

# **201<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

## **Report**

13<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
ECO Secretariat, Tehran

## Report

The Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held its 201<sup>st</sup> Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at the ECO Secretariat, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The CPR meeting was attended by the Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States except Turkmenistan. The ECO Secretary General along with the concerned officials of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is placed at Annex-I.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

2. Secretary General referred to the Secretariat's proposal on the post of Social-Secretary, circulated to the Member States through official Note, and suggested that the issue may be discussed under Agenda Item No.9 "Administrative Matters". The Council agreed with this proposal of the Secretary General and adopted its agenda as follows:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 200<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting
3. Preparation for the Extraordinary Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting
4. Consideration of Draft Annual ECO Calendar of Events for the year 2015-2016 as endorsed by 25<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting and the proposed lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from Special Support Fund (SSF)
5. External Relations:
  - a. Authorization by the CPR for the Secretariat's negotiations with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) on a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutually beneficial cooperation
  - b. Authorization of the CPR for entering into negotiations with the UN Programme for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat)
  - c. Authorization of the CPR for entering into negotiations with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in order to work out draft agreements for mutually beneficial cooperation
6. Allocation of US\$ 50,000/- from the FSGPF in support of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region
7. Briefing by the Secretariat on recent ECO-UNFF consultations to follow up the key recommendations of the "ECO-UN Tehran Workshop on Harnessing Climate Change Financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the ECO Region"
8. Implementation of the EPG Recommendations and ECO Reform Process: Consideration of the proposed decisions by the Working Group

9. Administrative matters
10. Any other business
11. Date of the next CPR Meeting

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

#### Adoption of the Draft Report of 200<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of 200<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting. The adopted Report, contained in the document ECO/CPR/200/3, was subsequently circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

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

#### Preparation for the Extraordinary Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting

*i. Date and Venue*

4. Pursuant to the decision of 199<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting, the Secretariat through its Note Verbale dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 submitted its proposal, highlighting the elements for holding the COM meeting in April 2015, to the Member States, including the host country (Pakistan), for their consideration and feedbacks. Subsequently, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Turkmenistan conveyed their concurrence for holding the proposed extraordinary COM Meeting.

5. During 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting, the observations raised by some Member States and the CPR postponed the discussions and requested the Secretariat to approach the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> regular COM meeting with a view to reaching a final decision on extraordinary COM meeting. Accordingly, the Secretariat through its Note Verbale No.CFU/22<sup>nd</sup> COM/2015/248 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 requested the esteemed Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to convey the proposed date for 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting.

6. Meanwhile, the Secretariat vide its Note Verbale No.CFU/Extraordinary/COM/2015/344 dated 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 informed the Member States that the observations raised by the delegation of Republic of Azerbaijan in the 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting were addressed in the follow-up consultations between the ECO Secretary General and the officials of Republic of Azerbaijan. Accordingly, the Secretariat made coordination with the current Chairman of the COM (the Islamic Republic of Iran) and proposed to the Member States that in the absence of further objection to an extraordinary COM meeting, the Extraordinary COM Meeting can be held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Tehran, immediately before NAM Foreign Ministers Meeting.

7. The Council was informed that so far Afghanistan and Iran had conveyed their concurrence to the Secretariat's proposed date of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to convene the Extraordinary COM Meeting. The Islamic Republic of Iran had also announced its

readiness to host the Extraordinary COM meeting in the premises of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8. Turkish Ambassador drew the attention of the Council that the General Election is being held in Republic Turkey on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and requested the Council to change the date for Extraordinary COM Meeting to enable Republic of Turkey, a founding and active Member of the Organization, to participate at the highest possible level. However, he expressed readiness to consult again with his authorities for a possible alternative level of participation, if there is no other agreed alternative date.

9. Delegation of Tajikistan also informed the Council that the International Conference on Water for Life is being organized by Republic of Tajikistan from 5 to 11 June 2015, therefore, the Minister will not be available on the proposed date and his country may be represented in the Extraordinary COM Meeting at the lower level.

