

206th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

19th October 2015
ECO Secretariat-Tehran

Report

The 206th CPR meeting was held on 19th October 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.

2. At the outset the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan requested the legal position about the quorum. The Legal Adviser of the Secretariat quoted Rule 29(b) of the Rules of Procedures as follows:

“For Meetings of Council of Permanent Representatives and Regional Planning Council the quorum shall be two-third of the total membership.”
(The Legal Adviser pointed out that the calculated number under this rule is 6.6.)

3. Further, he referred to Rule 29(c) of Rules of Procedure. Pursuant to this rule “for all other meetings, the quorum shall be simple majority of the total membership” which means the quorum is six for other meetings.

4. The Legal Adviser also referred to the existence of a practice of CPR meetings held by the presence of six Members. By this he referred the case to be decided by the Chairperson.

5. The Chairperson decided that six could be considered the quorum and started the proceedings of the CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Council adopted the following Agenda for deliberations:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 206 CPR Meeting
2. **Adoption of the Draft Reports of CPR Meetings**
 - (i) Draft Report of 205th CPR Meeting
 - (ii) Draft Report of Special CPR Meeting acting as Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for Extraordinary Session of COM held on 20th September 2015
3. **Update and Follow-up to Extraordinary Session of COM:**
 - i. ECO Vision 2025
 - ii. Appointment of new Deputy Secretary General
 - iii. Scale of Assessments
 - iv. Status of Contribution/Arrears
 - v. Others

4. Preparations for 26th RPC Meeting
5. Briefing on ECO's Participation in the 21st UNFCCC Conference of the Parties to be held on 30th November to 11 December 2015, Paris
6. Preparation of Turkish Cypriot State at the 2nd Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States to be held on 3-4 November 2015 in Antalya (Turkey) in its capacity as an ECO Observer.
7. Administrative Matters
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of Next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Reports of CPR Meetings:

(i) Draft Report of 205th CPR Meeting

7. The Council adopted the Draft Report of 205th CPR Meeting circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/205th CPR/2015/1362 dated 3rd September 2015.

(ii) Draft Report of Special CPR Meeting acting as Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for Extraordinary Session of COM

8. The Council also adopted the Draft Report of Special CPR Meeting acting as Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for Extraordinary Session of COM circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/Special CPR/2015/1488 dated 23rd September 2015.

Agenda Item No.3

Update and Follow-up to Extraordinary Session of COM:

9. Under this agenda item, first of all, the Chairperson requested the Secretary General for his general briefing on the Extraordinary Session of COM Meeting held on 2nd October, 2015 in New York.

10. The Secretary General briefed the CPR Meeting stating that Extraordinary Session of COM was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 2nd October, 2015 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was attended by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Representative of all the ECO Member States except Republic of Uzbekistan. He said that ECO Secretariat was also represented by the Secretary General and other representatives. He said before the COM Meeting he held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran and discussed the agenda of the meeting and considering the level of the attendance, agreed to have a short meeting of EX-COM in order to get maximum benefit of approving necessary items. As per the agenda of the COM, statements were made by Foreign Ministers/Representatives of the Member States as well as Foreign Minister of the Turkish Cypriot State. He said that in their statements

while congratulating his appointment as the new Secretary General they also touched upon ECO Vision besides other issues. Two major issues i.e. appointment of new Deputy Secretary General and the Scale of Assessments were also discussed without reaching any decision.

