



**Remarks by ECO Secretary General Amb. Khusrav Noziri  
at the 3<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Meeting of International Organizations  
“Sustainable Pathways for a Greener Future: Collaborative Actions  
for COP29 and Beyond”  
The 6<sup>th</sup> World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue  
Baku Convention Center, Room A6, 1 May 2024**

**Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Good day with warm greetings,**

At the outset, allow me to extend my sincere congratulations to the Republic of Azerbaijan for going to be honored to host the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, marking the first time an ECO Member State will decorate the stage for such a vital global gathering.

This underscores Azerbaijan's growing international repute and presents an invaluable opportunity for the COP29 platform to unite ECO Member States, fostering new collaborative initiatives and bolstering existing schemes to advance regional cooperation in environmental and climate action.

**Dear Delegates,**

Today, it is imperative to sharpen our collective focus on climate change as the defining challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The vast ECO Region, spanning from Türkiye to Pakistan and from Iran to Kazakhstan, and encompassing approximately 8 million square kilometers of land, is a home to 550 million people, rendering it one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change.

The escalating impacts of global warming, from intensified floods to prolonged droughts, pose significant risks to our communities, infrastructure and ecosystems, threatening social, economic and environmental stability.

Recognizing climate change as a planetary crisis necessitates concerted international cooperation to sustain global development, alleviate poverty and ensure peace & stability.

As we confront this multifaceted crisis, we must embrace a paradigm shift in international cooperation, fostering more effective multilateralism and trans-boundary responses to ecological challenges.

## **Eminent Participants,**

The ECO Region, with its shared geographies and natural resources, presents a fertile ground for collaborative action. Leveraging regional entities as efficient platforms for scaling up environmental initiatives becomes paramount, with a strategic focus on mainstreaming climate resilience across all sectors.

While the challenges posed by climate change are formidable, they also offer valuable opportunities for transformative action. Our region is abundantly endowed with renewable energy resources, positioning us as pioneers in the global transition to green development.

However, realizing this potential demands a whole-of-government approach, underpinned by unwavering political will, and a whole-of-society approach supported by adequate means of implementation, including financial and technical resources.

In this vein, the ECO has spearheaded concrete projects aimed at facilitating a just and sustainable transition at the regional level.

Initiatives such as the establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre in Baku and the ECO Regional Electricity Market underscore our commitment to unlocking the region's renewable energy potential and fostering sustainable energy markets.

Additionally, our partnership with international organizations such as UNIDO and ESCAP exemplifies our resolve to catalyze regional cooperation for climate action and green development.

Furthermore, we are cognizant of the urgent need to transition towards a resource-efficient, circular economy model to mitigate environmental degradation and foster climate resilience.

Through initiatives like the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy in the ECO Region, we seek to advocate for a just transition towards a regenerative economy, in collaboration with our international partners who share our vision and geographical coverage.

## **Distinguished Participants,**

In conclusion, the ECO Region stands at a pivotal juncture, poised to harness its immense potential to shape a green and sustainable future. By fostering inclusive mechanisms for environmental action and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, we can build a resilient and prosperous future for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention.