



**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)  
SECRETARIAT  
(TEHRAN)**

***Summary Record  
of  
The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit Meeting  
(Tehran, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)***

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**(The ECO Secretariat, Tehran)**

**Summary Record**  
**of**  
**The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit Meeting**  
**(Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)**

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009. It was attended by:

- 1) H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai,  
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- 2) H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- 3) H.E. Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad,  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 4) H.E. Mr. Karim Massimov  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- 5) H.E. Mr. Omurbek Babanov,  
First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 6) H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari,  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- 7) H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon,  
President of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- 8) H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gul,  
President of the Republic of Turkey.
- 9) H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,  
President of Turkmenistan.
- 10) H.E. Mr. Ilgizar Sobirov  
Speaker of Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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

- i. His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar.
- ii. His Excellency Mr. Jalal Talabani, the President of Iraq.
- iii. His Excellency Mr. Farouk al-Sharaa, the Vice-President of Syria.

- iv. His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, the President of the United Nations General Assembly.
- v. His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary General of OIC.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

3. The Summit was preceded by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 and by Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on March 7 – 8, 2009.

### **Agenda Item No. 1** **Inauguration**

4. His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, being the Chairman of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, opened the meeting with a brief statement. The Azeri President thanked the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Summit and for extending warm hospitality to all delegates. He noted that the ECO region had a vast potential which should be utilized to the best advantage of its people. The President renewed Azerbaijan's commitment to ECO's principles and objectives and to playing an active role in the organization. He referred to the progress made since the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Baku and expressed the hope that the organization would do even better in the months ahead. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex – II**.

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

5. After his opening remarks, the President of Azerbaijan proposed that His Excellency Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran be elected as the Chairman of the 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. The meeting unanimously elected His Excellency Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad as Chairman. The President of Azerbaijan congratulated Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad on his election and expressed confidence that under the able guidance and Chairmanship of the President of Iran, ECO would achieve more of its objectives.

6. Assuming the Chairmanship of the 10<sup>th</sup> Summit, His Excellency Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad 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 most productive and successful. The President noted that the Summit coincided with global financial crisis and thus provided a welcome opportunity to discuss its implications for the region. It was a serious crisis which, through closer cooperation among the member states, could be turned into an opportunity. President

Ahmadi Nejad referred to the strong linkages of history, faith and culture that bound the member states together and provided a firm basis for regional integration. He renewed Iran's commitment to the principles and objectives of the Organization. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex – III**.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

7. The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit meeting adopted the following agenda as recommended by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in Tehran:

1. Inauguration
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Chairman of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers
5. Report of the ECO Secretary General
6. Statements by the Heads of State/Government/Delegation
7. Statements by the Special Invitees
8. Retreat Meeting on “The Current World Financial and Economic Crisis: Turning it into Opportunities for the ECO Region”
9. Any other business
10. Date and venue of the next meeting
11. Consideration and adoption of the Tehran Declaration
12. Vote of Thanks; closing address by the Chairman
13. Closing of the meeting and photo session

#### **Additional Events (after the closing of Summit)**

- Ceremony for ECO Awards 2008
- Ceremony for the issuance of a special postage stamp on the occasion of the Summit
- Press Conference

### **Agenda Item No. 4**

#### **Report of the Chairman of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers**

8. His Excellency Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers, presented a brief report to the 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit on the deliberations and decisions of the 18<sup>th</sup> COM meeting. A copy of his report is placed at **Annex – IV**.

## **Agenda Item No. 5**

### **Report of the ECO Secretary General**

9. In his statement, the ECO Secretary General Khurshid Anwar, outlined the activities of the Organization since the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit held in Baku (May, 2006). He highlighted the progress made on various projects, including the recent initiatives of the organization. He noted that decisions taken at Baku helped quicken the pace of ECO activities, with the number of meetings having risen by 35 percent. The Secretary General thanked President Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan for the vision and vigour with which he guided ECO since the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. He expressed the hope that under the able and enlightened leadership of the new Chairman, His Excellency President Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, ECO would gain higher heights. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex – V**.

## **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 expansion of cooperation in various fields under the framework of ECO and reaffirmed their support to the objectives and activities of their Organization. The texts of the statements are placed at **Annex – VI**.

## **Agenda Item No. 7**

### **Statements by the Special Invitees**

11. His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, His Excellency Mr. Jalal Talabani, the President of Iraq, His Excellency Mr. Farouk al-Sharaa, the Vice-President of Syria, His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary General of OIC, His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, the President of the United Nations General Assembly and His Excellency Mr. Murat Ulus, the President of the ECO Trade & Development Bank attended the Summit as Special Guests and delivered their statements. Copies of the statements are attached at **Annex – VII**.

