



Annex - IV

# **30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

## **“ECO Work Programme 2020”**

*(ECO Secretariat - Tehran, January 14-16, 2020)*

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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<b>A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT</b>		
1.	<p>The Council profoundly appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for announcing to host <b>the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Economy</b> in the first half of 2020 to evaluate the economic situation in the region as a whole. In this connection, the Secretariat prepared a book entitled "<b>Leveraging the Economic Potential of ECO Region</b>". The Council accordingly requested the Republic of Tajikistan to convey the date (s), venue, and details of hospitality to the Secretariat at the earliest convenience so that the same may be communicated to the esteemed Member States.</p> <p>The RPC 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 once the meeting is announced. The Council also expressed its gratitude for keen interest and commitment of the Republic of Tajikistan in holding this vital event and expressed its desire to make it successful with active participation of the Member States.</p>	
2.	<p>The Council appreciated the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran for announcing the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Central Banks</b> in August 2019, in Tehran though it could not be held due to lack of quorum. The Council requested other Member States to volunteer hosting of the 2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Central Banks along with Deputies/Experts Group Meeting. The Council added that once the meeting is announced, the Member States may actively participate in the said meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Recognizing the significance of financial matters/issues in the region, the Council requested the Member States to announce hosting of the <b>Experts Group Meeting on Banking and Financial Matters and Forming of ECO Clearing Union</b> at the earliest convenience. The Council accordingly requested that once the meeting is announced, the Member States may actively participate in the meeting to make it a success.</p>	
4.	<p>In the wake of developments taken place at the global and regional level in the economic and trade spheres, the Council noted that it is imperative to hold <b>5th Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade</b> on regular basis. The Council expressed its deep gratitude for the Republic of Turkey for announcing this important event in 2020 and accordingly</p>	

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	<p>requested to convey the schedule of the meeting at the earliest convenience. The Council also requested the Member States to confirm their participation for this imperative meeting and communicate the high level composition of delegations to the ECO Secretariat when the meeting is announced.</p>	
5.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed that in the light of directions of the 29<sup>th</sup> RPC, the Contracting Parties to ECOTA were requested to convene <b>the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council</b> “to consider the technical and practical issues concerning the operationalization of ECOTA”. While appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat for holding the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council, the RPC desired to continue efforts towards this end.</p> <p>The Secretariat further informed that the ECOTA Cooperation Council agreed to consider the proposal of the ECO Secretariat by taking it up with the respective governments. It was further shared that the ECOTA Cooperation Council requested to share their views and priorities regarding implementation of ECOTA with the Secretariat in three months, which, however, are awaited.</p>	
6.	<p>Recalling the relevant decision of the 24th COM, the Council reaffirmed the commitment for implementation of the <b>ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)</b> for furtherance of the objective of regional integration through Free Trade Area as envisaged in ECO Vision 2025, and called upon the Contracting Parties to accelerate processes for its implementation as well as to devise mechanisms and solutions at the earliest convenience taking into account the concerns and views of the Contracting Parties for the maximal productivity of each of them. The Council recommended that other ECO Member States that are not a party to the ECOTA could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers.</p>	
7.	<p>The Council noted with concern that operationalization of ECOTA has taken considerable time without substantive results. Having considered views of the Contracting Parties, it was agreed that they will inform ECO Secretariat about their views within two months time on <b>operationalization of ECOTA along with problems and offered solutions</b>. The Secretariat based on the views and observations received from the Contracting Parties will prepare a Working Paper for further deliberations to be made in the relevant upcoming</p>	

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	meetings. The Council agreed to hold 9th Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council before the Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in 2020.	
8.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the Draft of <b>ECO Multi-Dimensional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region</b> has been revised and circulated among Member States for views/comments. It was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have conveyed their comments. 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 be discussed in the said meeting.	
9.	The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Turkey announced to host the <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the Joint Working Group for Preparation of the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement (ETFAs)</b> in 2020. It was further informed that at least six times meeting was announced, last time 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, and also welcomed its offer to host it in 2020.	
10.	<p>The Secretariat also informed that as per decision of 28th RPC Meeting, a comprehensive Paper/Strategy titled '<b>Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy</b>' prepared by the Republic of Turkey in 2017 was circulated amongst the Member State to obtain the respective views of their Trade, Transit and Customs authorities before the Ministerial Meeting. In the light of above decision, the Strategy was again circulated in 2019 among Member States for their comments/views.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to provide their views at the earliest convenience so as to discuss it in the 5<sup>th</sup> <b>Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade</b> in 2020.</p>	
11.	The Council called upon the Member States to volunteer hosting the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration in 2020</b> , to further discuss and finalize the following three draft Documents on ECO Tax Cooperation in the light of decisions of the First Meeting of the Experts of Tax Administration to be submitted to decision making organs of ECO for approval. The documents include;	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Charter for Establishment of ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX);</li> <li>b) ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters; and,</li> <li>c) Agreement on the Exchange of Information in Tax Matters among ECO Member States.</li> </ul>	
12.	<p>The Secretariat informed that in order to promote ECO cooperation in the field of capital markets, the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy decided to hold Meetings of <b>ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities</b>. The deliberations and decisions 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 2020 and inform ECO Secretariat at the earliest convenience, if possible, before holding of 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting of Finance and Economy.</p>	
13.	<p>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 (APPI) among ECO Member States along with the Amendment Protocol and had deposited the Instrument of Ratification. It was shared that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has informed in November 2019 about completion of its ratification process; however, formality of deposit of Instrument of Ratification is yet to be completed.</p> <p>Recalling that the APPI has been signed by five ECO Member States (namely, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Republic of Turkey) and entry into force requires ratification by four Member States; a ratification of one more Member State will result in coming into force of this vital Agreement. With this in view, the Council called upon the Member States, which have signed the APPI, to complete the ratification procedures along with its Amendment Protocol at the earliest convenience for its early implementation of this important agreement. Also, the Council urged the Member States, which have not yet signed to do the same and ratify the APPI along with</p>	

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	its Amendment Protocol at their convenience, helping operationalization of the agreement for collective benefit of the region and the Member States.	
14.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the Second Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum in 2020 and inform the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels.	
15.	The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy in Tehran, the Republic of Tajikistan was designated as the coordinating country for ECO initiatives on investment. The Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting of <b>ECO Investment Conference</b> and accordingly convey the date, venue and other details at the earliest convenience.	
16.	The ECO Secretariat informed that based on the decision of the 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> Meetings of the RPC, a proposal for two-year project on <b>ECO Business Forum</b> 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 Project Monitoring Group (PMG) meeting held in November, 2019 at the Secretariat recommended holding this meeting in 2020 on the sidelines of the 14 <sup>th</sup> ECO Summit Meeting, in coordination with the host authorities and ECO-CCI by rationalizing its cost/budget to US\$ 10,000.	
17.	The Council expressed its gratitude to the ECO-CCI on announcing the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum in April 2020 in Turkmenistan 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 and result-oriented.	
18.	The Council appreciated the Chamber of Commerce and Industries/Mines of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for announcing to host ECO Trade Fair in 2020. Accordingly, the Council requested the Member States and its National Chambers of Commerce and Industries/Mines to actively participate in this event for promotion of trade in the region.	

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19.	The Council also appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host ECO Trade Exhibition namely "ECO-RAF" from 13-26 July, 2020 in Yazd, Iran. Accordingly, the Council also requested the Member States and its National Chambers of Commerce and Industries to actively participate in this event for promotion of trade and regional integration.	
20.	As regard the <b>ECO-ASEAN Joint Business Forum and ECO-SAARC Joint Business Forum</b> , the ECO-CCI informed that this forum will be considered in 2020/2021 after holding of 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO-Business Forum in 2020 with the aim to strengthen inter-regional trade. It was announced that in the meantime ECO-CCI will explore the possibility of expanding trade relations with these economic blocs.	
21.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the Member States were requested to volunteer hosting of the <b>4<sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum</b> . It was recalled that Islamic Republic of Pakistan had announced to organize this event in March, 2018 in Islamabad; however, it could not be held due to lack of quorum. In view of this, the Council again requested Member States to announce volunteer hosting this event in 2020 and convey the dates and venue.	
22.	The Council noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the 3rd Phase of the ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project (TCBP) for harmonizing the Standardization, - Metrology, Testing and Quality among the ECO Members 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.	
23.	The Council noted that elimination of non-tariff barriers is imperative for increasing intra regional trade. With regard to this, it was further observed that promoting ECO Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of the Regional Quality Policy is essentially required. Hence, the Council requested the Secretariat to invite UNIDO, ECO Trade and Development Bank and IDB to provide financial and technical support in 2020 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 in its endeavors for the implementation of the next phase of ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project.	

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24.	The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for holding the <b>26<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and General Assembly of the ECO-CCI</b> along with the six <b>Specialized Committees</b> , in Istanbul, Turkey in July, 2019.	
25.	The Council also expressed their gratitude towards the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for holding the meetings of the <b>27<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and General Assembly of the ECO-CCI</b> along with the six <b>Specialized Committees</b> , in Karachi, in November, 2019. It was highlighted that regular holding of these events will produce conducive impact on trade in the region especially through active participation and vibrant role of national chambers.	
26.	The Council appreciated the ECO-CCI for expanding its cooperation and activities especially MoU/Cooperation Agreement with the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (November 2019), MoU/Agreement for Cooperation with Astana International Finance Center (November 2019) and MoU with the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States -Turkic Business Council (December 2018), Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan. The Council considered that such cooperation will help realize the ECO Vision 2025.	
27.	The Council was informed that in view of the ECO-CCI's request, the observer status in the ECOTA Cooperation Council has been granted after completion of the stipulated procedure. The Council congratulated ECO-CCI on this milestone and expressed its hope to play positive and dynamic role in the Council as a major stakeholder in the region. The Council also appreciated the tremendous work done by leadership of the ECO-CCI, headquartered in the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), in realization of the ECO Vision, and will help make ECO a more integrated regional bloc through more intra-regional trade and expanded economic activities in the region.	
28.	The Council also congratulated and profoundly appreciated Turkmenistan and ECO-CCI for announcing to hold the meetings of the <b>28<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of the ECO-CCI</b> along with the <b>Six Specialized Committees Meetings</b> , for the first time in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, in April 2020 along with the <b>4<sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum and 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Trade Fair</b> and termed it	



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	<p>a great success. It was highlighted that in December 2018, these events were held in Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan, for the first time in Central Asia. The Council noted that these events will create good impact and encourage other member countries especially the Central Asian States to hold such events in other parts of Central Asia. The Council also deeply appreciated and encouraged the Member States' national chambers for more participation in such events.</p>	
29.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to urge their respective National Chambers to confirm their participation in the forthcoming meetings of the 28<sup>th</sup> ECO-CCI's Executive Committee, General Assembly and the Specialized Committees which will be held in April, 2020 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.</p>	
30.	<p>The Council also requested the Republic of Turkey and the ECO-CCI/TOBB to explore the possibility of holding the <b>5th ECO Business Forum</b>.</p>	
31.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the <b>Second Phase of the Study on Trading Patterns in the ECO Region</b> is being carried out by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). The drafts of the Study have been circulated; and will be shared with the Member States once completed in early 2020. The Council urged the ECO Secretariat to ensure that the Study is completed as soon as possible so that Member States can use the result of the study and get maximum benefit from it.</p>	
32.	<p>The Council while highlighting 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 become members of the WTO through capacity building to align the trade policies and laws for regulatory reforms as per WTO requirements.</p>	
33.	<p>The Council requested the non-WTO ECO Member States to inform the ECO Secretariat if they are interested in any training workshop/seminar related to their accession to WTO, to explore possibility of holding it. 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 2020.</p>	

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34.	The Council appreciated the fresh offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the <b>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) in 2020</b> , and requested the Republic of Turkey to convey the date and venue of the meetings. The Council also requested the Member States to actively participate in these meetings for sustainability of the benefits of previous meetings and realization of the related goals stipulated in the ECO Vision 2025.	
35.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for setting up <b>the ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank</b> under the <b>Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</b> , in 2018 and holding its initial two meetings i.e. 26 February and 24 October 2018. The Council requested the Member States to fully cooperate with the Republic of Turkey for full operationalization of this institutional mechanism aiming to increase the governmental revenues.	
36.	The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that so far, four Member States i.e. the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Turkey and lately the Republic of the Azerbaijan have already ratified the <b>Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</b> . The Council requested the remaining signatories to expedite ratification of the referred Agreement. The Council requested the non-signatory Member States to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement for benefitting from this arrangement.	
37.	The ECO Secretariat informed that the draft text of the <b>Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters</b> was finalized in the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the <b>ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA)</b> . 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 opened for signatures.	

