

SUMMARY RECORD

11th ECO Summit Meeting

23 December, 2010, Istanbul, Turkey

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

F O R W A R D

The goals and objectives of ECO are stipulated in the Treaty of Izmir and are pursued in accordance with the principles of cooperation. The main challenge for ECO Member States is to develop their economic potentials through regional cooperation on the basis of mutuality of benefits. Special efforts towards regional cooperation are concentrated in the priority areas such as trade, transport and communication and energy. In the other fields of cooperation, there are also agreed activities that continue to be implemented through various programmes and projects

The 11th ECO Summit Meeting was held on 23rd December, 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey with the participation of Heads of State/Government. H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, the President of the Republic of Turkey opened the meeting with inaugural address and warmly welcomed the Heads of State/Government and honourable guests from non-member states and international organizations. The Secretary General of ECO introduced his report and gave an overview of the future strategy for the Organization. The Heads of the State/Government made their statements outlining the importance of the ECO activities in the region and expressing their adherence to the principles and goals of the Organization and calling for further cooperation and mutual interaction.

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SUMMARY RECORD

**Summary Record of the 11th ECO Summit Meeting
23 December, 2010**

Istanbul, Turkey

1. The 11th Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 23 December, 2010. It was attended by:

- i) H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai,
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- ii) H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- iii) H.E. Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- iv) H.E. Mr. Karim Massimov
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- v) H.E. Mrs. Rosa Outunbaeva,
President of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- vi) H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari,
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- vii) H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon,
President of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- viii) H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gul,
President of the Republic of Turkey.
- ix) H.E. Mr. Tuvahmamet Japarov ,
Vice Prime Minister of Turkmenistan.
- x) H.E. Mr. Ulfat Kadirov,
Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Turkey.

2. In addition, the following dignitaries participated in the Summit as Special Guests:

- i. H. E. Mr. Jalal Talabani, President of Iraq
- ii. H.E. Mr. Yousef Hussain Kamal, Minister of Economy & Finance,
the State of Qatar
- iii. H.E. Lamia Asi, Minister of Economy and Trade, the Syrian Arab
Republic

- iv. H.E Mr. Aytuğ Plumer, Under Secretary, Turkish Republic of Northern Cypress
- v. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kilic, Secretary General of Parliamentary Union of Islamic Conference (PUIC)
- vi. H. E. Amb. Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General of OIC
- vii. H.E Mr. Ahmet Tiktik, Vice President, Islamic Development Bank
- viii. H.E. Amb. Elshad Iskandarov, Secretary General of Islamic Conference Youth Forum (ICYF).
- ix. H.E. Mr. Shahid Najan, Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Turkey
- x. H.E Mr. Martin Marmy, Secretary General of International Road Union (IRU)
- xi. H.E. Mr. Widi Pratikto, Secretary General, Developing Eight (D-8)

3. The Summit was preceded by the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) on 22 December, 2010 and Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 20-21 December, 2010. All the meetings were held in Istanbul. List of participants is attached at **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item No. 1 **Inauguration**

4. After playing the anthem of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran being the Chairman of the 10th ECO Summit, opened the meeting with a brief statement. The Iranian President thanked the Government and the people of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Summit and the warm hospitality extended to all delegates. He noted that the ECO region had a vast potential which should be utilized to the best advantage of the people. He referred to the progress made since the 10th ECO Summit in Tehran and expressed the hope that the Organization would continue growing and becoming stronger in the months ahead. The President renewed Iran's commitment to ECO's principles and objectives and called upon the Member States to strengthen further the regional cooperation and join efforts in achieving the goals and objectives of the Organization.

Agenda Item No. 2 **Election of the Chairman**

5. After his opening remarks, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey be elected as the Chairman of the 11th ECO Summit. The meeting unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül as the Chairman. The President of Islamic Republic of Iran congratulated H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül on his election and expressed confidence that under the able guidance and chairmanship of the President of Turkey, ECO would achieve all its objectives.

6. Assuming the Chairmanship of the 11th Summit, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül thanked the Heads of State/Government/Delegation for reposing confidence in him. He expressed the hope that their contributions to the deliberations would make the Summit productive and successful. The President pointed out that the Organization, as its priority, needs to turn the ancient Great Silk Road into the corridors for energy and trade to promote growth and prosperity for the people of the region. He called for closer cooperation and exchange of information and technology among the Member States. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex – II**.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The 11th ECO Summit meeting adopted the following agenda as recommended by the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on 20 December, 2010 in Islamabad:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report of the 19th Meeting of COM by the Chairman of COM
5. Report by the ECO Secretary General
6. Statements by Heads of State
7. Statement by the Special Invitees and the Secretaries General of UN (*or his Special Envoy*) and OIC
8. Retreat Meeting of Heads of State on “Future of the Organization, Transport and Energy”
9. Any other business
10. Date and Venue of the next Summit
11. Adoption of Istanbul Declaration 2010
12. Closing of the meeting

Additional Events (after the closing of Summit)

- Ceremony for the issuance of the ECO Common Postage Stamp on the occasion of the Summit
- Ceremony for ECO Awards 2010
- Press Conference

Agenda Item No. 4

Report of the Chairman of the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers

8. H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers, presented a brief report to the 11th ECO Summit on the deliberations and decisions of the 19th COM meeting. The Council of Ministers thoroughly reviewed ECO activities aimed at promoting cooperation in various sectors such as trade, transport and communication, energy, industry, agriculture, health, drugs, organized crime, and tourism and noted the

visible progress made since the last Meeting of the COM in Tehran. But it was noted still there was a need to revisit the ECO Vision 2015 in view of global developments and challenges and undertake further steps to strengthen and expand cooperation between Member States for the benefit of their peoples. A copy of the report is placed at **Annex – III**.

Agenda Item No. 5

Report of the ECO Secretary General

9. The Secretary General thanked H.E. Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the 10th ECO Summit for his invaluable support and contributions to the cause of regional integration. He extended cordial congratulations to H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey on assuming the Chairmanship of the 11th ECO Summit and expressed hope that the Organization would benefit from his guidance and wisdom in the years ahead. In his statement, Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the Secretary General of ECO highlighted the achievements made by the Organization since the 10th ECO Summit held in Tehran (March, 2009). He touched upon the progress made in the priority areas of the ECO activities, including the recent initiatives of the organization and also pointed out the challenges being faced by the Organization. He outlined the potential of the region for further growth and development. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex – IV**.

Agenda Item No. 6

Statements by Heads of State/Government/Delegation

10. The Heads of State/Government/Delegation in their statements underscored the need for further strengthening cooperation in the ECO region and expanding ties in the various fields under the framework of ECO. They reaffirmed their support to the objectives and activities of the Organization. The texts of the statements are placed at **Annex – V**.

Agenda Item No. 7

Statements by the Special Invitees

11. The statements were delivered by H. E. Mr. Jalal Talabani, the President of Iraq, H.E. Mr. Yousef Hussain Kamal, the Minister of Economy and Finance of the State of Qatar, H.E. Ms. Lamia Asi, Minister of Economy and Trade of Syrian Arab Republic, H.E Mr. Aytuğ Plumer, Under Secretary, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, H. E. Amb. Hameed A. Opoloyeru , Assistant Secretary General of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), H.E. Mr. Shahid Najam, Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Turkey, H.E. Mr. Mahmud Erol Kilic, Secretary General of Parliamentary Union of Islamic Conference (PUIC) and other invitees. The representatives of UN and OIC delivered the messages on behalf of UN General Secretary H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Secretary General of OIC H. E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu respectively. H.E. Mr. Rifat Hisarciklioglu, President of the Union of

Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey made a presentation at the Summit. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are attached at **Annex – VI**.

Agenda Item No. 8

Retreat Meeting on “Future of the Organization, Transport and Energy”

12. In the Retreat Meeting, the Summit leaders deliberated and focused on the future of the Organization and its potential for regional cooperation in various fields. Taking into account the opportunities and challenges of the globalization process, the rapid social, economic, political and technological developments in the world and prospects in the decades ahead which need to be addressed adequately through a common and collective approach, the meeting gave directions to gear up the progress in various sectors and review the Vision of the Organization turning it into an opportunity for the benefit and prosperity of the people of the region.

13. In the discussion that followed, the Summit leaders made the following recommendations:

- Strong political will is required to achieve the targets enshrined in the ECO Vision 2015.
- Eminent Persons Group be established to identify the regional interests and prospects and reformulate the Vision 2015.
- In view of the rapid pace and competitive nature of global developments’ there is a need to act collectively in the interest of the prosperity of our peoples.
- The main impediment in the way of progress is too much bureaucracy and lack of vision. The leaders should meet regularly to evaluate the progress and provide vision to the organization.
- Private sector should be given priority in regional projects.
- Contact offices in respective capitals to be established to remain in touch with highest authorities to promote the objectives of the organization.
- Special emphasis to be given on the development of transport sector in the ECO region.
- The role of ECO Trade and Development Bank in financing the ECO projects should be promoted and strengthened. Its capital should be increased. The other Member States should also join the Bank.

- There is a need to identify opportunities and capacities that are already available in major economic fields in each of the ECO Member States and be shared with those Member States which have deficit /of resources/capacities.
- ECO countries should gear up for a vibrant economic growth in the region while complimenting each other rather than competing.
- Enlargement of the Organization was recommended.
- Continue to forge amicable and friendly relationship within the region.

14. The President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the Summit, H. E. Mr. Abdullah Gül announced that an Eminent Persons Group, comprising of the experts from ECO Member States, would be established shortly to make in-depth study/review of the ECO Vision 2015.

Agenda Item No. 9
Any other business

15. No issue was raised under this item.

Agenda Item No. 10
Date and venue of the next meeting

16. The meeting welcomed the offer made by H. E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 12th ECO Summit meeting in 2012 in Azerbaijan. The exact date of the meeting will be finalized through diplomatic channels.

Agenda Item No. 11
Consideration and adoption of the Istanbul Declaration 2010

17. The Summit adopted the Istanbul Declaration 2010, as recommended by the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 22 December, 2010. The text of the Istanbul Declaration 2010 is placed at **Annex – VII**.

Agenda Item No. 12
Closing the meeting

18. The Chairman of the 11th ECO Summit, President of the Republic of Turkey announced the meeting closed. He invited the Heads of State/Government/Delegation to another Conference Hall for unveiling the ECO Common Stamp and holding the ceremony for ECO Awards 2010.

Additional Events (after the closing of Summit)

- Ceremony for issuance of the ECO Common Postage Stamp

19. All Heads of State/Government/Delegation affixed their signatures on a big replica of the ECO postage stamp, specially prepared for the Summit.

- Ceremony for ECO Awards 2010

20. The ECO Awards 2010 were presented to winners from the Member States in the fields of Economics, History, Culture and Fine Arts, Science and Technology, Education, Agriculture and Environment. The recipients were felicitated on receiving the awards of excellence. The names of the winners are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Country	Name of Nominee	Field/Category
1.	Afghanistan	Mr. Abdul Bari Rashed	Education
2.	Azerbaijan	Ms. Elmira Ramazanova	Science and Technology
3.	Iran	Dr. Sohrab Shahabi	Economics
4.	Kazakhstan	i.) Mr. Seidhappar Mamadaliev ii.) Ms. Minura Iesimbekova	Agriculture & Environment
5.	Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Baisymakov Melisbek	Science & Technology
6.	Pakistan	Dr. Ashfaq Hassan Khan	Economics
7.	Tajikistan	Ms. Faroghat Azizi	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
8.	Turkey	i.) Mr. Rasim Ozdenoren (<i>Specialization in Literature</i>) ii.) Mr. Musa Kulaklikaya (<i>Specialization in Culture</i>)	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts

21. A family photograph was taken on the occasion.

- Press Conference

22. The Chairman of the 11th Summit, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey accompanied with Chairman of the 19th COM H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and ECO Secretary General H.E Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, addressed a joint press conference.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of Participant

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, the President
- H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, National Security Advisor
- H.E. Mr. Besmallah Mohammadi, Minister of Interior
- H.E. Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, Minister of Economy
- H.E. Mr. Sham Lal Bathija, Senior Economic Advisor to the President
- H. E. Mr. Salahaddin Rabbani, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Ankara
- Mr. Qadir Fetrat, Head of Afghanistan Central Bank
- Mr. Wahid Omar, Spokesman to the President
- Mr. Mohammad Qurban Haqjo, Chief Executive Officer, ACCI
- Mr. Hassan Soroosh, Acting Director General, Economic Affairs Department/MFA

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President
- H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economic Development
- H.E. Mr. Faig Baghirov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Turkey
- H.E. Mr. Javanshir Akhundov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Iran
- H. E. Mr. Novruz Mammadov, Head of International Relations Division, President Administration
- H. E. Mr. Azer Gasimov, Press Secretary of President
- H.E. Mr. Abbasali Hasanov, Ambassador, MFA
- Mr. Hasan Zeynalov, Counsellor of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Istanbul

The Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President
- H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Acting Foreign Minister
- H.E. Mr. Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, Chief of Staff of the President
- H.E. Mr. Mojtaba Hashemi Samareh, Senior Assistant of the President
- H.E. Mr. Bahman Hosseini Pour, Ambassador of the I.R of Iran in Ankara
- H.E. Mr. Mohammad Jaffar Behdad, Deputy of Presidential Office for Political Affairs
- H.E. Mr. Mehdi Ashtiani, Deputy of Presidential Office for Protocol
- H.E. Mr. Syed Ali Mohamed Mousavi, Director General of International Economic Cooperation, MFA
- Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi, Director of ECO, MFA
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Abbasi, Officer of ECO, MFA
- Mr. Hamid Reza Anoushe, Officer of ECO, MFA

The Republic of Kazakhstan:

- H.E. Mr. Karim Massimov, the Prime Minister
- H.E. Mr. Aset Issekeshov, Deputy PM, Minister of Industry & Technology
- H.E. Mr. Zhanseit Tuyimebayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Turkey
- H.E. Mr. Bolat Zhamishev, Minister of Finance
- H.E. Mr. Bakhytzhan Zhumagulov, Minister of Education and Science
- H.E. Ms. Gulshara Abdykhalykova, Minister of Labour and Social Protection
- Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Deputy Foreign Minister
- Mr. Marat Beketayev, Secretary of the Ministry of Justice
- Mr. Yerkin Duysenbayev, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communication
- Mr. Anvar Saidenov, Chairman of the Board, BTA Bank
- Mr. Marat Kalizhanov, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mrs. Roza Otunbayeva, President
- H.E. Mr. Sapar Isakov, President's Advisor
- H.E. Mr. Asegin Isayev, Foreign Minister
- Mr. Tolkun Abdygulov, Deputy Minister
- Mr. Deniz Sulaimanov Deputy Minister
- H.E. Mr. Medetkhan Sherimkulov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Tehran
- Mr. Janybek Eraliev, President Aide
- Mr. Sultan Kainazarov, President Press Secretary
- Ms. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Head of the Section, MFA
- Mr. Bakyt Djusuyppov, Expert
- Mr. Nurdin Kazakbaev, Chief of Protocol

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, the President
- H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister
- H.E. Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar, Defence Minister
- H.E. Mr. A Rehman Malik, Interior Minister
- H.E. Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwala, State Minister
- H.E. Mr. Tariq Azizuddin, Ambassador
- Mr. Malik Asif Hayat, Secretary to the President
- Mr. Muhammad Haroon Shaukat, Special Secretary
- Mr. Taimur Azmat Osman, Press Secretary to the President
- Mr. Brig. Syed Muhammad Adnan, Military Secretary to the President
- Mr. Sajjad Kamran, Director General (Afghanistan)

The Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, the President
- H.E. Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

- H.E Mr. Erkin Rarhmatulloev, State Advisor to the President
- H.E Mr. Farukh Hamraliev, Minister of Economic & Development Trade
- H.E Mr. Sherali Gul, Minister of Energy & Industry
- H.E Mr. Olim Boboev, Minister of Transport and Communication
- Mr. Zafar Saidzoda, Senior Advisor to the President
- H.E. Mr. Farrukh Sharipov, Ambassador
- Mr. Muzafar Huseynov, Head of International Organization

The Republic of Turkey:

- H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, the President
- H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Mr. Beşir Atalay, Minister of Interior
- H.E. Mr. Feridun Sinirlioğlu, Ambassador, Undersecretary, MFA
- H.E. Mr. Mehmet Tuğrul Gücük, Ambassador, Deputy Undersecretary, MFA
- H.E. Mr. Hakkı Akil, Ambassador, Deputy Undersecretary, MFA
- H.E. Mr. Mithat Rende, Ambassador, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, MFA
- H.E. Mr. H. Avni Karslıoğlu, Ambassador, Chief of Cabinet at the Presidency
- H.E. Mr. M. Ferden Çarıkçı, Ambassador, Chief Adviser at the Presidency
- Serap Özcoşkun, Deputy Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, MFA
- Mr. Metin Eker, Director General for External Economic Relations, Prime Ministry State Planning Organization
- Mr. Cihad Erginay, Chief Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Gökçen Kaya, Directorate General of Multilateral Economic Affairs, MFA
- Ms. Nermin Can, Third Secretary, Department of Multilateral Economic Affairs, MFA
- Ms. Ayşe Durmuş, Expert, Department of Multilateral Economic Affairs, MFA
- Ms. Melih Seyfettin Güngör, Attache, Department of Multilateral Economic Affairs, MFA

Turkmenistan:

- H.E Mr. Tuvahmammed Japarov, the Vice Prime Minister
- H. E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, Ambassador
- Mr. Ruslan Rozybayev, Head Secretary of the Embassy
- Mr. Myrat Beldi Seyitmammedov, Head Secretary of Consulate to Istanbul
- Mr. Agajan Muniyev, Translator

The Republic of Uzbekistan

- H.E Mr. Ulfat Kadirov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Turkey
- Mr. Abror Gulyamov, General Consul of Uzbekistan to Turkey
- Mr. Islam Karimov, Advisor, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkey

Special Guests:

Iraq

- H.E. Mr. Jalal Talabani, President
- Mr. Fahri Karim, Senior Advisor to the President
- Mr. Labid Abbawi, Deputy Minister of FA
- Mr. Kamran Al-Karadaghi, Special Advisor to the President
- Mr. Jalal Al-Mashta, Political Advisor to the President
- H.E. Mr. Abdul Amir Abu Tabikh, Ambassador in Turkey

Syria

- H.E. Ms. Lamia Asi, Minister of Economy
- Mr. Hala al-Rashed, Minister's Office

Qatar

- H.E. Mr. Yousef Kamal, Minister of Finance
- H.E. Mr. Abdul Razaq Abdul Ghani, Ambassador
- Mr. Mohammad Al-Maadid, Consul General

ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions

ECO Trade and Development Bank

- H.E. Mr. Murat Ulus, President
- Mr. Abolghaseem Erfan, Vice President
- Mr. Fazli Sak, Manager
- Mr. Omer Baykal, Deputy Director

ECO Seed Association (ECOSA)

- Mr. Eyup Koksak, Representative ECOSA

International Organizations

Parliament Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)

- H.E. Mr. Mahmud Erol Kilic, Secretary General
- Mr. Ali Asghar Mohammadi, Deputy Secretary General

Developing 8 (D-8)

- H.E. Mr. Widi Pratikto, Secretary General
- Ms. Kia Tabatabaee, Director
- Mr. Esen Gonen, Economist

Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS)

- H.E. Mr. Halil Akinci, Secretary General
- Mr. Mert Tokman, Project Manager
- Mr. Emre Yurdakul, Head of Protocol

International Road Transport Union (IRU)

- H. E. Mr. Martin Marmy, Secretary General

Islamic Conference Youth Forum (ICYF)

- H.E Amb. Elshad Iskandarov, Secretary General

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

- H.E Mr. Ahmet Tiktik, Vice President
- Mr. Cafer Bicer, Country Manager
- Mr. Abdul Laateef Baqar, Cooperation Specialist

Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

- H.E Mrs. Sumru Noyan, Ambassador, First Deputy Secretary General
- Mrs. Melten Guney, Executive Manager

Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

- H.E Amb. Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General

United Nation

- H.E Mr. Shahid Najam, Resident Coordinator (UNDP)
- Ms. Aysegul Akin, Deputy Representative for Turkey (FAO)

Turkish State of Northern Cyprus

- H.E Mr. Aytuğ Plumer, Under Secretary, MFA
- Mr. Ali Vdrhan, Under Secretary, State Planning Organization
- Ms. Birsen Ikizer, Third Secretary, MFA

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, Secretary General
- Amb. Hasan Taherian, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Fatih Unlu, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Altaf Asghar, Deputy Secretary General

- Ms. Bayan Adelbekova, Director
- Ms. Matluba Turaeva, Assistant Director
- Mr. Jawad Ali, Assistant Director
- Mr. Sefat Taheri Shemrani, Legal Adviser
- Ms. Bilge Kalkavan, Programme Office
- Mr. Farooq Iqbal, Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Translator

**STATEMENT BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**Speech by H.E Abdullah Gül, President
of the Republic of Turkey at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December 2010)**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Ministers,

Mr. Secretary General,

Dear Guests!

I would first of all like to express my pleasure for hosting the 11th ECO Summit meeting and extend a very warm welcome to you all. Let me also greet with warm feelings my dear friend President H.E. Celal Talabani, who is among us, as our guest.

I also thank you for electing me to such an honourable duty as Chairperson of the 11th ECO Summit meeting.

On this occasion, I congratulate the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mahmud Ahmedinejad, for their active and successful work during their ECO Chairmanship of nearly two years.

Turkey, located at the heart of Eurasia, attaches great importance to enhancing peace, security and prosperity throughout this region.

In this regard, we endeavour to establish regional mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation, as well as realize comprehensive regional projects of economic cooperation on several fields such as energy, transport and communication.

I am of the opinion that economic cooperation and development in our region necessitates institutionalized and constant dialogue.

Furthermore, I also believe that the way to a just and efficient world order goes, at the same time, through regional dialogue and cooperation.

With this understanding, as one of its founding members, we attach high importance to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Our organization which is situated at a highly important geographical location between the East and the West, covers a land surface of nearly 8 million square kilometers and a population of more than 400 million.

Geostrategically, the geography on which our Member States is located, is one of the most critical regions of the world. Our countries are rich in historical and cultural heritage as well as natural and human resources. In this respect, ECO region possesses a huge potential of economic and commercial cooperation.

In order to realize the strong potential of the ECO and to achieve the objectives enshrined in the Treaty of İzmir, the ECO Vision 2015 document was adopted during the Meeting of Council of Ministers held in Astana, in 2005.

In this context, as member states we have set certain targets to be achieved until 2015 in order to strengthen our cooperation in a wide range of areas from trade and investment to transport and communication, energy and environment to agriculture and industry.

As we are half way to the target date, the ECO 11th Summit provides us an excellent opportunity to evaluate the performance achieved so far in the realization of our targets. Furthermore, we would like that this Summit to enable us to display our political will at the highest level as regards to the additional measures to be taken till 2015.

We observe with great pleasure that highly valuable and historic steps have been taken in the past 5 years, regarding the realization of some of our targets. However, we also see that the progress achieved in some of the targets have remained relatively moderate.

In this vein, we believe that the entry into force of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) will assist us in passing over a critical threshold towards the economic integration of our region.

In order to implement the agreement, it is necessary for the parties of the ECOTA to submit their concession lists to the ECO Secretariat. Turkey and Pakistan, which have already submitted their offer lists, started the bilateral implementation of the ECOTA on 7 December 2010 by signing a joint declaration.

We hope that this will also set an example for the other parties to join the implementation phase of the Agreement. We also invite all the other member countries to become party to the ECOTA, at the earliest.

One of the objectives of the ECO Vision 2015 Document has been to increase intra-trade in the ECO region which was 6 % in 2005 to 20 % by 2015. However, we observe that as of 2010, the intra-trade has remained at a ratio of 7 %, registering only a slight increase of 1%.

Distinguished Heads of State/Government,

It is clearly understood that the way for our countries to achieve economic stability and sustainable development goes through regional economic and commercial cooperation. Therefore, we have to admit that the 7 % intra-trade is a failure for all of us.

If we make a comparison, the intra- trade in the European Union equals to 65 % of the total trade volume of the EU.

Low performance recorded in this respect sets forth the absolute necessity for signing and implementing the ECOTA by all member states.

On the other hand, the establishment of the ECO Trade and Development Bank in Istanbul and the launching of its operational activities since 2008, marks an important development in expediting economic cooperation among our countries.

It is expected that the Bank will contribute significantly in financing the ECO projects. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all the member states to join the Bank, as soon as possible.

Furthermore, I believe that there is a necessity for the ECO Trade and Development Bank to establish partnerships with the Islamic Development Bank and Asian Development Bank.

**Dear Brothers,
Distinguished guests,**

It is our obligation to bring our region which is located at the centre of a commercial hub, connecting three continents and called as the “old world” back to its old glorious days.

It should be our priority to make the route, which was used to be called the “silk road” and “spice road” in the old days, a corridor of “energy”, “trade”, “communication” and “transportation” so that it will contribute to the common prosperity of our countries.

Within this framework, we welcome the launch of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement. When we consider that most of the member countries are landlocked the importance of developing cooperation in the areas of transportation and communication is easily seen.

The launching of regular operation of ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad route constituted a crowning start in this respect. We are also glad that through this new train route, 200 wagons of aid supplies with 15 container train operations were extended to our brothers in Pakistan who have suffered from the recent flood disaster.

