

# **205<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

## **Report**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2015  
ECO Secretariat-Tehran

## Report

The 205<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at the ECO Secretariat. The Meeting was Chaired by H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was attended by the Ambassadors, the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States except Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The ECO Secretary General along with concerned officials of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex-I.

### Welcoming Remarks of the Council for the new Secretary General

2. At the outset, the Chairman of the Council welcomed and congratulated H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca as the new ECO Secretary General. He expressed the hope that in view of his vast experience and Ambassadorial assignment, he would surely be able to render his best services to the organization.

3. The Permanent Representatives of ECO Member States, who attended the meeting, welcomed and congratulated H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca on his appointment as ECO Secretary General. They expressed the hope that having vast experience, the Secretary General would uphold the objectives, principles, rules and regulations of the ECO, which is important for smooth functioning of the organization. They assured their full support to the Secretary General in achieving his endeavours for the Organization. The Council further hoped that in view of his experience in multilateral fora besides his knowledge, wisdom and motivation he would put the Organization on the road of further progress and achieve its goals and objectives.

4. The Secretary General in his opening remarks stated that it was a great honour and privilege for him to participate in the first CPR Meeting as the new ECO Secretary General. He said his earlier experience of ECO was representing Turkey as the Head of Delegation in the ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting in 2008. He mentioned that he has held briefings from the respective Directorates and also gone through different documents of ECO such as "Treaty of Izmir", "Staff Regulations", "EPG recommendations" about diagnostics of ECO activities, vision and structure. He expressed the hope that he would be able to add value to ECO due to his earlier experiences. He further expressed his profound gratitude to ECO Member States for extending their support to his candidature. He stated that while working for ECO, he would do his best to achieve the goals and objectives with the support of the Member States, who are the real owners of this Organization.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Council adopted the following agenda for deliberations:
1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 205<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
  2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 204<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
  3. Endorsement of Draft Work Programme for the year 2015-2016
  4. Update on preparation for Extra-ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers
  5. Administrative matters
    - a) Appointment for the post of Deputy Secretary General
    - b) Recommendations of the Selection Panel
  6. Any other business
  7. Date of the next CPR Meeting

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

#### Adoption of the Draft Report of 204<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting

6. The Council adopted the Draft Report of **204<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting** circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/204<sup>th</sup> CPR/2015/**1199** dated 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

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

#### Endorsement of the Draft Work Programme for the year 2015-2016

7. The 25<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting held at the ECO Secretariat (1-5 March, 2015) discussed and approved the Draft Work Programme for the year 2015-2016 which was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/WP-2015-16/2015/**860** dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The Draft Work Programme will be submitted to the planned Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (COM) on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, for its formal approval.

8. The Iranian delegation mentioned that the Draft Working Programme have been studied and it is felt that it should be carefully articulated to have value and avoid duplication. He said that in fact it is a repetition of RPC Report and events/activities contained in the Calendar of Events attached to the RPC Report. He said that it would be better if the Secretariat could revise and update the Work Programme.

9. The Ambassadors of Tajikistan and Turkey supported the stance expressed by the Iranian delegation that the Work Programme for the year 2015-2016 requires updation which is important as this documents has to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. Both the Ambassadors requested the Secretariat that they would prefer that if the Secretariat may update the document in a week's time so that the Member States approve it and the latest updated version of the Work Programme is submitted to the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers Meeting in New York for endorsement.

10. Upon this the Secretariat briefed and clarified to the Council that the Work Programme was actually prepared for one year starting from January to December 2015. However, due to delay in holding of the RPC Meeting i.e. in March and subsequent issuance of Report in April 2015. Many of the decisions which were taken look dated as half of the year has already passed. So in actual case it should have been brought to CPR in January 2015 and in that case all these actions would have looked as future actions to be taken by the ECO Secretariat. It was also mentioned that the Secretariat is planning to correct the calendar and wished to have the next RPC Meeting before January 2016 so as the Work Programme for 2016-2017 is prepared and approved within the time frame.

11. The Council appreciated the briefing by the Secretariat. However, it was decided that the ECO Secretariat may update the Work Programme, as early as possible, so that the Special CPR in its meeting scheduled on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 could approve the Work Programme for the year 2015-2016. The Work Programme would then be submitted for endorsement by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (COM) in New York.