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38.	<p>The Secretariat while recalling the <b>8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA)</b> 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 its experiences on the themes such as Implementation of Common Transit Convention, e-TIR System, Simplified Procedures on Expedited Shipments, Customs Enforcement measures as well as 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, which have not provided yet the set of trainings to inform the Secretariat so as to conduct trainings on need basis.</p>	
39.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran to announce the <b>2nd Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)</b> in 2020, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of EDI for development of the system as per its mandate. The Council decided to merge this meeting with the <b>2nd Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)</b> to be held in Islamic Republic of Iran in 2020 largely on the pretext of similar/common agenda.</p>	
40.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the 233<sup>rd</sup> and 234<sup>th</sup> 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="380 1101 1562 1170">i. Expanding the mandate of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) to strengthen and develop trade among Member States and</li> <li data-bbox="380 1187 1562 1256">ii. Establishing an ECO Clearing Union to clear payments for the trade among the Member States.</li> </ul>	
41.	<p>Recalling the decisions of the 29<sup>th</sup> RPC, (para 41), the Secretariat requested the Member States to announce the meeting of <b>Experts Group on Banking and Financial Matters</b></p>	

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	<b>and Forming of ECO Clearing Union</b> in 2020 to discuss the said vital issues.	
42.	Recalling the relevant decision of the 24th COM, the Council encouraged the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) as the regional institution of ECO to continue to develop appropriate modalities, to finance and support the implementation of regional projects, and emphasized the need to further support the Bank through strengthening its role and expanding its Membership.	
43.	The Council requested ETDB to initiate to arrange the first <b>Regional Partnership Forum (RPF)</b> in 2020 in coordination with ECO Secretariat, and called upon the Member States to encourage their relevant national institutions and organizations to actively participate in the subject Forum, once it is announced.	
44.	Recalling the relevant decision of the 24th COM, the Council assigned the task to develop the Structure and Modalities of the ECO Vision Fund provided for under ECO Vision 2025 to the ECO Secretariat and, if appropriate, ECO Trade and Development Bank, with collaboration of relevant institutions.	
45.	The Secretariat informed that the nominations for the General Assembly of the <b>ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC)</b> stands completed. The Secretariat further shared that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had informed that prior to holding the meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of ERC, it is imperative that the required ground work and completion of formalities, including release/transfer of capital of ECO-ERC is required, to make it more successful and result-oriented. It was further shared that response from the Contracting Parties regarding release of paid-in capital or decision thereon is awaited. The Council requested the Contracting Parties to decide on release on paid-in capital to proceed on operationalization of the ECO Reinsurance Company.	
46.	The Council also invited the remaining Member States to consider joining this important ECO institutional arrangement i.e. the ECO Reinsurance Company in order to utilize its immense potential and role in furtherance of businesses and economic activities in the region.	

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47.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that <b>Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen</b> and the <b>Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States</b> has been signed by three Member States namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, however, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has also ratified the Agreement. The Council requested the Member States, which have not signed or ratified these legal texts, to sign/ratify for early implementation of the Agreement and complementing trade facilitation measures in the region.</p>	
48.	<p>The Secretariat recalled that the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the <b>First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States</b> number of times, latest on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 in Tehran, however, it could not be held due to inadequate participation. While appreciating its commitment, the Council requested the Member States to announce holding of this meeting in 2020 and also requested the Member States to actively participate in the Meeting once it is announced.</p>	
49.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the <b>"ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal"</b> has been developed on the main ECO Web-Site and the new address is <b><u>"www.eco.int/trade"</u></b>. The Council while appreciating the Secretariat for this valuable work recommended the Member States to use the Web Portal to the possible extent for their own benefit.</p>	
50.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that for the <b>ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</b>, 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 <b>ECO-CCI and National Chambers of ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</b>. The Council requested other Member States to impress upon their respective National Chambers of Commerce and Industry to provide information to be</p>	

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	included in the ECO Web Portal at the earliest convenience to promote trade in the region.	
51.	The Secretariat informed the Council that, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan partly, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey have already provided list of focal points in the relevant fields and these focal points have been placed on the <b>ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</b> . 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.	
52.	The Council expressed its agreement to the revised project titled “ <b>Study on Impediments in Implementation of ECO’s Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve</b> ”, prepared by the Secretariat. The Council also requested the Member States to cooperate with the Coordinator/ Team experts, within the project, who is required to visit the Member States to consult the relevant authorities and, among other things, ascertain their viewpoint for the study project.	
53.	The Council appreciated the project titled “ <b>Strengthening Cooperation amongst Public and Private Sectors in the ECO Region</b> ” and considered it useful in furtherance of trade and investment in the region and in line with the ECO Vision-2025.	
54.	The Council appreciated the project titled “ <b>Study of Forming ECO Clearing Union</b> ” and recommended to be carried out in 2020 for enhancing monetary cooperation in the ECO region.	
55.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's flagship document on “ <b>Leveraging the Economic Potential of ECO Region</b> ” and considered it a seminal work, which will be useful for Member States in identifying and realizing their trade potential in the ECO region, leading to enhanced intra-regional trade and regional integration.	
56.	The Secretariat informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed to hold a two-day meeting of the <b>National Development Funds</b> of the Member States and announced to	

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	<p>host this event in 2020 for exploring the possibility to "develop their economic, industrial and commercial policies and priorities in the ECO region in form of an investment strategy in order to identify areas of interest of each member", taking into the account the best practices of some Member States (Turkey, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan). The Council also appreciated the idea/forum of "First Meeting of heads of Economic Zone of Member States"</p>	
<b>B. SECTOR: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
	<p><b>I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: TTFA</b> <b>Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)</b></p>	
1.	<p>The <b>Council</b> re-iterated its request to Turkmenistan to ratify the TTFA and deposit Instruments of Ratification at ECO Secretariat while, at the same time, it suggested that Republic of Uzbekistan accelerate its accession procedures to the TTFA and, regularly update ECO Secretariat about measures undertaken, in this regard.</p>	
2.	<p>The <b>Council</b> while requesting the Member States to adhere to major international transport facilitation agreements/conventions suggested that a central focus in internationally harmonizing of activities during 2020 be on e-TIR, CMR and e-CMR in line with the arrangements reached by ECO Secretariat, UNECE, IRU and IsDB.</p>	
3.	<p>The <b>Council</b> requested the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for allocating the amount of US\$50,000 for the purposes of the implementation of planned activities under the TTFA during 2020.</p>	
4.	<p>The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Afghanistan Government for the information about the exact dates of the 10th Meeting of the Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and back-to-back meetings of the 10th TTCC Road Committee Meeting and 7th TTCC Customs Transit Committee Meeting scheduled to be held on 24-26 February 2020 in Kabul and requested the Member States to actively participate in the Meetings.</p>	

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5.	The <b>Council</b> noted that the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the ECO Member States has been scheduled for 2020. In this regard, the Council requested the Republic of Turkey to consider the possibilities for hosting this important event, so that the Secretariat will then coordinate subsequent arrangements, as scheduled.	
6.	The <b>Council</b> while acknowledging the need for updating the ECO Railway and Road Maps for public view, instructed the Secretariat to publish these maps at the earliest, and requested the Member States to provide the necessary inputs, in this regard.	
7.	<p><b>II. RAILWAY TRANSPORT</b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities/9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC in 2021 in Tehran.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Area priority No. 1:</b></p> <p><b><u>Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI Railway)</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> acknowledged the Secretariat's update on conclusions of the Inception meeting (10-11 April 2019, Tehran), which assigned clear tasks and deadlines between National Consultants, UNESCAP International Consultant, and Project Monitoring Unit of ECO Secretariat, under the Joint ECO-ESCAP-IsDB Study project on the commercialization of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) railway corridor.</p>	
9.	The <b>Council</b> recommended that the test run of trains on the KTI railway corridor be implemented in the 2nd quarter of 2020 as decided by the Inception Meeting. The ESCAP's Time/Cost Distance Methodology will be utilized for assessing the actual performance of the corridor.	
10.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to release the 1 <sup>st</sup> draft analytical report on the Study project on the commercialization of the KTI along with various options of the establishment of Common Management Mechanism (CMM) by February 2020. The Council further requested the Secretariat to coordinate with the en-route countries for organizing the validation meeting	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	in March 2020.	
11.	The <b>Council</b> recommended that, upon validation of results of the Study project on the commercialization of the KTI railway in March 2020, and the subsequent test run of the corridor based on its common corridor management mechanism (CMM), the KTI project's example be showcased for replicating it in other ECO's corridors as well.	
12.	<p><b>Area priority No. 2:</b>  <u><b>The Islamabad-Tehran –Istanbul (ITI) Container Train</b></u></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> noted the Secretariat's update on the implementation of the decision of the 10<sup>th</sup> High Level Working Group Meeting on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Container Train (20-21 August 2019, Ankara) about dispatching the ITI Container Train.</p>	
13.	The <b>Council</b> noted that all necessary preparations for dispatching the ITI Container Train have been fulfilled: (i) unified tariffs and additional charges agreed, (ii) time tables shared, (iii) infra-related issues considered in-depth, (iv) National Focal Points on each side assigned and mandated full authority for the operation of the ITI Container Train, and (v) the inquiries on commercial freight fully responded. To that effect, the <b>Council</b> recommended that the dispatch of the ITI Container Train be realized as soon as possible, to honor the decision of the 10 <sup>th</sup> High Level Working Group Meeting on ITI (20-21 August 2019, Ankara), after publicizing the dispatching of the train in mass media and also among business communities of the enroute countries. Just to avoid delaying the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to secure provision of necessary wagons to be reached at Zahedan on time.	
14.	The <b>Council</b> also requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to inform the Secretariat about the exact date and hospitality details of the 11 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on the ITI.	
15.	<p><b>Area Priority No. 3</b>  <u><b>ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty routes</b></u></p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	The <b>Council</b> took note of the Secretariat's update on the ECO Container Train along the aforementioned routes, highlighting that the Secretariat approached the Republic of Kazakhstan (country-of-destination) and the Republic of Turkey (country-of-origin) in 2019 requesting them to host the 2 <sup>nd</sup> High Level Working Group Meeting. The <b>Council</b> requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to consider hosting the subject Meeting during 2020 and inform the ECO Secretariat accordingly.	
16.	The <b>Council</b> noted the challenge being faced by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the course of dispatching Wagons to/from Kazakhstan and requested the en-route countries to organize bilateral negotiations to solve this problem. The <b>Council</b> also requested the ECO Secretariat for coordination.	
17.	<b>Area priority No. 4:</b> <b><u>Railway Project for the connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)</u></b> . The <b>Council</b> noted the enroute Member States' updates on the latest developments in the KTAI railway construction project in their respective territories. The I. R. of Iran informed the <b>Council</b> that the Shamtiq-Geno railway stretch will be completed in near future. The Council took note that the Iranian Railways has sent the rail operation instructions between Iran and Afghanistan for the comments and approval of the Afghanistan Railway authorities. In that regard, the <b>Council</b> appreciated the progress attained by Iran.	
18.	The <b>Council</b> re-iterated the 29 <sup>th</sup> RPC update regarding the pre-feasibility studies which have been completed in 2014; feasibility studies on the first phase of Kunduz-Sheberghan segment were completed in 2016; the feasibility study on Sheberghan-Herat (560km) segment were completed in 2019; on the Khaf-Herat segment (87km), the 43km rail stretch (funded by Afghan Government) was procured and construction has started; on the second 44km rail stretch (funded by Italian Government) the construction works is to be started in 2020.	
19.	The <b>Council</b> noted that from overall 496km section of KTAI in Tajikistan, construction of Vahdat-Yovon segment (40.7km) was completed; the 131km Vahdat-J.Balkhi railway line	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>was constructed; Tajikistan is now constructing the 51kms of the J.Balkhi-Nizhniy Panj railway in line with the information provided by the Republic of Tajikistan to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of ECO Railway Authorities/8<sup>th</sup> Railway Committee Meeting (20-21 June 2019, Dushanbe). While highlighting the importance of Tajikistan's construction works along this railway line, it was further updated that of the abovementioned segment, 42km stretch has already been constructed and commissioned for use. The <b>Council</b> was also informed by the Republic of Tajikistan about the signing of an agreement between the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan (30 December 2019) on construction of the Railway segment, the latter being as a part of this railway project.</p>	
20.	<p>The <b>Council</b> encouraged the enroute countries of the KTAI railway to exert all effort to complete the "missing links" in their relevant segments.</p>	
21.	<p>The <b>Council</b> requested the Kyrgyz Republic to update the ECO Secretariat about any development on construction of KTAI railway route in their territory. The Council also highlighted the importance of involvement of China in KTAI railway project.</p>	
22.	<p>The <b>Council</b> appreciated early offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the Ministerial Meeting on KTAI railway project on 5-6 November 2019, which due to overlap in timing with ECO's other events was suggested for rescheduling. The <b>Council</b> also requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to inform the Secretariat about the exact date and hospitality details of the Ministerial Meeting on the KTAI railway project. The <b>Council</b> also requested the ECO Secretariat to contact relevant authorities of the Government of Peoples Republic of China for their participation in this important meeting.</p>	
23.	<p>The <b>Council</b> acknowledged that the funds-targeting project proposal relating to KTAI railway project has been brought to the attention of the 24<sup>th</sup> COM (8-9 November 2019, Antalya). The above-reported project was thus restructured to explore financing resources for KTAI.</p>	
24.	<p><b>Area Priority No. 5:</b>  <u><b>Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Route</b></u>  The <b>Council</b> expressed its appreciation that the Qazvin-Rasht railway segment of the project</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	has been inaugurated on 6 March 2019.	
25.	The <b>Council</b> pointed out the effectiveness of the project's shuttle-type meetings enabling frequent exchange of operational information on issues requiring prompt attention of project parties. In that regard, the <b>Council</b> noted with satisfaction the recent outcomes of the 5 <sup>th</sup> High Level Working Group Meeting on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan), which realized on 17 December 2019 in Tehran, hosted by Iranian Railway Authority.	
26.	The <b>Council</b> noted with appreciation that the 9km double track railway stretch under the project's Rasht-Astara segment has already been laid down and land acquisition along the Rasht-Astara segment has timely been started.	
27.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to inform the Secretariat about the date/venue of the 6 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) to be held, preferably, in the second half of 2020.	
28.	<p><b>III. ROAD TRANSPORT</b></p> <p><b>Area priority No.1:</b></p> <p><b><u>ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan- Afghanistan- Iran (KTAI) and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) routes</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> acknowledged the Secretariat's update on the Study project's findings of which final reports have been presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on KTAI and 5<sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on ITI road corridors on 25-26 November 2019 in Tehran whence they were approved, with amendments, along with the Annexes containing Action Plan, Visa Pilot Scheme, and a set of recommendations.</p>	
29.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route countries for immediate implementation of the Action Plan approved by the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> HLWGMs on KTAI and ITI road corridors and noted that the Action Plan will "serve as a framework for systematic monitoring".	
30.	The <b>Council</b> instructed ECO Secretariat to organize, in close coordination with enroute	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	countries and IRU, the test run of loaded trucks under TIR carnets on both, the ITI and the KTAI road corridors, in the first half of 2020, as per the relevant decisions approved by the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meetings on KTAI and ITI (25-26 November 2019, Tehran).	
31.	The <b>Council</b> recommended that, in the post project phase, digital TIR-IT tools be introduced in Afghanistan, Tajikistan while the Turkey-Iran e-TIR pilot project be expanded to all TIR customs and transport operators whilst Pakistan would join in.	
32.	The <b>Council</b> instructed ECO Secretariat to follow up with the UNECE and IsDB for organizing the regional workshops on e-TIR and e-CMR, proposed to be held in Tajikistan, for all ECO countries and the national workshop on CMR for Afghanistan, to be held in 2020.	
33.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Republic of Turkey's offer for holding the training programs on e-TIR based on the requests from the interested Member States. The <b>Council</b> requested the ECO Secretariat for necessary coordination in this regard.	
34.	The <b>Council</b> requested I. Republic of Afghanistan to expedite measures to accede to Conventions on "Road Traffic", "Road Signs and Signals" (1968), and CMR (1956) and its Protocols.	
35.	The <b>Council</b> re-iterated its 28 <sup>th</sup> RPC recommendation that the ITI en-route Member States convene a Special Meeting on Insurance to discuss the possibilities of establishing the Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability (MVTPL) insurance (White Card) scheme to be initially implemented for ITI road corridor, and recommended that the event be soon realized. The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the enroute ITI countries for hosting the meeting in 2020.	
36.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to coordinate the exact date and hospitality details of the 6 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on ITI road corridor in Turkey and the 5 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on KTAI road corridor in Tajikistan in 2020.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
37.	<p><b>Area priority No. 2:</b>  <u><b>Facilitation of border crossing procedures</b></u></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> re-iterated the Secretariat's update on the implementation of the 5-year Action Plan for the modernization of customs border crossing points of ECO Member States. In this regard, the <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to keep the Secretariat informed of progress in their customs improvements at their relevant border crossing points (BCPs) as per the provisions of the Action Plan.</p>	
38.	<p>The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States that are interested in the modernization of their Border Crossing Points, to convey to the Secretariat the shortlist of at least two BCPs requiring the modernization. For attracting investments of interested private companies, those BCPs should be of regional significance and avail of adequate potential for the transit of volumes of goods.</p>	
39.	<p>The <b>Council</b> suggested that Member States put forward their proposals for hosting the workshops and training courses in 2020 on Customs Transit and field visits of their BCPs, in line with recommendation (8) of the Turkmenbashi Declaration (3 May 2018).</p>	
40.	<p><b>Priority area No. 3:</b>  <u><b>“Joint ISDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems-GIS”</b></u></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> took note of the Secretariat's update on the joint ECO-UNECE-IsDB Project on GIS, mandated by the 13<sup>th</sup> Heads of Railways/7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Railway Committee of TTCC (17-18 April 2017, Baku).</p>	
41.	<p>The <b>Council</b> also acknowledged that inputs of Member States are currently being finalized whilst the project's first stage completion whence it will proceed on to the next phase, i.e. “Benchmarking of Infrastructure Construction Costs”. In this regard, the <b>Council</b> requested Turkmenistan to confirm the nomination of its respective National Focal Point/Consultant for the GIS project, at the earliest, and also, it requested other Member States to update the information of their respective National Focal Points/Consultants, to enable further progress</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	on the project. The <b>Council</b> noted that benchmarking questionnaires have been simplified for ease of processing.	
42.	The <b>Council</b> took note that the two training workshops for the Focal Points/National Consultants in frame of the GIS project will be conducted in 2020 under the IsDB financing, one in the first quarter whereas the other by mid-2020, as per the UNECE's offer and, in that regard, <u>requested</u> the Member States to ensure their respective National Focal Points' participation in these events.	
43.	<p><b>Area priority No.4:</b>  <b><u>“ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers”</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b>, while acknowledging slow progress on visa facilitation, has supported, in principle, the general concept of the “Visa Pilot Scheme” for the KTAI and ITI road corridors. In this regard, the <b>Council</b> pointed out that the above-referred scheme is in line with Article 12 of TTFA, stipulating visa facilitation to professional drivers performing international carriage of goods and, as such, was approved by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> HLWG Meetings on KTAI and ITI (25-26 November 2019, Tehran). The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to send their views on the “Visa Pilot Scheme” to the ECO Secretariat, latest by end of February 2020.</p>	
44.	The <b>Council</b> recommended the “Visa Pilot Scheme” for practicing in en-route KTAI and ITI countries during 2020 along with their existing visa procedures. If successful, the scheme will be extended to other ECO Member States as well. Further, the Council called for an immediate meeting of consular sections of the embassies of the ITI and KTAI en-route countries in Tehran to elaborate on this issue, in detail.	
45.	<p><b>Area priority No.5:</b>  <b><u>ECO Logistics Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> re-iterated its request posted at the 29<sup>th</sup> RPC to the Member States interested in joining the ECOLPAF to expedite conveying requisite registration documents to UTIKAD</p>	

