

REPORT

**22nd Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council
(Tehran, 9-11 July, 2012)**

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

The Regional Planning Council meets at least once a year and evolves basic strategies/policies and plans in accordance with the objectives and principles of regional cooperation laid down in the Treaty of Izmir, as well as policy guidelines and directives of the Council of Ministers.

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REPORT



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

REPORT
of
The 22nd Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council
(Tehran, 9 – 11 July, 2012)

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The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Report of the 22nd RPC Meeting **(Tehran, 9 – 11 July, 2011)**

The Twenty Second Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 9 – 11 July, 2012 in the Institute for Political & International Studies (IPIS), Tehran. Preparatory/Review meetings were held on the sidelines of the Meeting.

2. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the Member States, namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The delegation of ECO Secretariat, led by Secretary General His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, participated in the Meeting. The Representatives of the ECO's Regional Institutes and Specialized Agencies, including the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), the ECO Science Foundation (ESF), the ECO Educational Institute (EEI), the ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI), the ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI), the ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB), and the ECO Reinsurance Company (ECO-RC) attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at *Annex-I*.

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

3. The 22nd RPC Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his inaugural address, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh extended a warm welcome to all delegates for participation in this important meeting and expressed the hope that the outcome of this Meeting will significantly impact the preparatory work of the upcoming Summit. He acknowledged that RPC is the right place where well-prepared policies and well-organized follow-up actions would be crafted to put ECO projects on the right and accelerating track. In his assessment, the ECO is suffering from less than full solidarity, feasibility, visibility and viability. A copy of his statement is attached at *Annex-II*.

4. The ECO Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for their generous hospitality to the delegations of the 22nd RPC Meeting and making impeccable arrangements. He reviewed the main activities of the organization, the progress made in some of the areas during 2011 and the challenges that still lay ahead in others. He apprised the Meeting that ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) which envisages eight years trade liberalization programme is now in the implementation phase. He further shared that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has signed the Articles of Agreement on March 12, 2012 to join the ECO Trade & Development Bank and the Republic of Azerbaijan will also sign it soon.

5. He accentuated that after an inordinate delay of more than a decade, the two core regional institutions, ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad and ECO Educational

Institute in Ankara have become operational in December, 2011 and April, 2012 respectively. A copy of his statement is attached at *Annex-III*.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

6. As per practice, the head of delegation of the host country i.e. the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs, chaired the 22nd RPC Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Council adopted the following agenda:-

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
 - Inaugural statement by His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Statement by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statements by the Heads of Delegation of Member States, Turkish Northern Cypriot States and Heads of ECO Regional Institutes & Specialized Agencies
5. Reviewing progress of implementation of ECO's approved programmes of action and projects and consideration of the new programmes and projects for the year 2012 in the following areas:
 - Trade and Investment;
 - Transport & Communications;
 - Energy, Minerals and Environment;
 - Agriculture, Industry and Tourism;
 - Human Resources & Sustainable Development;
 - Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit
 - Projects and Economic Research & Statistics;
 - Inter-Regional ECO Activities:
 - i. ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies
 - ii. International Relations
6. Annual ECO Calendar of Events for 2012-2013
7. Any other business
8. Date and Venue of the next Meeting
9. Adoption of the Report
10. Vote of Thanks

Agenda Item No. 4

Statements by the Heads of Delegation

8. The Heads of Delegation from the Member States made statements, outlining their countries' policies and views on the programmes and activities of the Organization. The Representative of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered his statement. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are placed at ***Annex-IV&V***, respectively.

9. The Representatives of the Regional Institutions and ECO Specialized Agencies i.e. the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), the ECO Science Foundation (ESF), the ECO Educational Institute (EEI), the ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI), the ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI), the ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB), and the ECO Reinsurance Company (ECO-RC) delivered statements highlighting their activities and perspective for 2012. Copies of the statements are attached at ***Annex-VI***.

Agenda Item No. 5

Reviewing progress on implementation of ECO's approved programmes of action and projects and consideration of the new programmes and projects for the year 2012 in the following areas:

- Trade and Investment;
- Transport & Communications;
- Energy, Minerals and Environment;
- Agriculture, Industry and Tourism;
- Human Resources & Sustainable Development;
- Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit
- Projects and Economic Research & Statistics;
- Inter-Regional ECO Activities:
 - i. ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies
 - ii. International Relations

10. The sectoral preparatory/review meetings were presided over by representatives of different Member States as given below:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| (a) Trade and Investment | - | Dr. Ali Bat Khan, Chief, (International Trade & Finance Section), Planning and Development Division of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan |
| (b) Transport and Communications | - | Mrs. Tahereh Rezapour, Director General of International Affairs, Export of Engineering & Technical Services, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic of Iran |
| (c) Energy, Minerals & Environment | - | Dr. Vahid Gohari Sadr, Advisor to M.D.C Directorate of Overseas, Interconnection Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran |
| (d) Agriculture, Industry & Tourism | - | Mr. Selçuk Koç, Head of Department in Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey |

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| (e) Human Resources & Sustainable Development | - | H.E. Mr. Sherimkulov Medethan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Iran |
| (f) Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit | - | Coordinated by Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi, ECO Deputy Secretary General (EME, HRSD & Admn) |
| (g) Project and Economic Research & Statistics | - | H.E. Mr. Shir Mohammad Jamizada, Deputy Minister of Economy for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan |
| (h) Inter Regional ECO activities: | - | Mr. Sayed Malouk Fakhr, Director of Regional Cooperation, Economic Directorate General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan |
| (i) ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies and | | |
| (ii) International Relations | | |

11. The Preparatory Committees of the Council reviewed the progress on the implementation of the decision of 21st RPC Meeting and Calendar of Events for the year 2011. The Committees also deliberated in detail the programmes and proposals for 2012-2013 contained in the Working Papers prepared by the ECO Secretariat. The Council appreciated the work of the Preparatory Committees as well as the ECO Secretariat and approved the programmes, projects and Calendar of Events 2012-2013 proposed by the Committees. A brief resume, covering the main areas of activity, is given below:

(a) Trade and Investment

12. The Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the 4th Ministerial Meeting of Finance and Economy in 2012 and requested the Member States to confirm their participation in the Meeting in due course and at the highest level.

13. The Council thanked Kyrgyz Republic for showing its interest to host the 2nd EGM on Corruption and Money Laundering and requested the Kyrgyz Republic to convey the exact dates of the meeting and also requested the Member States to confirm their participation in the event. The Member States who did not do so are requested to convey views/ comments on the Draft Plan of Action on Combating Corruption and Money Laundering.

14. The Council requested the Member States who did not do so to send their views/comments on the Draft Multilateral Treaty on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administration Assistance in Tax Matters within three months.

15. The Council thanked the I.R. of Iran for confirming to host the 1st Meeting of ECO Heads of Tax Administration on January 14-15, 2013 and offering to host the 1st Meeting of ECO Heads of Stock Exchange Markets in May 2013 in Tehran respectively.

16. The draft proposal for establishment of the ECO Joint Investment Fund prepared by Iran was circulated by the Secretariat. The Member States (except Turkey) were requested to expedite conveying their views/comments.

17. The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for signing the Amendment Protocol of the Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment (APPI) on the sidelines of the 22nd RPC Meeting and requested the signatory Member States to ratify the Agreement at the earliest. The Council also urged non-signatory Member States to sign and ratify the Agreement.

18. The Council requested the Republic of Tajikistan to announce the exact dates for hosting the 4th ECO Investment Conference in 2012.

19. The Council reiterated the importance of the accession process of the Member States to the WTO and expressed its thanks to the Ministry of Economy of Turkey for hosting the Seminar on “Doha negotiations and accession process to WTO for the ECO Member States: Experience of the Republic of Turkey” on 18-20 June 2012 in Istanbul and to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for granting full support for the organization of the Seminar. The Council agreed that similar seminars regarding accession of ECO Member States to the WTO should be organized on regular basis. The Council requested the WTO members of ECO to volunteer hosting such seminars and asked the Secretariat to continue to seek financial and technical support from the relevant international institutions/organizations, such as IDB, UNCTAD, WTO and ECO-TDB for organizing these seminars.

20. The Council also welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat to expand its cooperation with IDB in WTO matters/accession process including organizing joint Seminars/Workshops for ECO Member Countries in other IDB member states.

21. In order to assess the implications of joining the WTO for the economies of the ECO member countries, the Council welcomed the ECO-CCI proposal to hold the Workshop on WTO Accession and Its Impact on OIC Member Countries in 2012-13 in Tehran for the ECO National Chambers. Necessary coordination would be made by the ECO-CCI with ECO Secretariat and national chambers of ECO Members.

22. The Council reiterating the relevant decisions of the 18th COM and 20th RPC urged Member States not having hosted Trade Policy Review Sessions (TPRS) to host these Sessions during 2012-13 and stressed the need for initiating actions on the recommendations of TPRS hosted by Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey.

23. The Council welcomed the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for signing the Articles of Agreement of ECO Trade and Development Bank for membership on March 12, 2012 at the Headquarters of the Bank in Istanbul and requested Afghanistan to expedite ratification of the Agreement. The Council while welcoming the development regarding membership process of the Republic of Azerbaijan, requested Azerbaijan to expedite signing/ratification of the Agreement of the Bank. The Council further recommended the aforesaid candidate member states to finalize their membership procedure and become members of the Bank before the 12th ECO Summit. The Council urged the other ECO Member States to commence their membership process.

24. The Council also called upon ECO-TDB to explore the possibility of extending its activities to include other banking services and further enhancing its trade finance operations for expansion of intra-regional trade.

25. The Council appreciated the successful completion of the two Phases of UNIDO Project that has helped enhancement of trade capacity building in Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ). The Council requested the Secretariat to study possible Regional Mutual Recognition Arrangements in standardization, conformity assessment and metrology. The Council also called on the Secretariat to expedite, with the support of the Member States, the necessary cooperation and coordination with UNIDO to start the implementation of the third phase of the Project that will result in aligning project activities with ECOTA implementation process.

26. The Council urged the Member States to ensure regular flow of information to achieve the desired objectives of the Web Portal (www.tradeeco.org). Flow of information to the web portal is required mainly for the pages under the title of Member Countries i.e. economic indicators, regulatory regimes, policies, events, contacts/references, enquiries, trade marks, bilateral/multilateral arrangements, activities of member states in WTO, and companies forms and links.

27. The Council appreciated the ECO plans for setting up ECO Data Base of Exporter/Importers and Manufacturers. It further stressed upon Member States to expedite providing inputs for the Study on the trade related regional IT infrastructure as per decisions of the 18th COM.

28. The Council took note of the new proposal of ECO-CCI on organization of Buyers- Sellers Meetings and Business Forums in various sectors under the Project on Expanding Intra-regional Trade.

29. The Council acknowledged the completion of the first phase of the study on Trade Patterns in the ECO Region and requested the Secretariat to regularly update results of the study by considering inputs from relevant national/ regional/international institutes/organizations on biennial (two yearly) basis.

30. The Council requested the Member States to convey to the Secretariat the progress on implementation of the decisions taken by the 11th ECO Summit and 19th COM in the areas of Investment, Trade and Finance on priority basis.

31. The Council acknowledged with satisfaction that the Islamic Republic of Iran will host the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in December 2012/January 2013 in Tehran. The concerned authorities of Iran and ECO-CCI also considered positively the proposal of the Secretariat to organize the 3rd ECO Trade Fair on the sidelines of the 5th Ministerial Meeting.

32. The Council took note that ECOTA has not been implemented yet. The Council requested the Secretariat to put all pending issues on the agenda of the 3rd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council. The Council also urged the Contracting Parties to ensure

their participation in the ECOTA Cooperation Council meeting with a view to early operationalization of the Agreement.

33. The Council called on all the parties to re-consider their positions regarding the ECOTA and requested them to come up with a constructive approach at the upcoming 3rd ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting to be held in Ankara, Turkey in 2012. The Council also invited the Non Signatory Member States to ECOTA to join the ECOTA at the earliest, enabling their business communities to reap benefits of market access.

34. The Council took note of delay in signing/ratification of the Protocol on annexes of ECOTA and submission of ECOTA lists by Tajikistan. The Council strongly requested Tajikistan to fulfill the commitment made by Tajikistan at various forums on signing/ratification of the Protocol on annexes of ECOTA and submission of ECOTA lists during the upcoming ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting.

35. The Council welcomed establishment of ECOTA Implementation Fund to extend technical assistance to the relevant Member States and to organize the Cooperation Council meetings regularly. Terms of Reference of the Fund will be discussed and adopted in the upcoming 3rd ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting.

36. The Council welcomed the establishment of a working group by the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade to prepare and finalize Multi Dimensional Regional Trade and Investment Strategy and Action Plan on the prospects of establishing a Free Trade Area in the region under ECO Vision 2015. The Council urged the Member States to volunteer hosting of the 1st meeting of working group.

37. The Council welcomed the proposal of Turkey to host the 1st Meeting of Joint Working Group established during the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (Kabul, July, 2011) in the 2nd half of 2012 to formulate Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement and invited all member states to convey to the ECO Secretariat their comments on the concept paper prepared by Turkey.

38. The Council welcomed the decision of Afghanistan to host the 4th ECO Business Forum, in Kabul in August 29, 2012 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the event.

39. Appreciating the hosting of the second ECO Specialized Fair on Printing and Packaging Industries in Mashhad, Iran, the Council invited the Iranian authorities to announce hosting the 3rd Fair during 2012-13. The Council called on the remaining Member States to initiate similar specialized activities/fairs.

40. The Council appreciated the hosting of 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of TPOs in Baku, Azerbaijan in May 2012 and requested the Member States to implement the decisions of the 1st and 2nd Meetings of the ECO Heads of TPOs.

41. The Council stressed upon the Member States to provide their inputs for the draft ECO Agreement on Joint Trade Promotional Activities.

42. The Council welcomed the interest of Afghanistan shown during the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of TPOs for acquiring technical support for Export Coaching. The Council requested Afghanistan to expedite submitting a detailed and concrete proposal to Turkey through ECO Secretariat for Export Coaching Programme as decided by the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of TPOs.

43. In order to continue fruitful cooperation among the TPOs, the Council appreciated the proposal made by Turkey to host the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of TPOs in October 2013 in Ankara.

44. The Council appreciated development of special plans (Integrated Market Promotion Plan - IMPP) for the smaller economies of ECO (Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan) and called upon the Member States to offer special packages to support trade promotional programmes for these countries during 2012.

45. The Council reiterated its request for the ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment and Operations of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank by the signatories so as to operationalize the Data Bank in Turkey by 2012.

46. The Council stressed the Member States (except Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) to convey their readiness to sign the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters during any of the upcoming relevant ECO events.

47. The Council welcomed Pakistan's readiness to host the 7th CHCA in 2012 and urged it to try providing an exact date within three months of the holding of the 22nd meeting of the RPC. The Council also urged the Member States to confirm their participation accordingly in the 7th CHCA.

48. Considering the significance of establishment of ECO Reinsurance Company to facilitate regional trade, increase commercial activities and improve contacts with international institutions and welcoming its ratification by the I.R. of Iran and Pakistan, the Council requested Turkey to complete the ratification process as soon as possible.

49. The Council appreciated ECO-CCI for organizing the 16th Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI along with all the six (6) Specialized Committees (November 2011, Karachi). The Council requested the Member State to ensure active participation of their National Chambers in the events organized by the ECO-CCI.

50. The Council was briefed by the ECO-CCI on its proposed Arbitration Center. The Council acknowledged the importance of an Arbitration system for ECO region and recommended the Member States to consider back up support to make the system functional including through joining the New York Convention 1958 for those members who have not done so.

51. The Council took note of the Study prepared by the ECO-CCI and requested the Member States to implement relevant Agreements (ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA),

Transit Trade Framework Agreement (TTFA) and Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States) to increase trade among the Member States.

52. The Council acknowledged the important initiatives on Paperless Trade by I.R. of Iran and ECO Secretariat and appreciated the I.R. of Iran for hosting the 1st Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on E-Trade Cooperation and urged Member States to forward their proposals for launching a Single Window and implementing a harmonized data system in the ECO region. The Council also urged the member States to nominate the focal points for developing coordination on Paperless Trade and introduction of the Single Window in accordance with the decision of the 1st Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on E-Trade.

53. The Council requested the Secretariat to conduct a study to assess the Member States' level of readiness in terms of legal framework and IT infrastructure to implement the Single Window.

54. The Council acknowledged the need for regularizing the activities for raising awareness and capacity building on paperless trade for the benefit of member states.

55. The Council welcomed the initiative of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2nd Regional event of Trade Facilitation and e-Business (REFACT) in 2013 to foster the process of paperless trade and regional Single Window activities.

56. The Council requested Pakistan to indicate exact dates for hosting the 2nd Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on E-Trade Cooperation.

(b) Transport & Communications

57. The Council appreciated Turkmenistan for hosting the 8th Ministerial Meeting of Transport and Communications on 28-29 June 2011. The Council welcomed the offer of the Kyrgyz Republic to host the 9th Ministerial meeting, which would be held back to back with the meetings of the TTCC and its auxiliary bodies. The Kyrgyz Republic would be appreciated to propose a date for the Meeting in 2013, together with details of hospitality. As the Meetings of the TTCC and its auxiliary bodies are partially supported by the TTFA Fund., the Council recommended the CPR to replenish the TTFA Fund.

58. The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 11th Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railway Authorities/5th Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC and the ECO/UNECE Joint Workshop on Unified Railway Law held on 26-28 June 2012 in Ankara, which was attended by senior officials from all ECO Member States except Uzbekistan. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the 12th Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railway Authorities/6th Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC. The Council asked the Secretariat to include this Meeting in the Work Programme of the TTFA and the SSF Funds.

59. The Meeting noted that the international consultant of the ECO/IDB Joint Project is preparing the programme on development of rail, road and maritime corridors in the ECO region, which will also be used as part of the Programme of Action for the ECO Decade of Transport and Communication. It urged the Member States to participate in the wrap up meeting of the said Project (Istanbul, 2012), wherein the said regional programme will be discussed. The meeting would be regarded as the 2nd HLWGM of the Programme of Action for the ECO Decade of Transport and Communication as well. The Council noted, with satisfaction, that the Railway Component of the Study was approved with the title of "ECO Railway Network Development Plan" by the 11th Meeting of Heads of ECO Railway Authorities (Ankara, June 2012).

60. The Council asked the IDB to consider supporting the implementation of the Regional Programme prepared by the IDB/ECO Joint Project. The Council requested the Member States to offer hosting the Donors' Conference. The Council asked the ECO Secretariat and IDB to hold a meeting in Jeddah or at a mutually agreed venue in 2012 to assure effective coordination on these matters. Interested Member States may also attend the Meeting.

61. The Meeting requested Turkmenistan to ratify the TTFA. The Council also requested Uzbekistan to sign and ratify the agreement.

62. Appreciating Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey for providing country reports on the White Card Scheme, required to prepare the insurance component of the ECO/IDB Joint Project on TTFA, the Council requested other Member States to submit their national reports expeditiously. It asked the Member States to expedite carrying out the activities specified in the Action Plan for Implementation of the White Card, and to comment on the Interim Report of the Consultant on insurance. The Secretariat was asked to conduct a study with a view to analyze the situation in Member States vis-à-vis their level of readiness and capacity to implement the White Card Scheme in their territories.

63. The Council appreciated the Member States enroute the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) and Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) Road Corridors for considering to apply the ECO White Card on the said corridors during the sideline meeting of the insurance authorities of the enroute member states (17 April 2012, Islamabad).

64. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to conduct a training course on ECO White Card Scheme on 4-7 November or 18-21 November 2012 in Tehran. The host authorities will provide local transfer, meals, conference venue and free of charge training for two relevant senior experts from each member states. The costs of accommodation and travel will be covered from the ECO/IDB Joint Project, the TTFA Fund and SSF. The 4th Meeting of the Insurance Committee and the 3rd Meeting of the ECO-CB may be held back to back with the training course. The Council requested Turkey to confirm availability of one or two instructors for the said training course. The course will be included in the ECO Calendar of Events for 2012.

65. The Council appreciated the Secretariat, Government of Pakistan and OTIF for organizing the National Capacity Building Workshop in Islamabad on 7-8 December 2011 for accession of Pakistan to COTIF Convention. The Council expressed satisfaction that Pakistan will accede to the Convention soon.

66. The Council appreciated the Secretariat for signing an Action Plan with UIC, on the sidelines of UIC Regional Assembly in Qatar (June 2012), to facilitate the implementation of the MoU signed between the two organization in 2001.

67. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host a Workshop on UNECE ADR Agreement and the application of digital tachographs and modernization of border crossing points in the first half of 2013. The Secretariat was asked to keep contact with the UNECE to assure their cooperation in organizing this workshop.

68. The Council asked the Secretariat to expedite the commencement of the study on the customs provisions of the TTFA, which is being outsourced to UNCTAD as per recommendations of the 21st RPC. The Council emphasized that the study team should start missions to the Member States as early as possible.

69. The Council took note of the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to convene a working group on simplification and harmonization of custom documents and procedures in line with the Customs related provisions of the TTFA. The concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran were requested to provide further details about this proposal for comments and views of the member states.

70. The Council asked the Member States, except the Republic of Turkey, to provide their comments on the draft ECO License for road transport permits and procedures for its finalization/issuance.

71. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting 1st ECO-plus China Seminar on the Silk Road in 2013. The Council requested the concerned authorities of Iran to provide the dates, venue and details of hospitality for the said Seminar.

72. The Council requested the Member States to provide necessary information to Turkey for preparing the ECO Transit Roads Directory as decided by 8th Ministerial Meeting on Transport.

73. The Meeting appreciated the Secretariat and IRU for organizing the Meeting on reactivation of the TIR Convention in Afghanistan in Herat (23 February 2012). The Council expressed its satisfaction on the test run of two Afghan trucks to Iran under the coverage of the TIR Convention on the sidelines of Herat Meeting. Appreciating Iran and Turkey for showing their readiness to participate in the second test run of Afghan trucks under the TIR Coverage, it requested Afghanistan to provide the information on the trucks, drivers and cargo.

74. The Council appreciated the Custom Administration of Iran for organizing a Training Workshop for 23 Afghan experts on TIR (Mashhad, 5-6 May 2012). The Meeting welcomed Turkey's offer to organize training courses on TIR Convention for Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Turkish authorities will convey the dates, venue and details of hospitality for the courses shortly.

75. The council asked IRU to expedite nomination of a technical advisor to assist the concerned authorities of Afghanistan for reactivation of TIR Convention.

76. Appreciating the Transport Association of Iran for offering to provide training course to Chambers of Commerce of Afghanistan and Pakistan on TIR system, the Council asked the association to expedite conveying the dates, venue and details of hospitality for the said course.

77. The Council urged Pakistan to finalize the accession process to TIR convention. The Council also asked the concerned authorities of Pakistan to suggest the dates for the National TIR Capacity Building Workshop.

78. The Council took note of the efforts of the Secretariat for organizing the ECO/IRU/IDB Regional Conference on TIR Convention held on 23-25 May 2011 in Istanbul and the International Conference on Development of Transit and Logistics in Bandar Abbas on 17-19 October 2011.

79. The Council appreciated all Member States and IDB for their participation in the Second ECO/IRU Regional Conference on Road Transit and TIR Convention held on 29-30 June 2012 in Istanbul. The meeting recommended that the 3rd conference planned in 2013 should be scaled up to include all the stakeholders involved in transit and transport operations.

80. The Council appreciated Pakistan for hosting the TTCC and its auxiliary bodies meetings (road, insurance and transit trade) in Islamabad on 17-20 April 2012. The Council also appreciated the active participation of delegates of eight Contracting Parties to TTFA in the meetings.

81. The Council expressed its satisfaction on the approval of the Work Programme of the TTFA for 2012 as per recommendation of the 21st RPC. The Council asked the Secretariat to expedite approaching the CPR to allocate, in installments, a total amount of US\$100,000 for implementation of the Work Programme. IDB and ECO-TDB may also be approached to garner their support for implementation of the activities enlisted in the programme in line with the decision taken by the 5th TTCC.

82. The Council requested the Secretariat to approach the CPR to allocate from FGPF an amount of US\$ 50,000 for development of three proposed corridors, namely Pakistan-Iran-Turkmenistan, Pakistan (Chitral)-Afghanistan-Tajikistan, and Pakistan (Torkham)-Afghanistan-Tajikistan-the Kyrgyz Republic. Iran and Turkmenistan were requested to expedite providing their comments and views on Pakistan-Iran-Turkmenistan Corridor.

The Secretariat was asked to prepare the project proposal in cooperation with the enroute member states for submission to the CPR.

83. The Council appreciated the International Transport Companies Association of Iran for hosting 3rd Preparatory Meeting/First General Assembly Meeting in Tehran on 29-30 November 2011 for facilitating the establishment of ECOLPAF. The Council requested Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to keep the Secretariat abreast with the progress of the ad-hoc Committee of ECOLPAF, which was established to draft organizational documents enlisted in the Statutes. It requested Pakistan to specify dates and details of hospitality for the General Assembly of ECOLPAF. The Statute would be submitted to the upcoming COM for approval. The Council requested the Member States to expedite confirming participation in the General Assembly Meeting.

84. The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has dedicated 100 hectares of land, 10 hectares for each member state, in the ECO Free Zone in Chabahar and has offered facilities such as tax exemption for 20 years, water and electricity. In this respect an Action Plan is being prepared by Iran, which will be circulated to the Member States in due course. The Council requested the Member States, particularly the landlocked countries, to convey their specific needs and proposals for utilizing the ECO Free Zone in Chabahar.

85. The Council asked the Member States to consider hosting the 5th Meeting of the Heads of Reference Marine Organization (HRMO).

86. The Council took note of the briefing on the proposals being pursued with the international organizations, in particular with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regarding studies on two selected sea ports from ECO Transit Member States.

87. Appreciating the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 7th High Level Working Group Meeting of the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route (October 2011, Ankara), the Council urged all parties to take necessary measures to increase the number of its runs from one train to two trains per month. Appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the 8th HLWG Meeting in 2012, the Meeting requested the host authorities to intimate dates and venue of the meeting together with the details of hospitality.

88. The Council urged all the enroute Member States of the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route to expedite the implementation of the Minutes of the Meeting signed by the heads of railways of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey on 28 June 2012 in Ankara on the sideline of the 11th Heads of Railway Authorities Meeting for facilitating the regular operation of this train.

89. The Council requested the Member States to encourage the private sector to actively participate in the project for construction of logistics center at Zahedan, as

decided during the Meeting of the Road Committee of the TTCC in Islamabad on 16-20 April 2012.

90. As per decision of the 11th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities, the Council asked the ECO Secretariat to study the possibilities for construction of high speed passenger trains between Iran, Turkey and extension to other ECO member states. This study may be carried out under Istanbul-Almaty feasibility study project.

91. The Council noted with satisfaction the demonstration run of the Container Train on Bandar Abbas-Almaty Route conducted on 17 October 2011. The Meeting appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran's offer to host the HLWG meeting to discuss the issues related to the ECO Container Trains on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes on 27 August 2012. The Meeting would be partially financed from the relevant ECO Project fund. The Council requested the enroute member states to convey composition of their delegations to the Secretariat at the earliest, in line with the decisions of the 11th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway authorities.

92. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing US\$1 million for the feasibility study in the Tajik territory for Railway Project connecting China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran. In order to have a comprehensive evaluation of social, economic and financial viability of the project, technical data for the enroute countries would be required. The Council, therefore, requested the enroute countries to provide the technical data according to the format designed by the Consultant. The Council also asked the Secretariat to keep contact with the People's Republic of China and interested ECO Member States to consider funding the feasibility study in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.

93. The Council took note of the understanding reached during the Ministerial Meeting of the enroute countries in Tajikistan to hold the next meeting in the People's Republic of China. As there was no response from China, the Council recommended to convene next meeting in Dushanbe in September 2012, in line with the recent negotiations of the Secretariat with high ranking officials of Tajikistan on the sidelines of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) Meeting held in March 2012. A Donors' Conference may also be held back to back with the said meeting to attract foreign investment for this project.

