



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)  
SECRETARIAT  
(TEHRAN)

Statements

By

The Heads of State/Government/Delegation  
(The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, Tehran, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)

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**The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit**  
**(Tehran, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)**  
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**Statement by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Excellencies Heads of the ECO member states  
Mr. Secretary General Khurshid Anwar  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my gratitude on behalf of the delegation accompanying me to my Iranian brothers and sisters for their generous hospitality and convening such a well-organized conference.

This is a good opportunity for all of us to joining our efforts towards realizing our people's aspiration for growth, development and broader regional cooperation through comprehensive policies and measures. A review of our activities, achievements and challenges helps us design better policies to strengthen our relationships and seek specific cooperation areas within the framework of ECO.

I'm delighted to see that throughout the last two years the ECO secretariat and administrative apparatus have been able to work effectively towards invigorating the relationships among ECO member states. Meeting held at the level of the ministers of the member states and the experts of different fields have had tangible outcomes.

The year 2008 witnessed a 20% increase in the participation of the member states in these meetings, heralding the fact that all ECO members are willing to participate more actively in the endeavors for fulfilling the objectives of the organization and increasing the level of coordination with these objectives of their economic, trade and transit programs.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Afghanistan is committed to the principles and values of the regional cooperation organization and has been trying to implement the decision taken by various bodies of this organization. The transit Transport Framework Agreement signed by the ECO member states is a positive step towards achieving the ECO objectives.

The implementation of ground transportation projects including railway transportation, are well in coordination with Afghanistan's long-term programs on connecting the ECO member states and establishing linkages through Afghanistan and other member countries between the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization and member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

It is a great pleasure for me to hear that the pilot railway project connecting Islamabad, Tehran and Istanbul is going to be launched in the near future, thanks to the joint efforts of the Secretariat and members states' delegations.

Out countries of the region are also interested in the ECO road connectivity expansion initiative. This shows that we can have a greater role in strengthening economic cooperation in Asia. The participation of the Chinese delegation in the 7<sup>th</sup> ECO ministerial meeting on transport and communication on April 2008 in Antalya and China's interest in realization of the container train project connecting Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan also give us the prospect for a better future.

The Afghanistan-Tajikistan-Pakistan Railway Project presents another good opportunity for the member states to improve market connectivity.

The convention of the First ECO Trade Council meeting in 2008 in Turkey is another step forward in the expansion of trade among member states.

Undoubtedly, easing the affects of the global economic crisis on ECO member countries require more cooperation. I hope we can achieve that goal through careful follow up of the developments and taking the right measures.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The decent ambitions of our people for the establishment of an integrated economic region can't be realized unless we overcome such serious threats as terrorism, organized crime and drugs.

As you all know, for 30 years, Afghanistan has been subject to foreign interventions. Afghans are the major victims of terrorism who have endured unprecedented losses in the war against terrorism. Afghanistan is not the source of terrorism, and neither it receives the main profit coming from drug trafficking. Terrorism and drug trafficking are interconnected.

Afghanistan urges all ECO members to cooperate more with the other countries in the region in the war against terrorism and eradication of the narcotics' industry.

The continuation of regional and international consensus on Afghanistan and the fight against terrorism is in the best interest of all counties of the region. It is obvious that with the defeat of Al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan threats to the security of the region's countries will diminish.

The presence of the international community in Afghanistan is an integral element of the war against terrorism and vital to its continuation - a fact recognized by all countries of the world within the framework of the United Nations.

This being said, Afghanistan is not an occupied country and we know that no country be in Afghanistan against the will of the Afghan people.

We believe that increase trust and mutual respect between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan are in the interest of both security and growth in the region. Afghanistan is committed to expanding this relations and strengthening cooperation in the counter-terrorism efforts.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I accept the bitter fact that my country is one of the major sources of poppy production in the world, which is a miserable legacy of the three decades of inflicted war upon us and violation of our territory from the north and south – a legacy of systematic destruction of our government institutions in the hands of the foreign invaders.

Years of unwanted war and foreign invasion destroyed the government systems in Afghanistan, resulting in the increase of poppy production. The benefits of poppies pour into the pockets of international mafia, while our country's youth get addicted; our security is compromised; and the legitimate economy of our country bears serious damages.

These facts make it incumbent upon all of us around the world to do our part in the counter-narcotics efforts. Indeed, fighting drugs is an international duty. Together with the rest of the world, we shall implement a comprehensive counter-narcotics strategy. Afghanistan applauds the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against drug trafficking, but we believe that we need more coordinated cooperation in this regard.

As of now, of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan 22 have been declared poppy-free. Based on UN estimates narcotics production will decrease by 20-30% this year in Afghanistan. We are resolved and committed in this struggle and seek more cooperation with the ECO member states.

The two meetings of the ECO Interior Ministers in the past two years have stressed the importance of the cooperation in countering these deleterious phenomena. Indubitably, everyone here agrees with me that we have to act resolutely to put in practice the decisions made in these meetings.

Mr. President, Excellencies!

Despite the challenges of insecurity and narcotics, which exhausts our human and economic resources, there are bright horizons for social and economic growth in Afghanistan.

