

Annex-II

*Honourable Guests
Distinguished Heads of States and Governments
Esteemed Heads of Participating Delegations
Excellencies*

I am extremely pleased to welcome our dear and honourable guests to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In reality, you are not simply regarded as guests. This gathering is actually an assemblage of the members of a family.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased to host the first ECO Summit Conference in Tehran, a city that is the joining link of our cooperation.

At a time when regional and international cooperation is emerging as a necessity, the Economic Cooperation Organization, as a clear example of our will to cooperate in this sensitive region of the world, has become more important than ever. In 1984, the two neighbouring countries of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey reacted positively to the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the revival of Economic Cooperation Organization in a new shape. Owing to the existing good will among the member-states and collective cooperation during the past seven years, most of the obstacles on the way of the activities of ECO were removed. Now, the organization, with its new and independent approach, aims at the development and progress of the member countries.

Following the amendment of the Izmir Treaty, ECO has been placed within a favourable and logical framework. I am confident that this meeting, held at such a level for the first time in Tehran, will prepare practical and extensive groundworks in various areas of economic, trade, agricultural, industrial, scientific, cultural, educational, technical, transportation, and communication cooperation.

It would not be out of context to point out the major global changes that are somehow related to the countries in our region as well as to our Organization.

The collapse of Communism and upheavals besetting the political, economic, and social infrastructures of most countries with centralized economies, the end of the bipolar era, developments in international relations and the independence of the former Soviet Union's Republics, including the Muslim ones rank among the momentous global changes bringing the world face to face with a number of redoubtable and significant developments.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a positive assessment of these developments, which provide better conditions for the progress and transcendence of millions of people in the human community. However, we believe that humanitarian principles, particularly justice and equality for all nations must form the basis of the new international relations.

Excellencies,

Once again, I congratulate the newly independent Muslim Republics of Central Asia, as

the new members of the family, for joining this organisation. I trust that ECO's expansion will further strengthen and upgrade this organisation's capabilities. We are ready to receive the new members to the existing group of ECO countries.

I am confident that their Excellencies Mr. Ozal and Mr. Nawaz Sharif agree with me on this point.

Excellencies,

In today's world, we are witness to the fact that different economic organizations are working to best draw upon the potentials of member countries. ASEAN in Southeast Asia, SAARC in the Sub-Continent, Cooperation Council in the Persian Gulf, the European Economic Community, OPEC and other organizations in Africa and Latin America are cases in point.

Commensurate with political developments in international relations, we are also witnessing extensive changes in the international economic order. In this respect, due attention must be paid by the members of ECO to the constructive and active role that can be played by our Organisation in bringing about a balanced economic order and bridging the gap between the North and the South.

Now, the greater ECO is encountering an important historic challenge. Our success at this sensitive juncture depends on the serious and practical efforts of all member countries. In our part, the Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no effort to realize such an important goal. We firmly believe that the Heads of all member-countries share the same solid determination to realize this valuable objective.

Fortunately, during the past two years we were witness to the satisfactory activities of the different departments of the Organisation as well as the ECO Secretariat. The seven committees and meetings of the Deputies, the Planning Council, and the High Council have undertaken considerable activities according to their prescribed programme. Here, I wish to thank the foreign ministers of the three countries and the ECO Secretary General, who made great efforts in approving all plans envisaged in the Organisation.

Now, it is the time to act. We should muster our efforts and help materialize within the specified period of all approved plans in the context of ECO.

Excellencies,

Viable stability and peace are of great importance to our strategic and sensitive region. This important goal can only be achieved through the extensive collaboration of all regional countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the Afghan issue, after years of hardship incurred by the people of this Islamic country, will be settled as soon as possible. In this regard, we will do everything in our ability, notably cooperation with the United Nations, to find a solution to this crisis.

Today, the Palestinian issue continues to be a deep wound in the hearts of the world's

Muslim Ummah. (The I.R. of Iran hopes) that the valiant and courageous Palestinian people will regain their rights, and return to their homeland. We believe that the only way for the realization of this sacred goal is the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people. We reiterate our serious support for all Muslims living throughout the world particularly Muslim Minorities. The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as weapons of mass destruction in the arsenals of great powers, that left behind bitter experiences for mankind, must be completely destroyed, thus paving the way for the establishment of a permanent peace in the world.

Excellencies,

At the end, I would like to add a few more words about the Economic Cooperation Organisation. In view of the important fact that ECO must mobilize all its resources and capabilities to implement the plans, I ask the Secretariat to seriously implement the plans, I also call on the member states to form a follow up committee for the fulfillment of this important goal.

In conclusion, it is my earnest desire that the next Summit Meeting will be held with many of our plans implemented successfully by then, and that the Organisation will be able to take other important steps such as the establishment of a common market in the interest of the member countries.

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