94. The Council appreciated Turkmenistan for hosting the 2nd Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the countries enroute Uzen-Bereket-Gorgan Railway in June 2011 in Ashgabat. Also appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the 3rd Meeting of the Trilateral Coordination Committee of this project back to back with the Meeting of High Level Working Group of Bandar Abbas-Almaty and Almaty-Istanbul on 27 August, 2012, the Council asked the ECO Secretariat to organize the field visit before the said meeting in coordination with the enroute member states.

95. In line with the decision of the 8th Ministerial Meeting, the Secretariat convened a Meeting to discuss the Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Route with the representative of the Embassy of the Azerbaijan and the concerned authorities of Iran.

During the Meeting, it was proposed to establish a Working Group to coordinate the effective implementation of the project. The Council was informed that the proposal was also endorsed by the 11th Meeting of the Heads of Railway Authorities. In the light of the decision made by the Heads of Railway authorities, the Council requested the Azerbaijan to consider hosting the 1st Meeting of the HLWG.

96. The Council requested the Member States to expedite providing their comments on the draft Report of the ECO/IRU Demonstration Truck Caravan 2010, circulated by the ECO Secretariat in early 2011. The Secretariat was asked to re-circulate the draft report for views and comments. In case no comments and views are received by the end of 2012, the report would be considered as approved.

97. The Council appreciated the Secretariat for implementing the project for monitoring regular run of trucks in the ECO region to gather field information based on UNESCAP time and cost Methodology.

98. The Council appreciated Afghanistan for organizing the Meeting of enroute countries of Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran Road Corridor in Herat (24 February, 2012). It stressed on the importance of timely implementation of the Action Plan signed during the said meeting.

99. The Council urged the enroute Member States to expedite nominating the National Focal Points (from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Transport, Customs Administration), together with their detailed contact address, for the KTAI and ITI Road Corridors within one month.

100. The Council requested Afghanistan to expedite construction of the missing road link between Herat-Mezar-e Sharif and keep the Member States abreast with the progress of the project.

101. The Council requested the enroute countries of the KTAI Road Corridor to consider hosting the next meeting of the HLWG.

102. The Council appreciated Pakistan for hosting the Meeting of the enroute countries of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Transport Corridor in Islamabad on 16 April, 2012. The Council urged the Secretariat to prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the national and international consultants so that they can start their work as early as possible. It asked the Secretariat to arrange, within three months, the field visits of the consultants and the Secretariat delegation to examine the ITI route.

103. The Council requested Pakistan to convey their reaffirmation to join the TIR Convention to the ECO Secretariat enabling them to implement the TIR Pilot Project in coordination with IRU along ITI Corridor, including Pakistan.

104. The council urged the Secretariat to expedite organizing the demonstration truck caravan along ITI route in coordination with the member states and technical assistance of IRU.

105. Appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the HLWG of the ITI Road Corridor, the Council requested the host authorities to suggest dates, venue and details of hospitality for the meeting to be convened in the third week of October 2012.

106. The Council urged the Member states, except Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey to expedite introducing their authorized bodies to endorse visa applications of the drivers of vehicles and persons engaged in international transport.

107. The Council asked the ECO Secretariat to examine the status of implementation of the road related provisions of the TTFA in line with the decisions of the Road Committee of the TTFA. In case any violation is reported by the Member States, the Road Committee of the TTCC will be requested to take appropriate measure to resolve the issue.

108. The Council requested Iran to expedite conveying, within two months, to the Secretariat the revised draft Unified Sticker and modalities for its issuance for circulation to the Member States for their comments and views. The Islamic Republic of Iran will also specify the dates, venue and hospitality details of the Meeting of the Senior Consular Officials of the Member States on the ECO Unified Visa Sticker.

109. In order to cover the emerging developments in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to elevate the Meeting of the Heads of the Telecommunications Authorities to Ministerial level. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the first ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT and Telecommunications on 11-13 November 2012. The private sector ICT/telecommunications companies will also be invited to the Meeting.

110. The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 6th Meeting of the ECO Postal Authorities.

111. The Council noted with satisfaction that the revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Online Money Order among the Member States has been approved and is ready for signing. The Council requested the Member States to sign the SOP by circulation, so that the operation of the system can be started before the upcoming COM.

112. The Council asked ECO, IDB and UNESCAP to expedite preparation of an action plan for operationalization of the trilateral MoU signed in 2009. It also asked ECO/UNECE/IDB to expedite preparing an action plan to implement the trilateral MoU signed in March 2011. The Secretariat was asked to organize Interagency Meetings in this regard in 2012. The dates and venue will be agreed mutually between the partner organizations.

113. The Council requested IDB to consider supporting the investment projects for development of road and railway infrastructure in the ECO region.

114. The Council requested OTIF, OSJD, UIC and CIT to provide technical assistance to the ECO for implementation of the ECO projects on different routes.

115. The Council welcomed the invitation extended by UNESCAP to member countries and the ECO Secretariat to take part in the third session of the Committee on Transport that will take place in Bangkok from 10-12 October 2012.

116. The Council recommended the Secretariat and ECO Member States to participate in the International Workshop being arranged under the aegis of UNECE for Development of TIR Convention in Euro-Asia: Challenges and Solutions, scheduled for 25-26 July 2012 in Issyk-Kul, the Kyrgyz Republic.

(c) Energy, Minerals & Environment

• Energy

117. The Council took note with regret that the 3rd Ministerial Meeting scheduled on 25-27 June 2012 in Tehran on Energy/Petroleum could not be held due to the unexpected change of programme of Ministers. The Council stressed that the 3rd Ministerial Meeting may be held without any delay and urged all the Member States to participate at the Ministers level for its fruitful results. Iran as the host will coordinate with the Secretariat for the new dates in due course.

118. The Council welcomed readiness of Turkey to host the 2nd High Level Expert Group Meeting on Energy on 24-25 September 2012 in Ankara and requested the Member States to take active part in this Meeting.

119. The Council appreciated Turkey for hosting 11th International Training Course for Energy Managers on 14-25 November, 2011 in Ankara, and also welcomed its readiness to host the 12th International Training Course for Energy Manager in October 2012.

120. The Council appreciated Iran for hosting the 1st Meeting of the ECO Expert Group on Renewable Sources of Energy (RSE) and 3rd Workshop on RSE (back-to-back) on 25-27 October, 2011 in Tehran, and welcomed the offer of Azerbaijan to host the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Expert Group on RSE and 4th Workshop on RSE in June 2013 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Council stressed to all the Member States to provide their Country Report/filled Questionnaire to the ECO Secretariat in accordance with the Report of the above mentioned Meeting upto end of 2012.

121. While reiterating the importance of cooperation and exchange of experiences among the Member States in the field of safe transportation of energy sources (oil and natural gas) to the world markets, the Council requested Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Turkey to kindly consider holding an event on "Natural Gas and Petroleum Supply Security" sometime in 2012/13. The Council appreciated Azerbaijan and Iran for their offers to host Workshops on "Oil and Gas drilling" in the second half of 2013 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and "Natural Gas and Petroleum Supply Security" in Tehran, Iran in 2012, respectively.

122. The Council recommended the Secretariat to continue its contact and communication with the World Bank (WB) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on pursuing the regional energy trade issues. All the Member States were requested to consider holding 3rd Workshop on Regional Energy Trade in the ECO Region in cooperation with the WB in 2012/13. The Council emphasized on the participation of the private sector in energy trade issues.

123. The Council appreciated Turkey for hosting a Workshop on Clean Coal Technology in Antalya on 8-10 December, 2011, with participation of well-known worldwide scholars/experts. The Council emphasized the importance of cooperation and exchange of knowledge, experiences among Member States, and recommended the Secretariat to enhance further cooperation in this field especially by organizing such events regularly.

124. The Council recommended the Secretariat to continue their efforts to secure fund from the international financial institutions for rehabilitation of the Project on Interconnection of the ECO Countries Power Systems. This issue was raised at the 11th ECO Summit Meeting and 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (Istanbul, December, 2010). The Member countries showed their keen interest to cooperate in the Energy field in promoting power trade and management in the region.

125. The Council took note the information provided by Iran regarding establishment of "Oil and Gas Training Center for ECO" in Iran and requested the Secretariat to circulate this information to all Member States for their consent/views. The Council supported the "Calendar of ECO Courses on Oil and Gas" to be conducted by the International Training Center for Oil and Gas in the 2nd half of 2012, in Iran.

126. The Council urged Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to update details of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Energy/Petroleum. The Member States who have not yet provided particulars of their NFPs, were requested to expedite the process of nomination of focal points.

127. The Council recommended the Secretariat to further intensify collaboration with UNESCAP and other Members of Inter-regional Working Group on Power Trade and Interconnection and convene 1st Meeting of the Working Group sometime in 2012/13.

128. The Council welcomed the offer of Iranian delegation to initiate works on Energy/Petroleum Policy and Planning for ECO Region in the framework of Plan of Action (2011-2015), as well as the possible Energy Charter to be drafted by the Iranian Institute for International Energy Studies (IIES), report of which will be submitted to the next Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum for consideration and making decision. The Council agreed that their monitoring will be done by the Secretariat.

129. The Council took note of the following proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These proposals will be discussed in relevant ECO meetings for possible action:

- i. Private sector can play an important role to enhance ECO energy cooperation. In order to expedite the production operations and distribution of crude oil, natural gas, petrochemical products and development of electricity networks, ECO Member States could facilitate participation of private sector in the ECO energy activities, including through establishing consortiums and joint venture for the implementation of regional and international projects. The ECO-CCI may be tasked to present their proposals in this regard.
- ii. In order to reduce the risk caused by the foreign currencies exchange rates used in the energy trade, Secretariat with cooperation of Member States can do necessary collaboration to accelerate the establishment of appropriate financial mechanisms in the region and use their currencies in mutual trade.
- iii. Recognizing the importance of the "ECO integrated energy market" for the interests of energy producers and consumers, the Secretariat should be mandated to develop this idea through consultations with the interested Member States. The financial resources should be available to hire, if needed, an international consultant to study different features of the proposed "integrated energy market", including its policy aspects and economic, environmental effects, as well as regulatory frameworks, technical and technological impacts of the "market", energy efficiency, fossil and renewable energies, etc. Relevant research institutes in the Region may also be involved for these studies.
- iv. The regional power grid interconnection is still a pending project in ECO. The Member States, while making their efforts to expedite the implementation of this important project, may wish to consider interconnecting and reinforcing their networks in 330kv or above with Alternative Current (AC) or Direct Current (DC) transmission lines.
- v. The regional power interconnection would enhance electricity trade in the region and it might be a basis for realization of an "ECO regional electricity market". The ECO Secretariat could arrange, in cooperation with the interested Member States and international institutes/organizations, relevant workshops on the subject.

- Minerals

130. The Council appreciated Iran for hosting the 4th ECO Minerals Experts Group meeting on 24-26 May, 2011, and in pursuance of its Report welcomed the offer of Azerbaijan for hosting the 5th ECO Minerals Experts Group meeting in 2012/13 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

131. The Council appreciated National Cartographic Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st Meeting of ECO Head of Surveying and Mapping Organizations

on 26-27 September, 2011 in Tehran and took note on decision of the Meeting on establishing the "ECO Geomatics Committee", Working Group on "ECO Economic Atlas", Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure, as well as publishing of scientific and technical journal entitled "ECO Geomatics Journal". The Council appreciated Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for nominating their NFPs on "ECO Geomatics Committee" and "ECO Economic Atlas", and urged the remaining Member States to do the same. The Council recommended the Secretariat to communicate with the Member States regarding hosting the 2nd Meeting of ECO Head of Surveying and Mapping Organizations sometime in 2012/13.

132. The Council appreciated the work done by the Project Manager (Geological Survey of Iran) for preparation of Mineral Distribution Map (MDM) of ECO region, which has been circulated to the Member States for their information. The Member States were requested to provide their views/comments by the end of 2012, in order to have comprehensive MDM.

133. The Council welcomed willingness of the Member States to exchange experiences in mining industry, as well as introducing modern technologies with the high productivity in energy consumption and reducing pollutants in that industry. The Secretariat is requested to follow this issue with the Member States in order to implement this idea.

134. The Council urged Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to update details of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Minerals and those who have not yet provided particulars of their NFPS to expedite the same.

135. The Council took note the proposal made by the Iranian delegation regarding the feasibility study of the integrated Map of Geology of ECO Member countries in scale of 1:200000 or 1:500000, to be conducted by the Geological Survey of Iran. Report of which will be submitted to 5th Minerals Experts Group Meeting to be held in 2013.

136. The Council took note the proposal made by the Iranian delegation on having a study of "Infrastructures in mining sector for creating synergy and promoting effective engagement with the participation of the related Member State's companies and their engineering consulting companies as a consortium", as well as financial implication of the Member States in the feasible projects, as a next step.

- Environment

137. In order to guarantee effective and speedy communication between the Secretariat and the concerned authorities on Environment and Biodiversity of the Member States, National Focal Points (NFPs) details should be updated annually. The Council requested all Member States to introduce/update their National Focal Points (NFPs) details on Environment as well as on Biodiversity and provide them to the ECO Secretariat in due course.

138. The Council appreciated Turkey for providing their National Progress Report (NPR) for 2011 and requested other Member States to do the same, annually, in the

beginning of the each year; with coverage of the previous year. The Council also welcomed the proposal made by the Iranian delegation regarding provision of new format for NPR to the ECO Secretariat for further circulation it to the Member States.

139. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment on 9 June, 2011 in Tehran and took note on decisions of the Ministerial Meeting about Framework Plan of Action, Project Profile for implementation of the mentioned Plan of Action and Tehran Communiqué. The Council also welcomed the offer of Kyrgyz Republic to host the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Environment in July 2013 in Kyrgyzstan, and requested the Kyrgyz authorities to closely cooperate with the Secretariat on arrangements of the meeting and all Member States to take active part at the highest level.

140. The Council welcomed the offer of ECO Secretariat for holding two Workshops namely “Workshop on Municipal Solid Waste Management Practices in ECO region” and “Workshop on Water and Wastewater Treatment Practices in ECO region” within the Project Profile of a “Regional program for implementation of the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming in ECO region (2011–2015)” and requested the Secretariat to set the date of these Workshops.

141. The Council appreciated ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST), Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Department of Environment of Iran and University of Environment for organizing two levels for the Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Management (PCEM) training program, and requested the ECO-IEST to play an active role in scientific aspects of environmental issues in the ECO region.

142. The Council took note that as a long time has passed from the proposal of establishment of the E-mail Group for exchanging environmental information, all Member States are requested to provide/update the particulars of their officials for the mentioned E-mail Group. The concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey are also requested to kindly keep this Secretariat abreast with the progress in operating the E-mail Group.

143. The Council was informed that the 10th issue of the ECO Bulletin on Environment was included as a part of 3rd issue of the ECO Chronicle-The News Magazine of Economic Cooperation Organization based on material received from Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. Iran’s material was published in the 4th issue of that magazine. The Council requested all Member States to take active part in preparation and publication of the next issues of Bulletin and forward their relevant materials/articles to the Secretariat on regular basis.

144. The Council while welcoming the offer of Turkish authorities for the hosting of the 6th Working Group Meeting on Environment (WGME) emphasized that as per ECO regulations, ECO events must be held on hospitality basis. The relevant Turkish authorities are requested to reconsider their offer and intimate to the Secretariat in due course.

145. The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey for providing their Experts-Focal Points for the Project entitled “Development and Harmonization of Environmental Standards in ECO Region” and requested other Member States to expedite doing the same. The Council requested the Project manager (Department of the Environment of Iran) to intimate the Secretariat about the status of implementation of mentioned project in order to protect implementation of this project from delay.

146. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Meeting on “Trans-Boundary Movement of Biological Specimens and Species” in Tehran on 9 March, 2012, and welcomed the designation of ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST), as a body for establishing a network among the Member States for Trans-boundary protected areas. The Council also requested all Member States to positively support the ECO-IEST and cooperate with the mentioned Institute in providing necessary information.

147. The Council urged the concerned authorities of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to finalize arrangements for venue and dates of the Biodiversity Meetings. The Council requested all Member States to consider holding the 2nd Expert Group Meeting on Biodiversity in 2012/2013. The Council also requested Kazakhstan as a coordinating country on Biodiversity to play more active role in this issue.

(d) Agriculture, Industry and Tourism

- Agriculture

148. The Council appreciated with thanks the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 5th Ministerial Meeting and 4th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Agriculture in the second half of November 2012 tentatively.

149. The Council appreciated the readiness of the Republic of Turkey to host the 2nd Donors’ Conference on the implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS).

150. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Republic of Turkey and ECO Secretariat for the establishment of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) and requested Turkey to expedite the finalization of the required work for its operationalization in coordination with the member states. It further requested the Republic of Turkey to keep the member states informed about the latest developments and to involve the member states in the works of the RCC. The Secretariat was also asked to draft specific proposals for more effective involvement of the Member States in the function of the RCC.

151. The Council requested the Secretariat and Turkey as coordinating country for the implementation of the RPFS to arrange joint missions to donor/funding institutions to pave the way for their active participation and contribution to the implementation of the RPFS. Information regarding such missions may be circulated through the ECO Secretariat well in advance so that other interested member states may also join the missions.

152. While thanking the Secretariat for preparation the background paper on the implementation of RPFS, the Council urged Member States to prepare project proposals to be submitted to the 2nd Coordination Meeting for necessary action. It took note of four project proposals prepared by Turkey related to animal diseases, pastures, pest management and extension services.

153. The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for preparing a project for the ECO Member States on trans-boundary animal diseases with a budget of USD 200,000 and called for its early implementation. The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to convey further information about this project.

154. The Council appreciated with thanks the preparation of a Regional Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Project by FAO in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat for seeking financial assistance from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and requested the Secretariat to follow up the issue and inform the member states about the latest developments.

155. The Council took note with appreciation that the 4th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference to be held in Turkey in December 2012 and requested Member States to actively participate in the Conference. Taking note of the current issues in implementation of the activities, it requested the ECOSA to expedite and intensify its efforts in fulfilling its responsibilities including to organize the workshops/training courses in the fields of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) (in Iran), the Seed Testing (in Pakistan) and Field Control (in Azerbaijan in cooperation with Turkey to be held in 2013). The Council requested ECOSA in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat to draft and circulate concrete proposals to improve the functioning of the ECOSA and more effective involvement of the Member States in its work. It is also requested the member countries to convey projects proposals to IDB for financial assistance. The Council also requested the ECOSA to prepare a project proposal on the ECO Seed Exchange Mechanism in collaboration with the relevant international organizations and a 1-2 weeks training course on seed industry for ECO Member States to be submitted to IDB for financial assistance.

156. The Council welcomed the signing of the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the region, proposed and financed by Turkey within the scope of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) with an amount of 350.000 USD from FFTP + 50.000 from ECO Feasibility Fund = 400.000 USD by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, ECO and FAO-SEC. Since three signatures by the Member States are required for its implementation, the Council called on the relevant member states to sign the Project. The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to keep the

Member States abreast with the progress in implementation of the projects. The comments of the Member States should also be sought regarding the inclusion of the activities in the projects within a reasonable period of time.

157. While welcoming the decision of the 19th COM on the approval of establishment of the ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture in Islamabad, Pakistan, the Council reiterated its request to the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and ECO Secretariat to sign an agreement for the utilization of US\$ 50,000 from ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund (ECO-FGPF).

158. The Council requested the Member States to offer hosting 2nd Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture in 2012.

159. The Council welcomed the decisions of the 19th COM on the approval of the establishment of ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) in Mashhad and ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) in Ankara as an affiliated body of ECO.

160. The Council welcomed the agreement signed between ECO Secretariat and the Meteorological Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRIMO) for the utilization of US \$ 50,000,- from the ECO-FGPF for establishment of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) and thanked the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing the Working Group Meeting and Training Programme on Climate Modeling and Natural Disasters in ECO Region on June 25-27, 2012 in Tehran and Mashhad-Iran. The Council requested the Member States to convey their views and comments on the draft statute of ECO RCRM before the 3rd ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations Meeting to be held in Baku in 2012.

161. The Council appreciated that the Turkish State Meteorological Service had prepared following international training programs for the ECO Member States to be organized in 2013 in Turkey and requested the Member States to actively attend them:

- a. “Flash Flood Forecasting Model Concept”;
- b. “Basics of Calibration”;
- c. Basics of Numerical Weather Prediction and Practices”;
- d. “Climate Analysis and Applications”;
- e. Basic “GIS”;
- f. Producing Snow Data from Meteorological Satellites and Utilization of data in Water Resources Management;
- g. Advanced Now-casting Applications;
- h. Meteorological for Least Developed Countries;
- i. Meteorological Weather Radar;
- j. Global Telecommunication and Meteorological Software; and
- k. Upper Air Observing Systems.

162. The Council requested the Member States to designate their focal points for the Working Group established by the 2nd ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations meeting held in Antalya in 2010 to work for developing projects.

163. The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to specify the exact dates of the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations to be held in 2012.

164. Recalling the relevant decision of 19th COM, the council appreciated the I.R Iran for its efforts for the establishment of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) in Tehran as a specialized agency of ECO, the Council requested the Member States to sign/ratify its statute.

165. The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Training workshop on Management of Foot and Mouth Disease for one week in Tehran, the training workshop on laboratory diagnose of animal diseases in Iran in 2012-2013 and the 3rd ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations meeting in Tehran in 2013 respectively.

166. The Council appreciated the efforts of Iran for the establishment ECO ABN Secretariat at ABRII and launching the website at www.eco-abn.org. All Member states are requested to contribute to this project with sharing information and introducing their focal points.

167. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the 2nd Expert Group Meeting on the establishment of the ECO-ABN in 2012, Tehran and requested Iran to announce exact dates for the said event. The Council requested all Member States to confirm their active participation in the said event, since it was postponed several times due to lack of quorum.

168. The Council appreciated the following proposals of Iran and refer them to 2nd EGM on the establishment of ECO-ABN:

- Establishing platform for harmonization of bio-safety regulation and capacity building for GMO detection.
- Establishment and intellectual property right network and capacity building program in this field.
- Defining new regional projects for major common problems including drought salinity climate change and global warming.

169. These proposals may be included in the draft agenda of the second EGM on the establishment of ECO-ABN to be held in Iran in 2012.

170. Recalling the relevant decision of the 19th COM, the Council requested the concerned Iranian authorities to expedite organization of required activities for the establishment of the ECO-ABN.

- Industry

171. The Council requested the member states to volunteer to host the 4th ECO Ministerial and 3rd HLEG Meetings on Industry.

172. The Council welcomed the approval of allocation of US\$ 50.000,- from FGPF for operationalization of RISCAM to be used by ICU to this end.

173. The Council requested the Interim Coordinating Unit of RISCAM to speed up its efforts for taking the steps envisaged in the Road Map drawn up for the provisional implementation of the Statute of the RISCAM, including the preparation of the basic documents for the establishment of RISCAM i.e. rules of procedures, financial regulations and staff regulation.

174. Member States who have not signed the RISCAM Statute yet, are requested to sign it. Afghanistan and Turkey who had signed it before are also requested to accelerate the ratification procedures. The Islamic Republic of Iran has already ratified the statute.

175. The Council thanked Turkey for hosting the two workshops on standardization and accreditation on 9-11 May 2012. It also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st workshop on conformity assessment on 16-17, October 2011. The Council requested Kazakhstan to inform the Secretariat on their final decision for hosting a workshop on metrology at the earliest. The Council thanked Turkey for its offer to host the 5th EGM on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in December 2012.

176. The Council thanked Islamic Republic of Iran for its offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration and the 5th Meeting of HLEG on Privatization and Private Sector Development in October 2012 in Tehran and requested it to inform the ECO Secretariat the exact dates and hospitality details.

177. The Council thanked Turkey for launching the ECO Website on Privatization and requested from the Member States the uploading of the required data onto the website in active coordination with the concerned Turkish authorities. It was noted that upon completion of this process Turkey would organize a training workshop for the focal points on the utilization of the website along with another workshop on public-private partnership. The Council also took note with appreciation that Turkey is ready to extend training services to the experts of member states and to extend technical assistance on privatization practices. It thanked Iran and Turkey for developing a framework for ECO Privatization Experts' Exchange and called for its early finalization.

178. The Council took note with appreciation that Turkey would organize the 1st Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights on 13-14 September 2012. The Council reiterated its request from the Member states to be actively involved in this area of cooperation and to work on specifying their needs and come up with proposals to be considered by the Committee for determination of possible areas of cooperation. The Council requested the Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan,

Iran, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan) to convey the filled-in questionnaire prepared by Turkish Patent Institute for organizing a training workshop.

179. The Council requested the member states to convey their views on ECO SME Expert Exchange Project (except Tajikistan) and ECO Country Report Project proposed by Turkey. The Council requested Iran and Pakistan to circulate their revised project proposals on “ECO SME Virtual Fair Project” and “ECO IDENE Project”, respectively.

180. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4th Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SME development in late October 2012. The Council also requested the Member States to convey their views and comments on priorities, agenda items, opinions and or comments well before the meeting in order to organize an effective and fruitful meeting and to actively participate in the meeting.

181. The Council requested Member States to actively participate in Steering Committee Meetings on SMEs and enrich the programs/plans in this important area of cooperation which serves to large groups of industrialists and could help the economic development in the region.

182. Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) proposed that the member countries inform other member countries to participate in SMEs related exhibitions as well as providing them with possible facilities.

183. Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) expressed its readiness to hold training workshops or seminars on familiarizing the member countries with industrial cluster development program. The workshop and seminars can be held based upon the request of the member countries on the following areas:

- a. Industrial cluster developments pre-feasibility studies
- b. Compiling industrial cluster country map
- c. Implementation of industrial cluster development projects
- d. Training industrial cluster development agents

184. The Council thanked Turkey for its readiness, upon demand from the member states, to share its experiences within the KOSGEB Implementations and European Union Practices through KOSGEB - CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme) / EEN (European Enterprise Network) Application Centers on Technology Development Models and Technology Development Centers. It took note that Turkey was ready to dispatch to its SMEs, upon request from the member states, the information on forums, seminars, panels or conferences to be held in the member states.

185. Considering the importance of exchange experiences on SME development in ECO Member Countries, the Council requested the Member States to inform their needs or capabilities on organizing the best practices workshops on SMEs and related issues.

186. The Council reviewed background of the establishment of ECO Representative Office for Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty which was proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Council considered the possibility of the ECO Science Foundation fulfilling the prospective functions of the proposed ECO Representative office for Development of Science and New Technologies.

187. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to follow up joint activities with the Regional Organizations which have MoUs with ECO and capable to organize joint activities in field of industry as well as to benefit from the support and capabilities of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

- Tourism

188. While appreciating the progress achieved on the pavement of the ways for Tourism promotion in the region, the Council requested the volunteer Member State to host the 3rd Ministerial Meeting and the 5th High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Tourism in 2012/13 and inform the Secretariat about their readiness to do so at the earliest convenience.

189. While thanking Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey for their pledge to provide financial contribution to the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund, the Council requested these countries to transfer their pledged contributions to the Fund.

190. The Council requested the remaining Member States to contribute to the Fund, and also requested all Member States (except Turkey, Tajikistan) to nominate their representatives for the Board of the Trustees of the Fund. In this regard, Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHTO) announced its readiness to host the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund in 2012-13.

191. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host 3rd Experts Group Meeting on Ecotourism as well as holding the “ECO Regional Ecotourism Training Program” on 17-22 September 2012 in Antalya and called upon the ECO Member States to actively participate in these events.

192. The Council requested all Member States to actively participate in ecotourism programs and events and requested them to convey their project proposals in this field to the Secretariat.

193. Referring to the decision of 21st RPC meeting to include the “Health Tourism” under AIT Directorate, the Council requested the Member States to come up with programs/proposals in the field of Health Tourism in the ECO Region to be followed by ECO Secretariat.

194. Based on the successful organizing the 1st and 2nd Conferences on Health Tourism of Islamic countries in 2010-2011 in Mashad, Iran, the Council welcomed the proposals of the Islamic countries Health Tourism Association, to cooperate with the ECO

Secretariat as well as ECO-CCI for the expansion of Health Tourism activities within ECO region.

195. The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Workshop on Health Tourism in March 2013 in Turkey and requested the ECO member states to actively participate in the workshop.

196. While thanking for the publication of first ECO Tourism Guidebook in 5000 copies and good reputation it achieved from the Member States, the Council requested the Secretariat to update the Guidebook every 2-3 years. The Council also requested the Member States and the Secretariat to come up with new proposals on publication of tourist book and relevant catalogues and initiate exchange of present publications.

197. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to offer to host the 2nd ECO Youth Ministerial Meeting in October/December 2012.

198. In accordance with the reports of the 2nd Meeting of ECO Ministers of Tourism and 21st RPC meeting, the Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the ECO University Sports Tournament in Turkish Cypriot State in 2013 and requested the Republic of Turkey to convey the details of this event to the ECO Secretariat for its circulation to the Member Countries at the earliest.

(e) Human Resource & Sustainable Development

199. The Council requested the Member States to offer new topics and specific activities for cooperation under the field of Human Development.

200. The Council while appreciating I.R of Iran for expressing its readiness to host the 3rd Meeting of the ECO High Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Human Development (HD) and Millennium Development Goals in Tehran in November 2012 requested I.R of Iran to propose exact dates for the Meeting. As recommended by the 2nd HLEG on MDGs, as well as previous RPC Meetings, the 3rd HLEG meeting will focus on health related MDGs i.e. goals 4 (Reduce Child Mortality), 5 (Improve Maternal Health), and 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases). The Council requested the concerned health authorities of the Member States to actively participate in the Event.

201. The Council requested the Member States to prepare regional project proposals taking into consideration the 'guiding principles' already circulated to them by the ECO Secretariat and using the findings and recommendations of the Regional Report on Health Related MDGs. The Council also called the Secretariat to approach the IDB and relevant UN Agencies including UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and WHO for their support in this regard.

202. The Council requested the Member States, to introduce/regularly update the information of their focal points on health related MDGs i.e. Reduce Child Mortality (Goal 4), Improve Maternal Health (Goal 5), and Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other

diseases (Goal 6), giving all relevant contact information (Name, Position, Tel., Fax, and particularly E-mail) at the earliest.

203. The Council requested the Member States to make their utmost efforts for implementation of the recommendations of the 1st Meeting of ECO High Level Expert Group on Human Resource Development, inter alia, sharing a directory/list of leading HRD institutions/centers in the ECO Member States; nominating high level National Focal Points on HRD in public sector; Designing and conducting training programmes, workshops, expert group meetings, study tour etc in the priority areas identified by the HLEG Meeting; Communicating specific areas to the Secretariat where technical assistance is needed or can be provided from/to other ECO countries in the areas of HRD; Cooperating with the Secretariat for creation of separate web-page titled “Human Resource Development” on the main ECO’s website having link with relevant websites (English) of the Member States.

204. The Council appreciated the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the First Meeting of the ECO Ministers/Heads of the HRD Responsible Organizations/Commissions on 12-13 November 2012 and requested the other Member States to actively participate in the Meeting at the highest level.

205. The Council requested the Member States to make their utmost efforts for implementation of the recommendations of the First Meeting of the Heads of National Civil Registration Organizations/Centers of ECO Member States, inter alia, establishing a trilateral working group comprising of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat to coordinate the rendered tasks to them by the Meeting; Conducting study tours to witness the progress made by the Member States in the field of issuing Smart-Card; Holding of workshops, expert group meetings in the priority areas of Civil Registration; Nominating the focal points in the field of Civil Registration.

206. The Council appreciated the kind offer of the Republic of Turkey to hold the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of National Organizations/Centers for Civil Registration in the year 2013 and also requested the Republic of Turkey to propose the set of dates and hospitality details for the Meeting.

207. The Council appreciated the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Workshop on Production of population statistics & information in Tehran on 29-30 October, 2012 and also requested the Iranian relevant authorities to furnish to the Secretariat the draft Agenda/Programme and hospitality details.

- Health

208. The Council appreciated the Republic of Kazakhstan for showing its readiness to hold the 2nd ECO Health Ministerial Meeting in 2013/2014 and requested the relevant authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan to kindly propose exact dates and hospitality details for the Meeting.

209. The Council requested the Member States to positively consider hosting the 2nd Meeting of ECO High Level Drug Regulatory Authorities in 2012-13.

210. The Council encouraged the Member States (other than Iran) to host workshops on remaining priority issues related to drug/pharmaceutical cooperation which were recommended by the first HLDA meeting i.e. Drug registration and licensing; Counterfeit Medicines; Current Good Manufacturing Practices.

211. The Council requested the Member States to kindly expedite nominating/updating the information of their focal points on Drug (Pharmaceutical) cooperation, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest.

212. The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with the addresses of their pharmaceutical websites (English version) in order to link with ECO Pharmaceutical Web Page.

213. Considering the positive feed back received from the Member States after the 1st and 2nd Study Tours in Iran and Turkey the Council requested the Member States (other than Iran and Turkey) to positively consider hosting the Third Study Tour for Health Authorities of the Member States in 2012/2013 and inform the Secretariat accordingly.

214. The Council appreciated the I.R. Iran for its generous offer to extend two scholarships to each Member States in the field of Master of Public Health (MPH) and providing the necessary arrangements for organizing the programme twice. The Council also requested the Member States to send their nominations along with application forms and other supplementary documents latest by 22 August, 2012.

215. The Council appreciated the kind offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 3rd Meeting of ECO Heads/Authorities of Blood Transfusion Organizations in September 2012 in Baku and also requested relevant authorities of Azerbaijan to provide the draft Agenda/Programme and hospitality details for the Meeting.

216. The Council encouraged the Member States (except Iran) to volunteer to host training courses/workshops, seminars and introductory study tours from within the remaining priority areas, which were recommended by the First Meeting and reaffirmed in the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations/Authorities i.e.

- a. GMP in blood banks (training and inspection)
- b. Incorporation of IT and Automated Screening in blood transfusion system
- c. Procurement collaboration (Blood bags and equipments)
- d. Hemovigilance
- e. Research and Academic collaboration (training and education on transfusion sciences and medicine)
- f. Collaboration in Plasma Industry (plasma collection and plasma fractionation)

217. The Council requested the Member States to extend scholarships to other Member States in the field of Hematology and other related topics. The relevant information may be sent to the ECO Secretariat including the objective/s of the courses; terms and conditions for admission; detailed curriculum of the courses; and any other necessary information.

218. The Council requested the Member States to extend their utmost efforts and cooperation for establishment of the ECO Blood Safety Network, particularly in verifying the report of the 1st Phase of the Network prepared by the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO).

219. The Council requested the Member States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to expedite nominating their focal points on Blood Transfusion cooperation, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest and regularly update the information regarding their focal points.

220. The Council encouraged the interested Member States to cooperate with the Iranian concerned authorities (Research Center for Endocrinology and Metabolism of Tehran University of Medical Sciences) on the following issues:

- a. Establishment of the Registration and Care Network on Pelvic Osteoporosis Fracture in the ECO Member States
- b. Establishment of Research Network on Osteoporosis and Bone Metabolic Diseases
- c. Carrying out Multi Center Osteoporosis Study (EMOS) covering people from 20-75 years of age in the ECO Member States.

Cooperation on Natural Disaster Management

221. The Council requested the Member States to regularly submit information on their activities on disaster risk management and related regulations to the ECO Secretariat for further circulation to the Member States in order to increase public awareness on the importance of the Natural Disaster Management.

222. The Council welcomed the kind offer of the Republic Turkey to host a Workshop in 2013 on “Sharing Experiences in the field of Disaster Risk Management”. The Council also requested the Republic of Turkey to convey the exact dates and other details of the said Workshop.

223. The Council requested ECO Secretariat to continue cooperation on Disaster Risk Management with relevant international organizations such as UN-ISDR, UN/OCHA, UNHABITAT, UNDP and UNESCAP and also to approach these organizations for their technical and financial support (if possible), towards the activities of ECO on DRM.

224. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for making excellent arrangements for organizing the “Regional Conference on Capacity Building

for Disaster Risk Reduction” and requested the other Member States to propose holding events (conferences/seminars/workshops) on Disaster Risk Management in 2012/2013.

225. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for making excellent arrangements for organizing the 6th ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management and requested the Member States to make their utmost efforts for implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

226. The Council requested the Member States (preferably Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to positively consider hosting the “7th International Conference on Disaster Risk Management” in the year 2012 or 2013 and informed the Secretariat accordingly.

227. The Council requested the Member States (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to expedite nominating their focal points on Disaster Risk Management, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest and regularly update the information regarding their focal points.

(f) Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU)

228. The Council appreciated preparation of “Statistics and Analytical Report of Drug Situation in the ECO Region, for the years 2009 – 2010”, by the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) and urged the Member States to continue sending their country reports and statistics on drug control to DOCCU for preparation of analytical reports.

229. The Council noted with appreciation holding of the 1st Meeting of Chiefs of Police of ECO Member States in Tehran on 23-24 November, 2011, hosted by the Police of Iran and requested the Member States to offer their willingness to host the second meeting.

230. The Council while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st Experts Group Meeting for finalizing necessary formalities/documents for establishment of ECOPOL in Tehran on 21-22 November, 2011, welcomed offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 2nd EGM in Ankara on 5-6 September, 2012. The Council further requested the Member States to actively participate in the meeting so that the revised version of the draft Convention/Statute of ECOPOL could be placed before the upcoming 20th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting for final approval.

231. The Council urged the Member States to fully support early establishment of the ECOPOL, especially their offers to host its Headquarters, with a view to coordinate, in a better and efficient way, the efforts to enhance cooperation with other international and regional institutions in the ECO region, aiming at controlling threats, posed by trans-border crimes.

232. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for pledging an amount of US\$ 100,000/- and the Secretariat for allocating US\$ 50,000/- from the ECO-Feasibility

and General Purpose Fund (FGPF), approved by the 178th CPR Meeting, to the ad-hoc ECOPOL Fund and requested other Member States to consider pledging voluntary contribution for the ad-hoc ECOPOL fund.

233. The Council stressed the need for urgent follow-up actions to be taken towards implementation of the decisions of the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting held in Istanbul on 23-24 December, 2010.

234. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting in Islamabad and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting. Member States were also requested to actively participate in the meeting at the highest level.

235. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States in Tehran on 21-22 May, 2011 and an Experts Group Meeting for finalizing the draft Statute of the Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) of the ECO Member States in Tehran on 30-31 January, 2012. Member States were requested to actively follow-up decisions of both meetings. The Council further welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a Workshop on Assets Recovery (in the framework of the RCCACO).

236. The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for their offer to host the 2nd Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States in Dushanbe and requested for indicating exact dates and hospitality details for the second meeting. The Council further requested the Member States to support early establishment of the Regional Center for Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) of the ECO Member States by completing procedures at national level.

237. Emphasizing the need for early holding of the 2nd Meeting of Chief of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States, the Council reiterated its earlier request to the concerned Afghan authorities for indicating exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

238. Welcoming the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 2nd Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States, the Council requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

239. The Council appreciated holding of the 1st Meeting of Attorneys and Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in Tehran on 30 April – 1 May, 2012 and requested the Member States to continue follow-up actions on the decisions of this meeting. Other Member States were requested to offer their willingness to host the second meeting.

240. The Council welcomed the offer of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for preparation of a Plan of Action against

Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration in Tehran on 29-30 October, 2012, and requested the Member States to actively participate in the mentioned meeting.

241. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Experts Group Meeting for preparation of a Plan of Action on Terrorism by the end of 2012 and requested the concerned authorities of Iran to convey exact dates for this meeting in due course.

242. The Council appreciated the European Commission and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) for financial support to the ECO-DOCCU in implementing the EU-funded project titled “Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan” with the ECO Member States”. In this regard, the Council acknowledged the efforts by the ECO-DOCCU in facilitating implementation of the EU-funded project.

243. The Council welcomed the proposal of DOCCU for preparing two reports for harmonization of the legal policies of the Member States. The Council further requested the Member States to facilitate implementation of this activity as and when required.

244. The Council appreciated holding of the Counter Narcotics Investigation workshop within the framework of the EU-funded project and with the technical support of TADOC, at Ankara, on 14-16 May, 2012.

245. The Council took note of the proposal to organize two meetings of National Focal Points and three Drug Liaison Officers Meetings on drug control as three remaining workshops, totally funded by the EU Project and requested the Member States to actively participate in these activities. In this regard, the Council welcomed the offer of Iran to support organizing a workshop on HIV/AIDS related to Drugs on 15-17 October, 2012 within the frame-work of the project.

246. Referring to the proposal of DOCCU for establishing its exclusive website out of the funding of the project, the Council urged the Drug Liaison Officers of the Member States to facilitate smooth functioning of this website which is especially being designed for enhancing exchange of information and best practices. The Secretariat was requested to ensure the utility in this website for having secure exchange of information among the DLOs of the Member States.

247. The Council requested the Secretariat to actively pursue the donor agencies like European Commission, UNODC and other international organizations to undertake drug related activities and combating all forms of trans-national organized crimes.

248. Urging the need for active implementing the Revised Joint Regional Strategy to combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crimes, the Council reiterated that those Member States who have offered to host the meetings in line with this Strategy to provide exact dates and hospitality details to be extended to the delegates at the earliest so that the meetings could be convened without further delay.

249. Based on the decisions of the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting (Istanbul, December 2010), the Council appreciated nomination of focal points for cooperation in the field of (i) Drug, (ii) Terrorism, (iii) Organized Crime, (iv) Human Trafficking and (v) National Coordinator by Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey. It requested Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to kindly expedite nominating their focal points, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest.

250. The Council appreciated nomination of Liaison Officers for Police cooperation among the NCBs by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and requested the remaining Member States i.e. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to expedite nominating the same.

251. The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for timely indicating dates and hospitality details for the EGM for formulating modalities for the preparation of a Regional Threat Assessment Report on Organized Crime and Terrorism and requested the Member States to take necessary measures in order to avoid postponing the meeting again. It further requested the concerned Turkish authorities to indicate fresh dates and hospitality details for the meeting. Member States were also requested to expedite sending back the questionnaire which would be used as the basis for preparing the Regional Threat Assessment Report.

252. The Council underscored the need for preparing grounds for implementation of the plans of action earlier approved by the 3rd Interior Ministers Meeting namely (i) the ECO Plan of Action on Drug Control Matters and (ii) the Plan of Action on Combating Trans-National Organized Crime, expeditiously.

253. The Council requested the Secretariat to continue following up the matter with the Member States to organize the second Meeting of Border Commanders of the ECO Member States.

254. The Council welcomed the offer of Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Experts Group Meeting on Scientific Detection of Crime in Tehran and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

(g) Projects, Economic Research and Statistics

- Projects

255. The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to utilize ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGSF) to finance projects in priority areas of trade, investment, transport and communications, energy, agriculture, minerals, and economic research. The updated list of ECO projects is enclosed.

256. The Council expressed satisfaction for establishment of the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) of ECO with frequency of its planned review meetings on quarterly basis. This step was acknowledged by the Council as one which would enable the organization

to enhance inter-agency coordination of its projects to ensure effective implementation, at output. Regular reports of the Project Monitoring Group Meetings to Member States were emphasized as instrumental to keep Member States well informed about progress in project implementation. Functioning of the PMG has been recognized by the Council as central for cross sector project operations in ECO. In this regard, it was suggested that project involved data and information be vested with PERS Directorate for efficient project monitoring.

257. The Council firmly requested the Secretariat to convene PMG meetings on quarterly basis at the highest level. For the feedback and information of Member States on projects and accountability of the Project Executors, the Council suggested that interested Member States may attend the PMG meetings. The Council highlighted the key central importance of the PMG to obtain efficiency through effective overall coordination of project implementation.

258. The Council noted with satisfaction the reports of two training workshops on "Project Risk Management" which were conducted in collaboration with the Islamic Research and Training Institution (IRTI) of Islamic Development Bank and appreciated the Secretariat for its continuous efforts for implementation of the capacity building programme for more effective coordination of project implementation in the region. The first training workshop was organized for the Secretariat project involved staff on 4-5 March 2012 at premises of the Secretariat. The second workshop was conducted jointly in collaboration with IRTI and SESRIC for ECO Member States during 28 - 31 March 2012 in Ankara, Turkey. With regard to direct impact on promotion of knowledge on project management, monitoring and implementation in the region, continuation of joint cooperation with regional/international organizations on capacity building programme by the Secretariat was stressed by the Council.

259. The Council took note that from total pledges of Member States amounting to US\$11,150,000, the sum of US\$3,535,517 has been transferred by Member States to the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan. Iran and Azerbaijan have transferred their pledges amounting to US\$ 1 million and US\$150000 accordingly. From total amount of US\$5 million pledged each by Pakistan and Turkey, Pakistan has so far transferred US\$2 million and Turkey made payment equal to US\$400,000. The Member States were requested to utilize the remaining amounts from their pledged money in line with legal instruments in close consultation with the ECO Secretariat according to the pledging procedures. The Secretariat was requested to provide a more detailed and clear accountability report on progress of implementation of reconstruction projects in Afghanistan by the end of August, 2012.

260. The Council expressed satisfaction over completion of physical construction of the Project on Deh Mazang Public Park and Rehabilitation of Kabul Zoo of worth at US\$1.3 million. The last installment of US \$195,000 would be released upon receiving the certificate of final completion of works from the Project Engineer via Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The document includes a certificate for satisfactory final completion together with a written request for payment along with bill of quantities and the copy of the invoices.

261. The Council welcomed completion of total construction works of Block A of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Training and Research Centre (MRRD) in Kabul worth at US\$600,000. According to the recent information sent by the Chief Accountant of the Secretariat the fourth installment of MMRD Project has been released on 19/4/2011 and now the Secretariat is waiting for the invitation of the Authorities of the Ministry of Rural Development to inaugurate this project in Kabul

262. The Council expressed satisfaction over signing the contract of the project on Construction of a Maternity Hospital in Faryab Province with revised budget of US\$1,004,985, by ECO Secretary General and Afghan authorities. According to the recent information from Chief Accountant of the Secretariat, the first installment of the project has been paid to account number of Afghan Embassy in London. Now, the Secretariat is waiting to receive necessary information from Afghanistan regarding the commencement of works of the said project.

263. The Council welcomed signing the contract of the project on Construction of a School in Bamian Province with revised budget of US\$150,000 by the ECO Secretary General and relevant Afghan authorities. The first installment of the project has been transferred by the Secretariat to the account number of the Afghan Embassy in London on 15 November 2011. The Secretariat through its note No. 1839 dated 13 December 2011 informed the Afghan Embassy about release of the first installment of the project. Now, the Secretariat is waiting to receive report from Afghan authorities regarding starting and progress of the said project.

264. The Council took note that the Embassy of Afghanistan has forwarded a list of new projects to the Secretariat on June 2011, prepared by the Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan in the areas of Education, Rural Development, Agriculture and Kabul Municipality with the total fund of US\$5,300,000 to be considered by ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan. Further the Secretariat received project proposal from Afghan Embassy on Construction of the Basic Health Clinic in Sadat Valley of Bamyan Province of Afghanistan at the total cost of US\$170,241 on January 2012 to be supported from the Fund. Also, in March 2012 the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran forwarded the project proposal to the Secretariat on Construction of a three story dormitory for 1000 female students in Kabul city with the total estimated cost of US\$ 1,400,000 and Construction of a National Educational & Technical Research Centre with the total estimated cost of US\$3,200,000. Since all the funds for reconstruction of Afghanistan have already been exhausted, the Secretariat conveyed the matter to Member States to pledge their commitments and make their contribution to the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan.

265. The Council took note that based on the project proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan for Rehabilitation of Research Farms in Centre and Provinces of Afghanistan with total budget of US\$19,400,000 in May 2011, the Secretariat informed the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and Member States for their contribution for implementation of the reconstruction projects in Afghanistan. Further, TIKA informed Afghan authorities that

they have allocated US\$5 million in total for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan from which US\$2 million could be available for projects in agriculture sector. The matter was followed by the Secretariat during official visit of the ECO delegates in Kabul for Afghan projects in March 2012 and in the meetings with relevant Afghan authorities and TIKA representative in Kabul. TIKA assured the Secretariat to follow the issue for providing their pledged fund for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan through direct contact with relevant Afghan authorities and will inform the Secretariat about the results.

266. The Council requested Member States to pledge their commitment to the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan and implement their remaining pledge. Member States were also requested by the Council for contribution to the Fund for implementation of the projects in Afghanistan.

- Economic Research and Statistics

267. The Council welcomed offer of the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the 2nd Meeting of ECO Permanent Steering Committee for Economic Research (PSCER) to be held on 7-8 November 2012 in Baku. The Meeting will be held jointly with the 1st Meeting of the Editorial Board Members of the ECO Economic Journal. In this regard, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkey have already nominated their permanent representatives to PSCER. The Council requested the remaining Member States (Kyrgyz, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to nominate their permanent representatives to this Committee, at the earliest. It also urged Member States to provide their views and proposals to the Secretariat for a more complete coverage of the topics and themes in the agenda of the Meeting.

268. The Council expressed its satisfaction to the ECO Secretariat for preparing and posting the second issue of ECO Economic Journal on ECO Web. The Council requested Member States to contribute to this regular publication by providing papers/articles/abstracts/reviews for inclusion in the subsequent issues of the Journal. Also, the Council urged Uzbekistan who has not nominated its permanent representative to the Editorial Board of the Journal, to do so at earliest possible.

269. The Council noted with satisfaction preparation of ECO Annual Economic Report for 2010 and its availability on ECO Web. The Council requested Member States to provide economic data on their country economic performance during period 2011 for preparation of the next issue.

270. The Council noted with satisfaction the pace of implementation of ECO Joint Economic Research Programme and, in this regard, welcomed the three new research project proposals submitted by the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan: "Learning about experience & Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation on Development of Ecologically Clean Agriculture in ECO Countries", "Aspects of organization of reciprocal use, increasing efficiency and optimization of energy resources of ECO countries (developing a common energy balance of ECO countries)" and "Study on

applicability of General Equilibrium (EGE) model in ECO countries and capacity strengthening". The Council requested Member States to provide their views/comments on the three project proposals of Azerbaijan due by the end of August 2012 to the Secretariat. The Council also encouraged Member States' regular interaction with the Secretariat in initiating new research proposals based on specific needs inside the region, and also, in providing required data and information on ongoing regional research studies. In view that the deadline for submission of comments on the above projects has expired by end June, 2012, yet Turkey proposed to circulate project proposals to their Ministries of Agriculture and Energy for the purpose of supplementarity.

271. The Council noted with satisfaction the report of the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of ECO NSOs, held on 24-25 May 2011 in Kabul and thanked the Central Statistics Organization of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for excellent arrangements of the meeting. It took note of the member states' proposals to develop guidelines in supplementing ECO Plan of Action and Framework of Cooperation on Statistics. This was noted to be critical for further progress towards sustainable regional development to be facilitated by informed statistics. The Council welcomed the offer of the Federal Bureau of Statistics of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 4th Meeting of Heads of ECO NSOs scheduled for 2012 in Islamabad and requested Member States to contribute to the agenda of the meeting by substantial inputs with regard to new initiatives and constructive proposals.

272. The Council welcomed the offer of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) for hosting the 5th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics in November 2012 in Ankara and requested Member States for their views and proposals to be included in the Agenda of the upcoming Meeting. Experience of TURKSTAT in capacity building programmes has been mentioned, in this regard.

273. The Council considered establishment of the Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology, based on the outcomes of the 3rd HLEG Meeting on Statistics of 5-6 October 2010 in Kabul. To date, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkey have introduced their nominees to this Committee. The Council urged the ECO NSOs of Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to nominate their respective candidates for representation in the Committee at the earliest. The Council also requested the State Committee of Statistics of Turkmenistan to provide information on the date and venue of the First Meeting of the Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology in 2012 in Turkmenistan.

274. The Council thanked the Statistical Centre of Iran for conducting the planned study tour of the General Census of Population and Housing of Iran which was provided to ECO NSOs in October 2011 by the Statistical Centre of Iran in collaboration with UNFPA regional offices in ECO Member States. Participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan attended the field visit tour during which they were briefed about science based, technical and administration aspects of conducting the General Census of Population and Housing of Iran. The Council expressed the hope that similar opportunity could be provided to staff of ECO NSOs with the aim to share experiences and best

census governance practices through joint collaboration of ECO NSOs with regional and international organizations.

275. The Council welcomed approval by 173rd CPR of the Memorandum of Understanding on utilization of ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) signed between ECO and SCI, and appreciated the SCI's further work in sustainable development of ECOSTAT. The Council requested Member States to utilize ECOSTAT as the main statistical network in the region and keep it updated through regular provision by NSOs of their relevant updated data, statistics, and information to ECOSTAT. For effective coordination in furthering the development of ECOSTAT, the nominations of the Focal Points for ECOSTAT from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey have been communicated to the Secretariat. In this regard, the Council urged National Statistical Offices of Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan that have not nominated their respective Focal Points for ECOSTAT to date, to do so, at earliest possible.

276. The Council appreciated ECO-SCI joint cooperation on regular updates of ECOSTAT. The Council requested Member States to contribute to further development of ECOSTAT through active interaction with the Secretariat through Focal Points of ECO NSOs for ECOSTAT in regular and timely provision of data, information, statistical reports, bulletins, news and completion of their country profiles.

277. The Council appreciated ECO NSOs for active cooperation with the Secretariat on providing their Compendium 2010 which is now available on-line along with ECO Key Statistical Indicators 2010 (ECOKSI). In this regard, the Council urged Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, having not provided their respective Compendiums for period 2000-2010, to make their contribution to strengthening ECO statistical database through timely provision of required data and statistics, at the earliest. Based on the request of the Secretariat for compilation and provision of Compendium 2011 through Note No.PERS/Compendium/2012/495 dated 8 April 2012, the Council also requested those Member States that have not provided their Compendium for year 2011 to the Secretariat, to take immediate action on this matter.

278. The Council welcomed offers of Pakistan (Federal Bureau of Statistics) and Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran) for hosting two training workshops which are included in PERS Calendar of Events in 2012. These two training workshops are being organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with relevant international organizations in the framework of implementation of capacity building programme of the ECO National Statistical Offices in 2012. The Council requested Member States to provide the Secretariat with their proposals/views/recommendations on statistical training needs for formulating ECO Comprehensive Capacity Building Programme on Statistics by the Secretariat. The Council also welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to share its experience and knowledge in the field of statistics through training programmes and called upon the Member States in need to approach the relevant authorities of Turkey.

279. The Council welcomed approval of FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) "Support for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT Framework in

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries” by FAO Headquarters and signing the final document by ECO and FAO. The FAO TCP document had been circulated to Member States via Note No.PERS/TCP/2011/838 dated 5 June 2011. The Council appreciated FAO for joint cooperation with the Secretariat for development of agriculture statistics in the region and urged the Secretariat for timely implementation of the project.

280. The Council appreciated continuous efforts of PERS Directorate in seeking technical and financial assistance from international organizations. The Council expressed with satisfaction constructive cooperation of PERS Directorate with IRTI and SESRIC which resulted in conducting two training workshops in March 2012. Close cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU), UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), UNSD and FAO for organizing regional workshops and providing training opportunities to Member States, as included in PERS Calendar of Events in 2012, was highly appreciated by the meeting. The Council welcomed continuation of joint cooperation with UNFPA, UNESCAP, EuroStat, IDB, World Bank and PARIS21 for technical and financial assistance and requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts for implementation of capacity building programme in close cooperation with regional and international organizations. In this regard, the Secretariat requested ECO NSOs to submit their new project proposals on statistics development.

281. The Council adopted the Calendar of Events/Meetings of the PERS Directorate for 2012/13.

(h) Inter-Regional ECO Activities:

(i) ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions:

282. The Council took note with appreciation of the presentations made by ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions and encouraged them to continue their efforts in their respective areas for promotion of ECO’s objectives.

• ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

283. Recalling the previous decisions of the COM as well as the recommendations of the RPC whereby the relevant Member States have been requested from time to time to ratify the Charter of the ECI, the Council, once again, laid special emphasis on the need for the signatory Member States- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Turkmenistan- as well as the non-signatory Member States-Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan- to ratify/accede to the Charter of the Institute at the earliest. In this regard, the Council also appreciated that the Republic of Turkey has already initiated national procedure to ratify the Charter, and expressed the hope that Turkey would complete the process during the course of its current chairmanship of the ECO Summit/COM. The Council also called on the Institute to work out a clear strategy for regular follow-up on the matter with the concerned member States.

284. The Council urged the Member States that are in arrears in making financial contributions to ECI budget to clear their outstanding dues at the earliest.

