

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Economic Cooperation Organization
and
the International Organization for Migration

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hereinafter referred to as "Parties",

HAVING IN MIND the Treaty of Izmir signed on 14th September 1996 which set out the objectives and tasks of ECO, *inter alia*, to promote mutually beneficial interaction and cooperation between ECO and other regional and international organizations,

TAKING NOTE that IOM, committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society, acts to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants,

CONSCIOUS of the need for closer cooperation between ECO and IOM in matters of common interest, and desirous of further enhancing and strengthening such cooperation,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I
General Principles of Cooperation

1. ECO and IOM shall act in close collaboration and hold consultations on all matters of common interest. To this end, the two Parties shall consider the appropriate framework for such consultations as and when necessary.
2. ECO and IOM agree that ECO's commitment to regional cooperation and the activities related to migration of IOM, shall be coordinated in an effort to achieve the maximum cooperation and the elimination of unnecessary duplication between them, and that when common interests so dictate, either Organization may request the cooperation of the other.
3. Each Organization shall endeavour, in so far as possible and in compliance with its constituent instruments and decisions of its competent bodies, to respond favourably to such requests for cooperation in accordance with procedures to be mutually agreed upon.

Article II
Attendance at Meetings

1. In accordance with the applicable rules of procedure and decisions taken by the competent bodies concerning the attendance of meetings by observers, ECO shall invite IOM to send

representatives to meetings and conferences convened by ECO to which intergovernmental organizations have been invited, whenever matters of interest to IOM are to be discussed.

2. In accordance with the applicable rules of procedure and decisions taken by the competent bodies concerning the attendance of meetings by observers, IOM shall invite ECO to send representatives to meetings and conferences convened by IOM to which intergovernmental organizations have been invited, whenever matters of interest to ECO are to be discussed.

Article III

Exchange of information and documentation

1. The Parties agree to exchange information and documentation in the public domain to the fullest extent possible on matters of common interest.
2. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects or programmes may also be exchanged between the Parties with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective coordination between the two Organizations.

Article IV

Joint action

1. The Parties may, through special arrangements, decide to act jointly in the implementation of projects that are of common interest. Special arrangements shall define the modalities for the participation of each Organization in such projects and shall determine the expenses payable by each of them.
2. The Parties may, whenever they consider it desirable, set up commissions, committees or other technical or advisory bodies, on terms and conditions to be mutually agreed upon in each case, to advise them on matters of common interest.

Article V

Areas of cooperation

1. Without prejudice to cooperation in additional fields, the Parties agree to consider the following areas for mutual cooperation:
 - i. Engage in activities to support and promote the benefits of migration and to reduce emigration pressures in countries of origin.
 - ii. Coordinate and develop initiatives to assist governments with border management issues.
 - iii. Enhance consultation and cooperation mechanisms for labour migration.
 - iv. Raise awareness of migration health issues and the health needs of migrants.
 - v. Take measures to reduce irregular labour mobility within the ECO region and promote legal avenues for such movements.
 - vi. Raise awareness of human trafficking, initiate counter-trafficking activities, and provide protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in the ECO region.

- vii. Strengthen existing voluntary return frameworks by engaging in outreach initiatives to promote voluntary return and reintegration opportunities to migrants.
 - viii. Improve operational systems, technology, legal and policy frameworks, and intergovernmental dialogue.
 - ix. Research migration challenges and contribute to capacity building in related areas in the ECO region.
 - x. Conduct workshops, seminars, conferences and training courses in relation to the areas of cooperation under this MoU.
2. The Parties shall prepare a work programme to implement the above mentioned activities.
 3. Each Party may take into consideration any formal requests by the other Party for funding specific activities that fall within their respective mandates and priorities.

Article VI
Cooperation between the secretariats

The Secretary General of ECO and the Director General of IOM shall take appropriate measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the Secretariats of the Organizations. This includes close cooperation in the field, in particular in locations where both Organizations are represented.

Article VII
Implementation of the MoU

The Secretariat of ECO and the Administration of IOM shall consult each other regularly on matters relating to this MoU.

Article VIII
Supplementary arrangements

ECO and IOM may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the purpose of cooperation and coordination as may be found desirable.

Article IX
Entry into force, amendments and duration

1. This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the two Organizations. Upon its entry into force, both organizations will publicize it among their field and headquarters personnel.
2. This MoU may be amended by mutual consent of the parties. The proposed amendment should be made in writing to the other party and shall enter into force upon its acceptance in writing by the two parties.
3. Either of the parties may terminate this MoU by giving six months written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization and of the International Organization for Migration have signed the present MoU.

Signed at Geneva on 27th January, 2009.

For the Economic Cooperation
Organization

For the International Organization for
Migration

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Khurshid Anwar
Secretary General

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William Lacy Swing
Director General