I would like to state that, in addition to the above-mentioned train operations, 5 commercial container trains have used the same route. Improving the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad route and transforming it to a railway network connecting the ECO member states to Europe should be our priority. In this respect, I want to emphasize that Turkey is ready to take part in any kind of cooperation and investment.

On the other hand, the successful realization of the test runs of the ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan is worthy of appreciation. It is clear that the ECO region can become an

important transit route for East-West trade if the member states demonstrate enough adequate interest and effort.

The increase in trade and private sector enterprises among the ECO countries, will contribute to the prosperity and stability of the whole region. In this vein, we follow with appreciation the activities of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry to this end.

I believe that energy is one of the priority fields with a great potential in the framework of cooperation among the ECO countries. The ECO region is of great importance in the world energy markets when we consider its oil, natural gas and hydro energy resources.

In fact, our region has already started to be regarded as an alternative source with respect to diversification of energy resources and energy security in the world energy markets. In this context, it is of vital importance to make use of energy resources of our region in a wisely and sustainable manner in order to reach stable and established international markets.

We observe with pleasure that ECO countries have taken remarkable steps in the field of energy within the framework of bilateral relations.

The member countries and the ECO Secretariat should enhance efforts to develop this bilateral cooperation on the energy field towards a multilateral cooperation in the framework of ECO.

On the other hand, within the framework of our objectives of energy supply security and realizing economic development without giving any harm to the environment, one of the steps to be taken clearly is to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy supply.

In this respect, we are glad to observe that activities within the ECO towards the increased use of renewable energy sources have gained impetus recently. Moreover, it will be appropriate to increase our cooperation in the fields of environment, forestry and meteorology within ECO.

It is also seen that we still have certain difficulties in ensuring the food security in the ECO region. I believe that the Regional Coordination Center, which will be established in Ankara with the cooperation of FAO will provide a substantial impetus in this regard.

Furthermore, strengthening our cooperation in the fields such as combating organized crime and illicit drug trafficking in the ECO region is of great importance. In this framework, we are pleased that the Third Meeting of ECO Interior Ministers will be held in Istanbul, tomorrow, under the auspices of H.E Beşir Atalay, Interior Minister of Turkey. I am confident that the-said meeting will bear fruitful results within the framework of our cooperation within ECO.

We also observe that sufficient progress could not be achieved in some of our targets regarding the eradication of poverty and hunger, providing primary education to all and decreasing maternal and infant mortality rates.

Turkey, as a country which has fulfilled most of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, is ready to provide all the support to the ECO member states on this issue.

We are pleased that our proposal regarding the establishment of an “Eminent Persons Group” to conduct a comprehensive study with a view to adjusting ECO to the changing global circumstances and for more efficient implementation of the ECO Vision 2015 as well as its possible revision. I attach high importance to the immediate establishment of this group, the commencement of its studies and submission of its proposals to the member states within the first half of 2011.

Dear Brothers,

We should regard ECO as a valuable tool for enhancing economic development, stability and prosperity in our region, and thus we should support and strengthen our Organization.

We should prioritize our targets and demonstrate our best efforts to increase the efficiency and visibility of ECO as well as to transform it into an organization that will create added value to the daily lives of our peoples.

On this occasion, I confirm once again that Turkey is committed to make every effort to attain the goals and targets enshrined in the Treaty of İzmir.

I am confident that the Istanbul Declaration which we will adopt today, will bring a renewed dynamism to our Organization.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank you for your participation as well as your valuable contributions to the Summit.

I wish you a nice stay in Istanbul, a city full of magnificent monuments of common historical and cultural heritage.

Thank you.

**REPORT
OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 19TH COM**

**Report of H. E. Dr. Ahmet Davutođlu, Chairman of the
19th Council of Ministers Meeting to the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23rd December, 2010)**

**Honourable Chairman,
Distinguished Presidents,
Esteemed Guests,**

It is a distinct honour for me to present the report of the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers which was organized with active presence and participation of the Honourable Foreign Ministers of the Member States. Now, I would like to present this august house, very briefly, the outcomes of our deliberations held yesterday.

- The Council thoroughly reviewed ECO activities aimed at promoting cooperation in various sectors such as trade, transport and communication, energy, industry, agriculture, health, drugs, organized crime, and tourism. The latest status of projects and agreements, performance of specialized and affiliated agencies, and ECO cooperation with other regional and international organizations were also discussed. The Ministers called on all the Member States to enhance cooperation and implement the already concluded agreements.
- Since the last Meeting of the COM in Tehran, we have made visible progress in various sectors of activities. In some sectors, we were able to achieve our targets while in others we maintained sound momentum and utilized our resources to overcome bottlenecks and achieved breakthrough. In transport and communications sector, we were able to launch regular run of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul train and demonstration run of the trucks under the framework of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). We have also decided to start the regular run of loaded trucks among the Member States from 2011.
- The Council approved establishment of some new Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and affiliated bodies including the ECO Seed Association in Ankara, the ECO Veterinary Commission in Tehran, the ECO Centre for Efficient

Utilization of Water for Agriculture in Islamabad, the Regional Coordination Center for Implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security in Ankara and the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center in Ankara. During the proceedings of the COM, the Republic of Turkey signed an MOU on Establishment of ECO-Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters.

- The Council also considered the theme paper on the mid-term evaluation of the ECO Vision-2015 and noted that although concrete progress have been achieved in various areas, but, still there is a need to revisit this Vision in view of global developments and challenges. The Council, therefore, decided to establish an Eminent Persons Group to review the ECO Vision-2015 and make recommendations for consideration by the Council of Ministers.
- The agenda of the 11th Summit and Istanbul Declaration 2010 were reviewed and discussed in a cordial and friendly manner. The Declaration contains the commitment of the Member States to enhance cooperation in various sectors as enshrined in the ECO Vision-2015.
- In conclusion, I would like to appreciate the presence and participation of all Ministers and senior officials who spared their efforts for preparing the ground for a very successful and fruitful Summit.
- I thank you Sir.

**REPORT
OF THE ECO SECRETARY GENERAL**

**Statement of H. E. Mr. Yahya M. Maroofi, ECO Secretary General
at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23rd December, 2010)**

**Honourable President of the Republic of Turkey,
Honourable Heads of States/Governments/Delegations,
Excellencies!**

Allow me at the outset to express my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency, Mr. Abdullah Gul, the honourable President of the Republic of Turkey on your unanimous election as the Chairman of the 11th ECO Summit. Your inaugural address, Honourable Chairman, was particularly inspiring and I am confident that our Organization will benefit greatly from your guidance and wise counsel in the years ahead. May I also have the honour to convey my deepest gratitude and personal thanks to H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad, the honourable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his invaluable support and contributions to the cause of regional integration.

Excellencies,

The ECO Summits avail unique opportunities to review the Organisation's performance and to take stock of its achievements. They have been instrumental in reinvigorating the spirit of regional cooperation and renewing commitment to the Organisation's ideals and purpose.

In the Ministerial Session yesterday the need for the Organization to redouble efforts in the areas of trade and transportation was voiced with urgency. Though sustainable progress has been made as reflected in the Secretary Generals' Report much remain to be done in establishing the instruments and infrastructure necessary to transform the ECO region into vigorous and dynamic trade zone permitting the free passage of goods and services linking it to wider trade corridors and commercial networks.

The successful launching of the ECO Container train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route as well as the ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan can be cited as major achievements paving the way for revitalizing the ECO Silk Road and hopefully to other major trade routes. Energy proved to be another major concern and the recently adopted 5-year Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation (2011-2015) will prove instrumental in harnessing the region's untapped potential.

**Distinguished Heads of States/Governments,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Though concern was expressed that our pace of progress falls short of desired expectations, allow me to briefly touch upon few of our successes and achievements. Progress has been made in helping member states implement health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We have redoubled our efforts to address the challenges of drugs-trafficking, transnational crime, money laundering. A Regional Coordination Unit will be established soon in Ankara for effective implementation of ECO Regional Programme for Food Security. The UN General Assembly recently passed a fresh resolution on ECO-UN cooperation inviting inter-alia its Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes to support ECO's activities.

These are notable achievements but significant challenges lie before us.

Honourable Chairman,

We must capitalize on the geo-strategic and geo-economic position of the region and given its strong bearing on the socioeconomic development of the region, trade occupies prime position on the Organisation's agenda. Intra-regional trade registered an increase from US \$ 33 billion to US \$ 40 billion in 2009. During the last ECO Summit leaders reiterated their resolve to encourage and promote trade and emphasized the urgency to expeditiously implement ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA). This agreement assumes renewed relevance in the wake of the recessionary trends. The regional markets must function in a more dynamic manner so as to harness potential and capitalize on profitable trading opportunities. Economic costs due to delayed implementation of ECO market access initiative needs to be viewed in proper perspective. It is time to move quickly and decisively on a wider front.

Benefiting from the collective experience of specialized trade bodies, we have propounded the idea of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Treaty (CEPT) for our region. This umbrella agreement would aim at intensifying and deepening cooperation among Member States Simultaneously, we will need to demonstrate unwavering commitment for speedy execution of framework agreements on investment, customs cooperation and visa simplification. Our priorities for institutional mechanisms, trade promotional measures and strengthening capacities must not fall victim to procrastinations. We can no longer afford any laxity if we are to meet the challenges that lie ahead

Excellencies,

Cooperation in Transport & Communications is another ECO priority. Special attention is being made to developing efficient and reliable road and rail communications network within the region. These transport linkages will have a tremendous impact on the regions integration efforts as well as promoting the social and economic development of its populations. Our efforts are focussed on operationalizing rail and road corridors in the

region. The Secretariat has initiated proposals to launch ECO Road caravans under the TTFA early next year. Measures are also being made to revitalize the ECO Container Trains on the Istanbul-Almaty Route and launch a new container train service on the Almaty-Bandar Abbas Route. The construction of a standard gauge railway which would connect China to Europe via Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey is being pursued vigorously. Completion of the railway between Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran is expected by the end of 2011.

Honourable Chairman,

Agriculture as a sector will remain under sharper focus in the coming year. Projects to address food security and related issues will be launched under the ECO-Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) with the assistance of our international partners such as the FAO, ICARDA, World Bank. Plans are under way to set up institutions for cooperation in Efficient Use of Water Risk Management of Natural Disaster Agricultural Biotechnology and Veterinary Research In industry we have taken initiatives to promote cooperation in the field of technology transfer nanotechnology, industrial property rights and standards Conformity Accreditation and Metrology

Honourable Chairman,

With the support of member states measures are being made to institutionalize generation of credible analytical data and state-of-the-art economic analyses. Moreover, development of Information Technology infrastructure of the regional trade bodies is also underway. We have charted out specific plans to upgrade institutions of the smaller economies of the ECO membership such as Afghanistan Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Given their special needs we shall mobilise all means possible to assist them in addressing their socioeconomic challenges and enable them fully enjoy the benefits and advantages of regional integration. In this endeavour we count on the unwavering support of our membership

I am happy to report that the 1st Health Ministers Meeting was successful in building momentum for cooperation in health related issues and implementation of the analytical report on Health Related Millennium Development Goals recommendations has been given the priority it deserves

Cooperation in the fight against drugs, terrorism and transnational organized crimes constitutes an important ECO objectives .We have a clear set agenda of support for coordinated efforts to eradicate these forces and their negative effects on the development of regional economies. The importance of regional cooperation to tackle these challenges was emphasised with the convening of two ECO Interior Ministers Meetings A joint ECO-European Commission project on Illicit Drug Trafficking to/from Afghanistan is currently in process and efforts are also under way for the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization Police (ECOPOL). We anticipate the forthcoming 3rd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting will further boost efforts in this area.

Excellencies,

Afghanistan holds a special significance with the ECO family and the Organisation has been making a modest contribution towards the nation's reconstruction efforts through its Afghan Special Fund. Of the four approved construction projects two are approximately 80 percent near completion while details of the remaining two are being coordinated with the country and hopefully work will commence on them in the very near future. I would like to call upon member states to allocate further resources to keep the Fund active. A Protocol has been signed between ECO and Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) to implement additional projects on Afghanistan and we shall work closely with other regional and international organization operating in Afghanistan to assist the war ravaged country in its efforts towards stability and economic development

Honourable Chairman,

ECO has made a determined effort to enhance its standing at the regional and international planes. Our partnerships with the UN system, other regional and international organizations and relevant non-ECO states gained importance. Successful completion of various programmes in areas such as trade, transport, and agriculture and drugs control enhanced the Organisation's image and stature. With the establishment of Contact Groups of Ambassadors of ECO member states at important regional/international fora, ECO will enjoy even greater visibility and appreciation of its goals and objectives. With the able guidance of our political leadership, we shall succeed in our ambitions for ECO as a vibrant and dynamic regional body.

