



Statement by Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General

**at the OSCE Asian Conference 2022 on
“Strengthening security for all and by all – synergies and
opportunities for co-operation between Europe and Asia”**

**Session 2: Climate-related challenges to security and
opportunities for co-operation
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**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It's a distinct privilege to virtually join you at the OSCE Asian Conference 2022.

I extend my sincere thanks and felicitations to the Government of Sweden and the OSCE for organizing this important event.

Representing the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), I would like to briefly introduce that ECO is an intergovernmental regional economic forum of ten West, Central and South Asia nations. It covers around 8 millions square kilometres of land and houses more than half a billion inhabitants. The ECO region is enriched with ample natural resources, potentials and ecosystems of global significance. However, the region's climate-related issues are no longer considered just threatening, but a truth that alarms for disaster-prone environmental challenges ahead. Desertification, dust haze and sand storms, more frequent floods, unpredicted heavy rains, land erosion and other natural disasters, water shortage and reduced agricultural yields are the consequences among climate-related incidents seriously affecting the earth and particularly our region.

Such conditions demand urgent and coherent actions for crafting inclusive, sustainable and resilient climate agenda at global and regional levels. Within the given context and realizing this grim situation, we need to consider a paradigm shift enhancing regional and international

collaborations to establish an all-inclusive mechanism on climate-related challenges and mobilizing the relevant resources to be prepared for addressing and countering any such hazards.

We are required to be more focussed on the sharp inequalities and asymmetries of the global order and their direct and indirect implications. Relevantly, the provision of development assistance in accordance with the commitments made within the UN forums is a factor of crucial importance. This type of cooperation should be seen as means of simultaneous support to the efforts to be aimed at eliminating global poverty as well as building sustainable future to ensure inclusive opportunities for all the world community.

In such a context, the importance of Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration, which refers to “common but differentiated responsibilities”, should be underscored. This principle explicitly acknowledges the environmental debt that the developed countries have built up with the rest of the international community in the course of their own industrialization process. This principle provides the political foundations for the industrialized countries’ assumption of greater environmental commitments than the developing countries in multilateral agreements and for them to play a leadership role in transferring resources and technology to developing nations like ECO Member States.

It is important to emphasize, however, that above and beyond its environmental implications, this principle offers a genuine alternative to other visions of the international order and establishes, in particular, that having a "level playing field" is neither possible nor desirable in the sphere of development. In this sense, the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" opens up a great deal of scope for its application in all areas of international cooperation.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

ECO is vigorously following the UN global agenda on combating climate change at regional and national levels through policy making, prioritizing areas of cooperation, undertaking feasible projects in addressing the pre-and post-climate change impacts in the region. ECO Secretariat is committed to further engage with global partners in dealing

with environmental and climate-related challenges. We are eager to further pursue the outcomes and follow-up of the global and regional conferences with relevant stakeholders for proper implementation of the UN Climate Change Agenda at different levels to tackle its adverse impacts in ECO region and to enhance cooperation and coordination in line with ECO Vision 2025 for the benefits of all Member States and global community.

To this end, ECO region is desperately looking forward to a strong support from the international community and partners to better explore and identify the ways and means of tackling environmental issues as well as acute environment and climate-related challenges. In this vein, the ECO Secretariat continues to be engaged with international organizations and important environmental forums.

I would also like to underline that ECO enjoy Observer Status in the respective UN Organizations, including the UNFCCC, UNEP, UNCCD, IPCC, UNFF and UNCBD, and actively participate in their various events on climate and other environment related aspects.

Moreover, I am confident that the Economic Cooperation Organization with increased global assistance and support will play not only a great role in advancement of international and regional coherence for climate resiliency, but also become a good facilitator in pragmatic implementation process of the global climate agenda in the region, including the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

I thank you for your attention.
