

The 81st CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, September 17-18, 2003)

SG/CPR/81st/2003/5

The 81st meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on September 17-18, 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 considered the revised agenda circulated vide Note No.SG/CPR/2003/1580 dated September 13, 2003 and adopted it for the meeting in the following order:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Welcoming the new Secretary General.
3. Adoption of the draft report of the 80th meeting of CPR.
4. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings.
5. Eminent Persons Group (EPG).
6. ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund.
7. Early establishment of ECO Trade & Development Bank and Reinsurance Company.
8. 6th Specialized Experts Tasks Group meeting (6th SETG) held on August 17-18, 2003 - for consideration of selection of a consultant.
9. Draft MoU between ECO and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
10. Administrative matters.
 - i) Appointments.
 - ii) Approval of Auditors' Report.
11. Any other business.
 - a) Preparation for informal meeting of COM to be held in New York and ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial meeting on the sidelines of 58th session of UNGA.
 - b) Meeting of the financial experts from the member states to finalize the modality for establishment and subsequent operation of the ECO Special Fund for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.
 - c) Extension in tenure of Mr. Ali Arif, Executive Director ECI
 - d) Extension in tenure of Mr. Sanaullah, Deputy Secretary General
 - e) Composition of the Selection Panel
12. Date of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No.2Welcoming the new Secretary General.

3. CPR felicitated Ambassador Bekzhasar Narbayev on assumption of the office of the Secretary General of ECO. It expressed full support and gave assurance to the new Secretary General that he would not find the members of the Council lacking in extending full cooperation to him for promotion of ECO and execution of his assignment.

4. In response, Ambassador Bekzhasar Narbayev expressed his gratitude to the governments of the member states for support for his candidature as well as the confidence placed in his leadership for appointment as the first Secretary General of ECO from a non-founding member. He also expressed his thanks to the Honourable Permanent Representatives for their assurance of support and cooperation to him during his tenure. Further, he said that he would do his utmost to promote the culture of efficiency and coordination to achieve best possible results with regard to implementation of ECO programmes and objectives in priority areas and issues of importance to all member states.

Agenda Item No.3Adoption of the draft report of the 80th meeting of CPR

5. CPR adopted the report of its 80th meeting without any amendment which was circulated vide Secretariat Note No.SG/CPR/2003/1399 dated August 11, 2003. The same will be circulated as adopted report.

Agenda Item No.4Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings

6. CPR noted that the revised report on the follow up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings as circulated on July 24, 2003 was not updated by the Secretariat. CPR directed that all reports to be discussed in CPR must be prepared/updated and circulated among the member states well in advance for proper examination/perusal by CPR.

7. Under this agenda item, CPR also discussed the present status of payment of mandatory contributions including arrears by the member states. The Secretariat was requested to re-circulate the UN scales pertaining to the years for which some member states have not paid their share of contributions due to the perceived miscalculations. In this respect, the Secretariat was further requested to officially respond to the relevant member states, expressing a clear position based on the relevant UN scales.

Agenda Item No.5Eminent Persons Group (EPG)

8. CPR recalled the importance of the establishment of an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and in this spirit considered ToRs already circulated by the Secretariat vide Note No.PR/EPG/2003/1285 dated July 24, 2003. CPR further noted the submission of useful recommendations by some member states and asked the Secretariat to include the same in the revised ToRs for re-circulation among the member states.

9. CPR called upon the member states to send the nomination for composition of EPG latest by the next CPR meeting (October 14, 2003). CPR decided that all the meetings of EPG would be held in Tehran and the Secretariat would inform the next CPR whether it would be in a position to meet the expenses of EPG out of the ECO Special Support Fund.

10. CPR also requested the Secretariat to prepare a file containing all important documents including main agreements, Rules of Procedure, programmes and current ECO projects, rationale for establishment of the present directorates, distribution of posts and the principle involved, list of ECO staff with dates of appointment and the principle for budgetary allocations etc without awaiting nominations from the member states.

Agenda Item No.6

ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund.

11. The Secretariat requested CPR that in the wake of non-approval of the ECO Calendar of Events, the Secretary General may be given authority, as in the past as a special case, to hold events included in the proposed Calendar of Events in the last quarter of 2003. Also, the Secretary General may be authorized to select 3-4 events for support out of SSF. In response, CPR asked the Secretariat to prepare the list of events for which the Secretariat sought the said mandate.

12. CPR requested the Secretariat to revise the Calendar of Events in the light of priorities of the member states as well as in the light of the confirmed dates or willingness of the proposed hosts for the scheduled events. In case, there were no final dates, the proposed hosts may be re-approached for definite dates. In case of negative response, such events may be postponed to be held in 2004.

13. CPR also requested the Secretary General to ensure regular circulation of the reports of the events attended by the ECO staff. In this respect, the concerned ECO staff would give an oral briefing about the objectives of the event attended, its specific outcome and its relevance to the overarching ECO objective and inform CPR on the contribution of the ECO delegation, upon the request by CPR through the Secretary General. **Also, the Secretary General was requested to inform and seek approval of the CPR on ECO's participation in the international events**, in advance, explaining the relevance of ECO participation with regard to international meetings to promotion of ECO objectives in priority areas.

