



29th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)

“ECO Work Programme 2019”

(ECO Secretariat, Tehran, 17-20 December 2018)

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
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A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT

1.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their commitment and announcing the schedule of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade three times in last two years, though it could not be held for non-fulfillment of quorum requirement. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan regretted the possibility of holding the meeting for some other engagements and conveyed that the Secretariat may request other member states to volunteer its hosting.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council requested the other Member States to announce the schedule of the Meeting at the earliest convenience. The Council also requested the Member States to confirm their participation for this important meeting and convey the high level composition of delegations to the ECO Secretariat when the meeting is announced.</p>	
2.	<p>The Council has recommended that ECOTA Cooperation Council to convene and consider the technical and practical issues concerning the operationalization of ECOTA. The Council also recommended that other ECO Member States that are not party to the ECOTA could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers.</p> <p>The Council also took note of the concerns raised by the Member Countries regarding ECOTA and referred the matter to the ECOTA Cooperation Council.</p>	
3.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Draft of ECO Multi-Dimensional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region has been revised and has been circulated among Member States for views/comments. It was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has conveyed its concurrence in principle over it. The Council requested the other Member States to send their comments/views, if any, before the forthcoming 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade which will discuss the said Strategy in the light of its previous meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Turkey announced to host the 1st Meeting on the Joint Working Group for Preparation of the draft ECO</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<p>Trade Facilitation Agreement (ETFA) in October 2018 but the meeting had to be postponed because of lack of quorum. The Council deeply appreciated the Republic of Turkey's commitment to this important area. The Council welcomed that the Republic of Turkey will host it in first half of 2019.</p>	
5.	<p>The Secretariat also informed that as per decision of 28th RPC Meeting that a comprehensive Paper/Strategy titled 'Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy' prepared by the Republic of Turkey in 2017 was circulated amongst the Member States to obtain the respective views of their Trade, Transit and Customs authorities before the Ministerial Meeting.</p> <p>The Council requested the member states, except Azerbaijan, to provide their views at the earliest convenience so as to discuss in the 5th Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade in 2019.</p>	
6.	<p>The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy and the 2nd ECO Heads of Central Bank Meeting back to back in first half of the 2019 in Tehran. Appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran to offer to host these two important High Level Meetings, the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the Secretariat the exact dates and detailed form of hospitality to be provided to the participants in due course to be transmitted to the Member States.</p>	
7.	<p>The Council was recalled again that the First Meeting of the Experts of Tax Administration held on 26-28 May, 2014 in Tehran had finalized the following three draft Documents on ECO Tax Cooperation namely,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Charter for Establishment of ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX); b) ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters; and, c) Agreement on the Exchange of Information in Tax Matters among ECO Member States. 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
8.	The Council called upon the Member States to volunteer hosting the 2 nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration in 2018 to endorse the aforesaid three documents to be submitted to decision making organs of ECO for approval.	
9.	The Secretariat informed that holding of Meetings of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities was a decision of the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy to also promote ECO cooperation in the field of capital markets. The deliberations of the meetings will be submitted to the next ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy for decision/approval. Therefore, the Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the first Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in 2019 and inform through the ECO Secretariat at the earliest convenience.	
10.	The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that so far two ECO Member States namely the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have ratified the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment among ECO Member States (APPI), along with the Amendment Protocol and deposited the Instrument of Ratification. The APPI has been signed by five ECO Member States (namely, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) and entry into force requires ratification by four Member States. The Council called upon the Member States, which have not already done so, to sign & ratify the APPI along with its Amendment Protocol.	
11.	The Secretariat informed the Council that so far no Member State volunteered to host the Second Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum. The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the Second Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum in 2019 and inform the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels.	
12.	The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3 rd Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy held on 21-23 December, 2008 in Tehran, the Republic of Tajikistan was designated as the coordinating country for ECO initiatives on investment. Tajikistan offered to host the 4th ECO Investment Conference but has not conveyed the schedule so far. The Council requested the Republic of Tajikistan to	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	convey the dates and other details for the Conference at the earliest.	
13.	Regarding ECO Business Forum , the ECO Secretariat informed that based on the decision of the 26 th and 27 th Meetings of the RPC, a proposal for two-year project on ECO Business Forum worth US\$ 50,000/- was prepared and circulated among the Member States to furnish their views/comments but response in this respect is awaited. The Council requested to send their comments at the earliest in this regard.	
14.	The Council expressed their gratitude to the ECO-CCI/ Republic of Turkey on announcing the 4 th ECO Business Forum in Istanbul in second half of 2019. The meeting proposed to hold Buyers/Sellers meeting along with this event for extended benefits and expansion of intra-regional trade in the region. The Council requested the member states to encourage their National Chambers to actively participate and make it successful.	
15.	With regard to the ECO Trade Fair , the ECO Secretariat recalled that ECO-CCI tried to organize the 3 rd ECO Trade Fair in October 2017 in Karachi, but it was postponed because of lukewarm interest of the member states. However, no date for holding it was announced in 2018. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan will consider holding this event after consultation with FPCCI and will inform the Secretariat accordingly. The Council requested the member states and the ECO-CCI to call upon their constituents to actively participate in this event for promotion of trade in the region.	
16.	With regard to the ECO-ASEAN Joint Business Forum and ECO-SAARC Joint Business Forum , the ECO-CCI informed that this forum will be considered in 2020 after holding of 4 th ECO-Business Forum in Turkey in 2019 and strengthening the events within the region. However, in the meantime ECO-CCI will explore the possibility of expanding trade relations with these economic blocs.	
17.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the efforts for organizing on 19 March, 2018 in Islamabad for the 4th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum . However, the event could not be held due to lack of quorum. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan also informed that the Secretariat may invite other Member States to host the forum. The Council requested other member states to announce the dates and venue for the 4 th "ECO Trade Promotion Organizations	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Forum".	
18.	The Council has noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the 3 rd Phase of the ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project (TCBP) for harmonizing the Standardization, Metrology, Testing and Quality among the ECO Member has been completed and ECO Regional Quality Policy and Guideline for National Quality Policy have been formulated and submitted to good use of Member States.	
19.	The Secretariat informed the Council that UNIDO due to financial constraints in 2017-2018 could not continue to provide financial assistance for the next 4 th phase of the ECO-UNIDO TCBP to promote the ECO Quality Infrastructure and implement the ECO Regional Quality Policy in Standardization, Metrology, Testing and Quality.	
20.	The Council agreed that promoting ECO Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of the Regional Quality Policy are required for elimination of non-tariff barriers to increase the intra-regional trade. Therefore, the Council requested the Secretariat to again invite UNIDO, ECO Trade and Development Bank and IDB to provide financial and technical support in 2019 for the implementation of the next phase of the Project. The Council also requested all the Member States to give their full support to the Secretariat for its endeavors for the implementation of the next phase of ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project.	
21.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the meetings of the 24nd Executive Committee meeting and 15th General Assembly meeting of the ECO-CCI along with the six Specialized Committees , in Tehran on 3-5 March, 2018.	
22.	The Council expressed its gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the tremendous work during its term of Presidentship and Secretariat. The Council also congratulated Mr. Azarakhsh Hafizi, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to assume the Presidentship of ECO-CCI and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) to serve as the ECO-CCI Secretariat and expressed its hope to continue its contribution to the realization of the ECO Vision and will help make ECO a more integrated region bloc through more activities and intra-regional trade. The Council congratulated Mr. Adem Kula as new Secretary General of ECO-CCI for the period 2018-2021.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
23.	The Council also congratulated and profoundly appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan for holding the meetings of the 25 th Executive Committee of the ECO-CCI along with the Six Specialized Committees Meetings, for the first time in Central Asia/Tashkent on 12-14 December, 2018. It was highlighted that these events will create good impact and encourages other member countries especially the Central Asian States to hold such events in the Central Asia. The Council also deeply appreciated and encouraged for more participation in such events.	
24.	Secretary General of ECO-CCI informed the house that the new web site (www.ecocci.org.tr) of ECO-CCI is now operational which was announced during the 25 th Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI that was held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on December 14, 2018, for the benefit of the Governments and the National Chambers. The web site will serve as a tool for the business community of the region.	
25.	The Council requested the Member States to urge their respective National Chambers to confirm their participation in the forthcoming meetings of the 17 th General Assembly, 26 th ECO-CCI's Executive Committee and the Specialized Committees which will be held by April, 2019 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.	
26.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the Second Phase of the Study on Trading Patterns in the ECO Region is still being carried out by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and it is expected to be completed in early 2019.	
27.	The Council urged the ECO Secretariat to ensure that the Study is completed as soon as possible so the Member States can use the result of the study at the earliest convenience.	
28.	The Secretariat informed the Council that as per the deliberation made during the 28 th Meeting RPC so far no non-WTO ECO Member State requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to hold the Trade Policy Review Session with financial support of the ECO of Trade and Development Bank. The Council requested the non-WTO ECO Member States to inform Islamic Republic of Pakistan via ECO Secretariat in this regard if they are interested.	
29.	The Council while underlining that so far six ECO Member States are the members of the WTO, requested a full ECO support for the remaining four ECO Member States to	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	become members of the WTO through capacity building to align the trade policies and laws for regulatory reforms as per WTO requirements.	
30.	In this respect, the Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 3rd and 4th Seminars on Trading Patterns in the ECO Region and WTO Issues in 2016 and 2017 respectively and the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) for providing financial support to organize these seminars. The Council agreed that to support and encourage the remaining ECO Member States for their accession to WTO, seminars on Trading Patterns in ECO Region and accession to WTO should be organized on regular basis. Therefore, the Council requested the WTO Members of ECO to volunteer hosting and organizing such Seminars and the ETDB to continue provide financial assistance for organizing such seminars in 2019.	
31.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for announcing the 9th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) along with the 5 th Meeting of the ECO Customs Cooperation Committee (ECCC), previous name the Sub-Committee of Customs Experts (SCOEs), on 4-5 November, 2018 in Ankara which nevertheless could not be held due to lack of quorum.	
32.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 9th Meeting of the CHCA and the 5th Meeting of the ECCC in 2019 and requested the Republic of Turkey to communicate exact dates of the meetings. The Council also requested the member states to actively participate in these meetings for sustainability of the benefits of previous meetings.	
33.	The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that after the Republic of the Azerbaijan's ratification of the Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank , it has come into force on 30 th December 2017. The Council thanked the Republic of the Azerbaijan for ratifying the Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank and informed that four signatories have now ratified the Agreement.	
34.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for the establishing the ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank and holding its two meetings i.e. 26 February and 24 October 2018. The Council requested the Member States to fully	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	cooperate with the Republic of Turkey for full operationalization of this institutional mechanism aiming to increase the governmental revenues and stopping pilferages of the Member States.	
35.	The Council requested the remaining signatories to the "Agreement on the Establishment and Operations of the ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank" to expedite ratification of the Agreement. The Council also requested the non-signatory Member States to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement.	
36.	The ECO Secretariat informed that the draft text of the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters was finalized in the 8 th Meeting of the CHCA. This adopted final draft text was circulated among the Member States for completion of formalities and internal governmental processes. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have completed their internal procedures. The Council requested the Member States for early completion of their formalities and internal governmental processes. After this, the draft Agreement will be submitted to the decision making organs of the ECO for approval to be open for signatures.	
37.	The Secretariat while recalling the 8 th CHCA Meeting in Islamabad in November 2017 informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered to support the capacity building activities of the Member States in Customs matters through a set of different trainings at the Customs Training Academy at Karachi. The Council also welcomed the willingness and readiness of the Republic of Turkey to share their experiences on the themes such as Application of Simplification Regulated Common Transit Convention, Implementation of TIR System, Simplified Procedures on Expedited Shipments, Implementation of Customs Enforcement Matters and Tools as well as Smuggling and Implementation of Single Window System. Further, it was also suggested that the Member States may share their best practices in different thematic areas and may communicate the proposed set of trainings with the ECO Secretariat. The Council requested the Member States, except the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey to inform the Secretariat about the proposed set of trainings.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
38.	<p>The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the 1st Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) on 22 October, 2018 in Tehran, as was decided in the Meeting of 8th CHCA, in Islamabad in November 2017. It was recalled that during the 8th CHCA Meeting, the ECO Secretariat was asked to prepare the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for this Committee and circulate it among the Member States for their views and nomination of experts which it did.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran to announce the 2nd Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in first half of 2019 and hoped to continue its great work for developing the EDI system for the region. The Council requested the Member States to actively participate in the 2nd Meeting of EDI for development of the system as per its mandate.</p>	
39.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed that the 1st Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on E-Trade Cooperation was hosted by Islamic Republic of Iran in 2012. The Council urged the Member States to volunteer to host the 2nd EGM on E-Trade Cooperation in 2019 and convey the dates and hospitality details to the ECO Secretariat.</p>	
40.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the 233rd and 234th Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings held on September 11, 2018 and on November 05, 2018 respectively deliberated on and directed the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="443 963 1549 1036">i. Expanding the mandate of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) to strengthen and develop trade among Member States and <li data-bbox="443 1036 1549 1101">ii. Establishing an ECO Clearing Union to clear payments for the trade among the Member States. 	