11. The Secretary General also informed the Council that the COM meeting approved Reports of CPRs, RPCs and Sectoral Ministerial Meetings since the last COM Meeting. It also approved Calendar of Events for the years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, Work Programmes 2014-2015, 2015-2016, Audit Reports of 2013 and 2014, and Secretariat Budget for 2015 with reservation of Kazakhstan. The Extraordinary COM Meeting also made decisions on renewal of the status as Observers of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and the Turkish Cypriot State. The COM Meeting also approved high level appointments in the Secretariat i.e. Secretary General and two Deputy Secretaries General.

i. ECO Vision 2025

12. ECO Vision 2015 was adopted by the 15th Extraordinary Session of COM held on 1st Oct 2005 in Astana (Kazakhstan). The Vision reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States to the objectives of ECO and defined a number of targets in various areas. The Secretariat initiated process of assessing the implementation of the ECO Vision 2015 and formulating a new vision for the period 2016-25. Prior to the 25th Meeting of the RPC, the Secretariat had shared with the Member States a background paper on ECO Vision (*Note Verbale No. CFU/25th RPC/2015/255 dated 23rd Feb 2015*). The paper presented a preliminary evaluation of the implementation of the ECO Vision 2015 in various key sectors along with the constraints faced in its implementation and a number of policy proposals for the new Vision. During the 25th RPC Meeting, the ECO Secretary General and the Heads of Delegation of the Member States discussed various issues pertaining to the ECO Vision 2015. The Member States stressed on the need for a detailed and critical analysis of the weak implementation of the Vision 2015. Important decisions regarding formulation new Vision were also reached.

13. In line with the recommendation of the 3rd ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG), the Secretariat proposed to the Member States to hold national conferences with the participation of leading think-tanks, scholars, academicians, representatives of business communities and media for preparing a set of national inputs for the new Vision (*Note Verbale No. IR/ECO-Vision/2015/984 dated 1st July 2015*). Later this year, the Secretariat is planning to organize a conference, in order to finalize the recommendations for the ECO Vision 2025. This has been reflected in the Calendar of Events approved by the 25th RPC Meeting. Moreover, ECO Secretariat prepared the first draft of the ECO Vision 2025 which was also circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note No. IR/ECO-Vision/2015/1436 dated 15th September, 2015.

14. During the Special CPR Meeting acting as SOM for Extraordinary COM, the ECO Secretary General briefed the Council introducing already circulated Draft of "ECO Vision 2025". He said that Institutions/Organizations need to have a "Vision" that enables them to focus on their objectives and to communicate and engage better with the

related stakeholders. He stated that the Vision 2025 will prioritize the themes on the “Treaty of Izmir” unless the political will of the Member States change.

15. The Secretary General further informed about the roadmap to be followed for preparation, deliberations and finalization of the Vision 2025 to the Council and hoped that the ECO Vision 2025 will be announced in the declaration of the ECO Summit which is scheduled in April 2016 in Islamabad after it is enriched and deliberated upon in CRPs, 26th RPC and Conference specially planned for Vision 2025 by ECO Secretariat later this year. Implementation on ECO Vision 2025 will start after its deliberation and approval in ECO Summit. He also informed that the Secretariat also intends to resume the reform process as soon as the ECO Vision is finalized and approved. After deliberations on the issue of “ECO Vision 2025”, the 205th CPR decided to submit draft Vision 2025 to the forthcoming Extraordinary COM in New York and seek their guidance as well as mandate to further work on it through inputs from different forums including RPC and CPRs so that a comprehensive document on ECO Vision is finalized and submitted to the ECO Summit Meeting for approval in April 2016.

16. The ECO Secretary General briefed the Extraordinary COM about process of preparing the "ECO Vision 2025". He referred to the work done so far to evaluate the implementation of the current ECO Vision 2015, adopted in 2005 in Astana. Secretary General also introduced the first draft of the "ECO Vision 2025", as had already been circulated among the Member States. Referring to the envisaged time-bound roadmap for the finalization of the "ECO Vision 2025" and hoped that the next meetings of the ECO COM/Summit in Pakistan can formally adopt the "ECO Vision 2025". He also sought necessary guidelines to be followed in the ongoing process of drafting the Vision from Extraordinary COM.

17. The Extraordinary COM discussed optimal ECO Vision for the coming decade and decided that relevant feedbacks from Member States will be compiled by the Secretariat for further submission to forthcoming COM and Summit meetings.

18. The Secretary General giving update informed the 206 CPR that the COM meeting discussed the ECO Vision 2025 and decided that relevant feedback from Member States to be compiled by the Secretariat for further submission to the forthcoming COM and Summit meetings. He further explained that as mandated by the COM Meeting in New York, the ECO Secretariat plans to organize a “Brainstorming Session on ECO Vision 2025” during the forthcoming RPC Meeting (13 - 17 December, 2015), which will be called “Future Search Conference”. For this purpose, the Secretariat has approached the Member States requesting to provide a panel of eminent persons enabling the Secretariat to choose 2-3 persons for the purpose.

19. The Chairperson also requested the Member States to provide relevant feedback on the draft “ECO Vision 2025”.

20. The Member States enquired about the financial implications on inviting additional persons (20-30) for the Brainstorming Session for the ECO Vision during the

forthcoming RPC Meeting. The Secretariat clarified that these eminent persons would be in addition to the delegates from the Member States for the RPC Meeting and the air tickets and accommodation may be financed from the Special Support Fund/Feasibility & General Purpose Fund besides also paying some remuneration to the Moderator.

21. After deliberations, the Council agreed on holding of Brainstorming Session on the sidelines of the forthcoming RPC Meeting at the ECO Secretariat with involvement of Eminent Persons and Heads of Delegations/Representatives of the RPC Meeting on the ECO Vision-2025. The Council also authorized the Secretary General to fund the event from Special Support Fund/Feasibility & General Purpose Fund.

ii. Appointment of the new Deputy Secretary General

22. The Extraordinary COM considered the two nominations by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Azerbaijan for the post of Deputy Secretary General. The Extraordinary COM agreed that consultations between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan on the issue of appointment of Deputy Secretary General will continue and be further discussed within CPR framework.

23. The Secretary General informed the Council that, as per previous tradition, after completion of the tenure of Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu, Deputy Secretary General on 3rd November, 2015, Secretariat will function, for a while, with two Deputy Secretaries General.

24. Keeping the position in view, the Chairperson proposed that in accordance with the guidelines given by the Ministers in New York, the two Member States may continue consultations between them and reach a compromise on the issue and report about the update of their discussions to the 207th CPR Meeting.

iii. Scale of Assessments

25. In its 203rd Meeting, CPR received a briefing by the Secretariat and the Chairman of the "Working Group on the finalization of the Proposed Outline for Implementation of the EPG Recommendations", on the ECO Scale of Assessments for 2016-2018. According to the briefing, the Working Group had reviewed the EPG relevant recommendations as well as the other possible scenarios for devising new scale rates for the contributions by the Member States to the budget of the Organization. The Working Group had not been able to reach any practical formula for the new Scale of Assessments. As requested by the Working Group, the Secretariat submitted a report based on the discussions on the scale of assessments to the Member States on 1st July, 2015 (Note Verbale No. ADM/EPG/2015/983).

26. In 204th CPR on the issue of Scale of Assessments, Kazakhstan briefed the Council stating that in 2009 the share of Kazakhstan was fixed at 16% in the Scale of Assessments approved by the COM in 2009. However, Kazakhstan has revised its contribution rates in number of international organizations including the ECO and the current Scale of

Assessments of ECO is not acceptable to Kazakhstan. He also informed that the proposal prepared by the Working Group on 'Scale of Assessments' is not acceptable to Kazakhstan. He was of the opinion that ECO requires restructuring and revision of its priorities. After protracted deliberations, the Council agreed to the suggestion of the representative of Kazakhstan to have a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) which was held on 9th September 2015 and was attended by the Ambassadors/Representatives of the Member States.