Excellencies,

As I conclude my statement I wish to express my appreciation to the Chairman of the ECO Council of Ministers for successfully steering our deliberation. I am thankful to all the honourable Foreign Ministers for the encouragement and support given to the Secretary General in discharging his responsibilities. Summits provide an opportunity for reflection and today as we reaffirm our resolve to collectively meet the challenges before us and commit ourselves anew to the ideals and aspirations of our Organisation we should also take pride in our achievements and the milestones secured.

The challenges before us are many and complex but we shall not slacken in our resolve to carry the Organisation to its rightful position of eminence both at the regional and international levels. I shall rely on Your Excellencies continued support and guidance in this endeavour

Thank You.

**STATEMENTS BY THE
HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT/DELEGATION**

**Statement by H.E Mr. Hamid Karzai, President
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

**My brother President Abdullah Gül,
Excellencies Head of Delegation,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address the 11th ECO Summit Meeting and would like to extend my gratitude to President Gul and the brotherly people of Turkey for hosting the 11th ECO Summit Meeting in the beautiful city of Istanbul, a city which has been host to a number of important meetings on Afghanistan and the region in the course of this year.

Let me also commend ECO Secretary General and his team for providing us with a comprehensive report on the achievements and recent accomplishments in the Organization since our last Summit Meeting in Tehran.

Kabul Process

Over the course of this year, we have witnessed a sequence of high level international meeting on Afghanistan in Kabul and Lisbon where we have shared with the international community and regional partners, our action plans for improved security and accelerated economic development. These plans reflect five important pillars, namely security, economic development, good governance, regional cooperation and reconciliation and reintegration with a view to allow us, to exercise our sovereign authority towards a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan.

Our program for transition which was agreed last month in Lisbon and through which, we are determined to take over the security, governance and development responsibilities by 2014. We will make all concrete and integrated efforts to implement this irreversible transition in time.

Vision for Regional Cooperation

Our region continues to be plagued with the most daunting threats such as terrorism, extremism, narcotics and organized crimes as well as challenges such as poverty, food security, energy security and climate change within this context, we attach special importance to regional cooperation as an important pillar of our foreign policy and an integral part of our National Development Strategy.

Our strategic vision for regional cooperation is to contribute to regional stability and prosperity and, to enhance the conditions for Afghanistan to resume its central role as a land bridge.

For the realization of our vision, we continue to be ready to work closely with the ECO Member States to create a suitable environment for effective utilization of the considerable economic potentials and opportunities that exist in our region.

Moreover, we still need to intensify our efforts to more effectively implement the ECO Vision 2015 towards promotion of our organization to a more dynamic and efficient regional organization.

Trade Development, Facilitation and Promotion

Enhancement of regional trade through integration of economies is of utmost importance in providing economic opportunities for our region. The Government of Afghanistan by virtue of being a land-bridge ECO Member State is committed to providing transit facilitation and promotion and believes-that the implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement help us move forward towards establishing a Free Trade Area in the region as envisaged in the ECO Vision 2015.

I am pleased that Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement (APTTA) was signed on October 28 in Kabul which will further promote trade and transit cooperation between the countries of the region.

Investment Promotion and Private Sector Development

Strengthening the role of private sector in regional projects and promoting investment opportunities in the region need to be pursued more effectively. On our part, we are delighted to provide opportunities for private sector development and are exploring ways to expand the scope of public-private partnerships particularly to address infrastructure constraints. In this connection, as highlighted in the recently held First International Investment Conference in Dubai and RECCA IV in Istanbul, we have enacted several new business friendly laws and regulations in the area of investment promotion and private sector development in Afghanistan.

Given the fact that intra-regional trade and investments in our ECO region is still much lower than other regions, I believe that the ECO investment promotion and private sector development needs to be further intensified including through the ECO Trade and Development Bank. I am pleased to inform that Afghanistan is ready to join the ECO Bank.

Regional Connectivity

While recognizing fully the important of improved infrastructure links and its contribution to the growth of regional economies, we have plans to build new roads and

improve and upgrade existing ones; extension of regional railways to and through Afghanistan to other countries. For example, the Hiratan-Mazar-e-Sharif railway, the Sangan-Heart railway and the ongoing preparation of the pre-feasibility study report for the Kandahar-Chaman railway.

I am also pleased to note that the ECO/IRU Tuck Caravan organized within the framework the ECO-TTFA and the Silk Road Initiative passed along some of the newly built roads across northern Afghanistan in September this year.

Energy Cooperation

We need to further promote energy cooperation within the organization in various areas including diversification of energy sources and markets, promoting investment in energy sector projects and improving energy security.

I am pleased to note that considerable progress has been made on two major regional energy cooperation projects, namely CASA 1000 which includes four of the ECO Member States.

Last week in Ashgabat, we signed TAPI Gas Pipeline Project which will take us a decisive step forward in the implementation of this large scale project as an excellent example of regional energy cooperation.

Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture continues to have a significant share in GDP of our countries and deserves to be given more attention.

In Afghanistan, Over 70% of the population lives in rural communities and hence, food security and sustainable agricultural productivity is of high importance for us. Improved research and technology will help increase agricultural production and improve food security. It is my earnest hope that Afghanistan can further benefit from the programs and projects available within the organization in the area of agriculture development.

Counter Narcotics

Narcotics are a common threat that we face. It feeds terrorism and international criminal networks and contributes to ongoing instability of our region. Fighting narcotics requires an integrated approach, which includes the whole chain of cultivation, production, consumption and supply of chemical precursors originating from outside Afghanistan.

Effective border management and greater information sharing among our security agencies are also crucial elements for addressing the problems of terrorism, narcotics and organized crimes.

Afghanistan has made utmost efforts to combat this menace and have been able to increase the number of poppy-free provinces to 22. We expect our international and regional partners to further help us to promote alternative livelihood and improve market access for our farmers and further hope that Afghanistan will benefit from the Organization's programs in the area of counter-narcotics.

Mr. Chairman

Let me once again express my sincere thanks to you Mr. President for the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation and for your continued support to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

I thank you.

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

Dear Mr. President, my dear brother!

Dear Colleagues!

First and foremost, I would like to express my profound thanks to my dear brother, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Abdullah Gül, for organizing the summit at a high level and for his hospitality. I am very happy to visit fraternal Turkey again.

At the same time, I would like to express my thanks to my dear brother, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmud Ahmadi Nejad, who has presided over the organization in the past period, for his successful presidency.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization. We are an active member of the organization, and it is pleasing that the organization is strengthening. I am confident that in the future, the organization will gradually play an increasingly important role worldwide. As this role increases, the potential of the member states of the organization will also expand.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to issues of regional cooperation. We are making efforts to develop the processes taking place in the region. A new situation has come about in the sphere of implementing specific projects – both in the transport and energy spheres, and Azerbaijan seeks to mobilize its economic potential in order to make a greater contribution to this large-scale cooperation.

Economic processes in our country are developing in the positive direction. Over the last seven years, the gross domestic product of Azerbaijan has tripled and budget expenses have increased by 12 times. Poverty has fallen by four times. This allows us to use greater financial resources for the common purpose. Thus, the economic cooperation in the region will be given a great impetus. In order to ensure the economic independence of a country, especially in the current period, it is necessary to resolve issues of energy security. Azerbaijan is making its own contribution in this sphere. Our rich oil and gas reserves play a positive role not just in the development of our country, but also in regional cooperation. Azerbaijan's rich oil and gas reserves allow us to transport our natural reserves to neighbouring countries. Today there are seven oil and gas pipeline extending from our country to the world market. Azerbaijan is realizing its potential through these pipelines, thus enabling neighbouring brotherly and friendly countries to meet some of their demand for energy. Azerbaijan is a reliable partner, and has always honoured, and will honour, its obligations. We have proved to be a supplier, a transit country and a reliable partner for many years. I am confident that as issues of energy security are successfully resolved, every country will develop even more confidently.

Issues relating to energy in the world will become an even more serious subject of discussion in the future. Considering this, we can say that as a supplier of energy, Azerbaijan is ready to play its positive role in the future, too.

Along with that, Azerbaijan has a very positive approach to developments in the transport sector. The projects we are implementing have resulted in the establishment of a new transport infrastructure in the region. Azerbaijan is an active participant in the North-South and East-West transport corridors. The geographic position of our country allows us to increase our positive role in every field.

As a result of the commissioning of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway which has been built in the region, it will be possible to restore the "Iron Silk Route".

Not only will this route connect Azerbaijan to Turkey, it will also connect Europe to Asia. Thus, this route will be of great importance in terms of economic efficiency. We are actively participating in this project. We hope that the construction of this route will be completed in the near future and the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization will be able to benefit from this opportunity.

Along with the implementation of all the successful economic and infrastructure projects, I should note that stability, peace and security should be ensured in the region. Unfortunately, the conflicts, problems and threats that exist in our country and need to be solved do not allow us to fully achieve our objectives. Every country can successfully develop politically or economically only in conditions of stability. Political stability has long been established in Azerbaijan. However, the unresolved conflicts and the fact that 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territories still remain under Armenian occupation are a source of a great regional threat. A policy of ethnic cleansing was carried out against Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan's ancient land Karabakh and surrounding areas, more than one million Azerbaijanis were forced to become refugees in their own land, 20 per cent of our lands are under Armenian occupation, and this injustice has been going on for many years. Although international organizations, especially the United Nations and its Security Council, have adopted four resolutions on the issue and those resolutions provide for the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories, the Armenian side is still not implementing these norms of international law and is continuing its aggressive policy. The Organization of the Islamic Conference and other international organizations have issued similar resolutions. Of course, this provides strong grounds for a just and legal settlement of the issue. But in reality, we are not seeing any progress and Azerbaijan has been suffering from this occupation for many years. Of course, we will not put up with this situation. We will restore our territorial integrity. We are trying to do this in a peaceful negotiated way. Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is recognized by all the countries of the world and is not, and will never be, a subject of discussion.

On the other hand, the unresolved conflicts failed to create great obstacles to our economic development. But if we take into account that had it not been for this conflict, the country's development and issues of regional cooperation could have been resolved

more successfully and quickly.

I would like to point out once again that Azerbaijan will continue to actively participate in the Economic Cooperation Organization. We will continue to contribute to the strengthening of the organization. This organization has already turned into a great international organization. I have a very positive view of the proposal made by my dear brother, Turkish President Abdullah Gul, that it is a good idea to expand the number of members of the organization's Bank. For its part, Azerbaijan will use this invitation in order to become a full member and shareholder of the Bank.

I thank my dear brother, President Abdullah Gul, once again for his hospitality and for organizing the summit at a high level. I wish our organization new success and victories.

Thank you.

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad, President
of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

Honorable Heads of State,

Distinguished Members of Delegations

Mr. Secretary General

Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank the Almighty God for granting me the chance and opportunity to be once more among my dear colleagues. It gives me great pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to my dear brother president Abdullah Gul for his warm hospitality. I hope we will all witness the fruitful results of our gathering here

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

You all know that the main purpose behind creation is to guarantee a prosperous life for all human beings who aspire to realize the ultimate goal of ascending to the highest degree of perfection and build their relationship on the solid foundation of love, justice, ethics, and the belief on the oneness of God. All messengers of God and people of good faith invited human beings to march on this enlightened path.

On the other hand, forces of evil invited people to indulge themselves with egotism, arrogance, and unbridled material pleasures. Under this climate where these evil thoughts, or in other words, materialist outlook prevails, relations among human beings are laid on the bases of material interests and individual pleasures.

In the course of history, various schools of thought emerged in defiance of the divine missions of messengers. In some periods of history they successfully brought some parts of the world under their domination by winning the hearts and minds of people. In the very recent history, we witnessed the prevalence of Marxism that was based purely on materialistic outlook and became a dominant force with the beautiful promises of building a better world for humanity. For about seventy years human beings and the very fundamental values of humanity, and justice itself were crushed under the wheels of a merciless dictatorship. The other face of materialism is manifested in humanism and secularism that have imposed for over a hundred years their economic, political and cultural supremacy on the world.

They also represent a thinking based on materialistic pleaurism through which humanity is abandoned and incarcerated in the wilderness of material desires and urge, a

thinking that provoked wars, incited hate, and brought increasing misery, poverty and humiliations for the entire world. Fortunately Marxism, whose theory was based on false premises collapsed and its in- efficiency became known to the world.

Today, the thinking on the basis of humanism and Liberalism has also reached the end of the road. We can clearly see disruptions and collapse of the current and outdated international order. What they have introduced to the world as Liberal Capitalism turned out to be a nightmare to the entire human community.

Successive failures, unprecedented global economic recession, increasing poverty, widening gap between the rich and the poor, moral, social and family crises, diminishing confidence of nations on capitalist countries and on the current international structures, use of deceitful tactics to manipulate public thoughts and frustration in a large number of countries, and the ongoing global circumstances are the most visible signs of an inevitable collapse.

Today, our world needs to build a new order in the international relations on the basis of love, justice, and monotheism that clear the path to human perfection and salvation.