Today, 6.2 million Afghan boys and girls have access to education- the highest figure ever in the history of our country. More than 85% of the population is now covered by basic health services – compared to just 9% six years ago it is an unprecedented improvement in the health sector in Afghanistan. With the establishment of basic maternal health care clinics we have been able to decrease maternal and infant mortality rates to considerable level. With the systematic administration of oral vaccines, we expect to achieve the goal of complete eradication of polio very soon.

Mr. President,

Our colleagues have been hard on work during the recent days to prepare the documents of this important meeting for approval.

I think the Secretariat and all the other colleagues who have devoted a great deal of effort to this great work and assure you that Afghanistan is committed to common objectives of ECO and will make every effort to implement its decisions.

Our world is now facing regional and international threats. Confronting these threats requires regional and international solidarity. In today's world, no single country can achieve security, peace economic growth and social welfare without joining hands with the rest of the world. To realize these ambitions we need to begin mobilizing our efforts at the regional level.

Therefore, the framework of the Regional Cooperation Organization for Afghanistan is the most comprehensive approach that can be pursued to achieve these objectives.

Mr. President, ladies and Gentlemen,

We are the legacy of a great and magnificent civilization; our countries share the same faith and aspiration. Nothing can justify the need for a joint effort towards prosperity and growth for our countries than these commonalities.

I'm sure that our future generations will more than today focus their attention on unity, trade, transit and economic relations. It is our duty to lay necessary foundations for them.

May God bless all ECO members with growth, peace and stability?

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**Statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Honourable Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Heads of States and Governments,  
Esteemed Secretary General,

First of all, I would like to express sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. Mahmud Ahmadinejad for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to our delegation.

Allow me to congratulate you on the election as the Chairman of 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit of Heads of States and Governments and express confidence that this meeting will be a success under your able chairmanship.

***Mr. Chairman,***

Kazakhstan's diplomatic strategy is in facilitating the creation of favourable external conditions for sustainable development of the country based on political and economic reforms.

Geographic location of Kazakhstan, which is between the world largest economic centres, has predetermined the foreign policy priorities of our country.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The crisis of the world's financial markets has spread beyond the modern financial system and has negatively impacted the social and economic development of the countries.

In this regard we undertake a number of decisive steps, which in our opinion will soften the consequences of economic crisis. The Government and the National Bank of Kazakhstan undertook prompt measures to implement the Plan of joint actions for stabilization of economy and financial system for of 2009-2010.

Over 10 billion US Dollars from the Kazakhstan's National Fund will be channelled to support the priority sectors of the economy under this Plan.

At the same time, in spite of negative tendencies Kazakhstan maintains investors' confidence. The inward capital flows accounted for nearly 70 billion US Dollars of FDIs (foreign direct investment). The country's outward investment flows made up to 4,5 billion US Dollars.

It may be noted that the Government took appropriate measures to avoid the non-payment of external and internal obligations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The world's ongoing financial crisis revealed inability of most countries to resist the systemic risks of global markets and find effective ways of resolving the situation. In this situation none of influential international organizations could offer specific modalities to overcome the crisis. Therefore one the most important tasks, which ECO currently faces is a detailed study of the ongoing process and search of ways to counter the impact of the world's financial crisis on the regional economies.

The role of ECO is vitally important as ever before under the existing environment in which framework it is possible to effectively overcome the consequences of the crises and neutralization of new challenges to globalization through mutual consultations and development of comprehensive strategy.

In this regard, since the ECO region has enormous untapped economic potential, extensive consumer market of 380 million of human capital and large-scale project opportunities, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to ECO and the activities of the Organization.

**Dear Mr. Chairman,**

In our view, ECO's activity timely enters into a new phase of the development of regional cooperation, which is in line with the ECO Vision upto 2015 guideline document.

In current situation, we suggest developing of a further strategy of the development of the Organization with the priority for specific year and channeling major efforts of member-states on the most perspective projects. For example, to announce a year of 2010 as the Year of the development of new technologies.

It is especially for this reason that Kazakhstan suggests to open the ECO Representative Office for the Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty. This would facilitate the reinvigoration of ECO's activities in the Central-Asian region and would promote further intensification of interrelationship in the area of new technologies, industrial and innovative development, economic research. It would also facilitate further development and implementation of sciences and new technologies for the interests of ECO member-states.

Effective development of trade and economic relations between ECO countries is impossible without transport infrastructure and development of new transit routes.

In this regard, Kazakhstan believes that implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement and operationalization of the project on a regular container train en route Istanbul–Tehran–Almaty is vitally important for future development of the Organization and its member-states. Moreover, Kazakhstan suggests the implementation of Bandar Abbas – Almaty regular container train as an alternative project.

We plan to exert active efforts to revitalize at a new qualitative level the Great Silk Road project. In this regard, there is a need to mention about the commencement of works on reconstruction of the West Europe–West China transit corridor. Participation of ECO countries in this project may only be welcomed.

A number of ECO countries is either in World Trade Organization already or is at its threshold including Kazakhstan.

We are confident that adoption of fair rules of the game and reforming WTO would facilitate the utilization of the trade potential of the entire region. In this regard, Kazakhstan attaches importance meaning to signing of the ECOTA, which is designed to facilitate the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Kazakhstan intends to play an active role in ensuring the use of rich energy potential of the region. A unique geographic location of ECO countries requires a further intensification of efforts in the development of energy and transport architecture of the region.

Kazakhstan advocates for the implementation of the ECO Vision–2015 guideline document, which contains a call for parallel functioning of energy grids in the ECO region, exchange and trade of electricity and others.

We express our hope that under the conditions of the economic crisis, the ECO Trade and Development Bank would facilitate strengthening of trade cooperation in the region. Our country is currently exploring the possibility of participating in activity of the Bank.

ECO, while being an inter-government organization, is carrying out continued efforts to activate private sector. Kazakhstan supports such activity. In this regard, organizing of business forums as a mechanism to improve the links between private sectors of ECO Member States deserves attention.

Considering the fact that majority of ECO member-states are at the same time members or observers of SCO, Kazakhstan welcomes signing of a memorandum of understanding between SCO and ECO. Support is also deserved for the recent signing of a similar document between the ECO and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which was established under the initiative of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan His Excellency N. A. Nazarbayev.

Taking into account that the states of Central Asia are united in their strive to strengthen stability it would be extremely useful to integrate the efforts of OSCE to solve the acute problems of the modern world in our spacious region.

**Esteemed Mr. Chairman,**

The world community follows the process of rehabilitation of economy and stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan with great attention. Our country supports the efforts of the international community focused on facilitation of the reconstruction of



the country in partnership with Afghan authorities including within the framework of the ECO.

In this regard, I would like to note that the Government of Kazakhstan adopted an Action Plan in 2007 to assist Afghanistan.

**Esteemed Mr. Chairman,**

A major achievement of the set targets, in our opinion, is enhancing efficiency of its focus at the ultimate result. Therefore, noting certain achievements of the Organization, it is necessary, in the interests of its own improvement, to regularly analyze its activity from a critical standpoint. The work undertaken to change organizational structure of the ECO should be continued, including through introducing necessary changes in the basic documents of the Organization.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is coherent in its continued support for integrational processes. Holding of the meeting of the Heads of states and governments today is viewed by us as an event which would provide a tangible impulse to deepening of the regional cooperation.

I would also like to thank the current Secretary General Mr. Khurshid Anwar for his great contribution into the development and strengthening of the Organization and wish him further success.

***Dear Mr. Chairman,***

I am confident that the Tehran Summit of ECO and its adopted decisions would serve for the benefit of the peoples of our countries. In conclusion, I would like to wish every success to the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people for the warm hospitality extended to the participants of today's Summit.

***Thank you.***

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**Statement by the Vice President of the Kyrgyz Republic**

**Esteemed Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies, Heads of delegations,**

First, allow me on the behalf of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Kurmanbek Bakiev and personally on my behalf to welcome the participants of this Summit and wish them fruitful and successful proceedings for the sake of high goals of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

I would like to express sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Mahmud Ahmadinejad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for extended hospitality, warm welcome and high level of arrangement for the 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit.

**Esteemed Heads of delegations,**

Kyrgyzstan along with the other Central Asian states became a full member of ECO in 1992. Since that, there were many important developments in Kyrgyzstan and new member-states of the Organization. Despite some faced difficulties, we have moved ahead in strengthening of the independence of our countries while implementing our political and economic reforms.

Thereupon I would like to mention, that Kyrgyzstan remains adherent of the idea of regional integration and will undertake all possible efforts for the further implementation of basic goals of our Organization and enhancement of effective cooperation between our countries.

ECO has all necessary potential to become an effective tool of regional integration in modern conditions for the benefit of all its member states.

Estimating the activity of our Organization for the previous years and determining perspectives for the future, we see, that the countries of the region reached new horizons and are at a new stage of development to solve more complicated issues. At the same time, it is necessary to underline, that financial and the economic crisis raises new problems before the ECO states. In this regard our integration which still faces difficulties in practical implementation, should go to a new level, searching necessary decisions of solving economic and social problems.

Within the framework of our Organization it is expedient to develop joint efforts for decreasing risk of influence of world financial crisis in ECO region, to determine necessary ways of joint decisions with the less losses which undoubtedly negatively influence the financial and economic situation in our countries.

All countries without exception introduced the feasible contribution in business of further strengthening of the mutual trust, favourable to the prompt advancement and realization of Organization's initiatives, from the view of the Kirghiz Republic there is an expediency by 20-year-old anniversary of ECO expansion to consider the issue on partial reforming of some aspects of activity of the Organization and its Secretariat.

Thus, a great value for sustainable development of economic cooperation in region has an activization of ECO communications with other regional economic associations, international economic and financial institutions, first of all with the United Nations, IBD, ABD, IMF and SCO for joint realisation of the row ECO projects and programs.

Kyrgyzstan as the friendly, adjacent state considers, that the created ECO special fund on restoration of Afghanistan acts as the important tool of attraction of the financial and technical assistance of member countries on restoration of Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan supports further expansion of measures on rendering of assistance to Afghanistan for establishment of the stability and a peace life.