285. The Council acknowledged the updated information received from the ECI Secretariat and requested ECI to include them in the agenda items of the next ECI-CPR Meeting. Furthermore, the Council appreciated the work of the ECI in promoting the cultural activities in the region.

286. The Council stressed on the ECI to rigorously implement decisions of the COM, BoT, RPC and ECI-CPR taken from time to time. In this regard, the Council also reiterated that the ECI-CPR meetings must be held regularly, preferably back-to-back with the ECO CPR as envisaged in the ECI's Rules of Procedure, in order to ensure smooth functioning of the Institute as well as promote regular consultations/coordination with the member States on ECI-related matters.

287. In order to successfully realize its multi-faceted agenda and objectives, the Council stressed for the ECI to step-up its efforts including through effective planning, implementation and regular evaluation of its initiatives/activities, giving due priority to all aspects of its mandate keeping in view the charter.

288. Recalling that ECI was expected to prepare a long-term programme of action to be submitted to the ECI-CPR within three months of the last RPC along with an analytical evaluation of implementation of its previous long-term Plan of Action, the Council expressed its concern over the delay in this regard, and advised the ECI to expedite required action latest six weeks before the upcoming 20th COM/12th ECO Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

289. Taking note of ECI's Work Programme (2012), the Council recommended that the list of activities may be reviewed in consultation with the Member States and that the activities of the previous Work Programme that could not be held in 2011 may be carried forward in the work programme for 2012. Further, in future, while submitting its proposals for a work programme to BoT/CPR, the Institute must provide to the Member States status of implementation of previous work programme giving critical assessment of the reasons behind non-implementation of activities.

290. The Council urged the ECI to accelerate its efforts to organize ECO Sports Cup in 2012-2013. In order to mobilize financial assistance for this initiative, the Institute may explore the possibility of enlisting support of the sponsors/private sector and/or sports associations of the member States. The Council also called on the Member States to facilitate the Institute in arranging this event.

291. The Council reiterated its request to ECI to organize ECO Cultural Week on rotational basis in the ratifying member states on the occasion of ECO Day.

292. The Council took note of the interest of the ECI to establish a representative office at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and recommended that, at this stage, it may not be feasible to open such an office outside the ECO region. However, ECI must put in meaningful efforts to promote cooperation with UNESCO in the light of the framework of the MoU signed between ECO and UNESCO in 1995.

293. The Council decided that any cultural activity aimed at projecting ECO outside the region must be undertaken only when it entails no financial implication for ECI's Secretariat budget and has approval of ECI-CPR.

294. The Council reiterated its earlier call that the Institute must share outcome of its MoUs with ECI-CPR/BoT meetings on regular basis. The Institute was further advised that before entering into any cooperative arrangement with non-ECO countries, it must seek the approval of the ECI-CPR.

295. The Council renewed its call for the ECI to develop modalities for establishing coordination units on Youth Affairs and Sports, as advised by the 21st RPC, subject to availability of funds. The Council also stressed ECI to expedite development of an efficient mechanism to utilize its existing Coordination Units in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan for expeditious implementation and expansion of ECI's programmes and activities.

296. Recalling that construction of the ECO Park in Tehran was expected to be completed in 2011, the Council called on the ECI to follow-up the matter with relevant authorities of the I.R. of Iran so that inauguration ceremony of the Park could be organized at the earliest. In this regard, the ECI would also submit a progress report to the ECI-CPR.

297. The Council took note of the concerns raised by the Audit Board in their Audit Reports regarding procedural lapses on the part of the ECI Secretariat, and recommended to the Institute to include in the agenda of the ECI-CPR consideration for expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the Audit Board.

- ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

298. The Council expressed its deep satisfaction over the formal inauguration of the ECOSF in Islamabad in the wake of the first Board of Trustees meeting of the Foundation, which was hosted by Pakistan in Dec, 2011, and congratulated the member States on this notable accomplishment. The Council also appreciated the role of "High-Level Task Group on establishment of ECOSF and ECOEI" in this regard.

299. Reiterating the significance of ratification of the ECOSF' Charter by the non-ratifying member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkey and Uzbekistan), the Council requested the concerned countries to complete their respective ratification procedures before the upcoming ECO Summit/COM meeting, in Baku in October, 2012. The Council was of the view that full potential of the Foundation would be realized only when all the signatory member States have joined it.

300. The Council appreciated that Turkey has already initiated requisite procedure to complete formalities for ratification procedure and expressed the hope that it would be completed before the next Summit in Baku. The Council also took note of the announcement made by the Republic of Kazakhstan at the High-Level Task Group

Meeting (July, 2011-Tehran) and later endorsed at the first BoT of the ECOSF; and of the Kyrgyz Republic as conveyed at the High-Level Task Group Meeting (July, 2011-Tehran) to ratify the Charter, and encouraged them to speed-up the process. The Council called on the President-Designate to follow-up the matter proactively with the concerned member States.

301. The Council recalled that at the 21st RPC meeting, it was agreed that if the instrument of ratification of the Republic of Azerbaijan could not be found within one month, Azerbaijan would initiate ratification of the ECOSF Charter anew. The Council urged Azerbaijan to accelerate the process. Given that Azerbaijan would be assuming chairmanship of the Summit/COM as well as the post of the Secretary-General of the Organization this year, the Council noted that it becomes all the more important for Azerbaijan to lead by example by completing its ratification process at the earliest.

302. Recalling the decision of the last RPC meeting concerning the need for nomination of national focal points by the member States to coordinate with the ECOSF, the Council noted with appreciation that Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Turkey have already introduced their respective focal points. The Council was also informed that Islamic Republic of Iran will introduce their focal points in the near future. The Council urged the remaining member States to speed up action and furnish the requisite information to the ECOSF/ECO Secretariat expeditiously. The Council was of the view that nomination of national focal points would facilitate a great deal the coordination between ECOSF and the Member States on regular basis.

303. The Council appreciated that ECOSF has established its website (www.eco4science.org) and co-organized a week long international training workshop on modern techniques used in ecological research.

304. The Council took note of the preparations initiated by the ECOSF to organize a Regional Conference on Science & Technology in Sep, 2012 in Pakistan in pursuance of the decision of the first BoT, and expressed the hope that all the member States would take active part in it. The Council further noted that the Conference would be an important event to deliberate and identify specific needs of the member States in the areas of science & technology and that it would serve as a building-block to work out a long-term Plan of Action as envisaged in the Additional Protocol of the ECOSF's Charter. In order for the Conference to be successful and productive, the Council further encouraged the member States to share their proposals with the Foundation in advance also.

305. The Council was of the view that success of the Foundation would depend a great deal on financial assistance by the Member States. Accordingly, the Council called on the ratifying member States (I.R. of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) to make arrangements for transfer of annual contributions to the ECOSF's account without any further delay. Further that, it is of critical importance that in addition to their mandatory contributions to the annual budget of the ECOSF, all the member States make generous voluntary contributions (in cash/ kind) to the S&T Fund of the Foundation. In this regard, the Council also requested the member States that have already pledged contributions

(Afghanistan-US\$ 200,000/-, Iran-US \$ 100,000/- and Pakistan US\$ 1 million) to transfer the fund at the earliest.

306. The Council laid stress on the need to implement the decisions of the 1st BoT Meeting and urged the Member States to nominate eminent scientists for the Board of Trustees as well as Executive Committee of the Foundation.

- ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)

307. The Council expressed its profound appreciation over the formal establishment of the ECOEI in Ankara, after an inordinate delay, following the 1st BoT Meeting held in April, 2012, and congratulated the Member States on this landmark development.

308. The Council recommended that an ECO Educational Trust Fund may be established with the voluntary contributions (cash and/or kind) of the Member States in line with Article VII of the Charter with the purpose to enable the Institute finance its programmes for educational development. Draft Terms of Reference for the Fund would be prepared by the ECO EI and circulated, through the ECO Secretariat to the Member States for their views and comments.

309. The Council called on the concerned Member States that have not yet signed/ratified the Charter of the Institute to expedite their ratification/accession procedures. Taking note of the announcement made by Pakistan at the 1st High-Level Task Group Meeting (Tehran-July, 2011), conveying its readiness to ratify the Charter of the Institute, as also by Kazakhstan at the 1st BoT of the ECOEI, the Council urged these two Member States to expedite action in this regard.

310. The Council called on the Member States to expedite nomination of their respective focal points as well as introduce experts to the Academic Council of the Educational Institute as soon as possible. These nominations would enhance Institute's coordination with the Member States resulting in its efficient and smooth functioning.

311. The Council appreciated that due to the importance of accelerating the activities of ECOEI, Turkish Ministry of National Education has allocated US\$ 55,000 for 2013 for supporting projects or activities in the areas of education and training. Also, for increasing the visibility of ECOEI, Turkish Ministry of National Education has allocated US\$ 150,000 to organize a conference and seminar in 2013 on challenges and issues in Educational Systems of ECO countries.

- ECO Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)

312. Stressing the significance and potential of ECOCEC as an important regional institute of ECO, the Council urged the Member States to benefit from the expertise and services offered by ECOCEC in the engineering sector. The Council also reiterated the need for the Member States and the ECOCEC to take early steps in pursuance of the "Study on impediments faced by ECO-CEC" jointly prepared by the Secretariat and ECOCEC in 2010.

- ECO College of Insurance

313. Took note with appreciation that the through concerted efforts of the Secretariat, the Allamah Tabatabai University and relevant authorities of Iran, the Board of Trustees of the College has been successfully institutionalized recently. The Council noted that it would strengthen College's regional character and guide to serve the region with greater vigour.

314. The Council encouraged the Member States to give suggestions to improve educational standards and performance of the College. Further that the Member States may encourage their talented students to avail scholarship opportunities offered by the College.

315. The Council recommended to the College to host seminars in ECO Member States to attract students. To begin with, such an activity may be organized in Tehran, preferably at the College campus, with the participation of Permanent Representatives of the Embassies of all the Member States. The Council appreciated Secretariat's willingness to extend any possible assistance, if required, in this regard.

316. Recalling its recommendation made at the 21st RPC, the Council proposed to the College to accelerate efforts towards promoting networking with education institutions of the Member States in the field of insurance by establishing an electronic forum.

317. The Council noted that according to its Statute as approved by the 17th COM, the College is a Regional Institutions of ECO. However, the Organizational Chart of ECO refers to it as a Regional Institute. The Council recommended to the CPR to examine the issue with a view to removing this anomaly and also to ensure correct reflection of the College's status in the Organizational Chart before the upcoming 12th ECO Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Establishment of "Group of Diplomatic Training Institutes of ECO Member States"

318. The Council requested Pakistan to convey new schedule for convening the 1st Meeting of the Heads of ECO Diplomatic Training Institutes at the earliest.

(ii) ECO's External Relations

319. Expressing its satisfaction over the progress made in consolidating and deepening external relations of ECO, the Council appreciated Secretariat's commitment to take further concrete steps in accordance with the Treaty of Izmir and the relevant decisions of the ECO Summit and COM, and within the framework of ECO's Basic documents and the Comprehensive Plan of Action: Enhancing ECO's External Relations, in order to further expand long-term mutually beneficial cooperative relations with the United Nations system, Regional/International Organizations and relevant non-ECO states.

320. The Council took note of the proposals made by the Secretariat to further expand its external relations and recommended that detailed proposals may be forwarded to the CPR for review and approval.

321. The Council commended the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing a comprehensive 'Status Report on implementation of MoUs/Agreements. The Council called on the Secretariat to follow-up implementation of these recommendations in a step-by-step approach. Further the Status Report shall be updated by the Secretariat and submitted to the CPR and RPC on annual basis.

322. The Council took note with appreciation of the activation of the ECO Contact Groups in Vienna, New York and Rome and expressed its satisfaction over the activities/meetings held so far by these Contact Groups. The Council also commended the Secretariat for its substantive inputs and suggestions to these Contact Groups to promote ECO cooperation with relevant international/regional organizations. The Council called on the Secretariat to continue following-up on activities of these Contact Group.

323. Noting that this year, a fresh resolution is to be tabled by ECO at the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Council called on the Member States to send appropriate instructions to their Permanent Missions in New York to fully support/co-sponsor the draft Resolution on UN-ECO cooperation as and when it is tabled.

324. The Council appreciated the Secretariat for preparation of 'Draft Modalities for signing new agreements/MoU'; endorsed the text and recommended to the CPR to submit it to the next COM meeting for final approval. The Council further noted that implementation of the procedure laid down in the Draft Modalities would guide the Organization in its quest to pursue constructive, meaningful and focussed cooperation in the sphere of external relations.

325. The Council expressed its satisfaction on activation of ministerial-level consultative mechanism between ASEAN and ECO and in this regard appreciated the outcome of the 11th ASEAN-ECO Joint ministerial Meeting held in New York in September 2011 and called on the Member States and the Secretariat for taking steps to maintain and promote meaningful cooperation with ASEAN in the light of the decisions reached in the last meeting. The Council also appreciated that this year, the 12th Joint Ministerial Meeting would be held in the margins of the 12th ECO Summit/20th COM meeting in Baku with a view to promoting strategic cooperation between the two regions, and encouraged the Member States to share concrete proposals with the Secretariat to make the meeting a success.

326. Appreciating the steps taken to implement the 'Comprehensive Plan of Action', the Council endorsed Secretariat's proposal to undertake a three-year analytical assessment in the last quarter of the current year to be submitted to the CPR together with proposals to revise the Plan. Meanwhile, the Council encouraged the Member States to share their assessment on the implementation of the Plan of Action along with suggestions to revise it.

327. The Council took note of Secretary-General's proposal to establish a technical group comprising representatives of ECO and MERCOSUR to explore ways and means for possible cooperation between the two Organizations. At this stage, it would be advisable to maintain interaction through electronic exchange of information in areas of mutual interest.

328. The Council noted that the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes are ECO's main partners. Although this mutual relationship has grown since inception in 1993 when the UNGA granted observer status to ECO by its Resolution 48/2 of 13 October, 1993, efforts are required to improve the ongoing cooperation and bring more substance to it for which it is important that contacts with the UN system and other regional/international organizations must be promoted at working/operational level in order to develop and ensure meaningful follow-up on activities/events of mutual concern.

329. The Council advised that ECO's participation in multilateral regional/international initiatives on Afghanistan must be guided by Para 12 of the ECO 'Modality for the Establishment and Operationalization of ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan' to attract financial assistance of donor countries and international organizations for implementing joint development projects in Afghanistan.

330. The Council recommended that ECO may give special focus to expanding relationship with funding agencies/institutions as identified in the Plan of Action.

331. The Council supported the initiative of the ECO Trade and Development Bank to launch a periodic Regional Partnership Forum with an aim to forge partnerships and alliances with development finance institutions, donor organizations, development funds, civil organizations and other stakeholders which are active or interested in development of the Member States. The Council requested the ECO Secretariat and ECOTDB to finalize the required preparation including Terms of Reference (TORs) for organizing the said Forum on regular basis and also urged the Member States to encourage their relevant National Institutions/organizations to actively participate in the Forum.

332. Taking note of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Developing-8, the Council appreciated Secretariat's efforts to work out a work programme and urged to finalize it at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. 6

Annual ECO Calendar of Events for 2012-2013

333. The Council while taking note with appreciation, report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Calendar of Events for 2011, and approved the ECO Calendar of Events for 2012-2013 (*Annex-VII*).

Agenda Item No.7

Any other business

334. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 8

Date and Venue of the next Meeting

335. The Council requested the Secretariat to decide the venue of the next RPC Meeting in consultation with the interested Member States.

Agenda Item No.9

Adoption of the Report

336. The Report of the 22nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item No.10

Vote of Thanks

337. On behalf of all the participating delegations, the Council expressed its appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Secretariat for hosting this important meeting and making appropriate arrangements for its success. It also appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary General and his staff for preparing comprehensive Working Papers and other documents for the Council.

338. The Council concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair for conducting the deliberations of the meeting in a smooth and efficient manner. The Council also thanked the Chairmen of various Review Committees for successfully conducting the business of their respective Review Committees.

Annex-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of Participants

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

- H.E. Mr. Shir Mohammad Jamizada, Deputy Minister of Economy for Administrative Affairs, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Ahmad Shah Alizoy, First Secretary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tehran
- Mr. Ahmad Shah Taheri, Advisor of International Trade & Export Development, Ministry of Commerce & Industries
- Mr. Sayed Malouk Fakhr, Director of Regional Cooperation, Economic Directorate General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Mohammad Ayub Azizi, Director of International & Regional Organization

Republic of Azerbaijan

- H.E. Mr. Javanshir Akhundov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Iran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Ayaz Gadirov, Deputy Head of Division, Ministry of Economic Development
- Mr. Ali Gasimov, Head of Section, Ministry of Transport
- Mr. Arif Isganderov, Head of Section, Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Azer Ahmedov, Head of Section, State Committee of Statistics

Islamic Republic of Iran

- H.E. Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhund Zadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Head of delegation**
- H.E. Mr. Seyed Ali Mohamed Mousavi, Director General of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran
- Mr. Sayed Jalal Alavi Sabzevari, Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Hamid Reza Anousheh, Deputy Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Javad Heidari, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Asghari, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ahmad Reza Asghari, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ali Lotfi, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Akbar Khodaei, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mrs. Mina Razi, Senior Expert, Bureau of Specialized & International Affairs, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

- Mr. Shahrokh Nazemi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mrs. Azadeh Kian Pisheh, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Sadegh Sadeghi, Expert
- Mr. Seyed Mohammad Kazem Kholdinaseb, Director of Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection, Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran
- Mr. Majid Mohammadi Hosseinabadi, Deputy of International Affairs, Institute of International Energy Studies (IIES)
- Mr. Vahid Shabani Haidarabadi, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Petroleum
- Mr. Vahid Gohari Sadr, Director of International Affairs of Tavanir, Ministry of Energy
- Mr. Omid Ardebili, Iran Geology Organization
- Mr. Ahmad Ali Shokoramreji, Deputy Director of International Organizations Office, Central Bank of I.R. of Iran
- Mr. Mohammad Narimani, Director of Bilateral and Multilateral Affairs Bureau, Iran Drug Control Headquarters
- Mr. Ali Eftekhari, Director General, Ministry of I.C.T.
- Mr. Mohsen Hushmand, Director, Ministry of I.C.T.
- Mr. Mohammad J. Malek, Deputy of Director General, Ministry of Health and Medical Education.
- Dr. Fayzullah Pakdel, Deputy Director General of Agricultural Research Development Institute
- Dr. Samad Mobasser, Deputy of Director General for Research Seed, Plant Certification & Registration Research Institute
- Dr. Babak Nakhoda, Researcher, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute (ECO-ABN)
- Ms. Fereshteh Zerrati, Ministry of Health and Medical Education
- Mr. Mahmud Ilkhan, Director, National Cartography Organization
- Mr. Mehrdad Arbabian, Director General, National Cartography Organization
- Mr. Ali Soltanpour, Deputy Director General, National Cartography Organization
- Mr. Naser Javadi, Expert, National Cartography Organization
- Mr. Babaeian, Meteorological Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, RCRM, Mashad
- Mr. Fatahi, RCRM – Mashad
- Mr. Hamid Zadbun, Director General, Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
- Mr. S. Hafez Mousavi, Expert, Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
- Mr. Mohsen Dastur, Director Iran Veterinary Organization
- Dr. Davood Soleimaniasr, Head of International Bureau, Iran Veterinary Organization

- Mr. Malekshahi, Expert, Iran Veterinary Organization
- Mr. Ardeshir Ahadi, Central Insurance of I.R. of Iran
- Mr. Ramin Rashidi, Expert, Central Insurance of I.R. of Iran
- Ms. Fereshteh Khorsandnia, Expert, Central Insurance of I.R. of Iran
- Mr. Hassan Javadi, Director, Foreign Relations Office, Interpol
- Mr. Hossein Amini, Interpol
- Mr. Hossein Ravankhah, Interpol
- Mr. Yousef Musapour, Interpol
- Mr. Seyed Vahid Hosseini Kia, Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Interior
- Mrs. Shirzani, Ministry of Interior
- Mr. Mohammad Morteza Ghasem Sharabiani, Director, Tourism Projects Department, CHTO
- Mr. Azimlo, Director General, Ministry of Interior
- Mr. Sharbiani, ICHTO
- Mr. Sheikhan, ICHTO
- Mr. Ghasemi, ICHTO
- Mr. Ali Javanmardi, SME, ISIPO

Republic of Kazakhstan

- Mr. Zharkyn Galymov, Deputy Chief of Directorate, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, Minister-Councillor of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the I.R. Iran
- Mr. Salamat Kundebayev, Councillor of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran
- Mr. Marat Murtbayev, Detective Officer, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran
- Mr. Yermek Sadykbekov, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran
- Mr. Nurzhan Tursynbekov, Attache of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran
- Mr. Saule Rakymbekova, Expert, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Mr. Serik Tulepov, Senior Expert, Ministry of Transport & Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Republic

- H.E. Medetkhan Sherimkulov – Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Iran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Baisymakov Melisbek – Counselor, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran
- Mr. Beishenaliev Zamirbek – First Secretary, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran
- Mr. Bakyt Asanaliev – Attaché, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- Dr. Ali Bat Khan, Chief, International Trade and Finance Section, Planning and Development Division, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Sohail Siddique, Charge d’Affairs, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran
- Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran
- Mr. Shahras Asim, Assistant Director (CAR’s), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic of Tajikistan

- H.E. Mr. Davlatali Hotamov, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Iran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Dodarjon Zohirov, Head of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Mr. Ikromidin Nematov, Minister-Counsellor (DHM), Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran
- Mr. Rahmat Davlatov, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

Republic of Turkey

- H. E. Mr. Mehmet Ceylan, Deputy Minister of Development, **Head of delegation**
- H.E. Mr. Umit Yardim, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Iran
- Mr. Mehmet Akif Koc, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tehran
- Mr. Mehmet Metin Eker, Director General of Foreign Economic Affairs in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Tamer Taşpınar, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Mr. Sefa Yüceer, Head of Department in Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Selçuk Koç, Head of Department in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Mithat Kup, Head of Department in General Directorate of Disaster and Emergency Management

- Mr. Mehmet Yılmaz, Head of Department in Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)
- Mr. Temuçin Sayar, Chief of Section in Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Mr. Serdar Yılmaz, Chief of Section, Ministry of National Education
- Mr. Metin Gençkol, Expert in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Murat Deliçay, Expert in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Memduh Ünal, Expert in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Kutluhan Yücel, Expert in Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- Ms. Ayşegül Demir, Expert in Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Hüseyin Mızrak, Expert in Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- Ms. Aylin Gün, Assistant Expert in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Mehmet Fidan, Assistant Expert in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Ahmet Erdoğan, Assistant Expert in Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Ufuk Bağcı, Engineer in Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. Orhan Öztaşkın, Officer in Ministry of Development
- Mr. Dr. Nazım Gümüş, Officer in Ministry of Development
- Ms. Elif İşlek, Nurse in Ministry of Health

Republic of Turkmenistan

-

Republic of Uzbekistan

- H.E Mr. Ilhom Akramov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Rustam Ahmedov, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Mr. Nizomiddin Usmanov, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Mr. Shukhrat Adylov, Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

- H.E. Mr. Ali Korhan, Under-Secretary of the State Planning Organization of the TRNC, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Ödül Muhtaroglu, Director of the Economic Planning Department, State Planning Organization of the TRNC
- Mr. Mustafa Güven, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the TRNC

Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions:

ECO Cultural Institute

- H. E. Dr. Hojjatollah Ayoobi, President, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Jamil Owaisi, Executive Director

ECO Science Foundation

- H.E. Mr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President-designate, **Head of delegation**

ECO Educational Institute

- H. E. Prof. Dr. Selahattin TURAN, President-designate, **Head of delegation**

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Dr. Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General, **Head of delegation**
- Dr. Mohsen Mohebbi, Chairman of the Arbitration Committee of ECO-CCI
- Mr. Mehdi Razzagh Shoar, Expert
- Ms. Elahe Masoumzadeh, Expert
- Mrs. Seyedeh Fatemeh Moghimi, Expert
- Dr. Shams Ardakani, Expert

ECO College of Insurance

- Dr. Atousa Goodarzi, Dean, **Head of delegation**

ECO Trade and Development Bank

- Mr. Hossein Ghazavi, President, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Masoud Rekabdar, Chief Representative
- Mr. Fazli Sak, Manager
- Mr. Omer F. Baykal, Chief Economist

ECO Reinsurance Company Limited

- Mr. Ayaz Hussain M. Gad, Executive Director, **Head of delegation**

ECO Chronicle Magazine

- Mr. Mahmood Khaghani, Editor

ECO Secretariat

- H. E. Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, Secretary General, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Fatih Unlu, Deputy Secretary General (TI, AIT, IR)
- Mr. Altaf Asghar, Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS, CFU)
- Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi, Deputy Secretary General (EME, HRSD, Admn)
- Mr. Esmaeil Tekeyh Sadat, Director (Transport and Communication)
- Mr. Ahmet Furkan, Director (Agriculture, Industry & Tourism)
- Mr. Ali Khanbutaev, Director (Energy, Minerals & Environment)
- Ms. Bayan Adilbekova, Director (Project and Economic Research, Statistics)
- Ms. Ainur Dyikanalieva, Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development)
- Mr. Hussain Haider, Director (Trade and Investment)
- Ms. Mavjuda Nurova, Assistant Director (Coordination and Follow Up)
- Mr. Farhad Najafzadeh, Assistant Director (Administration)
- Mr. Faruk Feza Ustunkaya Chef d' Cabinet
- Mr. Hossein Pourkarami, in-Charge, DOCCU
- Mr. Bahram Heidari, Legal Advisor
- Mr. Muhammad Farooq, Programme Officer (T&I)
- Mr. Ahmad Saffari, Programme Officer, (HRSD)
- Mr. Mehmet Ali Saglam, Programme Officer (T&I)
- Mr. Hooman Fathi, Programme Officer (T &C)
- Ms. Abisheva Zukhre, Programme Officer (T &C)
- Mr. Khosrow Hajian, Programme Officer (AI&T)
- Mr. Hasan Shahin, Programme Officer (AI&T)
- Mr. Djalyzbek Turgunbaev, Programme Officer (EME)
- Mr. Reza Samieifard, Programme Officer (EME)
- Mr. Mohammad Amini, Programme Officer (PERS)
- Mr. Mashrique Hussain Kayani, Secretary
- Mr. Muhammad Tayyab, Secretary
- Mr. Shafqat Amir, Secretary
- Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Secretary
- Mr. Farooq Iqbal, Secretary
- Mr. Imran Ahmad, Secretary
- Mr. Ghulam Muhammad, Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Translator
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**STATEMENT BY THE
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Statement by H.E. Mr. M. Mahdi AKHOUNDZADEH, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 22nd Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
(Tehran, July 9-11, 2012)

Distinguished Heads of Delegation

Mr. Secretary General

Distinguished authorities of the Islamic Republic Of Iran

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

This is indeed a great honor for me to address the 22nd RPC meeting here in Tehran. At the outset, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a very warm welcome to the distinguished delegates of the ECO member states and wish them all a pleasant stay in Tehran. I would like to express our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Maroofi, the distinguished ECO Secretary General, and his staff in the Secretariat for the extensive preparatory work led to this meeting.

Allow me to continue with recapturing the ever-known important role the Regional Planning Council plays in the universe of the Economic Cooperation Organization. As envisaged in the Izmir Treaty, the Council shall contribute to the realization of the ECO objectives through crafting forward-looking policies and programmes while taking stock of what has been done in the past 12 months. This RPC meeting carries more weight and significance in terms of its impact on preparatory work for the upcoming summit in Baku. I am confident that this meeting will certainly be of great value for the Baku Summit as well as for the Organization in its activities in the year to come.

Excellencies

Distinguished participants

ECO Region enjoys immense capacities to offer for optimal regional cooperation and integration. A big market of more than 400 million populations, a unique geographical location in terms of transit, a huge human resource capital as well as abundant energy resources are among those contributing factors to make ECO a successful regional undertaking. This is against the fact that ECO is regrettably absent in the literature of the success stories in regionalism. This is partly attributed to the fact that these capacities have not been translated, to an acceptable extent, into real functions and outputs. Regional Planning Council is the right place where well-prepared policies and well-organized follow-up actions shall be crafted to put ECO projects on the right and accelerating track. This requires that RPC be availed of necessary tools and mechanisms to accomplish its decisive role.