10. Taking into consideration the views of the Member States, the Council agreed that in absence of any disagreement expressed by the Republic of Turkey within two weeks, the Extraordinary Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015, immediately before NAM Ministerial Meeting in Tehran. The Council requested the Member States to confirm their participation at the earliest possible enabling the Secretariat and the host authorities to make necessary arrangements.

ii. Draft Agenda

11. The proposed Draft Agenda of the Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, contained in the document ECO/COM/Extraordinary/2015/1, had been circulated to the Member States through Secretariat's correspondence dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 for consideration/deliberation by the CPR. The 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting deferred consideration of the proposed Draft Agenda to a later stage when decision on the date and venue of the COM meeting is finalized.

12. Ambassador of Pakistan sought clarification about the proposed agenda item 5 (Ministerial deliberations on ECO post-2015) and highlighted the need for a concept paper. Secretariat explained that under this agenda item, the Ministers may wish to share their views and give policy guidelines on the priorities and directions of the Organization in post 2015 era. Secretariat further informed the Council that the requested concept paper will be prepared and circulated among the Member States.

13. Ambassador of Turkey referred to the recent request by Turkish Cypriot State for extension of its "Observer Status" in ECO and proposed to include it in the Draft Agenda of the Extraordinary COM Meeting. Republic of Azerbaijan also brought to the attention of the Council that the consideration of the possible same request by the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States may also be foreseen in the Draft Agenda of Extraordinary COM.

14. The Council approved the Draft Agenda for the Extraordinary COM Meeting, as prepared by the Secretariat with the additional item proposed by Republic of Turkey on the renewal of " Status of Observers". The Council further decided to consider the request for observership extension in its next meeting with a view to possible submission to the COM meeting.

iii. Any Other Issue

15. No issue was raised under this sub-agenda item.

**Agenda Item No.4**

Consideration of Draft Annual ECO Calendar of Events for the year 2015-2016 as endorsed by 25<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting and Proposed Lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/ Training Courses to be financed from Special Support Fund (SSF)

16. As per ECO Rules of Procedure, the Annual ECO Calendar of Events (CoE) for the year 2015-2016 was considered and endorsed by the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council, held on 1-5 March 2015 at the ECO Secretariat. The endorsed Annual ECO Calendar of Events (CoE) for the year 2015-2016 was later on circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CoE 2015-16/2015/412 dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The CPR was requested to recommend it to the COM for approval.

17. The Secretariat had also proposed lists of the ECO Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from the Special Support Fund (SSF), circulated to the Member States on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015, for deliberations and approval by the CPR.

18. Iranian delegation requested that the Workshop on "Technology Park", approved by RPC and scheduled to be held in October 2015 in Iran, be included in the list of Workshops to be financed from the Special Support Fund.

19. Turkish delegation informed the Council that the concerned authorities of Republic of Turkey had conveyed that since the 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics was organized by Republic of Turkey in 2012, it would not be possible for Turkey to host the 6<sup>th</sup> High Level Expert Group Meeting in 2016 and other interested Member States may wish to organize the Meeting.

20. Taking into account the adjustments proposed by Iran and Turkey, the Council recommended the Annual ECO Calendar of Events (CoE) for the year 2015-2016 to COM for final approval and approved the Lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from Special Support Fund (SSF).

**Agenda Item No.5**External Relations:

a. Authorization by the CPR for the Secretariat's negotiations with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) on a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutually beneficial cooperation

21. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) had sent a formal request to the Secretariat expressing its willingness to enter into a memorandum of understanding with ECO in order to develop and promote cooperation on migration related issues.

22. In line with the 'Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions', a comprehensive background paper was prepared and circulated by the Secretariat among Member States containing information, inter alia, about the work of the ICMPD, possible areas of cooperation and potential benefits for ECO from entering into a cooperation arrangement with ICMPD. Subsequently, Embassies of Republic of Turkey and Kyrgyz Republic conveyed their approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECO and ICMPD. The 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting discussed the issue and deferred the decision to its next meeting pending feedbacks from some delegations.

23. Iranian delegation requested the Secretariat to provide the Member States the envisaged work programme for ECO-ICMPD cooperation before signing the MoU. Ambassador of Pakistan also requested the Secretariat to circulate the text of the MoU along with the supporting document highlighting the objectives and benefits of cooperation between two organizations.