#### **Agenda Item No.4**

##### Update on preparation for Extra-ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers

12. The Secretariat updated the Council stating that to address emerging and important issues which require immediate decisions by the COM, the Council of Permanent Representatives in its 204<sup>th</sup> Meeting decided to convene an Extraordinary Session of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September/October, 2015. The Draft Agenda of COM Meeting has been circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/Extraordinary COM/2015/NY/1152 dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The Embassy of Republic of Turkey in Tehran has conveyed its concurrence to the Draft Agenda of the said COM Meeting through its Note Verbale No. 2015/99530379-Tehran BE8160448 dated 4 August 2015.

13. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New York, being the Chair of the COM, has been requested to make efforts in order to fix the date and venue for the Meeting in consultation with the Permanent Missions of other ECO Member States (Note verbale No.IR/UN/2015/1183 dated 3 August 2015). The Secretariat has also requested the Member States to help ensure participation of their Foreign Ministers in the Meeting vide its Note Verbale No.IR/UN/2015/1184 dated 3 August 2015.

14. The Secretariat briefed the Council stating that the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations vide its Note Verbale No. 2440 dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 informed that the said Meeting would preferably be held on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015 at 10:00 - 13:00 hours in the UN premises**. The firm date and time will subsequently be communicated to the Member States of the ECO. It was further informed to the Council that online accreditation/registration request of the ECO delegation has been completed. Seating arrangements in the Conference Room No. 9 in the UN premises has been concluded and the Secretariat is in direct communication with the Officer-in-

Charge of the the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN, New York to facilitate meeting management.

15. The Secretariat further informed that it was decided in the 204<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting to convene a Senior Officials Meeting which has been scheduled on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to specifically deliberate and finalize the issue of "Scale of Assessments". So far the Secretariat have only received nominations from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Secretariat requested the remaining Member States for early nominations to the Secretariat for this particular meeting.

16. The Secretariat also submitted for approval of the Council, the request of Turkish Cypriot State, which has an Observer Status in the ECO, for participation in the forthcoming Extraordinary Session of the Council of Minsiters (COM) in New York. Furthermore, the Secretariat also requested the Council for convening of Special CPR to finalize the agenda and other issues of COM on 20<sup>th</sup> September instead of 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

17. The Iranian delegation briefed the Council about the arrangements being made for the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (COM) in New York by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that the Mission has booked Conference Room for meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015 and the information has been circulated among the ECO Member States in New York on the latest arrangements. The delegation requested the Secretariat for having confirmation of the date of COM Meeting i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015 and composition of delegation of Member States. The Iranian delegation further requested to be informed officially about the latest position of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for which Iran has already introduced its delegation. The delegation suggested that due to the significance of the issue of "Scale of Assessments" which will then require endorsement from the COM in New York, the Secretariat may explore the possibility of providing hospitality and round trip air ticket to the delegate(s) for ECO Member States for participation in the SOM Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

18. While thanking for the briefing by the Secretariat and the Iranian delegation, the Ambassador of Turkey informed the Council that Turkey will be represented by him in SOM Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. He said that the date of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 for holding of the Special CPR Meeting is also acceptable. He further informed that Agenda of the COM meeting as well as the date of COM Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in New York has been accepted by Turkey. He also supported the request of the Turkish Cypriot State for participation, as observer, in the COM Meeting in New York in line with the ECO modalities and requested the Forum to also take decision in this regard. The Ambassador of Turkey opposed funding of delegates of ECO Member States for attending SOM stating that it will create an unhealthy trend.

19. The Ambassador of Pakistan also updated the Meeting in this regard and said that in case no nomination from Pakistan is received for SOM Meeting then Pakistan will be represented by himself. He also informed that the dates for Special CPR Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September and COM Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 respectively are acceptable for

Pakistan. He further informed that the Secretariat has been formally conveyed that the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security will be participating in the COM Meeting in New York. He also said that while the Member States are working at their end on "ECO Vision", the Secretariat may prepare a document on the subject for the Member States which may be discussed in the Special CPR and COM Meetings. The Ambassador of Pakistan also did not support the proposal of funding the delegates for Member States for attending the SOM.

