

Modalities for Designation of Coordinators **for Implementation of Important Projects¹**

During his statement to the 14th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, in September 2004, the Secretary General put forward the idea of designating member states as coordinators for important projects/agreements to facilitate the implementation of these projects/agreements and also to keep an eye on the proper development of the implementation process. While appreciating the proposal, the COM asked the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to work out the details of the subject.

94th CPR meeting held in December 2004 took note of the decision of the 15th COM with regard to the aforesaid recommendations of the Secretary General and assigned the task to the Working Group to deliberate and prepare the proposal and modalities on the subject.

The Working Group deliberated the issue at length and prepared a proposal containing background of the important projects/agreements and also drafted Terms of Reference for designation of coordinators as a mechanism to facilitate the implementation of the projects/agreements and also to keep the eye on the proper development of the implementation process, each member states, on a voluntary basis, may be chosen as the coordinator to guide the

¹ Adopted by 90th CPR meeting held in April 2005

operationalization and implementation of the selected projects which are as follows:

1. ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)
2. Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)
3. Feasibility Study on Interconnection of ECO Countries Power Systems funded by the Islamic Development Bank
4. ECO Trade and Development Bank & Reinsurance Company
5. Container and Passenger Trains from Almaty to Istanbul on the Trans-Asian Railway main line
6. Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of ECO Member States

The 97th CPR meeting held in April 2005 adopted the Terms of Reference, as prepared by the Working Group, a copy of the text is placed below.

The coordinating country shall render all its efforts, technical, financial and especially diplomatic assistance to provide the ground for the speedy approval/ratification and implementation of the selected projects. The Secretariat, of course, will be the main focal point for coordination among the member states for implementation of ECO projects/programmes, but it was expected that coordinating country through its different kinds of assistance would enhance the capacity of the Secretariat in discharging its duties. Some of the main functions and activities, which may be conducted by the coordinator country to discharge its responsibilities, are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Terms of Reference (ToR)
for
Coordinators from the Member States
for implementation of the projects in the priority areas

(Adopted by the 97th CPR Meeting held on April 5, 2005)

After a decade of its expansion, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is now entering a challenging round where it is expected to ensure implementation of its agreed plans and projects. In view of the limited resources at its disposal, the ECO Secretariat cannot attain this task alone without the active participation and support of the Member States. In order to ensure the proper follow-up and approved/ratification/implementation of the vital projects, it is proposed that each interested Member State may be selected as a Coordinator for the important priority project(s). The Terms of Reference for the coordinator countries are as follows:

1. Member State will be designated as a coordinator country for a selected project on a voluntary basis upon the approval of CPR/SOM for a limited period.
2. Coordinator country through its Permanent Representative will present an Action Plan for its relevant activities and programmes to operationalize the project within three months after designation and regularly report to CPR/SOM about its achievements and will seek the consultation and consent of both organs, whenever needed. The coordinator country may also apprise the Council of Ministers meeting about the status of the implementation of the selected project in the statement of its head of delegation and seek the support and advice of the Council of Ministers for further steps to be taken.
3. In order to prepare a workable Action Plan, a coordinator country may propose a feasibility study (ies) to CPR for financing from the ECO Feasibility Fund.
4. Coordinator country will establish working relations with the concerned Directorate in ECO Secretariat for receiving the up dated information and any other relevant documents/materials with regard to selected project, taking into account the provision of the Staff Regulations and other documents governing the functioning of the

- Secretariat. It is, therefore, assumed that the coordinator country will assist the Secretariat and relevant Directorate to achieve the desired goal.
5. Coordinator country will assist the Secretariat in particular by hosting the relevant meetings/events related to the project and will help in attaining the required level of quorum and effective participation of member states in such meetings/events through their diplomatic missions in the ECO Member States.
 6. With the help of their relevant research and educational institutions/organizations, the coordinator may prepare practical and policy-oriented research paper with regard to the relevant project, if required.
 7. Through its formal and informal bilateral high level contacts with other ECO Member States, coordinator country will pursue the set goal which may include the fast-track implementation of the relevant project.
 8. Coordinator country may propose, if necessary, dispatching diplomatic mission to the member states who are partner of the relevant project. Such mission will comprise of a high-ranking official each from the coordinator country and rotating Chairman of the Council of Ministers as well as the Secretary General or one of his Deputies. The mission will hold negotiations with the concerned high-ranking officials of the member states to remove any obstacles in the way of implementation of the project.
 9. Coordinator provides consultancy, whenever is needed from its relevant ministries or other concerned organization, to the Secretariat in the context of related project for limited time.
 10. The coordinator country will assist the Secretariat in its efforts to receive technical or financial assistance from International Organizations and International Financial Institutions which is required for implementation of the selected project.
 11. Coordinator may assist the Secretariat by ensuring adequate publicity for the relevant project with the assistance of the local media and news agencies, etc.
 12. Once a project has reached the stage of full-fledged implementation and operationalization, the responsibilities of the coordinator country will automatically be terminated.