24. Secretariat explained that as per procedure, the Secretariat will initiate the process with the ICMPD and work out jointly a draft MoU and work programme which will be shared with the Member States before finalization. The final approval will be given by CPR.

25. The Council authorized the Secretariat to initiate negotiations with the ICMPD with a view to agreeing on a draft MoU and work programme in line with the 'Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions'. The CPR will be updated on the progress of the negotiations.

b. Authorization of the CPR for entering into negotiations with the UN Programme for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat)

26. During the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Planning Council, held at the ECO Secretariat on 1-5 March 2015, the Council requested the Secretariat to continue cooperation on disaster risk management with relevant international and regional organizations, particularly UN-HABITAT for its technical and financial support.

27. In line with the *'Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions'*, a background paper on cooperation between ECO and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was prepared by the Secretariat and shared with the Member States for their views/comments (Note Verbale No.IR/UN-HABITAT/2015/190 dated February 05, 2015).

28. After deliberations, CPR authorized the Secretariat to initiate negotiations with the UN-HABITAT in order to work out a draft cooperation arrangement for mutually beneficial cooperation, in line with the *'Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions'*.

c. Authorization of the CPR for entering into negotiations with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in order to work out draft

29. During the 24<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting, the Council requested the Secretariat to approach the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and conclude a cooperative agreement with WIPO. Earlier, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Coordination Committee Meetings on Industrial Property Rights held on 9 November 2012 in Ankara and 16 June 2014 in Baku, respectively had requested the ECO Secretariat to approach the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and conclude a cooperative agreement, taking into account the importance of cooperation between the two organizations on industrial property rights.

30. In line with the *'Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions'*, a background paper on cooperation between ECO and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was prepared by the Secretariat and shared with the Member States for their views/comments (Note Verbale No.IR/WIPO/2015/364 dated March 16, 2015).

31. Ambassador of Pakistan requested the Secretariat to compile a list of entire MoUs signed with the international organizations before the next CPR meeting and also highlight the implementation status of MoUs along with financial implications on the part of the Secretariat as well as the Member States.

32. As per established modalities, the Council authorized the Secretariat to initiate negotiations with WIPO to work out a draft agreement with this Organization and requested the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated list of MoUs as required by the Member States.

**Agenda Item No.6**Allocation of US\$ 50,000/- from the FSGPF in support of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region

33. The 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment welcomed the proposal for developing a regional project to combat desertification with a special emphasis on dust haze and sand storm in the region. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC) (6-8 May, 2013, Tehran) requested the ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO IEST) to cooperate with the ECO Secretariat in preparation of a Project proposal on combating desertification with a special emphasis on dust haze and sand storm in the region. RPC also requested all Member States to contribute to the mentioned proposal with their possible technical and financial assistance. The 24<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting (23-26 February 2014, ECO Secretariat), acknowledged the negative impacts of the desertification and deforestation on the overall environmental situation of the ECO Region and requested the ECO-IEST to provide the Secretariat with detailed project proposal in order to enable the Secretariat to embark on necessary preparations. In line with RPC recommendations, the ECO Secretariat through its Note Verbale dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 requested the ECO IEST authorities to provide the Secretariat with the detailed project proposal.

34. During bilateral talks between ECO Deputy Secretary General and UNEP officials on the sidelines of the "United Nations Environment Assembly" on 26-27 June 2014 in Nairobi, UNEP expressed interest to assist ECO in implementation of this project. The ECO IEST was subsequently requested to make preliminary coordination with the UNEP and provide the Secretariat with the detailed project proposal for possible decision by CPR. In October 2014, the ECO IEST provided the Secretariat with the draft outline for that project and also made a presentation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity, held on 4-5 November 2014 in Antalya, Turkey.

35. The 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (15-17 December 2014, Istanbul), while acknowledging the importance of combating desertification in the Member States and the ECO Region as a whole, requested the ECO Secretariat to allocate 50,000 USD from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF), for implementation of a project with the objective of preparation of a detailed needs assessment of the ECO Member States along with the design of the pertinent training/capacity buildings programs and contents. The ECO-IEST was mandated with the above project implementation, including a number of pilot training/workshop sessions.