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	and ECO Secretariat, at the earliest possible.	
46.	The <b>Council</b> reminded that the aforementioned registration documents were submitted by Pakistan and Turkey; Iran is in its final process for finalizing the requested documents; Azerbaijan is not interested to join ECOLPAF. The <b>Council</b> requested the Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to share their updated documents. The <b>Council</b> requested the remaining Member States to forward their registration documents directly to UTIKAD's Office, in Turkey, with a copy to ECO Secretariat.	
47.	The <b>Council</b> re-iterated its recommendation reflected in the 29 <sup>th</sup> RPC Work Program that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, upon completion of registration procedures by UTIKAD, would host the first General Assembly meeting of ECOLPAF, in Karachi.	
48.	<p><b>IV. MARITIME COOPERATION</b></p> <p><b>Area priority No. 1:</b></p> <p>1) <b><u>“Establishment of a common gateway among ECO countries – ECO Gate”</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> took note that the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Transport (1-3 May 2018, Turkmenbashi) mandated the Secretariat to explore ways and means of complementary linking ECO's sea ports with ECO's dry ports to improve port facilities/services for transit and to modernize existing terminals in the region in order to help ECO's landlocked countries in their accessing international deep water sea outlets (recommendations 9-10, Turkmenbashi Declaration).</p>	
49.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to coordinate the exact dates and hospitality details of the subsequent 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of Reference Maritime Organization of ECO Member States in Turkmenistan.	
50.	The <b>Council</b> acknowledged that the 24 <sup>th</sup> ECO Council of Ministers Meeting (8-9 November 2019, Antalya) was informed about the project proposal titled “Establishment of a common gateway among ECO countries – ECO Gate” and, in that regard, the <b>Council</b> instructed the Secretariat to fulfill the study by Expert Consultant and ensure the timely implementation of	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	the aforementioned within 6 months from the CPR's approval.	
51.	<p><b>V. CIVIL AVIATION</b></p> <p><b>Area priority No.1:</b></p> <p><b><u>“Encouragement and promotion of combined and multimodal transport”</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> took note that the Senior Officials Meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport (1-3 May 2018, Turkmenbashi) suggested that: (i) a Working Group on civil aviation be set up, (ii) an assessment of regional civil aviation be prepared, and (iii) the MoU on Civil Aviation Cooperation be drafted.</p>	
52.	The <b>Council</b> acknowledged that the assessment report on regional civil aviation has been prepared by ECO Secretariat for feedback of Member States to then serve as a supplement to the background materials for future discussions by the Working Group.	
53.	The <b>Council</b> instructed ECO Secretariat to arrange the Meeting of the Working Group on Civil Aviation in 2020 and, in that regard, re-circulate the previously drafted text of MoU, for Member States' views/comments, before the first meeting of the working group.	
54.	The <b>Council</b> welcomed the suggestion of the ECO Secretariat for holding a High Level Meeting of private airlines in ECO Region in 2020.	
55.	<p><b>VI. COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>Area priority No. 1:</b></p> <p><b><u>“Development of Information Society in the ECO region”</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> took note of the Secretariat's update on outcomes of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on ICT (13-14 December 2017, Baku) that endorsed the 2025 ECO Regional Strategy on Information Society Development and its relevant Action Plan, which were circulated for the Member States' feedback. The <b>Council</b> requested the concerned authorities of the Member</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	States to expedite the provision of their views on the revised text of the Strategy.	
56.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to approach the CPR to provide the adequate financing for organizing the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on ICT in 2020 as per the mandate extended by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT.	
57.	The <b>Council</b> noted the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, proposing ECO Member States to develop a regional fiber optic network through connecting their national fiber optic networks to each other. The Council recommended that the Issue be discussed in meeting of the Working group on ICT.	
58.	<p><b>VII. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in strengthening cooperation with Regional/International Organizations, including IsDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU, UIC, OSJD, ITU, AIIF, OTIF, CAREC/ADB and others, to seek expertise and financial/technical assistance for advancing ECO's mandated projects and, in that regard, further encouraged the Secretariat to keep such effort further up.</p>	
59.	<p><b><u>TC project proposals proposed for implementation in 2020</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Council</b> took note of the Secretariat's update on the four new project proposals of which the 24<sup>th</sup> ECO Council of Ministers Meeting were fully informed (8-9 November 2019, Antalya) and acknowledged that four projects were reflected in concluding documents of ECO's high level decision making body as hereafter listed: (1) "Establishment of a common gateway among ECO countries – ECO Gate" (Maritime); (2) "ITI: Resumption of regular operation of the ITI Container Train" (Rail); (3) "Integration of feasibility studies on the construction of KTAI's segments in en-route countries with the aim of ensuring adequate financing for the remaining segments" (Infrastructure); (4) "Assessment of developing economic corridors along ECO's main transit transport routes" (Corridor Development), and in that regard, the <b>Council</b> recommended the above for non-delayed implementation.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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**C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERAL AND ENVIRONMENT**

**General Provisions**

1.	The Council reaffirmed that strengthening energy cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels is critical to address unique challenges, promote energy innovation, investment and connectivity, as well as enhance capacity building, south-south cooperation and synergetic actions to advance energy, climate change, environment and others simultaneously.	
2.	The Council recognized and appreciated the steady efforts for mainstreaming the sustainable energy and regional electricity market in the overall energy agenda of ECO in pursuance of “ECO Vision 2025”, as well as the recent global and regional energy trends and developments. This regional focus was manifested in development of two flagship energy projects of ECO, namely the Establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market and Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre. The Council also emphasized the importance of streamlining the environmental agenda of ECO to the needs and aspirations of the ECO Member States via multiple nexus approach and enhanced international outreach.	
3.	The Council called upon the ECO Secretariat and the Member States to jointly implement the Work Programme for 2020 as follows:	