Regrettably, countries as proponents of secular and materialistic thoughts that were the contributing factors of all misfortunes and misery in the world, now are seeking to find solutions to the present economic and social crises within the context of the same outdated theories.

Although they are moving around a vicious circle, and any decision they make will put them back to the starting point, they insist to impose their wrong thinking and approach on the world. They have taken a series of measures which run counter to the collective interests of humanity. Allow me to refer to some of their actions worldwide.

- Creation of worthless Paper Assets

The U.S administration and recently some European governments have started to print worthless paper assets instead of dealing realistically with the prime cause of global problems. By doing so, they continue to help the rogue business entities which were instrumental in the current disastrous situation in the world. As a matter of fact, they fill the pocket of these entities at the expense of nations across the globe;

It has now become clear to all that public protests against the rising unemployment, poverty and the reduced welfare system are ignored and suppressed.

- Militarism and Occupation of Countries

In an effort to save the capitalists, they make more dangerous decisions. They created the Zionist regime. They invaded Iraq and Afghanistan. Millions of people were

killed and wounded. Vital economy infrastructures were destroyed. These are the product of these wrong decisions.

- Creation of Disputes among Nations and fake threats

They continue to provoke hostility and blind prejudices among nations by resorting to their differences which are in fact the main elements and the engine of human development and progress. They use such tactics and conspiracies to continue to sell their armaments, and at the same time to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. All those policies amply demonstrate that social and economic system of capitalism is on the basis of a thinking in which there is no room for moral and humanitarian values.

To their eyes, increased political and economic influence as the means to secure maximum interests for the owners of wealth and power are the ultimate goal, even if other nations are to be sacrificed or destroyed. Unfortunately the existing international institutions which represent the same thinking are not only incapable of finding solutions to the global challenges, but also they add to problems. The question is how these social orders that have been created on the basis of materialistic schools of thought can be trusted by others, whilst they fail to address their own misery and challenges.

Dear friends

Contrary to the prevailing mentality in those countries, our nations enjoy the blessings of lofty cultural and intellectual structures that are supported by the solid foundation of a divine and humanitarian culture. Our nations share with each other the moments of joy and sorrows. In our cultures, economics, science and politics are the means to serve humankind to spread love and justice. Human beings and their dignity will never be sacrificed for the interests of capitalism and imperial-minded powers of the world.

The profound and centuries - old cultural commonalities in our region, where great scholars and thinkers emerged in different period of history made us and the entire world the inheritors of a brilliant civilization.

These great historical assets created a supportive ground for us to further increase constructive political, economic, and cultural interactions among member countries. At a time when the present international systems are on the decline, regional cooperation has become more and more important. By relying on our enormous natural resources, talents and past experiences, we can take more concrete steps in fostering our collective cooperation in trade banking, monetary policies, tourism, transport, energy, agriculture, industry, health, and combating drug trafficking and terrorism.

In this context and with regard to the proposals made during the Tehran Summit, I wish to propose that:

- A group of thinkers and scholars from member countries be invited to work together for introducing the basic humanitarian theories for building a healthy system of social and economic management.

- An appropriate mechanism be worked out through the secretariat for experience sharing in dealing with economic and social crises.
- A mechanism be introduced for using national currencies of member countries in economic and business relations. Iran and Turkey enjoy a very successful experience in this regard.
- Chains of road and rail transport network should be completed.
- Development and completion of energy transfer network be incorporated in the Agenda.

The ground has been cleared for human beings to start their journey to build a world where love, compassion, justice, purity and Monotheism prevail.

The Caravan of history is approaching its final destination. A brilliant future with all its magnificence and beauties awaits us. This is the promise of Allah that will be fulfilled. In continuation of the movements started by divine messengers, one of the grandsons of our great prophet Hazrate Mahdi will come together with the believers to help human beings realize the aspirations they longed since time immemorial.

Let us march on this path and be on this journey together to embrace that future of love and justice.

I thank you all again, and I pray to the Almighty for the good health and happiness of my dear colleagues.

May Allah bless our nations with ever-increasing progress and well-being.

Again I thank my dear brother Abdullah Gul for the warm hospitality and for his capable management of this conference.

**Statement by H. E. Mr. K. Massimov, Prime Minister
of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December 2010)**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Abdullah Gül, on his election as Chairman of our forum. I would also like to thank His Excellency for the impeccable organization of this event and for the warm Turkish hospitality that we have received.

Kazakhstan is committed to the active development of regional cooperation. Strengthening collaboration between ECO member states in order to promote regional prosperity is firmly in line with Kazakhstan's policies and principles. We also believe that it is important for the ECO to continue broadening relationships with key international and regional organizations.

Reflecting on the year now drawing to a close, it is clear that the ECO has made substantial progress in developing regional ties. Unfortunately, however, implementation of existing agreements has fallen short of desired outcomes. Currently, there is no established principle of commitment to motivate performance under existing agreements.

Of course, our organization represents a highly diverse group of interests, cutting across economic and political lines. Member countries are at different stages of economic development, for instance, and follow dissimilar economic models.

Going forward, however, our Organization requires a new approach to the implementation of collective agreements. This will improve the efficiency of our work and allow us to more effectively mobilize resources to implement joint projects.

Just over five years ago, the ECO Vision 2015 was launched in Astana, Kazakhstan. Now, it serves our collective interest to build on this important document and propose new concrete milestones. Towards this end, we support the recommendations developed by the ECO Eminent Persons Group to update the document in light of recent global events.

Mr. Chairman!

Our countries share a common history and culture, which strengthens the underlying bonds between us. To this end, Kazakhstan views the ECO as an effective instrument to promote socio-economic and technical cooperation among its member-countries.

Since achieving membership in the ECO, Kazakhstan has actively contributed to the organization's full agenda. Our priorities within this agenda encompass issues surrounding transportation, energy, agriculture, and environmental protection.

Firstly, with respect to transportation, Kazakhstan has launched three projects to increase cross-border cargo volumes and promote inter-regional trade. In the railway sector, we are constructing two new railway lines "Khorgos-Zhetygen" and "Uzen-Gorgan". In road transport, we are supporting the mega road corridor project "Western Europe-Western China".

The "Zhetygen-Khorgos" railway line will meaningfully increase Kazakhstan's transit potential by opening a second railway border crossing with China.

This new Sino-Kazakh transport corridor will greatly expand railway capacity between Kazakhstan and China. In the process, the project will improve inter-regional transportation links, bringing the countries of Central Asia closer to their East Asian neighbors. This project will cut travel distance from China to southern Kazakhstan and Central Asia by 550 kilometers.

Construction of the "Uzen-Gorgan" railway line was launched in September 2009. This important project has the full weight of support of its three participating countries behind it – namely Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran.

We have also commenced the Western Europe to Western China road corridor project, which will bridge Europe with Asia. This 7.5 billion US Dollar project will link Europe and Russia to Western China via Kazakhstan. The total length of the route is approximately 8,500 kilometers. Once this project is complete, it will take approximately 10 days for goods to travel between Europe and China by road, compared with 45 days by sea.

To support this and other road transportation projects, we are working hard to streamline border crossing procedures. Thus, we have delegated all the functions of vehicle control at checkpoints to customs authorities. This will cut down on the number of regulatory authorities operating at border crossings which, in turn, will simplify the process of border control.

Within the framework of the ECO, we are implementing two railway projects involving container trains on the routes "Almaty-Istanbul" and "Bandar Abbas-Almaty".

We also welcome the ECO Autocaravan project which was launched in August of this year.

I believe the benefits of these projects are obvious.

Improving transportation links will facilitate more efficient movement of goods and people, improving access to markets and strengthening the potential for trade and economic cooperation.

This is especially important given that several member-countries of the ECO are landlocked, including Kazakhstan. As a result, these countries do not have direct access to ports and thus to world markets. In addition, within the region, access to major markets involves very long travel distances. Thus, Kazakhstan supports the framework ECO agreement on Transit Transportation and the Agreement on Transit Trade to help eliminate barriers related to transportation and trade.

We also support the ECO project for the development of intra-regional trade. In this regard, we believe it is necessary to promote dialogue between the business communities of member-countries via regular forums, roundtable discussions and increased support for business associations.

Mr. Chairman!

Turning now to the topic of energy, ensuring the security of future energy supplies is one of the highest priority issues on the global agenda today. As a source of significant future non-OPEC energy supply, Kazakhstan recognizes the mutual interest of energy suppliers, consumers and transporters in promoting global energy security.

Echoing the St. Petersburg Principles on Global Energy Security, Kazakhstan will strongly defend its role as a reliable and secure supplier of energy to markets around the world, including to member-countries of the ECO.

In this regard, a key aspect of our approach to energy security is ensuring diversity of supply. Thus, Kazakhstan is firmly committed to its strategy of diversification of export routes. In October 2009, the final section of the Kazakhstan to China oil pipeline was commissioned which links the oil fields of Western Kazakhstan and the Caspian to the rest of the pipeline and thus to China. We are also making progress with the Kazakhstan-Caspian Transportation System which will deliver oil to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. Additionally, we fully support last week's final decision to approve the expansion of the CPC oil pipeline.

Mr. Chairman!

I am encouraged by the ECO's commitment to mitigating the risks of natural disaster in the region, which is one of the most disaster prone regions in the world.

As you are aware, in Astana last month, the ECO organized the Fifth International Conference on Disaster Risk Management in conjunction with the United Nations and Kazakhstan's Ministry of Emergency Situations.

This Conference and its summary outcomes are a clear example of the commitment by ECO member states to reducing the impact of disasters through preventive measures and building joint capacities for disaster readiness and response.

Mr. Chairman!

An integral element of deepening regional cooperation among ECO member states is the process of economic revival and rehabilitation in Afghanistan.

We believe that this can be achieved only through joint efforts. As a reflection of Kazakhstan's commitment, we are implementing a meaningful international aid program for Afghanistan.

We support President Hamid Karzai, and we wish him every success in the process of building a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Kazakhstan believes that further integration into the international community via regional and international organizations, such as the ECO, will help Afghanistan on its road to economic recovery.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In conclusion, I believe that this meeting will mark another important milestone in the history of the ECO, as it navigates a clear and observable course towards greater regional and economic integration. This will contribute positively to the welfare and prosperity of our respective countries and people.

Thank you for your attention.

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Roza Otunbayeva, President
of the Kyrgyz Republic at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellency, Heads of delegations!**

I would like to start my statement with the vote of thanks to the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül for warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for our meeting.

At the same time, I would like to congratulate you, honorable President Gül with the election as the Chairman of today's Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

We welcome the initiative of Turkey to establish a group of prominent people to study activities of Organization including ECO Vision-2015 with a view to increase dynamism, efficacy of the organization and expect its quick outcomes.

We are ready to support Istanbul Declaration submitted today for our consideration which not only defines status quo of our activity but also gives strategy and concrete directions for the organization's development, rationally and cautiously depicts future of our union.

As you know the finishing year 2010 was marked with cardinal socio-political changes for Kyrgyzstan. It became a period of serious trials, tests for the durability of people's unity and state integrity of the Republic.

Today, coalition government was established in Kyrgyzstan and its composition defined. We are shifting to a new stage of political governance and country is making initial steps towards systemic changes based on values of true democracy.

We are sure that ECO initiatives, programs and projects will catalyze and supplement our national endeavors on socio-economic recovery of the country in its future development.

Let me express our sincere thanks on behalf of the people of Kyrgyzstan to our organization, its Member States for moral and humanitarian, financial and technical assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic in such a difficult period of its history.

Honorable Heads of States,

Before proceeding to the traditional circle of problems of multilateral economic cooperation, let me emphasize several important topics which are in our view should remain in the focus of organization's attention.

One of the most serious global financial economic crises for the last 65 years has not been completely over; its convulsions still emerge here and there. Further liberalization of trade ties, construction of new and reconstruction of existing transit corridors, access to attractive investment projects – all that comprises huge and large-scale programs and projects of ECO, should receive political will to their implementation, and increasing speed, great financial and human resources and concrete realization.

Global warming and climate change are perceptibly correcting our economic activity. No doubt that our organization should attach more attention to this subject. Possibly, within next years it is necessary to focus on this topic through all the chain of ECO management including Summit of the Heads of States. Development of environment friendly business and all vital activities of our nations in line with ancient culture of harmonious co-existence with the nature, introducing environment friendly technologies, using renewable resources of energy: solar, wind, water – each of our country has a huge potential for that! Kyrgyzstan supports enhancement of cooperation within ECO regarding disaster risk management.

I would like to particularly mention a priority nature of achieving UN Millennium Development Goals within ECO framework. In the Declaration which we are going to adopt today it is rightly mentioned that regional countries should be committed to solve nagging problems in the field of education, mothers' and children's health, gender equality. No doubt that progressiveness, efficiency and success of ECO will be measured not only with economic indices but primarily with wellbeing of our nations, possibility of full self-realization of each man and woman, people of all nationalities, living in our countries for the good of the region.