## **Agenda Item No. 8**

### **Retreat Meeting on “The Current World Financial and Economic Crisis: Turning it into Opportunities for the ECO Region”**

12. In a special segment of Retreat Meeting, the Summit leaders focused exclusively on the global financial crisis, its impact on the ECO countries and how to turn it into an

opportunity for the people of the region. The meeting received briefings from the President of the ECO Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the President of the Central Bank of Venezuela who attended the Meeting on behalf of ALBA Group.

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

- The crisis was global in nature. It affected all parts of the world. The ECO region was no exception. Urgent, effective measures were needed to counter and contain the negative impact of the crisis.
- The ECO region was well-endowed with resources. These should be put to a fuller, more imaginative use.
- Protectionism might appear good in the short term and might seem to carry some advantages. However, in the long term, it would not serve the region's best interests.
- The ECO member states must encourage and promote regional trade. The implementation of ECO Trade Agreement should be speeded up for that purpose. Also, member states may seriously consider adopting barter system in trade among them.
- The ECO Trade and Development Bank could contribute to regional trade. It should be strengthened. More member states should join it. Its branches should be opened in member countries.
- Also, such other measures be considered as the use of reliable foreign currencies in regional transactions, the exchange of foreign financial resources with reliable currencies as well as establishment of regional monetary fund to cope with the financial crisis.
- In addition to measures that should be taken on the regional plane, it was important that international financial institutions, especially the IMF, should be reformed. Their lending capacity should be strengthened.

14. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Chairman of the Summit, His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad announced that a Working Group Meeting, comprising senior economic and monetary experts of all ECO member states, would be held in Tehran shortly. It would make an in-depth study of the issue and draw up appropriate recommendations. The meeting would be organized by the Finance Ministry of Iran in coordination with the ECO Secretariat.

**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 His Excellency Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to host the 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit meeting in 2010 in Pakistan. The exact date of the meeting will be finalized through diplomatic channels.

### **Agenda Item No. 11**

#### **Consideration and adoption of the Tehran Declaration**

17. The Summit adopted the Tehran Declaration, as recommended by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009. Turkmenistan's position on paragraph xxxi is attached at **Annex-VIII**. The text of the Tehran Declaration is placed at **Annex – IX**.

### **Agenda Item No. 12**

#### **Vote of Thanks; closing address by the Chairman**

18. The Heads of State/Government/Delegation expressed profound gratitude and thanks to the President, the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality extended to all the delegations as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit. They also appreciated the ECO Secretariat for preparing all Summit documents and for helping make the Summit a great success.

19. Since it was the last Summit in which Mr. Khurshid Anwar was participating as the Secretary General of ECO, the meeting appreciated the contributions made by him during his tenure and extended their best wishes for his success in future assignments. The meeting also welcomed the appointment of His Excellency Ambassador Mohammad Yahya Maroofi as the new Secretary General of ECO and expressed the confidence that he would take initiatives to enhance regional cooperation, promote ECO's image and make it an even more successful Organization.

20. In his concluding remarks, His Excellency Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Chairman of the Summit, expressed his gratitude to the Heads of State/Government/delegations for their very constructive and fruitful contributions to the deliberations of the Summit. Useful and important decisions had been taken. He expressed the hope that these would be implemented in a time-bound manner with the cooperation of all member states. The President wished all the participants and the people of the ECO region continued progress, well-being and prosperity.

### **Additional Events (after the closing of Summit)**

#### **- Ceremony for ECO Awards 2008**

21. The Heads of State/Government/Delegation presented ECO Awards 2008 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:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of Country</b>	<b>Name of Nominee</b>	<b>Field/Category</b>
1	Pakistan	Dr. A.R. Kemal	Economics
2	Tajikistan	Dr. Talbak Nazarov	Economics
3	Kazakhstan	Dr. Meruert Abusseitova	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
4	Kyrgyzstan	Dr. Akylbek Kylychev	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
5	Azerbaijan	Dr. Vaqif Abbasov	Science & Technology
6	Afghanistan	Dr. Gholam Jelani	Education
7	Iran	Dr. Mojtaba Khayyam Nekouee	Agriculture & Environment
8	Turkey	Dr. Ismail Koyuncu	Agriculture & Environment
9.	Turkmenistan	Dr. Marsa Ashirmammedov	Science & Technology

22. The Awards ceremony was followed by the unveiling of a special postage stamp on the occasion of the Summit. All Heads of State/Government/Delegation affixed their signatures to a giant replica of the ECO postage stamp, specially prepared for the Summit. A family photograph was taken on the occasion.

#### **- Press Conference**

23. The Heads of State/Government/Delegation, led by the Chairman of the Summit, His Excellency Dr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed a joint press conference.