

# The 76<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran, May 4, 2003 )

CPR/76<sup>th</sup>/2003/4 June 3, 2003

The 76<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on May 4, 2003 at 1430 hours, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Selahattin Alpar, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey in Tehran. 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 as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

2. At the outset of the meeting, the Secretary General expressed condolence to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey over the human and material loss caused by an earthquake which hit the city of Bingol in Turkey on May 1, 2003. Upon the request of the Secretary General, the Council offered "Fateha" for the victims of the earthquake.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

3. CPR adopted the following proposed agenda for its 76<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of draft report of the 75<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting.
3. Post 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Planning Council evaluation
4. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12<sup>th</sup> COM, 7<sup>th</sup> Summit and Istanbul Declaration.
5. Preparation for the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council of Ministers.
  - a) Draft Agenda
  - b) Confirmation for participation
  - c) Organizing an ECO Business Forum / 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting of ECO-CCI
  - d) Draft Work Programme of ECO Secretariat for 2003
  - e) Draft Bishkek Communiqué
  - f) List of international organizations to be invited to the meeting.
  - g) Working Papers
6. Administrative matters:
  - a) Appointment of new Secretary General
  - b) Appointment of DSGs, directing and other staff.

- c) Extension of the tenure of the Executive Director of ECI.
7. Contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget.
8. Reconstruction of Afghanistan.
  - a) Report of the Secretary General on his visit to Kabul.
  - b) Establishment of ECO Special Fund.
9. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund.
10. Any other business.
11. Date of the next meeting.

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

### Adoption of the draft report of the 75<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting.

4. CPR adopted the report of its 75<sup>th</sup> meeting with some amendments. The adopted report was circulated vide Secretariat's note No.SG/CPR/2003/0698 dated May 6, 2003.

## **Agenda Item No. 3**

### Post 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Planning Council evaluation

5. The Secretary General expressed his thanks to all member states for their active participation which contributed to the successful conclusion of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of RPC held on April 20-22, 2003, in Tehran. He further said that the Secretariat vide its note No.SG/RPC/2003/0634 dated April 30, 2003 circulated among the member states the adopted report of the meeting. The Council also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the meeting.

6. CPR requested the member states to convey their comments, if any, on the report to the Secretariat for circulation among the member states not later than **May 18, 2003**. As provided in the rules, CPR decided that the report as circulated was not open to substantive revision.

7. The Secretariat vide its note No. SG/13<sup>th</sup> RPC/2003/0688 dated May 4, 2003 distributed a revised ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 and 2004 in the light of the recommendations made by the 13<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting. CPR decided to review the calendar in its next meeting in view of advice from capitals before its submission to COM.

## **Agenda Item No. 4**

### Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12<sup>th</sup> COM, 7<sup>th</sup> Summit and Istanbul Declaration

8. CPR appreciated the Secretariat for the updated report on the follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12<sup>th</sup> COM, 7<sup>th</sup> Summit and Istanbul Declaration and requested the same to be kept in the agenda of the CPR meeting. The Secretary General briefed the meeting on the new developments with regard to the issues contained in the follow-up report. The Secretary General further informed that Mr. Mohammad Ali Shoaee whose appointment as President of ECI was endorsed by CPR had assumed his job already. Also, he said that Iran had withdrawn from hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ECO-CCI

in favour of Kyrgyz Republic. Now the event was scheduled to be held in Bishkek on June 10, 2003 on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council of Ministers.

9. The Secretariat during the meeting circulated a brief information on the status of participation and level of participation in the meeting to be held to reconcile the inconsistencies between TTFA and TTA on June 19-21, 2003 in Istanbul.

10. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while confirming its participation to the meeting, reiterated its request that the meeting may be postponed till after the end of June 2003. The Permanent Representative of Turkey informed the meeting that he would convey the request of Pakistan for the meeting to be held in the first week of July to the relevant Turkish authorities and then inform the result to the Secretariat.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran informed CPR that the 5<sup>th</sup> HLEG meeting on Tariff & Non-Tariff Barriers would be held in Tehran on May 20-22, 2003 and requested the member states to confirm their participation as soon as possible and to reflect the date in the revised draft ECO Calendar of Events for 2003-2004.

12. The Secretariat also during the meeting circulated vide its note No. T&I/ECOTA/2003/0684 dated May 4, 2003 a paper entitled "Potential Benefits of ECOTA for ECO Region Economies", as was asked by the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of CPR. In this respect, the Secretary General informed the CPR that the head of delegation of Turkey to RPC had agreed to help the Secretariat in carrying out the study to be done for ECOTA as requested by the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of CPR.

## **Agenda Item No. 5**

### Preparation for the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council of Ministers

#### **a) Draft Agenda**

13. CPR discussed the draft agenda of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of COM and agreed that a new item regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly of ECO CCI may be placed under 9(A) of the draft agenda. CPR agreed to take up the draft agenda of the 13<sup>th</sup> COM again in its next meeting.

#### **b) Confirmation for participation**

14. The Secretariat informed CPR that for the time being Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (being host), Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey had confirmed that their Foreign Ministers would participate in the meeting and requested the remaining member states to confirm their participation and inform the Secretariat of the composition of their delegations alongwith their flight schedules.