We deem that the level of development of trade relations within the limits of ECO yet not to the full extent corresponds to real potential of our countries. It is necessary for us to pass from the theory to the practice in issue of removal of the nontariff barriers and gradual decrease of tariffs. With the purposes of the successful decision of these questions, a priority is creation and development of the regional infrastructure including a uniform branch out transportation network, a network of telecommunications, pipelines and power energy systems as development of a regional infrastructure is a necessary condition for effective regional and interregional cooperation on all other spheres of interaction.

Kyrgyzstan together with other ECO countries actively participates in work on development of the transport corridors "East-West" and "North-South". It gives the chance to the Central Asia countries of an exit through territories of Turkmenistan and Iran to Persian gulf. We also give a great value to advancement of the project of construction of the railway Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan – China, which is included in the ECO Action program on development of transport and communications in the ECO region.

Kyrgyzstan also supports taken measures on extension of a container train route "Istanbul-Almaty" to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

We can note with satisfaction the big activity in advancement of projects in the field of agriculture and the industry. So, a number of the important projects is carried out in sphere of maintenance of food security and stable agricultural development in region with participating of donors. More and more active there is a cooperation between the countries in tourism sphere. We will assist to further development of cooperation in perspective for all of us a tourism area.

**Distinguished participants,**

The energy crisis that Central Asian countries are facing now, forces us to think over finding of reliable ways of the decision of the critical situation in power sector. The Kyrgyz Republic is now in active search of the decision of the given problem, one of which is the necessity of water-power engineering capacity building. We started the construction of Kambarata-2 and Feasibility study of Kambarata-1 project, where the leading organizations of several countries are involved in.

In this regard we call the countries of the region to undertake the joint actions in the sphere of power safety.

**Distinguished participants,**

As it was mentioned, in order to find reliable ways out of the world financial crisis, ECO should launch comprehensive study of an economic situation in the region, including estimation of existing tendencies of countries economy development, trade, transport and other sectors development and realization of economic reforms in member states. Based on this, the main strategies for prevention the influence of world financial crisis.

Marking the certain progress reached by the Secretariat in the sphere of economic and project research, we suppose, that in time of world financial crisis, the Secretariat, together with the national research centres and economy and finance institutes, should strengthen the work on carrying out the research of the major issues of social and economic strategy for ECO region development.

**Distinguished participants,**

In conclusion I would like to underline, that ECO member states, having powerful potential and being in the centre of the Euroasian continent, is able to conclude the tasks in order to become an important part of world economic system in the presence of good will of all our countries and people.

Now doubt, that submitted for consideration Teheran Declaration will promote the development of national economies of each ECO member state. This Declaration is aimed at implementation of objective requirements of the Organization and the development of sub regional communications.

I would like to express the hope, that the results of today's meeting, due to our common efforts, will bring concrete results for the benefit of prosperity and progress of our people.

Let me once again thank the friendly people of Iran for hospitality and high level of the organization of ECO Summit. I would also like to congratulate all of you with the upcoming holiday of Norooz and to wish wealthy and prosperity.

**Thank you.**

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**Statement by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

**Your Excellency,  
Mr. Mahmood Ahmedenijad,  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran!**

**Excellencies!  
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to participate in the Tenth Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

I am privileged to be in the beautiful and historic city of Tehran, at the threshold of spring, a season of hope and renewal.

The spiritual bonds between the people of Pakistan and people of Iran run deep.

From the people of my country, I bring sentiments of affection and goodwill.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, may I express our profound gratitude to the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Summit and for their warm hospitality.

May I also felicitate Your Excellency on assuming the Chairmanship of this meeting.

Under your able guidance, I am confident that this Summit will mark another milestone in ECO's onward march.

I also take this opportunity to thank brotherly Azerbaijan for their able stewardship for our Organization since the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit in Baku.

**Excellencies!**

Since antiquity, our region has been the crossroads of world civilizations.

Our song and stories, our sages and sagas, our memories and mores germinate from interplay of ages.

We are the children of the same legacy. We are heirs to a profound and splendid heritage.

In the contemporary scheme of things, our region occupies a pivotal position.

Its vast expanse bridges the world; boasts unmatched wealth and is home to 380 million industrious people.

ECO represents our vast natural and human potential.

ECO is the essential link between our common past, our shared present and our desired common future.

It gives our collective identity a name, our plans a platform and our kinship, an agenda.

Sixteen years ago, we were joined in ECO's caravan of three, by our brethren from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Central Asia.

This journey of sixteen years has seen highs and lows. Yet the promise of Izmir has lived on.

ECO has emerged from its formative years, mature and strong.

Today, its flagship frameworks in Trade and Transport and the ECO Bank provide firm foundations for effective cooperation.

### **Excellencies!**

We have assembled at a moment of great challenge. The global recession is verging on depression.

Nations and individuals are equally anxious, as we all are affected.

It is imperative to turn this challenge into opportunity.

The economic downturn that we see today will not be reversed with conventional wisdom or cosmetic changes.

We must seek a profound transformation.

Such transformation must be premised on the undeniable truth that our economic security is indivisible, no matter where we live on the globe.  
That protectionism will not protect.

