



TREATY OF IZMIR

(14 September 1996)

The Governments of Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan:

BEARING in mind the Treaty of Izmir originally signed at Izmir, Turkey, on 12 March 1977 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and amended in 1990 and 1992 as the basic Charter of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO);

CONSCIOUS of the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties among the peoples of their Countries;

RECOGNIZING that peace and stability constitute one of the pre-requisite for economic cooperation;

REITERATING their commitment to the U.N. Charter, the purposes and principles of which provide the basis for fruitful cooperation amongst all peoples;

RESOLVED to ensure the economic and social progress of the ECO Member States;

DETERMINED to bring the Economic Cooperation Organization into conformity with its enhanced role;

REAFFIRMING their determination to pursue regional economic cooperation on the basis of the common needs of their countries and in the light of the changes taking place on the global economic scene which have a bearing on ECO Member States;

HAVE DECIDED to revise the provisions of the Treaty of Izmir as the Charter of the Economic Cooperation Organization and to this end have designated their Plenipotentiaries who having exchanged their Full Powers, found in good form, have agreed on the following Articles:-

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

In this Treaty, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Organization" means the Economic Cooperation Organization which may also be referred to as "ECO".

(b) "Member States" means the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(c) "Observers" means States/Organizations which are granted Observer Status by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(d) "Dialogue Partners" means States/Organizations with which ECO enjoys consultative relationships in agreed areas of common interest.

(e) "ECO Region" means the territories of the Member States.

(f) "Treaty" means the Treaty of Izmir.

(g) "Summit" means the Meeting of the Heads of State/ Government of ECO Member States.

(h) "Council of Ministers" means the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(i) "Council of Permanent Representatives" means the Council of Permanent Representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(j) "Regional Planning Council" means the Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(k) "Specialized Agencies" means the organs of ECO established by the decision of the Member States with legal personality and autonomy in management to promote close cooperation among themselves in social, cultural, technical and scientific fields in coordination with ECO Secretariat.

(l) "Regional Institutions" means economic, commercial and financial organs of ECO with self-sustained budget, legal personality and autonomy in management, established to promote economic growth of the ECO region through provision of financial and commercial facilities and investment of funds within the region.

(m) "Secretariat" means the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization located in Tehran which may also be referred to as "Headquarters".

(n) "Secretary-General" means the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(o) "Host Country/Government" means the Country/Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Organization shall be:

(a) To promote conditions for sustainable economic development and to raise on this basis the standard of living and quality of life in the Member States through mobilization of economic and social potentials of the region.

(b) To take measures towards progressive removal of trade barriers within ECO region and expansion of intra and inter-regional trade, keeping in view experiences in other regions and global economic trends.

(c) To pursue, in line with the basic aspirations of the Member States, increased economic cooperation in order to secure greater role and contribution of ECO region to the growth of world trade and removal of iniquitous trading policies resulting in adverse terms of trade for the developing countries, particularly for the Member States.

(d) To provide for gradual and smooth integration of the economies of the Member States with the World Economy to ensure their fuller participation in the globalization process.

(e) To promote active regional collaboration and mutual assistance in economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields.

(f) To accelerate development of transport and communications infrastructures linking the Member States with each other and with the outside world;

(g) To promote integration of public and private sector activities with emphasis on economic liberalization and privatization towards increased participation of the private sector in the regional economic development through joint ventures and investments.

(h) To develop joint programmes for human resource development in ECO region.

(i) To intensify mobilization and utilization of ECO region's natural resources in particular energy resources.

(j) To enhance efforts for effective utilization of the agricultural and industrial potentials of ECO region.

(k) To develop regional cooperation to eradicate drug abuse.

(l) To facilitate cooperation in the fields of ecological and environmental protection within the region.

(m) To promote mutually beneficial interaction and cooperation between ECO and other regional and international organizations as well as financial institutions.

(n) To further strengthen historical and cultural ties among the peoples of the ECO region as well as exchanges in the field of tourism.

ARTICLE III
PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

Regional cooperation within the framework of this Treaty shall be based on the following principles and policies:-

(a) Sovereign equality of the Member States which shall fulfill, in good faith, the obligations assumed by them under this Treaty, based on mutual advantage, without prejudice to their bilateral and international obligations.

