

The 13th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 16 September, 1997)

No. CON/CPR-13/Rpt. Dt. 09-11-1997

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the Secretariat on 16th September, 1997. The meeting was chaired by H. E. Mr. H. Kazempour Ardebili, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, 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-I:

Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Agenda was adopted with some amendments. The adopted Agenda is attached **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item-2:

Adoption of the Report of Twelfth Meeting of the CPR

3. The Council adopted the Report of its Twelfth Meeting held on 24 August, 1997 with amendments in paras 24 and 28. The adopted Report is being circulated separately.

Agenda Item 3:

Preparations for the Ministerial Meetings in New York

4. The Council took note of the latest preparations related to the meeting of ECO Council of Ministers and ECO/ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting to be held in New York.

The Council was informed that the ECO Council of Ministers Meeting will be held on 2nd October, 1997 at 1300-1600 hours at the headquarters of the United Nations hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while the 3rd meeting of ECO/ASEAN Foreign Ministers will be held in the Office of the Permanent Mission of Singapore on 3rd October, 1997 at 1000-1300 hours.

With regard to the nature of the meeting, the Council agreed to recommend to the Ministers to consider the possibility of holding an Extraordinary Meeting in view of the following issues, needing their approval.

- i) Authorization to the Secretary General to use general reserve fund.
- ii) Approval to the amendment in the article 6.7 of the Staff Regulations
- iii) Approval for recruitment against the remaining vacant posts in category II i.e. 5 Programme Officers and One Protocol and Public Relations Officer.

5. The Council took note of the proposal of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Secretariat should prepare its Programme of Work with international organizations and specialized agencies of the UN within 3 months and present it to CPR for approval.

Agenda Item-4:

Authorization to the Secretary General to use the General Reserve Fund

6. The Council agreed to submit for the approval of the Council of Ministers, according to Article 10.1 of Financial Regulations, the authorization required for the Secretary General to use the General Reserve Fund. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was requested to convey their views, in this respect to the Secretariat at the earliest.

Agenda Item-5:

Approval of the Audit Report for the Financial Year 1996

7. The Council approved the Audit Report for the financial year 1996 and agreed that from next year, the Auditors will be asked to present their Report to the CPR. The Council requested the Secretariat to take note of the views and recommendations of the Board of Auditors while preparing the budget for 1998.

Agenda Item-6:

Consideration of documents related to the functioning of ECO Cultural Institute (see para 25 of the Report of 7th COM)

8. The Council was informed that the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan have sent their views on the documents related to the functioning of ECO Cultural Institute. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic State of Afghanistan have sent their types of seals and emblem. Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan have forwarded their views on the Guidelines/Plan of Action for implementation of Joint Projects and the activities of the Institute. Other Member States were asked to convey their views on all the documents which shall be taken up during the next meeting of CPR for finalization of the matter.

Agenda Item-7:

Authorization to the Secretary General to sign UNDCP Project for ECO Drug Control

9. The Council authorized the Secretary General to sign UNDCP Project on the basis of the authorization already communicated by five Member States and urged other Member States to notify their written concurrence to the Secretariat in this respect at the earliest.

Agenda Item-8:

Secretariat's proposal for holding preparatory high level experts meeting for the second Ministerial Meeting in the field of Transport and Telecommunications

10. The Council deemed it necessary to hold a preparatory meeting of the Senior Officials of the Member States prior to the second Ministerial meeting in the field of Transport and Telecommunications to be held in Ashgabat. The Secretariat was asked to contact the Embassy of Turkmenistan in this respect.

Agenda Item-9:Any other business

11. The Council agreed that with regard to the follow-up review meetings and similar matters, where no specific decision of the CPR was required the EGO Secretariat will circulate one page note on each item for the information of the Permanent Representatives of the Member States.

The Council took up for consideration the following matters.

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

12. The Council agreed that the emoluments and benefits of the Secretary General would be subject to the previous regulations in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers at the time of approving his appointment. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan was requested to expedite their views to the Secretariat at the earliest.

b) Extension of the term of one Seconded Director.

13. The Council agreed to approve the proposed extension in the term of Mr. Sheikh Hassani, Director up to 30 September, 1997, subject to the condition that sufficient funds are available in its current year's budget.

c) Implementation of ratified ECO Agreements.