41.	<p>The Council while thanking for the decision of the CPR and the work of the Secretariat done on the issue expressed its agreement on;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="443 1214 1549 1352">i. Inclusion of the ECO Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on ECO Banking and Financial Matters and Experts Group Meeting on Forming ECO Clearing Union in the Calendar of Events for 2019. Since the subjects of the two experts meeting are closely related and the focal points of the Member States to take 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<p>part in the meetings would the same the Council also agreed to combine the two experts group meeting and reflect this combination in the calendar of events 2019.</p> <p>ii. A study on the possibility of forming an ECO Clearing Union (ECU) to be done by a professional consultant amounting to (thirty thousands) 30.000 Dollar.</p> <p>The Council also requested the Member States to consider volunteer hosting the aforesaid Experts Group Meeting in 2019 and to support the Secretariat while hiring a professional consultant to carry out the study.</p>	
42.	<p>While underlining that the current membership base of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) includes six ECO Member States, the Council called upon again the remaining four ECO Member States to start the membership process of the Bank at their earliest convenience to get benefit from its resources.</p>	
43.	<p>The Council also underlined that the ETDB should be further supported to strengthen its role and enhance its capacity for financing trade and development projects of the Member States.</p>	
44.	<p>The Council appreciated that the ETDB expressed its readiness to launch a Regional Partnership Forum (RPF). The Council requested that ETDB with the coordination of the Secretariat may initiate to arrange the first RPF and urged the Member States to encourage their relevant national institutions and organizations to actively participate in the subject Forum.</p>	
45.	<p>The Council referring to the earlier decisions of the ECO Council of Ministers requested the ETDB to give a priority to the establishment of a Fund to assist ECO Secretariat in undertaking feasibility studies and implementing capacity building projects in priority areas including the projects contained by the ECO Vision-2025.</p>	
46.	<p>The Council appreciated that after ratifying of the Republic of Turkey the Articles of Agreement of ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC), it has come into force in December 2017, with its headquarters in Karachi, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<p>The Council also appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for holding the First Meeting on ECO Reinsurance Company on 26th February 2018 to discuss establishment and operationalization of the ERC. The Council also thanked the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for announcing the 2nd Meeting on the ECO Reinsurance Company in Karachi, Pakistan, in May 2018.</p>	
47.	<p>The Secretariat informed that after nominations of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the General Assembly in September, 2018, the nominations for the General Assembly stands completed as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey have already completed their nominations. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan/ ERC for announcing meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Assembly (GA) in January/February 2019 in Karachi, Pakistan. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to announce the date and the hospitality details for the meeting (s).</p> <p>The Council also requested the Contracting Parties to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete their formalities including the release/transfer of paid-up capital of the ERC for its early operationalization. b) Actively participate in the forthcoming meeting (s) 	
48.	<p>The Council invited the remaining Member States to consider joining this important ECO institutional arrangement, namely, the ECO Reinsurance Company in order to utilize its immense potential and role in furtherance of businesses and economic activities in the region.</p>	
49.	<p>Regarding the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States, the ECO Secretariat informed the Council that it has been signed by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the only country that has also ratified the Agreement and the Protocol.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
50.	Regarding Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and the Additional Protocol on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers , the Council requested the Member States, which have not signed or ratified the to sign / ratify these legal texts for trade facilitation in the region through early implementation of the Agreement.	
51.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for announcing the First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States on 12 th May, 2018 in Tehran. The Council noted with concern that despite announcing it number of times by the Islamic Republic of Iran, it could not be held due to lack of interest and inadequate participation. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to announce its fresh date in 2019 and also requested the Member States to actively participate in the Meeting once it is announced.	
52.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the " ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal " has been developed on the main ECO Web-Site and the new address is " www.eco.int/trade ". The Council while appreciating the Secretariat for this valuable work done recommended the Member States to use the Web Portal to the possible extent for their own benefit.	
53.	The Secretariat informed the Council that for the ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal, upon the request of the Secretariat the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) had circulated among the National Chambers of Commerce and Industry to provide detailed information about importers and exporters in the ECO Region. So far the Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan have conveyed information to the Secretariat in this regard. The information received from the Member States have been placed in the page of the ECO-CCI and National Chambers of ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal . The Council requested other Member States to impress upon their respective National Chambers of Commerce and Industry to provide information to be included in the ECO Web Portal at the earliest.	
54.	The Secretariat informed the Council that, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan partly, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	have already provided list of focal points in the relevant fields and these focal points have been placed in the ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal . The Council called upon the remaining Member States to designate their Focal Points in the areas of Trade, Investment, Customs, Trade Facilitation, WTO, Tax, Banking, Capital Markets, E-Trade and Visa, and provide their contact details to be placed in section for trade and investment of the ECO-Website.	
55.	The Council expressed its agreement to the project on “Study on Impediments to Enhancing International and Intra-Regional Trade in the ECO Region and Policy Measures to Realize its Potential”, prepared by the Secretariat. The Council also requested the Member States to cooperate with the Coordinator/ Team experts, within the project, who will visit the member states to consult the relevant authorities of the ECO Member States and, among other things, ascertain their viewpoint for the study project.	
B. SECTOR: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS		
	Status of ongoing Activities, Achievements and proposals: I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: TTFA Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)	
1.	The Council took note about Secretariat's efforts on bilateral and multilateral levels regarding issues associated with accession/ratification of TTFA. The Council requested Turkmenistan to ratify TTFA and deposit the Instruments of Ratification at the Secretariat. It requested Republic of Uzbekistan to accelerate accession process to TTFA and inform Secretariat, accordingly.	
2.	The Council requested CPR for allocation of US\$ 50000 for implementation of planned activities under TTFA as decided by 9 th Meeting of the Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC).	
3.	The representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan re-iterated Afghanistan’s willingness to host the 10 th TTCC events in the second half of 2019. The Council welcomed the proposal and requested the government of the Islamic Republic of	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Afghanistan to inform about the exact dates/venue of 10 th TTCC events at the earliest possible.	
4.	<p>II. RAILWAY TRANSPORT Area priority No. 1:</p> <p><u>Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI Railway)</u></p> <p>The Council took note of the update provided by the Secretariat inter-alia signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with UNESCAP; establishment of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under TC Directorate with recruitment of a project officer; and subsequent exchange of letter between ESCAP and IDB specifying financial terms/activities relating to KTI Study project. The Council acknowledged Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic Kazakhstan for provision of details of National Consultants and requested Turkmenistan to do so at the earliest.</p>	
5.	The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran updated the Council on the latest status of the project stating that the four-partite (KTI enroute countries+China) meeting on KTI was scheduled for this December but postponed due to Turkmenistan's and China's non-attendance. The meeting intended to re-extend and examine the common tariffs among enroute countries. He urged Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to participate in the four-partite meeting for determining tariffs for the year 2019 to be held next week or at the end of January 2019 in Tehran. He further informed that Iran has allocated money against its share of the cost of construction of the rail bridge in Incheh-Borun and the charges for wagon usage.	
6.	The Council emphasized that in order to resolve the issue between Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, convening the meeting is essential and urged the enroute member states to sensitize capitals for having this meeting as soon as possible.	
7.	The Council referred to the tasks specified in the MoA signed between ESCAP and ECO envisaging timely assessments of completed works under the KTI project and noted that ESCAP in coordination with the ECO Secretariat arranges events for 2019 as envisaged in the respective MoA i.e. Kick- off meeting; Meetings of Steering Committee; Meeting	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	of the Heads of Railways en-route the railway connecting KTI.	
8.	<p>Area Priority No. 2</p> <p><u>ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes</u></p> <p>The Council took note of the Secretariat briefing regarding the study on commercialization of the route which was completed in March 2018 and circulated to the en-route Member States. Based on feedbacks, the draft Technical and Operational Plan was prepared and circulated to the Member States in November 2018. The Council requested the Secretariat to contact en-route member states to determine the date of 2nd HLWGM in which draft Technical and Operational Plan will be discussed and elaborated.</p>	
9.	The Council urged the enroute Member States to determine unified tariff rates and called for early operationalization of the Route.	
10.	<p>Area priority No. 3:</p> <p><u>ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) route</u></p> <p>The Council took note of the briefing made by the Secretariat about developments on ITI since 28th RPC and requested Pakistan to send the feasibility study which has been undertaken by Pakistan to the ECO Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to prepare a study on commercialization of the route for ITI to optimize operationalization of this mainstream route based on the findings of the above-mentioned feasibility study.</p>	
11.	The representative of the I.R. of Iran informed the meeting that the construction of the new railway (standard gauge) from Zahedan to Mirjaveh will be completed by the end of 2019. He further expressed the readiness of the I.R. of Iran to cooperate with the other enroute countries on passenger trains.	
12.	The representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the Council that the travel time of the container train was reduced from 10 to 6 days. Time table of the container train originating from Pakistan has been relayed to the Secretariat. Special concessions, notably, € 0.27 per km for 40 foot container (FEUs) and € 0.22 per km for 20 foot container (TEUs) have been introduced by Pakistan Railways. Further informed that	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	upgradation of Quetta-Taftan section has already been included in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project with the estimated cost of 1.5 billion US dollars.	
13.	The Council noted that the revised ITI updates (tariffs/time tables) were received in February 2018 from Pakistan, only. Similar information from Iran and Turkey are still awaited. The Council while appreciating Pakistan's timely feedback requested the I.R. of Iran and Republic of Turkey to provide the requisite information (tariffs/time tables), at the earliest possible.	
14.	Representative of Republic of Turkey informed the Council that Turkey has completed two new train ferries on Van lake that are currently fully operational. Marmaray project will be completed in 2019. After inauguration ceremony of the project, tentatively in first half of 2019, Turkey will host the 10 th HLWG of ITI Container Train in the second half of 2019 and inform Secretariat about exact date/venue.	
15.	<p>Area priority No. 4: <u>Railway Project for the connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)</u></p> <p>The enroute Member States briefed the Council on the latest developments in the implementation of KTAI project in their respective territories. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that construction work from Khaf to Shamtiq border is completed. The segment three of Khaf-Herat railway from Shamtiq to Geno is under construction and will be finished in near future. The Council appreciated the progress made by Iran.</p>	
16.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan clarified that the total length of the route is over 1,000 km in the territory of Afghanistan. Pre-feasibility studies were completed in 2014 and feasibility studies on the first phase from Kunduz to Sheberghan were completed in 2016. Also, recently the feasibility study for Sheberghan-Herat with the length of 560 km was completed. Currently, the segment four of Khaf-Herat railway project's length is 87km which is divided into two phases. As regards the first phase with total length of 43 km which will be funded by Afghan government, the procurement has already started and construction will be started in the first half of 2019. The second phase of segment four with the length of 44 km will be funded by Italian	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	government. The procurement and construction work will start in 2019.	
17.	The representative of Republic of Tajikistan informed that portion of KTAI railways is 496km in the territory of Tajikistan. In 2016 the construction of Vahdat- Yovon segment (40 km) is completed. The stretch between Vahdat-Yovon provides a link to the Central and Southern parts of Tajikistan Nation Railways. The delegation suggested that the Secretariat involve China in KTAI as the route originates from China.	
18.	The representative of the Kyrgyz Republic noted that involvement of China in this project is important as the route originates from China. The Council while taking note of considerable investments of the enroute Member States urged the Kyrgyz Republic to fulfill its commitments/obligations to conduct feasibility study on its territory within the KTAI railway corridor as early as possible.	
19.	The Council took note of the remarks of the representative of I.R. Afghanistan that the agreement on KTAI was signed by en-route countries long time ago and urged the Secretariat to pursue the issue of insignificant progress with Kyrgyzstan through diplomatic channels.	
20.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan confirmed the readiness of his concerned government to host Ministerial Meeting on KTAI back-to-back with its Working Group in 2019 with the condition of understanding the position of Kyrgyz Republic for this project. The exact dates will be conveyed to the Secretariat soon.	
21.	<p>Area Priority No. 5: <u>Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Route</u> The representative of Islamic Republic of Iran and representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan briefed the Council on the latest developments in the project. Thus, the representative of Azerbaijan informed that an agreement between Iran and Azerbaijan was signed on 28th March 2018 regarding financing of construction of Rasht - Astara railway line in the territory of Iran. The representative of I.R of Iran informed the Council that with the aim of commercializing INSTC a discount will be offered for the tariff rates in a meeting which will take place in February 2019 in Baku with the participation of enroute Member States.</p>	
22.	The representative of I.R of Iran informed the Council that inauguration of Qazvin-	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<p>Rasht railway line is expected in two to three months. It will be inaugurated by the presidents of the two countries. The Council noted with satisfaction that the important segment of Qazvin-Rasht has been completed and will be inaugurated at the level of presidents of two countries. The Council also appreciated the development work carried out by Iran and acknowledged Azerbaijan's commitment to assist Iran in financing Rasht-Astara segment.</p>	
23.	<p>The Council requested Iran to inform about the date/venue of the 5th HLWGM on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) coupled with a site visit to the Rasht-Astara segment in order to disseminate region-wide best practice experiences in implementing this project.</p>	
24.	<p>III. ROAD TRANSPORT Area priority No.1: <u>ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan- Afghanistan- Iran (KTAI) and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) routes</u> The Council took note of the brief of the Secretariat that an interim report was finalized in May 2018 based on data/information collected from en-route countries and observations from field trips. The Report was distributed amongst the enroute countries and IRU, a co-sponsor of the study, for feedback. The pre-final report entailing from field trips was distributed in November 2018. It was announced that 5th HLWGM on ITI and KTAI Road Corridors Meeting will provisionally be hosted by Iran to enable the international consultant present the study. The Council also welcomed connecting CPEC with ITI.</p>	
25.	<p>The representative of I.R. Afghanistan informed the Council that the pre- feasibility study for construction of Qaisar-Laman in the northern part of the country has been completed. The representative of I.R. Afghanistan further requested the esteemed representative of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to consider the TIR operators for further transit extensions.</p>	
26.	<p>The representative of I.R. Pakistan informed the Council that in order to simplify and harmonize the customs procedures and to facilitate trade, Pakistan Customs has introduced a Web-base One Customs (WeBOC) system. Informed the Council that upon</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	completion of TIR formalities by Pakistan UNECE and IRU notified Pakistan as TIR operating country in October 2018. Subsequently Federal Board of Revenues authorized Pakistan National Committee of the National Chamber of Commerce to issue TIR carnets. Also informed about TIR operations between Pakistan-Iran and Pakistan-Afghanistan up to Mashhad in Iran.	
