

# The 80<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran, August 6, 2003 )

CPR/80<sup>th</sup>/2003/3

The 80<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on August 6, 2003, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Transitional 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***.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

2. CPR adopted the following agenda for the 80<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the draft report of the 79<sup>th</sup> meeting of CPR.
3. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13<sup>th</sup> COM and 7<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings.
4. Eminent Persons Group (EPG).
5. ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 2002.
6. ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund.
7. Administrative matters.
8. Any other business.
9. Date of the next meeting.
10. Farewell statement by the Secretary General.

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

#### Adoption of the draft report of the 79<sup>th</sup> meeting of CPR.

3. CPR adopted the report of its 79<sup>th</sup> meeting with some amendments. The adopted report was circulated vide Secretariat's note No.SG/CPR/2003/1382 dated August 10, 2003.

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

Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13<sup>th</sup> COM and 7<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings.

4. The Secretary General, within the framework of the follow-up of the decisions, briefed CPR that:

- a) ECOTA was signed by five member states on the sidelines of 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade held in Islamabad on July 17, 2003 and some other member states will sign it as soon as they complete the legal formalities.
- b) The 8<sup>th</sup> Consultative meeting of the Executive Heads of Sub-regional Organizations i.e. SAARC, UNESCAP, Forum Secretariat and ASEAN hosted by ECO in Tehran on July 21-23, 2003. The report of the meeting would be circulated among the member states in due course.
- c) So far, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan have confirmed their participation in the Financial Experts meeting on the establishment of ECO Special Fund for reconstruction of Afghanistan would be held at the ECO Secretariat to be held on August 23-24, 2003.

5. CPR, while appreciating the preparation of the follow up report by the Secretariat, recommended that:

- i) The information on the ECO Shipping Company should be updated.
- ii) The report of the working group on the ECO Audit Report for 2002 should be revised.
- iii) A tri-partite committee to work on the early establishment of ECO Trade & Development Bank and Reinsurance Company comprises persons from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey.

6. The Council further agreed on the placement of an item "Establishment of ECO Trade & Development Bank and Reinsurance Company" on the agenda of its next meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 4**

Eminent Persons Group (EPG).

7. CPR, while appreciating the ToRs prepared by the Secretariat deferred the consideration/approval of ToRs to its next meeting as some of the member states were still awaiting response from their capitals. However, the Council asked the member states to nominate their persons for the Group before the next meeting of CPR so the group can start working in due course.

8. Furthermore the representative of the Republic of Turkey, referring to the draft ToRs prepared by the Secretariat, recommended that the EPG meetings should be held at the ECO Secretariat and the expenditure should be met from the funds available in the budget of the Secretariat.

**Agenda Item No. 5**ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 2002.

9. CPR, while asking the Secretariat to circulate a revised report of the meeting of the working group held on July 13, 2003, decided that the Audit Board should meet again in Tehran to finalize its report for the ECO Secretariat's budget for 2002 and submit it to CPR for approval.

**Agenda Item No.6**ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund.

10. CPR deferred the approval of the calendar of events and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund to its next meeting as some of the member states were awaiting instructions from their capitals.

**Agenda Item No.7**Administrative matters:

11. CPR agreed with the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to extend the deadline for nominations for the posts of Directors till 15 August, 2003.

12. CPR extended the tenure of Mr. Ali Arif, Executive Director of ECI, till the end of September 2003.

13. As the tenure of Mr. Shamil Aleskerov, Deputy Secretary General, will expire on August 21, 2003, and he would assume post of Director on the same day, CPR agreed that the Secretary General may temporarily assign him to take care of the works where needed until CPR decide on his Directorate.

14. The Secretary General informed CPR that his successor would arrive in Tehran on August 10, 2003 and would take charge of the post of Secretary General on August 13, 2003.