That stimulus packages are equally important for developing nations.

That more trade will build the prosperity that we all need.

That reform of international financial institutions will be essential.

While this malady has germinated elsewhere, Asia is in the best position to help a turnaround.

By ensuring deeper integration, and leveraging our economic complementarities, ECO can become the engine of growth for the world.

With ECO's vast resource base and positive fundamentals we can contribute significantly to a global economic upsurge.

May I suggest a few measures:

- a). ECO Central Banks Network should be activated to coordinate monetary policies.
- b). We must consider developing stimulus package for our region.
- c). Trade barriers must be lowered on priority
- d). Currency swap arrangements be put in place.
- e). Mega projects of regional significance, such as IP and TAP gas pipeline projects should be launched to stimulate demand, create jobs and generate momentum for growth and prosperity.

Pakistan welcomes Your Excellency's proposal to commission an expert panel to study the crisis.

Pakistan will make a substantial contribution to the study.

### **Excellencies!**

Terrorism knows neither faith, nor frontiers. It breeds on injustice, deprivation and dispossession.

Terrorism has roots across the region. Its root causes have to be addressed.

A regional approach has to take into account the interests, the capacity and the aspirations of sovereign States and their peoples.

And has to build solid stakes in lasting peace.

With Afghanistan, our democratic Government has made a promising beginning.

We are making steady progress in building a relationship of deeper trust and understanding.

We have revived the Jirga process and set the directions of future cooperation.

### **Mr. Chairman!**

The ECO family bears a special responsibility towards Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been at the forefront of ECO's efforts for the reconstruction of this brotherly country.



Let us give these efforts a strong impetus!

Pakistan will shortly be remitting an additional one million dollars to the ECO fund for Afghanistan.

**Mr. Chairman!**

Connectivity is the cornerstone of our common agenda. It has to be the highest of priorities.

The rich tapestry of this region's history and heritage was woven around the fabled Silk route.

And its future is premised on modern highways, physical and virtual, that create common space.

That encourage meld of money and markets, skill and knowledge, and bring resource to consumer, and capital to entrepreneur.

Pakistan lauds the Council of Ministers' decision to launch the Islamabad - Tehran - Istanbul train. We welcome also China's participation in ECO transport projects.

**Mr. Chairman!**

It is satisfying that ECO has set for itself ambitious goals in the ambit of trade. A welcome development is the ECO Trade Agreement, which took effect from April 2008.

The exchange of offer lists should now be quickly completed.

The schedules of tariff concessions should be meticulously implemented.

We should also consider the establishment of a Joint Investment Company to boost trade and investments across the region.

**Excellencies!**

While important strides are being made, ECO has yet to realize its potential to the fullest measure.

We have to fashion ECO to the specifications of our region and the demands of our times.

May I suggest a set of pertinent measures:

**First,** Our common prosperity depends on enhanced trade. We must move quickly towards the creation of an ECO free trade area.

It is essential to march forward with a sense of purpose, and specified timelines, to realize

this vision.

**Second,** Energy cooperation must be at the core of our collective endeavours.

ECO comprises both consumers and producers of energy.

An ECO Energy Ring, of pipelines and electricity grids, should be developed along side initiatives on new and renewable sources.

**Third,** Trans-regional development agenda should assume real substance.

With greater financial resources at its disposal, ECO must forge solid win-win partnerships.

**Fourth,** ECO must position itself for greater connectivity, within and without.

We should not only focus on building roads, railways, maritime and air links.

It is important to provide access to our landlocked member states.

We should also adopt integrated border management mechanisms.

Our land, air and sea corridors must link the economic powerhouses of the world.

**Fifth,** We must forge closer links with our adjoining regions, particularly SCO and SAARC.

### **Excellencies!**

Before concluding, may I acknowledge with appreciation Secretary General ECO's sterling contribution.

I also wish to announce that Pakistan will be honoured to host the next ECO Summit in 2010.

### **Mr. Chairman!**

We may be victims of circumstances, not of our own making, but we are masters of our own fate.

I leave you with the words of Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto that are as pertinent today, as when they were uttered fourteen years ago.

While addressing the Third ECO Summit in Islamabad in March 1995, she had said:

‘The task before us is not easy. But this is a remarkable time of transition and transformation, and the decisions we take now can effect the lives of our people, and the very futures of our nations. The times demand innovation, the times

demand boldness, the times demand courage.’

I thank you

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**Statement by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan**

*Excellencies,  
Dear friends,*

First of all, I would like to join to the words of gratitude to the Government and the friendly people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the fine organization of anniversary ECO Summit.

Taking an opportunity, would like to congratulate the distinguished President of Iran, doctor Ahmadinezhad in connection with his election as the Chairman of 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit at high level.

The huge spadework on organization of this forum witnesses the sincere interests of the leadership of Islamic Republic of Iran in further development and deepening of regional cooperation between our countries and I am assured, that it will bear an expected fruits.

Also, I wish to express conviction that the present Summit will play the important role in business of strengthening of the ECO role in region and becomes a platform for further development of fruitful cooperation in perspective directions.