27.	The representative of I.R. Afghanistan briefed the Council about the development regarding the corridor between Afghanistan-Iran-Turkey proposed by Afghanistan in 28 th RPC meeting. The I.R. Iran expressed its principled positive stance towards this corridor. The Republic of Turkey was requested to provide Afghanistan with their comments/views for the shared draft document through diplomatic channels.	
28.	The representative of I.R. Afghanistan informed that after approval of Cabinet, Afghanistan is pursuing the issue of accession to CMR with UNECE and this process will be completed in 2019. The Council was further informed about successful implementation of the TIR pilot shipment on Mashhad-Islam Qala-Herat-Kabul-Torkham-Peshawar.	
29.	The representative of Republic of Turkey informed that a pilot project on e-TIR has been successfully implemented between Iran and Turkey and expressed readiness to share expertise in this regard with other willing member states. Also mentioned workshops arranged by TOBB for representatives of public and private sectors of Pakistan and Afghanistan on TIR during 2018. The Council appreciated Turkish offer to share expertise in terms of e-TIR with the other interested Member States.	
30.	The representative of I.R. Iran expressed readiness to host 5 th HLWG on ITI back-to-back with HLWG on KTAI in first half of 2019. The Council requested Iran to intimate the exact date/venue of the events to the Secretariat via formal communication channels.	
31.	The Council re-iterated its 28 th RPC recommendation that the ITI enroute Member States convene a special meeting on insurance to discuss possibilities of establishing a regional Multiple Vehicle Third Party Liability (MVTPL) insurance (White Card) scheme	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	for this corridor.	
32.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council about Iran readiness to exchange experiences on Road Maintenance and Transport cooperation with the other Member States. The sample text will be shared with the Secretariat.	
33.	<p>Area priority No. 2: <u>Facilitation of border crossing procedures</u></p> <p>The Council took note of Secretariat's update on 6th Meeting of Customs Transit Committee (15 February 2018, Islamabad) regarding implementation of the 5-year Action Plan for modernization of customs border crossing points (BCPs) of ECO Member States and the Secretariat's follow-up Notes forwarded to Member States in that regard. Informed that information from Azerbaijan and Turkey has been received.</p>	
34.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that I.R.Iran in line with implementation of the 5-year Action Plan, Customs Administration (IRICA) has been carrying out several measures in recent years in order to enhance its infrastructure and equipment at the borders .To enable secured and expedited movement of goods in transit through its borders IRICA has purchased several big X-ray machines for installation at its main border crossing points. There are several other plans for equipping the border customs with more facilities especially big advanced X-ray machines if the sufficient resources are provided. Iran offered its expertise to other member states on e-TIR and intermodal transportation under coverage of TIR.	
35.	The representative of Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Council that in December it has started pilot implementation of TIR-EPD which would facilitate transit operations. The delegate of Republic of Tajikistan informed the meeting about initiatives for providing facilitation on border crossing procedures i.e. creation of technical group within WTO, amendment in legislations as per international standards and preparation of Plan of Action on improving International Transit operation. The Council appreciated the steps taken by the authorities of Iran, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan in order to provide facilitation in border crossing procedures and urged all ECO Member States to take necessary steps in this regard.	
36.	The Council suggested that Member States put forward their proposals for hosting	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	workshops and training courses on customs transit-related issues and on arranging site visits at concerned BCPs in line with provisions of Turkmenbashi Declaration (para-8).	
37.	<p>Priority area No. 3: <u>Joint IDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems (GIS)</u> The Council took note of Secretariat's briefing regarding GIS which is a mechanism initiated by UNECE for collection of data, which was then mandated by 13th Heads of Railways/7th Meeting of Railway Committee of TTCC (17-18 April 2017, Baku) for installing in ECO as well. The Secretariat reported that, to date, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan have not appointed their relevant Focal Points (FPs) for GIS, yet. The Secretariat has previously shared questionnaires/templates with Member States. The response feedback of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan has not been collected, as of now.</p>	
38.	The Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to nominate their FPs for GIS and the other member states to regularly update the information about their FPs nominations.	
39.	The Council also requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I. R. of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to provide the requisite completed templates expeditiously to the Secretariat.	
40.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that it has already introduced its focal point for the project. However, the focal point has pointed out some ambiguities in the format proposed by Secretariat. The Secretariat proposed to arrange a Skype meeting involving the focal point of Iran, representatives of UNECE and Secretariat to solve the issue.	
41.	<p>Area priority No.4: <u>ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers</u> The Council was informed that the 9th Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the ECO Member States (1-3 May 2018, Turkmenbashi) re-iterated to its 28th RPC recommendation for the Member States to expedite conveying comments/views on the revised "ECO Visa Exemption Sticker Scheme".</p>	
42.	The Secretariat informed the Council that further to the recommendations of the field	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	study on ITI and KTAI Road Corridors, indicating difficulties with obtaining visas by drivers performing international carriage of goods, the mechanism may be introduced on the pilot basis between countries enroute ITI and KTAI either countries and in the next phase it may be extended to other interested Member States.	
43.	The representative of I.R. Iran informed the Council that Iran has recently implemented electronic visa in order to ease the process of visa issuance for drivers, businessmen and tourists.	
44.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the Council that visa sticker for drivers is an important component of transport. It has been observed that issuance of visa for drivers is very complicated and such inordinate delay can cause serious damage in case of consignment of perishable goods. Further called for facilitation in multiple entry visas and requested the Secretariat to share complete details on ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers.	
45.	The Council requested those Member States who have not provided their relevant feedbacks on the revised “ECO Visa Sticker Scheme” yet to expedite conveying their views/proposals to the Secretariat, expeditiously.	
46.	Area priority No.5: <u>ECO Logistics Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)</u> The Council took note that the 9 th Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the ECO Member States (1-3 May 2018, Turkmenbashi) requested the Member States interested in joining ECOLPAF to expedite conveying requisite documents to ECO Secretariat and UTIKAD.	
47.	The Council appreciated the fact that full package of requisite document set was submitted by Pakistan’s International Freight Forwarding Association (PIFFA), which was interested in joining ECOLPAF.	
48.	The representative of Republic of Turkey requested Member States to contact representative of UTIKAD and Secretariat on the issue. The representative of I.R. Iran informed the Council that it has dispatched the set of requisite documents for registration to ECOLPAF. UTIKAD received application and will reply soon. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the Council that	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Pakistan will be able to host first General Assembly meeting of ECOLPAF in Karachi after the completion of registration process by UTIKAD.	
49.	The Council further requested relevant associations of other Member States, interested in registration for ECOLPAF, to submit the requisite documents for registration for ECOLPAF to the Secretariat at the earliest possible and requested ECO Secretariat to follow up the issue, vigorously.	
50.	<p>IV. MARITIME COOPERATION</p> <p>Area priority No. 1:</p> <p><u>“Linking the existing regional sea ports in the ECO Region with ECO landlocked and transit countries’ dry ports”</u></p> <p>The Council took note that the 9th Ministerial Meeting on Transport (1-3 May 2018, Turkmenbashi) highlighted “the importance of linking the existing regional sea ports in the ECO Region with ECO landlocked and transit countries’ dry ports, improve port facilities and services for transit of goods, modernize the existing terminals in the region and, in that context, mandated the Transport Transit Coordination Council (TTCC) to explore ways and means for this purpose within the ECO Frameworks”.</p>	
51.	The representative of Republic of Turkey informed the Council that almost all of the Turkish ports are now privately-owned and thus open to any country. So, the State is not able to enforce private port companies to offer special prices. The contact details of the private port companies will be shared with any interested member country through official communication channels.	
52.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that Iran is offering over 80% discount in tariffs for the users at Chabahar Seaport. Land up to 100 hectares is available to be allocated to Member States upon request. Also, informed about similar facilities being provided at other sea ports. The Council appreciated the efforts of Iranian authorities to increase capacities of Iranian seaports and commended for offering significant discount for cargos.	
53.	The representative of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan informed the Council that Afghanistan has already introduced interested traders for studying investment potentials in Chabahar. More than 100 companies have already been referred to	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Chabahar for evaluating the investment incentives. Highlighted the significance of Chabahar for Afghanistan as an alternative transit route for enhancing transit volumes for Afghanistan as well as for Central Asian countries.	
54.	The Council was informed by the representative of Republic of Kazakhstan that in August 2018 in port Kuryk a new ferry complex was launched and in this regard the facilities of the port of Kuryk are available for the use of ECO Member States. The Council requested Republic of Kazakhstan to provide the Secretariat with further information on the subject.	
55.	The Council appreciated the offer of Iran to host 5 th Meeting of Heads of Reference Marine Organizations (MHRMO) in 2019 and requested the Secretariat to determine the date and venue of the meeting with Iranian authorities.	
56.	The Council also requested Member States to provide feedback in the form of a single package on the “Assessment report on needs of LLCs and existing potential of ECO’s coastal countries” that was disseminated amongst Member States in August 2018 in offer of assistance to the seven land-locked countries of the region. The Council recommended that practical activities designed for furthering this new proposal be discussed during the planned 5 th MHRMO in 2019.	
57.	The Council asked the coastal Member States endowed with natural access to deep waters of open seas to make appropriate facilities at free economic zones (FEZ) and free trade zones (FTZ) at their relevant ports available for the uses by the landlocked ECO Member States.	
58.	<p>V. CIVIL AVIATION Area priority No.1: <u>“Encouragement and promotion of combined and multimodal transport”</u></p> <p>The Council took note that the Senior Officials Meeting of the 9th Ministerial Meeting on Transport (1-3 May 2018, Turkmenbashi) discussed the issues for establishment of a Working Group on civil aviation and draft the MoU on Civil Aviation Cooperation.</p>	
59.	The representative of the Republic of Turkey re-iterated its proposal put forward during the 9 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport in Turkmenbashi about the need for	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	removal of this agenda item in view of insignificant progress/visible activities in this area.	
60.	The representative of I.R. Pakistan re-iterated its proposals put forward during the 9 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport where it suggested a number of concrete activities to be fulfilled in this area. The delegation proposed developing a Plan of Actions and offered its assistance, for that matter. Likewise, proposed creation of a Working Group on Civil Aviation as discussed in the Senior Officials Meeting.	
61.	The representative of Kyrgyz Republic suggested keeping the agenda while, at the same time, working on the results-based outcomes in this area that would be beneficial for people in ECO countries. The delegation suggested not to devalue the key importance of civil aviation cooperation for the regional countries where inter-country air-line linkages are scarce. The Kyrgyz Republic also expressed its interest to establish direct flights from Bishkek to Tehran and also requested the interested Member States to open new flights on this route.	
62.	The representative of Republic of Turkey informed the Council of the opening of new Istanbul Airport and called upon the interested member countries to benefit from the potential of this airport.	
63.	The Council requested Turkmenistan to provide a Concept Note on the issue of Civil Aviation Hub by the end of February 2019 for disseminating the same among ECO Member States for view/comments.	
64.	The Council urged the Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States for establishing the Working Group to develop a Plan of Action and drafting MoU on Civil Aviation.	
65.	<p>VI. COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Area priority No. 1:</p> <p><u>“Information Society in the region” (Strategic Objective I, ECO Vision-2025)</u></p> <p>The Council took note of Secretariat's update on the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on ICT (13-14 December 2017, Baku) which discussed ways and means of enhancing regional cooperation in the field of ICT, preparation of “2025 ECO Regional Strategy for Information Society Development” and Action Plan as ECO’s comprehensive roadmap on ICT and called for establishment of an appropriate mechanism, a Working Group, to</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	enable the Member States to regularly meet and address issues relating to the proposed Regional Strategy and the Action Plan. The revised Strategy was disseminated amongst the Member states for feedback, in September 2018.	
66.	The representative of I.R. Iran suggested that in order to realize the objectives of the “2025 ECO Regional Strategy for Information Society Development”, Pakistan should create a web link with all ECO Member States through its fiber optic as per the provisions of the Strategy and Action Plan. The representative of I.R. Pakistan requested the I.R. Iran to share this request through official channels for taking up the issue with the relevant authorities of I.R. Pakistan.	