Distinguished Heads of States, Governments!

During last decade in compliance with the mandate of the Economic Cooperation Organization was persistently and sequentially working on capacity building in 3 main directions: trade, transport and energy. Tens of specialized networks and organizations were established within ECO, focused on specific problems of Member States' economic activities. Our common goal is to make these organizational fully operational, to use and share their experience, knowledge, resources, introduce new technologies.

It was said a lot about self-sufficiency of the region in natural resources. Moreover, ECO region is one of the richest sources of oil, gas worldwide. However, this is the reality that though being rich in water – the most precious liquid which becomes a deficit in modern world including our region, a number of ECO countries have chronic deficiency in energy carriers. Creation of Free Trade Zone in the region still remains to be ambitious objective. Elimination of non-tariff barriers in regional trade, harmonization of regulation and measures on trade facilitation are on the agenda. In this direction only

the level of development of trade relations in ECO will start to reflect the real potential of our countries.

My country supports activities of ECO Trade and Development Bank, needs investments for the development of projects ready for implementation. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyzstan in synergy with ECO CCI will make utmost efforts for the development and increase of cooperation between private sectors of our country and the region.

Kyrgyzstan along with other ECO countries is actively participating in the work on development of "East-West" and "North-South" transport corridors which gives Central Asian countries an access to the Persian Gulf though the territories of Turkmenistan and Iran.

New railway routes from China to Europe through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran were the topics of discussion at the Ministerial meeting on transport and railways last October in Tajikistan.

Huge is the role of project of construction of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway included in the ECO Program of actions on the development of transport and communications.

Kyrgyzstan is for active interaction of ECO Member States in the field of energy. Energy crises faced by Central Asian countries urges us to seriously think over energy security of the region, seek for the ways out from the difficult situation in this sector. Great importance is attached to renewal of work on project of interconnection of energy systems of regional countries. In spite of the political turbulence, the launch of first hydraulic unit of "Kambarat-II" HPS in Kyrgyz Republic and start of power generation is an evident demonstration of the readiness of the country to contribute to rational use of hydropower potential of the whole region.

One of the prospects and more actual projects is "CASA-1000" project which in fact will become a bridge between Central Asian and South Asian energy markets.

Honorable Heads of States!
Honorable participants of Istanbul Summit!

Our organization is entering its second decade with a good luggage of tangible results and progress – an ECO brand; lots of ideas and plans, programs and projects. This is how it should be with a young developing organization.

In a new decade development of ECO will surely get a real speed. Established institutions and networks will start operationalization. In our alliance, the number of countries with successful market economy and world average income is increasing. Global resources are run out. Our region still possesses plenty of them. Our people, our

organization has no alternative to prosperity and welfare, progress and economic growth.
We need hard work, wisdom and cooperation of our states.

Good luck to ECO in 2011!

All the success to the Republic of Turkey in chairing organization!

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

**Your Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül,
President of the Republic of Turkey,**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you all at the 11th Summit of the ECO. I wish to convey to you warm greetings from the people of Pakistan.

I am grateful to the Government of Turkey for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to us in this beautiful and historic city.

Istanbul symbolizes our rich and common cultural heritage.

On behalf of the Pakistan's delegation, and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate my brother His Excellency President Abdullah Gul on assuming the chairmanship of the Summit.

I am confident that under his able guidance, this meeting will be a landmark success.

I wish also to convey our deep appreciation to the President of Iran, for his able stewardship of the ECO, since the 10th Summit in Tehran.

Excellencies,

Pakistan remains deeply committed to the aims and objectives of ECO. ECO brings us together to renew our partnership for comprehensive regional development and prosperity.

Our region is blessed with enormous resources. We have vast human capital. We have huge natural resources including hydro-carbons, minerals, agriculture and technology.

ECO represents our best hope to promote trade and economic linkages in our region.

With a shared sense of destiny, we must pool resources to harness the potential of the Asian century.

We have the capacity to collectively address our needs and be masters of our own destiny.

Excellencies,

Since its establishment, ECO has matured and progressed. Vision 2015 developed five year ago, is a pragmatic roadmap. Since then, we have achieved a lot.

However, we still have a long way to go to exploit the true potential of our region.

Trans-regional development and economic integration is our core objective. We need to fully operationalize the functional mechanisms of ECO.

This includes, placing ECO Trade Agreement on Fast Track. Pakistan has already signed and ratified ECOTA. We have recently agreed with Turkey to operationalize this Agreement, bilaterally.

We encourage other members, who have not yet done so, to become parties to this Agreement.

Free Trade is central to regional economic integration.

ECO Trade and Development Bank needs to be turned into a vibrant financial institution and a vehicle for project development.

We need to work together to protect our economies from the volatility of international markets and the protectionist and discriminatory policies.

In this context, our Central Banks and Planning Commissions have a central role.

We need to harmonize Standards including customs.

Excellencies,

Infrastructure and energy connectivity in our region should be one of our key goals.

Trade is possible only if we have infrastructure linkages and integrated border arrangements for trade facilitation.

One of the major achievements of ECO is the enforcement of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)

Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul train service and ECO Truck Caravan are commendable successes.

Pakistan is well positioned to provide trade and communications corridors through our territory and ports to our friends and partners.

We are ready to provide energy transport bridge and develop win-win scenarios.

Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline and TAPI gas pipeline projects should be seen in this context.

Development is our strategic priority.

Excellencies,

Afghanistan is an important country in the region. We have a shared responsibility towards Afghanistan.

Pakistan is committed to working closely with the ECO member countries and the international community for stability, peace and development in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been in the forefront of ECO's efforts for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

1. To realize the dream of creating an ECO Free Trade Area all members may operationalize ECO Trade Agreement.
2. Infrastructure and energy connectivity should be our strategic priority.
3. We may identify joint projects for trans-regional development.
4. The Heads of our Central Banks and Planning Departments may meet and suggest measures to protect our economies from global economic recession and volatility of international markets by suggesting innovative solutions.
5. We may attach priority attention to people-to-people contacts and establishing linkages between our universities, academia, think tanks and media organizations. We may collectively project and promote our common cultural heritage.

I would like to reiterate Pakistan's commitment to the goals and objective of the ECO. We wish every success to our brotherly country, Turkey, as the new Chairman.

Thank you.

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Emomali Rakhmon, President
of the Republic of Tajikistan at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

**Distinguished Chairman,
Distinguished of Heads of State and Government,
Dear Friends,**

First of all I would like to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey for hosting this Summit and warm hospitality extended to all the delegations.

Also appreciate H.E. Mr. Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, ECO Secretary General and his staff for the great preparation work to hold this Forum.

Today we face serious task – deliberate and adopt Istanbul declaration and decisions aimed at further enhancing cooperation, providing effectiveness of our Organization and increasing interaction among ECO region up to new high quality level.

I do hope, that today's discussion mostly will assist in solving practical problems accrued, serve for further enhancing our cooperation, promote highest possible implementation of Organization's potential for the benefit of sustainable development and economic exuberance of ECO region.

Among the most important directions within the Organization, the Republic of Tajikistan also emphasizes establishing reliable transport-transit systems, simplification of trade procedure, encouragement of frontier trade, effective utilization of water-power resources and hydrocarbon raw stock, creation of an integrated power system, free movement of goods and labour.

Trade cooperation among the ECO member-states plays key role as the priority field of cooperation, in promoting integration process ensuring establishment of dynamic regional economy.

It may be recalled that ECO region market is becoming more open and profitable for the Republic of Tajikistan. At the present time, ECO member-states play key role in external trade of the Republic of Tajikistan. Suffice it to mention that in 2007 share of ECO member-states in Tajikistan's foreign trade turnover was 39%. Due to world financial crises impact this indicator in 2009 decreased to the three seven tenth percent in comparison with 2008. In this year trade turnover of Tajikistan with ECO member-states again increased and reached 32%.

One of the most acceptable ways of implementation of efficient programmes, in our opinion, is establishing of the free economic zone. These zones are urged to become main factors of development, promote economic activities, and enhance regional trade and transit. Many ECO member states have great wide experience in this regard. We are grateful to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the generous donation of its land to ECO countries for establishing their own free trade zones.

The Republic of Tajikistan also calls the ECO member states to actively participate in such projects. For the time being, in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan four free economic zones are established in which favourable legislation and investing conditions are created for foreign potential partners.

Along with this, it should be noted that due to a whole number of reasons implementation of some ECO objects and projects envisaged in programmes of Organization is far from positive results. First of all it related to the projects in the field of trade, transport and power.

To our mind, priorities should be given to full implementation of ECOTA for enhancing cooperation among member-states in this regard.

Moreover ECOTA implementation is to be become base for establishing free trade zone in the region by 2015, as envisaged under the ECO Vision for the nearest 5 years.

Important point of reducing negative influence of crises and progress of economy of the region countries including Tajikistan is development of transport corridors and communications.

In our common interests, to consider construction of roads which would connect the countries of region and provide Central-Asian countries an access to ports of Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean?

Thus this is not a question only of creation of modern communications but also about provision of free movement of the goods, labour and assets.

In this regard, mentioned Transit Transport Framework Agreement becomes effective and it is considered as an effective strategy for expanding trade by transit-transport regional cooperation which urged to facilitate movement of goods and services of the region.

At this moment one of the strategic aim of Tajikistan is exclusion from communication deadlock. We endeavour to achieve this aim by construction of tunnels, bridges, modern roads and railways also transport and communication infrastructure development.

Activities taken by our country recently, in accordance with Almaty programme including different transport projects implementations focused on increasing state transport policy emphasizing transit-transport development, establishing and improving regional transport infrastructure, deepening regional cooperation.

Recently, in our country 14 investment projects with total amount three billions Somoni are being implemented in construction and reconstruction of roads.

At this time, a number of projects are being completed by 2012 and upon these projects 1650 km. of roads, 15 km. of tunnels and more than 100 bridges will be constructed and reconstructed which connect Tajikistan with China, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Tajikistan supports initiation on launching ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan -2010 passed through seven member-states in September-November and given an opportunity for studying transit-transport movement condition in region. We confirm our interest in participation in the second phase of the Truck Caravan scheduled to be launched in 2011.

We want ECO to pursue implementations of project in regional energy trade between Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran and seek for sources of their financing.

The same might be said about oil trade practice implementation and liquefied gas trade on preferential price with the Organizations member-states which possess limited oil resources and natural gas.

As is known the ECO region possesses huge Hydrocarbon resources and colossal water-energy potential that defines its place in the world economy in an appreciable degree. Complex and effective utilization of available potential will allow to intensify a role of the countries in determination of world market conjuncture of power resources and to reduce negative influence of world prices fluctuation of power resources and economy in whole.

In this context, we believe that Dushanbe declaration and new Plan of Action for energy/petroleum cooperation in the ECO region (2011-2015) adopted by the ECO Ministerial meeting on energy/petroleum held in Dushanbe in October 2010 will become the main mechanism for enhancing cooperation in interconnection of power systems.

Transportation and trade of oil, gas, energy and other forms of energy within and across ECO region, human resource development, research and development, energy policy and planning, effective coordination and cooperation are determined as the priority fields of the mentioned Plan of Action.

We believe that effective utilization of power and water resources of region is to be considered in the context of adaptation to climate changes. Practical results in this

direction can be achieved by stable water resources management and solving hydroeconomic problems at national and regional levels on the basis of an optimum combination of the international support and national efforts.

Ecological and social consequences of climate changes cause general concern. One of the key points of these destructive processes is certainly intensive ablation.

According to forecasts of specialists global warming of the climate will cause the losses of main glacial formations.

In Tajikistan more than 14 thousand big and small glaciers which supply about sixty percent of flowing of the Region Rivers. Meanwhile more than thousand of them disappeared in the last years only. This is the most dangerous tendency. We should not admit disappearance of the glaciers which are the source of life in this vast region.

Tajikistan offered establishing the International Fund for preservation of glaciers during the 3-rd World Climate Conferences and we do hope that ECO member-states will support this offer touching not only wellbeing of our people but also destinies of the future generations.

Climate changing also is fraught with boosting of intensity and frequency of nature disaster – serious obstacles on way of achieving sustainable development. We believe that joint efforts are to be intensified for reducing the risks and mitigating consequences of nature disaster. In our opinion joint efforts should be directed towards potential strengthening on prevention, increasing awareness of risks of nature disaster to improve monitoring and estimate consequences with use of science data.

Distinguished Participants of Summit,

Stabilisation of social and political conditions in Afghanistan establishes preconditions for more development of ECO region in whole. In this context, ECO member-states should pay more attention to promotion of Afghanistan rehabilitation.

We are glad that ECO takes some steps in this direction by launching its Special Fund for projects on Afghanistan rehabilitation and Feasibility Study Fund.

We support earliest implementation of ECO Plan of Action for Afghanistan rehabilitation. In turn, Tajikistan takes steps towards significant contribution in rehabilitation of Afghanistan's economy.