27. After deliberations, the Chairperson of the SOM proposed adoption of the "new table of "Scale of Assessments" proposed by the Secretariat and based on the Working Group reports (as contained in page 8 of the Working Paper on "Scale of Assessments", circulated among the Member States vide ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/SOM/2015/1186 dated 4th August, 2015). (The table is re-produced as under)

Shares of Member States calculated as per Proposed ECO Scale of Assessments
Formula for 2016 - 2018

	Share As per ECO 2009 Scale of Assessment (%)	Share in the UN	Proposed Shares (%) after putting floor at 2%
	1	2	4
Afghanistan	1.28	0.005	2.00
Azerbaijan	3.21	0.04	5.74
Iran	22		22.00
Kazakhstan	16	0.121	17.37
Kyrgyz Republic	0.66	0.002	2.00
Pakistan	22		22.00
Tajikistan	0.66	0.003	2.00
Turkey	22		22.00
Turkmenistan	3.21	0.019	2.73
Uzbekistan	8.98	0.015	2.15
			100.00

28. Some Member States made observations about the proposed Scale of Assessments and underscored that they had instruction to retain the old Scale of Assessments and that they will revert to their Capitals for instruction on the proposed new 'Scale of Assessments'.

29. The Chairman proposed adoption of the new table of Scale of Assessments along with the reservations shown by the Member States. He expressed the hope that by the time of Special CPR, which is scheduled to be held on 20th September 2015, the Member States who have shown reservations may come up with positive instructions from their Capitals. The SOM agreed with the proposal of the Chair.

30. The Chairperson after the detailed deliberations suggested that the issue may be presented to the Extraordinary of COM in the form of a report incorporating the proposals and reservations of the Member States for decision while proposing that the current Scale of Assessments may be extended for the year 2016 so as to gain time for finding resolution of the issue. He also assured the representatives of the Member States that the respective positions of the Member States and their reservations will be incorporated in the report which will be circulated to the Member States for comments prior to its placement before the Extraordinary COM. The Council agreed with the proposal of the Chair.

31. At the Extraordinary COM, Secretary General informed that the Scale of Assessments approved by the 18th Meeting of the COM in 2009, will expire in 2015 and there is an urgent need for fixing the new Scale of Assessments to be applied 2016 onwards. He referred the history of issue as well as the recommendations and efforts by the EPG, Working Group meetings, proceedings of CPRs, SOM and Special CPR of 20th September 2015, to resolve the issue as reflected in the Report specially prepared for the Extraordinary COM. It was decided by the Special CPR to submit its Report to the Extraordinary COM containing the proposed table of "Scale of Assessments" as well as the reservations by some of the Member States.

32. The Extraordinary COM discussed the matter and decided to continue consultations at the level of CPR and with involvement of finance experts from the capitals. The Extraordinary COM further decided to extend the current Scale of Assessments till the end of 2016.

33. The Secretary General informed the Council that Kazakhstan has submitted its reservations regarding the issue of Scale of Assessments. He said that in practical term due to non-payments by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan the Scale of Assessments will not be effective and the Secretariat will face financial problems from the second half of 2016. **However, the Secretary General suggested that a Working Group, consisting of financial experts from the capitals, may be created which can work to finding a solution of the issue and/or the issue will be taken to the next COM and Summit Meetings for approval/resolution.**

34. After deliberations, the Council decided to convene, through the Secretariat, a meeting with participation of all Member States and consisting of relevant authorities from interested capitals, who will meet at the Secretariat, in order to discuss and finalize the issue of "Scale of Assessment/Contributions and Arrears" for its further approval by the next COM and Summit Meetings.

iv. Status of Contributions/Arrears

35. Functioning of ECO is much dependent on regular and systematic contributions on the part of the Member States. Unfortunately the efforts of Secretariat to persuade some Member States to pay their arrears have not been successful and the arrears of these Member States have increased to US\$ 3,643,975/. This has created serious financial and

legal concerns for the Organization. The main part of arrears is due to Uzbekistan, which amounts to US\$ 3,584,448/, and Kazakhstan which amounts to US\$ 812,968/. Detailed position of Member States' contributions is reproduced below:

Status of Member States' contributions to the ECO Secretariat Budget
(13.09.2015)

