

# Islamic Republic of PAKISTAN



Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication  
Government of Pakistan

Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22)

Anusha Rahman Khan (Candidate)

BDT - DIRECTOR OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU



## Vision

“To deliver on the implementation of development agenda with accelerated digitization, connecting the unconnected, digital inclusion and bridging digital gender divide through the power of technology.”



## Proudly Standing by The Union

Committed to serve the Union with vibrance and dedication in the evolving new era of technology.



# Vision Statement

## Anusha Rahman Khan

### Candidate for Director - BDT

The very nature of distributed and trans-national technologies delivering the 4th Industrial Revolution, and the need to address the changing needs of global telecommunications development has more than ever before necessitated a stronger state-industry-development sector nexus. The need for a stable cross industry and cross stakeholder partnerships to bring about inclusive information society benefits across the developing and developed world, has amplified the importance of organizations and fora like the ITU and particularly the Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT) to advance human development objectives.



However, the rapid change in technology, the nature of markets, business models and service delivery mechanisms for diverse categories of users, has necessitated the evolution and transformation in the legacy structure, working and hence the leadership of the Bureau. To truly “advance” the objectives the BDT now requires a diverse set of leadership competencies including policy making, regulation, and thought leadership on relevant socio-political and development matters with a particular focus on economic and commercial viability of the initiatives. Most importantly the capability to bring together coalitions and partnerships between a diverse range of inter-agency, government, social, development and industry stakeholders, would be vital for the vibrancy of the Bureau for eventual benefit of ITU stakeholders. With a unique mix of experience in the industry, legal practice, legislature and ultimately as Pakistan’s Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunications (2013-2018) with cross cutting major achievements, I have a firm belief that I can provide the sort of next generation leadership that the Bureau requires.

After my Master’s degree in Law (LL.M) from University College London, UK, specializing in Law and Economics of regulated industries, networks and markets, I had the chance of hands on working with the ICT industry globally which enabled a firm grasp of techno-commercial and legal issues relevant to the telecommunications industry. The practical experience fashioned my industry relevant approach to Law and Policy making for the ICT sectors in my later career, first as legislator and ultimately as the Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications where I initiated several programs that brought Pakistan closer to the international pace of growth in the ICT arena. During my tenure I undertook several policy and legislative initiatives to achieve the vision of “Digital Pakistan” and a knowledge-based society. During this period Pakistan witnessed the advent of 3G/4G/LTE technology and several successful rounds of transparent Spectrum auctions to sustain the mobile broadband growth taking the broadband market from around less than 3 million users in 2013 to more than 70 million in 2018 to 119 million in 2022 (54%). This initiative alone has contributed hugely to the economy to the tune of FDI of around USD 3 Billion and enablement of technical skill development, self-employment through e-commerce & entrepreneurship. The successful frequency spectrum auction policy resulted in ‘Spectrum for Mobile Broadband Award’ by the GSMA in 2015. I, likewise, spearheaded formulation of a totally revamped Telecom Sector Policy, 2015 to address emerging trends in the sector on both supply and demand side. It also included first ever comprehensive market-based regime for frequency spectrum availability to the telecoms market. The Telecom Policy work was acclaimed by the GSMA with “Government Leadership Award” for the Government of Pakistan in 2017. Due to apt policy interventions initiated during 2013 onwards, and response of the industry to those, the IT industry is amongst the top 5 net exporters of the country with the highest net exports in the services industries, rising from less than \$300m in 2012 to \$2.6Billion today. Over the last 5 years, IT export remittances have increased by 151% at CAGR of 20%, the highest growth rate in comparison with all other industries. It may also be noted that Pakistan is the 3rd most financially attractive location in the world for offshore services (according to A.T. Kearney’s Global Services Location Index) and ranks in top 2 in terms of Freelancing. Similarly, I formulated the “Digital Pakistan Policy, 2018” which to date is the governing policy document of the country in digital arena.

My strong belief in doctrine of universal right of the citizens to access the information with due protection of basic rights of citizens both online and offline formed the cornerstone of the first comprehensive Cyber Crime law in the country.

# Vision Statement Anusha Rahman Khan

## Candidate for Director - BDT

The Law was formulated after a landmark broad range consultation with all major local public and private sector stakeholders as well as major global industry players. I also pioneered the development of the country's first ever "Cyber Security Policy" employing customized version of best international practices on this critically important subject which has also been a major work stream of the CTO in the recent past.

The hallmark of my tenure as an ICT leader was the special focus accorded to development of technology entrepreneurship culture in Pakistan. A network of Technology incubators was setup across the country where diverse industry consortia won the management of these centers and innovation value chain. The model has been immensely successful to highlight the utility of inter-stakeholder working on commercial lines. Similarly, my initiative of building first ever purpose-built National IT Park through the collaboration with international development agencies gave me a truly symbiotic experience of channelizing international development assistance for the benefit of the ICT ecosystem in the developing world.