It is especially actual in today's conditions, when the world worries the global crisis forcing each of us to search a ways of minimization of influence and prompt overcoming of its consequences.

From this point of view, a questions of creation of reliable transport-transit system, simplification of a trade procedure, encouragement of a frontier trade, effective utilization of water-power resources, creation of an integrated energy power grid, free movement of the capital, a labour and the goods, and also formation of the general economic space within the limits of the Organization as means of achievement of these purposes, acquire a special urgency.

We welcome the initiative of the distinguished President of Islamic Republic of Iran about creation of the Working Group on study of influence of crisis, which should work out a relevant anti- crisis recommendations.

Being the country which does not have an exit to seaports, Tajikistan carries out an active policy, directed on deepening of the integration processes, liberalization of the foreign trade and development of the mutually advantageous cooperation with the ECO countries.

The primary goals of our Government in the field of development of foreign economic relations are effective utilization of the tools of international trade and

strengthening of the transit potential of country in order of maintenance of stable economic growth and decrease of the level of poverty. For short period are made a significant steps on achievement of these purposes.

Today ECO member-states are the important trading partners of Tajikistan, which shares more than 35 % of all volume of trade turnover with an external world.

In 2007 Tajikistan has accepted a National strategy of development of the country till 2015, in which a regional cooperation, an integration into the global economy and development of the international trade are as a major components.

The given Strategy provides of simplification of the procedures of trade by reduction of the technical barriers, harmonization of the processes of customs administration and customs registration of the goods, development of a trading infrastructure by means of creation of the regional transport corridors, development of the transit trade, perfection of the mechanism of frontier trade, maintenance of a transparency and a coordination of procedures and a trade standards.

One of the most comprehensible ways of achievement of these purposes, in our opinion, is creation of the free economic areas which urged to become the important factors of development. At the moment in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan are created two free economic areas and on two more zones working out a standard-legal base. It is remarkable, that all these zones are near to the borders with ECO member - states. Many of Organization's member-states in this direction have a wide experience and we invite them to active sharing in realization of the given projects.

The major condition of fulfilment of the indicated Strategy is harmonization of the measures undertaken at national level with activity in a regional plane. In this respect ECO is urged to play a significant role. The actions scheduled by the Organization as a whole correspond to our submissions about increase of efficiency of the interstate economic cooperation, idea of giving to these relations more flexibility and adaptivity to modern conditions.

Tajikistan welcome a progress in fulfilment of a key ECO agreements, particularly of the Framework agreement on transit freight in region (TTFA) and the ECO Trade Agreement (ЭСОТА), and also the beginning of the work of ECO Bank of trade and development.

Trade development in many respects depends from the state of its infrastructure playing a key role in maintenance of multiplane interaction between our countries.

Thereupon, a special significance acquires the became effective of mentioned Framework Agreement on transit freight which urged considerably to facilitate moving of the goods and services in region. Tajikistan from its part makes certain efforts on development of this infrastructure. First of all, this is construction of bridges through the boundary river Pjandzh, modernization and connection of transport highways of our country and Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and also China.

We with some our partners upon ECO closely work over designing of construction of the new automobile and the trunk-railways, called to improve the transport message within the limits of the Organization. These measures also are to the full conformable with the intoned Decade of transport and communications (2007-2015).

Moreover, harmonisation of customs procedures is a important thing for development of the regional trade and we countenance the steps undertaken by ECO bodies in this direction. Particularly, it is a question of a packet of the relevant agreements which coordination either was finished, or is at a decisive stage. Acceleration of this process to serve to our common interests.

Taking into consideration the last events occurring in the world and in our region in particular, we support an active cooperation of member states on maintenance of food security, including by realization of the relevant Regional program.

One of the important directions of activity within the limits of the Organization is cooperation in the field of power. Tajikistan supports of the active interaction of ECO member states in the given sphere.

Here it is necessary to consider, that our region has an unique margins of various energy sources and their development will essentially enrich our cumulative potential.

Other priority sphere of our cooperation is tourism. The unique nature and climate, curative sources, enormous margins of fresh water and both qualitative and ecologically pure products of Tajikistan are extremely favorable for development of tourism and, in particular, mountain and improving tourism.

Today we actively work over creation of a relevant infrastructure, including with the participation of the external investors. Involving of our partners upon ECO in this process would be mutually advantageous. Thereupon we welcome establishment of the ECO Fund on assistance to tourism.

Achievement of these purposes and tasks requires perfection of activity as well as national structures, and ECO bodies. It is necessary to note, that the integration processes within the limits of the Organization meet with certain difficulties, in particular, many accepted documents and decisions on the basic directions of cooperation are not sufficiently realized yet.

In this regard, it is necessary for us to apply a maximum efforts for the stable economic cooperation on the basis of the general transparent standards, and also an intensification of ECO interaction with other international financial institutions and regional organizations on advancement and realization of programs and projects of Organization.

Tajikistan welcomes the efforts applied on increase of ECO efficiency. Simultaneously we believe, that in an contemporary epoch, in an epoch of an increasing role of the international organizations, has come a time not for cosmetic, and radical reforms of the Organization which should be aimed to further increase of efficiency from ECO activity, and also actualization of the Agenda of Organization.

