

The 61st CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – January 14, 2002)

1. The 61st meeting of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held in the ECO Secretariat on Monday January 14, 2002, was chaired by H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Permanent 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 the Representative of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), as well as ECO Secretary General alongwith ECO staff, attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. CPR adopted the proposed agenda with addition of one item. The adopted agenda is placed at **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the draft report of the 60th meeting of CPR

3. CPR adopted the report of its 60th meeting with deletion of paragraph 5 and some amendments under agenda items No. 6, 9 & 10. The adopted report will be circulated among Member States separately.

Agenda Item No. 3

Draft Budget of ECO Secretariat for 2002

4. CPR discussed and adopted the budget of ECO Secretariat for the year 2002 with an enhancement of US\$ 3000 in budget head 'publication'. The approved budget will be circulated to Member States separately.

5. While CPR requested the Secretariat to exercise maximum prudence in case of travel expenses, it agreed that a brief report on travels in Secretariat be prepared for CPR information on quarterly basis.

6. CPR asked the Secretariat to include an item in the agenda of one of the forthcoming CPR's to review the modalities of ECO Awards.

7. Also, while emphasizing that Secretariat should encourage its staff to utilize their annual leave, CPR directed that leave-encashment should be allowed in exceptional cases only.

Agenda Item No. 4

Preparations for the 12th Regional Planning Council (RPC)

8. The IR of Iran has announced that the 12th RPC meeting would take place on March 4-7, 2002 in Tehran.

9. CPR agreed that the Secretariat, while sending preparatory documents to Embassies of Member States in Tehran and, in case possible, may send the same by electronic-mail to the focal points of Member States.

10. The Permanent Representative of the IR of Pakistan pointed out that the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade as well as 1st Ministerial Meeting on Industry, should also be included in the draft Calendar of Events/Meetings prepared by the Secretariat for the year 2002.

Agenda Item No. 5

Implementation of the Technical Assistance Agreement (Grant) of IDB

11. CPR approved the annexes of the Technical Assistance Agreement, signed with IDB, on Feasibility Study for Interconnection of Power Systems of ECO countries and endorsed the commencement of its implementation with an understanding that, while the study would consider the power systems development in the period till the year 2006, a study for the period upto 2026 would be undertaken when additional funds become available.

Agenda Item No. 6

Matters pertaining to ECO Shipping Company (ESC)

12. CPR agreed that the "Working Group to assist CPR" may work on the report prepared by the Secretariat on the activities of ESC and submit its recommendation to CPR for consideration.

Agenda Item No. 7

Cooperation between ECO and Free Trade Zones of the Islamic Republic of Iran

13. Since some Member States were still awaiting instructions from their respective capitals about the proposal of the IR of Iran to host a Seminar on Cooperation between ECO and Free Trade Zones of the IR of Iran, CPR decided to defer this item to its next meeting.

14. Turkey proposed that in addition to the above mentioned Iranian proposal, a meeting may also be arranged here in Tehran to inform the Council on Free Trade Zones in Member States.

15. CPR, while welcoming the Turkish proposal, requested Turkey to provide details of the proposal so that CPR in its next meeting may discuss and give its decision on the subject meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

Draft budget of ECI for 2002

16. CPR approved the budget of ECI for 2002. The approved budget will be circulated to Member States separately.

17. CPR expressed its wishes for the steps to be taken for early appointment of the President of the Institute and decided to bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ECI.

Agenda Item No. 9

Implementation of UNDP Capacity Building Project of ECO Secretariat and future cooperation with UNDP

18. CPR appreciated the progress report on the implementation of UNDP Capacity Building Project prepared by Secretariat and agreed that the unspent amount, out of the budget of the project, may be utilized for the proposed projects in priority areas of ECO.

Agenda Item No. 10

Cooperation between Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) of ECO and Drug Advisory Program (DAP) Colombo Plan (DAP)

19. CPR, in principle, agreed that ECO Secretariat may initiate cooperative relations with the Drug Advisory Program (DAP) of Colombo Plan and come up with concrete proposals to be taken up in CPR for a decision.

Agenda Item No. 11

Administrative matters

Appointment for the post of Russian Translator (Category-II, P.II)

20. The Secretary General informed CPR that the Selection Panel which met earlier the same day, deferred its recommendation for the nomination for the post of Russian Translator (Category-II, P.II). Thus, CPR decided to extend the tenure of the incumbent Ms. Gulnara Kanafina for two months, starting from January 17, 2002, with an understanding that in the meantime the process of selection of the future incumbent would be completed.

Agenda Item No. 12

Assistance in Reconstruction of Afghanistan

21. CPR pointed out that International Community like United Nations, World Bank, etc. intends to give a role to ECO Secretariat in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. CPR encouraged the Secretary General to participate in the Tokyo meeting to project possible ECO's role and exchange views with the relevant International Organizations in this context.

22. Further, it recommended that the Permanent Representative of the IS of Afghanistan in Tehran may identify Afghanistan's priorities in this regard and how the Government of Afghanistan would like ECO to respond.

23. CPR decided to take up the matter again in one of its next meetings.

Agenda Item No. 13

Any other business

24. The Secretary General informed the CPR about:

- i. His meetings with World Bank delegation, Foreign Minister of Ukraine and Senior Adviser of UNDP in the Secretariat. The minutes of these meetings had already been circulated among Member States.
- ii. The Executive Director of UNFPA visited the Secretariat. The minutes of the said meeting had already been circulated to Member States too. In addition, he briefed CPR on his courtesy visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, the report of which will be circulated separately.

Agenda Item No. 14

Date of the next Meeting

25. CPR decided that its next meeting be *tentatively* held at 1000 hours on Wednesday February 06, 2002.

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