**Energy**

**Priority Area 1: ECO Strategy/Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation**

4.	The Secretariat will undergo the process of development of the fundamentally new ECO Strategy / Plan of Action (PoA) on Energy Cooperation for the next multi-year period. The subject Plan of Action/Strategy will reflect on the achievements and shortcomings of the existing PoA, “ECO Vision 2025”, as well as the trending UN 2030 Agenda with the emphasis on the relevant SDGs. The new Strategy/ PoA will be mapped out in a cohesive and integrated manner sought to focus on such key interlinked components as, sustainable	
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Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	energy, energy security, regional electricity markets, energy innovation and technologies, energy access, downstream energy and others. The new PoA/Strategy is expected to be adopted at the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy.	
5.	The Council reiterated the importance of organizing the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy in 2020. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its willingness to host the subject meeting in June 2020 in Tehran. This Ministerial is sought to provide a suitable timely decision-making platform for advancement of ECO's energy agenda with the strong focus on sustainable energy and electricity. The Secretariat will coordinate with the Member States the date of the next Ministerial Meeting on Energy. The Member States are requested to participate at the Ministerial Meeting in the highest possible level.	
6.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 5 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy in 2021. The consideration and adoption of the ECO Plan of Action/Strategy on Energy Cooperation will be set as overarching topics and major expected outcomes of the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meetings on Energy.	
7.	The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness to host the 4 <sup>th</sup> High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Energy, which will act as the Senior Officials Meeting, and be held in conjunction with the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy in June 2020 in Tehran. The 4 <sup>th</sup> HLEG Meeting is expected to provide the renewed impetus and momentum to the energy cooperation within ECO, notably in terms of promoting ECO's key energy projects on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO REM) and ECO Clean Energy Centre as well as the new avenues for partnerships. The 4 <sup>th</sup> HLEG Meeting may, <i>inter alia</i> , map out the sustainable energy and electricity-related components of the new multi-year ECO PoA/Strategy on Energy Cooperation, and make preparations for the next Ministerial Meetings on Energy.	
<b>Priority Area 2: Sustainable Energy Transition and Establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre</b>		
8.	The Council welcomed the steady progress in advancement of the Project of establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) in view of the launching and recent implementation of its Preparatory Phase. The subject project represents an explicit endeavour to contribute to	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	sustainable energy transition in the ECO Region.	
9.	The Member States will render their utmost support and exert proactive efforts for successful implementation and proceedings of the Preparatory Phase of the Project of establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre. Notably, the Member States will provide their feedbacks to the Baseline and Needs Assessment (BNA) Report in due course. Further on, they will actively participate at and contribute to the outcome of the Joint ECO-UNIDO Regional Validation Meeting on the Feasibility Study, to be elaborated within the Preparatory Phase, proposed to be organized on 10-11 March 2020.	
10.	The Secretariat will continue its strong engagement with the Member States, the project partners and other potential international stakeholders to finalize the implementation of the Preparatory Phase of the Project of establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre, which would enable to map out and step forward to the next – 1 <sup>st</sup> Operational Phase of the Project.	
11.	The Council mandated the Secretariat to continue working closely with UNIDO and other relevant international partners for supporting the sustainable energy transition in the ECO Region. UNIDO may be invited to the relevant ECO policy-making and sectoral energy events (Energy Ministerial, HLEG on Energy, Experts Group Meeting on Renewable Energy Sources etc.).	
12.	The Council appreciated the nomination of the Project of establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) to the “Energy Globe Award 2020” – the renowned worldwide environmental award, as an outstanding best practice sustainable project.	
13.	The Council noted with satisfaction the joining of ECO, as a new member, the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) at the 4 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of GN-SEC. This network is being run within UNIDO and “Sustainable Energy for All” Initiative.	
14.	The Council recognized that ECO Experts Group on Renewable Energy Sources (EGRES) could gain renewed momentum in view of mainstreaming sustainable energy in ECO energy agenda and ongoing development of the Project of establishment of ECO Clean Energy	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Centre. The 4 <sup>th</sup> EGRES Meeting is expected to be held on 12 March 2020 back-to-back with the Regional Validation Meeting. The Member States will actively attend and contribute to the aforementioned events.	
15.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will confirm hosting the 1 <sup>st</sup> ECO Working Group Meeting on Joint Investment in Construction of Renewable Energy Power Plants/Projects to be organized in 2020, and convey its date(s), venue and hospitality format in due course.	
16.	The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will provide the Secretariat with comprehensive description of its proposal pertaining to the establishment of Virtual University Network (VUN) on Renewable Energy among the relevant academic circles and research institutions of the Member States, which would contribute to awareness raising and knowledge sharing. This issue could be raised during the 4 <sup>th</sup> EGRES Meeting.	
17.	The Secretariat will double its efforts to pursue the building up the diverse and resilient energy architecture in the ECO Region, transition to clean and sustainable energy by promoting renewable and energy efficiency agendas in the ECO Region. One of the prospective project proposals to promote renewable energy cooperation in the ECO Region could be the “Feasibility Study on Manufacturing and Marketing Opportunities for Promotion of the Sustainable and Advanced Phase Change Material-based Renewable Energy Technologies (ECO-PCM)”, which is under development by the ECO Secretariat and will be submitted for the views and comments of the Member States in due course.	
18.	The Secretariat will strive for the enhanced interaction with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in the light of the ongoing prioritization of sustainable energy in ECO’s energy agenda. 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. In the meantime, ECO Member States will mobilize their utmost efforts to advocate the above-mentioned initiatives with IRENA. The IRENA representatives may be	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	invited to the relevant sectoral energy events of ECO.	
<b>Priority Area 3: Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market</b>		
19.	The Council reiterated the crucial role of promotion of electricity trade in the ECO Region and alignment towards the regional electricity market in consolidation of the long-term regional energy sustainability. In this rationale, the Council called upon the Member States to revive their collaboration within the Project on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM).	
20.	The Council called upon the Member States to approve the Terms of Reference (ToR) for hiring international and local consultants for preparation of a Feasibility Study on establishment of ECO-REM as soon as possible with a view to promote the ECO-REM Project. The Council encouraged the Secretariat to undertake continuous steps for advancement of the Project in parallel, both in bilateral and multilateral platforms as well as through stimulating capacity building activities jointly with the International Energy Charter on the relevant international experience.	
21.	The Republic of Tajikistan will expedite providing with the date(s), venue and hospitality details for hosting the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Experts Meeting on establishment of the ECO-REM, to be organized in the first half of 2020. The subject meeting is sought to develop alternative mechanisms for speeding up the launching of ECO-REM and define its future roadmap. The Member States will actively participate at the meeting and extend their invaluable contribution to its outcome.	
22.	The Republic of Turkey will expedite providing with its views and comments on the draft “Terms of Reference (ToR) for hiring international and local consultants for preparation of a Feasibility Study on establishment of ECO-REM”.	
23.	The Secretariat will convene the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Iran-Turkey Bilateral Meeting at the managerial level upon consultation with both Member States. The date(s) of this meeting may be announced subject to the prior readiness of the concerned Member States to attend it. The Terms of	

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	Reference (ToR) for hiring international and local consultants for preparation of a Feasibility Study on establishment of ECO-REM is expected to be approved at either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Iran-Turkey Bilateral Meeting or the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Experts Meeting on establishment of the ECO-REM (see para 21 of (C) Sector).	
24.	The Secretariat will announce the date(s) of the Joint ECO – Energy Charter Capacity Building Workshop on “Perspectives and Challenges of Regional Electricity Markets: Harnessing Trade and Investment Opportunities”, upon consultation with the Energy Charter. The subject Workshop targets on providing a forum to brainstorm the best practices and lessons learnt on integration of electricity markets across the globe with a view to capture successful models.	
25.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will organize the Training Course devoted to electricity energy, to be hosted by Khorasan Regional Electricity Company of Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC) in Mashhad, I.R. Iran in the course of 2020.	
26.	The Member States and Secretariat will rigorously follow up the launching and implementation of the ECO-REM Project as well as its consistent uptake in the ECO agenda as an ECO’s flagship energy project.	
27.	The Council reaffirmed the importance of involvement of the Energy Charter in the Project on establishment of ECO-REM via a consortium for joint coordination of this project based on the previous experiences of this IGO. The Secretariat will continue its efforts for mobilizing technical and financial support to the ECO-REM Project.	
28.	The Secretariat will pursue 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. The Energy Charter may be invited to participate in the relevant ECO policy-making and sectoral energy events.	



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<b><i>Other priorities/activities</i></b>		
29.	The Council encouraged the Member States to employ the existing formats and platforms within the ECO framework for unlocking partnership opportunities in hydrocarbons and enhancement of ECO cooperation in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals. The Member States and the Secretariat are expected to generate certain ideas/initiatives on how to best streamline oil and gas cooperation within ECO and re-assess the Organization's niche in the complicated energy architecture of the ECO Region.	
30.	The Council recommended merging the following two key platforms of downstream sector cooperation in the ECO framework: Meetings of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies, and the Meetings on establishment of ECO Refinery Association (ERA). This merger targets on enhancement of their impact and streamlining similar activities.	
31.	The Islamic Republic of Iran or any other volunteer Member State is sought to consider and resolve on the possibility of hosting the combined meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies, and establishment of ECO Refinery Association (ERA) from 2020 onwards. This combined meeting would encompass both petrochemical and refinery agendas with participation of all relevant stakeholders. The Member States will ensure high-level participation at the subject meeting and extend their invaluable contribution to its outcome.	
32.	The Member States (except Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan) will expedite transmitting their views and comments on the draft "Roadmap for Establishment of the ECO Energy Consortium" through official channels in 2020 with a view to following up implementation of the key outcomes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies (16-17 August 2016, Tehran).	
33.	The Council welcomed the initiative of establishment of the ECO regional network of research institutions/centres and think tanks operating in the field of energy studies and convening its first meeting. The network may provide a platform for the Member States to share their	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	experiences, conduct the state-of-the-art analyses of global and regional trends in order to contribute to the energy decision and policy-making within ECO. The Islamic Republic of Iran will confirm the date(s), venue and hospitality format for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ECO regional network of research institutions/centres and think tanks operating in the field of energy studies, to be organized in the first half of 2020.	
34.	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 Member States in 2020, which proved to be useful in terms of capacity building, information sharing and networking among the relevant authorities of the Member States.	
35.	The Member States will present/update the particulars of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in the field of Energy/Petroleum, Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and ECO-REM on regular basis so that to ensure better coordination and facilitate effective communications between the Secretariat and the national stakeholders.	
36.	The Member States (which have not done so) will provide the Secretariat with duly filled-in Country Reports/Questionnaires on Renewable Energy Sources.	
37.	The Secretariat will continue collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for the Latter's involvement in the ECO's key energy projects with its technical and financial support, notably (but not limited with) the Project on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM). The representative of IsDB may be engaged in the process and invited to the relevant sectoral energy events.	
38.	The Secretariat will continue its interactions with OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in order to build institutional collaboration and involve the Latter in the energy-related ECO projects with special focus on energy access and energy poverty eradication.	
39.	The Secretariat will continue its interactions with ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) for identifying the issues of common interest and the Latter's involvement in the CECECO Project and other sustainable energy-related activities.	

