



Report
of
29th Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
includes:
Work Programme 2019 & Calendar of Events 2019

17 -20 December 2018
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

CONTENTS

Report of 29thRPC Meeting

- a. Inaugural Session*
- b. First Plenary Session*
- d. Second Plenary Session*

Annexures

Annexure-I:

Work Programme 2019

- (a) Trade & Investment*
- (b) Transport & Communications*
- (c) Energy, Minerals and Environment*
- (d) Agriculture, Industry & Tourism*
- (e) Projects, Economic Research & Statistics*
- (f) Human Resources & Sustainable Development*
- (g) Drug & Organized Crime Coordination*
- (h) ECO Regional Institutions/Specialized Agencies/Affiliated Bodies and International Relations*

Annexure-II:

Annual ECO Calendar of Events 2019

Annexure-III:

Statements by:

- H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, ECO Secretary General*
- H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan*
- Heads of ECO Member States and Observers States' Delegations, Heads ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies*

Annexure-IV - List of Participants

Report **Inaugural Session**

29th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 17-20 December 2018 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. Sectoral Committees' Meetings were also held on the sidelines of the 29th RPC Meeting.

2. The Meeting was attended by the delegations from ECO Member States namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the delegation of ECO Secretariat. The representatives of the Turkish Cypriot State also attended the Meeting in the capacity of Observer. The representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies also participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annexure-IV**.

Agenda Item No.1

(i) Opening remarks

3. The ECO Secretary General H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour welcomed the participants to the meeting. The Secretary General especially expressed gratitude to the distinguished delegates from their respective capitals for participation in the 29th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting. He dilated upon the role of the RPC as entrusted by the Council of Ministers (CoM) inter-alia review past programmes by evaluating success and shortcomings; and proposed future programmes of action in line with the objectives of the Organization as laid down in the founding documents as well as ECO Vision 2025. The Secretary General emphasized upon the importance of this particular session of the council in turning ECO into a project-oriented organization based upon the profound desire of the ECO Member States. He appreciated and highlighted the efforts of ECO Member States and institutions in realizing the Work Programme approved by 28th RPC held in Islamabad in 2017.

4. The ECO Secretary General presented directorate wise overview encompassing notable achievements during 2018 and steps for further improvement. He emphasized upon having an agreed approach to implement ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to enhance trade in region. The Secretary General acknowledged the visible progress in the area of transport and communications in 2018 and highlighted that the Dushanbe Communiqué renewed ECO's commitment to fully implement the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). He specifically mentioned the progress achieved in the "ECO Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation" for the period 2019-2023 and expressed hope that the envisaged new Plan of Action for the project will be approved by the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy. The ECO Secretary General highlighted ECO's collaboration with UNIDO in establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO)

and expressed satisfaction on completion of its Preparatory Phase this year. He further mentioned about different projects being pursued by ECO Secretariat in the fields of Tourism, Environment, Agriculture and Minerals. A copy of the detailed statement is placed at *Annexure-III*.

First Plenary Session

(ii) Election of the Chairman

5. As per ECO's rules and procedures His Excellency Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan was elected as the Chairman of the 29th RPC Meeting.

6. At the outset Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed gratitude to the ECO Secretary General for comprehensive statement encompassing achievement of ECO during 2018. The Chairman expressed sincere gratitude to the Member States for showing faith in electing him as the Chairman of the Council. He further stated that Tajikistan being Chair of CoM since April, attaches great importance to the further expansion and deepening of multifaceted relations with the member countries as well as strengthening its activities. The Chairman highlighted the importance of RPC in preparing the programme of activities of Organization for 2019 as well as achieving the goals and objectives of the ECO vision 2025. He expressed confidence that experts participating in sectoral meetings will make efforts to prepare and implement the work programme aimed at expansion of regional cooperation and meeting the interests of the people of Member States. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for making excellent arrangements for the meeting. He wished fruitful discussion during various Working Committee meetings with concrete outcome thus providing future course of action for 2019. A copy of his statement is placed at *Annexure-III*.

