

Islamabad Joint Communiqué

The Third Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization was held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 14-15 March, 1995. The meeting presided over by Her Excellency Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was attended by:

His Excellency Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan .
His Excellency Mr. Hassan Hassanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan .
His Excellency Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran .
His Excellency Mr. Nigmatjan Isingarin, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan .
His Excellency Mr. Askar Akaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic .
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. Saidmuhtar Saidkasimov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan .

The Heads of State/Government held, in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere indepth exchange of views on important regional and global issues of common interest with a view to promoting the socio-economic well-being of the peoples of the ECO region. In this context, the Heads of State/Government:

BEARING in mind the aims and objectives of ECO as laid down in its basic charter, the Treaty of Izmir;

CONSIDERING the deep-rooted historic and cultural affinities binding the peoples of the ECO Member States;

CONSCIOUS of the changes taking place around the world having a bearing on the ECO region;

REAFFIRMING their resolve to promote the welfare of the peoples of the Member States through enhanced cooperation within the framework of ECO;

RECALLING the Tehran Communiqué of the First ECO Summit Meeting held in February 1992 and the Joint Communiqué of the Second ECO Summit Meeting held in Istanbul in July 1993.

NOTING the Report of the Secretary General of ECO on the activities of the Organization since the last Summit Meeting at Istanbul:

REAFFIRMED their commitment to the goals and objectives of ECO envisaging multidimensional regional cooperation for the socio-economic well-being of the ECO Member States;

ENDORSED the decisions taken at the Fourth Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers held in Tehran in January 1994 and the Fifth Meeting of the COM held in Ashgabat in January 1995 which led to the establishment at the Summit Meeting, of several ECO institutions and regional arrangements binding the ECO Member States in a spirit of mutual benefit;

EMPHASIZED the need to revitalize ECO and welcomed in this context the establishment of a Group of Eminent Persons on enhancing the Effectiveness of ECO and all its Organs and directed the Group to carry out its mandate expeditiously;

WELCOMED the decision to observe the Decade of Transport and Communications in the ECO region (1995-2004) and directed that expeditious action be taken on various proposals and plans by relevant ECO organs for the execution of projects in these sectors.

UNDERLINED further the need to focus attention on other priority areas of Trade, Investment

and Energy with a view to promoting greater economic cooperation amongst the ECO Member States;

DIRECTED that besides evaluating the benefits realized from the Protocol on Preferential Tariffs and examining the possibility of expanding its scope and extent, the implications of the recently concluded Uruguay Round for the ECO region be assessed by Regional Planning Council (RPC) and the Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (CECC);

AGREED that in order to be acquainted with the various products of Member States, exhibitions be held regularly on a rotational and voluntary basis. In this context they welcomed the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold such an exhibition and agreed to examine the possibility of institutionalizing this practice in the light of the experience of this exhibition;

RECALLED their decision at the Istanbul Summit to establish free trade zones in the ECO region in order to promote intra-regional and inter-regional trade and directed that necessary follow up measures be taken in this regard;

URGED the Member Governments to ensure speedy preparation and implementation of projects in regional priority areas envisaged in the Quetta Plan of Action, Istanbul Declaration and the Almaty Outline Plan by including them in their respective national plans and/or through bilateral and regional arrangements;

WELCOMED the establishment of ECO Supreme Audit Institution (ECOSAI);

AGREED with the need for greater participation of the private sector in regional economic development and extended full support to the on-going process of privatization in the ECO member countries;

CALLED for appropriate strategies to enable adoption of such industrial and commercial policies that would take due account of the environmental concerns of the ECO region;

RECOGNIZED that drug abuse constitutes a serious menace to the region as well as the world at large, welcomed the adoption of the ECO Plan on Drug Control, directed that the Plan be implemented expeditiously and asked the Secretary General to mobilize international assistance to promote effective regional cooperation in the field of narcotics abuse control;

ENDORSED the cooperative arrangements entered into by ECO with major Regional and International Organizations and Institutions within and outside the U.N. system;

APPRECIATED the efforts of the Secretary General in carrying forward the process of regional cooperation;

CONCURRED with the recommendation that the annual Summit Meetings be held concurrently with the annual Meetings of the ECO Council of Ministers and welcomed the generous offer of Turkmenistan to host the Fourth ECO Summit Meeting and the Sixth Annual Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers in Ashgabat on mutually convenient dates in early 1996;

WITNESSED the formal signing/initialling of the following instruments during the Summit Meeting;

- i. ECO Transit Trade Agreement;
- ii. Agreement on the Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of ECO

- countries;
- iii.** Agreement for the establishment of ECO Shipping Company and Articles of Association;
 - iv.** Agreement for the establishment of ECO Air and Articles of Association;
 - v.** Articles of Agreement of the ECO Trade & Development Bank;
 - vi.** MOU on ECO Reinsurance Company;
 - vii.** Charter of the ECO Cultural Institute;
 - viii.** Charter of the ECO Science Foundation;
 - ix.** MOU for Cooperation between ECO & UNDP; and
 - x.** MOU for Cooperation between ECO & UNDCP.

The Participating Heads of State/Government expressed their gratitude and profound appreciation to the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government and the people of Pakistan for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to them during their stay in Pakistan and for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit Meeting.

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