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<b>Minerals</b>		
<b><i>Priority Area 1: Streamlining the project-oriented cooperation in the field of minerals</i></b>		
40.	The Member States will consider the possibilities for increasing the economic competitiveness and sustainability of mineral sector in the ECO Region, <i>inter alia</i> via consolidation of production and distribution chain at the regional level. Given the cross-sectoral nature of the minerals sector, these possibilities will envisage the establishment of solid connectivity and transportation networks for minerals trade among the ECO Member States and beyond.	
41.	The Council noted with satisfaction the outcomes of the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Geomatics Committee Meeting, both of which pursued the project-oriented agendas in the corresponding fields of cooperation.	
42.	The Member States have so far expressed their interest in collaborating within the above-mentioned platforms, which led to formulating their comprehensive agendas. In this vein, the Member States will play a proactive role in providing the necessary inputs for advancement of these agendas.	
43.	The Member States and the Secretariat will continue following up in true spirit the implementation of outcome decisions and recommendations of the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM), held on 5-7 August 2018, in Sanandaj, I.R. Iran. The proceedings and outcomes of the 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO MEGMs were tangible in view of the initiation of several project initiatives in the minerals field, which are under consideration by the Member States.	
44.	The Member States resolved to start the procedures for launching the Project on Preparation of Eco-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI). In this vein, all Member States will render their utmost support to launching and efficient implementation of the subject project, which targets on evaluation of ecological qualities of environment across the ECO Region through collaborative efforts of the Member States. The initiator country together with the Secretariat may wish to appeal one of the next CPR	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	meetings for consideration of allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the ECO-EQI Project.	
45.	The Member States (except Iran (initiator), Pakistan and Tajikistan) will expedite providing the Secretariat with their views and comments on the Concept Paper of the Project Proposal on Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia. The subject map aims at opening a new way in prediction of earthquakes and mineral exploration. The launching of this project needs for participation and collaboration of a greater number of the 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.	
46.	The Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) will provide with comprehensive Concept Papers on its proposals presented at the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, namely, Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) of the ECO Region; and Geochemical Exploration of Precious and Industrial Minerals in Desert Lands in the ECO Region for further consideration of the ECO Member States.	
47.	The Secretariat will follow up in due course with the volunteer Member States organizing the 8 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting in 2020/2021, subject to advancement of the relevant project proposals outlined in Paragraphs 46-48 hereinabove.	
<b><i>Other activities/capacity-building efforts</i></b>		
48.	The Secretariat will follow up in due course with the interested Member States the hosting of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Geomatics Committee in 2020/2021, subject to the needs of the Member States and progress in ongoing activities in the field of geomatics. The Member States and the Secretariat will continue following up in true spirit the implementation of outcome decisions and recommendations of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Geomatics Committee Meeting, held on 27-28 August 2018 in Tehran.	
49.	The Member States will cooperate with the Secretary of the ECO Geomatics Committee, who will assume this position till the next ECO Geomatics Committee meeting, and ECO Secretariat for implementation of the decisions of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	and Mapping Organizations, and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Geomatics Committee Meeting.	
50.	The Secretariat will coordinate with a volunteer Member State(s) the hosting of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations in 2020/2021 upon the willingness of the Member States and progress in ongoing activities in the field of surveying and mapping.	
51.	The National Cartographic Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran will propose the (new) dates for the Training Course on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) under the title "Reference Frames and GNSS Data Processing", as well as other capacity building activities, expected to be held in 2020.	
52.	The Islamic Republic of Pakistan will announce in consultation with the ECO Secretariat the exact title, dates, venue, hospitality format, programme and other corresponding documents of the capacity building training course on geomatics, which is going to be hosted in pursuance of the list approved by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee.	
53.	The volunteer Member States will offer hosting/co-hosting the training courses for capacity building and sharing best practices in the ECO Region on various pertinent topics, such as Spatial Data Infrastructure; Scientific GNSS Data Processing; Local Geodetic Datum; Regional Deformation Study of the Earth; Orthophoto Generation; Cadastral, and Cartographic Maps and Atlas Production. The interested Member States will communicate to the Secretariat the exact titles, dates, venues, programmes and other corresponding documents in due course.	
54.	The Member States will provide the Secretariat with the requisite information on the ECO Economic Atlas, ECO Geomatics Journal, ECO Geomatics Committee, and working groups agreed upon at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Geomatics Committee Meeting.	
55.	The Member States will regularly present/update the particulars of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in minerals, ECO Geomatics Committee and ECO Economic Atlas with a view to enhance coordination as well as effective dialogue and feedback mechanism between the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Secretariat and the national stakeholders.	
<b>Environment</b>		
<b><i>Priority Area 1: Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming in the ECO Region</i></b>		
56.	The Council reiterated the importance of the decision of the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (December 2014, Istanbul) on designation of 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.	
57.	The Council took note that the implementation of the “Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2016-2020)” and the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)” is on the verge of finalization.	
58.	The Council called for a need in revisiting/revising the subject Framework Plan of Action (FPA) in pursuance of “ECO Vision 2025”, recent global and regional environmental trends, 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 subject FPA serves a policy framework for the Organization’s all-inclusive cooperation in different fields/segments of environment.	
59.	The revisited Work Plan of Biodiversity could be incorporated to the new/revised Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States as its integral component. The Secretariat will submit its proposal on the revised/new FPA prior to the relevant sectoral decision-making body, i.e. Ministerial Meeting/Working Group Meeting on Environment.	
60.	Upon the revision and adoption of the new FPA, the Secretariat will update/revise the Project Profile for preparation of a regional program for implementation of this FPA accordingly. This project profile will target on translation of the new FPA into national and regional projects through the above-mentioned regional programme with particular focus on climate	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	action/cooperation among the Member States.	
61.	Following the endorsement of the Project Profile, referred in the last paragraph hereinabove, the allocation of the remaining 200000USD for launching a regional program for implementation of the new FPA by the Member States or available international funds will be considered. The Secretariat has already allocated 50000USD from the ECO Feasibility Studies and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) as per the decision of the 169 <sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting (20 July 2011).	
62.	The ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) will cooperate with the Secretariat in preparation of the Project Profile, referred in the last paragraph hereinabove, as well as in launching a regional program for implementation of the new FPA. The multilateral project contract with participation of ECO-IEST could be drafted after allocation of the remaining amount of 200000USD.	
63.	The Member States will regularly provide the Secretariat with their annual National Progress Reports (NPRs) on Environment in the first quarter of each calendar year.	
64.	The Member States (except Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Turkey) will expedite providing the Secretariat with their national Adaptation Programmes. It will enable the ECO Secretariat to work out in collaboration with the ECO-IEST in drafting proposal for developing ECO Regional Adaptation Programme (ERAP), which could be an integral part of a regional program for implementation of the new FPA as well.	
65.	The Secretariat will follow up in due course with the volunteer Member State(s) organizing of the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment in 2021 subject to the needs of the Member States and advancement of the environmental agenda of ECO. The 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment is expected to be held back-to-back with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Experts Meeting on Climate Change and Biodiversity.	
66.	The Secretariat will follow up with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the organization of the ECO-UNEP Inception Workshop on modalities of the First State of	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Environment (SoE) Report for ECO Region, to be held in the course of 2020. The outcomes of this workshop will enable the elaboration of the most appropriate outline/format for ECO SoE Report (based on UNEP Live Model). In future, the Preparation of the subject SoE Report for the ECO Region in cooperation with UNEP could constitute an integral component of a regional program for implementation of the new FPA.	
<b>Priority Area 2: Launching and implementation of ECO LandCare Programme</b>		
67.	The Republic of Turkey will host in the third quarter of 2020 the Workshop on Development of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storms. The dates, venue, format of hospitality and tentative programme of the workshop will be transmitted at the earliest.	
68.	Following the Workshop referred in the paragraph 67 hereinabove, the ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the ECO-IEST (as the project manager) will take further steps for launching of the 1 <sup>st</sup> phase of the ECO LandCare Programme, as an outcome of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm. 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 Member States are encouraged to be involved in this flagship collaborative program of ECO in the field of environment.	
69.	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.	
<b>Priority Area 3: Addressing serious threats to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems in the ECO Region</b>		
70.	The Secretariat will develop the strong biodiversity component, to be incorporated to the new/revised Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States for the next multi-year period. This integration will consequently	



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	streamline ECO environmental activities within one framework document in a coherent and cohesive manner addressing the nexus approach among multiple cross-cutting components of environmental cooperation.	
71.	The relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey will periodically share on their activities undertaken for the follow up and implementation of the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)” as the Coordinating Country of this Work Plan.	
72.	The volunteer Member State(s) will transmit the date(s), venue and hospitality details of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity, to be held in 2020/2021. The Meeting will review and deliberate on the way forward in view of the completion of the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)” and modalities for enhancement of regional cooperation on biodiversity. The subject meeting, as well as the biodiversity-related meetings in Turkey and Iran in 2020 included in the ECO Calendar of Events for 2020 may complete the Work Plan in an efficient manner accomplishing its goals.	
73.	The Republic of Turkey will communicate the date(s), venue and format of hospitality for the Meeting on Sustainable Pastoralism, to be held back-to-back with the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pre-COP Meeting on Biodiversity in the course of 2020.	
74.	The Islamic Republic of Iran will convey the date(s), venue and format of hospitality of the Experts Meeting on Conservation of Fauna and Flora in the ECO Region, to be held in the course of 2020.	
75.	The Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot State will co-host the Biodiversity Workshops during the “Biodiversity Week” between 8 and 11 June 2020 in the Turkish Cypriot State. Notably, this event will comprise the Second ECO Workshop for capacity building and best practices on biodiversity issues; Workshop on Protected Areas Systems; and Workshop on Ecosystem Services. These events will be held in pursuance of one of the major principles of the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)” stipulating the development of capacity building and public awareness programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at national and regional levels.	

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76.	The Secretariat will continue its interactions with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) with a view to expand mutual partnerships and seek UNCBD's technical support in fund raising for ECO projects, implementation of the "Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)", and organizing capacity building workshops for the ECO Member States.	
77.	The Secretariat in cooperation with the Member States will continue its efforts and activities towards ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, access to genetic resources, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization across the ECO Region; as well as promoting technology transfer, capacity building and enhanced cooperation in conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity at the national and regional levels.	
78.	The Member States will nominate/update the particulars of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Biodiversity for enhanced communication and proper implementation of the activities envisaged within the "Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)". The Member States will also nominate/update the particulars of their NFPs in the relevant fields of environment, including climate change, forests, desertification and others.	
<b>Priority Area 4: Cooperation with the environment-related international organizations/entities/instruments</b>		
79.	The Secretariat will follow up its interaction with UNEP aimed at revisiting the existing MoU on Cooperation between ECO and UNEP for the enhanced mutual partnerships. 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 (AF), Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) and other global environmental instruments.	
80.	The Secretariat will continue to enhance cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and other forest-related regional, sub-regional organizations and processes for soliciting technical and financial support to preparation of an ECO Regional Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management, organization of capacity building workshops for the Member	

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	States on developing relevant action plans and enhancing its visibility in forest-related issues. The Preparation of an ECO Regional Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management will represent one of the key constituents of a regional program for implementation of the new FPA.	
81.	The Secretariat will double its efforts for 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.	
82.	In pursuance of the ECO Regional Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management, and ECO cooperation with the UNFF and other forest-related entities to achieve the Global Forest Goals, the Council welcomed and supported the campaign called “Breath for the Future” or “11/11” initiated by the Republic of Turkey, which provided 11 million saplings together with soil on 11 November 2019 and invited all the Member States to cooperate with Turkey for promotion of this campaign across ECO Region.	
<b>D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY</b>		
<b>Agriculture</b>		
1.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in Baku on December 4, 2019.	
2.	The Council while appreciating the Republic of Uzbekistan for offering to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in 2020, urged the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.	
3.	The Council decided to establish a dialogue forum to increase partnerships and assistance, through joint programmes with all stakeholders the promotion of coordinated action to increase synergy in regional efforts to enhance food security through technical cooperation, including institutional capacity development, transfer of technology, and increasing agricultural productivity.	

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4.	<p>The Council took note with appreciation, the initiative of the project titled "Support for the Transformation of the ECO-RCC for RPFS from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution in the Economic Cooperation Organization by the ECO-RCC for RPFS, FAO and the ECO Secretariat, and recommended that the result of this study would be circulated for comments and views of the Member States, asserting that any restructuring of the above mentioned center and RPFS programme should be approved by the ECO decision making bodies. The Council also recommended that the views and comments of the Member States and the regional demands should be taken into consideration during the updates of the RPFS. The observations of the Member States on the current RPFS Programme would be elaborated during the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCC for RPFS.</p>	
5.	<p>The Council while welcoming the decision of the Ministerial meeting that suggested that the project proposals received by ECO Secretariat and ECO-RCC and the newly proposed projects by the Member States will be evaluated through a new project cycle mechanism during the ECO-RCC Steering Committee Meetings. The Council recommended the Secretariat and ECO-RCC to jointly prepare the project cycle mechanism details that is in line with the rules and procedures of the ECO Secretariat to be circulated and implemented before the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of the ECO-RCC.</p>	
6.	<p>The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture to evaluate and design policies to mobilize public and private investment in agriculture for steady economic growth and sustainable development. The Council also suggested through these policies to conduct an analysis to specifically identify and boost R&amp;D initiatives and increase inflow of FDI in agriculture for seeds, machinery and food processing to optimize agricultural production.</p>	
7.	<p>The Council further urged the Member states to send their national and regional project ideas and proposals to the Secretariat which would be evaluated under the project cycle mechanism in the Steering Committee Meetings of the ECO-RCC. The Council requested all Member States to provide the concept papers of the project proposals that were to be considered for implementation. In case the countries fail to provide the concept details, the</p>	

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	projects will not be considered eligible for evaluation by the Steering Committee Meetings of the ECO-RCC.	
8.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 4 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCC for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) in Turkey in 2020 and requested the Member States to confirm their active participation in the said meeting.	
9.	The Council requested Member States to cooperate in ensuring the regional harmonization on validity of international quality standards, and standardization of the seed certification/registration/recognition systems for promotion of regional seed trade. The Council further urged ECO-RCC to approach FAO to implement under the FTTP-II Second Phase the project proposal titled “FTTP-II Multi-country Project Proposal on Seed Sector Development Priority Area” which was duly approved by the 29 <sup>th</sup> RPC and already covers most requirements for harmonization of the seed sector in the ECO Region. In case the project is not supported by FTTP-II, the Council urged ECO-RCC to further apply international institutions to find financial support for implementation of the project.	
10.	The Council while appreciating ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) and Turkish Seed Union (TURKTOB) to jointly organize the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Regional Seed Trade Congress in Antalya, Turkey between 29 November and 01 December 2019, requested the Member States to support and participate such ECOSA events that has a great potential to provide exciting opportunities and promote the development of seed sector in the ECO region. The Council also thanked ECOSA and Azerbaijan for their proposals to host the 8 <sup>th</sup> ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and Seed Trade Fair and ECO Expert Meeting on Seed Sector Development in 2020. The Council also requested ECOSA 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 while appreciating the preparation 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.	