(iii) Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Council adopted the following agenda items for its deliberations:

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
 - i. Opening remarks
 - ii. Election of the Chairman
 - iii. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Statements by the Heads of delegation on the implementation of the decisions of the 28th RPC
3. Review of the progress of implementation of the ECO approved programmes/projects and consideration of proposals for new programmes and projects for the year 2019:

- Trade and Investment
 - Transport & Communications
 - Energy, Minerals and Environment
 - Agriculture, Industry and Tourism
 - Project, Economic Research & Statistics
 - Human Resources & Sustainable Development
 - Drugs and Organized Crime Coordination
 - ECO Regional Institutions/Specialized Agencies/Affiliated Bodies and International Relations
4. Endorsement of the draft outcomes
 - i. Annual Work Programme 2019
 - ii. Calendar of Events 2019
 5. Any other business
 6. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting
 7. Adoption of the Report of 29th RPC Meeting
 8. Closing

Agenda Item No.2

Statements by the Heads of Delegation on the implementation of the decisions of 28th RPC

8. The Heads of delegation of the ECO Member States made their statements in alphabetical order outlining their country's policies and views on the programmes and activities of the Organization. Provided an overview of the ongoing activities/achievements in various sectors. They also highlighted the progress achieved on the implementation of the decisions taken during the 28th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council. Copies of their statements are placed at **Annexure-III**.

9. The Heads of delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered a Statement. Copy of the statement is placed at **Annexure-III**.

10. The Heads of delegation of the ECO Regional Institutions/Specialized Agencies/Affiliated Bodies, including ECO Cultural Institute (ECO-CI), ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF), ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI), ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECOTDB), ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECOCCI), ECO Seed Association, ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) and ECO Regional Coordination Centre (ECO-RCC) also delivered their statements highlighting their activities and progress achieved since last RPC meeting. Copies of their statements are placed at **Annexure-III**.

Agenda Item No.3

Review of the progress of implementation of the ECO approved programmes/projects and consideration of proposals for new programmes and projects for the year 2019

11. The Council elected the following delegates to Chair Sectoral Committees:

(a)	Trade & Investment	-	Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director, Presidency of Strategy and Budget , Republic of Turkey
(b)	Transport & Communications	-	Ms. Mozghan Kordbacheh, Deputy Director General, International Affairs Dept., RAI, Islamic Republic of Iran
(c)	Energy, Minerals & Environment	-	Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Senior Expert, Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Republic of Turkey
(d)	Agriculture, Industry & Tourism	-	Mr. Houman Fathi, Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, Islamic Republic of Iran
(e)	Projects, Economic Research & Statistics	-	Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Chief, International Trade & Finance , Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform of Pakistan Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(f)	Human Resources & Sustainable Development	-	Mr. Bekmatov Bozorali, Head of Department of Trade and Services Policy, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan
(g)	Drugs & Organized Crime Coordination	-	Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Director for Transit and Trade Facilitation, Minsitry of Commerce and Industry, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
(h)	ECO Regional Institutions/ Specialized Agencies/ Affiliated Bodies and International Relations	-	Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Director General (ECO & CARs), Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Second Plenary Session

AgendaItem No.4

Endorsement of the draft outcomes

12. Closing Plenary Session of the meeting was held on 20th December 2018 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan.

(i) Annual Work Programme 2019

13. The Council after review of all Sectoral Work Programmes prepared during the Review Committee Meetings formally endorsed the Sectoral Work Programme 2019 for final approval by the COM. The Work Programme 2019 is placed at **Annexure-I** of this Report.

(ii) Calendar of Events 2019

14. Annual ECO Calendar of Events for 2019, proposed by the Sectoral Committees Meetings, was reviewed by the Council and was also endorsed for final approval by the COM. The Annual Calendar of Events 2019 is placed at **Annexure-II** of this Report.

Agenda Item No.5Any Other Business

15. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No.6Date and Venue of the next Meeting

16. The Council decided to organize the next 30th RPC Meeting from 14-17 January, 2020 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran.

Agenda Item No.7Adoption of the Report of 29th RPC Meeting

17. The Report of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council was unanimously adopted.

Agenda Item No.8Closing Remarks

18. On behalf of all the participating delegations, the Council expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to the ECO Secretariat, Secretary General and his Staff for making excellent arrangements for successfully organizing this important meeting, preparation of necessary documents, and logistical arrangements made for the delegations.

19. The ECO Secretary General H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour in his concluding remarks presented an overview of the decisions taken by the esteemed Council in various sectoral meetings. He expressed gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for support and cooperation throughout the event. The Secretary General also extended deep gratitude to the distinguished representatives of the Member States for their kind participation and valuable contribution. He also appreciated the efforts of Secretariat's staff and the ECO institutions for preparing necessary documents for RPC and for their hard work as well as diligent services in this regard.

20. The Council concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair for conducting proactive deliberations of the Meeting in a smooth and efficient manner. The Council also profoundly thanked the Chairmen of various Sectoral Committees for successfully conducting the business of their respective Committees.