The flagship program for enabling socio economic opportunities for girls, women and persons with disabilities using ICTs, through provision of hard, soft and comprehensive skill development architecture in schools and Women Empowerment Centers in collaboration with Microsoft, not only trained tens of thousands of young women providing them with self-employment opportunities, it brought together wider collaboration from international institutions like UN-Women and global technology giant like Facebook. In recognition of this initiative and its impact, I was awarded "GEM - TECH 2015, Global Achiever Award" by ITU & UN Women. Besides technology related leadership evident from the various initiatives listed above, on the legislative front, during my 2008-2013 term in National Assembly of Pakistan, I served as the General Secretary of the Young Parliamentary Forum of the National Assembly and was also founding member of the Parliamentary Caucus against Corruption.

I have served as a Commissioner on the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development for two terms and my contributions to the Broadband Commission, across all sub tracks of Commission's work and its working groups throughout my tenure, were well recognized. Participation and contributions to E-commerce Work of UNCTAD as well as WSIS Review of the UNGA as well as annual contribution to the WSIS stocktaking fora of ITU have not only been recognized by these bodies, but they have also served the basis of further relevant multi-stakeholder work streams. Similarly, I have been an avid contributor to the Digital economy track events of the World Economic Forum including those held in New York as well as WEF annual event in Davos.

I am proud and humbled, that due to unrelenting, inclusive and all-encompassing effort of a capable team under my lead, Pakistan stands proud in today's ICT arena marked by rapid proliferation of ICT infrastructure and services. We pledged ourselves and delivered on the implementation of the development agenda- in particular, with respect to 'connecting the unconnected', 'digital inclusion' and 'bridging digital gender divide'. I believe that the answer to many of the problems and divides befalling all nations lies in collectively and systematically approaching socio-economic transformation through the power of technology. Now is the time to take the "Meaningful connectivity" slogan of the Bureau to the next level through transnational and trans industry partnerships. To measure role of ICTs in achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can serve as an appropriate metric. The professional strength gained through all the above evidence programs primarily delivered through industry collaboration and multi stakeholder participation as well as capabilities developed through participation and contribution at international fora, lead me to the firm belief that I am fully capable and ready to take the opportunity to lead the BDT into the future as an agile responsive organ of the ITU whereby all the membership of the ITU can benefit from the transformative policy guidance for inclusive and across the board socio-economic benefit of the global citizens.

**Anusha Rahman Khan**

Former Minister of State for Information Technology  
and Telecommunication of Pakistan



# Key Achievements and their Impact in Pakistan

## Broadband for Sustainable Development

Following the vision of “Digital Pakistan”, next Generation mobile technologies were deployed in 2014 through a transparent spectrum auction introducing 3G/4G services in Pakistan. As a result, the broadband users in Pakistan that stood at less than 3% in 2013 are over 54% in 2022. The total number of broadband subscribers in Pakistan are 119 million. There are a total of 195 million cellular subscribers, which has increased the teledensity to 88%. She was awarded “Spectrum for Mobile Broadband Award” in 2015 by GSMA on conducting a transparent spectrum auction in Pakistan.



Local Manufacturing of Mobile Phones Increased from  
**0.3 Million to 24.65 Million**  
Since 2016

**From Less than 3M to 119M**  
**Broadband Subscription**  
Since 2013

**Minimize Digital Divide by 2022**  
(Connecting every unconnected pocket of 100 population)



**12+ Tbps**  
of Internet Bandwidth

**88% Teledensity**  
(195 Million Cellular Subscribers)

**1,277 Educational Broadband Centers**  
**373 Community Broadband Centers**

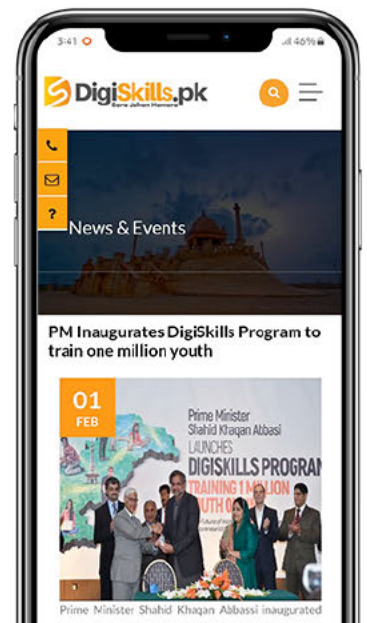
## Launch of “DigiSkills.pk”

In an effort to promote freelancing and trained skill development, “DigiSkills.pk” program was launched under her direction. This being the first large scale free online training program providing skill-based education, which has imparted more than 2.7 million trainings since 2018. As a result therefore, the number of freelancers crossed over 1 million, ranking Pakistan in top 2 in freelancing. “DigiSkills.pk” played a vital role in providing training to the youth of Pakistan in future of work using technology, and increase in software exports.