20. The Ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan also conveyed their acceptance of the date of Special CPR Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and said that if no nominations are received from their capitals then their countries on both the meetings i.e. Special CPR and SOM will be represented at the Ambassadorial level. They further informed about the concurrence of the date of 2<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 for the COM Meeting in New York and assured that their delegations will participate in the COM Meeting and official response in this regard will be conveyed later.

21. The Ambassador of Afghanistan supported the idea of the Islamic Republic of Iran for funding of delegates by the Secretariat to encourage the participation from the capitals for the SOM Meeting. He said that in case of non-nomination, Afghanistan will be represented at the Ambassadorial level in the SOM. He informed that dates for Special CPR on 20<sup>th</sup> September and COM Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 respectively are acceptable and the Embassy is in coordination with their Mission in New York but so far no instructions have been received but assured the Meeting about Afghanistan's participation.

22. After protracted deliberations on this agenda item, the Council agreed and decided as under:

- (i) **9<sup>th</sup> September 2015:**  
Holding of Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) at 1000 hours at the Secretariat to discuss and finalize the issue of "Scale of Assessments".
- (ii) **20<sup>th</sup> September 2015:**  
Holding of Special CPR Meeting at 1000 hours at the Secretariat
- (iii) **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015:**  
Holding of Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (COM) at the UN Premises, New York (from 10:00 - 13:00 hours).
- (iv) **Acceptance of the Request of Turkish Cypriot State**  
Accepted the request of Turkish Cypriot State for participation, in line with the modalities, in the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (COM) in New York.
- (iv) **Provision of Report on ECO Vision**  
The Secretariat will submit a report on the "ECO Vision" during the Special CPR on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

**Agenda Item No.5**

Administrative matters

**a) Appointment for the post of Deputy Secretary General**

23. The Secretariat in line with the deliberations during the 203<sup>rd</sup> meeting of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015, informed the Member States vide note No. ADM/PER/2015/877 dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 that post of Deputy Secretary General responsible for Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Industry, Tourism and International Relations, presently occupied by Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu (**Turkish national**) will fall vacant on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. The Secretariat vide its note No. ADM/PER/2015/1146 dated 28 July 2015 informed the Member States that 204<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting (27<sup>th</sup> July 2015) had decided to put the deadline of **10<sup>th</sup> August 2015** for submission of the nominations for the above post.

24. The 10<sup>th</sup> COM meeting (Tehran, June 2000) decided that "*.... during the term that the post of Secretary General goes to one of the Founding Members, two posts of Deputy Secretaries General shall go to other Founding Members and one to a Non-Founding Member*". The post of Secretary General went to Republic of Turkey (a Founding Member) as of 13 August 2015. Therefore, the post of Deputy Secretary General shall be filled by a successful candidate from nominations presented by Non-founding Members.

25. Secretariat received two nominations from Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. CVs of both the candidates were circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's note No.ADM/PER/2015/918 and 1061 dated 16 June and 12 July 2015, respectively. As per Article 6.4 of the ECO Staff Regulations "*Appointment to the post of Deputy Secretary General in Category-I shall be made by the Council of Ministers (COM) at the recommendation of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*".

26. The Chairman of the Council proposed that as there are only two candidates for the posts of Deputy Secretary General (Trade & Investment, Agriculture, Industry, Tourism and International Relations), it would be advisable to have informal meetings between the nominating Member States in order to reach a consensus for having one candidate for the post. The approval of the decided candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary General will then be sought from the next Special Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meeting scheduled to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

27. The Council endorsed the proposal.

**b) Recommendations of the Selection Panel**

28. The Selection Panel of the Secretariat submitted Report of its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, before the Council. The Council decided and approved the following recommendations of the Selection Panel:

(i) Director for Agriculture, Industries & Tourism (Category I, D2)

29. Mr. Memduh UNAL (**Turkish National**) was appointed as Director for Agriculture, Industries & Tourism (Category-I, D2) for a term of three years effective from the date of his joining the Secretariat replacing Mr. Gokten Damar who will complete his term of appointment on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

(ii) Assistant Director (International Relations) (Category-I, D1)

30. Mr. Muhammad Muqet Asim Shah (**Pakistan National**) was appointed as Assistant Director for International Relations (Category-I, D1) for a term of three years effective from the date of his joining the Secretariat replacing p Mr. Jehanzeb Khan who will complete his tenure on 2nd October 2015.