The Government of the Republic Tajikistan welcomes the activities of Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) and emphasizes the necessity to strengthen cooperation in the field of combating drug trafficking.

Tajikistan supports efforts made on increasing efficacy and overall activity of the Organization. We believe that currently drastic reforms are needed with an aim at further

increase of output of ECO activities, strengthening of its coordinating role, acclimatization to realities of today and future challenges, rational recruitment policy, and also on actualization of the Organization's agenda.

The consolidating role of ECO should be enhanced and its renewed frameworks should become effective, capable to react regional developments quickly and adequately.

This Summit demonstrates the will of Member States to improve ECO activities and multiply its potential.

The Republic of Tajikistan endeavours to continue to take active part in ECO activities and enhance its multilateral cooperation. We always support and will support strengthening of regional cooperation within all ECO regions for the blessing of prosperity of the people of the member-states.

Thank you.

**Statement by H.E Mr. T.A Japarov, Deputy Chairman
of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

**Distinguished Chairman!
Honorable Summit participants!
Ladies and gentlemen!**

First of all, on behalf of the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov let me express my appreciation to the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül for the invitation to ECO Summit and warm hospitality.

Using this opportunity on behalf of the President and Government of Turkmenistan I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the heads of delegations of this meeting for active participation of their representatives in the recent international events on the occasion of 15 year's anniversary of the Status of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan. I would like to note that neutrality status of Turkmenistan received its first support within the framework of this organization.

At known Turkmenistan following an example of peace and good neighborhood and considering issues in the light of neutrality status, acts as a supporter of consequent development of economic cooperation in the region, as well as within ECO.

During recent years, Turkmenistan put forward several ideas aimed at qualitatively new level of regional and international cooperation. Being mainly directed at providing global energy security, solution of water energy issues, establishment of transcontinental transport and communication corridors, these ideas got widespread support from the world community. In this context we can firmly state that Turkmenistan considers development and diversification of energy and transport infrastructure as the strategic line of cooperation.

Turkmenistan is promoting cooperation with ECO in economic and social fields which is complying with the main objectives of this organization. At the same time, taking into account that ECO Member States are our neighboring countries, Turkmenistan is extending relations with each of them on bilateral level also.

As known, ECO is an organization dealing with economic issues. Cooperation within this organization should be built upon the principle of mutual respect, equality of rights and comprehensive consideration of interests of each state. During the 10th ECO Summit, the President of Turkmenistan officially stated that from now on Turkmenistan will participate in ECO activities as an associated member. New status of our state in this organization does not imply lowering of activity, on the contrary, means more active participation in concerned socio-economic projects and programs.

Currently, such large-scale projects are realized in our country by the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan as: construction of “North-South” railway, enhancement of regional energy system, i.e. construction power transmission lines and gas pipelines. All these projects are very beneficial for all the nations of the region.

Turkmenistan and ECO Member States are making all efforts to solve the problem of energy supply of the region and globe.

As known, reliability of energy supply is the basis for energy security. At the same time, it has tight relation with different trends of overall security.

Following these principles Turkmenistan is steadily implementing its commitments on leading energy carriers to world markets and their delivery to consumers on reliable, stable and long-term basis, as well as realizing concrete projects with its partners. Cooperation with the countries of the region is an example to this.

Turkmenistan attaches great attention to transport infrastructure development in the region. Therefore it initiates establishing North-South and West-East new transport corridors. At this time Tedjen-Srakhs-Meshkhed railway is operationalized also Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran new railway construction is in process and this construction is important at international level as well. Construction of these facilities would connect Central Asia countries with Persian Gulf.

Establishing peace and conciliation in Afghanistan also economy rehabilitation and development of this country are the main issues for all countries of the region. As it is known the President of Turkmenistan in his speech during the 65-th session of the UN General Assembly emphasized the importance of aiding Afghanistan. For the time being works on Atamurat-Imanazar-Akina route (from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan) railway construction project are ongoing upon the initiation of Turkmenistan.

Within the framework of close cooperation among Turkmenistan and Iran the Korpedje-Kurtkui and Davletabad-Serakhs-Khangeran new gas pipelines are commissioned and gas is being transferred through these gas pipelines to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Moreover Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline project become Century Project was operationalized at the turn of the year. Nowadays natural gas though this gas pipeline goes to China via the region countries.

I would like to especially emphasize that recently one more project enabling to ensure power supply in the region was launched in Ashgabat by the active support of the President of Turkmenistan. The documents on implementation of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project were signed by these countries during the High Level meeting.

Regarding the cooperation in power, Turkmenistan supports close cooperation with countries of region. Nowadays power supply from Turkmenistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran is provided through Balkanabat-Gobad, Serakhs (Turkmenistan)–Serakhs (Iran) power transmission line on the basis of bilateral reciprocal long term Agreements.

Moreover Turkmenistan energy is exported to Turkey through Iranian power system.

Nowadays Afghanistan also is provided with electric power. Upon the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan supplying power in this direction will be increased in volume. Therefore construction of the new power plant and new current line through the territory of Turkmenistan are scheduled to lead out power to Turkmen-Afghan border. It would play main role in interconnection of power system of the region countries.

I am confident that the today's meeting will be not only special event but also will promote the further cooperation enhancement between ECO member-states.

In conclusion of my speech I wish the Summit and all its participants a great success.

Thank you to your kind attention!

**Statements
by the Special Invitees**

Statement by H. E. Mr. Jalal Talabani, President of Iraq
(delivered in the Arabic language)

**Statement by H.E Ms. Lamia Aasi, Minister of Economy and Trade
of the Syrian Arab Republic at the 11th ECO Summit
(23 December 2010, Istanbul)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first of all to express the profound respect of the Syrian government to the ECO and its 10 esteemed Member States with which we enjoy solid relations based on mutual understanding, respect and cooperation. From its establishment as a trilateral organization in 1985, to its quick expansion in 1992 to include 7 new countries and beyond, we view ECO as playing a significant role in boosting economic cooperation among Member States and is a good example of what this type of economic conglomerations can do to better the economic welfare of its member amidst rising global challenges.

Syria started in the year 2000 an ambitious programme with economic issues topping the reform agenda. The aim is to enhance the pace of sustainable economic development by departing from centrally planned into social market economy, liberalizing the economy, and opening up to trade by gradually removing trade barriers and ultimately integrating the Syrian economy with that of the world.

This entailed huge work on our part to create the proper legislative environment framework, change mid-set and launch capacity building programmes to upgrade the institutional infrastructure and much more an effort that is still ongoing in a satisfactory level of achievement, thanks to Syrian expertise and technical assistance support from our international cooperation partners.

The economic reform process proved rewarding and saw Syria making steadfast progress to be one of the most solid economies in the region in terms of macro-economic indicators.

Syria's FDI doubled eight times in 2009 compared to 2003 whereas GDP grew annually at an average of about 6% during the period between 2005 and 2009 and Syrian exports and imports grew by 16% and 18% respectively thanks to public private partnership and the substantially growing contribution of the private sector in the economic progress.

The accomplishments so far concluded include, but are not limited to, completion of the legislative structure required by the new economic approach, especially business and investment related laws, most important of which was the new Companies Laws, Commercial Code, and the issue in 2007 of legislative decrees 8 and 9 governing, respectively, investment promotion and the establishment of the Syrian investment agency.

Several industrial cities were also established to help investors start their investment projects efficiently.

We are now progressing on removal of non-tariff trade barriers and reduction of the items on the negative list to an absolute minimum. We have enhanced the financial sector by introducing private banks and insurance companies, the establishment of the

Syrian commission for financial markets and securities, and we have established the export promotion fund to help Syrian exports better access global markets.

In economic cooperation terms, Syria joined the Great Arab Free Trade Area, concluded a number of bilateral free trade agreements most notably with Turkey and Iran, initialized the Association Agreement with the EU, and is on due course to join WTO. We are currently negotiating a trade and customs union which includes Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, a free trade agreement with Ukraine, and a framework agreement with the Mercosur group in South America.

This is but a glimpse of what we have achieved, and we aspire to do much more in the years to come by capitalizing on our strength and inviting our regional and global partners to invest in the wide array of business opportunities that are on offer.

Allow me to conclude by re-affirming the cultural, social and economic affinities that bind us together, and by stressing the openness of Syria to forge the best of relations with the ECO Member States, not only with the aim to boost trade, but also to establish effective strategic partnerships that reflect on the welfare and prosperity of our peoples.

Thank you

**Statement by HE Mr. Yousef Hussein Kamal, Minister of Economy & Finance
of the State of Qatar at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

In the name of God, the Merciful

**His Excellency Abdullah Gül,
President of the Turkish Republic**

Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments of the Region (ACO)

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Beginning to take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency and the people of the Government of Turkey for their warm hospitality and good reception in Istanbul, which is close to the hearts of everyone.

I am pleased to convey to your forum that the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and his apology for the inability of his audience to be a witness to what has been achieved in the region of (ECO) and on your efforts about the achievements of the future and I am sure that His Highness is pleased to hear a lot about these accomplishments and achievements of the future and that lead to well-being of your people. I will transfer all what I heard and touched by the strong desire of the Presidents on the development of this region.

We have an organization similar to your organization, the Council of GCC; we are a member of this council. We will support anything that might lead to the development of the relationship between the GCC and (ECO).

I wish your conference every success.

**Statement of the Secretary General
of the United Nations at the ECO 11th Summit
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)**

*Delivered by Mr. Shahid Najam, Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident
Representative in Turkey*

President Abdullah Gul

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to send my greetings to the 11th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. You meet, when the international community, is intensifying coordinated efforts, to tackle a broad range of global challenges.

In September, President Gul joined other leaders at the United Nations, to reinvigorate commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, and adopt an action agenda to accelerate progress. And, earlier this month, at the United Nations climate Change Conference in Cancun, Governments took an important step, towards building a low-emissions, climate-resilient future. They agreed on a balanced package of measures, that formalizes mitigation pledges from all countries, and ensures increased accountability. They made progress on forest protection, climate finance, adaptation and technology.

This willingness to work together, in common cause for the common good, augurs well for the future. Only through vision, commitment and strengthened global partnerships, can we hope to achieve peace, economic progress and sustainable development for all the world's people.

Regional organizations are an essential part of this equation, and the United Nations has always relied on such collaboration. Like other regional entities, the Economic Cooperation Organization, has brought countries together, to increase the pace of development. Member States have fostered cooperation, on building infrastructure, securing energy supplies, promoting trade and investment, and enhancing food security and agricultural productivity. In so doing, they have contributed to regional security. This is an enduring recipe, for sustainable development.

In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20, will provide new momentum, to promoting green growth, combating poverty and promoting global peace and stability. I welcome the contribution, the Economic

Cooperation Organization can make to the conference and to achieving our common goals. I wish you success in your deliberations.

**Statement of the H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu,
OIC Secretary General at the 11th ECO Summit
(Istanbul, 23rd December, 2010)**

Your Excellency Dr. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government

Your Excellency Dr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, ECO Secretary General

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a distinct honour and privilege for me to address the 11th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which is taking place in this historical city of Istanbul, the meeting point of the two greatest world civilizations and a renowned center of world business and international economic relations.

Permit me, first and foremost, to express my sincere gratitude to the President, Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the generous hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this Summit. I also wish to congratulate the Heads of State of ECO member states for their leadership and support for the various activities of ECO in the recent years. Allow me to also commend the laudable efforts and dedication of my dear brother, Dr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the Secretary-General of ECO, such that have brought about the positive achievements, just revealed in his report before this august Summit. There is no gainsaying the fact that ECO has grown to become a veritable actor in promoting socio-economic development and policy coordination among its member-states, all of which belong to the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

For us in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, this Summit is very significant in many respects. It is convening at a time when the joint collaboration between the OIC and ECO has begun to gather the desired momentum. It is also coinciding with the mid-term review of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action, which was adopted in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 2005. This programme recommended the need for a paradigm shift towards closer cooperation with regional organizations, having common membership with the OIC. There is therefore no doubt that the wisdom behind this new but inclusive approach is to ensure a multi-stakeholder partnership aimed at facilitating the timely implementation of the various projects for scaling up growth and development in the 57 member countries of the OIC. Such pooling of resources and

creation of synergies are considered as necessary in order to optimize resource utilization and to ensure the realization of the common goal of sustainable economic development in our member states.

The other significance of this meeting is the fact that this Summit is indeed an auspicious occasion to underscore the recent resolution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference adopted at its 37th Council of Foreign Ministers, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 18-20 May 2010, which provided for the creation of a Special Programme for the Central Asia. In this regard a Working Group has been established comprising all relevant OIC institutions with a term of reference aiming at developing a programme for comprehensive cooperation in the short, medium and long term. Furthermore, this Summit would also mark the beginning of our joint actions towards giving effect to another decision of the OIC, in its capacity as a member of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan, to pool resources in support of the on-going global and multi-stakeholders efforts for the regional reconstruction in Afghanistan, a very influential member of ECO and OIC.

