

The 55th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – Wednesday, 06 June, 2001)

1. The 55th meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held in the ECO Secretariat on Wednesday, 6th June, 2001, was chaired by H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Permanent Representatives/ Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, 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 Representative of ECO Cultural Institute, as well as the Secretary General alongwith the ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

The Council adopted the proposed agenda with some amendments, which is placed at **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item No.2

Matters pertaining to the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI):

a. Finalization of the budget of the ECI for 2001

The Council approved the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for 2001. The Institute was requested to furnish to the Secretariat the exact sharing formula for circulation among the member states for approval.

b. Appointment of the President of ECI

The Council decided that the concerned member states may first hold informal consultations among themselves. Concrete proposals based on informal consultations would be presented to the CPR for final decision.

Agenda Item No.3

Consideration of the Project Document of UNDCP Phase-II - Assistance in strengthening the Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) at the Secretariat of ECO

Since some member states were still awaiting instructions from their respective capitals on the issue, the Council decided to defer the item to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No.4

Establishment of a permanent exhibition and shopping center of industries & agriculture products and engineering-technical services of ECO member states in each member state

The member states agreed in principle to consider the proposed project. However, the Council decided that the ECO Directorate of Trade & Investment should forward the proposal to the ECO CCI for inclusion in the agenda of their next meeting, in order to flesh out

more details of the proposed project including modality, organization, cost & shares of interested member states, tariffs and sale of exhibited items etc. and submit the result to one of the meetings of CPR for finalization. Also, the concerned Directorate should convey the detailed project to the Iranian Chamber of Commerce for pursuing the matter in the next ECO CCI meeting.

Agenda Item No.5

Consideration of the terms of reference of the Joint ECO/ASEAN study

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

Agenda Item No. 6

Publication of the second edition of ECO Roads & Railways Network maps

The Council agreed that a blueprint of the final version of the map would be prepared by IR of Iran in coordination with the ECO Secretariat and circulated among the member states for approval. The Council directed that the final version should be published as early as possible.

Agenda Item No. 7

The annual contribution of the member states to the budget of the Secretariat according to the UN scale of assessment

The CPR discussed the proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan to fix the annual contribution of the seven (new) member states to the Secretariat's budget for 2000 and 2001 according to the relevant UN scale of assessment.

The Council agreed that the concerned seven member states would seek the approval from their respective capitals for the following formula for resolving the issue in the next CPR meeting:

- The calculation of the annual contribution for the budget of 2000 may not be revised because the financial year came to an end long ago.
- The contribution of the seven member states to the Secretariat's budget of 2001 should be calculated according to the current UN scale of assessment as the financial year was still on.

Agenda Item No. 8

Draft resolution of FAO to be supported by ECO

The Council decided that the Permanent Representatives may seek authorization from their respective capitals to approve the FAO draft resolution in the next CPR meeting, thereafter to be endorsed by the next informal COM meeting scheduled to be held in September 2001.

Agenda Item No. 9

Consideration of the offer of the Center of Prevention of International Crimes (CICP) to hold a regional Seminar on fighting against the supranational organized crimes

Since some member states were still awaiting instructions from their respective capitals, the CPR deferred its decision on the offer to its next meeting.

However, the Council agreed that the Secretariat may forward an interim reply to the CICP to inform that the Secretariat was interested in the said seminar and the final decision of the Secretariat will be communicated to them in due course.

Agenda Item No. 10Matters relating to the Special Support Fund (SSF)

The Council decided that the ECO events to be supported by the SSF may be finalized after the ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2001 have been revised by CPR as per the decision of the 11th meeting of the Council of Ministers. However, the Council agreed that the 5th SETG meeting on Interconnection and Parallel Functioning of ECO Region's Power Systems, which is planned for mid July 2001, would be supported from the SSF.

Agenda Item No. 11Renewal of the Selection Panel

The Council agreed on the new composition of the Selection Panel which will include Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey.

Agenda Item No. 12Implementation of the decisions of the 11th COM meeting

The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on implementation of the decisions of the 11th COM meeting, held on 4th May, 2001 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) alongwith recommendations and circulate it among member states for discussion during the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 13Implementation of the decisions of other Ministerial meetings:

The Council also requested the Secretariat to submit a report on implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial meetings on Transport, Foreign Trade/Commerce and Energy along with its recommendations for discussion in the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 14Preparation for the first ECO Ministerial meeting on Agriculture:

The Council pointed out that the Secretariat may prepare a working paper for the said meeting which may include the following main elements and circulate it among the member states:

- The development of agriculture of the member states;
- Trade in agricultural sector of the member states;
- Technical cooperation among the member states in agricultural sector.

Agenda Item No. 15Administrative matters:**a. Appointment of Assistant Director against the vacant post**

The Secretary General briefed the Council on the recommendations of the Selection Panel held in the morning the same day (6 June 2001) in which Mr. Afzal Mirshakarov, nominated by the Republic of Tajikistan for appointment against the vacant post of Assistant

Director, was recommended.

The Council approved the said recommendation and appointed Mr. Mirshakarov as Assistant Director with immediate effect.

b. Temporary appointment of Accountant, ECO Sectt.

Accountant Mr. Bahman Shushtarian from IR of Iran retired on 09th June, 2001 before the expiry of his normal tenure on 31st July, 2001. CPR, upon the recommendation of the Selection Panel, agreed that Mr. Assadollah Hooshmand from the IR of Iran may fill the post of Accountant for the rest of the normal tenure of Mr. Shushtarian.

c. Appointment /extension of the ECO Staff in Category-II

The Council decided that the Secretariat should advertise for the posts of the ECO Staff in Category-II which will be falling vacant in the forthcoming months so that nominations could be sent to the Selection Panel for recommendations to CPR.

d. Job description of the officers working under the Deputy Secretaries General in the ECO Secretariat

The Council decided to defer this sub-item to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 16

Any other business

a) ECO Secretary General's visit to Europe

A detailed report on the recent visit of Secretary General to Europe (Vienna, Brussels and Geneva) was circulated to CPR during the meeting. Due to shortage of time, the Secretary General could not brief CPR in person.

b) ECO/UN-ESCAP Sub-regional Training Workshop on Environmental Statistics.

The CPR agreed that the workshop should be designated as a non-ECO activity organized by an international organization i.e. UN-ESCAP. ECO member states were encouraged to participate in this useful workshop.

c) Royan Int'l Infertility Seminar

The Council also agreed that the seminar should be considered as a non-ECO event, being organized by an International organization i.e. UNFPA.

Agenda Item No. 17

Date of the next Meeting

The Council decided to hold its next meeting at 1000 hours on Monday, 9th July, 2001 at the Secretariat.

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