(b) Linking of national economic development plans with ECO's immediate and long-term objectives to the extent possible.

(c) Joint efforts to gain freer access to markets outside the ECO region for the raw materials and finished products of the Member States.

(d) Effective utilization of ECO institutions, agreements and cooperative arrangements with other regional and international organizations including multilateral financial institutions.

(e) Common endeavors by the Member States to develop a harmonized approach, in order to enhance their participation in regional and global arrangements.

(f) Cooperation among Member States in pursuance of strategies based on realistic and gradualistic approaches, taking into account the existing potentials and resources within ECO as well as differences in the levels of Member States economic development with due regard to the agreements and arrangements made with other regional and international institutions.

(g) Exchanges in educational, scientific, technical and cultural fields.

ARTICLE IV
MEETING OF THE HEADS OF
STATE/GOVERNMENT

The Heads of State/Government of the Member States shall meet biennially or more often if considered necessary by the Member States. The Summit meetings shall review the objective conditions and progress in implementation of ECO programmes and projects and shall also serve as the highest-level forum for exchange of views on regional and global issues of common interest to the ECO region.

ARTICLE V

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ECO

There shall be, as the principal organs of ECO, a Council of Ministers, a Council of Permanent Representatives, a Regional Planning Council, a Secretariat and Specialized Agencies in specific fields of cooperation. Regional institutions and ad-hoc committees may also be established by the decision of the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE VI

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Council of Ministers shall be the highest policy and decision-making body of ECO. It shall comprise the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States or any other representative of full ministerial rank as may be nominated by the governments and shall meet at least once a year by rotation, in the territories of the Member States. Extraordinary sessions of the Council may also be held either in the territories of the Member States or elsewhere by mutual agreement among the Member States. The Council of Ministers may, if deemed necessary, propose the convening of meetings of other Ministers in the formulation of plans and projects in their respective fields through sectoral or joint ministerial meetings.

ARTICLE VII

COUNCIL OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Council of Permanent Representatives shall be a permanent body which, except when the Council of Ministers is in session, shall be responsible, on behalf and in the name of the Council of Ministers, for carrying out its policies, for formulating issues requiring decisions by the Member States and for taking appropriate steps on matters connected with the implementation of the decisions of the Council of Ministers. It shall comprise the Permanent Representatives/Ambassadors accredited to ECO. It shall meet as often as necessary under the chairpersonship of the representative of the Member State holding the chairpersonship of the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE VIII

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

The Regional Planning Council shall comprise the heads of the Planning Organizations of the Member States and/or such other representatives of corresponding authority as may be nominated by their governments and shall meet at least once a year prior to the annual meeting of the Council of Ministers under the

chairpersonship of the representative of the Member State holding the chairpersonship of the Council of Ministers at the headquarters of the Organization. The Regional Planning Council shall evolve programmes of action for realizing the objectives of the Organization along with a review of past programmes and evaluation of results achieved to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and in this task shall be assisted by the Secretariat. It may propose to the Council of Ministers the establishment of regional institutions and ad-hoc committees in priority areas of cooperation.

ARTICLE IX

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary-General and such staff as the Organization may require. It shall function with its Headquarters in Tehran and in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) relating to the Rights, Privileges and Immunities of the ECO Secretariat approved by the Council of Ministers and signed between the Foreign Minister of the host country and the Secretary-General.

2. The Secretary-General shall be elected and appointed by the Council of Ministers for a non-renewable term of three (3) years from among the candidates nominated by the Member States on the basis of qualifications, experience and suitability as laid down in the Staff Regulations of the ECO Secretariat. As the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, he shall be responsible to the Council of Ministers for all activities of the Organization and shall hold the rank and status of Ambassador. He shall participate in the meetings of all Councils and shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by these organs. He shall make an annual report to the Council of Ministers on the work of the Organization.

3. The staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed and governed in accordance with the terms & conditions and procedures laid down in the Staff Regulations established by the Council of Ministers. All staff members shall be considered full-time international civil servants receiving their emoluments from the budget of the Secretariat in accordance with the scales of salaries and allowances approved by the Council of Ministers.