14. The Secretary General recalled the Council that a Note verbal No: CECC/TRA/708682 dated 31st August, 1997, has been circulated to the Member States to furnish the legal advice of their Governments on this issue. The Permanent Representatives were asked to inform the ECO Secretariat about their Governments views at the earliest.

d) EGO data bank.

15. The ECO Secretariat will circulate one page note for information to the Permanent Representatives in Tehran on the subject.

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

16. The Secretary General briefed the Council about his meeting with Mr. Speth, the UNDP Administrator, held at the ECO Secretariat on 31st August, 1997. The approval of ECO to the UNDP/UNCTAD Project Proposal titled "Support to ECO Member Countries in Trade Efficiency and Economic Cooperation." was verbally conveyed to him.

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

17. The Council was informed that the ECO delegation comprising Senior Officials of Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan with a Director from ECO Secretariat is currently visiting ASEAN Secretariat and Malaysia. The Secretariat will submit a report on the outcome of their visit to the Member States in due course.

g) Visit of UNDP Consultant Mr. Makharita to ECO Secretariat.

18. The Secretary General briefed the Council about the visit of Mr. R. Makharita, UNDP Senior Consultant, to the ECO Secretariat who started his work on 25th August, 1997 and held meetings with the Secretary General, Directing Staff of the Secretariat and the Permanent Representatives of some Member States in Tehran. The Council was further informed that the Consultant will visit four Member States namely Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan from 10th October, 1997 and the concerned Member States were requested to send their concurrence about the visit of the Consultant by 27 September, 1997 to the ECO Secretariat.

h) Proposal of Embassy of Russian Federation to organize a visit by a representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation.

19. The Council agreed that the Secretary General may receive any Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation as a "fact finding mission" at this stage.

i) Second Meeting of the Working Group to determine EGO Scale of Assessment.

20. The Secretary General briefed the Council about the present status of discussions held by the group of experts of the Member States on the issue. While consensus has not yet been reached due "to difference in the perception of the criteria of capacity to pay the Member States were requested to present their Views expeditiously so that a final position can be reached. The Secretary General recalled that the next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to be held on 22-23 September, 1997.

j) Budgetary Contributions for the year 1997.

21. The Council thanked the Six Member States who have already provided their contributions to the ECO Secretariat budget for 1997 and urged the remaining Member States to expedite their payments. In the meeting, the Representative of Azerbaijan Republic stated that they are going to pay their contribution shortly.

k) Participation in ECO meetings/events.

22. On the briefing about the ECO meetings/events which are scheduled to be held in near future, the Council urged all Member States to ensure their participation in the meetings/events to make their deliberations fruitful.

- 4th Meeting of Heads of Customs Administration, September, 1997, Almaty.
- ECO-WTO Workshop, 29-30 September, 1997, Istanbul.
- Ad-hoc Committee Meeting on Power, 7-8 October, 1997, Ashgabat.
- Meeting on Oil and Gas Pipelines, Ashgabat. 10-11 October, 1997
- ECO Awards Committee, 2-3 November, 1997, Secretariat
- D.G s. Telecommunications Meeting on 24-25 November, Islamabad 1997,
- High-Level Experts Task Group to be set up for implementation of agreed projects in the field of energy (Date and venue to be informed).

l) ECO Day Celebration (28 November, 1997).

23. The Secretary General briefed the Council about the envisaged arrangements by the Secretariat to celebrate "ECO Day" on 28 November, 1997. It would, inter-alia, include a courtesy call by the Secretary General on H.E. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, short interview with Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and a reception. The Council also appreciated the offer of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to send a team of electronic media to prepare documentaries on each Member State to highlight the achievements and historical background of ECO Member States for display/public presentation on the important days/events celebrated in the Member States. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to fully fund this activity with the cooperation of concerned authorities of the Member States. In this connection, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will send a written proposal to the ECO Secretariat for circulation to the Member States.

m) Report of the Secretary General for the ECO Council of Ministers Meeting in New York.

24. The Council took note of the Secretary his draft report to be submitted to the Meeting going to be held in New York.

Agenda Item-10:

Date of the Next Meeting.

25. The Council decided that its next meeting shall be held on 9 November, 1997 at 1030

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