



Opening Remarks
by ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri
Meeting for the Establishment of the
ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism
Shahrisabz, Uzbekistan - 26 April 2024

Excellency Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Excellency Mr. Umid Shadiev, Chairman of the Tourism Committee, Republic of Uzbekistan,
Honorable Heads and Members of Delegation of the ECO Member States,
Esteemed participants,

I extend sincere appreciation to the distinguished authorities of Uzbekistan for their gracious hospitality and the well-coordinated festivities that officially designated Shahrisabz as the ECO Tourism Capital of 2024.

The concept of the ECO Tourism Capital stands as a significant achievement for the Organization, serving as a pivotal element in promoting tourism destinations regionally and globally. We anticipate that this accolade will further bolster tourism development in the region.

In our strategic guide, ECO Vision 2025, we have outlined various targets for the tourism sector, including the promotion of tourism products, standardization of services and increased involvement of the private sector. While progress has been made, setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic remain. With only a year left to achieve the goals set in ECO Vision 2025, a Review Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of Iran to assess progress and set new targets.

Excellencies,

At the 16th ECO Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in November last year, H.E. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Tourism.

This proposal was subsequently included in the ECO Work Programme for 2024 during the 34th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council. Following discussions at the 285th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives, a draft Concept Note was revised based on feedback from Member States, with the aim of expediting the establishment of the Committee.

Today's meeting presents a critical opportunity to delve into the details of establishing and operationalizing the envisioned Committee. Your constructive input and suggestions are highly valued as we move forward with this initiative.

Thank you all for your kind attendance, and special thanks to the Tourism Committee of Uzbekistan for hosting this meeting.

We eagerly anticipate your valuable contributions and proposals.