Agenda Item No.7

Early establishment of ECO Trade & Development Bank and Reinsurance Company

14. CPR recommended that legal procedures may be completed expeditiously for an early establishment of ECO Trade & Development Bank and Reinsurance Company. The proposed Tripartite Committee consisting of the Ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey may be convened at a mutually convenient date. **Such a date could be determined after the legal procedures of the Islamic Republic of Iran are completed regarding the establishment of the Bank.**

Agenda Item No.8

6th Specialized Experts Tasks Group meeting (6th SETG) held on August 17-18, 2003 - for consideration of the selection of a Consultant.

15. CPR requested the Bids Evaluation Committee to justify the results of their report after consulting the representatives of the pre-qualified companies and submit a report containing the companies positions, technical and financial, to CPR for its final decision. In doing so, CPR advised the Committee to implement the already determined criteria by IDB for the selection of the Consultant.

Agenda Item No.9

Draft MoU between ECO and World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

16. While postponing the item for discussion in its next meeting, CPR requested the Secretariat to provide information on the outcome of the MoUs signed by the ECO Secretariat in the last five years and how these MoUs had benefited ECO in concrete and tangible manner. Also in this respect, the Secretariat was requested to consider signing MoUs in future only in priority areas keeping in view their relevance and usefulness for effective improvement in the realization of ECO goals and objectives.

Agenda Item No.10

Administrative matters

i) Appointments:

17. A meeting of the members of the Selection Panel to discuss the nominations received from the member states for the five posts of Director and one post of Assistant Director was held prior to CPR on September 17, 2003. While safeguarding a balance in representation among member states in the Secretariat and in accordance with the approval of 13th COM held in Bishkek on June 11, 2003 with regard to Dr. Shamil Aleskerov and Mr. Mehmet Ali Saglam for their second terms and based on the recommendations of the Selection Panel, the Council of Permanent Representatives approved the following:

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| 1) Dr. Shamil Aleskerov
(Nominee of the Republic of Azerbaijan) | The Secretary General will utilize the services of Dr. Shamil Aleskerov for the post of Director w.e.f. 21.8.2003 to 3.11.2003) after that he will assume the post of Director (Energy, Minerals & Environment) w.e.f. 4.11.2003 |
| 2) Mr. Mehmet Ali Saqlam
(Nominee of Republic of Turkey) | Director (Project Research) w.e.f 18.8.2003 |
| 3) Mr. Fatih Unlu
(Nominee of Republic of Turkey) | Director (Agriculture, Industry & Health) w.e.f. 15.8. 2003 |
| 4) Mr. Naib Khan
(Nominee of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) | Director (Trade & Investment) w.e.f. 1.10.2003 |
| 5) Mr. Abolfazl Alikhani
(Nominee of the Islamic Republic of Iran) | Director (Transport & Communications) w.e.f. 4.11.2003 |
| 6) Mr.Abolghassem Tahmasebi
(Nominee of the Islamic Republic of Iran) | Assistant Director (General Affairs) w.e.f. 1.10.2003 |

ii) Approval of Auditors' Report:

18. CPR adopted the Auditors' Report 2002.

Agenda Item No.11

Any other business

a) Preparation for information meeting of COM to be held in New York and ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial meeting on the sidelines of 58th session of UNGA.

19. The Secretary General briefed CPR on his forthcoming visit to New York for informal meeting of the Council of Ministers as well as ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial meeting on the sidelines of 58th session of UNGA. The Secretary General also informed CPR about his pending visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend the 10th session of the Islamic Summit Conference 2003 (16-18 October 2003). CPR requested the Secretary General to inform the member states about the outcome of his meetings on the conclusion of his planned visits.

b) Meeting of the financial experts from the member states to finalize the modality for establishment and subsequent operation of the ECO Special Fund for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

20. CPR requested the member states to hold the meeting of financial experts in October 2003 so that the ECO Special Fund for reconstruction of Afghanistan may be established before the commencement of the 14th RPC on December 4-6, 2003.

c) Extension in tenure of Mr. Ali Arif, Executive Director ECI.

21. CPR approved the request of Pakistan for one year extension from the date of the expiry of the initial tenure of Mr. Ali Arif, Executive Director ECI.

d) Extension in tenure of Mr. Sanaullah, Deputy Secretary General.

22. CPR approved the request of Pakistan for a 2-month extension (upto December 31, 2003) in the tenure of Mr. Sanaullah from the date of expiry of his initial tenure.

e) Composition of the Selection Panel.

23. CPR discussed the composition of 5 members of the Council of Permanent Representatives to be elected by CPR and approved the following for one year:

- Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey
- Current Chairman of COM, Permanent Representative of Kyrgyz Republic
- Permanent Representative of Tajikistan as the Chairman of 11th COM (in place of Turkey as a special case as Turkey, being a founding member, is already included in the Selection Panel).
- In addition, the Secretary General in terms of Article 6.7 of the ECO Rules of Procedures would continue to serve as a permanent member of the Selection Panel.

24. CPR also expressed its wish that the composition of Selection Panel may be discussed in future CPR or in EPG meetings.

Agenda Item No.12

Date of the next meeting.

25. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1430 hours on Tuesday, October 14, 2003.

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