“DigiSkills.pk” has provided:

**2.7 MILLION**  
more trainings since 2018

Ranking Pakistan  
**2nd**  
Worldwide





# Key Achievements and their Impact in Pakistan

## Women Empowerment through ICTs ICT for Girls

To reach out to the marginalised segments, particularly women/girls, “ICT for Girls” program was launched which joined hands with different international women-oriented bodies to introduce the program for women/girls coming from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, looking to make an impact in IT-related industry and help increase their income. 226 schools in Islamabad reaching out to over 150,000 girls, and women at the Pakistan BaitulMal were the initial beneficiaries.



ICT for Girls Program led to Anusha Rahman being awarded “GEM - TECH Global Achievers Award, 2015” for her efforts to empower women/girls through technology.

Two United Nations organizations, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations Women, jointly awarded her in recognition of this work.



# Key Achievements and their Impact in Pakistan

## National Incubation Centers

Anusha Rahman pioneered the idea of startup incubation program in Pakistan, where incubation centers were set up in five provincial capitals and Islamabad. These incubation centers provide support to startups and companies annually in the form of co-working spaces, mentorship and coaching by top industry professionals, startups training, custom designed curriculum, commercialization, support network opportunities. Today \$455 million have been funded in start ups in Pakistan by private sector since 2016. These initiatives have made the digitization process faster for enablement of entrepreneurship and creating a knowledge based economy.

### LAHORE



### PESHAWAR



### KARACHI



### QUETTA



### ISLAMABAD





# Key Achievements and their Impact in Pakistan

## Soft Skills Development through “DigiSkills” Program

In an effort to promote freelancing and trained skill development, “DigiSkills.pk” program was launched under the direction and supervision of Anusha Rahman. This being the first large scale free online training program providing skill-based education, which has imparted more than 2.7 million trainings since 2018. As a result therefore, the number of freelancers standing around 200,000 in 2013 have crossed over 1 million today, ranking Pakistan in top 2 in freelancing. “DigiSkills.pk” played a vital role in providing training to the youth of Pakistan in the future of work using technology since inception.

Ranked 2nd Globally in Freelancing

2.7 Million Trainees to Benefit



## Infrastructure Development

### Telecommunication Policy - 2015

### Digital Pakistan Policy - 2018

#### Competition Rules

To maintain competitive and open telecommunications market, identification of significant market player and introduction of product markets for wholesale and retail services etc.

#### Broadband Proliferation

by facilitating and promoting fibre and wireless network rollout to connect the unconnected on a priority.

#### Spectrum Management

Includes rolling spectrum strategy, spectrum trading, spectrum sharing.

#### Facilitating Upcoming Technologies

IoT and 5G

#### Convergence

Data services.

#### Promote Innovation Entrepreneurship and Incubators /Startups in IT sector

Generate sustainable innovation, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for the country's rapidly growing technology savvy and entrepreneurial youth.

#### E - Commerce

Promote e-commerce by providing an enabling environment to Payment Service Providers (PSP) and Payment Service Operators (PSO).

#### Sectoral Digitalization

Promote the use of technology in education, health, agriculture and other key socio economic sectors.

#### Holistic Digital Strategy

Holistic Digital Strategy to create a digital ecosystem with infrastructure and institutional frameworks for delivery of innovative digital services, applications and content.

## Pakistan won GLOMO

"GSMA Government Leadership Award"



"Pakistan Telecommunication Policy, 2015" was recognized by GSMA, for provisioning availability of universal, affordable and quality telecommunication services through open, competitive and well-managed markets which nurture economy and benefit the society as a whole.