67.	The Council requested the concerned authorities of the Member States to expedite provision of their views/comments on the revised “2025 Regional Strategy for Information Society Development”.	
68.	The Council requested Secretariat to take up the matter with CPR to allocate US\$ 50000 for convening Working Group meeting on ICT.	
69.	VII.COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in strengthening cooperation with the Regional/ International Organizations i.e. IDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU, UIC, OSJD, ITU, AIIF and OTIF to seek their expertise and financial and technical assistance for advancing the mandated projects of ECO and further encouraged the Secretariat to continue efforts in this regard.	
70.	<u>New project proposals</u> The Secretariat’s provided an overview on the following new project concept proposals: (1) “New ECO railway links” (Connectivity); (2) “Linking the existing regional sea ports in the ECO Region with ECO’s landlocked and transit countries’ dry ports” (Maritime Cooperation); (3) “Assessment of the ECO rail and road projects” (4) “Revision of ECO Railway and Road Network Development Plans” (TTFa), (5) “Special financing instrument for ECO missing links projects” (TTFa).	
71.	The representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan showed the willingness of its government to join eastern rail ring of Iran through Nimruz province which has border with Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran. The representatives of Kyrgyz	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<p>Republic and Republic of Tajikistan supported the willingness of Afghanistan and requested to be considered by a technical expert for discussing with other Central Asian countries. I.R. Iran took note of this willingness as Afghanistan considers Chabahar Sea Port as an alternative transit route for enhancing its foreign trade.</p>	
72.	<p>The representative of Republic of Turkey reiterated his earlier stance to focus on the ongoing projects instead of pursuing new ones. Also requested to merge the projects mentioned at serial No.3 and 4. The Council agreed to the proposal of Turkey regarding merging of projects proposal.</p>	
73.	<p>The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a new project proposal by merging projects mentioned at serial No.3 and 4 and accordingly circulate all project proposals among Member States for views/comments. In responding to the query of Pakistan whether the two combined projects will be funded from single or dual sources, the Council responded that funding of US\$25,000 to be allocated for one of the two combined projects will suffice both.</p>	
<p>C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT</p>		
1.	<p>The Council acknowledged the evolution of the global energy system to a period of transformation of unprecedented change in dynamics and outreach. In this rationale, it urged the imperative of forging a diverse and resilient regional energy architecture in ECO Region through sustainable, affordable and inclusive energy policies with a view to align with the global trends and underpin regional growth.</p>	
2.	<p>The Council thus welcomed the impending paradigm shift towards strong renewed emphasis on clean and sustainable energy in ECO's energy agenda, which goes hand in hand with "ECO Vision 2025", the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), SDGs, Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and the Paris Agreement, signaling the need in focused attention by all stakeholders. This regional mainstream targets on unlocking ECO Region's tremendous cooperation opportunities in clean energy, renewables and energy efficiency/conservation.</p>	
3.	<p>The Council recognized and appreciated the overall progress since the 28th RPC Meeting in the fields of energy, minerals and environment, notably in stimulating high level policy debates; promoting the Project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center;</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	maintaining the momentum of cooperation in minerals through new project proposals; finalization of the Project Development Phase of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm and consequent elaboration of 13-year ECO LandCare Programme; as well as engagements with international organizations, entities and processes.	
4.	The Council called upon the ECO Secretariat and the Member States to jointly implement the Work Programme for 2019 as follows:	
ENERGY		
5.	The Council emphasized the need in elaboration of a new 5-year ECO Plan of Action (PoA) for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation by the Secretariat in line with “ECO Vision 2025”, ongoing global and regional trends, as well as rapidly evolving global environmental agenda. The subject PoA will serve as a catalyst and policy framework for all-inclusive ECO energy cooperation and focus on multiple nexus approach. The PoA is sought to be adopted by the 4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum.	
6.	While keeping in view the broad spectrum of the envisaged new ECO Plan of Action (PoA) for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation, the Council requested any voluntary Member State to explore the possibility of hosting the 4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum in 2019. The Secretariat will coordinate with the Member States the date and venue of the Ministerial Meeting. The Member States are requested to attend the Ministerial Meeting at the highest possible level.	
7.	The Islamic Republic of Pakistan will consider hosting the 4 th HLEG Meeting on Energy in 2019. The Secretariat will liaise with the relevant authorities of Pakistan the dates and venue of the meeting. The Member States are requested to actively participate and provide invaluable contribution to the outcome of the subject event.	
8.	The Council noted with satisfaction the steady progress/development of the Joint ECO-UNIDO Project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre in terms of approval procedures and fund-raising. ECO Clean Energy Centre will act as a catalyst of both South-South and North-South cooperation in sustainable energy in the ECO Region, and a promising future element of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Centres (GN-SEC) being implemented across the globe.	
9.	The Secretariat will double its engagement with UNIDO and other potential international partners for the soonest launching of the Preparatory Phase of the Project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre in the course of 2019. The Member States will render their utmost support and exert proactive collaborative endeavours for successful launching and proceedings of the Preparatory Phase. The subject Preparatory Phase envisages elaboration of the baseline assessment/feasibility study with support of the consultants, organization of validation meetings and approval of the detailed project document for the Start-Up Phase.	
10.	ECO Consultative/Validation Meeting for the needs assessment and feasibility study within the Preparatory Phase of the Project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre, and the Consultative Meeting on the First Operational/Start-Up Phase of the project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre will be organized in 2019 jointly with UNIDO.	
11.	The Council recognized that ECO Experts Group on Renewable Energy Sources (EGRES) could gain renewed momentum in view of the ongoing prioritization of sustainable energy in ECO energy agenda and ongoing development of the Project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre. In this vein, the volunteer Member States may consider hosting of the 4 th Meeting of ECO EGRES and the 6 th Workshop on Renewable Energy Sources, preferably back-to-back with the Validation Meeting within the Preparatory Phase of the project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre.	
12.	The Member States may consider the establishment of the Virtual University Network (VUN) on Renewable Energy among the relevant academic circles and research institutions for awareness raising and knowledge sharing, and provide their respective feedbacks (except Iran and Tajikistan) at the earliest convenience. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will provide the Secretariat with comprehensive description of its proposal pertaining to the establishment of Virtual University Network (VUN). In future, the subject network could be one of the areas of activity of the potential ECO Clean Energy Center.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
13.	The Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey) may wish to expedite providing in 2019 their relevant Country Reports/Questionnaires on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency along with the respective concept papers/feasibility studies for further integration into the ECO Data Information Network on Renewable Energy Sources (ECO DIN on RES), created by the State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources (SAARES) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.	
14.	The Council called upon the establishment of strong cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in the light of the ongoing prioritization of sustainable energy in ECO's energy agenda. The Secretariat will thus explore possibilities for assuming Membership or (Reciprocal) Observer Status with IRENA, and signing Memorandum of Cooperation/Understanding between two institutions. This is more pertinent as IRENA's initiative on developing regional clean energy corridors around the globe seems promising and encouraging for the ECO Region. In this vein, the Secretariat will seek IRENA's support to the initiatives on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre and ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO REM), and their synergies with the envisaged possible evolution of a clean energy corridor in the ECO Region.	
15.	The Council reaffirmed that the promotion of electricity trade in the ECO Region and the Initiative on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO REM) remain as one of the most promising undertakings within ECO notwithstanding its recent slow pace of development.	
16.	The Council highlighted the importance of advancement of ECO REM through organizing the 3 rd Iran-Turkey Bilateral Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market. The subject meeting is sought to approve the draft "Terms of Reference (ToR) for hiring international and local consultants for preparation of a Feasibility Study on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market", elaborated by ECO Secretariat in 2017, as well as define the roadmap for further action and speed up the implementation of the project in line with the ECO Vision 2025.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
17.	The Republic of Turkey is requested to expedite providing with its views and comments on “Terms of Reference (ToR) for hiring international and local consultants for preparation of a Feasibility Study on the establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market” at the earliest, preferably prior to the 3 rd Iran-Turkey Bilateral Meeting on ECO-REM in 2019 at the ECO Secretariat. Turkey will actively participate and contribute to the outcomes of the subject meeting.	
18.	The Republic of Tajikistan will confirm hosting the 2 nd Experts Meeting on establishment of the ECO REM within 2019 along with its date, venue and hospitality details. The subject meeting is expected to propose and consider alternative mechanisms for accelerating the launching of ECO REM in view of the recent inordinate delay being encountered in the project. The Member States will actively participate at the meeting for extending their invaluable contribution to the outcome of the event.	
19.	The Member States and Secretariat will actively follow up the implementation of ECO REM. Once ToR is approved, Iran, Turkey and the Secretariat will explore possibilities for equal seed financing of the Feasibility Study by the mentioned Member States as well as by the Secretariat from ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF). Further on, the process of hiring consultant(s) for preparation of the feasibility study in cooperation with interested international partners will be carried out.	
20.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the International Energy Charter (IEC) to be engaged in establishment of ECO-REM through a consortium for joint coordination of this project based on the previous experiences of the Energy Charter. The Secretariat will continue its engagements with the potential international partners for technical and financial support to ECO REM.	
21.	The Secretariat will pursue the issue of the enhanced ECO-Energy Charter cooperation in the context of the Reciprocal Observer Status, notably within the implementation of ECO REM, and organization of joint events for raising visibility of ECO and garnering support from international partners.	
22.	The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness to host the Joint ECO-Energy Charter Training Course on "Promoting Regional Electricity Markets and Interconnectivities: Trade and Investment Opportunities" in the first half of 2019.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
23.	The Council reiterated that diversification of energy connectivity plays a fundamental role in ECO Region taken the unique geostrategic location and the land-locked status of the majority of ECO Member States. In this regard, the existing formats and platforms for ECO cooperation in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals could target on developing sustainable mechanisms, particularly in energy trade and investments for enhanced contribution of this cooperation to the existing patterns in the ECO Region.	
24.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will host the 2 nd Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies on 3-4 March 2019. The Member States will ensure high-level participation at the subject meeting and extend their invaluable contribution to its outcome.	
25.	The Member States (except Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan) will convey their views and comments on the draft "Roadmap for Establishment of the ECO Energy Consortium" through official channels in 2019 with a view to following up implementation of the key outcomes of the 1 st Meeting of ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies (16-17 August 2016, Tehran).	
26.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will host the 1 st Meeting on Establishment of Refinery Association in the ECO Region in the second half of 2019. The subject meeting is expected to discuss, inter alia, the draft "Project Profile on Establishment of Refinery Association in ECO Region", prepared by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) and circulated among Member States.	
27.	The Council called upon the consideration in future the possibility of the merger/combination of two formats reflected in Paragraphs 24 and 26 hereinbefore: Meetings of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies, and the Meeting on establishment of ECO Refinery Association (ERA) with a view to have enhanced impact and streamline similar activities. The Member States will consider and resolve on the possibility of hosting the combined meeting that would encompass both petrochemical and refinery agendas with participation of all relevant stakeholders starting from 2019.	
28.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will communicate to the Secretariat the exact date(s), venue and hospitality details of the 1 st ECO Working Group Meeting on Joint Investment in	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Construction of Renewable Energy Power Plants/Projects to be held in 2019.	
29.	The Oil and Gas International Training Center (OGITC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue organizing oil and gas training courses for the ECO Countries in 2019, which were proved very useful in terms of capacity building, information sharing and networking among the relevant authorities of the Member States.	
30.	The Member States will consider recommendations of the Training Course on Metering and Proving held on 1-2 May 2018 in Mahmoudabad, Mazandaran Province of Iran.	
31.	The Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Pakistan) will introduce/update their relevant National Focal Points (NFP's) on Energy/Petroleum and ECO REM with a view to facilitate dialogue and effective communication between the Secretariat and the national stakeholders.	
32.	The Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey) will update the Secretariat on particulars of their relevant NFPs on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and also provide duly completed Questionnaires on renewables.	
33.	The Secretariat will continue its enhanced cooperation and coordination with the relevant regional and global organizations to obtain technical and financial support for its energy projects, including, but not limited to, United Nations Industrial Development Organization(UNIDO),International Energy Charter (IEC), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), International Energy Agency (IEA), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB).	
Minerals		
34.	The Council welcomed the streamlining of the project-oriented cooperation in the field of minerals during the ECO Minerals Experts Group and Geomatics Committee meetings held in 2018.	
35.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for having hosted the 7 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, organized on 5-7 August 2018 in Sanandaj (Iran). The Member States will cooperate with the ECO Secretariat for implementation of outcome	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	decisions and recommendations of the subject meeting in letter and spirit.	
36.	The Member States (except Afghanistan, Iran (initiator), Pakistan and Tajikistan) will provide the Secretariat with their views/comments on the Concept Paper on Preparing ECO-Environmental Quality Index (ECO-EQI) Map of the ECO Region. ECO-EQI project is designed to evaluate ecological qualities of environment over ECO Region through collaborative efforts of Member States. In pursuance of the “ECO Functional Methodology”, stipulating that the project shall be identified with ECO if at least four Member States participate in it, the Secretariat may consider coordinating the preparation of a Contract with the project manager - Geological Survey of Iran (GSI). The initiator country together with the Secretariat may wish to appeal the CPR meeting for consideration and allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the subject project.	