We recall with great satisfaction that the last RPC meeting adopted the "General Guidelines" for its work. The main purposes of the "Guidelines" were to make ECO a project-based organization (rather than a meeting-based one), to consolidate the overlapping activities/institutions, and to avoid unfeasible and unnecessary meetings of low value and weak relevance to ECO core mandate. This was an encouraging

development which rendered promising results in the 21st RPC session. This RPC meeting shall also be guided through the same direction.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the eve of the third decade of its existence, ECO needs to begin to revisit its core mandates in light of the realities on the ground. The Islamic Republic of Iran has shared in different occasions its views on what we need in order to enhance ECO performance. Let me seize this opportunity to briefly recapitulate them here.

In our assessment, ECO suffers from less than full solidarity, feasibility, visibility and viability. ECO, like other regional organizations, is contingent firmly on **solidarity** among its constituencies. This means full engagement of all stakeholders. Otherwise, ECO objectives enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir will not be fully realized. A source of concern here is that there has been indication of descending interests in part of the membership towards our Organization activities. This will put at risk, in one way or another, the level of solidarity emerged since ECO was given birth to in early 1990s.

Turning to the second concept and from a policy perspective, it is imperative to ensure the **feasibility** of the decisions taken by decision making bodies of the Organization, including RPC. This implies ex-ante feasibility test for each and every single decision. ECO shall avoid decisions with the blurred possibility of implementation.

ECO **visibility** is still a matter of concern. In the last Council of Foreign Ministers in Istanbul in 2010, the ministers reached the conclusion that visibility of the Organization should be enhanced. To be more visible from outside world, ECO needs to demonstrate its advantages vis a vis competing regions. This means a need for critical mass of regional comparative advantages. On the other hand, ECO shall be more visible from inside, among its membership. This will certainly strengthen the solidarity as well. Notwithstanding the remarkable achievements of the Organization in terms of cooperation in different areas, ECO deserves more intra-regional arrangements to make the very objective of the Organization a reality; namely raising living standards and quality of life of the people of the Region, as stipulated in Treaty of Izmir.

Lastly, the importance of the **viability** of the Organization should not be underestimated. We need to do more to ensure that ECO survives all real and potential challenges it is facing. This relies heavily on the ECO success to ensure solidarity, feasibility and visibility. I hope this RPC meeting along with the upcoming important events in 2012 will serve as invaluable contribution to this effect.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

In peroration, I would like to re-emphasize the very important role RPC can play to make ECO develop in the right direction. This once-a-year opportunity shall be utilized in full by member states.

Last but not the least; I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Maroofi, the distinguished Secretary General for his dedication during his tenure of office. His Stewardship and wisdom benefited our Organization. He will be revered in the memory of our Organization.

Dear Participants

Thank you for your attention

Annex-III

**STATEMENT BY THE
ECO SECRETARY GENERAL**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. M. Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General on the
Occasion of 22nd Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
(Tehran, July 9-11, 2012)**

**Your Excellency Mr. Mohammad Akhondzadeh, Deputy Minister for Legal and
International Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran and Chairman
Your Excellency the Director of the Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Institute
Distinguished Heads of ECO Delegations
Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
Ladies & Gentlemen**

At the outset, I would like to extend very warm welcome to the distinguished delegates for the 22nd session of the ECO Regional Planning Council being held in this beautiful city of Tehran. I would also like to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their generous hospitality and impeccable arrangements made for the event.

Excellencies

A sound planning is the basis of success and the way to realization of our noble objectives. In this regard, the RPC Meetings hold extraordinary significance for the work of ECO. RPC, while considering our prior performance, also sets goals and provide strategies, fresh guidance and dynamism to work of the Organization.

In fact, a successful plan needs clear cut targets and commitments. As Peter Drucker said “Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate (or evolve) into hard work.” Therefore, our humble request from the distinguished audience is that lets work together with more dedication to realize our plans for the welfare of our people. We have to work harder. As commanded in the Holy Quran by meaning “And there is nothing for men except what he strives for.”

A detailed Working Paper covering all aspects of ECO’s progress has already been circulated. You will find the details of developments and our achievements during the last year in the full text of my statement. Here, I would like to briefly summarize the most important key developments.

Excellencies

ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) which envisages 8 years trade liberalization programme is now in the implementation phase. As we all know, its full scale implementation would help enhancing intra regional trade, reaching economies of scale and improving competition in the region and constitute a major step forward towards establishing a Free Trade Area in the region by the year 2015 as envisaged by ECO Vision 2015.

But unfortunately in the implementation of ECOTA, we are facing various impediments due to discrepancies in stances vis a vis the agreement and substantial level of differences in trade regimes. In line with the directives of our presidents and ministers we have to overcome these difficulties. If we can not realize concessional trade in our region, our targets for regional integration and deeper cooperation would remain an unfulfilled dream. As a humble contribution to the process, we have established ECOTA Implementation Fund last year through which we will organize the meetings of the Cooperation Council regularly and extend technical assistance to the contracting parties wherever needed. We will organize the 3rd Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council soon in Ankara, Turkey. We are optimistic that in this meeting we can reach substantial progress in this most important agreement of ECO. We would like to request your kind assistance and guidance for expediting the full-fledged implementation of ECOTA to constitute a major development in the history of ECO.

ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB), as a major achievement of ECO, continues its operations with a paid-in capital of more than 450 million US\$. I. R. of Afghanistan has signed the Articles of Agreement on March 12, 2012 to join the Bank. Republic of Azerbaijan will also sign it soon. The completion of the process for full membership of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan before the 12th ECO Summit to be held in Azerbaijan will constitute a concrete progress to be reported to our Presidents and Ministers. With these new memberships, the Bank will further expand its outreach and financing capacity. Moreover, we are of the opinion that we have to augment the resource base of the Bank through increasing its paid-up capital to have a broader regional impact.

Distinguished Delegates

In the field of agriculture, there are concrete developments in the implementation of ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS). ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the region within the scope of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) with an amount of 400.000 USD was signed in January 2012 by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey, ECO and FAO-SEC in Istanbul, Turkey and is expected to be launched soon. In the meantime, studies and preparations for operationalization of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO), the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) on the implementation of the ECO-RPFS and ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) are at the final stages.

In the field of industry, establishment of ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Metrology (RISCAM) would constitute a concrete step towards enhancing cooperation in the field of standardization and accreditation. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to request all Member States to join to this new affiliated body of ECO by signing /ratifying its Statute.

With its natural beauties, rich history and culture, ECO region offers a tremendous potential in the field of tourism. To give momentum to this important sector, we would like to organize the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on tourism in the current year, operationalize the “ECO Promotion Fund”, organize the 2nd Youth Ministerial Meeting and conduct

various cultural events and sports tournaments in cooperation with ECO Cultural Institute.

Excellencies

It is a matter of great satisfaction for ECO that finally, after an inordinate delay of more than a decade, the two core specialized agencies, ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad and ECO Educational Institute in Ankara have become operational in December, 2011 and April, 2012 respectively. 1st BOT of the ECO College of Insurance was also held last week in Tehran.

In the recent years, external relations of ECO have witnessed significant progress as efforts continued to consolidate and expand further close cooperative relations with the UN system and other regional and international organizations. The United Nations remained ECO's key partner. A new Memorandum of Understanding was inked with the Developing-8 Organization in October, 2011 with the approval of the CPR.

Pursuant to the directive of the last RPC, the Secretariat initiated action to organize the 12th ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting in New York after a gap of five years which was consequently held successfully and took a number of important decisions. The two Organizations are set to hold their 12th joint ministerial session in Baku on the sidelines of the forthcoming ECO Summit this year. Cooperation with UNESCAP has also witnessed further growth. Moreover, in line with the recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Enhancing ECO's External Relations, the Contact Groups in Vienna, Rome and New York have been activated successfully.

Excellencies

In the field of **Transport**, tangible progress has been made in most of the activities recommended by the 21st RPC. The Demonstration Run of Bandar Abbas-Almaty Container Train was successfully launched on 17 October 2011 from Bandar Abbas on the sidelines of the ECO/UNCTAD/UNECE/IRU international conference on logistic and transit transport. The return run of train is being organized for June 2012. The ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route has continued its regular operation and High Level Working Group Meeting of enroute countries have been organized regularly to consider the smooth movement of train.

The Secretariat is in contact with the Member States to expedite the construction of other railway projects, namely a) Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran and b) Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran routes. Comprehensive investment plan for development of the ECO Railway network has been prepared by the Secretariat, which will be considered by 11th Meeting of Heads of ECO Railway Authorities on 27-28 June 2012 in Istanbul.

The road, rail and insurance component of the ECO/IDB Joint Project on TTFA are being finalized and their final report will be published shortly. As per recommendation of 21 RPC for outsourcing the Custom Transit Trade related provisions of the TTFA to

UNCTAD, the final draft of the joint project has been prepared and the study is due to start on July 2012.

Excellencies

The 5th Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and its auxiliary technical committees, Road, Railway, Insurance and Transit Trade on 17-20 April 2012 in Islamabad took concrete measures to assure implementation of the provisions of TTFA.

ECO project for monitoring of regular run of trucks in partnership with IRU was launched on the sidelines of the 8th Meeting of the ECO Ministers of Transport, which was held on 29th June 2011 in Ashgabat. The final report of the project will be published soon.

In 2012, the Secretariat in cooperation with the Member States initiated an operational project to develop two road transport corridors between Iran-Afghanistan-Tajikistan-the Kyrgyz Republic and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul. The Meetings of enroute countries on February 2012 in Heart and on April 2012 in Islamabad have adopted time-bound action plans for establishment of the corridors.

The ECO unified visa Sticker for drivers has been prepared and is due to be considered by the Senior Consular Officials meeting to be held soon.

Subsequent to the first ECO\IRU Regional Conference on TIR Convention on May 2011, in Istanbul concrete measures were adopted to enhance the implementation of the TIR Convention in the ECO region, with an emphasis on Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the same context, on 23 February 2012, for the first time in the history of Afghanistan, a test run of two Afghan trucks under the coverage of the TIR was launched to Iran on the sidelines of the ECO\IRU meeting on TIR in Herat. We are now planning to conduct more test runs for Afghan trucks with involvement of Iran, Turkey and other ECO Member States. A pilot project has also been approved to prepare Pakistan for accession to the TIR. These and other issues related to transit by road and TIR have further been discussed during the 2nd ECO\IRU Conference held on 29-30 June 2012 in Istanbul.

We are following up an action plan for implementation of ECO White Card (Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability insurance), which was approved in recent Insurance Committee in Islamabad, with emphasis on the already established ECO Road Corridors.

The statute of the ECO Logistic Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF) was finalized by the third preparatory Meeting of ECOLPAF in Tehran in November 2011 and the Federation will be established after holding of its General Assembly of ECOLPAF by Pakistan in 2012, as main step to enhance public-private partnerships in the development of transport in the ECO region.

The ECO online money order system through Postal Services has also been developed. To this effect, Azerbaijan, Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey have already agreed to join the system. Other member states are considering to join the system in due course.

Tangible progress is expected in this regard before the 14th Meeting of Heads of Telecommunications Authorities and 6th Meeting of ECO Postal Authorities scheduled for September 2012 in Tehran.

Excellencies

Energy is a lifeline in the development of any country, therefore to enhance cooperation in Energy and Petroleum; we have conducted number of workshops and training courses to share the experience to build the capacity of the relevant institutes of the Member States.

We have also arranged Workshop on "Clean Coal Technology" on 8-10 December, 2011 in Antalya was successfully hosted by the Turkey Coal Enterprises of the Republic of Turkey in collaboration with TIKA and ECO Secretariat.

Also the Islamic Republic of Iran has established "Oil and Gas Training Centre for ECO" for holding specialized training courses in the fields of Oil, Gas and Petrochemistry. It is expected that the Islamic Republic of Iran will approach the Secretariat with the details of the activities of the Center and propose training courses.

All Member States are kindly requested to update their National Focal Points on Energy in order to speed up and facilitate communication between ECO Secretariat and concerned Ministry of the Member States.

Excellencies

Simultaneously, we are trying hard to develop potentials in the field of **Geology, Mineral and Geometric Engineering**, we have planned some events during this year. Your participation in these events will facilitate to achieve the desired objectives.

Distinguished Delegates

The campaign against **drugs, terrorism and trans-national organized crime** are among ECO priority. We have a clear set agenda of support for coordinated efforts to eradicate these forces and reducing their negative effects on the development of regional economies by means of implementing a joint regional strategy on combating drugs, terrorism and trans-national organized crime. In this regard, a series of meetings have also been organized so far by ECO to create awareness and establishing cooperative mechanism among the Member States on peace, security and stability of our people's life.

We are also moving in a cohesive manner towards the implementation of a project titled "Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with the ECO Member States". This project is being implemented by a consortium of German International Cooperation Agency, Interpol, UNODC, German Federal Criminal Police and in coordination with the ECO-Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit. Efforts are also underway to establish the ECOPOL for coordination against transnational crime through intelligence

sharing, harmonization of policies and operations as also a Regional Center for Cooperation among the Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States.

Mr. Chairman

In the **health** sector, we have a great potential to expand cooperation among the Member States. The 1st ECO Health Ministers Meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan has outlined ways towards cooperation in the health sector and I do hope that the 2nd Ministerial Meeting, scheduled for October 2013/2014 in Kazakhstan, would further strengthen cooperation among the Member States in this field. It is worthy to mention that we are also working on establishing ECO Blood Safety Network and Drug Regulatory Network. Cooperation in the field of health related Millennium Development Goals is also among our priorities in the health sector.

Human Resource is the most important and vital factor of Economic Development and the leverage point where we can make significant differences in our lives, careers, and organizations. To develop the cooperation in this specific field, High Level Expert Group Meeting on Human Resource Development held on 21-22 November 2011 in Tehran which resulted to identify the priority areas for cooperation in this field and planning to organize the First ECO Ministerial Meeting on this topic in November 2012.

The issue of **natural Disaster** has become more relevant to the ECO region than any other. Most countries in the ECO region are highly vulnerable to disasters, which accentuates the need of effective practical measures at the regional level.

Excellencies

The role of **statistics and economic research** is crucial for policy making in the Organization. Forecasts and economic and statistical data are central for all calculations, measurements and defining future trends in the development of the Organization. Similarly, monitoring of development activities, including projects and programmes is indispensable to ensure development effectiveness and compliance with policies and economic governance.

To facilitate project implementation in ECO, **the Project Monitoring Group (PMG)** was established in December 2010 at Secretariat. Its main objective is to ensure effective inter-agency coordination between ECO and its project partners. The PMG is holding its regular meetings on quarterly basis at Secretariat and informs the Member States about progress in project implementation, accordingly. Based on proposals of Departments in the Secretariat, the PMG has amended its policies through ECO Project Guidelines and is preparing to organize a project fund raising arrangement in 2012-2013.

To ensure knowledge sharing on project management in the member states, the Secretariat in collaboration with the Islamic Research Training Institute (IRTI) from Islamic Development Bank Group organized two training workshops on "Project Risk Management" in the first half of 2012.

Since official launch of the ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) in February 2012, this website is being updated by the ECO Secretariat in joint cooperation with the Statistical Centre of Iran. In this regard, the Secretariat has frequently requested Member States to utilize ECOSTAT as the main statistical network in the region and keep it updated through their contribution on regular provision of updated data, statistics and information.

Distinguished Delegates

To monitor implementation of The ECO Joint Economic Research Programme, the **Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research** was set up on 3 May 2011 at its first meeting in Astana. The 2nd meeting of the Committee will be held in 7-8 November 2012 in Baku. The Meeting will see to implementation of ECO Plan of Action on Economic Research, Terms of Reference of the Committee. With UNFPA, the Secretariat has signed a contract agreement on joint economic research. One with SESRIC is yet under consideration, for which feedback is being awaited.

Annual Economic Report for 2010 has already been pasted on ECO Web. The Report for 2011 is currently being compiled based on statistical indicators and economic data submitted by Member States.

Effective cooperation with international organizations has been followed by PERS Directorate, such as implementation of the FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for implementation and development of CountryStat in the region, organizing training workshop on Indicator-based Monitoring of Regional Integrated Statistical System in joint cooperation with United Nations University (UNU), conducting training workshop on R&D and Innovation Statistics with UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), holding regional workshop on Inter-institutional Capacity Building in ECO and EU regions with EuroStat and organizing training workshop on implementation of the System of National Accounts (2008) for ECO countries United Nations statistics division (UNSD).

Excellencies

I have given you an overview of our performance since 21st RPC. We have not been able to utilize our potential fully because of certain constraints and bottlenecks but we still feel that we have achieved some milestones especially in transport and agriculture sectors during the last one year. We have the determination to produce better results and for that purpose we would require whole hearted support of our Member States.

At the end, I once again thank the delegates to attend the meeting in Tehran and I wish you all successful deliberation and a pleasant stay in Tehran.

Thank you

STATEMENTS BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION

- The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- The Republic of Azerbaijan
- The Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- The Republic of Tajikistan
- The Republic of Turkey
- The Republic of Uzbekistan

Statement of Eng. Shir Mohammad “Jamizada”,
Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy and Head of Delegation
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Honourable Chairman, distinguished head of delegates of member countries, dear participants, ladies and gentlemen good morning/afternoon!

First of all, on the behalf of the Afghan delegation, I would like to express out deep gratitude to the leadership of the ECO Organization for inviting Afghanistan to participate in the 22nd meeting of the Regional Planning Council. I wish the meeting success in extending and facilitating a further cooperation in the region. In the same vein, I would also like to thank the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for facilitating this important gathering and also for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegate since our arrival.

Honourable chairman and dear audience!

Economic and social development within the ECO framework of activities to a great extent are dependent on creating and maintaining a strong sense of cooperation amongst the organization members through exchange of professional and expertise, provisions of trainings for each other’s experts, granting economic and technical assistance, creating joint ventures and further developing cooperation in private sectors.

This sense of cooperation would facilitate the opportunities to cooperate with each other in strengthening food security, enhancing security, expanding economic relationships, intensifying the campaign against cultivation and trafficking narcotics, combating corruption, preventing inflation rate, expansion of trade and cultural ties.

Dear Chairman and audience!

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, after experiencing many long and tough years and facing numerous economic and security challenges, have been managing the reconstruction of country with the assistance of international community for the past 10 years. The country has experienced a considerable degree of development in different sectors such as transport, communication, energy, trade, private sector, mines, social protection, regional cooperation, betterment of monetary and banking systems, education, health, gender equality, justice sector reform, and good governance. These efforts are still in progress and Afghanistan owes these achievements to the generous assistance provided by the international community including the members of the ECO Organization.

Despite these significant achievements, Afghanistan still faces many big challenges in the fields of security, terrorism, narcotics, and economic, that the country along cannot resolve. The reason is twofold: first, most of these challenges have roots in regional and international problems and require a broad cooperation to tackle them at the international level; second, as the Afghan government is relatively young, it is in need of more time

and space to capitalize upon the available opportunities and assistance and accumulate the expertise, professionalism and skill required for a strong administration.

Dear Chairman and audience!

The people of the member countries share with each other numerous historical, cultural, and geographical grounds, and the location of this region benefits from a strategic depth and plays the role of a connecting bridge between the north, south, east and the west. This condition while requiring further cooperation amongst the member countries and playing a significant role in strengthening economic and security ties, at the same time facilitates the necessary opportunities for the expansion of trade, transport, transit, and investments.

Afghanistan as a member state pledges its full commitment and support for the development of this cooperation. Fortunately, signing the transit agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan (Afghanistan Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement (APTTA), the Gas project agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI), and advancing the CASA-1000 project, the electricity transfers projects from the Republic of Uzbekistan, Iran, and from Turkmenistan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan; providing telecommunication connections to the neighboring countries and the membership in TIR system, are significant examples of support for this regional cooperation. Afghanistan remains hopeful that, as the time passes by, this cooperation further develops in the sectors of communication, transport, transit, health, education, energy, trade, private investments, mines, and exchange of expertise and professionalism.

Dear Chairman and audience!

Based on the agreements reached and decisions made during the 21st gathering of the ECO planning council, the workshop on the regional cooperation in handling disaster and the international conference on disaster management, the gathering on improving agricultural statistics capacity, the 4th meeting between the trade ministries of the ECO members were hosted by Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2011. But the ECOTA meeting could not be held due to some problems that organization faced.

The people and the government of Afghanistan much appreciate the financial assistance generously provided by the member states to support some of the countries' projects and form a total amount of \$11.15 m that the members have committed, an amount of \$ 3.53 m have been credited into the ECO account. This amount is being used to support the projects of Dehmazang Park, Kabul Zoo, Construction of Research institute building of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, constructing Gino obstetric hospital in Faryab province, and constructing the health clinic and the school in Bamyan province. The works on the first 3 projects have been accomplished and 25% on the health clinic has been completed. The agreements on two more projects have been submitted to ECO and we are still waiting for the organization to transfer the funds for in advance payments purposes. It is, however, important to note that after completing the first two projects an amount of \$ 3.007 million will be allocated towards infrastructure projects, so in this way, an amount of \$0.528 million will still be left in ECO's account.

In addition to this, the Government of Afghanistan has presented two more proposals for the funding and ECO Secretariat has shared those proposals with member countries for funding but we have not received any response just yet.

The Afghan delegation once again presents the proposals which contain some minor changes. And the first proposal worth \$2.12 million and the second \$30 m respectively to the participants of this gathering and hope that the member states on close consideration of these proposals do not refrain from making their contributions towards these important projects.

At the end, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the leaderships of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Secretariat for facilitating this gathering.

Thank you

Unofficial English translation by ECO Secretariat

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JAVANSHIR AKHUNDOV,
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY,
AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC AT THE 22 RPC MEETING**

(Tehran, July 9-11, 2012)

**Honorable Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

First of all, on behalf of Azerbaijan delegation I would like to extend our welcome to the distinguished delegates for the 22nd session of the ECO Regional Planning Council and express that it is a great honour to us to attend this event.

I would also like on behalf of our delegation and on my own behalf to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their generous hospitality and ECO Secretariat for arrangements made for this event. We congratulate Mr. Akhund Zadeh with his election as the Chairman for today's meeting and we are confident that His Excellency will lead our meeting to tangible results.

Azerbaijan Republic attaches special attention to the ECO Summit, COM and RPC meetings and holding the 20th COM meeting and 12th ECO Summit on 13-16 October, 2012 in Baku is an obvious case for this. Along with these events joint ECO-ASEAN COM meeting will be held.

Starting from October, 2012 Azerbaijan will preside at ECO and beginning from August, 2012 the post of the ECO Secretary General will be occupied by Azerbaijan Republic. Improving efficiency of activities of the Organisation, implementation of concrete regional projects and programs will be one of our priorities for forthcoming years.

As you know establishment of an effective and modern transport network is the important element for the economy of each ECO member-state and we may say that transport, energy, communications remain a priority for our Organization. We believe that all efforts of the Organization should be aimed at establishment of unified railway network and improving transport infrastructure in the region. Since the trade volume increase among the member-states is one of the primary goals of the Organisation, transport projects of Region should be given more attention.

First of all, the Organisation should achieve modernization of the railway infrastructure and connection of ECO railway system with the networks of Europe and the Near East. And Project on international transport corridor "North-South" is one of the main project for today. I would like to inform you that in pursuance of decision made by 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport & Communication, the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Rasht – Astara(Iran) –Astara (Azerbaijan) corridor was held with participation of the representatives of Azerbaijan, Iran and the Secretariat. This corridor is the part of the North-South Project.

I would like to emphasize that upon completion of mentioned project and the railway project on Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, ECO member-states can take advantage of these possibilities and increase trade volume among their countries. We once again reiterate importance of undertaking concrete actions by the Organization in implementing projects on transport corridors for region's economic future.

I would like to inform, that Azerbaijan at high level has made the decision to enter into the ECO Trade and Development Bank. The letter of intent of our country has been already submitted to Bank and now necessary procedures are being carried out. Azerbaijan also supports the establishment of ECO Parliamentary Forum.

Distinguished Participants,

There are enough possibilities for transformation of our Organization into more effective Organization focused on certain programs and projects. We declared before and again we repeat that it is necessary to prioritize programs and projects are to serve for enhancing future cooperation among the member-states and for social-economic development of our region. For effective implementation of regionally significant projects of the Organisation it is necessary to enhance cooperation with the UN specialised economic bodies and international finance institutions.

As you know, 19th COM and 11th ECO Summit held in December 2010 in Turkey decided to establish ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG). Main task of this Group is study and analyze activities of the Organization, preparation of recommendations on strengthening its dynamism and efficiency for further submission to ECO COM. We highly appreciate establishment of such Group and we do hope that they will be able to prepare valuable recommendations.

At the same time we do believe that Organizations activities, assessment of concrete actions, regulation of reform process and functional mechanisms of Secretariat are to be analyzed on regular basis. Meanwhile ECO should give priority to specific projects which enhance further cooperation.

Dear Participants,

In conclusion, I once again thank the Islamic Republic of Iran and ECO Secretariat for organizing this meeting.

Thank you for your attention

**Statement by H.E. Mr. S. A. Mohammad MOUSAVI, Director General, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the 22nd Meeting of the ECO
Regional Planning Council
(Tehran, 9-11 July, 2012)**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. Chairman
Mr. Secretary General
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen**

This is indeed a credible honor for me to address this meeting on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the outset, I would like to welcome all delegates from ECO member states to Iran. Let me express our appreciation for the documentation prepared and excellent preparatory work done by the Secretariat.

Regional Planning Council meetings hold special importance for ECO. They are supposed to generate momentum needed for future activities of the Organization based on the assessment done on its past performance. Unjustifiably delayed notwithstanding, this RPC meeting is similarly expected to provide new impetus to our collective efforts in different sectors in the year to come. We remain confident that our deliberations in the next two days will be of great value for the Organization.

Mr. Chairman

ECO holds special significance for the regional policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This has been translated into action through meaningful contributions to the work of the Organization. Having taken stock of the ECO activities in the past years and decades reveals the magnitude of Iran's contribution to the overall work of the Organization. This has been also the case since we met in the last RPC meeting. We continued to provide ECO with needed support and resources in different sectors and corners. In the same period, we generated fresh momentum among national stakeholders when we managed to organize the first ever National Conference on ECO. The Conference was specially meant to engage all stakeholders from public, private and academic sectors in meaningful debates and interactions on how to help ECO improve its stature as a successful regional organization. The Conference was a success and we hope that its positive impacts on the Organization will soon be valued by member states.

Mr. Chairman

Let me present to this august meeting a brief report on part of our activities in the last year or so in some sectors. In transport and transit sector, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to play a pivotal role in advancing ECO projects. This includes, but not limited to, the following projects: construction of the Khaf-Herat railway between Iran and Afghanistan, construction of Gorgan-Incheboron segment of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran rail corridor, and feasibility study on railway construction in Tajikistan (up to one

million USD funding). Besides, Iran hosted various transport related meetings and participated actively in the meetings hosted by other member states; organized training courses, including for Afghan customs officials on TIR Conventions; designed ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers; and assisted ECO secretariat through seconding two Iranian officers.

In trade cooperation, the Islamic Republic of Iran took the initiative to host the first ever ECO event on trade facilitation and electronic commerce in Kish Island. The meeting, attended by officials and experts from member states, will be built on by other meetings to be held soon in other member states with a view to making preparations for an ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

On energy, we recently established a regional oil and gas training center for ECO member states. We also managed to set a rich agenda for the third ECO ministerial meeting on energy, scheduled for June this year. The meeting was postponed and we will decide on the new date in this RPC meeting. One of the ideas, yet to be presented to the ministers, is the possibility for a new ECO energy cooperation scheme.

On environment, we hosted the fourth ECO ministerial meeting in Tehran. The meeting successfully adopted a plan of action. We have been since actively involved in the implementation of the plan of action. We also continued to expand the activities of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology for ECO Region.

On industry, we continued our efforts to operationalize RISCAM (Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology). The Interim Coordination Unit was established in the ECO Secretariat to prepare the ground for final kick-off of the RISCAM permanent secretariat. We assigned an experienced professional to run the Unit under the auspices of the ECO Secretariat. The RISCAM founding document has been ratified by the Islamic Republic of Iran. We encourage other member states to follow suit as early as possible.