(iii) Programme Officer for Trade and Investment (Category-II, P3)

31. The tenure of Mr. Mehmet Ali Saglam (**Turkish National**) was extended for a period of two months effective from 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

(iv) Programme Officer for Project & Economic Research and Statistic (Category-II, P2)

32. The tenure of Mr. Mohammad Hosein Amini (**Iranian National**) was extended for a period of two months effective from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

33. The ECO Deputy Secretary General informed the Council about the concern raised during the Selection Panel meeting on the way the post of "Programme Officer for Project & Economic Research and Statistics" had been treated since its creation by 19<sup>th</sup> COM meeting in December 2010. He further informed the Council that the Selection Panel had two recommendations in this regard, where (i) the tenure of the incumbent, Mr. Mohammad Hosein Amini from Iran, could be extended for two months while (ii) the Secretariat might be instructed to provide more information to the Member States on the history of the Post, including on its allocation to the Member States.

34. The Ambassador of Pakistan stated that the Post had been initially allocated through internal processes of the Secretariat and requested that the required information should be available to the Selection Panel or a working group with a view to facilitating CPR for taking further decision on the future of the Post.

35. The Council extended the tenure of Mr. Mohammad Hosein Amini, Iranian national, for a period of two months, effective from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Council also instructed the Secretariat to provide the Member States with additional information on the history of the post of "Programme Officer for Project & Economic Research and



Statistics" and facilitate CPR decision on the future of the Post through Working Group or Selection Panel.

**Agenda Item No.6**

Any other business

36. Under this agenda item, the following points were raised:

**(i) 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Council Meeting (RPC)**

37. The Secretariat proposed holding of 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Council Meeting on 13 - 17 December, 2015 at the ECO Secretariat. It was also mentioned that in order to ensure better participation from all the Member States, ECO Secretariat may fund travelling and hospitality for four (4) delegates from each Member States. The Secretariat informed 4 (four) delegates from all the Member States were financed for the 25<sup>th</sup> RPC last year, as well.

38. The Council approved the proposed dates by the ECO Secretariat i.e. 13 - 17 December 2015 for convening of the RPC Meeting. Moreover, for ensuring enhanced participation in the RPC Meeting, the Council also approved the suggestion of the ECO Secretariat to provide accommodation and reimburse the cost of round trip air tickets for four (4) delegates from each ECO Member State from the Feasibility Study and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF).

**(ii) Non-Receipt of Report from ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

39. The Iranian delegation made observation that according to the report received from the "Iranian Committee of the ECO Chamber of Industry, Mines and Agriculture" no report on the activities of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been received since 2014. Furthermore, it has also not participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) or any other relevant Meetings. The Iranian delegation requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the current President of the Chamber, to furnish the ECO Secretariat as well as the National Committees of the Chamber and the Member States with a report on its latest achievements, plans and programmes towards boosting the trade and economic cooperation in the ECO Region.

40. The Secretariat assured the Iranian delegation that it will request the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry to provide a report to the Secretariat about its activities for information of the Secretariat and Member States.

**Agenda Item No.7**

Date of the next CPR meeting

41. The Council decided to convene its next regular (206<sup>th</sup>) Meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

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## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- H.E. Dr. Nasser Ahmad Noor, Ambassador
- Mr. Mohammad Hakim Sidiqi, Second Secretary
- Ms. Zahra Badaghi, Administrative Assistant

### The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Javanshir Akhundov, Ambassador
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Counsellor

### The 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
- Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

### The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

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

### Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador
- Ms. Manizha Rahimi, Third Secretary

### The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

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

### The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jaleledin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Gaffar Erbek, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Muhammad Adnan, Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Translator
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Translator
- Mr. Amir Mohammad Javaheri, Persian Translator
- Mr. Waqar Siddique, Date Base Officer
- Mrs. Maryam Eslami Chalandar, IT Expert
- Mr. Hamid Reza Soltani, Protocol Officer

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