36. During the 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting (18 February 2015, Qazvin), the Secretariat briefed the Council on the outline and key action areas of the project, as well as on estimated cost, scope of works and tentative timeline. After deliberations, the 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting decided to defer decision on this agenda item to its next meeting and recommended to arrange project presentation by ECO-IEST.



37. Meanwhile, the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (1-5 March 2015, ECO Secretariat) appreciated ECO-IEST for presenting outline of the regional project on Combat Desertification with Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO region and requested the ECO Secretariat to allocate 50,000 USD from the Feasibility Study and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF), which will allow for ECO-IEST to prepare elaborated project proposal for further submission to relevant financial institutions/donors.

38. During a presentation made by the ECO-IEST on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the ECO Secretariat, the proposed project were discussed by delegations of the interested Member States.

39. Ambassador of Pakistan, while reiterating their support for the project proposal, made reservation that during the ECO-IEST presentation on the Project, a number of questions were raised but were remained unanswered particularly with regard to financing part of the project. He mentioned that there is no exact information concerning cost of the Project at this stage and the understanding was given that half of the funding would be borne by ECO Member States and the rest would be arranged from international donors. He called for Secretariat's clarification on exact cost of the project and elements specifying liability on Member States prior to its submission to the CPR for approval.

40. The Council requested the Secretariat to further elaborate on the funding aspects of the proposed project and submit more information in this regard to the Member States. Accordingly, the Council deferred decision on this topic to its next meeting.

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

Briefing by the Secretariat on recent ECO-UNFF consultations to follow up the key recommendations of the "ECO-UN Tehran Workshop on Harnessing Climate Change Financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the ECO Region"

41. ECO-UNFF consultations were held at the ECO Secretariat on 8-9 March 2015 to follow up to the key recommendations of the "Tehran Workshop on Harnessing Climate Change Financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the ECO Region" and to elaborate on the Regional Strategy for mobilizing climate financing for SFM in the ECO Region. Executive summary of the Regional Strategy was circulated to the Member States on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. UNFF consultant presented detailed presentations on Region's prospects in forest-related climate change financing, including newly-established Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund and various GEF mechanisms. Special emphasize was given to the consolidated role of ECO as a suitable regional platform for mobilizing relevant stakeholders and policy makers across the Region to formulate and submit forest-related projects to appropriate multilateral financing mechanisms.

42. Two sides also elaborated on three project proposals prepared by UNFF consultant team encompassing outcomes of Tehran Workshop and inputs from national

focal points. The following titled projects, being exact Project Identification Forms (PIFs), have been submitted by UNFF to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), for possible funding through GEF-6 cycle: "Data Generation and Sharing System for SFM to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change", "Strengthening the position of forests in national climate and development agendas", and "Managing Agro-biodiversity in Forests of the ECO Region". Response from GEF is awaited and Secretariat will follow up this issue with UNFF/GEF and inform Member States on outcomes. These PIFs also imply full engagement of relevant Focal Points from Member States, in-kind contributions from the Secretariat and concerned regional stakeholders and major groups.

43. The Council took note of the briefing given by the Secretariat on ECO-UNFF engagements and requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to maximize benefits from this kind of international collaboration.

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

#### Implementation of the EPG Recommendations and ECO Reform Process: Consideration of the proposed decisions by the Working Group

44. The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 decided to take forward the reform process started with the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and instructed the ECO Secretary General to arrange, in cooperation with the Member States, the timely conclusion of the said process with a view to enhancing the dynamism, efficiency and visibility of the Organization.

45. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the Secretariat circulated a document titled "Proposed Outline for Implementation of the Recommendations by 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on enhancing efficiency, dynamism and visibility of ECO" for views/comments of the Member States. Secretariat also presented this document to CPR where the Member States discussed the document. The CPR then established a Working Group to further discuss the proposed outline.