On human resource development, we hosted the first ever high level expert group. This was an attempt to implement one of the pending provisions of the Izmir Treaty. Experts developed outlines for possible cooperation to be endorsed by ministerial meeting later this year. On health issues, we continued to cooperate with other member states in different areas of regional cooperation. We also developed a Master of Public Health to be organized soon for ECO member states through full scholarship offered by one of the leading universities in Iran.

On judicial and police cooperation, we hosted the first meetings of ECO attorneys general and ECO heads of anti-corruption organizations where various areas of possible regional activities were identified and follow-up actions were defined. We also hosted the first meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police. We actively contributed to the idea of the establishment of the ECO POL, including through pledging one hundred thousand US dollars to its ad hoc fund. Various regional expert group meetings, workshops and seminars were also hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on drug and organized crimes related matters.

On cultural cooperation, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to accord top priority to the expansion of cultural cooperation in the ECO region. We provided extra-budgetary resources to the ECO Cultural Institute whose outreach within the region is expanding. We strongly encourage member states who have not done so to consider ECI membership thereby making cultural cooperation as inclusive as possible.

On high education and center of excellence, we recently hosted the board of trustees of the ECO College of Insurance in Tehran where basic documents of the College were adopted. The College is now in the better position to continue serving students from ECO member states.

There are other areas such as agriculture, natural disaster and risk management, civil registration, mapping cooperation, communications and telecommunications, minerals, statistics etc., where the Islamic Republic of Iran has been actively contributing to the work of the ECO which I skip for the sake of time.

Mr. Chairman

A project-based organization can only be perceived successful if be assisted by efficient monitoring and oversight mechanism. This task has been delegated within the Secretariat to an entity called “Project Monitoring Group (PMG). This body consists of senior management staff of the Secretariat and is tasked to coordinate projects at the Secretariat level with the view to securing their timely implementation. We have noticed with regret that the Group has not been convened at the bounded quarterly basis and at the highest level expected. The last PMG meeting dates back to more than six months ago and its reporting to the membership is still awaited. We would like to express our concern over this critical issue and propose that membership be also represented in the PMG meetings.

On the other hand, the membership oversight is also relatively absent in terms of administration and budgetary matters of the Organization. It would be advisable that we take the examples of some other international organizations and consider the establishment of an oversight body, such as a “Standing Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Issues” composed of representatives of the member states. My delegation will be more than happy to contribute to the development of this idea.

Mr. Chairman

One promising development ahead is the ongoing process of Eminent Person Group which will be culminated in the upcoming COM and Summit. While fully support this process, we equally expect the EPG exercise be of practical value and tangible results.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by recalling our decision in the last RPC meeting here in Tehran where we adopted “the General Guidelines” for our work in the different committees (annex VII of the Report). We strongly urge this RPC meeting to continue to observe the “Guidelines” with a view to ensuring feasible, target-oriented, more focused and streamlined decisions. **Thank you**

Statement by Leader of the Pakistan Delegation
22nd ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting
(Tehran, Iran July 9-11, 2012)

**Honourable Chairman,
Honourable ECO Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It gives me great pleasure to be in the beautiful and historical city of Tehran to attend the 22nd Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Pakistan delegation would like to convey sincere thanks and gratitude to the brotherly Government of Iran for their warm welcome and generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this meeting by ECO Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman!

I congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the meeting. I believe that your vast experience will help in fruitful deliberations regarding our huge resources for the mutual benefit of our peoples. Pakistani delegation extends full support to the objectives of this meeting as we have remained committed to ECO's mandate since its inception.

Mr. Chairman!

The slow progress of the Doha round has strengthened interest in entering Regional or free/preferential trade agreements. While the Doha round is currently stalled, the direction is clear, i.e. World Trade will continue to be increasingly based on competitiveness. Thus for Pakistan as well as other ECO Countries to accelerate export growth, they will have to focus on export competitiveness, supplemented by negotiating better access to each others markets and expanding Trade among themselves where they can exploit the transport cost advantages.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan is member of the two regional groupings: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) but has not been successful in promoting the inter-regional and intra-regional trade in a significant way. Failure to develop required infrastructure and protocols for large scale overland trade and similarity in the trade structure, together with absence of comparative advantage in the capital intensive and high value products are some of the reasons for this lack of success. Trade complementary can be developed within the region by achieving vertical specialization through production sharing arrangements. This would not only allow the regional trading partners to strengthen their trade ties, but also enable them to reap economies of scale by concentrating on a specific production process in the value addition chain. Trade within ECO Region should flourish as there are several advantages of this. To begin with the advantage of geographical proximity cheaper transportation

costs and trade complementarily in goods are overwhelming. Shorter distances will reduce the cost of inventories and operations.

Pakistan continues to accord high priority to trade promotion and trade facilitation activities within this region. Pakistan believes that robust implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) would be a major step towards minimizing barriers to trade and ultimately establishing a Free Trade Area in the ECO region by 2015.

Government of Pakistan has declared 2012 as the Year of Regional Cooperation and Economic Activity. In this backdrop, the World Bank in collaboration with the Department for International Development UK is proposing to hold “Regional Conference on Economic Cooperation and Trade” during the last quarter of 2012. The Conference will build on the current momentum for greater regional trade, examining opportunities to take full advantage of emerging economic cooperation, address three overarching challenges in building greater regional trade: (a) Creating regional markets by removing barriers to trade in goods and services (b) enhancing connectivity between people and economic sector (c) opening access to finance as means to expand opportunities for cross-border investment and financial risk mitigation. The Conference is expected to help build the knowledge and analytical base for these efforts. The focus countries for this Conference are regional partners that share a border with or have recently announced the intention to signing a free trade commitment with Pakistan.

Other developments that could enhance trade with Pakistan’s neighbors include, i) Progress in structuring commercial arrangements to underpin the proposed TAPI gas pipeline between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. ii) High level commitment to develop the Central Asia-South Asia Regional Electricity Market, including the CASA-1000 regional transmission line between Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan; iii) The signing of the Afghanistan – Pakistan transit Trade Agreement, iv) the completion of the development of Gawadar Port by China, and its commercial operation by a leading port operator from Singapore (PSI International).

Excellencies,

Development of an effective modern transportation and communication network within ECO is important as a key factor in expansion of trade and economic integration. This is particularly, important because seven out of the ten ECO members are land-locked. Pakistan stands committed to continued facilitation of land locked countries’ trade. Our Gawadar Port established for closer relations with our neighbours to the west and north could serve as a key transit hub. The Transit Trade Agreement (TTA) and Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) are important to address major issues relating to customs, trade facilitation, road, rail and inland water transportation.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would as a basis to create opportunities for cooperation like to share with you Pakistan’s socio-economic progress and future outlook. The framework for economic growth, a new approach to achieve high, inclusive and sustainable growth was developed by Planning

Commission. The main thrust of this strategy is on quality governance, creative cities, youth engagements and entrepreneurship & innovation. Pakistan's main emphasis in the economic field is utilizing the potential of youth for attaining sustainable economic boom and converting the demographic transition into demographic dividend. Going forward, our priority is to improve energy supply: enhance export competitiveness; increasing savings & investment and tax to GDP ratio to support growth momentum for creating jobs and economic activities. It is quite reasonable to argue that Pakistan stands reasonably sound as regards the hardware of growth (Physical infrastructure). We now need to reorient our narrative towards software of growth (innovation, entrepreneurship and market).

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As overarching objective our continued focus centres on poverty reduction and sustainable development. In this regards, Benazir Income Support Programme is the flagship programme of the Government which is considered programme of bEst International Practices and is appreciated all over the world. Our focus is also to ensure full support to private sector growth and innovation and for the government to have the governance institutions to support their efforts.

Human resource development should be given priority in our policies. Accumulation of knowledge and collective competence is the most important factor for our socio-economic progress. This requires general increases in education and skill levels, and rise in the share of resources devoted for education and technical skills development. We fully support initiatives of the High Level Expert Group on Human Resource Development. Through this platform Pakistan would like to share its policies and priorities with friends in ECO and looks forward to learning from their experience.

Excellencies,

The ECO countries' enormous energy and mineral reserves is a resource that would help build closer cooperation among member countries particularly with those deficient in energy. In addition to cooperation in ensuring reliable regional fuel supply, there are significant potential payoffs from cooperation in environmentally sustainable means of energy sources and in sharing experiences in energy conservation and alternative energy development.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen!

We need to accelerate the pace of economic development and intensify our efforts to meet the challenges of expanding world trade and competitiveness. Pakistan on its part is making concerted efforts to promote bilateral and regional cooperation among the Member States.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The ECO must emerge as a dynamic, egalitarian and prosperous region in the twenty-first century. The challenge before us is to devise and implement strategies that unleash the

creative potential of one-quarter of humanity. We must sustain the momentum of cooperation developed in recent years. We must evolve a cohesive and sound agenda to reinforce the individual efforts of each member country. ECO should move ahead to achieve its mandate for good of humanity.

Pakistan fully supports the action and reforms initiatives of ECO and its Vision for an inclusive and sustainable globalization. Pakistan welcomes the ECO Trade Agreement and other initiatives to bring synergy within ECO and enhance closer cooperation so that the comparative strengths of one country can complement the strength of its partners. Measures towards progressive removal of trade barriers and expansion of intra and inter-regional trade would promote trade activities in the region.

Mr. Chairman!

I am of the firm belief that under your able guidance the meeting will achieve the desired objectives of accelerating the pace of economic cooperation between the Member States. The technical sessions will draft ECO's agenda for the year. In the end I would once again like to place on record our profound thanks to our hosts, the Iran for their generous welcome and excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

Thanks you

**Statement of Tajikistan Head of delegation
22nd ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting
9-11 July, 2012, Tehran**

**Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished Representatives of ECO Member States,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me to welcome warmly all participants of the regular 22nd ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting in the hospitable Iranian land and express the words of gratitude to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the cordial reception and excellent arrangements for our work.

Taking of this opportunity I would like to thank ECO Secretariat led by its Secretary General Mr. Yahya Maroofi, which has done a huge work for preparation of today's Meeting. I express confidence, that present event will play an important role and will assist to strengthen the role of ECO in the region as channel for the integration process and a platform for development of further fruitful collaboration and determination of perspective direction and project cooperation.

Being an active supporter of regional economic cooperation, the Republic of Tajikistan take active participation in ECO activities. The current Meeting has essential value for the Republic of Tajikistan in terms of promoting economic reforms and integration of the country's economy into the world economy as a whole and within the ECO region separately.

The Republic of Tajikistan attaches great significance to strengthening cooperation with ECO Member States and considers the Organization as an important regional mechanism for progress of social and economic development, increase of a standard of well-being and consecutive integration of states economies into the world economy.

Questions for a reliable transport and transit systems, simplifying trade procedures, encouragement of cross-border trade and effective utilization of hydro-power resources, creation of integrated power grid, free movement of a labour and the goods and also creation of common economic space define the face of today's Agenda.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

It is necessary to note, that since the first days of independence Republic of Tajikistan has selected the policy directed on maintenance of steady and accelerated development of economy. We wish to ensure global progress at the present level of economic and also strive to become an integral part of world economic system. In these regard, Tajikistan continues an active process of institutional and structural reforms, rapidly emerging market infrastructure. In 2006-2011, annual average rate of GDP growth about 7 percent. GDP for this period has increased more than in 1,5 times, the foreign trade turnover in 2 times.

Today in Tajikistan implemented more than fifty joint projects, first of all, in transport, power, communication, construction and other branches of economy. In general, we have developed more than 400 investment projects, which involved the implementation of which involved more than 5 billion USD.

Dear colleagues,

Allow me to stop on some aspects of interaction of Tajikistan with the ECO Member States.

In our deep belief, the major sphere of the regional cooperation still is a decision of problems concerning **complex and effective utilization of water and power resources**. On this basis, ECO/IDB Project on connection and parallel operation of power supply systems of ECO region is in most priority and Tajikistan welcomes initiation of feasibility study. As is known, Tajikistan has huge power resources. The energy potential of our country occupies a leading position in the world. We have opportunity to produce up to 527 billion kilowatt-hours of power per year. Unfortunately, now due to lack of capacities it produces only 5-6 percent from its potential.

According to our strategic program, till 2025 the volume of electricity production will reach 80 billion kilowatt-hours per year and will satisfy not only the needs of the country's economy, but also the increasing needs of neighboring countries.

It's necessary to underline, that the Government of Tajikistan considers water-power development in interrelation with the reasonable use of water resources, and deem decision of these problems as one of the major strategic tasks.

Development **of a transport and communication infrastructure**, undoubtedly, should turn to a solemn direction of cooperation between ECO Member States. The further improvement of this sector is the key factor in the growth of trade in the region.

Dear colleagues,

Nowadays, ECO Member States occupying a leading place in the foreign trade of the Republic Tajikistan. It is enough to notice, that in 2011 Tajikistan goods turnover with ECO Member States has increased up to 38 %. In money terms this indicator has made 1687,4 mln. USD. The export structure of the Republic Tajikistan to the countries of the region dominated export of electricity, aluminum and cotton fibers.

Encouraging the growing volume of foreign trade with Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic Iran, Islamic Republic Afghanistan and Turkey.

Unfortunately, now the external economic ties inside the region are limited by export-import transactions. At the same time, other forms of external ties, such as realization of joint projects and creation of joint ventures, scientific and industrial cooperation, introduction of "know-how" technologies and etc. still have no found its advancement.

Analysis of integration of the republic in the framework of organization shows that in the nearest prospective communication among Member States will delve more. However, it should be noted that due to the number of reasons, the implementation of certain ECO tasks and projects set out in organization program documents are far from positive results. First of all, it concerns projects in the field of trade, transport and telecommunication.

In our opinion, the most suitable way for productive implementation of programs is creation of free economic zones. These zones urge to be the important factors of development. Many of the ECO countries have a wide experience in this direction. And I invite all states to take active participation in the given projects.

Dear colleagues,

The countries of region possess huge potential for development of cooperation in areas of agriculture, the food industry and processing of agricultural products. For more complete and efficient use of this potential ECO Secretariat is required to strengthen the work with representatives of business community and private sector of the ECO Member States to attract their attention for realization of projects of the regional importance, intensification of intraregional trade and increasing of business ties.

Our meeting holds in conditions, when the international community is in the process of developing adequate responses to challenges and threats. One of actual directions of ECO activity, which demanding joint efforts of all ECO Member States are **the problem of Struggle against illegal distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances**. Tajikistan has considerable positive experience in the decision of these problems. To achieve the goals and realization of projects it is considered in every possible way to strengthen and develop cooperation of ECO with other international both regional organizations and institutes. We call for completion of ECO Plan of action for the control of drugs and the prompt transformation of DOCCU Department into the Regional centre for the more effective struggle with the transnational organized crime.

Dear colleagues,

The further stabilization of political situation in Afghanistan creates confident preconditions for integration of this country in modern process of regional economic development. In this connection, Tajikistan welcomes the steps undertaken for creation of ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan, and also ECO Technical and Economic Research Fund.

Tajikistan once again expresses the readiness to develop cooperation with this neighboring country in spheres of electricity supply, delivery construction materials, the consumer goods and foodstuff, preparations of qualified personal, to assist in construction of roads and communications.

In general the Republic of Tajikistan highly appreciates positive role of ECO in strengthening cooperation, good neighborhood, mutual trust and friendship between the state-participants.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to express the hope that our today's discussion of issues regarding regional cooperation will promote the further mobilization of organization potential for the sake of economic progress and prosperity of ECO region.

Thank you for your attention

**STATEMENT OF H.E. MEHMET CEYLAN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF TURKEY
AT THE 22ND MEETING OF THE RPC
(Tehran, 9-11 July, 2012)**

**His Excellency Mohammed Mehdi Akhondzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran
His Excellency Mohammad Yahya Maroof, the Secretary General of ECO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great pleasure for me and my delegation to be in our brotherly neighbor of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the 22nd Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for the endeavors of the government of people of Iran for the organization of this meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation. I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Secretary General M. Yahya Maroofi for his valuable efforts and contribution to the ECO projects and activities in the fields of cooperation.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

ECO has a unique geo-strategic location, linking the East and the West. Our region, with its significant economic power, vast natural resources, and dynamic work force, has a huge development potential which we should harness in the interest of all our nations. By pursuing regional cooperation, enhancing existing relations and strengthening economic ties among the member countries, we are today much more hopeful that this organization will unearth this potential and achieve its objectives.

Distinguished Participants,

As you are well aware, trade constitutes the backbone of any regional economic cooperation. Enhancing trade through deeper economic cooperation benefits all the parties involved. It does so by fostering competition, enabling access to wider markets, providing larger and diversified investment and production opportunities. It offers countries stronger bargaining power in global fora. It lays the ground for mutual benefit in the form of accelerated growth and development.

Removing trade barriers in the ECO region and expansion of intra-ECO trade have always had a central place within our organization. The “ECO Vision 2015”, which was adopted back in 2005, envisaged ECO becoming a trading block with 20 percent intra-trade rate, and moving towards the establishment of a Free Trade Area by the year 2015. We can only achieve these goals through dedicated efforts toward liberalizing, facilitating and promoting trade in our region.

Nevertheless, despite various commitments, the level of intra-ECO trade continues to remain low. In 2005, when the targets were set, the intra-trade stood at 6 percent. In seven years time, what could be achieved in the share of intra-trade is a mere 1 percent improvement. Thus, we have a long way to go to realize the true potential of trade for economic cooperation, and unfortunately we are still far to appreciate the role of our milestone project for expanding intra-ECO trade, the ECOTA to this end.

In the last four years, we lost valuable time with discussions on different legal interpretations of the already settled provisions of the Agreement. Despite the declarations of commitment revealed by our governments on several occasions, the ECOTA is still yet to be fully implemented. Therefore, we sincerely call on all the parties to reconsider their positions and avoid contributing to the further delay of the implementation of the Agreement.

Turkey, on its part, showed sustained commitment to enable the ECOTA entering into force since 2008. Turkey will maintain its positive and constructive approach and exert every effort to effectuate the Agreement which will benefit all parties. We believe that the upcoming ECOTA Cooperation Council will provide us an opportunity to evaluate our performance and identify impediments to fulfill our commitments.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

The low level of intra-ECO trade calls also for increased efforts toward facilitating trade in our region. Indeed, transport and transaction costs are serious barriers to trade as tariffs. Trade facilitation is definitely one area that all member countries would cooperate for their mutual benefit, and ECO provides an excellent forum to explore this issue. An enabling policy framework including good governance would lead to enhanced intra and interregional trade as well as attracting more investments, thereby eventually to economic growth and development. But it should also be recognized that removal of impediments to trade facilitation and to undertake necessary reforms would take time. Turkey is ready to share its trade facilitation experience with the member countries and contribute to trade facilitation in the ECO region.

We all are aware of the importance of the ECO Trade and Development Bank for enhancing our cooperation. The Bank is taking significant steps to become a vibrant financial institution and a vehicle for project financing in the ECO region. There is no doubt that by increasing its membership, the Bank would attract more resources to make itself a stronger financial institution. By this way, it would also strengthen its ability to mobilize funds within the international capital markets. Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate Turkey's desire to see the member countries which have not yet joined the Bank as new members, soon. As a founding member and the host of the Bank, Turkey is ready to provide any support to facilitate the accession procedures for these member countries.

A favorable business environment is also an essential element in deeper economic cooperation. We should recognize the importance of improving investment climate in our

region that would contribute to job creation, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. I would like to underline that early implementation of the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments will be an important step in creating a more investment-friendly environment in the ECO Region.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

The objective of enhancing regional trade of ECO would remain elusive in the absence of a well-developed system of transport in the region. Moreover, the majority of ECO members is land-locked and need facilitation of transit traffic. Therefore, we believe that the implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) would facilitate establishment of viable region-wide corridors of transport. This agreement is essential for the free flow of goods and people in the ECO region.

Our cooperation in the area of railways is also developing rapidly. We have successfully activated Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad railway route in 2010. Nevertheless, due to operational and infrastructural problems along the route, the train cannot run properly. We are determined to solve the problems faced and increase the volume of freight transported in this route so as to make it a viable corridor in the East-West axis.

Esteemed Delegates,

I deem the ECO cooperation of agriculture critical for its contribution to the economic development of the ECO region and subsequently to the food security situation of our nations. Therefore, I am happy to see that the ECO cooperation in the area of agriculture is about to bear fruit in a number of domains.

The ECO Regional Program for Food Security is one of them, the implementation of which I expect would help develop agricultural sector in our region. Surely it deserves dedication and commitment from us for its implementation. Turkey as the coordinator country for the implementation of the Program has been working intensively for this purpose. I would like to inform this august body that Turkey has been providing financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Program.

The establishment of the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) for implementation of the ECO Regional Program for Food Security in Ankara is a part of this work, which is expected to finalize soon. I would like to request the member states to designate their national focal points that are able to establish an effective communication and coordination with the RCC.

Development of the seed sector is of utmost importance in improving the productivity of the agricultural sector. Establishment of the basic fundamentals of national and regional trade and beyond is critical in this regard, which is the main objective of ECO Seed Association (ECOSA). I would like to state that Turkey finances a project on development of seed sector in member states with a total budget of USD400,000, of which USD 350,000 is financed by Turkey and USD50,000 by ECO.

Seizing this opportunity, I would like to invite the ministers of agriculture of the member states to honor the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture by their presence, which had to be postponed due to lack of quorum in May 2012 and is now going to be held in Turkey in November 2012, tentatively. I believe that this meeting would register a good success in a number of issues which have aroused since the last ministerial meeting in Baku four years ago.

Esteemed Delegates,

As we all know, Ecotourism has become an important economic activity around the world. ECO region has great potential for eco-tourism. In recent years, intensification of our cooperation efforts in this field is a very welcome development. Turkey has been sharing its experience and knowledge in the area of eco-tourism with the Member Countries. I would like to inform the august house that the Republic of Turkey proposes to host “ECO Regional Ecotourism Development Training Programme” in September 2012 in Antalya. I would like to call on the representatives of the Member States to actively participate in this event.

Distinguished Delegates,

The ECO Region is well-known for its abundant energy resources and is a major energy supplier. Yet our cooperation in this very important area is still at a very low level. I believe that the upcoming ministerial meeting on energy and petroleum will provide a fresh impetus to enhance our cooperation. Meanwhile, we should continue to explore ways and means to further our cooperation on cleaner and renewable energy resources.

We are all well aware of the essential place of education in human development. This year, we have taken an important step to enhance our cooperation in the field of education. The long-awaited commencement of the ECO Educational Institute has finally been realized with the 1st Board of Trustees Meeting of the Institute, at the level of Ministers of Education of the member states. The ECO Educational Institute, a specialized agency of ECO with its headquarters in Ankara, is given mandate to introduce contemporary educational technologies in the Member States, encourage and coordinate exchange programs, and promote public awareness for effective solution of the existing education problems of the region.

Another important issue in our agenda is the post-war reconstruction of Afghanistan. Turkey has been a significant development partner of Afghanistan over the last decade and will continue to support Afghanistan’s economic and social development in every possible means. We will also continue to cooperate and work together with the ECO Secretariat on this issue.

In today’s globalized world, it is not possible to contain the political and economic problems within national borders. In this framework, I would like to reiterate that my country is fully committed to the principles and targets envisioned by the ECO and will

continue, as in the past, its constructive cooperation and partnership with the member countries, as well as with the ECO Secretariat.

**Mr. Chairman,
Esteemed Delegates,**

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my firm belief that this esteemed Council will come up with fruitful results and take another step in enhancing the ECO cooperation. I wish you all the success in the conduct of the Meeting.

Thank you for your attention

Statement of the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Iran
Mr. I.S.Akramov during 22nd ECO RPC meeting
(Tehran, July, 9-11, 2012)

The Distinguished Chairman!
Dear Heads of delegations!
Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all allow me to express our gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for high level of the organization of this meeting urged to strengthen the long-term basis of cooperation of ECO member states. Let me welcome on behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan the Heads of delegations and all the participants of our meeting and wish this forum successful work, mutual understanding and strengthening of intraregional cooperation.

The distinguished Chairman,

I think that our meeting in the framework of Economic Cooperation Organization is one of the possibilities to synchronize our watches on the essential directions of mutually advantageous cooperation between our states and to discuss interaction problems, first of all, in the spheres of economy and trade, transport and communications, agriculture and environment.

Dear participants,

The Republic of Uzbekistan attaches special significance to the development of transport and communications, to the issues of integration into the international transport corridors that will give an additional impulse to the further strengthening of regional trade and economic cooperation. In my opinion, the major problem of ECO in the field of transport and communications is the achievement of rational utilization of the huge territory of our region so that transportation to be carried out with the least expenses of cargo and material resources.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is one of initiators of the largest regional civil-engineering project of Iran-Oman-Qatar-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan international transport corridor, connecting the countries of Central Asia with the Persian Gulf states. This project has a strategic value for the whole region.

Thereupon, an important direction of our cooperation is still an interaction in the field of maintenance of the peace and stability in Afghanistan and in this regard it is necessary to develop not only transport and communications between the member states but promote opening of the ample opportunities for regional cooperation as well. I'd like to underline that the Republic of Uzbekistan has a desire and sufficient potential to bring the worthy contribution to the construction projects, rehabilitation of national economy and reconstruction of the transport infrastructure of Afghanistan.

Dear colleagues,

It is necessary to note the Secretariat's achievements in the development and realization of projects in the field of agriculture, food security and environment. I'd like to remind once again the issue of catastrophic destiny of Aral Sea which drying has tragical consequences not only for the Central Asia but for all the Euroasian continent as well. During the last decades the countries of Central Asia especially located in the lower reaches of the basic waterways suffer from a lack of water and its social and economic consequences. Various and ambiguous approaches in water resources management interfere the sustainable development, leading to ecological problems.

Thereupon, the Republic of Uzbekistan considers it's necessary that all the decisions on utilization of water resources of the region, including the construction of hydropower stations, should not harm the ecology and not infringe upon the interests of the population of the neighboring countries.

The distinguished friends,

With the development of our Organization it is also possible to put into practice the new spheres of cooperation. One of the priority directions for Uzbekistan within the ECO is cooperation in the sphere of investments, trade and interaction between the private sectors of the member states.

Taking into account the tendencies of the development of economy in the period of global financial crisis, one of the major problems of ECO now is the establishment of the developed and multistructural system of the regional trade, providing an access of member states to the world markets with a view of decreasing the consequences of the financial crisis.

The prompt exit from the crisis and softening of its consequences, in my opinion, in many respects depends on the efficiency and coordination of accepted measures within the separate states and the world community as a whole. In these purposes, thanks to undertaken measures of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the large-scale measures along with a number of programs on rendering of the additional aid to bank and financial structures, support of real sector of economy, increase of profitability of manufacture and export possibilities, allocation for these purposes of additional tax privileges and preferences are being implemented in our country. It is necessary to note that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov declared the year of 2012 as the «Year of a family» in Uzbekistan.

An active realization of the actions within the Governmental program named the «Year of a family» directed on the further strengthening and development of the institute of a family, strengthening of the support of young families and family business, growth of the well-being and standards of live of each family and increase of the role of a family in education of physical health, spiritual mature and harmoniously developed generation started in the country.

Dear participants of the meeting,

Allow me to inform you briefly about the basic macroeconomic and qualitative results of the first quarter of 2012. The results of the social and economic development for the first quarter 2012 testify the productivity of the measures of deepening the processes of reforming of the economy and realization of the major priorities of social- economic development of the country in 2012, defined by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. For the first quarter of current year the GDP increased up to 7,5%, the index of industrial output manufacture reached 6% of growth, in agriculture - 6,1%, construction sector - 6,6%. The state budget is executed with the surplus of 0,2% percent to GDP.

It is necessary to underline that nowadays a large scale of work within the framework of preparation for celebrating of the 21st anniversary of the National Day of Independence is undertaken in Uzbekistan.

The distinguished Chairman,

At the end I would like to express the hope that the results of our today's work will promote the successful realization of the joint efforts towards the way of expansion and strengthening of cooperation and what is the most important - its efficiency.

Thank you for your attention!