37.	The Member States (except Iran (initiator), Pakistan and Tajikistan) will provide the Secretariat with their views/comments on the Concept Paper on Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia. The subject Map will target on opening a new way in prediction of earthquake and mineral exploration.	
38.	The Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) will provide with comprehensive Concept Papers on new proposals presented at the 7 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, namely, Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) of ECO Region; and Geochemical Exploration of Precious and Industrial Minerals in Desert lands in ECO Region by April 2019 for further review by the ECO Member States.	
39.	The Secretariat will coordinate with the interested Member States in 2019 the hosting of the 8 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting in 2020.	
40.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for having hosted the 2 nd ECO Geomatics Committee Meeting, organized on 27-28 August 2018 in Tehran. The Member States will cooperate with the ECO Secretariat in implementation of the outcome decisions and recommendations of the 2 nd ECO Geomatics Committee Meeting in true spirit. The Secretariat will coordinate with the interested Member States in 2019 the hosting of the 3 rd ECO Geomatics Committee Meeting in 2020.	
41.	The Member States will cooperate in synergic and coherent manner with the newly-	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	elected Secretary of the ECO Geomatics Committee, who will assume this position till convening of the 3 rd Meeting of the ECO Geomatics Committee.	
42.	The Member States will cooperate with the ECO Secretariat in implementation of the decisions of the 2 nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations (8-9 May 2014, Ankara) in letter and spirit. The Secretariat will follow up with a volunteer Member State in 2019 the hosting of the 3 rd Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations in 2020.	
43.	The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan expressed their willingness to host Capacity Building Training Courses on Geomatics, as approved by the 2 nd Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee (27-28 August 2018, Tehran). The exact titles, dates, venues and other details will be communicated in due course by the host countries.	
44.	ECO Secretariat and the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) - Project Manager, which successfully completed the ECO Seismic Hazard Reduction Programme (ECO-SHARP), will continue their regular contacts for necessary coordination and supervision of upgrading the Project. ECO Secretariat and Project Manager will arrange operational portal linkages in ECO Secretariat's and GSI's websites simultaneously reflecting Reports/Maps of the ECO-SHARP.	
45.	The Council requested the Member States to regularly update/nominate their National Focal Points (NFPs) in minerals, ECO Geomatics Committee and ECO Economic Atlas with a view to enhance coordination, as well as reporting and feedback mechanism.	
Environment		
46.	The Council reaffirmed the environment and impacts of climate change as a cross-sectoral priority of ECO, to be considered by all ECO activities and events on different issues and levels, as designated by the 5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (December 2014, Istanbul).	
47.	The Secretariat will follow up with the volunteer Member State the hosting of the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in 2019. The Ministerial Meeting is expected to stimulate the high-level policy dialogue with a view to promoting ongoing ECO activities/projects in environment, addressing the regional and global environmental	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	challenges, and streamlining ECO environmental agenda in conformity with “ECO Vision 2025” and 2030 Agenda. The Member States will actively participate at this crucial Meeting and provide invaluable contribution to the outcome of the event.	
48.	The Islamic Republic of Pakistan will convey the new date for hosting the 7 th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment, to be held back-to-back with the 2 nd Experts Meeting on Climate Change and Biodiversity in 2019.	
49.	The Council highlighted the need in revisiting/ revising the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2015-2020). The Secretariat in cooperation with ECO-IEST will examine the subject Framework Plan of Action in view of “ECO Vision 2025”, recent global and regional environmental patterns, rapidly evolving global environmental agenda, notably the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, 2030 Agenda, SDGs and the Sendai Global Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Secretariat will submit its proposal on the revised/new Framework Plan of Action prior to the relevant sectoral decision-making body, i.e. Ministerial Meeting/Working Group Meeting.	
50.	Following the revision of the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States, the Project Profile for preparation of a regional program for implementation of the subject Plan of Action will also be updated/ revised accordingly. The project profile will target on translation of the subject Plan of Action into national and regional projects through the above-mentioned regional programme.	
51.	The Member States will consider allocation of remaining 200,000 USD for launching the project profile for preparation of a regional program for implementation of the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States. The Secretariat has already allocated 50,000USD through the CPR from the ECO Feasibility Studies and General Purpose Fund (FGPF).	
52.	The Kyrgyz Republic will transmit the date, venue and hospitality details of the 4 th Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity to be held in 2019. The Meeting will review and deliberate on the status of implementation of Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020) and ways and means to enhance regional cooperation on biodiversity.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
53.	The Member States will regularly provide the Secretariat with their National Progress Reports (NPRs) on Environment in the first quarter of each calendar year.	
54.	The Member States (except Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Turkey) will provide the Secretariat with their national Adaptation Programmes. It will enable ECO Secretariat to craft in collaboration with ECO-IEST the draft proposal for developing ECO Regional Adaptation Programme (ERAP).	
55.	The ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the ECO-IEST will take further steps for launching of the 1 st phase of the ECO LandCare Programme, as an outcome of the "ECO Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region". In this regard, ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the ECO-IEST will explore the best possibilities for approaching the relevant international organizations and financial institutions/instruments, particularly UN System for their engagements as potential project partners as well as for subsequent financial and technical support. The Republic of Turkey's views and comments on ECO LandCare Programme, received on December 16, 2018, will be reflected properly on said project proposal.	
56.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Workshop on Development of the Project of "Combating Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storms in the Region" in 2019.	
57.	The Secretariat will continue its interactions with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to benefit from its technical assistance for addressing desertification challenges in the ECO Region, particularly for the implementation of the ECO LandCare Programme.	
58.	The concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey, as the Coordinating Country, will regularly share on their activities for the follow up and implementation of the Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020).	
59.	The Secretariat will explore, in consultation with the Member States and in cooperation with ECO-IEST, the fund-raising opportunities for implementation of priority plans/programs envisaged in the Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
60.	The Member States will convey the updated details of their National Focal Points on Biodiversity to ECO Secretariat for enhanced communication and proper implementation of the activities envisaged within the ECO Work Plan on Biodiversity.	
61.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will host the Experts Meeting on Conservation of Fauna and Flora in the ECO Region in the course of 2019.	
62.	The Republic of Turkey will host the Experts Meeting on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) on 11-13 March 2019 in Antalya.	
63.	The Republic of Turkey will host the Meeting on Sustainable Pastoralism back to back with 3 rd Pre-COP Meeting on Biodiversity, in 2020.	
64.	The Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot State will co-host the Biodiversity Workshops in the second quarter of 2019, notably the Second ECO Workshop for capacity building and best practices on biodiversity issues; Workshop on Protected Areas Systems; and Workshop on Ecosystem Services.	
65.	The Secretariat will continue its interactions with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) with a view to expand mutual partnership and seek UNCBD's technical support in fund raising for ECO projects, implementation of the ECO Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020), and organizing capacity building workshops for the ECO Member States.	
66.	The Secretariat will hold consultation(s) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) targeted on revisiting the existing ECO-UNEP MoU for wider cooperation in various fields of environment. It will explore UNEP's guidance in galvanizing the financial resources to ECO environment-related projects and activities, available through Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) and other global environmental instruments.	
67.	The Secretariat will continue its efforts for organizing the ECO-UNEP Inception Workshop on modalities of the First State of Environment (SoE) Report for ECO Region, in cooperation with UNEP and ECO-IEST in the course of 2019.	
68.	The Secretariat will enhance its cooperation with United Nations Forum on Forests	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	(UNFF), particularly in preparation of an ECO Regional Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management, and conducting capacity-building workshops for the Member States on developing actions/strategic plans. The Secretariat will seek UNFF's technical assistance in utilizing the financial resources available through Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) and other global environmental instruments.	
69.	The Secretariat will continue its efforts in contributing to the process of regional and sub-regional inputs to UNFF aimed at achievement of the Global Forest Goals and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.	
70.	The Member States will regularly update/nominate their National Focal Points (NFPs) in relevant fields of environment, including climate change, forests, desertification and others in order to enhance coordination, as well as the reporting and feedback mechanisms.	
D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY & TOURISM		
Agriculture		
1.	The Council, while welcoming the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in 2 nd quarter of 2019, requested the host authorities to send exact date and details of hospitality for the delegations. The Council also urged the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.	
2.	The Council, while thanking the Republic of Turkey/FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (FAO-SEC) and the Islamic Republic of Iran for submitting their projects proposal, requested all other Member States to send at least one project idea which its budget should not exceed 200.000 US \$ for national projects and 1.000.000 US \$ for multi-country or regional projects. Projects ideas shall be evaluated under FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme 2 nd Phase (FTPP II) as decided during the 2 nd Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee.	
3.	The Council requested all Member States to support and provide their contribution for finalization of the FTTP-II Multi-country Project Proposal on Seed Sector Development	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Priority Area and actively participate in its implementation. The Council also requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to send the concept text of the projects proposal on (i) Saanen Goat Breeding; and (ii) Production of Bean-based Snack and Crispy Waste as National Projects and (iii) Waste Loss Management and Greening Food Value Chain for food security improvement in the ECO region has multi-country/regional project which required to be sent to ECO-RCC for evaluation.	
4.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Azerbaijan for submission of their project proposals to ECO-RCC, requested ECO-RCC to send said project proposal to ECO Secretariat. The council also requested the other Member States to expedite the submission of their national and regional project proposal to ECO-RCC.	
5.	The Council requested the Member States (except Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey) to send their ECO-RCC Programme Steering Committee Member to nominate and inform ECO Secretariat at the earliest possible. The Council also requested the Member States to participate and extend their support to the ECO-RCC's forthcoming activities.	
6.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 3 rd Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of the ECO-RCC for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) in Turkey on March 13-14, 2019 in Antalya and requested the Member States to confirm their active participation in the said meeting.	
7.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in cooperation with ECO Seed Association (ECOSA), IDB and ECO-TDB, for organizing the 7 th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and Seed Trade Fairs in 2019 in Pakistan. The council also urged the ECO Secretariat to actively follow-up for reaching the necessary quorum required for the meeting.	
8.	The Council appreciated the membership of the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) to the World Seed Federation (WSF) and getting status to be represented in International Seed Federation (ISF) central management committees and requested ECOSA coordinate with ECO and Member States before action in such case.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
9.	The Council, while appreciating the signing Member States of ECO Regional Seed Agreement as an outcome of the implementation of the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the Region, requested other Member States to expedite the signing.	
10.	The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat for preparing the draft project proposal on Seed Trade Development among ECO Member States which will be sent to ECOSA for improving further in one month. The Council requested ECOSA to establish Technical Committee to finalize the said Project. The Council also requested ECOSA to organize training courses on seed industry for ECO Member States in cooperation with FAO-SEC, Turkish Plant Breeding Union (BISAP), IDB and ECO TDB.	
11.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 3rd Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture (ECO-CEEUWA) in 2019 in Islamabad, Pakistan, in which the Draft Plan of Action and Draft Statute for establishment of the ECO-CEEUWA, amended and circulated to Member States for their views/comments for finalization. The Council also thanking Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for submitting their views/comments on the Draft Statute for establishment of the ECO-CEEUWA requested other Member States to do so. The Council also thanked Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan for providing information with regard water issue in their countries, requested other Member States to do so. The Council urged the Member States to expedite their confirmation for participation in the said meeting for reaching timely necessary quorum. The Council requested the Member States to nominate national focal points/institutions for expediting the process of Establishment of the Centre, by the Member States.	
12.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to organize the 3 rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in 2019 and Workshop/Training Course on Drought Monitoring and Seasonal Forecast in the ECO Region in May 2019, in Mashhad, Iran. The Council also requested the Member States to actively participate in the said events.	
13.	The Council also appreciated Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Turkey, for submitting their views/comments on the Draft Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) for submission to the next COM and requested other Member States to also send their views/comments for finalization of said statute during the next 3 rd Meeting of Heads of Meteorological Organizations for necessary approval process.	
14.	The Council, while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for their project proposal titled "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", requested to send ECO Secretariat through their Ministry of Foreign Affairs for necessary action.	
15.	The Council requested the Member States to introduce their national focal points for providing data in order to enable ECO-RCRM to make more precisely weather forecast before upcoming ECO Heads of Meteorological Organization Meeting.	
16.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the International Training Course on Basics of Calibration in 2020 in Turkey.	
17.	The Council, while thanking the Republic of Turkey for preparing the Draft Statute for the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC), requested the Member States to send their views/comments on the said document for finalization during the next 3 rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in Iran.	
18.	The Council appreciated the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing the 3 rd ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations Meeting and the First Technical Steering Committee Meeting for early establishment /operationalization of the ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) on 7-8 October 2018, Tehran. The council requested the Member States for implementation of decision taken in the said meeting. The council also appreciated for preparation of the Draft Road Map titled "Establishment of free trade of animals and animal by-products in the ECO region".	
19.	The council requested the Member States to actively participate in the 4 th Meeting of the Heads of ECO Veterinary Organizations, scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the FAO 4 th Regional Meeting on the Formulation of Strategies for the PPR at Global and Regional Level, in Uzbekistan, 2019.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
20.	The Council while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for ratifying the Statute of ECO-VECO, requested other Member States (except Afghanistan and Iran) to sign/ratify the said Statute.	