46. The Working Group has so far drafted some decisions for the implementation of EPG recommendations. In the recent 25<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting, held from 1 to 5 March 2015, a progress report was presented by the Secretariat to the meeting of Secretary General and head of delegations. The Meeting "*encouraged the Secretariat to submit to CPR the already drafted decisions for approval, expediting the implementation of some EPG recommendations.*" (Paragraph 20 of the Report of the 25<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting) Accordingly, the Secretariat circulated among the Member States the proposed decisions by the Working Group through its Note Verbale No. No.CFU/201<sup>st</sup> CPR/2015/420 dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015, for possible consideration during the 201<sup>st</sup> CPR Meeting.

47. The Secretariat briefed the Council on the outcome of the Working Group which is reflected in almost 40 proposed decisions, some of them have already been implemented on ad-hoc basis. In line with the decision of 25<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting, the Secretariat submitted these proposed decisions to CPR for approval. Secretariat also brought to the attention of

the CPR that two meetings of the Working Group allocated to the critical issue of scale of assessments had not produced any result, mainly because of lack of participation of most of the Member States as well as the sensitivity of the issue.

48. The Council discussed the outcome of the Working Group meetings so far and deliberated on the way forward. Member States considered it more appropriate if the Working Group proposed decisions be submitted to Membership in one package. It was also proposed that if addressing all EPG recommendations are not possible before the upcoming COM meeting, the Working Group may select the non-controversial recommendations and submit to CPR the proposed decisions for their implementation.

49. The Council also preliminarily considered the draft paper on “ECO Review Mission to the ECO Member States”, prepared by the Secretariat in line with the discussion in the Working Group. (Attached) Secretariat informed that this idea was discussed in the Working Group and is now submitted for views by the Member States.

50. After extensive deliberations, the Council requested the Member States to participate with full mandate in the Working Group Meetings in order to prepare the first package of the proposed decisions and submit it to the next CPR meeting, so as to obtain views/comments of the Member States from the respective capitals before the next Extraordinary COM Meeting. The Council also highlighted the need for Working Group's achievements in budgetary issues, including the outstanding arrears and scale of assessments. The Council also requested the Secretariat to formally circulate among Member States the draft paper on “ECO Review Missions to the Member States” for their consideration and views.

## **Agenda Item No.9**

### Administrative matters

- a) *Appointment of Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Communication, Project & Economic Research and Statistics, and Coordination and Follow-Up)*

51. The 200<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting recommended the nomination of Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi (Pakistani National) against the post of Deputy Secretary General (TC,PERS&CFU), in Category-1, to the COM for final approval in line with the Article 6.4 of the Staff Regulations. Since the decision on the time of the next meeting of Council of Ministers was still pending, the Council decided and directed the Secretariat to obtain the approval of COM for the appointment of Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi within two weeks through circulation among the Member States. Accordingly, the Secretariat's vide its Note Verbale No.ADM/PER/2015/ 241 dated 19 February, 2015 requested the Member States to convey their concurrence on the appointment of the nominated DSG latest by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Written concurrence was accordingly received from Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Tajikistan.

52. During the CPR meeting, Representatives of Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan expressed their concurrence to the appointment of Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi (Pakistani National) as Deputy Secretary General (TC,PERS&CFU).

53. The Council appointed Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Pakistani National, as Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Communications, Project & Economic Research and Statistics, and Coordination & Follow-Up) for a period of three years, effective from date of his joining the Secretariat.

b) Post of Social-Secretary

54. Referring to Note Verbale of 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 regarding the post of Social-Secretary, Secretary General informed that post of Social Secretary (Category II, P2) had been vacant since April 2013, when Mr. Amir Hossein Khajavi (Iranian National) completed his tenure. He explained that as mentioned in the above Note, given the pressing needs of the Secretariat for more professional staff, the Secretariat proposes to CPR to agree with the appointment of a programme officer for Directorate of HRSD using the vacant post of Social Secretary. Accordingly and following CPR concurrence, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be requested to kindly nominate the proper candidate against this post.