No	Country	Scale of Assessment	Contribution				Paid in 2014 and 2015	Total Unpaid contribution
			Arrears till end of 2013	2014	2015	Total		
1	Afghanistan	1.28	0	50,094	49,412	99,506	99,506	0
2	Azerbaijan	3.21	0	125,627	123,915	249,542	249,542	0
3	Iran	22.00	0	860,998	849,261	1,710,259	1,310,998	399,261
4	Kazakhstan	16.00	0	626,180	617,644	1,243,824	430,856	812,968
5	Kyrgyzstan	0.66	0	25,830	25,478	51,308	25,830	25,478
6	Pakistan	22.00	0	860,998	849,261	1,710,259	1,726,450	-16,191
7	Tajikistan	0.66	0	25,830	25,478	51,308	3,154	48,154
8	Turkey	22.00	0	860,998	849,261	1,710,259	1,710,259	0
9	Turkmenistan	3.21	0	125,627	123,915	249,542	125,627	123,915
10	Uzbekistan	8.98	2,886,352	351,443	346,653	3,584,448	0	3,584,448
Total		100.00	2,886,352	3,913,625	3,860,278	10,660,255	5,682,222	4,978,033

36. During the Special CPR Meeting on 20th September 2015, the Chief Accountant of the Secretariat briefed the Council stating that so far the Arrears are mainly related to two countries i.e. Uzbekistan with the contribution of 2015, the arrear is reaching 3.5 million USD and for Kazakhstan arrears have mounted to 0.812 million USD including the contribution of 2015. The remaining Member States have minor arrears to pay.

37. It was stated that the issue of arrears has been discussed in the Working Group and in the CPR meetings but unfortunately no decision could be reached. It was proposed that let the Council to tackle the issue of outstanding arrears by allowing Member States to pay arrears in installments during a period of five years. There was expressed a hope that a solution would be reached during the forthcoming Extraordinary COM in New York. After lengthy deliberations on the issue, the CPR Chairperson suggested to the Council that a Report on the current status of contributions and arrears incorporating views and proposals of Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Kazakhstan be prepared and presented before the Extraordinary COM in New York for guidance and decision. Council approved the proposal. A comprehensive Report on the issue is attached at Annex II.

38. During the Extraordinary COM Session the ECO Secretary General briefed the Ministerial Session on the latest developments as regard the outstanding arrears to the budget of the Organization. He referred to the Report prepared by the Secretariat for the

Extraordinary COM Session and informed the Ministers that the total arrears is 4,978,033, mainly attributed to the arrears by Uzbekistan (US\$ **3,584,448**) and Kazakhstan (US\$ **812,968**). The remaining arrears are due to delayed payment of the contributions to the current year budget by some Member States. The Secretary General highlighted the critical situation caused by non-payment of contributions by Uzbekistan in the last 15 years, as well as the unilateral decision by Kazakhstan to drastically reduce its annual contributions to one third which severely affected ECO activities. He requested the Extraordinary Session of the COM to intervene with a view to handling this critical financial situation encountering the Organization.

39. The Ministers/Heads of Delegations discussed and decided that further consultations may be needed at higher level, possibly during forthcoming ECO Summit in Pakistan in 2016. The Extraordinary COM agreed that the Secretariat will continue consultations on the issue of arrears with concerned Member States and with participation of finance experts from the capitals.

40. Under this sub-agenda item, the Council reiterated its decision as mentioned in Para 34 above.

v. Others

41. Under this sub agenda item, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out regarding level of participation in the Extraordinary COM. On this, the Secretary General informed that due to a sideline activity, the level of participation was not upto the mark. Moreover, he mentioned that in his opinion the agenda of the Extraordinary COM was also very heavy and date for the Extraordinary COM was late and many Foreign Ministers had left New York by that time.

42. The Chairperson remarked that in fact agenda of the Extraordinary COM, as far as three or four items were concerned, was difficult because CPR could not take decisions on them and totally left them for decisions from COM. The Chairperson opined that for high level meetings, the document should be very clear and clean and put up for decision/endorsement only.