**Agenda Item No.8**Any other business.

15. The Secretariat circulated updated information on unpaid contributions of the member states for the Secretariat's budget. CPR, while thanking the member states who have paid their contributions, requested the member states who did not pay their outstanding contributions to do so as soon as possible. The status of unpaid contributions of the member states is attached as **Annex-II**.

**Agenda Item No.9**Date of the next meeting.

16. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1430 hours on Wednesday, September 17, 2003.

**Agenda Item No.10**

### Farewell statement by the Secretary General.

As the Secretary General was going to relinquish his charge on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2003, he made a farewell statement to CPR at the end of the meeting. The Secretary General, in his statement he expressed his satisfaction that in 13 months to some extent the Secretariat achieved the following targets that he planned at the beginning of his tenure:

- i) Implementation of decisions of COM, Summit meetings and all other ECO events.
- ii) Re-organization of the Secretariat and to improve the efficiency of ECO.
- iii) Expanding relations with international organizations.
- iv) Increasing the publicity of ECO among the member states and the international community.

17. The Secretary General also pointed out that during his term:

- (i) 54 ECO events were held including one summit, 2 COM and 5 sectoral Ministerial meetings.
- (ii) CPR had 15 meetings.
- (iii) During the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit through the adopted Istanbul Declaration new idea to follow up the implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial meetings was introduced.
- (iv) Participation of the Central Asian Republics to ECO events and activities were increased and they contributed to CPR meetings actively.
- (v) Out of the sectoral Ministerial meetings, the 1<sup>st</sup> ECO Ministerial meeting on Agriculture was a considerable initiative and the Islamabad Declaration was adopted at the end of the meeting.
- (vi) ECOTA, which aims to increase the intra-regional trade was also signed on the sidelines of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade held in Islamabad on July 17, 2003.
- (vii) Following the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial meeting on Environment, relations with UNEP were developed.

18. The Secretary General in continuation of his statement briefed the CPR about the excellent work done by the ECO staff and emphasized that the ECO staff should continue working in the same manner and even more and ECO should not lose any opportunity to do that. On the other hand, the member states should thoroughly evaluate the work of ECO. The evaluation and contribution of the member states is another vital factor for the efficiency of ECO.

19. He further stated that:

- i) The ECO Website, Data Base Unit and the Documentation Center were established in the ECO Secretariat and were working similar to UN systems.

ii) He had 24 meetings with international organizations and signed three important MoUs with WCO and Colombo Plan Secretariat. Two more MoUs would be finalized and signed by the new Secretary General with WCO and UNEP. ECO organized the 8<sup>th</sup> Consultative meeting of the Executive Heads of Sub-regional Organizations in Tehran on July 21-23, 2003. The Secretary General of SAARC, ASEAN and UNESCAP participated in the meeting. UNESCAP and ASEAN were indeed impressed by the work being done by ECO. In this way the image of ECO was increased during this period.

20. He said that ECO participated in Asian-African Sub-Regional Organizations Conference (AASROC) held at Bandung, Indonesia in August 2003. In this meeting, ECO's proposal to exchange views among sub-regional organizations in Asian-African with each other was found acceptable.

21. He also touched upon that a lot of new activities were initiated like institutionalization of ministerial meetings on finance/economy, investment conference in ECO member states, the experts group would examine the agreement on investment of the member states, the ECO Plan of Action on the reconstruction of Afghanistan was adopted.

22. At the end of his statement, he thanked the member states for their support and the encouragement granted to him especially to the Permanent Representatives and also thanked the ECO staff at all levels for being active in performing the work of the ECO Secretariat. He also welcomed the new Secretary General of ECO and mentioned that he held a few meetings with the new Secretary General and he was going to deliver the charge of the post to him on 13 August 2003.

23. After the statement of the Secretary General, all Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the member states also made their farewell statements on the occasion. They expressed their gratitude for the valuable services rendered by the Secretary General during his so short tenure and wished him a prosperous and success in his future career. A copy of the statement of the Permanent Representative of I.R. Iran is placed at **Annex-III**.

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