

The 12th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 24 August, 1997)

No. CON/CPR-12/Rpt. Dt. 24-08-1997

1. The Twelfth Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the Secretariat on 24th August, 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, Republic of Uzbekistan 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 Chairman, right after the opening of the meeting expressed condolences and feelings of sorrow on his behalf and on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the sad demise of H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahim Gafoorzai, Prime Minister of the Government of Islamic State of Afghanistan, as a result of plane crash.

3. The Council adopted the draft agenda proposed by the Secretariat with one amendment. The adopted agenda is attached as **Annex -II**.

Agenda Item-2:

Adoption of the Report of Eleventh Meeting of the CPR

4. The Council adopted the Report of its Eleventh meeting held on 27th July, 1997 as prepared by the Secretariat. The adopted Report is being circulated separately.

Agenda Item-3:

Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting in New York

5. The Council finalized the draft agenda for the Ministerial meeting to be held in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. The approved draft agenda is placed at **Annex -III**.

6. Permanent Representatives of some member countries argued that in fact there was no urgent matter requiring to have an Extraordinary Ministerial meeting. On the other hand, it was pointed out that to enable the approval of the amendments in ECO Secretariat regulations and the finalization of urgent financial issues, a formal meeting is necessary. Therefore it was agreed that the Ministers may decide on the title/nature of their meeting as Extraordinary or Coordination meeting while they are in New York.

7. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that the Ministerial meeting is now scheduled to be held on 2nd October, 1997 from 13:00 to 16:00 hours at the premises of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New

York.

8. In case the Ministers decide to call their meeting as Extraordinary or Coordination meeting, it was agreed to convene a Senior Officials meeting in the premises of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, prior to the Ministerial meeting.

9. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also informed the Council that the ECO/ASEAN Joint Ministerial meeting is planned to be held on 3rd October, 1997. Exact date of the meeting will be announced later.

10. While considering the draft agenda for the Ministerial Meeting in New York, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan stated that his Government reserves the right not to co-sponsor the draft Resolution on ECO-UN cooperation to be submitted to UN General Assembly. However, the Council made an appeal to the Government of Uzbekistan to reconsider its position for the sake of international image of ECO. The Permanent Representative of Republic of Uzbekistan undertook to convey the same to his Government.

Agenda Item-4:

Authorization to the Secretary General to use the General Reserve Fund

11. This issue was discussed in detail and although a general tendency emerged in favour of giving the required authorization, a final decision on the matter was deferred to the next meeting of CPR.

Agenda Item-5:

Provisional Implementation of Ratified ECO Agreements

12. This issue was considered during the meeting. Concurrence of views could not be reached on the provisional implementation of some agreements ratified by the required number of member countries, while enough number of instruments of ratification had not been deposited.

13. On the other hand, different views were put forward in connection with the entry into force of duly ratified agreements by the required number of member countries. Some Permanent Representatives argued that a ratified agreement would enter into force also for all signatory member countries. Whereas some others supported the view that an agreement will enter into force for only those who have ratified and deposited their instrument of ratification. It was agreed that Permanent Representatives may seek legal advice from their respective Governments on the matter and take up the issue in one of the next meetings of CPR.

Agenda Item-6:

ECO Reinsurance Pool

14. In the light of the explanations presented by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey, on the performance of ECO Reinsurance Pool and ECO Insurance Centre, the Council decided to ask the Management Board of ECO Reinsurance Pool to prepare a comprehensive status report on their activities and forward it to the ECO Secretariat. The Secretariat was requested to include the discussion of the report in the agenda of one of the next meetings of CPR.

Agenda Item- 7:Approval of the Audit Report for the financial year 1996.

15. The Council decided to defer the matter to its next meeting.

Agenda Item-8:Any Other Business

Under this agenda item the following issues were discussed:

a) Status of emoluments and other benefits of the Secretary General.

16. The Chairman brought to the attention of the Council a financial issue regarding the monthly emoluments and other benefits of the Secretary General. He briefly explained that although in the Secretariat budget for 1997 the monthly salary of the Secretary General has been calculated under the new regulations w.e.f. First July, 1997, his financial status should remain under the previous regulations as a consequence of his appointment by the 6th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers held in May 1996 in Ashgabat. Permanent Representatives of some member countries stated that they would like to refer the matter to their respective authorities and asked the postponement of this issue to the next meeting of CPR.

(b) Finalization of Ashqabat Declaration.

17. The additional para 16 of the Ashgabat Summit Declaration was finalized during the meeting.

18. However the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan stated that Kazakhstan abstains in order to enable the finalization of Ashgabat Declaration, but reserves the right to come back on this issue (para 16 of the Ashgabat Declaration) during the Second Conference of Ministers of Transport of ECO Countries to be held in December, 1997 in Ashgabat. He further stated that the formal views of the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan on the subject had been earlier sent to the ECO Secretariat vide their Note No. 21/3567 dated 9th July, 1997. As requested by Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan the formal position of the Republic of Kazakhstan is reproduced below:

“The authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan believe that the creation of a Permanent Commission on Transport and Communications outside the Headquarters of ECO would infringe the interests of the other ECO Member States. A directorate in Transport and Communications was established within the framework of ECO Secretariat. The Permanent Commission proposed by Turkmenistan side will duplicate the work of this directorate, create difficulties of decision making and impede the process of implementation of important projects.