43. The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey agreed with the Chairperson that CPR is a forum where the Member States may take clear decisions. He hoped for appropriate level participation in future meetings from the Member States.

Agenda Item No.4

Preparations for 26th RPC Meeting

44. The ECO Secretariat vide its Note Verbale No. No.CFU/26th RPC Meeting/2015/**1294** dated 24th August, 2015 with reference to the decision of the 25th Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC) to organize the next 26th RPC Meeting in November/December 2015 proposed to hold the **26th RPC Meeting on 13 - 17 December 2015** at the ECO Secretariat. The 205th CPR Meeting finalized the date for 26th Meeting of

the Regional Planning Council (RPC) on 13-17 December 2015 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. It was also decided that for ensuring enhanced participation from the Member States in the RPC meeting, the ECO Secretariat will provide accommodation and reimburse the cost of round trip air tickets (up to US\$900) for four (4) delegates from each ECO Member State from the Feasibility Study and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF).

45. The ECO Secretariat vide its Note Verbale No. No. No.CFU/26th RPC Meeting/2015/1348 dated 3rd September 2015 requested Member States to kindly confirm their participation along with composition of their delegations and flight details to ensure quorum and enable the Secretariat to make necessary logistical arrangements for the participants.

46. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) of ECO Secretariat updated the Council regarding the forthcoming 26th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting. He informed that the distinguished Member States have been informed about the dates of the RPC Meeting i.e. 13 - 17 December, 2015 and as decided in the 205th CPR Meeting, the ECO Secretariat will provide accommodation and reimburse the cost of round trip air tickets to 1+3 persons (up to US\$900) from each ECO Member States from the Feasibility Study and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF) in order to ensure enhanced participation in the Meeting. He informed that Draft Agenda of the 26th RPC Meeting has already been issued to the Member States on 6th October 2015.

47. Deputy Secretary General also informed that a briefing session of all the Directorates of the Secretariat, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary General, is scheduled before circulation of Working Papers to the Member States. He further informed that the Secretariat has also issued invitations through a Note Verable on 6th October, 2015 to the ECO Specialized Agencies/Affiliated bodies and Observers for participation in the RPC Meeting. Until now the Secretariat has not received confirmation from any Member States.

48. The Member States were requested to confirm participation of their respective countries along with composition of delegations enabling the Secretariat for making necessary arrangements accordingly.

49. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan while appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat for preparation of RPC shared his reservation about late provision of Sectoral Working Papers and requested the Secretariat if the Working Papers are provided to the Embassies by 15th November 2015 so that these are forwarded to the capitals well in time for further actions.

Agenda Item No.5

Briefing on ECO's Participation in the 21st UNFCCC Conference of the Parties to be held on 30th November to 11th December 2015, Paris

50. Director (Energy, Minerals and Environment) of the Secretariat briefed the CPR Meeting on preparation for the 21st UNFCCC Conference of Parties, also known as the

COP21, as well as on status of implementation of relevant mandates given to the Secretariat by ECO Ministers (5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment - 17 December 2014, Istanbul). It was stated that the draft negotiating text for Paris which would be cornerstone for the comprehensive climate agreement was made available on 5th October by Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP). Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) have been submitted by most of the parties to the Convention, including by eight ECO Member States (except Iran and Uzbekistan). Paris agreement will pave the way for proper implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted last month during the historic UN Summit in New York, including those related to environmental sustainability and relevant cross-cutting targets. So in terms of visibility and expanding outreach this is an important event for the ECO Secretariat.

51. It was further mentioned that when the mandate was given in Istanbul, the deadline for submission of application for observership to the sessions of COP-21 had already passed. He said that nevertheless, the Secretariat registered within the UNFCCC on-line system and submitted application for COP-22 in Morocco 2016. In September 2015 the ECO Secretary General sent a letter to H.E. Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with regard to relevant mandate and proposal to organize the ECO Coordinating Meeting on the sidelines of the COP-21 Paris Conference and requesting H.E. or her Deputy to consider chairing this meeting. Iranian authorities responded that if the Secretariat holds the ECO Coordinating Meeting during the high level segment of COP21, H.E. Dr. Ebtekar will be glad to attend and chair the meeting.