21.	The Council, while appreciating with thanks the Republic of Azerbaijan for organizing the first Technical Committee Meeting for implementation of the Work Plan on the priority activities of the ECO-VECO for 2019-24, in their respective country in 2019, requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to send exact date and venue for the said meeting.	
22.	<p>The Council, while thanking ECO Secretariat for preparing the draft project proposals as follows, requested Veterinary Organizations of the Member States for their support on finalization and implementation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing ECO network of standardized reference laboratories; • Establishment of standardized ECO network of slaughtering houses; and • Facilitation of the movement of animals & animal by products at Quarantine at Borders. 	
23.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for their project proposal on Studying of the procedures for free trade of processed animal products in ECO region and requested to send concept of the said project proposal.	
24.	The Council also thanked the ECO Secretariat for preparing the draft concept project on Prevention and Control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the ECO Region which will be developed in cooperation with the ECO-VECO.	
25.	The Council requested all Member States to actively participate in the 2 nd Expert Group Meeting of the ECO-ABN, scheduled to be held on June 23-24, 2019 in Karaj, Iran.	
26.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for updating the website of ECO-ABN (http://www.ecoabn.org), requested the Member States while updating the information about their national focal points, to provide the country reports on biotechnology and related information to be uploaded to the above mentioned website. The council requested the all Member States to send their focal points for ECO-ABN. The Council requested the ECO-ABN to enhance and expand its activities and communicate with the Member States and the relevant International Networks and	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	organizations.	
27.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to actively participate in the related international conferences to be organized in 2019 and prepare the project proposals on the events/activities for provision of financial assistance in this regard.	
28.	The Council requested all the Member States to voluntarily organize regional/international buyers/sellers meetings/trade fairs on agricultural products in 2019 in their respective countries with a view to improve intra-regional trade.	
29.	The Council noted the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting their proposal submitted to FAO on proclaiming World Goat Day. The council also encouraged the Member States to organize Goat-Day in their respective country.	
Industry		
30.	The Council welcomed the renewed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in 2019 and requested the latter to inform the exact date and details of hospitality to the Secretariat by the end of first quarter of 2019. The Council also requested the Member States to actively participate in the Meeting. In this context the Council requested the ECO Secretariat while preparing draft agenda of the Meeting to take into consideration the ECO Vision 2025 in order to contribute to the expected objectives of the Vision.	
31.	The Council recommended the ECO Member States to organize the meetings to initiate the process of the development of the Green industrial development strategy at regional level to contribute to 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.	
32.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider hosting of the 7 th HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in 2019, utilizing the allocated funds for establishment of ECO-RISCAM and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
33.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for signing and ratifying the Statute of the Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO- RISCAM).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
34.	The Council requested the interested Member States to sign (except Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) and ratify (except Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) the Statute of ECO-RISCAM to pave the way for early operationalization of the Institute and in this connection welcomed the interest of Pakistan to do so.	
35.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a signatory state of ECO-RISCAM to expedite ratification of the Statute to help early functionalizing of the institute.	
36.	The Council appreciated the Central Secretariat of ECO-RISCAM for preparation of the basic documents of the Institute (i.e. Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Regulations) and requested the Member States to reflect their views on the documents as early as possible to its Secretariat.	
37.	The Council was informed by the Secretariat that the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of ECO- RISCAM, regarding the hosting of the Technical Management Board of Metrology of ECO- RISCAM by Islamic Republic of Pakistan was adopted at 23rd COM and the signatory states signed the Protocol Amending. The signatory States shall ratify the Protocol Amending (except Pakistan) to pave the way for early functioning of the Institute.	
38.	The Council requested Republic of Turkey and Islamic Republic of Pakistan to establish respectively Technical Management Boards of Standardization and Accreditation and Technical Management Boards of Metrology of ECO-RISCAM after the completion of ratification process by four Member States.	
39.	The Council requested the signatory Member States (except Iran and Turkey) to nominate their focal points for the Central Secretariat of the ECO-RISCAM.	
40.	The Council was informed by the Secretariat that the draft of updated ECO-RISCAM Roadmap and work programme has been circulated among the Member States. The Council requested the Member States (except Iran and Turkey) to reflect their views and comments on the documents by the end of February 2019.	
41.	The Council requested the Central Secretariat ECO-RISCAM to develop and implement measures and projects toward promoting green industrial development in line with	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	ECO-Vision 2025 and contribute to the new growth paradigm in the region with the cooperation of Member States.	
42.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey regarding to the ECO-RISCAM cooperation with the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC).	
43.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the 6th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration and the 5th HLWG on Privatization and Private Sector Development on 25-26 Oct, 2018 in Baku.	
44.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of three new Projects which were proposed by the 6th Meeting on the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Enhancing harmonization of the privatization process among the Member States in close coordination with relevant stakeholders of the Member States, ii. Establishment of Networking System among the Privatization Administrations of Member States and iii. Introducing the Production Chain Mechanism in the ECO Region. <p>The Council requested the CPR to allocate an amount for a pre-feasibility study of the Projects and also to allocate necessary funds out of the ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund for implementation of activities envisaged in Projects.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to make voluntary contributions to facilitate implementation of proposed Projects.</p> <p>ECO Secretariat should explore possibilities of obtaining financial assistance from relevant regional/international Organizations and/or donor agencies for this purpose.</p> <p>The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to follow up the process of approval and implementation of these Projects.</p>	
45.	The Council welcomed the offer of The Kyrgyz Republic to host the 7 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration and the 6th HLWG on Privatization and Private Sector Development in 2019 and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
46.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 4 th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2019 and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
47.	The Council was informed by the Secretariat that MoU between ECO & WIPO was signed on 22 Jan 2018 and both organizations nominated its representatives as focal points. (As per Article 5 of the MOU). Also the Draft Work Program for MoU implementation prepared by ECO Secretariat was sent to the Member States for their views. The Council appreciated the Secretariat for active follow - up of the MoU between ECO and WIPO and also requested all the Member States (except Azerbaijan) to submit their views on the Draft Work Program.	
48.	The Council recommended the Member States in line with the ECO Vision 2025 to support development of green industries in the Region through national and regional legal and administrative measures.	
49.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 5 th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on Entrepreneurship and SME Development Meeting and SME Workshop back to back in 2019 and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
50.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to convene expert level meetings with the ECO Member States to develop a financial mechanism to support start-ups, SME's and entrepreneurs, consisting establishment of special fund which may be managed with the help of ECO-TDB and funded through Member States, ECO TDB and other international funding agencies.	
51.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat in collaboration with UNIDO and other donor institutions to develop start up projects in different sectors of industry focusing on SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Region.	
52.	The Council requested the Secretariat to convene meetings of the experts and women entrepreneurs of the Member states to develop an implementation of action plan to promote and encourage women entrepreneurship in the region.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
53.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for renewing its offer to host the 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting on Establishment of the ECO Nanotechnology Network (ECONAN), and Workshop on NANO-technology Opportunities for Textile Industry in ECO region in June, 2019 and requested for active participation of all the Member States in the Meeting and the Workshop as well as nominating their focal points.	
54.	The Council appreciated Iran for commencing the project titled Pre-Feasibility Study of Removal of Arsenic Water Pollution in ECO Region using Nanotechnology Methods in collaboration with the University of the Science and Industry of Iran. The Project proposal was circulated by the Secretariat to Member States for their views and comments. Some of the Member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey) have already conveyed their views on the Project Proposal. The Council requested the rest of Member States to inform their views and comments on the Project.	
55.	The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Iran for finalizing the study project on the situation of NANO Technology in the ECO region and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the detailed cost break-down of the project for allocation of the expenses from the relevant feasibility study fund.	
56.	The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Iran for updating ECO-NANO Website and requested Member States to introduce their focal points for activating website. The Council reiterated its request to the interested Member States to offer their project proposals to develop and enhance the nanotechnology in the Region. The Council recommended the Member States to encourage development of nanotechnology to contribute to the protection of environment and better preserve natural resources.	
57.	The Council requested the Member States, in particular ECONAN to organize capacity building and training courses for the interested Member States to publicize and build awareness on this technology.	
58.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for initiating cooperation with relevant international organizations, development agencies and financial institutions including (but not limited to) UNCTAD, UNIDO, JICA, KOICA, WIPO, TIKTA, ISO, DEVCO for the purpose of regional development and encouraged it to do so with other	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	international and regional organizations, institutions and agencies.	
Tourism		
59.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 3 rd Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers and the 5 th HLEG Meeting on Tourism in 2019.	
60.	The Council welcomed the renewed offer of the Republic of Turkey and Turkish Cypriot State to co-host 4 th EGM on Ecotourism in Nicosia in 2019-20. The Council took note of the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran made in extra-ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers (CoM) in 2015 at New York.	
61.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat to consider seeking technical assistance from relevant international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO in preparation of ECO Tourism Strategy.	
62.	The Council welcomed the offer of two new Projects in line with ECO Vision 2025 proposed by ECO Secretariat with the aim of full implementation of the expected Strategic objectives of the Vision and establishing a peaceful and green tourism destination, namely; (i) ECO Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development and (ii) Tour operators network in ECO region	
63.	The Council reiterated its request to the Member States (except Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Republic of Pakistan) to provide all the necessary information for the “Ecotourism Catalogue for the ECO Region” to be prepared by the Republic of Turkey. Pakistan informed that it will provide updated information for the Catalogue very soon.	
64.	The Council was informed by the ECO Secretariat that the questionnaire on ecotourism for establishment of the relevant database, which was prepared by Iran, has been circulated among the Member States on 29/4/2018. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for preparation of the questionnaire on ecotourism and in order to for establishment of the relevant database as early as possible requested all Member States to fill it up and furnish the ECO Secretariat with the results.	
65.	The Council requested the Member States to offer their programs/proposals in the field	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	of Health/Medical Tourism in the ECO Region for promotion of this field of industry.	
66.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iranian Chamber of Commerce) to host the 2nd ECO Confobition on ECO Health Tourism and ECO-NGO and Tourism Agencies Meeting back to back in Ardabil, Iran on 18-20 June, 2019.</p> <p>The Council also requested the Member States to organize meetings of the airlines, tour operators and travel industry sector of the region to discuss establishment of new destinations and routes of tourism in the region and requested the relevant private sector to host such meetings.</p>	
67.	<p>Taking into consideration the high capacity for job creation and income generation, the Council requested the Member States to consider organizing workshops on rural tourism and also requested the Secretariat to consider seeking technical assistance from relevant international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO, and UNEP.</p>	
68.	<p>The Council reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage the private sector involvement in the regional tourism activities through participation in the relevant meetings/events/initiatives. In this connection, the ECO CCI was requested to explore the possibility of setting up regional cooperation modality on tourism to strengthen cooperation among the national private sector associations/forums/federations with the purpose of sustainable tourism promotion and propose its study to the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.</p> <p>The council also welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the Forum of ECO Heads of Tourism Associations and Unions in April, 2019.</p>	
69.	<p>The Council asked the Secretariat to follow-up on forming the ECO contact group on the sidelines of Silk Road related meetings, conferences and events to effectively pursue the collective interests of ECO Region and enhance the role of ECO in such arenas.</p>	
70.	<p>The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to participate in Silk Road related meetings, conferences and events and coordinate participation of Member States in such events within and outside the ECO Region.</p>	
71.	<p>The Council requested the Member States (except Kyrgyz Republic) to appoint their focal points to the ECO-Silk Road Contact Groups as soon as possible.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
72.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Fourth International ECO - Silk Road Food Festival and welcomed the offer of latter to host the Fifth ECO - Silk Road Food Festival.	
73.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize two Workshops on Culinary Tourism and Tourism Business Development in 2019 in Zanjan. The Council also requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to set up a coordination mechanism and website for better promotion and organization of the annual event in coordination with the Secretariat, if possible. The Council also requested the Member States to actively participate in the Event.	
74.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran convening of the 11 th International Exhibition of Tourism & Related Industry on 23-26 Jan 2018 in Tehran and welcomed the latter for convening 12th International Exhibition of Tourism & Related Industry on February 12-15, 2019 in Tehran. The Council requested all the Member States to actively participate in the Event.	
75.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting tourism and handicrafts related exhibitions for the purpose of enhancing tourism cooperation in the Region.	
76.	The Council expressed appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing “Tabriz 2018” event on 25 April 2018 in Tabriz. Islamic Republic of Iran invited the Member States to participate at Zanjan 2020 event dedicated to promotion of tourism and cultural affinity.	
77.	The Council requested the Member States and the Secretariat to actively participate in the international conferences and meetings with the aim of introducing the tourism potentials of the ECO Region and also to increase the role of ECO in the international policy making trends.	
78.	The Council appreciates the ECO Secretariat for institutionalizing relations with UNWTO through an MOU.	
79.	The Council also appreciated the Secretariat for establishing working cooperation with UNIDO and UNESCO for promotion of tourism in the Region and requested the latter to expand its relations with the international organizations and agencies.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
E. SECTOR: PROJECTS, ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS		
1.	The Secretariat briefed the Council of activities related to existing and proposed development projects. Also briefing was given on economic research, statistical updates, reports and publications on ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) as well as statistical capacity building programs. The Secretariat further briefed on its efforts to enlist the cooperation, technical assistance of international organizations for implementation of various projects and capacity building programs in the region.	