4. The role of the Secretariat shall be to initiate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of ECO activities and to service the meetings of the Organization. The functions and the structure of the Secretariat shall be governed by the Staff Regulations of the ECO Secretariat approved by the Council of Ministers.

5. In the performance of their duties, the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international civil servants responsible only to the Organization.

ARTICLE X

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

There shall be specialized agencies and regional institutions in specific fields of cooperation. The number, nature and objectives of these agencies and institutions may be determined by the Council of Ministers and revised as and when necessary. All specialized agencies and regional institutions shall submit annual reports on their activities to the Council of Ministers in accordance with their Rules of Procedure and also notify the Secretary General of the Organization.

ARTICLE XI

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The Secretariat shall have a centralized budget. The contributions in US dollars by Member States to this budget shall be decided by the Council of Ministers, taking into account their capacity to pay and the prevailing scale of assessment of contributions of the United Nations.

ARTICLE XII

DECISION-MAKING

1. All decisions on vital issues pertaining to the admission of new members or observers or dialogue partners, budgetary arrangements, matters with financial implications, appointment of the Secretary General, adoption of economic strategies and action plans, amendments to the Treaty and ECO's external relations or any other issues that the Council of Ministers may consider to be of vital importance to the Organization, shall be taken on the basis of unanimity.

2. Decisions on other matters shall be taken on the basis of simple majority of the total membership of ECO provided that the remaining members choose to abstain and/or are not against the decision.

ARTICLE XIII

MEMBERSHIP

1. Any State enjoying geographical contiguity with the ECO region and/or sharing the objectives and principles of ECO may apply to become a member of the Organization. Such State shall address its application through the Secretary General to the Council of Ministers which may decide the admission of a new member by a unanimous vote.

2. The applying State shall undertake to fully respect and abide by the provisions of the present Treaty and shall accept all obligations arising therefrom. After the acceptance of its application for membership, the applying State shall accede to the Treaty in accordance with its constitutional rules and practices.

3. The Instrument of Ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the host government, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which shall transmit a certified copy to the other Member States and to the Secretariat.

4. Pending such ratification the new Member State may, with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, participate as a full member in the activities of all organs of ECO, and make its assessed contribution to the ECO budget.

5. Any Member State may at any time withdraw from the Organization by giving a formal notice of its intention to withdraw to the Secretary General who shall transmit such notice to all Members. The withdrawal shall take effect six months after such notice has been received by the Secretary General and all financial obligations due to the Organization have been settled.

ARTICLE XIV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

LEGAL STATUS

1. The Economic Cooperation Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Member States such legal capacity and privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfillment of its objectives under the conditions laid down in the Agreement on the Legal Status of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), National Representatives and International Staff which shall be an annex to this Treaty.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

2. English shall be the official language of the Organization. Arrangements shall be made for unofficial Russian translation and interpretation.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

3. The meetings of the Organization at all levels shall be held in accordance with the Rules of Procedure to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

4. The Organization may establish cooperative relationship with other regional or international organizations, states and institutions. The nature and extent of such collaboration shall be determined by the Council of Ministers by a unanimous vote.

5. The Organization may grant observer or dialogue partnership status to other Regional or International Organizations, States and Institutions. The nature and scope of such status shall be determined by the Council of Ministers by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENT

1. The Government of any Member State may submit through the Secretariat to the Council of Ministers proposals for the revision or amendments to the present Treaty.

2. Upon approval by the Council of Ministers, the consequential revision and amendments shall come into force after two-third of the Member States deposit their instrument of ratification in accordance with their respective constitutional rules and practices.

ARTICLE XVI

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The present Treaty shall be ratified in accordance with the respective constitutional rules and practices of Member States and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran which shall transmit a certified copy to the other Member States and to the Secretariat.

2. The present Treaty shall come into force after two-third of the Member States deposit the instrument of ratification with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. The present Treaty after entering into force shall supersede the original Treaty of Izmir of March 1977 and the Protocols of 1990 and 1992.

4. The present Treaty is drawn up in one original copy in the English language.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have affixed their signature on this Treaty;

DONE at Izmir this 14th day of September, in the year One thousand Nine hundred Ninety-six.