52. It was informed that the Secretariat is also in contact with the Embassy of Iran in Paris to investigate with UNFCCC and host French authorities availability and cost of suitable venue for proposed meeting. He informed that there are three following options for the venue of the meeting:

- (i) **COP-21 Conference Centre** which is fully controlled by UNFCCC and is limited to holdes of "coloured access cards" which means restricted only for the delegates and observers.
- (ii) **Climate Generations Rooms** which is partly opened to the general public and jointly controlled by the UNFCCC and the French Government.
- (iii) **Convening** the meeting in other suitable venue, which implies rent costs and certain financial implications on the Secretariat.

53. The Council was further informed that the Secretariat will continue coordination with UNFCCC and Iranian Embassy in Paris for finding appropriate venue, as well as with ECO-IEST for preparation of technical papers for the meeting.

Agenda Item No.6

Participation of Turkish Cypriot State at the 2nd Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States to be held on 3-4 November 2015 in Antalya, Turkey in its capacity as an ECO observer.

54. The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tehran vide its Note Verbale No.2015/99530379-Tehran BE/8346553 dated 1 October 2015 informed the Secretariat that the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey will invite Turkish Cypriot State to participate at the 2nd Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States to be held on 3-4 November 2015 in Antalya, Turkey in its capacity as an ECO observer.

55. The Secretariat informed the Council that it had only received formal confirmation for participation in the above mentioned event from the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, there are positive signals that Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan may also attend. It was requested that the Member States may kindly expedite formal confirmation and convey the composition of delegations to enable the host country for making necessary arrangements in organizing the meeting.

56. The Council authorized the request of participation of Turkish Cypriot State at the 2nd Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States to be held on 3-4 November 2015 in Antalya (Turkey). The Chairperson further requested all the Member States for early confirmation of their respective delegations for this important meeting.

Agenda Item No.7

Administrative matters

57. The Secretariat submitted recommendations of Selection Panel held on 14th October 2015 to the Council. The Council made the following decisions accordingly:

(i) **Programme Officer for Trade and Investment (Category II, P3)**

58. The tenure of Mr. Mehmet Ali Saglam (**Turkish National**) was extended until the age of retirement/or renewed for a full term period, whichever is earlier.

(ii) **Assistant Accountant (Category-II, P2)**

59. Ms. Zhanar Utegulova (**Kazak National**) was appointed as Assistant Accountant for the remaining period of Ms. Tanaguzova (former Assistant Accountant) i.e. till December 1, 2016.

60. The Secretariat sought guidance of the CPR under Article 17.1 regarding payment of installation/transfer grants in case of the appointment of Assistant Accountant for the remaining period.

61. After deliberations, the Council advised the Secretariat that the issue may be dealt with in accordance with the ECO Staff Regulations.

62. As per instructions of the 205th CPR meeting, the Working Group convened its meeting on 14th October, 2015 to discuss the future distribution of the post of "Programme Officer for Project & Economic Research and Statistics (PERS)". The Secretariat had circulated Report of the Working Group for consideration of the 206th CPR meeting.

63. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan proposed to the CPR that the post may be circulated among the Member States for nomination of suitable candidates. Once the nominations are received, the meeting of the Working Group/Selection Panel is convened to finalize the candidate/allocation of the post to Member States.

