

# The 35<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – Wednesday, 08 September, 1999 )

1. The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1999. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Abbasali Hasanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Permanent Representatives/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 and Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretary General of ECO attended the Meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

2. The CPR convening its first meeting after the recent catastrophic earthquake in western Turkey offered its condolences to the people and the Government of the Republic of Turkey and expressed its sorrow over the victims of such disaster. Subsequently, the CPR issued a message of condolences to the people and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, which is placed at **Annex-II**.

### **Agenda Item No. 1**

#### Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda proposed by the Secretariat was adopted with the addition of a new item i.e. "Matters pertaining to ECO Cultural Institute" as Agenda Item No. 4 while changing the order of the previous Agenda Item No. 4 to 9 in adopted form. Also, sub-items (d), (e) and (f) under Agenda Item No. 7 and one sub-item under the Agenda Item No. 10 were among further additions to the Agenda. The revised adopted Agenda is placed at **Annex-III**.

### **Agenda Item No. 2**

#### Adoption of the Report of the 34th Meeting of the CPR

4. The report of the 34<sup>th</sup> CPR was adopted with a minor amendment in para 8 as proposed by the ECO Cultural Institute. The adopted report is being circulated separately.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

#### Final Preparations for the informal ECO COM and the joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings to be held in New York in 1999

5. The Secretary General briefed the session on the final proposed schedule for the informal meeting of COM and the joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, both to be held in New York as follows:

- ECO-COM will be held at 1300 hours on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1999
- ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting will be held at 1600 hours on Wednesday – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1999 at the UN HQs. Meeting Room No. 5.

Regarding the conflicting dates of the ECO-COM and D-8 Ministerial Meetings, the CPR requested the Secretary General to contact the D-8 Secretariat in Turkey to seek their assistance for possible rescheduling of the D-8 meeting in New York, so as to avoid its clash with the ECO-COM meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 4**Matters pertaining to ECO Cultural Institute

6. The CPR agreed on the following:

- Regarding the anomalies in the basic documents and charter of the ECO Cultural Institute, the matter will be dealt with in the next session of the CPR;
- Emblem of the ECO Cultural Institute will also be decided in the next session of the CPR since some Member States asked for more time to seek the views of their respective Capitals on the proposed design.
- The Plan of Action be referred to the Working Group to assist CPR for due consideration.

**Agenda Item No. 5**ECO Scale of Assessment Issue

7. Having considered the report of the Working Group, the CPR decided to consider the issue of the elaboration of a new Scale of Assessment of ECO for the year 2001 and onwards, in accordance with the decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Council of Ministers' Meeting held in Baku in May, 1999 together with the issue of the appointment of the Secretary General in informal consultations to be held under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**Agenda Item No. 6**Consideration of Secretariat's report on the Ratification of the ECO signed agreements and Regional and specialized agencies of ECO

8. The CPR noted the recommendations of the Working Group taking into account the observations of the Secretary General in this regard.

9. Accordingly, it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a revised version of the report on the ratification of ECO signed Agreements and Regional & Specialized Agencies of ECO after receiving views/comments/proposals from sufficient number of Member States on the basis of which new recommendations/ proposals could be drawn up.

**Agenda Item No. 7**Recent Developments concerning External Relations of ECO

- a. MOU with OSZhd;
- b. MOU with UIC;
- c. Proposed relationship with SADC;
- d. MOU with UNCTAD;
- e. Relations with WTO;
- f. Grant Agreement with IDB.

10. The CPR, on (a) & (b) above, urged those Member States, who have not yet forwarded their comments/views to do so expeditiously.

11. On (c), the Secretary General briefed the CPR on this issue and stated that co-operative relationship with SADC would enhance international profile of ECO. The CPR asked those Member States, who have not furnished their views/comments to do so expeditiously.
12. Concerning (d), the CPR approved the revised draft MOU with UNCTAD taking into account the procedural amendments proposed by the UNCTAD Secretariat (para 8 of the amended draft).
13. Sub-item (e) i.e. Relations with WTO was deferred to the next Meeting.
14. With regard to (f), after briefing of the Secretary General on this issue and considering the presence of the IDB President H.E. Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali in Tehran on September 11, 1999, the CPR agreed in principle to the signing of the said Agreement, with the understanding that views/comments of the Member States, if any, may be conveyed on its implementation.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8**

##### Recruitment of two Steno-Secretaries

15. This item was deferred to the next meeting of the CPR.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9**

##### Consideration of the Audit Report for the year 1998

16. This item was deferred to the next meeting of the CPR.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10**

##### Any other business

17. Under this Agenda Item, the Secretary General briefed the CPR on the Second HLEG Meeting on Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers in the ECO Region, held in Karachi (Pakistan) in August, 1999. The CPR decided to approve the report of the said Meeting so that its recommendations could be duly implemented.
18. Other issues to be raised under this agenda item were deferred to the next meeting of the CPR.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11**

##### Date of next meeting

19. The CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1000 hours on Monday-October 25, 1999.

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