Annex-V

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD
OF TURKISH REPUBLIC OF
NORTHERN CYPRUS**

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALİ KORHAN,
UNDER-SECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION OF THE
TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS AT THE 22nd MEETING OF
THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF THE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
(9-11 JULY, 2012)**

**MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF DELEGATIONS,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME AND MY DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 22nd MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO). I EXTEND TO YOU ALL THE HEARTFELT GREETINGS OF THE PEOPLE (AND THE GOVERNMENT) OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC).

AT THE OUTSET, I WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN FOR HOSTING THIS IMPORTANT MEETING AND TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND RECEPTION EXTENDED TO OUR DELEGATION IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF TEHRAN. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK H.E. MR. MOHAMMED YAHYA MAROOFI, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ECO AND THE ABLE STAFF OF ECO SECRETARIAT, FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF THE COMMON GOALS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

**MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF DELEGATIONS,**

AS YOU, NO DOUBT ALL KNOW, CYPRUS HAS A LONG STANDING POLITICAL DISPUTE WHICH AFFECTS THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF ALL TURKISH CYPRIOTS, AS WELL AS THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY. THEREFORE, FIRST AND FOREMOST I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU IN BRIEF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ELECTION, HIS EXCELLENCY DR. DERVİŞ EROĞLU, PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS, SENT A LETTER TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL REITERATING HIS COMMITMENT TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND HIS READINESS TO RESUME THE PROCESS FROM WHERE IT WAS LEFT. PRESIDENT EROĞLU UNDERLINED THAT THE MAIN UN PARAMETERS, NAMELY BI-ZONALITY, POLITICAL EQUALITY OF THE TWO PEOPLES, THE EQUAL STATUS OF THE TWO CONSTITUENT STATES, AND THE FACT THAT THE SETTLEMENT WILL BRING ABOUT A NEW PARTNERSHIP CONTINUE TO BE THE CORNERSTONES OF ANY SETTLEMENT EFFORT IN CYPRUS.

THE FULL-FLEDGED NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL SINCE SEPTEMBER 2008 HAVE NOT YIELDED THE DESIRED END RESULT, NAMELY A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE DESIRES AN EARLY SETTLEMENT TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THUS, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT PROCESS, IT HAS BEEN IN FAVOUR OF A TIMETABLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UN IN THE PROCESS. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE IS OF THE VIEW THAT WITH POLITICAL WILL AND COURAGE, A SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS DO NOT SHARE OUR NEED FOR A SPEEDY SOLUTION AS DEMONSTRATED BY THEIR REJECTION OF ANY PROPOSED TIMETABLES OR OTHER INITIATIVES TOWARDS FINALIZING A DEAL ON A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN CYPRUS.

AS THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ALSO POINTED OUT, THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS CAN NOT BE AN OPEN ENDED PROCESS AND IN FACT WE HAVE ENTERED THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROCESS WHICH IS OPENLY DESCRIBED BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AS THE END GAME, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WILL ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EU ON 1 JULY 2012. IN SPITE OF OUR INSISTENCE THAT A MULTI-PARTY MEETING IS CONVENED SOON TO DISCUSS AND FINALIZE ALL ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT BEFORE JULY 2012, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERSHIPS' REFUSAL. IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE IMPEDING A SETTLEMENT BUT THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WHICH IS PLAYING FOR TIME.

THEREFORE, AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, THERE IS MORE NEED THAN EVER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IN ENDING THE ISOLATION OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE. THIS COULD ALSO MOTIVATE THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO ENGAGE SERIOUSLY AND THUS FACILITATE THE SEARCH FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT.

TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ECO FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR RIGHTFUL CAUSE, WE CALL UPON ALL MEMBER STATES TO FURTHER DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE TRNC TO OVERCOME THE UNJUST ISOLATIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE EFFORTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO BOOST THE ECONOMY OF THE TRNC HAS BEEN REDOUBLED ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF THE CURRENT PREVAILING ATMOSPHERE OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS AS WELL AS, IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS.

A LIBERAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE TRNC. UNDER THIS SYSTEM, THE PROMOTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE RATIONAL USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT THAT WILL GENERATE ADDED VALUE AND EMPLOYMENT RECEIVE PRIORITY AS A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED TO ESTABLISH TRADE RELATIONS WITH MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

HIGHER EDUCATION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMY AND IT IS THE FASTEST GROWING SECTOR IN THE TRNC. THERE ARE SEVEN EXCELLENT UNIVERSITIES PROVIDING HIGHER EDUCATION TO OVER 47,000 STUDENTS FROM OVER 90 COUNTRIES IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2011-2012. THE FEES ARE VERY COMPETITIVE. WE WOULD WELCOME A DECISION BY THE MEMBER STATES, TO INCLUDE OUR UNIVERSITIES IN THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THEIR YOUTH. IT IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE TO INCREASE EVEN FURTHER THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM ECO COUNTRIES WHO ARE STUDYING AT OUR UNIVERSITIES IN THE PERIOD AHEAD.

IN ADDITION TO HIGHER EDUCATION, TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE ARE THE LEADING SECTORS IN THE TRNC ECONOMY. PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS CARRY GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THESE SECTORS.

IN THIS RESPECT, ENCOURAGEMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS AMONG THE PRIORITIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST ESPECIALLY IN THE TOURISM SECTOR. HOTELS AND CONFERENCE TOURISM, SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM LIKE YACHT TOURISM AND MARINA CONSTRUCTION ARE JUST A FEW OF THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT AWAIT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN IN THE TRNC. IN ADDITION TO ABOVEMENTIONED FIELDS, NEWLY DEVELOPING AREAS SUCH AS HEALTH TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE ARE CONSIDERED AS ATTRACTIVE FIELDS OF INVESTMENT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS.

CONSEQUENTLY, THOSE WISHING TO INVEST IN THE TRNC CAN BE SURE OF A POSITIVE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE TRNC GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO WELCOME INVESTORS FROM ECO COUNTRIES. THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES AND OUR STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION

AND THE CYPRUS TURKISH INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY (YAGA) WOULD BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES THAT EXIST IN THE TRNC.

IN 2010 THE NET TOURISM INCOME OF THE TRNC WAS 405 MILLION US DOLLARS. SHARE OF TRADE AND TOURISM IN THE GNP IS 16 %. THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 128 TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE TRNC, INCLUDING FIVE STAR HOTELS, WITH A BED CAPACITY OF CLOSE TO 20,000. ACCORDING TO OUR ESTIMATES, CLOSE TO 600,000 TOURISTS VISITED THE TRNC IN 2011.

BEFORE I CONCLUDE, LET ME REITERATE, ONCE AGAIN, THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE AND THE TRNC GOVERNMENT ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION FOR THE CONSISTENT SUPPORT EXTENDED TO THE JUST CAUSE OF THE TRNC. WE CALL UPON ALL MEMBER STATES TO FURTHER DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE TRNC. WE ALSO APPEAL TO THE MEMBER STATES TO HELP THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE OVERCOME THE UNJUST ISOLATIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM AND UTILIZE THEIR FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND ASSUME THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR MOST KIND ATTENTION.

**STATEMENTS BY THE
ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/
REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

- The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)
- The ECO Science Foundation (ESF)
- The ECO Educational Institute (EEI)
- The ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI)
- The ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI)
- The ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB)
- The ECO Reinsurance Company (ECO-RC)

Statement by the President of the ECO Cultural Institute

**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ministers of ECO Member States,
Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Please allow me, at the outset, to express my warm felicitations for H.E. Mr. Akhondzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on his unanimous election as the Chairman of the 22nd Session of RPC.

Mr. Chairman,

The first year of my service as the President of ECO Cultural Institute was an attempt to motivate the Member States to develop joint cultural programs. Opening ECI Coordination Units in Afghanistan and Tajikistan provided fresh opportunities for the realization of the ambitious programs of ECO Cultural Institute. The performance of the grand ECO Symphony Orchestra won the organization a considerable reputation throughout the region.

To demonstrate the power of art in bridging the language barriers among the nations and to introduce the common cultural roots of the Member States, a Festival of Visual Arts exhibiting fine artworks from different countries was organized during my first year in office with its debut show in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The subsequent performance of the Festival in Kabul, Istanbul, Tehran and Lahore was a great experience and a real success.

Organizing the ECO International Printing and Packaging Exhibition in Mashad besides coordinating the participation of over 200 artists from ECO countries in various fields of cinema, theater and music at the Fajr International Festival held in Tehran provided strong impetus for the artists of the region to cooperate with ECI.

Over the last year, ECI arranged a variety of programs for ECO countries. Afghanistan Cultural Week was held both in Tehran and Esfahan and attended by tens of artists involved in different art fields. Organizing an exhibition of paintings by Pakistani artists in Tehran; arranging multiple cultural programs in Dushanbe, holding an exhibition of calligraphy by renowned contemporary artists in Istanbul and an exhibition of artworks by Turkish artists in Tehran are a few of the measures undertaken by ECI. The Kyrgyz artists and painters, in particular, will never forget their superb exhibition in Tehran.

ECI has also conducted joint programs with Republic of Azerbaijan which gained the support of Azerbaijan's Honorable Minister of Culture for making arrangements for the accession of his country to ECI Charter. ECI's reputation is becoming increasingly widespread among the neighboring countries; even the non-members. You may find a comprehensive list of ECI's plans and programs reflected in the report circulated by the ECO Secretariat. I do not intend to go into the details but rather provide some more information on the ECI capacities.

As I believe, Excellencies, future efforts to enhance cooperation in different fields should rest on ECO's cultural capacity. In fact, culture can pave the way for much greater cooperation of all kinds. Hence, we have made an endeavor to organize regular prestigious cultural events in different spots benefiting from the facilities offered by the municipalities. The Second ECO Int'l Handicrafts Exhibition is due to be held in the upcoming September in Birjand city of Iran. Last year, nine ECO Member States participated in the first edition of the exhibition, inaugurated by the Iranian President. The event recorded a daily number of 20,000 visitors and the large sales volumes provided optimism for the future of the annual festival. Agreements have been reached with the Istanbul municipality for holding the first annual Performing Arts Festival. Tajikistan will be hosting ECO Calligraphy Festival every year.

It is a while that ECO Diplomatic Art Gallery in Tehran is the host to the artworks exhibition of each country on monthly basis and almost all of ECO Member States have taken advantage of this opportunity to display their cultural heritage. The ECO International Printing & Packaging Exhibition is being held annually in Mashad. We intend to involve other cities of the ECO region in our annual and biennial cultural events. In this regard, I hope ambitious programs which deserve our thousands year-old culture will also be held in historical cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khojand, Konya, Ghazni, Ganja and others as well.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

If money is to serve as a measure of wealth, ECI will be regarded as the world's most unprivileged organizations. It is however, one of the richest of our time if cultural assets are taken into account. Spiritual treasures like Rumi, Makhtoomgholi, Allama Iqbal, Ferdowsi, the Manas Epic, Hafez and Saadi, Farabi, Roudaki and in particular Norouz traditions are the cultural legacy our ancestors have left for us; the legacy that redeems the low membership fee being received from ECO countries yet encourage the Institute to make utmost effort to present the region's rich heritage of arts and culture to the world.

Excellencies, we deserve to take pride in our culture and arts. This year, ECI called the artists worldwide to present their artworks in three categories of photography, graphic design and caricature. A total of 4,000 artworks from 30 countries were received, out of which 150 pieces entered the final stage. On the very first day of Norouz, the main gallery of UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was host to the selected artworks created by the artists from your countries. Norouz was celebrated in the world's most prestigious cultural venue. Astana and Almaty in Kazakhstan were the two subsequent stations. Dushanbe in Tajikistan will be the next destination to be followed by Istanbul in Turkey. This is further evidence to reveal the intellectual property of ECI.

ECI, despite its limited financial resources, took advantage of Norouz for the implementation of some outstanding yet costly programs. Last month, an extensive exhibition of visual artworks was opened to the public at the Palace of Independence in Astana, Kazakhstan where several pieces of music from the ECO region was performed jointly by Iran- Kazakhstan Symphony Orchestra conducted by the young Director of ECI's Music Section .

It is a matter of great pleasure for me that the tune of ECO Symphony is now reverberating throughout our region. I am so delighted that its effects echoed in the air from Paris to Astana. I am pleased that Turkey has taken steps forward in tune with the symphony. The Turkey's official note conveys that the country is taking final steps to become ECI's full member which is very promising. I hope that other non-Member States will also accede to ECI Charter soon. It is our outmost pleasure that ECI has found a new partner to carry out its plans and projects.

This year, Iran shall host ECO Women's Festival featuring several art groups, cultural figures and NGOs. The next item on the agenda is holding the ECO First Sports Cup in the fields of martial arts, minor indoor sports and the Most Powerful Men of ECO Countries in November 2012.

Allow me Mr. Chairman to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing ECI with a splendid building, fully equipped with state of the art facilities, as its permanent Headquarters. ECO Diplomatic Art Gallery was inaugurated here some time ago and a large multi-purpose hall is slated to be opened at the earliest in near future.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I hope all ECO countries would become ECI's full member within a short span of time so that we could chant the hymns of the region's graceful literature together. ECI intends to safeguard the innumerable precious legacies that our ancestors have bequeathed to us. Therefore, we call upon you to join us in the way forward.

Thank you

**Statement of the President-designate of ECO Science Foundation
22nd Meeting of ECO RPC, 9-11 July 2012, Tehran-Iran**

**His Excellency the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran,
His Excellency the Secretary General of ECO,
Excellencies and delegates from ECO Member States,
Assalam-O-Alaikum!**

It is indeed an exclusive honour and pleasure for me as President-designate of ECO Science Foundation to address this august forum- the RPC for the first time.

It surely is matter of satisfaction for the member states and the Secretary General ECO H.E. Mr. Yahya Marooft for the very fact that ECO Science Foundation has been established in December 2011. So, I take this opportunity to congratulate the member states and the ECO Secretariat for this long awaited task.

Excellencies, now that the ECOSF has been rendered operational, there are many challenges ahead. But let me emphasize that Research and Development in S&T offers a lot of solutions to economic development of ECO region. There is a great strength of scientific community in the ECO region and collectively we can tackle the challenges. And I would emphasize on the ECOSF research on problems related to other sectors and programs of ECO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to emphasize on the importance of mandatory budgetary contributions and voluntary S&T Fund by the member states to undertake the planned activities, as the old saying goes; money makes the mare go!

May I also urge non-ratifying members to please ratify the charter for collective benefit of the ECO region.

Though, ECOSF does not have any budget at hand or staff in place, with the support of Government of Pakistan through the Pakistan Science Foundation, we have been able to:

- Set up ECOSF website- www.eco4science.org
- Co-organized one week training on “Modern Techniques used in Ecological Research” at Islamabad on local hospitality provision basis. However, only one participant from Iran came in addition to Pakistani participants.
- Published an Editorial on “Importance of Networking for Cognitive Sciences in the ECO Region” in the International Journal “Basic and Clinical Neuroscience” Vol. 3 No. 2, 2012. It was done in collaboration with Institute of Cognitive Sciences, Tehran-Iran.

Excellencies, I wish to put on record my sincerest gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for their continuous support. I thank you all and look forward to your suggestions and ideas.

Thank You!

**Statement by the President-designate Prof. Dr. Salehathin Turan
ECO Educational Institute on 22nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council
(Tehran, 9-11 July, 2012)**

ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) is a newly established institution, established on April 3, 2012 in Ankara at 1st Meeting of the BoT of the ECO Educational Institute.

Institute is working on long term Plan of Action in order to make tangible progress on the goals outlined in the charter.

At the first meeting of Board of Trustees of the ECO Educational Institute, the basic document of the ECOEI was reviewed.

A furnished-space for housing the ECO Educational Institute was provided by the Turkish Government in the building of the Ministry of National Education of Turkey.

Signing host country agreement between headquarters of the ECO Education Institute and the Government of the Republic of Turkey is in progress.

The ECO Educational Institute in partnership with the Ministry of National Education of Turkey is planning to organize the First ECO Educational Institute International Conference on Education to be held in spring 2013 in Ankara in order to enhance collaboration areas in education and contribute to revitalizing the hidden capacities in education for the 21st century.

Thank you

**Speech by Dr. Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)
to the 22nd Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting
9-11 July, 2012, Tehran-Iran**

In the Name of Allah

**Ladies, Gentlemen
Dignitaries**

At the outset I would like to thank the respectful officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for making the arrangements for hosting the 22nd Session of the Regional Planning Council in the beautiful and historic city of Tehran as well as the honourable ECO Secretariat for conducting the best measures for holding this event.

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the economic wing of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) ever since the new round of administration since th January, 2011 has embarked on diverse approaches to help implement the ECO CCI 10 Year Plan of Action for which certain major steps have been pursued during the one year period from May 2011 to May 2012 in the scope of tourism, women entrepreneurs activities, transportation, industry and investment, trade facilitation and arbitration.

Tourism

In order to expand the tourism ties among ECO member countries with special attention to health tourism, I would like to inform you that the Islamic Countries Health Tourism Association (ICHTA) was adopted during the 1st Conference on Health Tourism in Islamic Countries (CHTIC) in November, 2012 and supported by 7th Islamic Countries Tourism Ministers Meeting (ICTM) held in Tehran.

The Secretary General ECO CCI paid a visit to Tajikistan and met with officials to realize the above objectives and the matter is being followed up in other member countries as well.

Furthermore, due to some ECO member countries' precious experience on the tourism, in order to use the potential and exchange the information, ECO CCI is planned to organize the meetings of tour operators and hotel owners of the ECO Member Countries in the near future in Tehran.

In this regard it is highly requested that RPC may support for formation of ICHTA in each member state and ECO CCI tourism objectives.

Women Entrepreneurs Council

Considering the mission of increasing the share of women in national, regional and international economies, ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council was formed in 2008 to

facilitate the development and enhancement of women entrepreneurship among ECO countries.

In the wake of four successful meetings of the ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council (WEC), useful decisions were made and ECO CCI has encouraged the participation of women entrepreneurs in international trade fairs and exhibitions in ECO countries, Turkey offered to host the national WEC Forum of ECO CCI member countries to be held in Turkey in August/September 2012.

Iran offered to host the Workshop on Empowerment of the Women Entrepreneurs of ECO member countries in Tehran, Iran.

ECO CCI is expecting from RPC to support holding of the Women Entrepreneurs events with active participation of women.

Transportation

Since the last meetings of the ECO CCI Transportation Committee in January and November 2011 respectively in Tehran and Karachi the ECO CCI Secretariat has been conducting various initiatives to further the promotion of intra ECO transportation initiatives.

Report on capacities and prospects of the 6 selected ports of Iran, Turkey as well as Pakistan have been prepared, explained and disseminated among the participants of the transportation committee and published in the ECO CCI website.

Survey among member chambers on barriers to transport and border crossings in the ECO Region conducted in which TOBB and the ICCIMA have provided their reports which were presented to the recent Transit Transport Coordination Committee Meetings (TTCC) that was held on 17-20 April, 2012 in Islamabad.

Furthermore the Action Plan for the establishment of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor (ECO ITI Road Corridor) was signed among the participating parties in which the ECO CCI has got the responsibility for marketing of this corridor.

Meanwhile, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was designed and signed among Iran-Pakistan and Turkey chambers of commerce in order to enhance the cargo catering to the ECO Train (Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul) on the sidelines of the 16th Executive Committee Meeting of the ECO CCI held in November, 2011 in Karachi.

The companies from Iran and Turkey have already been designated for further handling of the project as the Pakistani firms are being awaited to be nominated for this purpose. The ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry has declared its readiness to collaborate in encouraging the investors of the region to either construct the new bridge alongside the Charjou Bridge or restore the Sarakhs Bridge in Turkmenistan as two identical border bridges subject to the approval of the Government of Turkmenistan.

In view of the earlier mentioned issues, below points can be suggested as facilitating measures to the transport in the regions:

- Harmonization of the working hours of customs offices of member countries in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat.
- Unification of transit fees within ECO region

Industry and Investment

Taking into consideration the importance of Agreement on promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) ECO CCI has requested the ECO Secretariat and Member Chambers to approach the relevant officials of member countries to look into very fast implementation of the “Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI)”. Despite the vast potentials of ECO in raw materials and high profile specialized workforce available unfortunately no joint investment projects for manufacturing have been conducted so far.

ECO Trade and Development Bank is also called to give special incentives and credit lines to joint production projects in the region to promote intra-ECO Trade and Investment at the same time.

Proposals

- Pursuance of the fast track approach for the implementation of the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) by the ECO Secretariat.
- RPC’s Support the joint investment in the region with the cooperation of private sector through the ECO Secretariat, ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB) and ECO CCI.

Trade Facilitation

Two meetings of the ECO CCI Trade Facilitation Committee has been held in Iran and Pakistan respectively in January and November, 2011 for which ECO CCI Secretariat has been making different initiatives as follows:

A. ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)

Communications by the ECO CCI with the ECO Secretariat to take on active part in monitoring the developments achieved for ECOTA implementation.

Urging the Republic of Tajikistan to ratify the Annexes of the ECOTA as ECO CCI has also been calling the National Member Chambers of ECO CCI to follow up ECOTA implementation with their respective governments.

B. Visa Facilitation

The ECO Visa Sticker Scheme is being followed up by the authorities of member countries for each other in order to materialize the ECO Visa Sticker.

ECO CCI is ready to cooperate and consult with the ECO Meeting of Consular Authorities in order to implement the ECO Visa Sticker Scheme.

C. ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB)

Communications and negotiations have been extensively carried out by the ECO CCI with the officials and executives of the ECO TDB and the relevant authorities of member countries to expand the membership, capital and scope of activities of the bank to trade operations financing.

D. Exhibitions and Trade Events of the ECO

During the past several years ECO Trade Exhibition went though erratic holding and was not regularly organized and held in member countries.

ECO CCI believes that the regular holding of the ECO Trade Exhibitions in member countries should be materialized.

In the field of trade facilitation below suggested points are of utmost importance:

1. Encouragement of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB) for augmentation of its capital, number of member countries and delivery of trade financing services such as L/C to fill the lack of a banking system for intra ECO trade and banking.
2. Implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)
3. Design and implementation of the ECO Visa Sticker

Arbitration

As approved by the 21st RPC Meeting in May 2011 in Tehran calling the ECO CCI regarding the nature, ways and means of support for establishment of the ECO CCI Arbitration Center due communications have been made by the ECO CCI Secretariat with the member chambers.

In this regard it is to mentions that ECO CCI Arbitration Center needs the legal supports of the home countries of all member chambers. We believe that RPC can play an effective role in both provoking and achieving these requirements. Hence the proposed mode of support by the RPC can be outlines as below:

The Regional Planning Council (RPC) is expected to encourage the competent local authorities such as Ministry of Justice or Ministry of Foreign Affairs of member countries, to enhance the local laws and regulations concerning enforcement of arbitration awards within each member country in particular to encourage those countries of ECO which are not yet a member of New York Convention to seriously consider the ratification and adhesion to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958).

Publication initiatives of the ECO CCI

Since the year 2011, Tehran, the following publications have been conducted by ECO CCI Secretariat through extensive filed studies and research initiatives;

1. The Booklet on Tourism in ECO Member Countries
2. The Book on the Intra-ECO Trade Potentials
3. The Booklet on Bandar Abbas – Almaty Container Train
4. The Islamabad – Tehran – Istanbul Train Booklet
5. Booklet on transit capacities of ECO countries and several other statistical and research publications.

At this point on behalf of the ECO CCI, I wish success for the 22nd RPC in realization of its aims and objectives and I also hope that the shared efforts and consultation of the participants will open up a window of further economic and intra-ECO trade and investment in the future of ECO region.

Thank you

**Statement by Dr. Atousa Goodarzi, Dean, ECO College of Insurance
on 22nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council Meeting
(Tehran, 9-11 July, 2012)**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman, His Excellencies,
Distinguished delegations of the Member States, and
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great honor to present you the current status, recent academic achievements and prospective challenges to 22nd meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC).

College could achieve its plans after devoting a lot of time and work in which many people including the chancellor of the Allameh Tabatabai' University, faculty members staff, and the students of the College have contributed.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates,

Actually, the College have a long history of excellence for more than forty years to fulfill the respected Member States' academic and proficiency requirements.

We will try to improve the College potentials through focusing on post graduate degrees in order to satisfy ECO Member States growing needs for specialized human capital.

Now, I would like to offer a brief picture of where the ECO CoI stands and what it wants to be.

Enrolment

To know about the enrolment growth at ECO CoI, we had once just 10 students 18 years ago, when the College was reopened. Today, we serve more than 300 students.

Still projections put us somewhere between 500 and 700 students within the next five years. As the first step on this path, the enrolment of 30 students in the Actuarial Science at the graduate level, as well as 60 students at the undergraduate category is set for the next academic year.

Library

During last year, we have been able to increase library holdings to 7000 English and 3000 Persian titles. We have also added several digital databases with access to numerous full text periodical titles.

Student Services

Ladies and Gentlemen

State-based subsidized low-rate student loans provided to ECO CoI students in the last academic year approached US\$ 20,000. A few numbers of loans were facilitated for students at their request during the same period.

University dormitory accommodation has been arranged for all the students who applied for.

Digital Discount Cards are issued on the occasion of the Tehran International Book Fair. Students are provided with some pre-priced coupons to purchase their education materials.

Free student consultancy service has been provided to our students. In addition, student scientific visits were scheduled and supported by the College and University.

Scholarships

Mr. Chairman,

Based on new policies of the Ministry of Science, Research & Technology of Islamic Republic of Iran, number of scholarships allocated to ECO College of Insurance for students of the Member States increased to 40.

College invites talented students of the ECO Member States to benefit from scholarships offered by the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran.

The First Board of Trustees Meeting

His Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

The first Meeting of Board of Trustees of ECO College of Insurance held on 6th June, 2012.

Speeches on ECO College of Insurance background, challenges and potentials were presented by Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Islamic Republic of Iran, Secretary General and University President.

Based on the Statute of the College documents related to Rules of Procedure of the BoT, Financial Estimates (2012-2013), Working Program (2012-2013) and Criteria for Granting Scholarship were approved by the College Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, the mechanism for nomination and selection of three non-resident members of BoT, as well as rules of procedure regarding to conduct of business of BoT and expenses of participation of non-resident members of BoT in its meetings were prepared and approved by BoT.

The mechanism of selection of non-resident members must be approved by CPR, as well.

College invites the Member States to participate in the nomination process and introduce their qualified nominees to the Secretariat.

At the end, I want to present current status of programs of ECO College of Insurance.

1. Training of specialized human resources for the ECO Member States shall be followed in three major grounds comprising education, research and consultancy.
2. Increasing the proportion of total enrolment in graduate programs to 70% of the total enrolment.
3. Continuing the expansion of multinational (ECO regional oriented) enrolment and programs to increase the ratio of number of non Iranian students to total enrolment to 10%-15%.
4. Establishment of a scientific – Research journal – “Applied Studies on Risk and Insurance”.
5. Following nomination and selection of three non-resident Members of BoT.
6. Implementation of Islamic Republic of Iran Government scholarships for the College.

As the last point, I want to appreciate the ECO Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Maroofi and his colleagues for their considerations and directions. Meanwhile, I would also like to express my best gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of I.R. of Iran for their contributions to hold the first meeting of the College Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your attention

**Statement by the President (Mr. Hossein Ghazavi)
Of the ECO Trade and Development Bank
22nd ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting
Tehran – Iran (9-11 July, 2012)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellency Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to attend the 22nd Regional Planning Council meeting of ECO. I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Secretariat for the warm hospitality extended to us and excellent arrangements made for this forum.

**Mr. Chairman,
(Economic Developments in the region)**

In the light of current global facts, the economic recovery in the ECO region showed considerable strength in the post global crises period. The regional combined GDP growth had rebounded strongly at 6.8 percent rate in 2012, which fell slightly to an estimated 5.3 percent by 2011. The region's nominal GDP exceeded US\$ 1.8 trillion in 2011, which means over the past decade it has quadrupled. On the other hand, the regional per capita GDP more than doubles since 2001 to hit US\$ 4,220 (US\$ 7,120 in PPP terms). It is good to note that growth rates, budget deficits and debt levels in the region are improving, however, we need to closely observe the global risks and take appropriate measures to improve employment levels and contain inflation in the region. The region also lags behind its comparators in intra-regional trade and attracting foreign investment.