# Key Achievements and their Impact in Pakistan

## Establishment of Software Technology Parks and Tech Parks

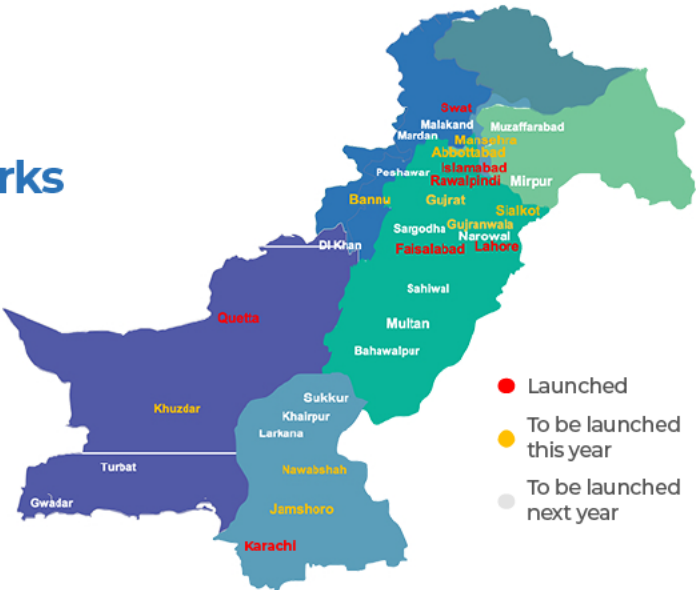
- Developing State of the Art Tech Parks in Islamabad and Karachi
- Building Space of 0.5 Million SqFt
- Accommodation capacity of 5000 IT professionals. Data Center, Incubation Center Business Centers & Support
- Tech Parks to be established in major cities.
- Transforming Pakistan as Regional IT Hub

## Software Technology Parks Initiatives

The Software Technology Parks across are becoming the key growth drivers of creating new companies in the secondary and tertiary cities, reaching a growth of 145% of new companies registrations recently in the smaller cities.

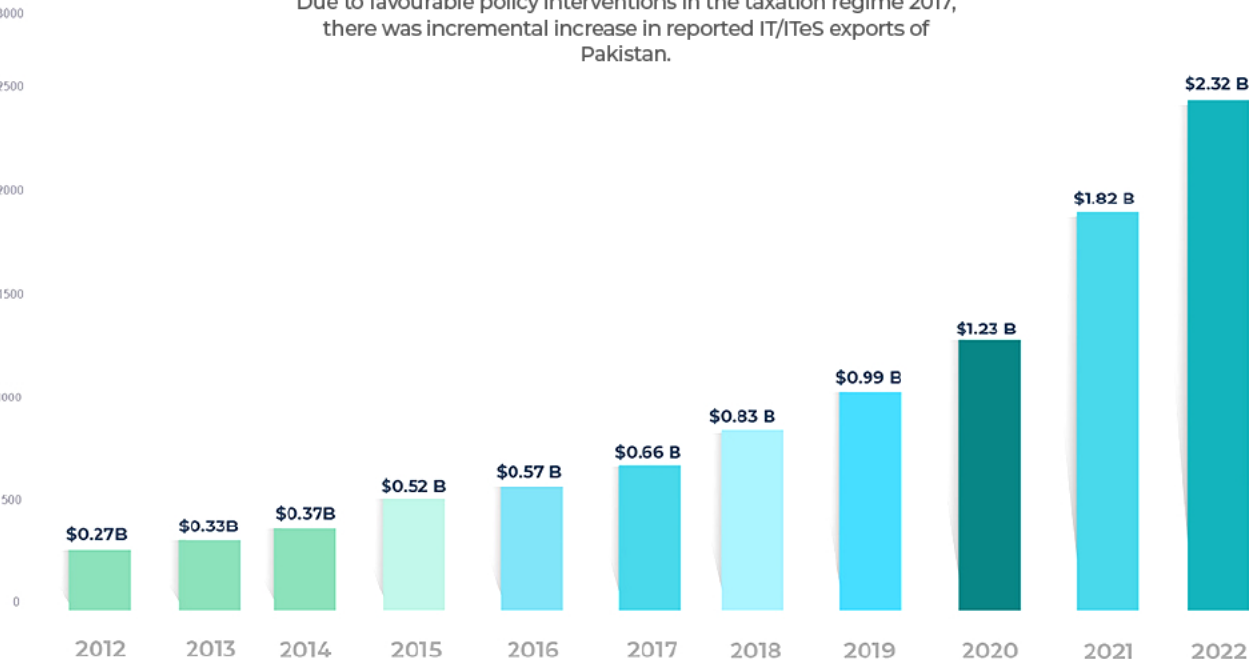
## What We Offer in Our STPs

- Subsidized Rent
- Availability of 26 Ready to Use State-of-the-art Infrastructures
- Transforming Pakistan as Regional IT Hub
- Subsidized Products and Services



## PSEB IT & ITes Remittances (Rising Growth Trend)

Due to favourable policy interventions in the taxation regime 2017, there was incremental increase in reported IT/ITes exports of Pakistan.



# **e-Governance and its Impact in Pakistan**

**Ministry of IT and Telecommunications  
was the Pioneer of e-Governance  
which in her tenure became  
the first ministry in the  
Federal Government to  
become paperless**

**E-Office Replication Suite was Rolled Out  
in the Federal Government which includes;**

**A E-Filing System**

**B Project Management**

**C Inventory & Procurement**

**D Human Resource Management**

**E Financial Planning & Budgeting**

**F Paperless Environment**

**Connectivity between Government  
Institutions Over Dedicated Metro Fiber  
Network**

