers into the bar. Similarly, foreign doctors must, like their local counterparts, register with the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, and foreign engineers must register with the Pakistan Engineering Council, in order to practice their respective professions in Pakistan.

## **INVESTMENT BARRIERS**

### **Overall Framework**

Foreign investors are generally free to establish and own business enterprises in Pakistan, with the exception of five restricted areas: arms and munitions, high explosives, currency/mint operations, radioactive substances, and new non-industrial alcohol plants. While foreign ownership of agricultural investments may not exceed 60 percent, there are no ownership limits in other sectors of the economy except for Pakistan's foreign equity limits in banking and insurance (described above). There is no minimum investment requirement for manufacturing, a \$150,000 minimum foreign investment requirement in non-financial services, and a minimum investment requirement of \$300,000 in agriculture, infrastructure projects, and social services (such as education and health).

The government's investment policy allows for full repatriation of capital, capital gains, dividends, and profits with the approval of the SBP. No requirements exist for technology transfer. The law provides for expropriation only upon adequate compensation and it prohibits changes in benefits and incentives for the purpose of disadvantaging foreign investors.

To comply with its TRIMS obligations, Pakistan has eliminated all local content requirements including those in the automobile sector. The automobile sector was the only sector that was subject to the so-called deletion program mandating the use of domestic inputs. As of July 1, 2006, the deletion program for the automotive sector was replaced with the Tariff Based System (TBS). The TBS provides for the imposition of higher tariffs on imported automotive parts that are also manufactured domestically; likewise, it provides for lower tariffs on imported automotive parts that are not also manufactured in Pakistan.

### **Competition Policy and Privatization**

Although Pakistan has enacted a Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Ordinance, and established the Monopoly Control Authority (MCA), regulatory oversight suffers from resource constraints. Moreover, state-owned firms are exempt from the provisions of this law. Thus, in Pakistan, where state-owned firms dominate several sectors, competition regulation remains underdeveloped. At present, the MCA is engaged in finalizing a competition law with technical assistance from the World Bank. This will entail capacity building and creation of a new Competition Authority. The state-owned Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) retains control of power transmission and distribution throughout much of the country outside of Karachi and continues to be highly subsidized. In the financial year ending June 2006, the Privatization Commission privatized eight entities, including the Pakistan

## **FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS**

Telecommunication Company (PTCL); the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) and the United Bank Ltd (via an initial public offering). The amount earned through privatizations during this period totaled Rs.196 billion (\$3.2 billion), which is 356 percent higher than in the previous year. The sale of these major state assets has reduced the government's role in power and telecommunications. The state, however, continues to hold important equity stakes in the oil and gas, civil aviation, electric power and steel sectors. In FY2007, the government of Pakistan plans to privatize 26 companies including: Sui Northern Gas Company (Pakistan's largest gas company); Sui Southern Gas Company; Pakistan State Oil (PSO) (Pakistan's largest gasoline retailer); and Pakistan Petroleum, Ltd. The government has offered the global depository receipts of the Oil and Gas Development Company (Pakistan's largest energy exploration company) in the international securities markets.

On June 24, 2006 the Supreme Court of Pakistan declared the privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation (the country's largest steel mill) unconstitutional and illegal. The Privatization Commission has filed a review petition (i.e., an appeal) in response to the Supreme Court action. The Court decision may adversely impact the privatization process by casting doubt on whether the government will be able to fully carry out its ambitious privatization agenda. Nonetheless, the government's commitment to continued privatization of its holdings appears firm.

In an effort to create market competition in former monopoly sectors, the government of Pakistan has already issued licenses to long distance and local telephone operators, as well as to cellular and wireless local loop operators, ending PTCLs monopolies. It has licensed three private airlines to compete with state-owned Pakistan International Airlines. In retail food sales, the government has used pricing in its chain of several hundred Utility Stores to create price competition in essential foodstuffs such as flour, rice and lentils. However, market leaders in the cement and sugar industries are alleged to have formed cartels.

In late 2004, the United States and Pakistan launched negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which would provide U.S. investors in Pakistan with significant legal protections. While BIT negotiations continue, differences persist on issues of importance to the United States.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**

There are no trade restrictions, duties, or taxes on electronic commerce in Pakistan. Electronic commerce is, however, not well developed. In 2002, the Pakistani government enacted an Electronic Transactions Ordinance that adopted international standards and provided for the establishment of a certification authority. In 2005, one certification authority began functioning (as outlined in the ordinance) in the private sector. The government of Pakistan also established a certification authority in the public sector -- the Electronic Certification and Accreditation Council -- to meet governmental needs and is working actively on an electronic crimes bill. The government blocks certain websites that contain content which it deems as conflicting with Pakistani religious and cultural norms.

## **OTHER BARRIERS**

Businesses operating in Pakistan have repeatedly called for strengthening law and order. Corruption and a weak judicial system remain recurrent and substantial disincentives to investment. Pakistani laws targeting corruption include the 1947 Prevention of Corruption Act, the 1973 Efficiency and Discipline Rules, and most recently the 1999 National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance. Previously, the NAB, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and Provincial Anti-Corruption Departments shared official responsibility for combating corruption. In October 2002, Pakistan's cabinet approved a National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) that identified areas of pervasive corruption and recommended time-

## **FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS**



bound measures and reforms to combat corruption. The NACS also named the NAB as the sole anticorruption agency at the federal level.

Contract enforcement can be difficult for U.S. and other foreign investors in Pakistan. For example, a long-standing investment dispute between a major U.S. multinational company and a local partner has raised concerns about the sanctity of international arbitration awards regarding contracts between private parties. In June 2005, the Lahore Civil Court ruled in favor of the U.S. multinational company, upholding the original arbitration settlement. The local partner has exercised its right to file an appeal in the Lahore High Court, which is still pending.

In 2004, Pakistan's Cabinet approved the country's joining the 1958 New York Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards ("New York Convention"). Pakistan's Cabinet ratified the New York Convention on July 14, 2005 and conveyed the instrument of ratification to the United Nations Secretary General, who is the depository of such instruments. To implement the Convention, Pakistan issued an ordinance, valid for only 120 days, that has been re-promulgated three times. The government intends to continue renewing the ordinance until Parliament approves implementing legislation. Legislation to implement the Convention is currently with the National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament.

Pakistan's ranking in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index dropped from 129th out of 145 countries in 2004, to 144th out of 158 countries listed in 2005. Pakistan scored 2.1 points (on a scale of 0-10) on Transparency Corruption Perception Index in 2005.