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12.	<p>The Council urged the Member States to create a network among their relevant organizations regarding the establishment of the ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water (ECO-CEEUWA) and requested the Member States to nominate national focal points/institutions for expediting the process of Establishment of the Centre. Pakistan was requested to inform the Secretariat about the new dates for hosting the 3rd Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of the ECO-CEEUWA in 2020 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 will be finalized. 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.</p>	
13.	<p>The Council while thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations and the Workshop/Training Course on Drought Monitoring and Seasonal Forecast in the ECO Region in November 2019, in Tehran, Iran, appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in Kabul in 2020. The Council while requesting Afghanistan to send the exact days and hospitality details of the meeting, requested the Member States to actively participate in the said event.</p>	
14.	<p>The Council while thanking the ECO-RCRM for preparing the draft protocol for disaster data and information sharing recommended that in collaboration with the Secretariat, ECO-RCRM may establish a task force committee, in cooperation with the relevant authorities of the Member States as well as the relevant international organizations i.e. WMO, UNDP, FAO, ICARDA, and ISDR, to finalize the draft protocol that would facilitate the mechanism needed for delivering data and products through which information are routinely archived, analyzed, modeled, exchanged and processed among member states. For Implementing the protocol of "Data Sharing between ECO Member States", the Council requested the Member States to introduce national focal points to prepare the project proposal titled "Planning Mechanism for Delivering Data and Products".</p>	
15.	<p>The Council appreciated the ECO-RCRM for proposing to host the WMO-IRIMO-RCRM</p>	

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	training course on seasonal prediction and short-term job training course on operational seasonal prediction and requested the member states to actively participate in the trainings.	
16.	The Council urged ECO-RCRM to coordinate establishing a task force group for coordination and conduction of country-specific meetings to generate agriculture trade-related risk maps. The Member States were urged to cooperate with the ECO-RCRM to set up a mechanism to access and operationalize raw data for designing & establishing of regional natural disasters database, to undertake a GIS based mapping of natural disasters, disaster risk indices developed and assessed for countries and for the ECO region and to develop a database on disaster impacts and GIS based mapping of disaster indices and analysis of disaster risk indices. The Council agreed that IRIMO, INCC and ECO-RCRM in collaboration with ECO-RCC and with coordination of interested meteorological organizations may lead a bankable project with the financial support of potential donors and the task force committee. The Council requested the Member States to collaborate with the ECO-RCRM to facilitate the implementation of the project. 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.	
17.	The Council requested ECO-RCRM to prepare the concept paper of the project proposal titled "Monthly to seasonal prediction of precipitation and temperature" in close collaboration with ECO Secretariat which was approved by the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture. The Secretariat was requested to circulate the project concept paper to the member states.	
18.	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.	
19.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to update the Draft Statute for the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) and requested the Member States to send their views/comments on the said document, for finalization.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
20.	<p>The Council while recommending the Member States to facilitate and expedite the early implementation of ECO-VECO projects for an effective prevention mechanism against TADs and promoting the intra-trade of animal and animal products in the region suggested that the national veterinary organizations of the member states to support financially and legally the implementation of ECO-VECO projects titled; (i) Developing ECO network of standardized reference laboratories, (ii) Establishment of standardized ECO network of slaughtering houses, (iii) Facilitation of the movement of animals &amp; animal products at Quarantine at Borders, which facilitate and promote trade of animal &amp; animal products among the Member States with close coordination and consultation with ECO Secretariat. The Council requested the Member States (except the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey) to kindly provide the following information to facilitate the implementation of the said projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• views/comments on the above mentioned draft projects proposals;</li> <li>• the nomination of standardized laboratories to be selected as national reference laboratories;</li> <li>• the nomination of slaughtering houses to be selected as national standardized ones in their respective countries; and</li> <li>• information on the latest developments and facilities on animal and animal products movement at Border Quarantine.</li> </ul>	
21.	<p>To complement the ECO-VECO project proposals, as envisioned in the ECO Vision 2025, the Council requested ECO-VECO to prepare a regional framework and project proposal on designing a practical and affordable livestock identification, traceability and disease certification system for the ECO region based on the OIE standards.</p>	
22.	<p>The Council called Member States to take joint measures for joint implementation of prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases based on the global framework, and urged the Member States to arrange joint training courses and research programs.</p>	
23.	<p>The Council urged the Member States to consider hosting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO</p>	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Heads of Veterinary Organizations to finalize issues regarding implementation of the above mentioned ECO-VECO projects. The Council further urged the Member States except Iran and Afghanistan to ratify/sign the Statute of the ECO-VECO.	
24.	The Council while appreciating the offer of Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Technical Committee Meeting in the first half of 2020 requested Azerbaijan to send exact date and venue for the said meeting. The Council while appreciating Afghanistan and Turkey for sending their focal points for establishing the Technical Committee Meeting of the ECO-VECO requested the other member states to send their focal points to the Secretariat at the earliest.	
25.	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.	
26.	The Council also thanked the 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.	
27.	The Council requested Member States to actively participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting of the ECO-ABN and asked Iran to propose a new date for the meeting. The member states were requested to contribute to this project with sharing information and introducing their focal points and providing the country reports on biotechnology and related information to be uploaded to the ECO-ABN website. The Council requested the ECO-ABN to enhance and expand its activities and communicate with the Member States and the relevant International Networks and organizations.	
28.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to support the below proposals that were made during the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Iran, Pakistan and Turkey was urged to come up with project concept papers of the below proposals to be submitted for implementation.</p> <p>I. Establishment of a platform for harmonization of bio-safety regulations and capacity</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>building for GMO detection. (Iran, Pakistan and Turkey)</p> <p>II. Establishment of an intellectual property rights network and capacity building program in this field. (Pakistan and Iran)</p> <p>III. Using bio-technology tools for characterization and utilization of agricultural genetic resources for sustainable agriculture and food security (Iran).</p>	
29.	<p>The Council requested the ECO-RCC to develop a framework in collaboration with ECO-CCI for further cooperation on agricultural machinery and equipment industry and prepare a ground for exchange of best practices and technology in this field. The Council appreciated and invited all regional and global financial institutions including ECO-TDB to support SMEs of agriculture and related industries in the Region.</p>	
30.	<p>The Council while appreciating the Republic of Azerbaijan for their project proposal titled “ECO Regional Agricultural Research and Innovations Network (ECO-RARIN)” requested the Member States to send their focal points to facilitate its implementation.</p>	
31.	<p>The Council welcomed the project titled “Support for Development of Organic Production, Certification and Market Integration in the ECO region” prepared by the ECO Secretariat and requested the Member States to facilitate its implementation.</p>	
32.	<p>The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to actively participate in the related international conferences to be organized in 2020 and prepare the project proposals on the events/activities for provision of financial assistance in this regard.</p>	
33.	<p>The Council decided to establish a task force for contributing to the process of organizing regional conferences, buyers/sellers meetings and trade forums and supporting such regional initiatives for the growth and development of the Regional Agricultural Trade in close collaboration with ECO-CCI.</p> <p>The Council offered Member States to host/organize a Regional Agricultural Trade Forum in their countries.</p> <p>The Council also suggested Member States to volunteer to organize buyers/sellers</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	meetings/forums (jointly with FAO and WTO/ITC) on wheat, cotton, bean and other agricultural commodities.	
34.	The Council proposed ECO-RCC in coordination with ECO-CCI, ECO-RCRM, ECOSA, ECO-CEEUWA, ECO-ABN and other related bodies and institutions to conduct market and value chain analyses of selected products that have the potential to support the economic empowerment of the rural producers and generate employment opportunities in the ECO region. Also the Council requested the Secretariat to prepare Farmers' awareness programmes (FAP) to assist the farmers in choosing more remunerative crops for production and export through the results of these studies.	
35.	The Council requested ECO-RCC to prepare the development of a Regional Agricultural Investment Promotion Plan to prepare the guidelines for investment in the agriculture sector in ECO region over the next five years through an extensive participatory process involving all key stakeholders in the region.	
36.	The Council supported the campaign for 'Save Food' initiated by the Republic of Turkey and invites the other Regional partners to minimize food waste and loss in all levels of the agri-food value chains. The Council also appreciated Turkey for proposing to host the Workshop on Food Waste and Loss.	
37.	The Council proposed the ECO-Secretariat to increase cooperation with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and organize joint workshops and training courses.	
38.	While noting the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting their proposal submitted to FAO on proclaiming World Goat Day, the council encouraged the Member States to organize Goat-Day in their respective country.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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<b>Industry</b>		
1.	The Council welcomed the renewed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in 2020 and requested the latter to inform the exact date and details of hospitality to the Secretariat by the end of first quarter of 2020. 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.	
2.	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.	
3.	The Council while welcoming the offer of Republic of Turkey regarding the ECO-RISCAM cooperation with the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), requested the ECO Secretariat to follow-up the matter and nomination of relevant focal points of both institutes.	
4.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider hosting the 7th HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in 2020, utilizing the allocated funds for establishment of ECO-RISCAM and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting. The Council requested the MS to nominate their focal points to enable the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the subject meeting.	
5.	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.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
6.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as signatory state of ECO-RISCAM to expedite ratification of the Statute to help early functionalizing of the institute.	
7.	<p>The Council requested the signatory States (except Pakistan) to ratify 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 which was adopted at 23rd COM to pave the way for early functioning of the Institute.</p> <p>The council was informed by the Islamic Republic of Iran that ratification process of Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of ECO- RISCAM will be finished in near future.</p>	
8.	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.	
9.	The Council appreciated Iran and Turkey for conveying their views regarding to the draft of updated ECO-RISCAM Roadmap and work programme which had been circulated among the Member States in 2018. The Council welcomed the views and comments of the rest of Member States if any.	
10.	The Council appreciated the signatory Member States (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) for nominating their focal points for the Central Secretariat of the ECO-RISCAM.	
11.	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.	
12.	The Council appreciated the Central Secretariat ECO-RISCAM for proposing two new projects namely;	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>(i) Preparation of a Database for Development of National or Regional Green Labeling Systems and</p> <p>(ii) Assessment &amp; management Risks in Conformity Assessment.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to convey their views/ comments regarding to these new projects as well as effective cooperation to implement measures and projects toward promoting green industrial development in line with ECO-Vision 2025 and contribute to the new growth paradigm in the region.</p>	
13.	<p>The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for renewing its offer to host the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting on Establishment of the ECO Nanotechnology Network (ECONAN), and Workshop on NANO-technology Opportunities for Textile Industry in ECO Region in 2020 and requested for active participation of all the Member States in the Meeting and the Workshop as well as nominating their focal points.</p>	
14.	<p>The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Iran for finalizing the study project on the situation of NANO Technology in the ECO region and providing the detailed cost break-down of the project. The Council requested the CPR to allocate the required fund.</p>	
15.	<p>The Council appreciated the Member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Pakistan) for introducing their focal points for ECO Nanotechnology Network (ECONAN) and ECO-NANO 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.</p>	
16.	<p>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.</p>	
17.	<p>The Council welcomed the Projects which were proposed by the 6th Meeting on the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration in 2018 and considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>of Ministers on November 2019 in Antalya namely;</p> <p>(i) Establishment of networking system among the privatization administrations of Member States and (ii) Introducing the production chain mechanism in the ECO region for promoting privatization efforts.</p> <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. The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to follow up the process of approval and implementation of these Projects.</p>	
18.	<p>The Council requested the CPR to allocate necessary funds from ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund for implementation of above mentioned two projects.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to make voluntary contributions to facilitate implementation of proposed Projects.</p> <p>The Council tasked ECO Secretariat to explore possibilities of obtaining financial assistance from relevant regional/international Organizations and/or donor agencies for this purpose. The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to follow up the process of approval and implementation of these Projects.</p>	
19.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2020 and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting.</p>	
20.	<p>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</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	administrative measures.	
21.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 5th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on Entrepreneurship and SME Development Meeting and SME Workshop back to back in 2020 and requested all the ECO Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
22.	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.	
23.	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.	
24.	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.	
25.	<p>With the purpose of initiating cooperation with relevant international organizations ECO &amp; WIPO signed a MoU on 22 Jan 2018. The Council appreciated the Secretariat for active follow - up of the said MoU.</p> <p>In line with the Work Program for MoU implementation, the Council was informed that the ECO will organize the Regional Seminar on Geographical Indications (GIs) in cooperation of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Intellectual Property Centre (IPC) of Iran in 2020 in Tehran. In this regard the Council requested the Member States to kindly provide the details of their focal points (Intellectual Property Organizations/ Offices) to ECO Secretariat, at the earliest.</p>	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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<b>E. SECTOR: TOURISM</b>		
1.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers and the 5th HLEG Meeting on Tourism in 2019 and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers and the 6th HLEG Meeting on Tourism in 2021 in Bukhara.	
2.	The Republic of Turkey and Turkish Cypriot State renewed their offer to co-host the 4th EGM on Ecotourism in Nicosia on 11-12 June 2020.	
3.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of 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 which were considered by the 24th Meeting of Council of Ministers on November 2019 in Antalya namely; (i) ECO regional action plan for sustainable tourism development, (ii) ECO Tours operators network and (iii) ECO Tourism Visa.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the ECO High Level Expert Meeting on Visa Facilitation in 2020.</p> <p>The Council requested the CPR to allocate necessary funds from the ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund for implementation of the Projects.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to make voluntary contributions to facilitate implementation of proposed Projects.</p> <p>The Council also suggested the Secretariat to work in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Member States to implement the project on ECO Tourism Visa.</p>	
4.	<p>The Council encouraged the Secretariat to consider seeking technical assistance from relevant international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO in preparation of ECO regional action plan and ECO Tourism Strategy.</p> <p>The council also requested the Secretariat to convene a meeting with the said international organizations to seek their support for devising the above mentioned action plan and</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	strategy.	
5.	<p>The Council reiterated its request to the Member States (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to provide all the necessary information (with high resolution photographs) for the “Ecotourism Catalogue for the ECO Region” to be prepared by the Republic of Turkey.</p> <p>The Republic of Tajikistan has informed the council that they will provide the said information in the nearest future.</p>	
6.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for preparation of the questionnaire on ecotourism and requested all Member States (except Kazakhstan ) to fill it up and furnish the ECO Secretariat with the results, in order to establish the relevant database as early as possible.</p>	
7.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to offer their programs/proposals in field of Health/Medical Tourism in the ECO Region for promotion of this field of industry.</p>	
8.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iranian Chamber of Commerce) for hosting the 2nd ECO Confobition on ECO Health Tourism in Ardabil, Iran on 18-20 June, 2019. The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd ECO Confobition on ECO Health Tourism in 2020.</p>	
9.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting ECO Nowruz Festival in 2020 in Tajikistan as well as the launching ceremony of proclaiming Dushanbe as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2020-2021 and also requested all Member States to actively participate in the said event.</p> <p>The Council requested the Republic of Tajikistan to provide the exact date and details of hospitality shortly.</p>	
10.	<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</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO, and UNEP.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the workshops on rural tourism on sideline of the ECO Nowruz Festival in one week period beginning 21 March, 2020 in Dushanbe on the occasion of proclamation 2019-2021 as the years of Rural Development, Tourism and Folk Crafts.</p>	
11.	<p>The Council reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage the private sector involvement in the regional tourism activities through organization of and participation in the relevant meetings, events and initiatives. And 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 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.</p>	
12.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the First Forum of ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders from June 29 to July 01, 2020. This Forum will provide the good opportunity to connect the tourism agencies, tour operators, airlines, Hoteliers and all the Tourism related industries of the ECO region.</p>	
13.	<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> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host Silk Road Task Force Meeting as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> UNWTO International Meeting on Silk Road Tourism in 2020.</p>	
14.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Fifth International ECO – Silk Road Food Festival and welcomed the offer of latter to host the sixth ECO - Silk Road Food Festival on 27-29 May 2020. The Council also requested further engagement of the private sector of the host in organizing the said festival. The Council noted the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Member States to dispatch professional and well known chefs to the festival. The details of hospitality will be the same as previous years.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
15.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the workshop on culinary tourism on the sidelines of the ECO-Silk Road Food Festival on 27-29 May, 2020.	
16.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting tourism and handicrafts related exhibitions for the purpose of enhancing tourism cooperation in the Region.</p> <p>The Republic of Tajikistan informed the council about its readiness to consider the hosting of tourism and handicrafts exhibition in collaboration with ECO Cultural Institute for the purpose of enhancing tourism cooperation in the Region.</p>	
17.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran convening of the 12 <sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Tourism & Related Industry on 12-15 February 2019 in Tehran and welcomed the latter for convening Tehran International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition on February 12-15, 2020. The Council requested all the Member States to actively participate in the Event.	
18.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to organize the 19 <sup>th</sup> Azerbaijan International Travel and Tourism Fair on 09-11 April, 2020 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the event.	
19.	The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the issue of Joint Introduction of Public Private Partnership (PPP) System in ECO Member States to develop and introduce tourism destinations and register tour operators in a proper system. The said report will be submitted to the forum of the ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders. The Secretariat prepared a list of criteria for Tourism Destinations and circulated it to Member States for their feedbacks.	
20.	The Council invited the Secretariat to prepare a technical report on creation of reliable and economical, viable air links among ECO Member States particularly with and among Central Asian Member States to boost tourism flow to the region. The Council requested the Member States to cooperate the Secretariat in preparation of the said report.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
21.	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.	
22.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts for institutionalizing relations with UNWTO through an MOU.	
23.	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 other international organizations and agencies as well.	
24.	The Council urged the Member States to expedite the appointment of their National Focal Points (NPFs) for prompt and smooth communication.	
<b>F. SECTOR: HUMAN RESOURCES &amp; SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>		
1	The Council, while acknowledging the significance of collaborative engagements on disaster risk reduction, health and formulation of mechanisms to support education and the trainings in the region, noted that the relevant cooperation was essentially required to meet the perceived aims and objectives. The Council stressed that such cooperation should be in line with the ECO Vision 2025 as well as considering the regional and global developments, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It also acknowledged the importance of multilateral cooperation and assistance of the relevant regional and international organizations for an effective and smooth implementation of the ECO Work Programme 2020 while reiterating that the Member States and Secretariat should continue with a nexus approach to achieve the desired/intended results.	
<b><u>DISASTER RISK REDUCTION</u></b>		
2	The Council commended the Secretariat for its continual efforts regarding draft ECO Regional	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and appreciated the Member States' support in this regard. Recalling that the ECO-RFDRR was supposed to be approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on DRR in Turkey, it noted that the said event could not take place in 2019 due to lack of quorum. The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey's offer to propose fresh dates for organizing the postponed event in the second quarter of 2020, enabling the approval on DRR with an ultimate aim of avoiding and minimizing the disaster losses that include human, social, economic, and environmental assets.</p>	
3	<p>The Council stressed on the Member States to convey to the Secretariat an early response regarding the sought inputs/recommendations on draft protocol on Real-time Seismological Data Exchange (RSDE – to be signed during the Ministerial Meeting on DRR), preferably before the end of February 2020.</p>	
4	<p>The Council took note of the draft Roadmap of Implementing ECO-RFDRR and requested the Member States to provide their views/comments thereon, to accordingly develop feasible projects. It further requested the Secretariat to separately re-circulate the given roadmap amongst Member States to ascertain their inputs in the matter.</p>	
5	<p>The Council appreciated the Secretariat's continued interaction with pertinent regional and international organizations as well as development partners, including UNDRR, IDB, UNESCAP, APDIM, UNDP, UNOCHA, UNESCO, EU, GIZ etc., to seek technical and financial assistance as well as develop joint projects such as Regional Disaster Response Preparedness Program. The Council encouraged the maintenance of such links for timely implementation of the ECO-RFDRR and the ECO Vision 2025.</p>	
6	<p>The Council encouraged the Member States for their active participation in the relevant activities as per Calendar of Events for 2020.</p>	
7	<p>The Council requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat, except those who have already forwarded, the updated list of their stakeholders, including local communities, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises, in order to facilitate and enhance regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction, along with information of their relevant activities and regulations to be shared with each other for increasing public awareness on the</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	importance of DRR. It further requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat updated list (s) of their focal points, enabling it to keep liaison on DRR issues.	