64. The Iranian delegate did not agree with this proposal and proposed that the tenure of Mr. Amini be extended till the reform process is completed. **"The Iranian delegate did not share the same point of view with regard to the proposal. The delegate expressed that since the distribution of all posts is on the agenda of the ongoing reform process, and in view of the fact that there were diverging views within the Working Group on the subject post, the distribution of the post can be decided in the context of the overall reform process. The delegate further proposed that for smooth functioning of the PERS Directorate, Mr. Amine's tenure may be extended or another appropriate Iranian nominee may be appointed until the conclusion of the new distribution formula under the reform process."**

65. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan quoted the last paragraph of the Working Group's Report which states that "The Meeting decided to convey its Report to the 206th CPR Meeting. This Report shall be circulated well before the CPR in order to enable necessary preparations for timely decision by CPR, on the distribution of the subject post among the Member States." The Representative further added that in the Working Group it was made clear that no further extension would be granted to Mr. Amini and the fate of the post might be decided as early as possible and now it would not be possible to extend the tenure of Mr. Amini further. **"The delegate further clarified that since the Iranian delegate did not agree for the circulation of the post despite clear understanding and decision of the Working Group, therefore, Pakistan would be flexible in timing for further discussion on the distribution of the post. Moreover, it would be appreciated, if the Secretariat could also show some flexibility, and work without Programme Officer (P-II) (after departure of Mr. Amini), till the post is distributed among the Member States."**

66. The Secretary General mentioned that the RPC Meeting is fast approaching and if Mr. Amini is relieved of his duties, there will be no person working in PERS Directorate. In this situation, the Secretariat will face problem. He requested the CPR for a decision about this post.

67. After deliberations, the Council decided that as the Report of the Working Group has already been circulated and in order to have position of all the Member States, the issue will be discussed in the next 207th CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No.8

Any other business

Word of Thanks to the outgoing DSG and Director

68. The Council and Permanent Representatives paid rich tributes to the out-going Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT & IR) Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu and Mr. Gokten Damar, Director (AIT) respectively on performance of their job very professionally in order to promote ECO's objectives.

69. Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu, Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT & IR) reciprocated the sentiments of the distinguished members of the Council and thanked the Council for their cooperation and support in fulfilling the ECO's objectives. He appreciated the support and cooperation of all his colleagues in ECO Secretariat and wished them every success.

Audit Board Recommendations

70. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) mentioned during the Special CPR Meeting acting as the Senior Officials Meeting, the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan asked the Secretariat for a briefing in the next CPR meeting on the status of implementation of recommendations of Audit Board. He informed that Chief Accountant of the Secretariat is ready to brief on the issue.

71. The Council decided that the briefing on the status of implementation of recommendations of Auditors may be made in the next CPR in the presence of distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

ECO Geomatics Committee

72. The Secretariat informed the Council that first meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee is scheduled to be held on 20 - 21 October, 2015 in Tehran. Till now six Member States officially confirmed their participation in the meeting. However, Secretariat got a communication from Pakistani delegate that due to some reasons, he would not be able to participate. Secretariat stressed that most of the delegates were already in Tehran and the host had to complete all the arrangements and preparations for the Meeting. In order to achieve the quorum, Meeting needs 6 Member States to be presented. Secretariat requested the guidance and clearance from CPR whether to proceed or not with Meeting, as well as asked the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to be represented at the Embassy level. The representative of Pakistan stated that due to technical nature of the meeting his participation would not serve the purpose. However, he will consult the matter with the Ambassador and will inform the Secretariat accordingly.

73. The Council decided that as all the arrangements had been made by the host authorities and most of the delegates already arrived, the Meeting should be held as

scheduled. The Chairperson requested the Representative of Pakistan to help and consult the Ambassador in order to represent Pakistan in the meeting.

Agenda Item No.9

Date of the next CPR meeting

74. The Council decided to convene its next 207th Meeting on Wednesday 25th November, 2015 at 1000 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Mohammad Hakim Sidiqi, Second Secretary
- Ms. Zahra Badaghi, Administrative Assistant

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- 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. Sadegh Sadeghi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- 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 Ilhan, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Director (EME)
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Gaffar Erbek, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Translator
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Translator
- Mr. Amir Mohammad Javaheri, Persian Translator
