



Statement by
ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri
at the 5th Meeting of the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General
Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 16 May 2024

Your Excellency Mr. Yusuf Rahmon, esteemed Prosecutor General of the Republic of Tajikistan,
Honourable Attorneys and Prosecutors General representing the ECO Member States,
Honourable Attorney General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mr. Saud bin Abdullah Al-Mujib,
Respected Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a great privilege to address this 5th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Tajikistan, especially the Honourable Prosecutor General, for hosting this important gathering, along with my deep appreciation for the warm hospitality and impeccable arrangements to facilitate the participating delegations.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Treaty of Izmir, as the Charter of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), prioritizes sustainable economic development and improved living standards across its Member States, anchored in the principles of the rule of law and good governance.

Integral to this vision is the recognition that effective prosecution services, characterized by independence and integrity, are indispensable for upholding the rule of law and fostering sustainable economic growth. We are steadfast in our commitment to advancing regional economic integration, working closely with relevant bodies in Member States, notably the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General, to achieve collective objectives.

Our dedication extends to promoting economic integration and development through enhanced judicial and parliamentary cooperation. By bolstering the rule of law, refining regulatory frameworks and fostering transparency and accountability,

ECO is firmly set to cultivate trust, stability and sustainable development across the region.

Excellencies,

The outcomes of the 15th Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECO Member States in Ashgabat in November 2021 and the 16th ECO Summit in Tashkent in November 2023 underscore the Member States' dedication to enhancing regional cooperation and tackling pressing transnational challenges. By reaffirming their support for existing initiatives aimed at addressing issues such as drugs, human trafficking, arms trafficking, digital crimes, terrorism financing and money laundering, the Member States have taken significant measures in strengthening the ECO's collective security framework.

Over the past decade, Prosecutors General of ECO Member States have convened four times - in Tehran (2012), Antalya (2015), Islamabad (2018), and most recently in Baku (2023). These meetings underscored the importance of judicial cooperation and laid a robust foundation for enhanced collaboration among Member States.

The 5th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States reaffirms the unwavering commitment and strong eagerness among Member States to collaborate in preventing, investigating and prosecuting trans-boundary offenses and criminal acts with far-reaching impacts.

Distinguished Participants,

In alignment with ECO Vision 2025, we have actively engaged in regional dialogue and cooperation to establish institutional frameworks for a robust regional anti-criminal structure. As part of our efforts to strengthen the rule of law and governance, we have established cooperative mechanisms to enhance judicial collaboration among ECO Member States.

The establishment of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) aims to bolster our collective capacity to combat corruption effectively. We urge Member States to expedite administrative processes for the timely operationalization of the Regional Center, which is crucial for enhancing regional cooperation in governance and anti-corruption.

At the 4th ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General Meeting in Baku (September 2024), it was decided to draft a Plan for Interaction among the Offices of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General. The draft, prepared collaboratively, aims to establish a network for facilitating information exchange and capacity-building activities. Approval and implementation of this Plan will enable the organization of seminars

and capacity-building programs, thereby strengthening judicial cooperation within the ECO region.

Distinguished Participants,

ECO Member States have strong motivations to strengthen cooperation in tackling transnational organized crime, recognizing its adverse effects on regional economic and social progress.

The ECO Secretariat, serving as the core of the Organization, is fully committed to leveraging its resources to advance cooperation and establish a transparent and efficient mechanism among the Prosecutors General of Member Countries.

This gathering offers a timely opportunity to tackle emerging challenges, leveraging ECO's strengths and promoting international collaboration. Addressing the complexities of transnational organized crime emphasizes the need for concerted action. By uniting the efforts of ECO Member States and forming collaborative partnerships with the international community, we are poised to effectively address these threats comprehensively.

As we gather here today, we extend our heartfelt anticipation for substantive discussions among all participating delegations. It is our firm belief that these deliberations will serve to reinforce our collective objectives of fostering security and prosperity throughout the region. We eagerly look forward to the exchange of ideas and insights that will undoubtedly enrich our shared endeavors towards a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Thank you for your attentive participation in this critical endeavor.