PROJECTS		
Project Monitoring Group (PMG)		
2.	The Council requested Member States to actively participate in PMG meetings and endeavor to ensure the effective and complete implementation of ECO Projects within their respective territories. The Council expressed its hope that Member States would suggest projects that are financially and technically feasible for the development of the ECO region.	
3.	The Council appreciated efforts of the Secretariat to organize several training/capacity building programs on project management and decided to exclude the Regional Training Workshop on Project Management Information System (PMIS) from the ECO calendar of events due to the lack of interest of the Member States since 2014.	
ECONOMIC RESEARCH		
ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER)		
4.	The Council requested the Member States to nominate focal points for further follow up and coordination on economic research.	
ECO Annual Economic Report		
5.	The Council requested the Member States to convey their national economic and statistical data (2016/2017) to the Secretariat for the timely publication of the ECO Annual Economic Report.	
6.	The Council further requested the Member States to nominate focal points for further follow-up and coordination on the publication of the ECO Annual Economic Report.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
ECO Economic Journal		
7.	The Council requested the Member States to provide their research papers to the ECO Editorial Board in order to ensure the timely publication of the ECO Economic Journal.	
8.	The Council requested the Member States except the Republic of Turkey to expedite their views on the comprehensive medium and long-term strategies for improvement of the ECO Economic Journal (2016-20). To consider the views, the Editorial Board will meet in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2019.	
ECO Research Centre (ERC)		
9.	The Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Council that establishment of ECO Research Center (ERC) is under process and related documents will be submitted to the Secretariat once completed.	
ECO Economic Think-Tanks Forum		
10.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 3 rd meeting of the ECO Economic Think Tanks Forum.	
STATISTICS		
ECO-FAO CountrySTAT Project		
11.	The Council noted with approval, the implementation of the ECO-FAO project on “Support for the Implementation and Development of the CountrySTAT Framework in the ECO countries” and appreciated receiving inputs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey. The Council encouraged the remaining Member States to provide their inputs on the second phase of the project at the earliest.	
12.	The Council requested interested the Member States to consider developing and maintaining the ECO-FAO CountrySTAT website as the Islamic Republic of Iran withdrew its offer to submit its project proposal. The Council welcomed the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to consider developing and maintaining ECO-FAO CountrySTAT website and sharing the proposal with the Secretariat.	
ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT)		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
13.	The Council requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat their updated statistical data to upgrade the functioning of ECOSTAT. The Member States are further requested to nominate a focal point to provide the data to the Secretariat to be uploaded on the ECOSTAT.	
ECO Key Statistical Indicators (ECOKSI)		
14.	The Council requested Member States to provide statistical data to the Secretariat for the years 2014 to 2017 for the functionality of ECOKSI. The Secretariat is requested to send questionnaire to the Member States for this purpose.	
ECO Statistical Report		
15.	The Council requested Member States to provide to the Secretariat relevant data for publication of updated ECO Statistical report.	
ECO Statistical Capacity Building Programme and regular statistical events		
16.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for confirming to host the 4 th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSO) and 6 th ECO High Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting on Statistics in 2019.	
17.	The Council further appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for confirming to host the 5 th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSO) and 7 th ECO High Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting in 2020.	
18.	The Council noted the proposal of the Republic of Tajikistan to include a Training Course on “Innovations in methodology through new technology in conducting population census” in one of the progressive member states in the ECO Calendar of Events for 2019. The proposal will be circulated by the Secretariat amongst the Member States.	
19.	The Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council of its withdrawal to hold the regional training workshop on “Emerging Issues in Implementation of SDGS”.	
20.	Appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and SESRIC to provide technical assistance to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on statistics, the Council encouraged the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to forward a detailed proposal to the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Secretariat for provision of technical assistance for capacity building.	
Projects under ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan (EAPA)		
21.	The Council called upon those Member States that have already pledged contributions to fulfill their commitments as soon as possible and further requested Member States to consider increasing their assistance and monetary contributions for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan.	
22.	The Council requested the Secretariat to organize a meeting of the ECO Member, non-Member States, International Organizations, Regional Organizations and NGOs in a bid to gather support for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan. The Council further encouraged the Member States to actively participate in such activities.	
23.	The Council welcomed readiness of the Republic of Turkey to undertake the project of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan titled “Reconstruction of Dr. Rafiqi Kamil Urga Sanatorium Hospital of Kabul Medical University” through Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) within the scope of Turkey’s commitment to the “ECO Fund for Afghanistan”. The Council further called on the Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the project.	
Cooperation with Regional/International Organizations		
24.	Noting with satisfaction, the signing of MoUs between the ECO-SESRIC and ECO-TEPAV in 2018, the Council requested the Secretariat to initiate collaboration for utilizing the enhanced economic research and training capabilities of partner institutes.	
F. SECTOR: HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
1.	Realizing the importance and value of cooperation on disaster risk reduction, health and related issues as well as education and training in the region, the Council stressed on the need of continued collaboration according to the requirements of the Member States. It underlined that such cooperation should take into consideration the regional and global developments, including the provisions of the ECO Vision 2025, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Council also acknowledged the significance of multilateral cooperation and securing assistance of the relevant regional and international organizations for an	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	effective and smooth implementation of the ECO Work Programme 2019. The Council requested the Member States and Secretariat to develop a nexus approach to the relevant SDGs, health and disaster risk reduction in their national and regional programmes.	
Disaster Risk Reduction		
2.	The Council praised the Secretariat for the finalized ECO draft Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) and appreciated the Member States for their support in this regard. It requested the Secretariat to present the said framework to the 8 th ECO Ministerial Conference on DRR for approval. The Council also encouraged the Member States and Secretariat to pursue the implementation of the framework with an ultimate aim of preventing and reducing disaster losses in lives, and in social, economic, and environmental assets of people of the region.	
3.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey's offer to host the 8 th Ministerial Conference on DRR in March 2019. It also requested that the Member States may forward their inputs/recommendations on draft protocol on Real-time Seismological Data Exchange (RSDE -to be signed during the proposed ministerial meeting).	
4.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat and the Member States to continue interaction with the relevant regional and international organizations as well as development partners, in order to seek their technical and financial support, developing joint projects, organizing events for implementation of the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and the ECO Vision 2025. The Council appreciated the ECO Science Foundation for its offer to provide technical support to ECO Secretariat by engaging experts and partner organizations (UNESCO and Chinese Academy of Sciences) working in the domain of DRR and climate change.	
5.	The Council requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat the updated list of their stakeholders, including local communities, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises, in order to facilitate and enhance regional cooperation on DRR. It also desired the Member States to forward information on their activities on disaster risk reduction and the related regulations to the Secretariat for sharing with Member States with a view to increasing the public awareness programs in this regard.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
6.	The Council further desired the ECO Secretariat and Member States to establish the “ECO Regional Disaster Information System” as envisioned in the ECO Vision 2025, in collaboration with international partners, academics, scientific entities, private sector and other relevant networks, in order to secure early establishment of the desired system.	
7.	The Council requested the interested Member States to propose holding events/conferences/seminars/workshops on disaster risk reduction and related issues in 2019.	
8.	The Council requested the Secretariat to increase cooperation with UNESCAP/UNISDR/UNDP to develop an implementation outline for the ECO Regional Framework on DRR under intimation to Member States.	
9.	To boost the capacity of the relevant stakeholders, the Council requested the Secretariat and Member States to organize the 1 st Senior Officials Meeting for Disaster Management and Insurance Authorities and/or training workshops on “Disaster Risk Transfer through management/insurance” in 2019.	
10.	The Islamic Republic of Iran informed that it is organizing the “9 th International Congress on Health in Emergencies and Disasters” and “WHO-ECO Regional Meeting on Health in Emergencies and Disasters”. It proposed the Secretariat to invite ECO Member States for participation in the event scheduled to be held at Tehran in June, 2019.	
11.	The Council approved the Secretariat’s proposal for ECO Capacity Building Project under the Regional Framework on DRR/ Sendai Framework.	
Cooperation on Health		
12.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to seek regional and international cooperation with regard to finalization of draft ECO Plan of Action on Health. It stressed that such cooperation should continue to secure technical and financial support of the International Organizations, UN Agencies, including WHO, development partners, private entities and other stakeholders. The Council also	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	encouraged the joint projects as well as organizing relevant events for implementation of health programs at the regional level in line with the ECO Vision 2025.	
13.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Iran's offer to assist the Secretariat in revising/improving the draft ECO Plan of Action on Health, focusing on cooperation for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and prevention and control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs). It also requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised PoA amongst Member States, preferably in February/March 2019. However, the Council noted the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing and hosting an ad-hoc Working Group consisting of high level experts of the interested Member States to be convened in early May for finalizing the draft Plan of Action on health.	
14.	The Council also requested the Member States to give their inputs on the revised PoA on health before the end of April 2019.	
15.	Following the finalization of Plan of Action, the Secretariat may explore to ascertain willingness of the Member States for holding of the 4 th ECO Health Ministerial Meeting. However, if no Member State appears to host the meeting, the event may be organized on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in May 2019.	
16.	The Council further requested the Member States to share with the Secretariat any proposals with regard to extension of academic scholarships in health and other areas of relevance to benefit each other's skills and knowledge, exploiting the services of ECOEI and ECOSF, if desired.	
17.	The Islamic Republic of Iran invited the Member States to take part in the 7 th World Health Summit Regional Meeting planned to be held in Kish Island on April 29-30, 2019. However, the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider a pre-organized panel for ECO Member States to join with their representatives. It also requested for provision of relevant information to the ECO Secretariat (i.e. hospitality, focal point and any other relevant details) for circulation amongst Member States.	
18.	The Council requested the interested Member States to propose holding events/conferences/seminars/workshops on health and related issues in 2019.	
Education and Training		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
19.	The Council lauded the ECO Educational Institute and ECO Secretariat for their efforts of coordination amongst the Member Countries, to promote regional cooperation for increasing activities on education/trainings through exchange of faculty members/students, seminars and technology-sharing programmes.	
20.	The Council desired the Member States and ECO Secretariat to cooperate with the ECOEI to investigate the need and necessity of developing a Plan of Action for education in line with ECO Vision 2025.	
21.	The Council encouraged the Member States to utilize the facilities, expertise and assistance of ECOEI and ECOSF in their activities related to health and disaster risk reduction with the aim of achieving the objectives contained in the ECO Vision 2025.	
G. SECTOR: DRUGS AND ORGANIZED CRIME COORDINATION UNIT (DOCCU)		
1.	Realizing the perceived aims and objectives envisaged in the ECO Vision 2025, the Council emphasized on the importance of cooperation on drugs and organized crimes in the ECO Region. The Council stressed on the need and relevance of such cooperation to be continued for steady economic growth and sustainable development in the Member States. It encouraged effective regional institutional arrangements on police and law enforcement, judicial and anti-corruption cooperation as well as capacity building and training programs in order to figure out a mutual way forward for prevention of such illicit activities. To meet the required objectives, regional and international stakeholders may be approached, seeking their technical and financial support, the Council noted.	
2.	Reiterating the importance of ECOPOL, the Council recalled that the Statute was expected to be finalized during 2 nd Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police followed by its adoption in the 4 th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting. It requested the Secretariat to make necessary preparations and the interested Member States to designate liaison officers for coordination, except those who have already nominated their officers, in this regard. The Council requested that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Member States may convey willingness for hosting 2nd meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police. 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic Republic of Pakistan may like to convey proposed dates and hospitality details for hosting 4th Meeting of the ECO Interior Ministers and 2nd Meeting of the Heads of INTERPOL preferably <u>by February 2019</u>. 	
3.	<p>The Council underlined the need and importance of cooperation amongst the anti-corruption agencies and ombudsmen for developing common standards of fighting against corruption. It expressed optimism that devising such mechanism would certainly help prevent and combat corruption, effectively. The Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Member States, who have yet to sign/ratify the Statute of the RCCACO, may expedite their required national procedures, for starting an early functioning of the center. • The Kyrgyz Republic, which has already expressed readiness to join the center, may like to do so at its early convenience. • The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Tajikistan, which have signed the said statute, may accelerate the process of ratification. • Interested Member States would be appreciated to convey willingness for hosting the 4th Meeting of the Heads of ECO Anti-corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen to the Secretariat. 	
4.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Expert Group Meeting on Anti-Corruption, requesting to convey the necessary information (i.e. hospitality, proposed dates, focal points and any other relevant details) to the Secretariat for circulation amongst the Member States.</p>	
5.	<p>The Council acknowledged the proceedings of earlier meetings of the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General, emphasizing on the necessity of an early establishment of the effective mechanism for judicial cooperation/legal assistance. It also encouraged that such interactions should continue for extensive elaborations to secure the aimed objectives. The Council requested that:</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic Republic of Pakistan may convey the draft framework agreement for judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism, preferably <u>by March 2019</u>; • The interested Member States may convey willingness for hosting the 1st Experts Group Meeting to establish judicial/legal cooperation mechanism; • The Member States may express their willingness for hosting of the 4th Meeting of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General, and • The Member States may convey/update the Secretariat of their focal points in this regard. 	
6.	<p>The Council acknowledged the Secretariat’s efforts for periodical publications on illicit drugs including reports on drug situation in the ECO region as well as progress on 5th publication of “An Overview on Fight Against Drugs in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Member States may convey relevant inputs (statistics and achievements, legal frameworks and policies), enabling the Secretariat to make such report (s) regarding drug situation in the ECO Region; • The Secretariat may circulate the latest version of the ECO Statistics and Analytical Report on drug situation amongst Member States. 	
7.	<p>Reiterating the relevance of capacity building programs, the Council highlighted the need for enhancing the existing capacities in the Member States to effectively deal with the threat. It further encouraged the ECO-DOCCU and the Member States to organize relevant programs in the Member States, providing the opportunity to interact and share knowledge and skills for enhancing their capacities to cope with the illegitimate activities in the region. The Council requested the Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convey to Secretariat their willingness for hosting relevant events preferably before the end of February 2019; • Convey data/information regarding their capabilities, details of trainers and training facilities in the field of drugs and transnational organized crimes, enabling the Secretariat to develop the roster of the ECO Member States. 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
8.	The Council noted with appreciation the information provided by the Republic of Turkey about the training activities conducted by Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Crimes (TADOC). The Council requested the Member States to convey their training requirements in specific fields to be considered by TADOC.	
9.	The Republic of Turkey expressed its readiness to host the Workshop on Current Routes and Trends on Narcotics Drug Types in Ankara during 2019. The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to convey to the Secretariat information including proposed dates, hospitality, focal point and any other relevant details, for circulation amongst the Member States.	
10.	The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to organize the Workshop in the field of primary prevention on addiction with 3-day duration of each course in Tehran during May 2019. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information regarding the offered training courses (including exact dates, hospitality details, focal point and other relevant information) for circulation amongst the Member States.	
11.	Noting the important role of the focal points, the Council requested the Member States to convey to the Secretariat the updated lists of their focal points in different relevant areas, preferably within three months.	
H. SECTOR: ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies and External Relations		
International Relations		
a) INTER-REGIONAL ECO ACTIVITIES		
(i) ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies		
1.	In order to provide greater momentum to the objectives of the Organization, especially in the fields of science, culture and education, the Council encouraged the ECO Specialized Agencies to synergize their activities to promote cooperation in the relevant areas. The Council requested the Secretariat to facilitate and assist the Specialized Agencies in developing cooperation with the relevant regional and international organizations in the educational, scientific and cultural fields.	
2.	The Council encouraged the Member States to join, where applicable, the ECO	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/ Affiliated Bodies and Centres and support their activities in different areas for the shared goals.	
3.	The Council requested the concerned Member States to expedite the process of Host Country Agreement pertaining to ECOSF, ECI and ECOEI.	
4.	The council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to attend the events of the ECO Specialized Institutions, Affiliated Bodies and Agencies.	
ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)		
5.	The Council appreciated the efforts and activities of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) in promoting the cultural ties amongst the member states. The Council called on the Institute to broaden its current scope of activities, in order to make meaningful progress in achieving all the goals outlined in its Charter; especially in the fields of culture, literature and arts including promotion of people-to-people contacts, research in common cultural heritage of the member states and promotion of languages of the region.	
6.	The Council appreciated the initiative of ECI for holding of exhibition on arts and crafts from the ECO Member States on the sidelines of the 23 rd meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (CoM) organized by the Republic of Tajikistan in April 2018, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Council encouraged the Institute to organize similar events in future in collaboration with the host member states on the sidelines of main meetings.	
7.	The Council appreciated ECI to include ECO Cultural Weeks in its calendar of events for 2019 in order to increase awareness about ECO and the region's culture. The Council also requested member states to share proposals for hosting such events with ECI and to assist the Institute, both financially and logistically, in holding these events through their relevant cultural authorities.	
8.	Recalling the recommendations of the last RPC whereby the relevant member states have been requested to ratify the Charter of the ECI, the Council, once again, emphasized the need for the signatory and non-signatory member states to this Charter	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	to ratify/accede to the Charter of the Institute at the earliest. The Council also requested the Institute to work out a detailed strategy for regular follow-up on the matter with the concerned Member States.	
9.	The Council took note of the delay in joining of the Executive Director-designate of ECI and in this regard the Council requested I.R. of Pakistan to expedite the process.	
10.	The Council welcomed the offer of ECI to organize 1 st ECO Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of Youth and Sports and 1 st Meeting of the Heads of the National Museums of the ECO Member States in 2019.	
11.	Considering the financial problems being faced by ECI the Council requested the ratifying Member States to pay their mandatory budgetary contribution to the Institute.	
ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)		
12.	The Council appreciated ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) for undertaking its efforts for developing and promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of science, technology and Innovation and carrying out various activities for capacity building and promotion of scientific research in the Region.	
13.	The Council took note of the delay in completion of ratification by the non-ratifying member states and requested Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan to ratify the ECOSF Charter and its additional protocol at the earliest.	
14.	While recalling the recommendation of the last RPC Meeting concerning the need for nominating national focal points by the member states to coordinate with the ECOSF, the Council appreciated the countries which have introduced their respective focal points The Council also requested Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Kazakhstan to nominate focal points to facilitate the coordination between ECOSF and the member states on various issues.	
15.	The Council appreciated the ECOSF for holding of the “International Forum on Science Education with a theme on Quality Science Education at Schools a must for Quality higher Education and economic development” on 09-10 April, 2018 in Islamabad.	
16.	The Council appreciated the offer extended by the ECOSF to developed a proposal and share it with the ECO Secretariat for strengthening cooperation with ASEAN on	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	science, technology and innovation under the umbrella of ECO-ASEAN.	
17.	<p>The Council took serious note of the financial problems being faced by the ECOSF due to non-payment of the annual contributions by the member states except the I.R. of Pakistan. The Council requests the I.R. of Iran for the remaining payment of its Mandatory Budgetary Contribution to ECOSF. The Council urged the ratifying member states to make arrangements for the transfer of Mandatory annual Budgetary Contributions to the Foundation without any further delay.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to contribute towards S&T Fund established to promote collaborative research projects at the earliest.</p>	
18.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to confirm their participation in the 5th Meeting of ECOSF Executive Committee and 4th Meeting of ECOSF Board of Trustees (BoT) to be held on 28th January, 2019 and 29th January, 2019 respectively in Isfahan, I.R. of Iran.</p>	
19.	<p>The Council requested the relevant Member States to update the status of joining of Executive Director-Designate Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi (Iranian National) as the First Executive Director of the ECOSF.</p>	
<u>ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)</u>		
20.	<p>The Council appreciated the activities of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) for promoting common welfare of the people of the region in the field of education and training.</p>	
21.	<p>The Council acknowledged and appreciated the role of the president of the ECOEI in enhancing the Institution's activities and capacities. The Council called upon the Member States to actively participate in the activities of the Institute and underlined the importance of continuous support for Educational Institute's future endeavours.</p>	
22.	<p>The Council requested Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to sign and ratify and Republic of Kazakhstan to ratify the ECO-EI charter at the earliest. The Council requested the members to further promote cooperation in the field of education.</p>	
23.	<p>The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Turkey for paying its share of budgetary contribution of ECOEI, requested the other ratifying Member States to pay</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	their mandatory contributions to ECOEI.	
24.	In order to ensure effective coordination between the ECOEI and the Member States, the Council requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to designate their focal points for the ECOEI at their earliest.	
25.	The Council requested the Member States to attend the 3 rd BoT Meeting of ECO-EI to be held in June, 2019 in the Republic of Turkey.	
26.	The Council desired the ECOEI to maintain nexus with the UNESCO for cooperation/collaboration on SDG-4 Quality Education in the ECO Region and requested the Member States and ECO Secretariat to support ECOEI for strengthening regional cooperation in this regard.	
27.	The Council appreciated the Institute on holding of the “Language Teaching and Learning Workshop” on 19-20 October 2018 in Ankara as scheduled in ECOEI’s Work Plan. The Council welcomed the offer of ECOEI to host Conference on the teaching of history, Literature and cultural heritage in ECO Member States in June 2019 in Turkey.	
<u>ECO Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)</u>		
28.	Taking note of the severe financial hardships being faced by the Company because of non availability of assignments in the ECO region, the Council urged the member states to support ECO-CEC in becoming an active regional institution of ECO and benefit from its expertise in engineering and consultancy services. The Council also stressed on the need for effective communication and coordination between ECO-CEC and the ECO Secretariat for exploiting the emerging opportunities in the Region.	
29.	The Council encouraged the Member States to facilitate effective participation of ECO-CEC in the bidding process for the projects financed from ECO resources and for other national projects, specifically, by timely exchange of information related to the bidding process. In order to facilitate ECO-CEC, the Council took note of the request made by some of the Member States indicating that the ECO-CEC should prepare a report highlighting its core competencies in the field of engineering, which would be shared with the relevant agencies and authorities in the Member States for creating awareness about the Company.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
<u>ECO College of Insurance</u>		
30.	The Council appreciated the College for annual allocation, starting from 2014, of 40 Student Scholarships to the ECO Member Countries other than Iran. The Scholarship includes waiver of tuition fees and dormitory expenses. The Council encouraged the Member States to share proposals for improving the educational standards and performance of the College. The Council also asked the member states to encourage their talented students to avail scholarship opportunities offered by the College.	
31.	The Council requested the Member States to convey their focal points from the relevant authorities, and share proposals/recommendations for enhancing cooperation and improving the educational standards and performance of the College. The Council also asked the Member States to encourage their talented students to avail scholarship opportunities offered by the College.	
32.	The Council recommended the College to accelerate efforts towards promoting networking with educational institutions of the member states in the field of insurance. The Council appreciated Secretariat's willingness to extend any possible assistance, if required, in this regard.	
<u>Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Countries (PAECO)</u>		
33.	The Council appreciated Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey having completed the ratification process of PAECO's Charter whereas to become operational, four member states must complete ratification process and other internal formalities. The Council requested Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan to expedite the ratification process and update the ECO Secretariat, so that the PAECO can come into operational.	
34.	While recalling the Inaugural Ceremony and First Conference of the PAECO was held in Islamabad in 2013 where leaders of the 6 ECO States signed the Charter of the PAECO, the Council appreciated Pakistan for its afresh offer to host the second PAECO conference in 2019.	
<u>(ii) ECO'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u>		
35.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat to take further steps in accordance with the Treaty of Izmir and the relevant decisions reached at different fora to strengthen the existing cooperation with the regional and international partners, including those	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
	within the UN system. The Council also requested the Member States to support the Secretariat in its efforts in this regard and share substantive proposals for promoting ECO's cooperative relationship with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes.	
36.	While appreciating the Secretariat to conclude recent MoUs with international and regional organizations, the Council requested the Secretariat that in signing the new MoUs with the potential partners, consideration should be given to the need for an agreed work programme to implement the MoU. The Council asked the Secretariat to share the status of the MoUs and accordingly a Working Group may be formulated with the aim to identify the lead Agreements which for certain reasons are stalled or moving at slow pace and concerted effort is required from the Member States to shore up support for implementation of these MoUs/Agreements.	
37.	Considering the significance of training of officers dealing with external relations/foreign affairs, the Council welcomed the offer of I.R of Pakistan to arrange a training workshop in Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan for foreign services officers from ECO Member States. Details of the training programme will be shared in due course through ECO Secretariat.	
38.	The Council appreciated I.R. of Pakistan for its generous offer to host a conference on international relations/external relations of ECO Member States which would provide an excellent opportunity to the eminent scholars, think-tanks, former ministers and former heads of governments/states from ECO Member States to share their thought for enhancing international and regional cooperation in various fields. This would also help think-tanks of ECO Member States to collaborate for the betterment of the region. Complete Programme would be shared through diplomatic channels.	
39.	The Council requested the member states to send fresh instructions to their respective missions based in New York, Vienna, Geneva, Rome, Bangkok, and Jeddah for better utilization of the contact group mechanism. The Permanent Missions may be encouraged to play active roles within the framework of the ECO Contact Groups for enlisting support of the UN specialized agencies and other organizations for ECO's activities and programmes in various key sectors.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be Taken
40.	The Council requested the Member States to facilitate the adoption of the UNGA Resolution titled "Cooperation between the UN and ECO" at 74 th Session of UNGA.	
41.	The Council recalled the successful ministerial-level consultations held between ASEAN and ECO during the 14 th ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting held in New York in Sep, 2014 and asked the Secretariat to actively follow-up the matter with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Ambassadors based in Tehran to organize 15 th ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting in order to maintain and promote meaningful cooperation with ASEAN. The Council also requested the member states to share concrete proposals to be presented at the next ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting to enhance cooperation with ASEAN.	
42.	The Council called for the Member States to initiate process for liaison with SCO based on the MoU signed between the SCO and ECO.	
43.	The Council asked the Secretariat to give special focus to establish contacts and expanding relationship with funding agencies/institutions like the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), CAREC, Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in order to enlist their support for ECO projects/programmes. The Member States are also requested to engage their national financial institutions in public and private sector for project assessment and funding.	