**Excellencies,
(World is exploring 'New Growth' models)**

We in this region share the same basic concerns and broadly the same interest. It is about leveraging our strength by aligning our positions, pooling resources and increasing cooperation for the prosperity of our citizens. However, we have to embrace a common socio-economic development perspective to a rapidly changing world. The gravity of world economic growth is shifting towards developing countries in the east and the ECO region is well positioned to benefit from this shift. And for that we need sustainable growth and cooperation in the region. Today, adopting new growth models is taking center stage in debates all over the world. Particularly, European Council and emerging countries are rightly devoting their meetings to discuss boosting growth. This is the highest priority for the world economies.

It is a moment of truth. We have to shape change; otherwise we will miss the opportunities and dynamics of this century. With the right policies in place, the ECO

region should capitalize on its potentials to achieve a development breakthrough. Of course this will take time however imposes heavy responsibilities and homework.

**Mr. Chairman,
(New Suggestion)**

In this regard, I feel it's worthwhile to mention three main remarks;

First: Enhancing regional trade will engage us deeper and with other parts of the world. Second: Realizing important regional infrastructure projects and Third: Finance, it is the main key for growth. Without mobilizing necessary capital for development and cooperation we are still nowhere. We must keep moving forward toward more financial cooperation.

To support this perspective, Your Institution, ECO Bank is proposing a new initiative under the name of 'ECO Regional Partnership Forum (ERPF)'. The Bank is ready and it is seriously deliberating the possibility of launching such periodic Forum as a sustainable momentum for mobilizing resources and locating attractive investment and commercial opportunities with the help of all institutional stakeholders. We believe it will be an effective platform to forge strategic partnerships and alliances for sustainable development in the ECO region. I am confident that the esteemed Council will also support this initiative.

**Excellencies,
(Performance of the Bank)**

Since its establishment, Your Institution, the ECO Bank has been able to contribute in opening new horizons for the regional cooperation. We are dedicated to support member countries to realize sustainable development and enjoy more cooperation and integration. The total amount of loans disbursed to various operations in the member states ascended to US\$ 487 million by the end of 2011. We have established a network with about 30 partner FIs in the region and a total amount of US\$ 720 million credit lines has been activated. Through, this network we have been offering short and medium-term loans to facilitate transactions of exporters/importers and support the financing needs of the more than 500 SMEs. We have invested in development of new projects in the member states. The wind power project in Pakistan, metro project in Turkey and irrigation and wastewater system projects in Iran are among the eminent examples of this kind. We have started to enter into co-financing agreements with relevant MDBs such as Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Finance Cooperation (IFC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to further enhance flow of finance to prospective projects in the member states.

Excellencies,

It is evident that the funds of the Bank available for financing development projects and trade transactions in the member states is modest compare to needs of the member states. We must enable this Bank to perform its appropriate role in financing development. It has

an opportunity to make a real impact on economic development in the region. And of course, I am confident that through capital increase and raising medium to long term funds from national and international markets, the financing capabilities of the Bank would be intensified in the coming years.

As I move towards my closing remarks, let me state that one of the strategies of the Bank is to increase the number of its members. The expansion of the Bank has been in line with its long-term targets and capacity. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Azerbaijan are in process to finalize admission procedures and will become a member of the Bank soon. In light of this welcoming development, I would like to reiterate my invitation to the other ECO member states to join the Bank and benefit from its resources. Participation of all ECO member states to the Bank is undoubtedly a valuable source of potency and enthusiasm of us to carry forward successful operations.

Finally, let me highlight that incoming years we will witness further successes of this Bank in improving its vital role and I am confident that ECO member states would provide every support to the Bank in order to help it to become a premier development institution of the region.

Thank you for your kind attention

**Statement by Mr. Ayaz Hussain M. Gad, Executive Director/Director, ECO
Reinsurance Company, on 22nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council,
(Tehran, 9-11 July, 2012)**

**Mr. Chairman,
The Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

On behalf of the ECO Reinsurance Company and the Government of Pakistan, we have the privilege to announce that ECO Reinsurance Company has been established. Its signing ceremony was held in Islamabad on 10th February 2010. We hope that very soon we will be able to start the business.

As you are aware that the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari has ratified the Articles of Agreement for the establishment of ECO Reinsurance Company on 16th July, 2010.

In the last meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council held in Tehran on 17-19 May, 2011, the council reiterated its earlier calls that Iran and Turkey expedite their ratification of the Articles of Agreement of the ECO Reinsurance Company. The Council also called on other member states to join the company. In this connection we have not received any information regarding ratification by Iran and Turkish Government.

The MOU also stated that the Pool shall be converted into ECO Reinsurance Company as stipulated in Article VI of the treaty of IZMIR that 'integrated insurance pool shall be converted into ECO Reinsurance Company. The officials of the three countries have already signed the Articles of Agreement.

The Headquarters of the Company (hereinafter referred to as the Headquarters) shall be at Karachi, Pakistan. The Company may initially establish liaison offices in Iran, Turkey and then in other countries.

The authorized capital of the Company shall be thirty million US\$, divided into three thousand shares with par value of ten thousand US\$ each and shall be registered in US Dollars. The capital shall be subscribed as 1,000 share each through Bimeh Markazi Iran, in Iran; the Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited, in Pakistan and T.C Ziraat Bankasi, in Turkey.

The Company shall be a multinational corporate entity, established jointly through equitable participation by the shareholders. The Company shall possess legal personality and full capacity to contract, acquire, hold and dispose of property, and shall have independent legal status.

The Company shall operate as a professional international reinsurer under free market conditions without any government intervention and accept business, without compulsory

cession, from the insurance markets within and outside the Region, and retrocede its surpluses after net retention, with priority given to the insurance markets within the Region.

The Company may accept reinsurance treaties and facultative reinsurance business from any insurance and reinsurance institution located anywhere in the world. The Company shall retain all such business based on prudent decisions and as its technical and financial capacity permits. The Company shall give priority in retrocession to the insurers and reinsurers operating within the Region. The remaining retrocessions shall be offered by the Company to the foreign insurers and reinsurers as far as possible against reciprocity. The financial year of the company shall commence from 1st January and on 31st December of the same year.

The company shall provide additional and high underwriting capacity to the ECO Region and the third world with standards of reinsurance service equal to that provided by the international market.

Excellencies,

In the tapestry of history, our strong cultural and trading ties, our religious bonds, our mutual goals and objectives have woven us together into a rich communal cloth. Our poetry, our literature, our songs, our dances, our legends reflect the community of our Nations, the brotherhood of our people.

This common heritage has given us the collective political will and the modus operandi for further regional cooperation and integration amongst our three countries.

The three nations of the ECO need to take full advantage of the new, worldwide economic trends by maximizing regional economic cooperation.

Our natural resource potential will only be realized when we work together to develop economic competitiveness in the world marketplace.

Even more important, we must educate and train our people so that they will have the skills in the modern marketplace, to provide for their children and end the cycle of poverty that plagues us in the developing world.

It would be between our region and full integration into the new technology of the new century, the modern miracle of the third millennium.

The imperatives of regional cooperation have never been greater and more challenging than in the rapidly changing regional and international economic environment of today.

The establishment of ECO Reinsurance Company for enhancing the effectiveness of ECO is a very welcome step.

I would like to compliment the ECO Secretariat of the three member states and special thanks to the host country.

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts today. Let us move forward with strong ad active faith”.

Thank you, distinguished guests

Annex-VII

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR
2012-2013**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2012-2013

TRADE & INVESTMENT

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Second ECO International Printing and Packaging Industries Exhibition (PECO)	Held in I.R. Iran	8-11 February, 2012
2.	2 nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs)	Held in Baku, Azerbaijan	2-3 May, 2012
3.	Expert Group Meeting on Electronic Trade-ECO Cooperation on Trade Facilitation	Held Kish Island, Iran	23-25 May, 2012
4.	Seminar on “Doha negotiations and accession process to WTO for the ECO Member States: Experience of the Republic of Turkey”	Held in Istanbul, Turkey	18-20 June, 2012
5.	4 th ECO Business Forum	Afghanistan	29 August, 2012
6.	1 st Meeting of ECO Heads of Tax Administration	Tehran, I.R. Iran	14-15 January, 2013
7.	1 st Meeting of Heads of Stock Exchange Markets	Tehran, I.R. Iran	May 2013
8.	3 rd Meeting of ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs)	Ankara, Turkey	October 2013
9.	First Meeting on the Joint Working Group for Preparation of the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement (ETFA)	Turkey	2012
10.	3 rd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council	Turkey	2012
11.	2 nd EGM on Corruption and Money Laundering	Kyrgyz Republic	2012
12.	3 rd ECO Trade Fair	I.R. Iran	2012
13.	4 th ECO Trade Fair	Kazakhstan	2012
14.	5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/ Foreign Trade	I.R. Iran	2012
15.	4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy	Kazakhstan	2012
16.	4 th Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council	Tbd	2012-2013
17.	7 th Meeting of ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration	Pakistan	2012
18.	Meetings of ECO-CCI	Committee Meetings, 17 th Executive Committee and 12 th General	2012-2013

		Assembly Meetings to be hosted by Turkey and other Member States to be determined	
19.	5 th ECO Women Entrepreneurship Council Meeting along with International Exhibition	Tajikistan	2012
20.	4 th ECO Investment Conference	Tajikistan	2012
21.	Events relating to Integrated Market Promotion Plans (IMPP) under ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade	Smaller Economies of ECO (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)	2012
22.	Annual Meeting of the NFPs of Trade and Investment Organizations	Tbd	2012
23.	1 st ECO-ASEAN Business Forum	Azerbaijan	2013
24.	Meetings of ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB)	Tbd	2012-13
25.	2 nd Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on E Trade Cooperation	Pakistan	2012-2013

Non-ECO Activities

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Relevant Events organized by WTO, WCO, OIC, ASIAN, COMCEC, UNIDO, UNDP and WIPO	Tbd	2012

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Meeting on Operationalizing the TIR Convention in Afghanistan	Held in Herat	23-24 Feb. 2012
2.	1 st Coordination Meetings of the countries enroute the Kyrgyz-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran Road Transport Corridor	Held in Herat	23-24 Feb. 2012
3.	5 th Meeting of the Road Committee of the TTCC	Held in Islamabad	17 th April 2012
4.	3 rd Meeting of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC and the Second Meeting of the ECO Council of Bureaux (ECO-CB) of the White	Held in Islamabad	18 th April 2012

	Card Scheme		
5.	3 rd Meeting of the Transit Trade Committee of the TTCC	Held in Islamabad	19 th April 2012
6.	5 th Meeting of the TTCC	Held in Islamabad	20 th April 2012
7.	2 nd Regional Conference on TIR Convention	Held in Istanbul	29-30 June 2012
8.	Joint Workshop with UNECE/OTIF on Unified Rail Laws of the ECO Member States	Held in Ankara	26 June 2012
9.	11 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities/5 th Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC	Held in Ankara	27-28 June 2012
10.	1 st Trilateral Coordination Meetings of the enroute countries of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Transport Corridor	Held in Islamabad	16 April 2012
11.	Training course for Accession to TIR Convention by Afghanistan Capacity Building Workshop for Accession to TIR Convention by Pakistan	Held in Mashhad	5-7 May 2012
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visit to the construction site of railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran • 3rd Meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Committee (TCC) on Construction of Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran 	Field visit in Kazakhstan/ Turkmenistan/Iran territories Meeting in Iran	August 2012 27 th August 2012
13.	Meeting of HLWG on ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes	Tehran, Iran	27 th August 2012
14.	Meeting of HLWG on the Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Route	Tbd	2012
15.	Meetings of the 8 th & 9 th High Level Working Group on the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route	Tehran/Islamabad	2012 in Iran
16.	Ministerial/SOM Meeting of the En-route countries for the construction of railway from China to Europe through the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Iran	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	September 2012
17.	General Assembly Meeting of the ECO Logistic Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)	Karachi, Pakistan	September/Nov, 2012
18.	2 nd Trilateral Coordination Meetings of the enroute countries of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Transport Corridor and field visit by the study team	The 2nd meeting in Iran The field visit to	The Meeting scheduled for the

		Iran, Pakistan and Turkey	Third week of October 2012 The filed study Tbd
19.	Training course on the White Card Scheme/the 4th Meeting of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC	Tehran	4-7 November or 18-21 November 2012
20.	Training course to be organized by Turkey on TIR Convention for Afghanistan and Pakistan	Turkey	Tbd
21.	2 nd Coordination Meetings of the countries enroute the Kyrgyz-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran Road Transport Corridor	Tbd	2012
22.	Meetings of the Senior Consular Officials on visa facilitation	Iran	2012
23.	The Wrap up Meeting of the Joint ECO/IDB Project on implementation of TTFA	Tbd	2012
24.	Meeting with IDB on Transport	Jeddah	2012
25.	ECO/UNCTAD joint field visit to the ECO region in implementation of the Custom Transit Project on TTFA	Tbd	2012
26.	9 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications and Senior Officials Meeting	Kyrgyz Republic	2013
27.	6 th Meeting of the TTCC	Kyrgyz Republic	2013
28.	4 th Meeting of the Transit Committee of the TTCC	Kyrgyz Republic	2013
29.	6 th Meeting of the Road Committee of the TTCC	Kyrgyz Republic	2013
30.	3 rd or 4 th Meeting of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC and the Second Meeting of the ECO Council of Bureaux (ECO-CB) of the White Card Scheme	Kyrgyz Republic	2013
31.	Workshop on UNECE ADR Agreement and the application of digital tachographs and modernization of border crossing points	Turkey	1 st half of 2013
32.	ECO + China Seminar on the Silk Road	Iran	2013
33.	3 rd Regional Conference on TIR Convention	Tbd	2013
34.	12 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities	Iran, Tehran	2013
35.	Meetings on implementation of the MoU between ECO-UNESCAP-IDB and ECO-UNECE-IDB, and Donors Conference for Financing ECO Transport Development	Tbd	2012-2013

Projects/Interagency		
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Post & Telecommunication

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT and Telecommunications	Tehran, Iran	11-13 November 2012
2.	6 th Meeting of ECO Postal Authorities	Tbd	2012-2013
3.	Meetings on Technical & Operational Aspects of Establishing Financial Postal Services	Tbd	2012

Non-ECO Events

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	1 st Annual Multimodal Transportation & Logistics Conference	Held in Karachi, Pakistan	8 May, 2012
2.	Meetings of UNECE's Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport, WP.30 and AC2 and the ECO Coordination Group Meeting on the sidelines of these meetings	Geneva	2012-2013
3.	UNECE Expert Group Meeting on Unified Railway Law	Geneva	2012-2013
4.	International Workshop under the aegis of UNECE for Development of TIR Convention in Euro-Asia: Challenges and Solutions	Issyk-Kul, the Kyrgyz Republic.	25-26 July, 2012
5.	Third session of the Committee on Transport, UNESCAP	Bangkok	10-12 October, 2012

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY and TOURISM

Agriculture

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	5 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and 4 th Senior Official Meeting (SOM)	Turkey, Antalya	2 nd half of November, 2012
2.	2 nd Coordination Meeting for the Implementation of the Regional Program for Food Security (RPFS) and the establishment of the RCC in Ankara	Held in Ankara, Turkey	9-10 January, 2012
3.	Coordination Meetings for preparations for the 5 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and 4 th SOM	Turkey, Ankara	2012

4.	2 nd Donors' Conference on the Implementation of the ECO-RPFS	Turkey	2013
5.	4 th ECO Seed Association (ECOSA 2012) International Trade Conference, 4 th General Assembly and 4 th Board of Directors Meetings of ECOSA	Turkey,	December 2012
6.	Working Group Meeting and Training Programme on Climate Modeling and Natural Disasters in ECO Region by the ECO-RCRM	Held in Tehran/Mashad/ Iran	25-27 June, 2012
7.	3 rd Meeting of the Heads of ECO Veterinary Organizations	Iran	2013
8.	Workshops/training courses on veterinary issues; - Workshop on Management of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) - Training workshop on laboratory diagnoses animal disease	Iran, Tehran Iran	2012 December 2012
9.	3 rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations	Azerbaijan, Baku	2012
10.	2 nd Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water in the field of Agriculture	Tbd	2012
11.	2 nd Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)	Iran	2012
12.	ECOSA 2012 Organizing Committee Meetings	Turkey	2012
13.	Workshop/training course on PVP	Iran	2012
14.	Workshop/training course on Seed Testing	Pakistan	2012
15.	Workshop/training course on Field Inspection	Azerbaijan	2013
16.	Training Courses on; 1. "Flash Flood Forecasting Model Concept" 2. "Basics of Calibration" 3. Basics of Numerical Weather Prediction and Practices"; 4. "Climate Analysis and Applications" 5. Basic "GIS" 6. Producing Snow Data from Meteorological Satellites and Utilization of data in Water Resources Management; 7. Advanced Nowcasting Applications; 8. Meteorological for Least Developed Countries; 9. Meteorological Weather Radar; 10. Global Telecommunication and	Turkey	2013

	Meteorological Software; and 11. Upper Air Observing Systems		
17.	Events for the implementation of the FAO-ECO Project on Seed Sector Development in the ECO Region within the Scope of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP)	Tbd	2012-2013
18.	Visit to donor/funding institutions as well as IDB Headquarters regarding the RPFS Projects	Jeddah	2012-2013

Non-ECO Events

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	International Workshops, Expert Group meetings, Ministerial Meetings and Summits having relevance with ECO RPFS	Tbd	2012-13

Industry

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and 3 rd High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting	Tbd	
2.	5 th EGM on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology	Turkey	December 2012
3.	Workshop on Standardization	Held in Turkey	9-11 May, 2012
4.	Workshop on Accreditation		
5.	6 th Meeting of Heads of Privatization Administration of ECO Member States and 5 th Meeting of High Level Experts Group on Privatization and Private Sector	Tehran	October 2012
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshop for the focal points on the utilization of the website • Workshop on public-private partnership 	Turkey	To be decided
7.	4 th ECO Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SME Development	Iran	Late October 2012
8.	1 st Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights	Turkey	13-14 September, 2012

Tourism

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	-3 rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism -5 th High Level Experts Group (HLEG)	Tbd	2012-2013
2.	3 rd Expert Group Meeting on Ecotourism/ ECO Regional Ecotourism Development, Training	Antalya, Turkey	17-22 September,

	Program		2012
3.	2 nd ECO Youth Ministerial Meeting	Pakistan	October/ December 2012
4.	Workshop on Health Tourism	Turkey	March 2013
5.	First meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund	Tehran, Iran	2012-2013
6.	ECO University Sports Tournament	Turkish Cypriot State	2013

ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	3 rd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum, preceded by Senior Officials Meeting	Tehran, Iran	2012-2013
2.	2 nd High Level Expert Group Meeting on Energy	Ankara, Turkey	24-25 September, 2012
3.	2 nd Meeting of ECO Expert Group on Renewable Sources of Energy	Baku, Azerbaijan	June 2013
4.	4 th Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy	Baku, Azerbaijan	June 2013
5.	Meeting/Workshop on "Natural Gas and Petroleum Supply Security"	Tehran, Iran	2012-2013
6.	3 rd Workshop on Regional Energy Trade in the ECO Region in cooperation with World Bank	To be determined	2012-2013
7.	Workshop on "Oil and Gas drilling"	Baku, Azerbaijan	Second half of 2013
8.	Workshop/Seminar on "Oil and Gas refining processes"	Tehran, Iran	2012-2013
9.	2 nd Workshop on Development of Hydro Power Plants / Conference on Water Supply in Energy Sector	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	October 2012
10.	5 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting	Baku, Azerbaijan	2013
11.	2 nd Meeting of ECO Head of Surveying and Mapping Organizations	To be determined	2013
12.	5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, preceded by Senior Officials Meeting	Kyrgyzstan	July 2013
13.	Regional Meeting of Taxonomists (Mentioned in CoE on Biodiversity)	Tajikistan	2012-2013
14.	Experts Meeting on Alien Invasive Species	Turkmenistan	2012-2013
15.	ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) Experts Meeting	Pakistan	2012-2013

16.	Meeting of ECO Regional Scientific Committee (ERSC) on Conservation of Species and Habitat Protection	Afghanistan	2012-2013
17.	Experts Meeting on Conservation of Threatened, Rare, Endemic and Relict Species	Afghanistan	2012-2013
18.	2 nd Expert Group Meeting on Biodiversity	To be determined	2012-2013
19.	6 th Working Group Meeting on Environment	Turkey	2013
20.	Experts Meeting on Climate Change and Biodiversity	Azerbaijan	2013
21.	Workshop on Municipal Solid Waste Management Practices in ECO region	ECO Secretariat	2012-2013
22.	Workshop on Water and Wastewater Treatment Practices in ECO region	ECO Secretariat	2012-2013

Non-ECO Events

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	12 th International Training Course for Energy Managers	Ankara, Turkey	October 2012
2.	2 nd International Conference and Exhibition on Mapping and Spatial Information, and 19 th National Geomatics Conference	Held in Tehran, Iran	7-9 May, 2012
3.	INSPIRE Conference on the Harmonization of Turkish Spatial Data Infrastructure with the EU	Held in Istanbul, Turkey	23-27 June, 2012
4.	2-day Workshop and High Level Conference & Exhibition on "Desalination of Brackish Seawater and Wastewater Treatment"	Held in Tehran, Iran	19-21 June, 2012

PROJECTS, ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Training Workshop on "Project Risk Management" (for ECO staff)	Held in Tehran, Secretariat	4-5 March 2012
2.	Training Workshop on "Project Risk Management" (for ECO member states)	Held in Ankara, Turkey	28-31 March 2012
3.	5 th ECO High Level Expert Group Meeting (HLEG) on Statistics	Ankara, Turkey	November 2012
4.	4 th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (MHNSO)	Islamabad, Pakistan	26-27 September, 2012
5.	2 nd Meeting of ECO Permanent Steering Committee for Economic Research	Baku, Azerbaijan	7 November 2012

6.	1 st Meeting of ECO Economic Journal Editorial Board	Baku, Azerbaijan	8 November 2012
7.	First Meeting of ECO Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology	Turkmenistan	2012
8.	1 st Workshop on Indicator-based Monitoring of Regional Integration in the framework of the ECO-UNU Regional Programme on Statistical Capacity Building	Belgium	25-26 October 2012
9.	1 st Regional Workshop on Inter-institutional Capacity Building in ECO and EU regions (with EuroStat)	Tbd	2012/13
10.	ECO-UIS Joint Capacity Building Training Workshop on R&D and Innovation Statistics	Tbd	18-20 September
11.	2 nd Regional Training Workshop on Informal Sector Statistics (with UNESCAP)	Tbd	2012
12.	1 st Regional Workshop on Inter-Institutional Cooperation on Statistics (with World Bank)	Tbd	2012
13.	The Training Workshop on the SNA for ECO countries in the framework of Inter-Institutional Cooperation between ECO and UNSD	Tehran, Iran	14-17 October 2012
14.	1 st FAO Regional Training Course on CountryStat Programme	Pakistan	2012
15.	ECO-SIAP Joint Training Course on Harmonization of Regional Statistical Methodology	Tbd	2012-2013
16.	Project Fund Raising Event	Tbd	2013

HUMAN RESOURCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	3 rd Meeting of High Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Human Development and prospect of MDG implementation	Tehran, Iran	November 2012
2.	Workshop on Production of Population Statistics & Information	Tehran, Iran	29-30 October, 2012
3.	The First Meeting of the ECO Ministers/Heads of the HRD Responsible Organizations/Commissions	Iran	12-13 November, 2012
4.	The 2 nd Meeting of ECO Heads of National Civil Registration Organizations	Turkey	2013
5.	3 rd Meeting of the Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations/Authorities of the ECO Member States	Baku, Azerbaijan	September 2012

6.	2 nd High Level Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authorities Meeting	Tbd	2012-2013
7.	The 2 nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health	Kazakhstan	2013-2014
8.	6 th ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management	Kabul, Afghanistan	28-29 February, 2012
9.	7 th ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management	Tbd	2012/2013
10.	Workshop on “Disaster Risk Management”	Turkey	2013

Non-ECO Events

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	International Meeting on Risk Reduction of Natural Disasters	Iran	December 2012

DRUG AND ORGANIZED CRIME COORDINATION UNIT

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	4 th ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting	Islamabad, Pakistan	2012
2.	2 nd ECO Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	2012
3.	2 nd Meeting of the Chief of Police of Anti-Narcotics of ECO Member States	Afghanistan	2012
4.	2 nd Meeting of Chiefs of Police of ECO Member States	Tbd	2012
5.	2 nd Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States	Islamabad, Pakistan	2012
6.	Experts Group Meeting for preparation of a Plan of Action on Combating Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration	Tehran, Iran	29-30 October, 2012
7.	Experts Group Meeting for preparation of an ECO Plan of Action on Terrorism	Tehran, Iran	2012
8.	Experts Group Meeting for formulating modalities for the preparation of a Regional Threat Assessment Report on Organized Crime and Terrorism	Ankara, Turkey	2012
9.	2 nd Experts Group Meeting for finalizing necessary formalities/documents for establishment of ECOPOL	Ankara, Turkey	5-6 September, 2012
10.	Experts Group Meeting on Scientific Detection of Crime	Tehran, Iran	2012
11.	Workshop on Assets Recovery (<i>in the framework of the RCCACO</i>)	Tehran, Iran	December 2012

Meetings to be funded from the EU-Project:

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Workshop on Counter Narcotics Investigation	Held in Turkey	14-16 May, 2012
2.	Project Steering Committee Meeting (every six month)	Europe	To be decided
3.	1 st Meeting of Drug Liaison Officers of the ECO Member States	Tbd	2012
4.	3 rd National Focal Points Meeting on Drug Control Matters	Tbd	2012
5.	4 th National Focal Points Meeting on Drug Control Matters	Tbd	2013
6.	2 nd Meeting of Drug Liaison Officers of the ECO Member States	Tbd	2013
7.	Workshop on HIV/AIDS related to drug	Tbd	15-17 October, 2012
8.	Training Course/workshop related to drug	Tbd	2013
9.	Training Course/workshop related to drug	Tbd	2013
10.	Technical meeting with decision making bodies (Drug Demand Reduction) of ECO Member States	Tbd	2013
11.	3 rd Meeting of Drug Liaison Officers of the ECO Member States	Tbd	2013
12.	Workshop of Forensic Experts from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan <i>(related to Component 4 of the project)</i>	Tehran, Iran (held)	20-21 May, 2012
13.	Meeting of the Heads of Anti Narcotics Laboratories of the ECO Member States <i>(related to Component 4 of the project)</i>	Tehran, Iran	2012

Non-ECO Events

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Paris Pact Round Table Meeting	Vienna	2012
2.	Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting	Vienna	2012
3.	Meeting organized by UNODC	Vienna	2012

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	1 st Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) preceded by a High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting	Held in Ankara, Turkey	2-3 April, 2012

2.	1 st Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO College of Insurance (ECOCoI)	Tehran, Iran	2012
3.	1 st Meeting of Heads of the Diplomatic Training Institutes of ECO	Islamabad, Pakistan	2012
4.	Extraordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) preceded by a High-Level Experts Group Meeting	Ankara, Turkey	April 2013
5.	6 th Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) preceded by 5 th High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting	Tbd	2013
6.	2 nd Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) preceded by 2 nd High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting	Tbd	2013

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	19 th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) on the sidelines of the 67 th Session of the UN General Assembly Meeting of the ECO Contact Group in New York	New York	September 2012
2.	12 th Joint ASEAN-ECO Ministerial Meeting preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting	Baku, Azerbaijan	October 2012

Non-ECO Events

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Technical Experts Meetings of the high-level Core Group High-level Core Group Meeting	Kabul, Afghanistan	2012
2.	13 th Consultative Meeting among executive heads of sub-regional organizations (ECO, SAARC, ASEAN, Pacific Island Forum) and UNESCAP	Tbd	2012
3.	39 th OIC-Council of Foreign Ministers	Djibouti, Gambia	2012
4.	67 th Session of the UN General Assembly	New York, USA	September 2012

MEETINGS OF THE DECISION MAKING ORGANS OF ECO

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	22 nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)	Held in Tehran, Iran	9-11 July, 2012

2.	20 th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting	Baku, Azerbaijan	13-15 October, 2012
3.	12 th ECO Summit	Baku, Azerbaijan	16 October, 2012
4.	23 rd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)	Tbd	2013
