

Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Director General, Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 24th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (23-26 February, 2014 – ECO Secretariat)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

**Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, let me express my gratitude to you all for participation in the 24th meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council. The efforts made by distinguished Secretary General and his team in the ECO Secretariat also deserve highest appreciation.

This is an honor for me to take over the responsibility of RPC chairmanship. I am also grateful for the trust and support that esteemed delegations of the Member States have placed me as the chairman of this Meeting.

Dear Colleagues,

This RPC Meeting is well positioned to identify where and how to accelerate efforts, as well as where we need greater coherence and synergies. I remain hopeful that with your cooperation, this RPC Meeting will be able to play its crucial role. This may require more focused and target-oriented work.

Distinguished Participants,

My entire team and I stand ready to support you in bringing this Meeting to a successful conclusion. I will continue to account on each member`s goodwill and willingness to work with me to find acceptable solutions for the challenges that the Organization is facing with.

Thank you for your attention.