We well realise importance and necessity of work in this direction and we offer, not waiting 2015 to authorize of the Council of Permanent Representative together with Organization's Secretary to begin the given work and to submit an offers to the next meeting of ECO Council of Ministerial.

We are complete of optimism concerning prospects of interaction within the limits of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and I express hope that our today's meeting will be an importance step on a way of adaptation of activity of our Organization to escalating requests of time and will contribute in increase of its real efficiency.

**Thank you.**

**The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit**  
**(Tehran, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)**  
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**Statement by the President of the Republic of Turkey**

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to express my pleasure to be together with you in the capital of our friendly and brotherly neighbor Iran, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization. I extend my congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Mahmood Ahmadi Nejad, for his election to the Chairmanship of this important meeting and believe that under his guidance our meeting will be successful and productive.

I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Secretary General Khurshid Anwar for his valuable work and contribution during his tenure to institutionalize the ECO activities and to develop our cooperation in various fields, particularly trade and transportation.

Mr. Chairman,

As a matter of fact, our meeting is being convened at a time which coincides with an ongoing global economic crisis that severely affected all the world and this gives special importance to our meeting.

While the global economic crisis has caused recession in the developed countries and slowed down the growth in the developing world, the ECO countries have also been affected.

However, I believe that the ECO member countries which occupy a strategic region between the East and the West, have the potential to turn the crisis into opportunities with the help of their rich natural resources and educated human resources, as well as with their cooperation in economic and commercial areas within the framework of the ECO.

It is possible to reduce the effects of the crisis to the minimum, by furthering cooperation between our countries in the economic fields, particularly in commerce, industry, banking, insurance and transportation and by harmonizing our economic policies.

In this context, I think that, the meeting we will have in the retreat session on the impact of the global crisis to our region, will be beneficial and productive.



Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Participants,

The Eurasian dimension occupies an important place in Turkish foreign policy. We attach great importance to furthering our relations and cooperation with the Asian countries with which we have historical and cultural ties, so as to provide peace, stability and prosperity to the Eurasian geography. In this context we also work to link Europe and Asia through energy corridors and land routes and for the creation of new dynamics for regional cooperation.

We consider that the promotion of economic cooperation and development needs to be based on an institutionalized dialogue. In that respect, we attach great importance to the role that ECO plays in our region.

Therefore I am delighted to see that since the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit held in Baku in 2006, we have taken historical and valuable steps towards developing an institutionalized economic cooperation among member countries.

It is obvious that we need to lower the custom tariffs between member countries in order to liberalize trade in our area to stimulate regional economic cooperation. In this context, I welcome the finalization of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) as an important milestone in the path towards regional economic integration.

I consider the official inauguration of the ECO Trade and Development Bank in Istanbul, as another important achievement that will complement the regional integration process among member countries. Furthermore, reaching the final stage of our work for the ECO Reinsurance Company is another important achievement of the recent years.

Considering that the organization encompasses a majority of land-locked states, the importance of the development of intra-regional transportation and communication is obvious. I believe that full implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement will facilitate the development of trade and investment corridors in the region.

An increase in regional trade and private sector initiatives between ECO States will contribute to welfare and stability in the entire region. In this context, the work that has been initiated by the ECO Trade and Industry Chamber (ECO-TIC) which is being headed by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey since November 2007, is progressing with concrete steps. We are also pleased by the creation of the ECO -TIC Women Entrepreneurs Council.

ECO-TIC, promotes multilateral trade among ECO states and facilitates the development of the private sector in the ECO area and contributes to the formation of policy in the economic field.

In this framework, I would like to underline the importance of full implementation of all those valuable achievements that I have mentioned. I call upon the member countries to timely take the required measures to that end.

I consider that the field of energy constitutes another high priority area that promises huge potential. Bearing in mind the advantages of our countries' energy resources and our energy transport routes to the relevant markets, we observe that our cooperation in this field is far from reflecting the potential. Besides that, it is observed that member countries take important steps in bilateral energy cooperation. We have to complement bilateral cooperation between member states with multilateral cooperation under the framework of the ECO.

Mr. Chairman,

In today's globalized world, it is not possible to contain the political and economic problems within national borders. In this framework, it is getting more difficult for countries to provide peace and prosperity to their citizens alone, without developing international cooperation. This new global environment increases the importance of regional organizations.

On the other hand, the political and humanitarian problems that exist due to the occupation of Krabakh and Palestine being first AND foremost, the existence of problems such as terror, diffusion of weapons of mass destruction, narcotics, human trafficking prevent regional cooperation efforts from fully realizing their potential contributions and complicate achieving regional and world peace.

ECO is considered as a valuable instrument for regional economic development. With this belief, I would like to reiterate that my country is fully committed to the principles and targets envisioned by the ECO and will continue, as in the past, its constructive cooperation and partnership with the member countries, as well as with the ECO Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to reiterate our thanks to You, to all the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the ECO Secretariat officials for the warm hospitality extended to me and to my delegation, as well as for all their efforts exerted for the success of the Summit.

Thank you.

