

The 4th Summit

Report

(Ashgabat, 14-15 May, 1996)

The Fourth Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) was held at Ashgabat on 14 May, 1996.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Heider Aliev, President of the Azerbaijan Republic, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Mr. Askar Akaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, His Excellency Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmonov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Mr. Suleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan and His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, Secretary General of ECO. The list of participants is at **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1

Inaugural Ceremony

The meeting commenced with the playing of the National Anthem of Turkmenistan. H.E. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the current Chairman of the ECO Summit Meeting, opened the Fourth ECO Summit Meeting.

H.E. Mr. Suleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, proposed the name of H.E. Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan to be Chairman of the Meeting. The proposal was seconded by H.E. Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thereupon H.E. Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting.

H.E. Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan presented his Inaugural Address, the text of which is placed at **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 2

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda of the Fourth ECO Summit Meeting as adopted is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 3

Statements by the Heads of State/Government

The Heads of delegations made statements. The texts of their statements are placed at **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4

Messages of the UN Secretary General and OIC Secretary General

H.E. Mr. Adrianus Mooy, Executive Secretary of the UN ESCAP read out the message of the UN Secretary General. H.E. Mr. Ousman Nassiru Othman, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC read out the message of the Secretary General of OIC. The two messages are at **Annex V**.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item 5

Review of ECO Activities

H.E. Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, Secretary General of ECO presented a Report on the activities of the Organisation since the last ECO Summit Meeting at Islamabad. The text of the Report of the Secretary General is placed at **Annex VI**. The meeting thanked the Secretary General for his Report and noting that he was completing his tenure in August, 1996, paid him a special tribute for the excellent work that he had done as the head of ECO during the last four years.

H.E. Mr. Boris O. Shikmuradov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, in his capacity as the current Chairman of the ECO Council of Ministers, presented a Report to the Summit Meeting, the text of which is at **Annex VII**. The meeting thanked Mr. Shikmuradov for his Report and expressed satisfaction that the Council of Ministers had agreed upon new initiatives towards strengthening the process of cooperative programmes and activities. The Meeting particularly noted with satisfaction the adoption of a new framework of ECO's future organizational set-up and functional methodology on the basis of the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group.

Agenda Item 7

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The Heads of State/Government accepted with thanks the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the fifth ECO Summit Meeting in Kazakhstan in the first half of 1998.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Item 8

Consideration and Adoption of the Joint Communiqué

With slight amendments proposed by Uzbekistan in the draft recommended by the Council of Ministers, the Fourth ECO Summit Meeting adopted the Ashgabat Declaration, the text of which is placed at **Annex VIII**.

Signing Ceremonies

The signing of the following documents was witnessed by the Fourth ECO Summit Meeting:

- i. Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) relating to the Rights, Privileges and Immunities of the ECC Secretariat signed by H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, Secretary General of ECO.
- ii. Memorandum of Understanding on Reorganization and Restructuring of ECO signed by the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of ECO.

Agenda Item 9

Vote of Thanks and Closing Address by the Chairman of the Fourth ECO Summit Meeting

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks offered by H.E. Mr. Heider Aliev, President of the Azerbaijan Republic, on behalf of all participating delegations.

H.E. Mr. Saparmurat Niyazov, President of Turkmenistan, as Chairman of the Meeting, declared the Meeting closed.

Joint Press Conference

After the Summit Meeting the participating leaders jointly addressed a Press Conference.