

Statement of
Amb. Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General
at the Fourth Meeting of Board of Trustees
of the ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI)
Istanbul, August 5, 2023

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Attending this important BoT Meeting of the ECO Educational Institute (EI) and joining you all in the splendid city of Istanbul is, indeed, an honour that I am privileged to have.

I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank H.E. Mr. Yusuf Tekin, the Honourable Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye who very kindly invited me to become part of this academic gathering.

Also thanking the eminent delegates for their kind presence here, I extend my sincere appreciations to the Ministry of Education of Türkiye for regularly hosting EI's BoT Meetings, along with my deep gratitude to the Government of Türkiye for their kind and continued support to the Institute and its programs and activities.

I also acknowledge the services and leadership as well as professional acumen of Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, whose contribution, to make the Institute an effective forum for promoting educational diplomacy in the region, is remarkable. Furthermore, I congratulate Professor Kireççi to be nominated for his re-election as the EI President.

Dear Participants,

The Economic Cooperation Organization values the Educational Institute as one of its most vibrant Specialized Agencies, which has transformed into an incubator of education in the region.

In today's modern and globalized world where skills matter most, where artificial intelligence has infiltrated into almost every aspect of life, where Fourth Industrial Revolution is a reality, education is a foundation for future, a passport to freedom, a license to independence, autonomy and self-sufficiency.

Distinguished Delegates,

We are blessed region. We have fertile lands. We have young people. We have capability to contribute tremendously to global human resources and can fetch huge sums of remittances. However, this bright-future scenario is contingent upon

availability of educated, skilled and literate people who could cater to the needs of modern globalized world.

Most of the ECO nations require more innovative and pragmatic policies to uplift their educational standards. They need to be increasingly cooperative with each other to reap utmost dividends and to be at par with developed world in the field of education. Maximum and preferably joint investments in education will serve our collective educational interests.

Educational Institute offers an excellent avenue for much-needed educational cooperation among Member States where they can come together and work in the best interest of their peoples and the region.

I avail this opportunity to acknowledge the EI's activities for enhancing its visibility and establishing lasting digital footprints across the region and beyond. The initiatives, like StydyinECO.org and ECOpedia, are commendable. Such initiatives have made information regarding major educational institutes in ECO countries on a single platform a reality.

We also appreciate the EI for arranging various workshops, seminars, and conferences, publishing reports on languages in the ECO region and on preschool education, issuing international student guidebooks to facilitate aspirants to pursue higher education in other countries, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

At present, not all ten ECO countries are members of the ECO Educational Institute. In this regard, the ECO Secretariat is determinedly pursuing the remaining Member States to join the EI in order for expanding its membership and strengthening its functioning, making the Institute more vibrant, financially stronger and comprehensively owned by all of us. Moreover, the Organization is also encouraging the Member States to expedite the mandatory payments of their budgetary shares to the Institute avoiding impediments on its way to promoting educational cooperation in the region.

Here, I would like to recall that under the current Chairmanship of Azerbaijan, the ECO is going to hold the 27th Meeting of its Council of Ministers (COM) in Shusha on October 9, 2023. Also, the 16th ECO Summit is scheduled to be hosted by Uzbekistan in Tashkent on November 9-10, 2023. Moreover, the 34th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting will be held in December this year.

With their exclusive mandates and special capacities, these esteemed forums play very pivotal roles in developing our agenda, programs and policies for maintaining a durable regional cooperation for shared and sustainable progress and development in the member countries. Most importantly, their patronage remains

focused on supporting an increasingly reinforced and consolidated regional education sector with kind and valued involvement of ECO Educational Institute.

While reiterating the importance that ECO attaches to Educational Institute and the Organization's commitment towards the continued betterment of EI, fulfillment of its mission and mandate, we are highly hopeful that, in future, the Institute would expand its umbrella to play a more meaningful role for advancing and promoting sustainable educational cooperation in the region.

Wishing all the best, I thank you all.