

The 11th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 27 July, 1997)

No. CON/CPR-11/Rpt. Dt. 24-08-19.97

1. The Eleventh meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the Secretariat on 27th July, 1997. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Secretary General of ECO attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item-1:

Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Council adopted the agenda proposed by the Secretariat at for its meeting. The adopted Agenda is attached as **Annex-II**.

Agenda. Item-2:

Adoption of the Report of Tenth Meeting of the CPR

3. The Council adopted the Report of its Tenth meeting held on 8th July, 1997 as prepared by the Secretariat. The adopted Report is being circulated separately.

4. Under this item the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, referring to the decision of the Tenth meeting of CPR (para 6(b)), informed the meeting that his Government has nominated Mr. Samiullah for the post of Administrative Assistant in the ECO Secretariat. The Council approved the said nomination.

Agenda. Item-3:

Authorization to the Secretary General to use the General Reserve Fund

5. The Secretary General presented cost estimates for the needs of Secretariat in its new building, as was requested during the Tenth Meeting of CPR.

6. The Council while taking note of the presentation of the Secretary General on the issue, requested him to circulate the same so that the Member States could study the cost estimates and finalize the issue in its next meeting.

Agenda Item-4:

Finalization of Ashgabat Declaration

7. In the light of the discussions and comments made by the participating Permanent Representatives and the Secretary General, it was agreed that consultations between the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat as well as bilateral consultations

between the Embassies of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan may continue so that the Declaration be finalized in the next meeting of CPR.

Agenda Item-5:

Request of the Embassy of Russian Federation

8. The Council decided that the Russian Embassy in Tehran shall be verbally informed by the Secretariat that their request to send the Head of the International Organizations Department of Russian Foreign Ministry to the ECO Secretariat could be welcomed provided that the visit is confined only to "Exchange of information and views between ECO and the Russian Federation". They shall also be verbally informed that the issue of Russian Federation's application for an observer status and dialogue on possible areas of cooperation could not be taken up at this stage.

Agenda Item-6:

Preparations for meetings to be held in New York

(a) 52nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

9. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its capacity of current Chairman informed the Council that due action had been taken and the Draft Resolution on ECO-UN cooperation had been communicated to its Permanent Representative in New York.

(b) Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers

10. The Council considered the preparations for the meeting of ECO Council of Ministers in New York.

11. The Council took note of the draft agenda prepared by the Secretariat and made some suggestions to amend it.

12. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the meeting of ECO Council of Ministers in New York be titled as "Extra-ordinary Meeting of ECO council of Ministers" and submitted some new items for inclusion in the draft agenda of the subject meeting.

13. The Council requested the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to send the proposal in writing to the ECO Secretariat.

14. On the proposed date of the meeting (2nd October 1997), it was requested that the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New York hold consultations with the coordinator of OIC Foreign Ministers meeting in New York and inform the ECO Secretariat of the outcome -to avoid any possible collision of the dates.

15. In the light of the above. CPR agreed title, date and the agenda of the Ministerial meeting in New York in its next meeting.

c) Third joint ECO ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting

16. The Council endorsed the proposed draft agenda for the Third Joint ECO/ASEAN Ministerial meeting as proposed by the Secretariat with one amendment. The text of the revised agenda is placed at ***Annex-III***

Agenda Items -7:
Any other Business

17. Under this item the following issues were raised:

(a) SG's preliminary Report on his visit to IDB HQrs.

18. Secretary General summarized the salient points of his report of his visit to IDB headquarters and while evaluating his discussions with IDB President and other high officials as a positive step for forward, stated that there was a convergence in the objectives of both IDB and ECO. He reiterated that during the course of his visit he had an opportunity to become more acquainted with the inner mechanism of the Bank with regard to project proposals for joint cooperation. He informed the meeting that the full text of his report will be circulated separately.

19. The Council thanked the Secretary General for his presentation and fruitful discussions held with the IDE President and officials and expressed the view that these contacts be continued in future for further strengthening of ECQ-IDE cooperation.

b) Pakistan Embassy's request to circulate their Foreign Minister's statement "on the formal recognition of the new Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan"

20. Representative of Afghanistan and other Permanent Representatives who were present in the meeting felt that this issue was political and as such should not be taken up by CPR. However, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan stated that this request was of a legal nature.

21. In view of the above, it was agreed not to take any action in this regard.

c) Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the Customs Administration

22. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan informed the meeting that the Kazakhstan's State Customs Committee was planning to hold the Fourth Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administration of ECO countries at the end of August 1997 and undertook to notify the ECO Secretariat about the exact date's shortly. He added that hospitality would be extended to approximately three members of each delegation participating in the meeting.