19. The Secretary General, recalling the importance of the Ashgabat Declaration as a policy document of ECO, suggested that the Declaration be handed out to the United Nations Secretariat through the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New York, asking them to circulate it, if possible, as an official document of the United Nations. This proposal was endorsed by the Council.

(c) UNDP/UNCTAD Project Proposal Titled "Support to ECO Member Countries in Trade Efficiency and Economic Cooperation"

20. Secretary General informed the meeting that this project proposal which has been already sent to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note No. CDC/CMT/706568 dated 11th June, 1997 for their comment, does not entail any financial obligation for ECO and asked the Member States to favorably consider and authorize him to sign the document on 31st August, 1997 in Tehran, on the occasion of UNDP's Chief Administrator Mr. Speth's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

21. While there was a general trend to authorize the Secretary General to sign the said document, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan stated that he was awaiting an instruction from Islamabad. He undertook to communicate the views of his Government to the ECO Secretariat before 31st August, 1997.

d) Visit of ECO Delegation of Senior Officials to ASEAN Region.

22. Secretary General informed the Council that the newly proposed dates for the said visit (9 -16 September, 1997) have been confirmed by Malaysia. He added that confirmation from Indonesia was awaited. He asked the concerned authorities in Member States, (Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan) to make necessary preparations in this regard.

e) Second visit of Secretary General to UN Headquarters.

23. Secretary General informed the Council that since the discussion of the Resolution on ECO -UN Cooperation was planned to take place late October / early November, 1997, he may be authorized to make a second visit to the UN Headquarters to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly session at the above- mentioned dates. The Council endorsed the Secretary General's proposal.

(f) Invitation to attend 22nd Meeting of IDB Board of Governors.

24. Secretary General informed the Council that he has been invited by the President of IDB to attend the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB to be held on 25 -26 November, 1997 in Damascus. The Council agreed that Secretary General may attend the IDB meeting if it has concrete agenda for discussion.

g) Introduction of New Directing Staff.

25. Secretary General introduced Mr. Khaghani (Director Energy), Mr. Tiktik (Director Trade) and Mr. Masooleh (Assistant Director General Affairs) and informed the Council that they have started their work in the ECO Secretariat under the new organizational set up. He also informed the Council that the Deputy Secretary General for Coordination and Research, Mr. Altaf Hussein Agral had just arrived in Tehran to assume his duty.

(h) Extension of the term of one Seconded Director.

26. Secretary General explained that new Director for Trade has just joined ECO Secretariat and important ECO activities are scheduled to take place in August and September, 1997, and suggested the term of Mr. Sheikh Hassani, Director under the previous set up be extended till the end of September, 1997.

27. While there was a general trend in favour of the extension, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan undertook to convey the views of his Government on the subject in due time.

i) Advertisement for Vacant Posts in Categories I and II.

28. In the light of the comments made by the Secretary General and the Permanent Representatives participating in the debate, it was agreed that at this stage only the advertisement for the post of Protocol Officer will be circulated. For the remaining vacant posts in category II namely 5 Program Officers and one Public Relations Assistant, a consensus was not reached. The advice of the Council of Ministers will be sought on the matter at its New York meeting.

j) Budgetary Contributions for the year 1997.

29. Secretary General informed the meeting that the budgetary contributions by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had not yet been made and requested expeditious action on the matter by the concerned Member States.

(k) Working Group on Observer / Dialogue Partner Status.

30. Secretary General informed the meeting that the third meeting of the Working Group to work out modalities for processing applications for Observer/Dialogue Partners Status was scheduled to be held at the ECO Secretariat on 7th September, 1997, and requested the active participation in the meeting to facilitate the finalization of the said modalities at the earliest.

l) Shifting to the New ECO Secretariat Building.

31. Secretary General informed the Council that the Secretariat will be shifting to its new premises soon and once again requested those Member States who had not sent their National Flags, Books, Photographs of their Head of States, etc. to take action on the matter.

(m) Second Meeting of the Working Group to determine ECO Scale of Assessment.

32. The Representative of the Islamic Republic Iran requested the Secretariat to convene the second meeting of the Working Group to determine ECO Scale of Assessment so that the issue could be concluded before the next annual meeting of COM.

Agenda Item-9:

Closing of the Session and Date of the Next Meeting

33. The Chairman before closing the session, made a brief statement highlighting the meritorious efforts of H.E. Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Ambassador of Pakistan to the work of ECO on the occasion of his assignment to another post.

34. The Council decided that its next meeting shall be held on 16th September, 1997, at 10:30 hours.