

8TH MINERALS EXPERTS GROUP MEETING

Isfahan – Iran, 13-17 November, 2022

Remarks by

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In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful

H.E. Dr. Huseyin Avni Bicakli, ECO Deputy Secretary General,

Honourable Chairperson and distinguished participants,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh and Good Morning,

Islamic Republic of Pakistan feels greatly honoured on the invitation to this August forum of ECO. It is a matter of immense pleasure for me to be part of this privileged panel of experts. I express profound gratitude to the ECO Secretariat and Organization of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran for organizing this 8th ECO Minerals Experts Group meeting in the beautiful and historic city of Isfahan, providing an opportunity to member states to share experiences and expertise.

2. Nature has bestowed Pakistan with all kinds of landscapes and climate, from deserts to high rise mountain ranges with all colours of weather conditions – hot, temperate to freezing cold. The geological setup of my country (Pre-Cambrian to recent) is known to host a variety of mineral resources (more than 50) ranging from clays, building stones, industrial minerals, coal to metallic minerals and precious gemstones. Since inception of the country, a dedicated national level Government department, Geological Survey of Pakistan is engaged in mineral investigations including basic geological & mineral resource mapping on regular basis. Besides, other federal and provincial departments and public and private sector organizations are working in the field for detailed exploration and production activities. The Mineral Directorates and formations for Environment Protection Agency are engaged in regulatory functions.

Chairperson!

3. Thousands of mines are operative in public and private sector and these resources have attracted foreign entrepreneurs as well. Mineral sector is regarded as an important pillar of economy and provides employment and livelihood on a fairly large scale, especially in remote under-developed areas. The Government of Pakistan has placed mineral sector development and growth at the priority agenda in order to enhance its contribution in national GDP. The strategic interventions are focused on all aspects from minerals discovery to production and utilization, institutional arrangements, capacity building, regulatory framework, investment facilitation, ease of doing business and the environmental concerns.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

4. Pakistan has been actively participating in the ECO work programs for the minerals sector in all formats. It is an honour for me to represent my country for the second time at this forum of minerals sector experts. The mineral undertakings provide both challenges as well as opportunities of intra-region and inter-region cooperation. With regard to the ECO's agenda for regional cooperation in the minerals sector, Pakistan would be pleased to extend its support by sharing the relevant information and expertise.

5. The deliberations of this forum would certainly help setting right direction for implementation of the ECO programmes and project proposals in an efficient, effective and professional manner. Pakistan would request regular interaction and active participation of the member states during project execution. A focal resource person from each member state may be associated in all Project activities.

6. Without any exaggeration, I would suggest that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Organization of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran deserve a big hand for their lead role and contribution in hosting most of EMEG meetings and formulating comprehensive project proposals. The services extended by the ECO Secretariat for organizing the meeting and drafting the proceedings report are also gratefully acknowledged.

Special thanks to the honourable Chairperson for successfully conducting the meeting and expert advice and to the distinguished participants from member states for their valuable inputs.