Your Excellencies Distinguished Delegates

The OIC and ECO are naturally endowed and better placed to achieve positive results in their economic collaborative efforts. This is notably borne out of the fact that the total ECO GDP approximates 30% of the OIC Gross Domestic Product. In addition, the dynamic nature of the economies of ECO countries, including the growing manufacturing sector in Central Asia, has positive bearing on the development of intra-OIC trade and investment, tourism, food security and agricultural development.

On the other hand, the impressive complementarities in the economic of OIC and ECO countries are such that make intensive economic collaboration mutually rewarding. The latter also contributes greatly to improving the livelihood of the populations in the member countries of the two Organizations. With the OIC member countries contributing two-thirds of the world proven oil reserves, 40% of world export of raw materials and a growing manufacturing and services sector, it is believed that intra-OIC trade in merchandise and services and collaboration with ECO member countries for industrial capacity-building can rapidly transform the respective economies of these countries into modern industrial economies.

Since the introduction of the Ten Year Programme of Action in 2005, issues of economic cooperation have assumed the center state in the agenda of the Organization. The various trade promotion, trade facilitation and trade financing activities have combined to increase intra-OIC trade from 14.4% in 2004 to 16.7% in 2009, even as the triple global financial, food and energy crises have slowed down the pace of global trade growth in 2008. There is a considerable focus on the development of strategic commodities as evident in the establishment of the OIC Cotton Action Plan, coupled with emergence of the two poverty alleviation funds within the Islamic Development Bank.

It is gladdening to note that the various poverty alleviation programmes of the OIC provide ample opportunities for collaboration with the member states of the ECO. The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, which was established in 2007, has two major thematic areas of intervention, namely Vocational Literacy Programme and Microfinance Support Programme. Specifically, the ISFD Project profile for 2009 indicates an impressive funding support for the various projects in ECO countries valued at US\$214 million. In addition, the OIC dedicated partnership funding mechanism under the IDB Jeddah Food Initiative is contributing to the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security. These partnership funds with United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) amount to US\$1.1 billion and US\$1.5 billion respectively.

In the area of infrastructure development and transportation sector development, the Islamic Development Bank has also participated in the funding of the Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan-Iran Joint Railway project, while consultations are underway with regard to the implementation of the decision of the 37th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on the construction of a railway network to link Dushanbe- Mazari Sharif- Herat. Within the same context, the OIC participation in the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) epitomizes the Organization's commitment to the rapid socio-economic development of ECO countries. On its part, OIC would continue to identify with the global partnership approach envisaged by RECCA, through its declared contributions to infrastructure development, science and technology, trade promotion and financing as well as industrial capacity-building, among others.

Essentially, Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development constitute another range of activities, where cooperation between OIC and ECO is very vital. Most recently, a comprehensive executive framework is being worked out by the OIC Task Force on food security under the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), which enjoys the permanent Chairmanship of His Excellency President Abdullah Gul of the Republic of Turkey. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and relevant OIC institutions are involved in this process, which aims at addressing the identified disconnect among policy-makers, researchers and agricultural practitioners within a global partnership for agricultural development and sustainable food security. The challenges facing OIC countries and indeed the entire world community is how to feed an estimated population of 9 billion persons in 2050, a feat that requires an increase in food production from the current level by 70-100%. This intricate partnership approach envisages that OIC and ECO would engage in promoting and funding of common projects, while creating stricter synergies and partnership in order to achieve common ends.

**Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates**

As we look forward in the coming months to the implementation of the new OIC programmes aimed at consolidating its socio-economic engagements with member states of the ECO, let me express our appreciation to the member states of ECO for their

unremitting cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat and the various OIC institutions. Such spirit of cooperation has, no doubt, facilitated the milestones recorded in OIC-ECO relations. Permit me, at this auspicious occasion to underscore our commitment in the OIC to strengthening the excellent working relations existing between our institutions and Organizations. It remains our fervent belief that the ECO as well as the various sub-regional organizations, which share membership with the OIC, can veritably represent the appropriate building blocks required to fast-track the integration objectives of the Organization. This would certainly satisfy the yearnings of our peoples for improved livelihood and enhanced socio-economic welfare.

In conclusion, let me express my best wishes to your Excellencies for a successful deliberation at this Summit.

Wssalamu Alaikum wa-Rahmatu Allahi wa-Barakatuhu

Secretary General of PUIC
Prof. Dr. Mr. Mahmuderol Kilic, Secretary General
11th ECO Summit, 23 December 2010, Istanbul

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States (PUIC) is comprised 51 countries that 1/5 of them are ECO Member States. As all we know that in order to implement and put in practice all over political and economic plans we always need a legislative approval from our parliaments. The mutual parliamentary cooperation of related countries has been increasing importance.

We hope that signing a MoU between ECO and PUIC will strengthen and support the projected plans of our countries in future.

I wish you all success.

ISTANBUL DECLARATION 2010

The 11th ECO Summit
Istanbul Declaration 2010
(Istanbul, 23 December, 2010)

The Eleventh Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 23rd December, 2010. It was presided over by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, and attended by:

H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai,
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Mr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Karim Massimov,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan

H.E. Ms. Roza Otunbayeva,
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari,
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon,
President of the Republic of Tajikistan

H.E. Mr. Tuvakmamet Japarov,
Deputy Chairman of Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan

H.E. Mr. Ulfat Kadirov,
Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkey

The Heads of State/Government during their meeting in Istanbul discussed important regional and global issues and reviewed the performance of the ECO and progress made on the programmes and projects since the previous Summit:

Re-emphasizing the importance of the ECO's goals and objectives as envisaged in the Izmir Treaty and previous Summit declarations;

Re-affirming their will and the need to enhance efforts towards improved economic cooperation, social welfare, quality of life, economic growth and sustainable development in the ECO region;

Expressing concern about the existing conflicts in the ECO region which impede peace, security, stability and sustainable development and reaffirming the importance of making increased efforts for resolving these conflicts based on the norms and principles of international law, in particular with respect to territorial integrity;

Recognizing that global economic crisis adversely affected economic growth and sustainable development in the region and reaffirming their determination to continue cooperation and develop common approach to further mitigate the effects of the crisis;

Reiterating the commitments made in the ECO Vision 2015 regarding the importance of achieving Free Trade Area in the ECO region to promote prosperity and sustainable development in the ECO region; _

Emphasizing the importance of energy security for economic stability and sustainable development and the need for close cooperation to realize major energy projects in this regard;

Noting with concern the challenges for ensuring food security and agricultural development in the region as a result of water shortages, land degradation and drought;

Recognizing the serious challenges posed by climate change and the need to address this global threat at both international and regional levels and calling for financial support and technology transfer to the region to this end;

Underlining the significance of infrastructure development particularly in the areas of transport and communications in the region and early and effective implementation of road, railway and communication projects;

Reiterating the importance of full implementation of the key ECO Agreements in achieving ECO goals and objectives and calling on those member states that have not joined these agreements to expedite signing, ratification and accession procedures;

Appreciating actions taken to implement the ECO projects/programmes in advancement of the initiatives which would further strengthen ECO as an effective organization for regional economic cooperation and encouraging further actions to this end;

- I. Renewed their commitments for effective implementation of ECO Vision 2015 as well as promotion of the ECO as an efficient regional organization.
- II. Reaffirmed their determination to implement ECOTA with the ultimate aim of creating Free Trade Area in the region. They invited the remaining Member States to accede to the Agreement, and called for action on

removing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to regional trade; harmonization of regulations and trade facilitation measures for expansion of trade and reiterated the need to facilitate the accession process of the Member States to WTO.

- III. Stressed the importance of promoting trade among the Member States, and in this context to avoid technical barriers and financial actions and limitations which impede free flow of trade.
- IV. Appreciated the financial instruments introduced by the ECO Trade and Development Bank to support Member States and called upon the Bank to increase its role as a major financial institution in the region and renewed its call to remaining Member States to join the Bank.
- V. Called for further strengthening of the private sector cooperation in line with the Plan of Action of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry and facilitate business relations in the region.
- VI. Re-affirmed that in the framework of implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) among ECO Member States priority should be given to the enhancement of international trade and road transport facilitation instruments, aiming at harmonizing Customs procedures and facilitating border crossing, notably the 1975 TIR Convention.
- VII. Noted with satisfaction the launch of the regular operation of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Container Train in August 2010 and expressed hope that the regular operation of the ECO Container Trains on Istanbul-Almaty and Almaty Bandar Abbas Routes, also due realization of the project of Uzen (Kazakhstan)-Kyzylkiya-Bereket-Etrek (Turkmenistan)-Gorgan (Iran) railway would be launched in 2011.
- VIII. Noted that construction of the railway connecting China and Europe through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey will promote diversification of transport routes in the region. In this context also noted the construction of priority railway segments namely Kandahar-Chaman and Jalalabad-Torkham which connect Afghanistan to Pakistan.
- IX. Underlined the importance of promotion of the project on construction of the railway route China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan aimed at enhancing regional cooperation on the Great Silk Road route.
- X. Recognized that implementation of the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) railway and Baku International Trade Sea Port will enhance the competitiveness of the

International Transport Corridor Europe–the Caucasus–Asia (TRACECA), North–South Corridor and the transit potential of the ECO Member States.

- XI. Acknowledged the realization of the ECO/IRU Silk Road Truck Caravan in September-October 2010 as a major demonstration project in line with the provisions of the TTFA, and called upon the Member States and the Secretariat to implement the TTFA and start the regular run of the trucks in the ECO region under this Agreement by January 2011.
- XII. Reiterated the urgent need for regional cooperation in maritime and multimodal transportation.
- XIII. Called for the creation of a suitable environment for investment in energy sector projects by improving energy security in the Member States and making better use of New and Renewable Energy Sources.
- XIV. Appreciated the progress achieved in the implementation of ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) including the establishment of the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) on the implementation of the RPFS, ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO), ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water in Agriculture, ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) and activation of the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA).
- XV. Recognized the importance of making full use of the hydro power potential of the region and in this context noted the urgency of realizing the CASA 1000 project, aiming at inter-connecting the energy systems of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- XVI. Noted the desire of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the International Specialized Exhibition (EXPO 2017) in Astana.
- XVII. Welcomed the establishment of ECOSTAT and stressed the need to consolidate statistical data and economic research to promote economic cooperation among Member States.
- XVIII. Re-iterated their commitment towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the ECO region, with special focus on education, gender equality, Women’s and Children’s Health, re-emphasized by Heads of State and Government during the last September World MDGs Summit in New York.
- XIX. Noted ECO’s role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, appreciated the contributions of Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to the ECO Special Reconstruction Fund for Afghanistan and called for more contributions by member states to the Fund and cooperation between ECO and relevant

national Agencies of the member states to speed up the reconstruction process.

- XX. Welcomed the launch of the Kabul Process and supported the outcomes of the historical Kabul Conference of July 20, 2010 as well as the fourth meeting of the Regional Economic cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (Istanbul, November 2-3, 2010) which would compliment the achievements of the Kabul Process in realizing greater regional cooperation in support of sustainable development and durable stability in Afghanistan and the region.
- XXI. Welcomed the initiative of the ECO Secretariat to become a Member of the newly established High-Level Core Group of Regional Bodies on Afghanistan to inter alia coordinate the activities of relevant Regional Organizations in Afghanistan.
- XXII. Commended the efforts made by the Secretariat to strengthen and expand ties with the United Nations system and other international and regional bodies and emphasized the need to continue its endeavors to further promote mutually beneficial partnerships.
- XXIII. Welcomed the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for enhancement of external relations of ECO.
- XXIV. Acknowledged the need for strengthening cooperation in disaster risk management in the ECO region, one of the world's most disaster prone areas, urged for regional programmes and projects and further collaboration among the ECO member states through existing mechanisms including the Regional Center for Risk Management (RCO-RCRM) in Mashhad-Iran.
- XXV. Welcomed the initiative by Turkey to establish an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to study and review the work of the Organization including the ECO Vision 2015, in order to enhance the dynamism, efficiency and visibility of the Organization and provide recommendations to be submitted to the Council of Ministers.
- XXVI. Expressed their resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and seized this opportunity to denounce and condemn all acts of terrorism as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace, security and economic development.
- XXVII. Expressed sympathy with economic suffering of the people of Gaza.
- XXVIII. Welcomed the assumption of the Chairmanship of ECO by the Republic of Turkey, expressed confidence that the Turkish Chairmanship, in close cooperation with the Member States, will bring renewed dynamism to the ECO process.

- XXIX. The Heads of State and Government expressed profound thanks to His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey for steering the deliberations of the 11th ECO Summit most ably to a successful conclusion, and sincerely appreciated the warm hospitality shown by the people and Government of the Republic of Turkey and the immaculate arrangements made for the Summit.
- XXX. Welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 12th ECO Summit in 2012.