23. The Council appreciated the arrangements made by the Republic of Kazakhstan for convening the subject meeting and urged the member States who have not yet confirmed their participation to do the needful expeditiously.

c) Inauguration of new ECO Secretariat's building

24. The Permanent Representatives were invited to attend the formal inauguration ceremony of the new Eco Secretariat premises by Honourable Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, on 28th July, 1997 at 1600 hours. The council

was informed that the invitations for the said ceremony shall be extended to the Embassies of the member states by Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

d) Invitation to Secretary General to attend 8th OIC Summit meeting

25. Secretary General informed the meeting that he had been invited by H. E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to attend the Eighth OIC Summit meeting to be held in Tehran from 9 to 11 December, 1997.

e) ECO Trade Fair

26. Secretary General informed the meeting that the Secretariat has received a letter from ECO Chamber of commerce and Industry about the visits of the Secretary General of the ECO Chamber to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. As an outcome of these visits ECO Chamber National Committees were established in the above mentioned member countries. On the other hand, ECO Chamber's Secretary General had fruitful discussions with the Kyrgyz authorities' on the second ECO Exhibition which will be held from 18-25 October, 1997 in Bishkek.

f) Turkish proposal to hold Workshop on the Evaluation of the Implications of the Uruguay Round and adoption of the WTO Regimes for ECO region on 29-30 September 1997 in Istanbul

27. Secretary General informed the Permanent Representatives that the Turkish authorities had proposed the holdings of the Workshop on the Evaluation of the Implications of the Uruguay Round and Adoption of the WTO Regimes for ECO region on 29-30 September, 1997 in Istanbul. He drew the attention of the Council to the importance of this workshop and requested the member countries to ensure proper participation in the subject event. He also stated that the concerned Iranian authorities have endorsed during the follow-up meeting of Trade Directorate held on 21st July, 1997 the Turkish proposal to hold the high level experts meeting on tariff and non-tariff barriers after the WTO workshop.

g) Contribution by member States to ECO Budget

28. Secretary General informed the meeting that since the last CPR meeting Turkmenistan had paid its contribution to the Secretariat for the current year and called upon the remaining five member countries to take necessary action to accelerate the transfer of their respective contributions.

h) Asian Clearing Union (ACU)

29. Secretary General informed the meeting that he had been invited by the President of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his capacity as the current Chairman of the ACU, to participate in the next meeting of the Board of Director of ACU planned to be held in Pakistan. The letter of the President of Central Bank will be circulated to the Embassies of member States. Secretary General further indicated that in the letter a proposal submitted by the General Manager of ACU to -the Fifth meeting of Regional Planning Council for cooperation between ECO and ACU has also been referred to visit by ECO delegation of senior officials to some ASEAN member countries

30. Secretary General recalled that the second-half of August 1997 for this visit was agreed by the Tenth meeting of CPR and in the light of the above, suggested the following flight schedule:

TUE	(19-8-1997)	0830	2045	IR-840	Tehran-K, Lumpur
WED	(20-8-1997)	0920	1020	MH-711	K.Lumpur-Jakarta
SUN	(24-8-1997)	1830	2130	MH-722	Jakarta-K.Lumpur
TUE	(26-8-1997)	2345	0340 (WED)	IR-841	K.Lumpur-Tehran

31. Secretary General requested the respective Permanent Representatives to convey this information to their concerned authorities so that the selected officials could make necessary preparations.

j) EGO Transit Trade Agreement

32. Secretary General informed the meeting that the implementation of ECO Transit Trade was discussed during the follow-up meeting related to the work of Trade Directorate on 21st July, 1997 at the ECO Secretariat. He stated that so far Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Kazakhstan have ratified and deposited their Instruments of Ratification to the ECO Secretariat. Secretary General requested the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to convey to their concerned authorities that if their Instrument of Ratification is sent to the ECO Secretariat, the required number of ratifications would be fulfilled and the implementation of ECO Transit Trade Agreement could be commenced.

k) Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for the Businessmen of ECO countries

33. Secretary General informed the meeting that the implementation of the said Agreement was discussed during the follow up meeting related to the work of Trade Directorate on 21st July, 1997 at the ECO Secretariat. He stated that so far Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Turkey have ratified and deposited their Instruments of Ratification to the ECO Secretariat. Secretary General requested the Permanent Representative of the Islamic republic of Pakistan to convey to their concerned authorities that if their Instrument of Ratification is sent to the ECO Secretariat, the required number of ratifications would be fulfilled and the implementation of visa simplification procedure agreement could be commenced.

34. Secretary General also informed the Council that in the above mentioned follow up meeting, the Representative of the Republic of Turkey had proposed that CPR include in its Agenda the discussion of the possibility of implementing the two above mentioned Agreements as they have been ratified by required number of signatory member states and only receipt of Instruments of Ratification from one members states in each case was awaited.

35. The Council agreed to include the above mentioned proposal in the agenda of the next CPR meeting.

(l) UNDP's Project Proposal

36. Secretary General informed the meeting that 50 far only the Republic of Tajikistan has positively responded to the UNDP's project proposal titled "Support to ECO member countries in trade efficiency and economic cooperation", and requested other member states to convey expeditiously their comments/views on the same.

(m) Progress Report of the Management Board of ECO Reinsurance Pool

37. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the meeting that they have received an informative report from the Management Board of ECO Reinsurance Pool elaborating on the activities and problems of this institution. The council agreed to include this item in the agenda of its next meeting.

Agenda Item-8:

Date of the Next Meeting

38. The Council decided that its next meeting shall be held on 24th August, 1997 at 1030 hours. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted to host the meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if as a result of moving to the new premises, the 12th meeting of Council1 of Permanent Representatives could not be held in the ECO Secretariat.

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