55. After deliberations, the Council agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat.

**Agenda Item No.10**

Any other business

56. Under this agenda item, the following issues were raised:

i. Contributions of the ECO Member States towards Secretariat Budget 2015

57. Secretary General informed that so far only Republic of Turkey had paid its annual contribution to the Budget of the year 2015. He thanked Turkey and urged the remaining Member States to expeditiously pay their annual contributions which is instrumental for smooth functioning of the Organization.

ii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPO)

58. Secretary General informed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPO) will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey. He said that previously it was postponed due to lack of quorum. He highlighted that the Meeting will cover the important topics such as draft ECO Trade Promotion Agreement and cooperation among ECO private sectors. He said that so far only Republic of Azerbaijan had confirmed its participation in the Meeting and requested the remaining Member States to confirm their participation, at the earliest possible.

iii. 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railway Authorities/6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC

59. Secretary General informed that the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railway Authorities/6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC will be held on 17-18 May 2015 in Tehran, Iran. He said that the network of Uzbekistan railway is an integral part of the regional railway network and that the corridor-based transport cooperation may not be meaningfully materialized without participation and contribution of all enroute Member States. He stated that Uzbekistan being the enroute Member State for the two important ECO container trains, including Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty, needs to be part of this decision-making Event. He requested the Council to allow the Secretariat on an exceptional basis to bear the cost of air ticket for one delegate from the railway administration of Uzbekistan from Special Support Fund (SSF). The Council, exceptionally, authorized the Secretariat to reimburse the cost of air ticket from Special Support Fund (SSF) for one delegate from Uzbekistan.

iv. Workshop on Tourism to be held in Turkish Cypriot State

60. Ambassador of Turkey informed that the Workshop on Tourism is scheduled to be held on 28-30 April 2015 in the Turkish Cypriot State and so far Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Turkey had confirmed their participation. The expenses of the participation of the delegations would be covered by the host authorities. Ambassador requested the remaining Member States to confirm their participation and convey the composition of their delegations as soon as possible.

v. Word of thanks to the Ambassador of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Ilhom Akramov

61. CPR Chairman and members of the Council congratulated H.E. Ambassador Ilhom Akramov, on his successful completion of fifteen years tenure as Ambassador of Uzbekistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in ECO. They appreciated his enormous support and invaluable contributions during the CPR meetings and acknowledged his diplomatic abilities and skills. The members of the Council also expressed their best wishes for his future success, health and prosperity. The Secretary General also expressed deep appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Ilhom Akramov for his services during his stay in Tehran and hoped that he would promote ECO's image in his Country and enhance Uzbekistan engagement in ECO activities.

62. While acknowledging the sentiments expressed by the members of the Council, the outgoing Ambassador Ilhom Akramov wished them every success and prosperity in their future activities for the benefit of their countries and the ECO Region as a whole.

63. Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of the ECO Member States and the ECO Secretary General also attended a ceremony in the ECO Secretariat and formally inaugurated the "Training Center" established in the context of the EU-funded Project on "Fight against Trafficking to/from Afghanistan".

**Agenda Item No.11**

Date of the next CPR meeting

64. The Council welcomed the kind offer of the Mayor of City of Kashan to host the 202<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on **11-12 May 2015**. It was informed that the host authorities will provide the hospitality (1+1) to all ECO Member States. The Council requested the host country (Iran) to convey the programme of the visit to Kashan to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the Member States.

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Annex-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Mohammad Ebrahim Barekzai, Counsellor

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Counsellor

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General
- Mr. Abulfazl Mohammad Alikhani, Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ahmad Safari, Deputy Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Tofigh Sedigh Mostahkam, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Serik Zhumabekov, Minister-Counsellor
- Mr. Ermek Sadykbekov, Second Secretary

Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- Mr. Kochorbaev Musa, First Secretary

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani, Ambassador
- Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmad, Counsellor

Embassy of Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr. Zaurov Sangmuhamad, Minister Counsellor
- Ms. Manizha Rahimi, Third Secretary

Embassy of Republic of Turkey:

- H.E. Mr. Rıza Hakan TEKİN, Ambassador
- Ms. Sevgi İlhan, Second Secretary

Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. İlhom Akramov, Ambassador
- Mr. Bakhodir Tashmanov, Third Secretary

ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Shamil Aleskerov, Secretary General
- Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General

- Mrs. Mavjuda Nurova, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Gaffar Erbek, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Bahram Heidari, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Shafqat Amir, Secretary
- Mr. Muhammad Adnan, Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Translator
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Translator
- Mr. Amir Mohammad Javaheri, Persian Translator
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Malakooti, IT Expert

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