**The 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit**  
**(Tehran, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009)**  
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**Statement by the Speaker of Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Distinguished Chairman,

The Esteemed Presidents and Prime-Ministers of ECO member states,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me warmly welcome Heads of official delegations of the Economic Cooperation Organization member states and to express confidence that the Summit will promote to further development of regional cooperation between our countries.

I would like to use this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and personally to His Excellency President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad for the warm hospitality and high level of organization of the meeting.

Uzbekistan strongly supports the consecutive development of regional cooperation and economic prosperity on the basis of mutual cooperation and, taking into account the purposes and principles of ECO, and undertakes necessary steps in the framework of the Organization.

Thereupon we consider this meeting as an additional possibility to discuss a problem of interaction of the countries of our region and, first of all, the issues of regional integration.

Distinguished participants,

Thus, in our opinion, the most actual problems for our countries are the issues of trade, transport and energy communications development.

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports ECO efforts, directed to the expansion of regional cooperation by means of settlement of transport bottlenecks.

The development of transit transport potential, the perspective of establishment the modern network of communications, will create new possibilities for transportation of the goods to the world markets and will promote economic growth of the region.

In our opinion, the transport infrastructure of the region should be developed subject to the interests of land locked member states.

As you know our country is one of the initiators of the largest regional project – the construction of Transafghan transport corridor lying through the territories of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran and further to seaports of Persian Gulf.

At the present time between Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and the Asian development bank the issue of realization of the project of railway's construction Termez — Hairaton — Mazar-i-Sharif is actively discussing by being central part of the Transafghani transport corridor.

Realization of the given project has a huge significance for Afghanistan as the prospect of construction of the railway to Herat will create possibility for connection with transport communications of Iran in the future.

One of the important directions of cooperation within the limits of the ECO is development of the field of power. Uzbekistan having a significant margin of gas, gives great value to issues of its transportation, definition of optimum routes of the future regional pipelines.

Our country intends annually to increase a gas production at the expense of an intensification acting and development of new deposits.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has undertaken a practical steps in business of increase a volumes of the submitted electric power to Afghanistan. As a result of reconstruction and improvement of an acting transmission facilities and substations for today to Afghanistan moves the electric power at a rate of 70 mGb., the certain part which ensures with an electricity capital of country — the city of Kabul.

Not less important area of cooperation within the limits of the ECO in our opinion is the telecommunication branch, in particular development of fiber communication. More effective utilization of possibilities in the given sphere into interests of the ECO member states will allow considerably to raise a quality of intraregional communication.

Taking an opportunity would like to stay on problems which are capable to make a negative impact on the positive processes occurring on space of the ECO member states.

There is no necessity to say that with allowance of the growing integration economy of our countries in financial and economic communications the world crisis and its consequences have a negative effect on the Organization's member states.

The Global financial crisis in the system of the largest world banks was the reason of slump in production, slashing reduction of the economic growth rate in many countries, with all negative consequences following from here.

The burst financial crisis has demonstrated a serious blanks and necessity of cardinal reforming of the acting world financially-bank system.

The scale crisis processes occurring now in the world financially-bank system can lead to an economic recession, roll-over of volumes of the investment activity and international trade, and also to the serious social losses in many countries of the world.

In our opinion, the prompt exit from the world financial crisis and softening of its consequences in many respects depends on efficiency and coordination of an accepted measures within the limits of the separate states and the world community as a whole.

The Republic of Uzbekistan in second half of 2008 has started working out of the Anti-recessionary program of measures with allowance of the concrete conditions and a national economy state.

We are convinced, that serial realization of the given measures will allow to create the reliable buffer protecting us from the negative effects of crises and other threats and their effect on a national economy.

Distinguished participants,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to pay your attention to the actual issues for all the countries of the region, that is the utilization of water resources and construction of hydropower stations on transboundary rivers.

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports the rational utilization hydropower resources of Central Asia.

In this regard, the position of Uzbekistan concerning the utilization of transboundary rivers is clear and accurate. Uzbekistan is not against the construction of hydro stations/ On the opposite we are ready to take part in such projects if they coincide with the interests of the states and nations, located in this region/

For implementation of these projects it is necessary to carry out an impartial international expertise, guarantees not to limit water inflow to the downstream rivers and not to worse ecological situation in the region.

Distinguished Heads of delegations,

In our opinion, at the present stage the main objectives of ECO are connected with the creation of favorable possibilities for all-round development of our countries. It is achievable only by means of optimum control of the processes of regional integration and development of cooperation with the international organizations.

Uzbekistan considers it necessary to continue the implementation of reforms for the improvement of ECO efficiency which will help our region to become an important centre of economic activities.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the delegation of Uzbekistan, I express deep gratitude to ECO Secretary General Mr. Hurshid Anwar for effective work and efforts towards the development and strengthening of cooperation within the framework of our Organization.

Declaring the support of the Teheran Declaration, Uzbekistan hopes, that it will create favorable possibilities for the economic development of our countries, and will put into practice the items Declaration within the current states' legislation.

In conclusion, let me once again thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to assure the participants of the Summit, that Uzbekistan will continue the implementation of activities according to ECO goals and objectives problems, stipulated in Izmir Treaty.

Thank you.