#### **c) Organizing an ECO Business Forum/7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting of ECO-CCI**

15. Since Iran withdrew the hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting of ECO CCI in favour of the Kyrgyz Republic, CPR requested the Kyrgyz Republic to formally confirm its readiness to host the meeting in Bishkek.

16. The Kyrgyz Representative informed that they would send information confirming their hosting the meeting to Iran and to the Secretariat shortly.

**d) Draft Work Programme of ECO Secretariat for 2003**

17. CPR agreed that the Draft Work Programme for the years 2003-2004 would be in line with the Calendar of Events and would be prepared after the Calendar of Events had been finalized.

**e) Draft Bishkek Communiqué**

18. CPR referred the draft Bishkek Communiqué, which had been prepared by the Secretariat, to a Working Group for further examination with a request to submit its outcome to the next meeting of CPR. The Working Group would meet on May 12, 2003 at 1000 hours at the Secretariat.

**f) List of international organizations to be invited to the meeting**

19. CPR asked the Secretary General to invite the International organizations, with which ECO had signed MoUs, to the Inaugural Session of the COM meeting. CPR also requested the Secretary General to invite other relevant International Organizations. (WTO, UNECE, Colombo Plan).

**g) Working Papers**

20. The Secretary General informed the member states that the Working Papers for the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of COM were under preparation at the Secretariat and would be submitted to the member states along with the list of circulated documents in due course.

**Agenda Item No. 6**

**Administrative matters**

**a) Appointment of the new Secretary General**

21. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan informed the CPR that H.E. Mr. Bekzhasar Narbayev who was nominated for the post of Secretary General for the term 2003-2006 would be present at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of COM, to be introduced to the Council by the Government of Kazakhstan.

22. CPR, while welcoming the presence of H.E. Dr. Bekzhasar Narbayev in the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of COM as a member of the national delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressed its hope that he would attend the next CPR meeting in Tehran to meet the Permanent Representatives.

**b) Appointment of DSGs, directing and other staff**

23. The Secretariat vide its note No. ADM/PER/2003/0668 dated May 3, 2003 circulated a consolidated list of the nominations received from the member states as of May 1, 2003 against the

available vacancies in Directing Staff in the year 2003.

24. Regarding Kazakhstan's inquiry on the possibility of renewal for the third term for the post of Director (Transport & Communications), the Secretary General informed CPR that the Secretariat had replied to this question vide a note to the Embassy of Kazakhstan. CPR decided that in the light of the rules and the explanation given by the Secretary General as well as the ECO Secretariat's Legal Adviser, there was no possibility for the renewal for the third term in case of the directing staff. Thereupon, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan said that his country would like to present a new candidate against the post of Director (Transport & Communications).

25. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey pointed out that they would nominate a candidate for the post of Assistant Director later.

26. The Azerbaijan Representative informed the CPR that during the year 1997-2003 its nation had occupied only three posts at the Secretariat which reflected that his country's representation at the Secretariat staff was among the lowest. He expressed the hope that the member states would show an understanding and cooperation while processing the appointments to be done for the posts falling vacant this year.

27. The Secretary General informed the CPR that the Secretariat would prepare another list of ECO staff showing their duty starting and termination dates and circulate the same to member states shortly.

28. CPR agreed that the deadlines for nominations for the posts of (i) three DSGs and the directing staff for renewal for another three-year term would be May 15, 2003. (ii) the directing staff who would complete their assignments in June, July and August 2003 would be May 31, 2003. (iii) the directing staff who would complete their assignments in September - November 2003 would be end of June 2003.

29. The member states were advised that the nominations which they were going to submit would be taken up first by the Selection Panel for making recommendation to CPR. The Selection Panel would convene before the next CPR meeting.

#### **c) Extension of the tenure of the Executive Director of ECI**

30. CPR agreed to extend the tenure of Mr. Ali Arif, the incumbent Executive Director of the ECO Culture Institute, till June 4, 2003. However, the proposal of extending his tenure for one year would be considered in the next meeting of CPR.

### **Agenda Item No. 7**

#### **Contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget**

31. The Secretariat circulated the updated status of unpaid contributions of member states during the meeting. CPR, while expressing its thanks to the member states who had paid their contributions, urged the member states who did not pay to do so as early as possible.

32. The Secretary General informed the CPR that he had met the Ambassador of Azerbaijan and given him the relevant documents on the calculations of the contribution of Azerbaijan and requested him to consult his Government and intimate to the Secretariat the result. Therefore, the response of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan was awaited.

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

#### Reconstruction of Afghanistan.

a) Report of the Secretary General on his visit to Kabul

b) Establishment of ECO Special Fund

33. CPR deferred this item to its next meeting. However, the Secretariat distributed during the meeting the draft agenda of the financial experts meeting to finalize modality for establishment and subsequent operation of the Special ECO Fund for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan to be held in Tehran on May 13-14, 2003 and requested the member states to confirm their participation in the meeting.

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

#### Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund

34. CPR deferred this item to its next meeting.

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

#### Any other business

35. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

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

#### Date of the next meeting.

36. CPR decided to have its next meeting on Monday, June 2, 2003 at 1430 hours.

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