8	The Council encouraged the Member States to propose/hold events/conferences/seminars/workshops in 2020 as per relevant provisions contained in the ECO Vision 2025.	
9	While recalling the proposed establishment of the “ECO Regional Disaster Information System (ECO-RDIS), the Council reiterated that the ECO Secretariat, in collaboration with Member States and Office of the Asia and Pacific Disaster Information Management in Tehran, should accelerate the process for setting up the desired system by 2025. It further sought the expansion of cooperation by Member States for collaboration amongst the academics, scientific entities, private sectors and other relevant networks, aiming at an early establishment of the ECO-RDIS.	
10	Considering that the proposed 1 <sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities and/or training workshop on “Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance” could not take place in 2019, the Council stressed on the Member States and the Secretariat for organizing the awaited event in 2020. The Council noted that this meeting would help strengthen the capacities, boost skills and increase knowledge of all stakeholders in the relevant field.	
11	The Council commended the Member States’ endeavours aimed at achieving the targets, including target (e) of ECORFDRR, encouraging them to increase such efforts for securing the desired results to be online reported through Sendai Monitoring Framework, as per paragraph 27 of the Antalya Communiqué.	
12	Noting that the Secretariat had earlier circulated vide Note Verbale No. 854 dated October 10, 2019 amongst Member States the information regarding its short-term training facility, the Council sought their consideration in this regard.	
<b><u>COOPERATION ON HEALTH</u></b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
13	<p>The Council appreciated the Secretariat's persistent efforts in regard to securing regional and international cooperation for finalization of the third version of the ECO Plan of Action on Health, noting that such endeavours to attract backing and support of the International Organizations, UN Agencies, including WHO, development partners, private entities and other stakeholders, should continue for achieving the expected outcomes. It further appreciated the Secretariat's active participation in the relevant health event (s) held during 2019.</p>	
14	<p>Acknowledging the valuable assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran for third revision of the draft ECO Plan of Action on Health, the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to officially provide the revised version to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the Member States, to ascertain their views/comments.</p>	
15	<p>The Council also requested the Member States for provision of inputs to the Secretariat concerning their needs/barriers for scaling-up the NCD responses and implementing WHO Global Action Plan for Prevention and Control of NCDs.</p>	
16	<p>The Council asked the Secretariat to ascertain willingness of a Member State for hosting the High Level Expert Group or an Ad-hoc Working Group's Meeting, comprising of experts from interested Member States in 2020. If no Member States is willing to host the event, the Council requested the Secretariat to host the high Level Expert Group Meeting to finalize the ECO Plan of Action on Health to be submitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Health Ministerial Meeting.</p> <p>It further encouraged that, if no Member State stood willing for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Health Ministerial Meeting, the Secretariat might organize the event on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in May 2020.</p> <p>The Republic of Turkey offered that, if the High Level Working Group Meeting and the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health could not be held in any Member States or on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2020, the relevant HLWG's meeting may be held on the sidelines of the Health Tourism Congress to be held in Turkey (June 2020) for considering the ECO Draft Action Plan on Health.</p>	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
17	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for inviting the Member States to the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECO Regional Conference on Health in complex emergencies and peace building to be held in Shiraz on April 22-23, 2020</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress on Health for Peace to be held in Shiraz on November 11-12, 2020</li> <li>• Short-term Training Course on Health Insurance System in the third quarter of 2020.</li> </ul>	
18	<p>The Council re-emphasized that the Secretariat's continued interaction with international organizations, UN bodies, including WHO, working partners and other stakeholders would maintain the existing support and accelerate their further technical and financial backings, assistance in joint development projects, convening relevant events and help implement the health cooperation at regional levels as well as ECO Vision 2025.</p>	
<b><u>MECHANISM TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND TRAINING</u></b>		
19	<p>The Council praised the scientific and educational activities of the ECOEI to enhance cooperation on educational matters in the ECO Member States. The Council also acknowledged and commended the cooperative activities of the Secretariat and the ECOEI in regard to ascertaining the nuts and bolts of developing a Plan of Action on Education as per ECO Vision 2025, aimed at promoting the regional collaborative engagements for acceleration of activities on education and related trainings through certain ways, including exchange of faculty members/students, organizing seminars as well as technology-sharing programmes.</p>	
20	<p>The Council also emphasized on the Member States to mull over an adequate ownership and their increased involvement for expansion of education in accordance with the ECO Vision 2025. While appreciating the received response(s), it requested the remaining Member States to convey to the Secretariat prompt views/inputs to the Secretariat, convey their rationale (s), needs and necessity of developing the relevant Plan of Action for Education.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
21	The Council also encouraged the Secretariat for engaging with the UNESCO for initiation of collaboration in the area of technical and vocational education training (s).	
22	The Council desired the Member States and ECO Secretariat to cooperate with the ECOEI to help it implement a need analysis and other studies to discuss the necessity of the Plan of Action for Education be brought before the Board of Trustees.	
23	The Council desired that the Member States and the ECOEI should remain collaborative for proposing/holding the relevant events on education in 2020 as per ECO Vision 2025. It further requested the Member States for conveying the particulars of their relevant focal points to the ECOEI.	
<b>G. SECTOR: JUDICIAL &amp; PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND ECO ADVOCACY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN (JP EAPA)</b>		
<p><b><u>Priority Area No.1:</u></b>  <b><u>Judicial and Law Enforcement Coordination</u></b></p>		
1.	<p>Acknowledging the importance of core objectives as per ECO Vision 2025 that requires a multi-faceted and supportive policy environment, the Council considered the necessity of a well-thought and maintainable judicial and law enforcement coordination. It emphasized on the need to accelerate the collaborative regional activities to address the common/relevant concerns of the Member States. In this regard, the Council realized the significance of the effective regional institutional arrangements on police and law enforcement, judicial and anti-corruption cooperation as well as capacity building and training programs amongst the Member States.</p> <p>While commending the earlier made activities of the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU), the Council took note of the reorganized setup of the Secretariat's relevant unit (s) as "Judicial and Parliamentary Cooperation (JPC) and "ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA) Section", expressing optimism that under the new and expanded setup the relevant activities would continue and accelerate the existing level of cooperation in the</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>relevant areas of work. It also considered that the enlarged setup would help give a fresh impetus to ECO's priority areas that include, trade, transport, energy, tourism, economic growth and sustainable development, as well as assist Afghanistan in its efforts for stability, reconstruction, economic growth and sustainable development.</p>	
2.	<p>Considering the necessity of judicial cooperation to help overall developmental activities in the region, the Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Islamic Republic of Pakistan may convey the draft framework agreement for judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism, preferably <b>by April 2020</b>;</li> <li>• The interested Member States may convey willingness to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Experts Group Meeting for the establishment of judicial/legal cooperation mechanism as well as 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General;</li> <li>• The Member States may convey/update the Secretariat of their focal points for relevant coordination on judicial/legal cooperation.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p>Taking into account the required and enhanced regional cooperation against corruption, the Council encouraged that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan may consider ratifying the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.</li> <li>• The Kyrgyz Republic may join the RCCACO as per country's willingness expressed earlier.</li> <li>• The remaining Member States may consider signing of the Statute of the RCCACO.</li> <li>• The interested Member States may express willingness for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of ECO Anti-corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen.</li> <li>• The Islamic Republic of Pakistan may like to speed up the transmission of information for hosting the Expert Group Meeting on Anti-corruption along with proposed dates, focal point as well as other details, preferably by March 2020.</li> </ul>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
4.	<p>The Council recalled that the Statute of ECOPOL was expected to be finalized during 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Interpol followed by its adoption in the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting. The Council requested the Secretariat to make necessary preparations, in this regard.</p> <p>The Council also requested the Member States to update/designate liaison officers for coordination on ECOPOL setup. It further requested the Member States to inform the ECO Secretariat about their willingness for hosting the following events, preferably <u>by April 2020</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Interior Ministers</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of INTERPOL.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p>While appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Chiefs of Border Agencies of the ECO Member States in 2020, the Council requested the Secretariat to make necessary coordination for ascertaining appropriate dates, hospitality details, focal points etc. to be communicated to the Member States, to seek their convenience for participation in the event.</p>	
6.	<p>While stressing the need for capacity building programmes, the Council encouraged the Secretariat and the Member States to organize such programs to provide the concerned officials of the Member States appropriate opportunities for increasing/upgrading skills and knowledge in their relevant fields. The Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat should prepare a questionnaire to be circulated amongst the Member States at the earliest.</li> <li>• The Member States may support the Secretariat for conducting the need assessment survey, indicating their experiences, expertise and requirements, in this regard.</li> <li>• The Member States may convey to the Secretariat their willingness for hosting relevant events at the earliest possibility in 2020;</li> </ul>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
7.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host “<b>Workshop on Narcotic Substance Type Trends and Existing Routes</b>” and “<b>Training Course on Current Routes and Trends in Drug Types</b>” in 2020. It further requested the Secretariat to coordinate with the Republic of Turkey to seek necessary details of the workshop and training, including, dates, hospitality details, focal points etc. for onward communication to the Member States in order to ascertain willingness of their relevant experts for participation in the offered workshop and training.</p>	
8.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to convey to the Secretariat the updated lists of their focal points in relevant areas at the earliest possibility in 2020.</p> <p>The Secretariat proposed the Member States to consider designing of an effective and secure communication system as of INTERPOL Organization i.e. I/24/7.</p>	
9.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the following workshops on the following in Iran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Prevention on Addiction</li> <li>• Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigation</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Priority Area No.2:</u></b>  <b><u>Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Countries (PAECO)</u></b></p>		
10.	<p>The Council appreciated Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey for completing the ratification process of PAECO’s Charter, noting that at least four Member States were required to ratify the Charter to make it operational.</p> <p>While commending the Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan for signing the PAECO’s charter, the Council requested them to expedite the ratification process, enabling the PAECO to come into force.</p> <p>The Council further requested the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, to sign and ratify the PAECO’s Charter.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
11.	The Council appreciated Pakistan for offering, during 29 <sup>th</sup> RPC, to host the second PAECO conference in 2019. However, considering that the event could not take place in 2019, it requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to refresh the given offer for 2020, in order to ascertain convenience of the Member States for participation in the event.	
<p><b><u>Priority Area No.3:</u></b>  <b><u>ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan (EAPA)</u></b></p>		
12.	The Council requested the Secretariat to organize the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Donors for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan earlier postponed due to lack of quorum. The Council further encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
13.	The Council encouraged the Member States to make adequate contributions to the ECO Fund for Afghanistan to support the efforts of the ECO and the Government of Afghanistan for reconstruction and sustainable as well as economic development in Afghanistan. It further requested the Member States to also fulfill their earlier commitments for contribution in the said fund.	
14.	The Council requested Afghanistan and Pakistan to expedite the opening of a bank account in respect of ECO Fund for Afghanistan at the National Bank of Pakistan in Kabul and transfer the remaining amount of the previously established fund from Habib Bank, London to the new account to be opened for this purpose.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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<b>H. SECTOR: ECO`S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/AFFILIATED BODIES</b>		
<b>PROGRAMMES /ACTIVITIES</b>		
a) <b><u>INTER-REGIONAL ECO ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
(i) <b>ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies</b>		
1.	In order to support and promote the broad objectives of the ECO, particularly in the fields of science, technology, culture, and education, the Council encouraged the ECO Specialized Agencies to synergize their activities to promote cooperation in the relevant areas.	
2.	The Council requested the Member States to join, where applicable, the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies and support their activities in different areas for the shared goals.	
3.	The Council encouraged the Specialized Agencies to enhance their coordination with the Secretariat and among themselves in order to boost their cooperation and sharing information about upcoming events with the relevant regional and international organizations in the educational, scientific and cultural fields.	
• <b><u>ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)</u></b>		
4.	The Council appreciated the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for organizing a broad range of events and activities in the fields of culture, literature, and arts aimed at promoting greater cooperation among the Member States. The Council encouraged the Institute to further expand the cooperation in the relevant fields for realizing the core objectives of ECI.	
5.	The Council acknowledged and appreciated the untiring services of the former President of the ECI, Mr. Mohammad Mahdi Mazaheri, for enhancing the Institution's activities and	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	capacities in the last three years.	
6.	The Council congratulated Mr. Sarvar Bakhti on joining the ECI as the President of the Institute for a term of 3 years and expressed commitment to facilitate the work of the new President in every way possible.	
7.	The Council asked the ECO Member States, which have not signed/ratified the Charter yet, to sign/ratify the ECI's Charter and support its initiatives for promoting the commonly cherished rich cultural heritage of the Region.	
8.	The Council acknowledged the significance of national focal points and requested the Member States to nominate their Focal Points to the Institute, as this would help in ensuring effective coordination between the ECI and ECO Member States in relevant matters.	
9.	The Council appreciated the Institute for launching ECI's Website in Russian Language in order to expand its international outreach. The Council urged the ECI to organize relevant activities for promotion of languages of ECO region.	
10.	The Council considered the financial problems being faced by the ECI due to non-payment/late payment of the annual contributions by some of the member states and requested the concerned member states to make arrangements for the transfer of Mandatory annual Budgetary Contributions to the Institute without any further delay.	
11.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to convey the date and venue of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECI's Boards of Trustees (BoT). The Council also encouraged the concerned Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)</u></b></li> </ul>		
12.	The Council appreciated the activities and initiatives of the Foundation for developing and promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of science and technology and for the promotion of scientific research in the Region.	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
13.	The Council acknowledged and appreciated the valuable contributions of the president of the Foundation, Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, in enhancing the Foundation's role to expand the regional cooperation in the relevant fields of science and technology. The Council further welcomed the appointment of Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi (Iranian National) as next President of the ECOSF.	
14.	The Council requested the Member States that have not yet signed/ratified the ECOSF Charter to do so as soon as possible, so as to make the Foundation stronger to achieve its objectives.	
15.	The Council took note of the financial crisis faced by the Foundation and requested the concerned Member States to contribute their mandatory share in a timely manner for smooth functioning of the Foundation.	
16.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for successful hosting the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOSF Executive Committee and 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOSF Board of Trustees (BoT) held in Isfahan, I.R. of Iran in 2019.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)</u></b></li> </ul>		
17.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in enhancing cooperation in the field of education among the Member States.	
18.	The Council requested Member States to convey their needs in the field of education to ECOEI to facilitate the development of an initial draft outline for the Plan of Action for Education as recommended in ECO Work Programme 2019 in line with the ECO Vision 2025.	
19.	The Council appreciated the leadership and active role of the President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif Kirecci, in broadening the scope of activities of the Institute in the Region.	
20.	The Council called upon the Member States to participate in the activities of the Institute and	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	underlined the importance of continuous support for Educational Institute's future role in the region. The Council further requested the concerned Member States to actively attend the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECOEI Board of Trustees to be held in the 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2020.	
21.	The Council requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to designate their focal points for the ECOEI and communicate them to the Institute at their earliest convenience.	
22.	The Council urged the relevant members to sign/ratify ECOEI's Charter to further promote cooperation in the field of education. The Council further requested the ratified Member States to pay their mandatory contributions.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>ECO Consultancy &amp; Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)</u></b></li> </ul>		
23.	The Council considered the potential of the ECO Engineering and Consultancy Company (ECOCEC) in the region and urged the Company to share its activities to the Secretariat on regular basis. The Council also took note of the no representation of the Company in the 30 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RPC and encouraged the Company to participate in the relevant events of ECO.	
24.	The Council requested ECO-CEC to 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 detailed awareness about the Company.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>ECO College of Insurance</u></b></li> </ul>		
25.	While appreciating the new proposal of the Secretariat to reactivate the ECO College of Insurance, the Council requested the College to share its updated activities and latest academic offers for the Member States. The Council also requested the Member States to convey their focal points from the relevant authorities, and share proposals/recommendations for enhancing cooperation in the field of insurance and regional studies.	
26.	In order to formulate a mechanism of cooperation between ECO-Col and ECO-EI, the Council stressed on the need for effective communication and coordination between ECO-EI,	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	ECO-Col and the ECO Secretariat on the subject.	
27.	The Council took note of the suggestion of the ECO Secretariat to reactivate the board of trustees of the College and asked the Secretariat to coordinate with the ECO-Col and concerned Member States for their proposals and views/comments.	
<b>(ii) <u>New Proposals</u></b>		
28.	The Council appreciated the proposal of the Secretariat to establish institutional linkages and networking of scientific organizations/associations of all ten ECO Member States to promote regional cooperation as well as meet the requirements of the emerging trends in science and technology. The Council asked the Secretariat to initiate the procedure for the establishment of the networking of scientific organizations/associations in the ECO region with the assistance of ECOSF and circulate a concept paper to the Member States by April 2020.	
29.	The Council appreciated the I.R. of Iran for its offer to host the First Meeting of ECO Heads of Scientific Innovation Bodies/Funds in May 2020 in Tehran. The Council further requested the Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
30.	The Council appreciated the I.R. of Iran to take practical initiative on the proposal of the ECO Secretariat to establish cooperation among broadcasting (television and radio) organizations of the region. In this regard, the Council requested the Member States to actively participate in First Meeting of Heads of Broadcasting Organizations (Radio and Television) of ECO Member States to be hosted by the I.R. of Iran in June 2020 in Ramsar. The meeting would be a first step towards strengthening and highlighting common regional identity.	
31.	The Council welcomed the suggestion of the Secretariat to involve sports activities as a soft and effective tool of regional integration and requested the relevant authorities of Member States to actively participate in the proposed activities of football for 2020.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
<b>(b) <u>ECO'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u></b>		
32.	In order to furthering the cooperation with the UN system including its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the Council appreciated the Secretariat for getting adoption of the Resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in July 2019. The Resolution covers a wide range of areas of relevance to ECO, such as trade, transport, energy, agriculture, industry, human resource development and Tourism.	
33.	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 within the UN system. The Council also requested the Member States to support the Secretariat in its efforts in this regard.	
34.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to finalize Work Programme with three regional organizations in 2019 to implement the relevant MoUs and further recommended that the MoUs signed between ECO and international/regional organizations should be effectively operationalized and implemented in order to generate maximum benefit.	
35.	The Council took note of the non organization of the 15 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of UN General Assembly (UNGA) Session in 2019 as recommended by the 29 <sup>th</sup> RPC and requested the Secretariat to seek the possibility to arrange the meeting in 2020 on the sidelines of the UNGA in order to maintain and promote meaningful cooperation with ASEAN.	
36.	The Council requested the member states to send fresh directives 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.	
37.	While recalling the offer of I.R. of Pakistan to arrange a training workshop in Foreign Service	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Academy of Pakistan for foreign services officers from ECO Member States, the Council requested the I.R. of Pakistan to share with the ECO Secretariat the of details of the training workshop as well as the possible dates on which the workshop may be organized.	
38.	The Council appreciated the willingness of the I.R. of Pakistan to explore the possibilities of hosting a conference on economic cooperation among ECO Member States which would provide an excellent opportunity to the eminent scholars, think-tanks, former ministers/heads of governments/states from ECO Member States to share their thought for enhancing regional cooperation in various fields. This would also help think-tanks of ECO Member States to collaborate for the betterment of the region. The Council requested host authorities to share complete Programme through diplomatic channels.	

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