

The 6th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 22nd April, 1997)

Adopted No. CON/CPR-6/97 Dt. 27-04-1997.

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the Secretariat on 22nd April, 1997. In the absence of the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan the meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Nasrollah Kamyab, Permanent Representative / Director General of ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry 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-1:

Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item-2:

Adoption of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the CPR

3. The Council adopted the Report of its Fifth meeting held on 15th April, 1997 with an amendment. The adopted Report is being circulated by the Secretariat separately.

4. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan due to his absence during the Fifth meeting of CPR presented a statement in response to a statement made by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan in the Fifth meeting of CPR. The text of the statement is placed at Annex-III.

5. In the context of the above, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan supported by Permanent Representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan maintained that ECO being purely an economic Organization should not be used as a forum for raising political issues.

6. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan took floor and made some remarks (Annex-IV) in the content of the statement made earlier by Permanent Representative of Afghanistan.

Agenda Item-3:

Secretariat's proposals regarding amendments in some Articles of the Staff Regulations

a) Article 24.3 of the Staff Regulations Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) concerning the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

b) Salary Scale of the Staff employed under Category-III

c) Article 14.1 concerning the special bonus to be granted to the members of Category-III staff

a) Article 24.3 of the Staff Regulations concerning the Daily subsistence Allowance (DSA)

7. While most of the Permanent Representatives endorsed this proposal for submission to the Seventh meeting of Council of Ministers for final approval, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stated that the existing scales of Daily Subsistence Allowances should be applied for some time before proposing any revisions.

8. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan observed that the Daily Subsistence Allowances within EGO Region, should be determined on the basis of the existing rates of DSA and living standards of EGO Member States.

9. The Secretary General explained the rationale of the proposed revision by citing actual experience of Secretariat officials since January 1997. The Council agreed with the recommendation of the Secretary General that the proposal may be placed before the Senior Officials meeting for further consideration and approval.

b) Salary Scale of the Staff employed under Category-III.

10. The Council discussed the issue and requested the Secretariat to prepare different options including the present Salary Scale for further consideration by Senior Officials meeting.

c) Article 14.1 concerning the special bonus to be granted to the Members of Category III Staff:

11. The Council received the Secretariat's proposal favourably, and decided to submit it to the Council of Ministers for final approval.

Agenda Item-4

Discussion on appointment to posts in Category-I (Directing Staff)

12. The Secretary General briefed the meeting on the recommendations of the Panel about the appointment of two DSGs. In the absence of consensus, the Council decided to discuss this issue in its next meeting, before the Senior Officials meeting, so that the nominations could be finalized by the Council of Ministers, as stipulated in the relevant provisions of the Staff Regulations.

Agenda Item-5:

Secretary General's Proposals on Organizational Structure

13. Secretary General proposed some interim arrangements related to the functioning of the Secretariat under the new organizational set up. The Council endorsed the proposals in principle and decided to submit the same to Senior Officials meeting for consideration prior to the Council of Ministers. Copy of the proposed interim arrangements along with Secretariat's proposals concerning the amendment of some Articles of the Staff and Financial Regulations is enclosed as Annex-V.

14. The Council favourably took note of the proposed amendment to Article 3.2 of the Financial Regulations concerning the approval of the Budget and decided to submit it to Senior Officials Meeting for consideration prior to the Council of Ministers.

Agenda Item-6:

Outcome of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group the modalities scope & nature of the observer and dialogue partner status

15. The Council took note of the briefing given by the Secretariat on the outcome of the first meeting of the Open ended Working Group on the modalities, scope and nature of the observer and dialogue partner status and urged the Member States to actively take part in the future meetings of the Working Group.

Agenda Item 7

Consideration of the work of the Committee of Experts on ECO's Scale of Assessment

16. The Council took note of the briefing given by the Secretariat on the preliminary work of the Committee and urged Member States to actively participate in the Committee's future meetings with appropriate and practical recommendations.

Agenda Item-8:

Relations with International Organizations

- a) BSEC
- b) IDB
- c) INMARSAT
- d) UNDP
- e) ASEAN

17. Secretary General briefed the Council on his visit to the headquarters of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) (Report of the Secretary General has been circulated separately vide Secretariat's Note No. INT/BSE/97 dated 8th April, 1997). He emphasized that ECO and BSEC pursued similar objectives especially in the fields of transport & communications, energy and trade. He also stated that the officials of BSEC will convey to ECO Secretariat the outcome for follow-up on possible areas of cooperation.

18. Secretary General informed the Council that an ECO delegation shall pay a visit to IDB headquarters as a result of favourable response given by President of IDB to a recent communication.

19. Secretary General briefed the meeting on a draft MOU submitted by INMARSAT an inter-governmental telecommunication company and the interest shown by them to cooperate with EGO.

20. Secretary General informed the meeting that cooperation with UNDP was going on satisfactorily and UNDP" had positively responded to ECO Secretariat's request to assign a Consultant to work on the Job Descriptions of ECO Directorates. He also stated that the UNDP Consultant will arrive in Tehran to start the process soon.

21. Concerning the visit of a delegation of Senior Officials of Member States of ECO to ASEAN member countries, the Secretary General informed the Council that only nominations from Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan were received. He requested the other Member States to do the needful as soon as possible. He further added that if nominations are received by the end of April 1997, the visit could be planned for some time in June 1997.

22. Secretary General also informed the Council that the 3rd Consultative Meeting of the Executive Heads of Asia's Sub-regional Organizations and UN ESCAP will be held on 18-19 May, 1997 in Tehran.

23. Secretary General also explained that since most of the Member States of ECO were members of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) , and upon the suggestion of some Member States, he was planning to enter cooperative relationship with these Banks. He further stated that similar plans were made to work out ECO's relationships with OPEC and OPEC Fund.

24. Secretary General also informed the Council that Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) had shown interest to initiate cooperative relationship with ECO.

25. The Council registered its appreciation for Secretary General's efforts to promote productive relationship with other regional/international organizations.

Agenda Item-9:

Any Other Business

26. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan referred to Article 18 of the Functional Methodology of ECO and stated that since US\$300,000/- in the Feasibility Fund lying unspent, the 5 per cent contribution required on the part of the Member States could be temporarily suspended. The Council decided to submit the proposal to the Council of Ministers.

Agenda Item-10:

Date of the next Meeting:

27. The Council decided to hold a short meeting (as its 7th meeting) before the meeting of Senior Officials on 27th April, 1997 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. with a three item agenda:

- Adoption of the Report of Sixth meeting of CPR held on 22nd April, 1997.
- Recommendations for appointment of Deputy Secretaries General.
- Proposal for Amendment in the Article 6.7 of the Staff Regulations.

28. The Council decided to hold its next regular session (Eighth Meeting) on 26th May, 1997 provided that there was no need to hold any urgent meeting prior to the Extraordinary ECO Summit.

Agenda Item-11

Adoption of the Report

29. The Report of this meeting shall be adopted in the next meeting of CPR.

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