



Report of the 22nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)

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28th February, 2017
Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Report of 22nd COM

The 22nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 28th February 2017. The Meeting was attended by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The delegations of the ECO Observers, including Turkish Cypriot State, Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and Energy Charter Conference, the Heads/Representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies and UNESCAP also attended the Meeting. The ECO Secretariat delegation, led by the Secretary General participated in the Meeting. *The list of participants is attached as Annex-I.*

2. The Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 26-27 February 2017. In his brief inaugural remarks during the SOM, the ECO Secretary General, Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca, profoundly thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for making the excellent arrangements for the 22nd COM meeting and 13th ECO Summit in the beautiful city of Islamabad. He also welcomed and appreciated the delegates from Member States and ECO institutions for attending the Meeting. He gave a brief inaugural statement including on preparatory process for 22nd COM and 13th Summit and activities of ECO. He expressed that the SOM will make constructive contribution to the deliberations, focusing on important agendas; ECOTA, ECO scale of Assessments and Reforms, ECO Vision 2025 and Islamabad Declaration for 13th ECO Summit.

3. After taking over the Chairmanship of the SOM, Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Foreign Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, delivered the opening statement. He welcomed the delegates from ECO Member States to Islamic Republic of Pakistan and wished them a pleasant stay in Islamabad. Acknowledging the valuable contributions by the ECO Member States, he underlined Pakistan's strong support to ECO's objectives in the areas of regional free trade, connectivity and energy market and stressed that economic integration and connectivity are the main pillars to galvanize economic growth, create more jobs, expand trade in the ECO Region. The Foreign Secretary also underscored strong need for creation of a world class logistics infrastructure within the ECO Region for speedy movement of goods and people at a reduced cost that stimulate investment and growth and highlighted the potential of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a major initiative, which would serve for the socio-economic development in the ECO Region. He called for removal of trade barriers and eventual establishment of free trade regime in the region through prompt operationalization of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA). He reassured Government of Pakistan's support for the peace and economic development in Afghanistan and hoped that ECO Vision 2025 will define the roadmap for the ECO activities and agendas.

4. The SOM held detailed deliberations on the agendas of the COM and Summit and prepared report for the COM.

Agenda Item No.1

Inauguration/Opening

5. The Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting was inaugurated with recitation of the Holy Qur'an.

6. His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the outgoing Chairman of Council of Ministers (COM), called the Meeting in order and delivered brief welcoming remarks highlighting the steps taken during Iran's Chairmanship to strengthen ECO in order to meet the new regional and global challenges. H.E Mr. Mohammad Javed Zarif underlined the enhanced ECO's activities in various fields of cooperation in order to meet the new regional and global challenges. He touched upon reforms in the ECO Secretariat and hoped that the new ECO Vision would pave the way for achieving ECO's goals and programmes in the coming decade. He called for broadening the regional cooperation among the ECO Member States for the socio-economic development and prosperity in the ECO Region, as well as further enhancing the cultural affinities. He assured his Government's full support to the new Chair of COM from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-II.*

7. His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif invited His Excellency Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca, ECO Secretary General for his welcoming statement.

8. His Excellency Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca, the Secretary General of ECO in his statement welcomed the distinguished participants and expressed his profound gratitude and appreciated the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the landmark Meetings of 22nd COM and 13th ECO Summit in Islamabad and providing warm hospitality to all delegations. He felicitated H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the new Chairman of the Council of the Ministers (COM) and expressed the hope that under his astute Chairmanship, the Organization would pursue the tangible goals and achieve overarching aims and objectives through enhanced regional cooperation. He also extended his sincere thanks to the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, for his consistent support and guidance as Chairman of the 21st COM.

9. ECO Secretary General briefed the Meeting about important activities of the Organization and noted that after adoption of the ECO Vision 2025, the activities of the Organization will further be enhanced and prioritized focusing on Trade, Transport and Connectivity, Energy, Tourism, Economic Growth and Productivity and Social Welfare and Environment in line with the UN Global Development Agenda 2030. He called upon the Member States to expedite signing, ratification and implementation of the agreements within the ECO's framework, including ECOTA, ECO-TDB, ECO Culture Institute, ECO Science Foundation, ECO Educational Institute and other ECO entities. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-III.*

Agenda Item No.2

Election of the Chairman

10. As per Rule 23 of the ECO Rules of Procedure, H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was unanimously elected as new Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

11. After national anthem of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the new Chairman of the COM, H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, thanked the Members of the Council for reposing confidence in him and outlined his vision for further enhancing economic cooperation in the region. He reiterated that Pakistan has always attached great importance to ECO and will remain an active partner for actualization of the ECO's agenda and support projects of, among others, enhanced trade and investment opportunities, regional connectivity and infrastructure development, regional energy markets, oil and gas pipelines, and trans-regional socio-economic development projects, which will act as catalyst for transforming ECO into a prosperous trading bloc that stimulates and promotes industrial growth, reduces and eventually eliminates tariff and non-tariff barriers, promotes free trade through operationalization of ECOTA within the region and becomes an agent of global peace, stability and prosperity.

12. He further underscored the need for taking collective and coherent steps to give priority to certain areas of cooperation of the Organization for effective implementation of ECO Vision 2025 to make the Organization more effective, dynamic and vibrant. A copy of the statement is attached as *Annex-IV*.

Agenda Item No.3

Adoption of the Agenda

13. The Council adopted the following agenda of its meeting, as proposed by the Senior Officials Meeting (*Islamabad, 26-27 February 2017*).

AGENDA

1. *Inauguration*
 - *Welcome Statement by Chairman of the 21st COM*
 - *Statement of the ECO Secretary General*
2. *Election of the Chairman*
3. *Adoption of the Agenda*
4. *Reciprocal Observership between ECO Secretariat and Energy Charter Conference*
5. *Treaty Event*
6. *Statements by:*
 - *Ministers/Heads of Delegations*
 - *ECO Observers*
 - *Heads of Regional and International Organizations*
 - *Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions*
 - a. *ECO Cultural Institute (ECO-ECI)*
 - b. *ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF)*
 - c. *ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB)*
7. *Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General*
 - *Follow-up to the decisions of 21st COM and 12th Summit Meetings*
 - *Agreements between ECO Member States*
 - *Implementation of ECO Projects/Programs*
 - *Financial Matters*
 - *ECO Secretariat's relations with International Agencies*
 - *ECO Regional/ Affiliated Institutions*
8. *ECO Vision 2025*
9. *New Scale of Assessments & ECO Reforms and Amendments in ECO Legal Instruments*
10. *Implementation of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)*

11. *Review and approval of ECO activities:*
 - *The Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings (213-217)*
 - *The ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2017*
 - *Report of the 27th RPC Meetings:*
 - *Annual Calendar of Events for 2017*
 - *Work Program for 2017*
 - *Appointments/Extensions*
12. *Annual Reports of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/ Affiliated Bodies:*
 - i. *ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)*
 - ii. *ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI)*
 - iii. *ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)*
 - **Ratification of ECOSF**
 - iv. *ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB)*
 - **Increasing effectiveness of ECO-TDB**
 - v. *ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)*
 - vi. *ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI)*
 - vii. *ECO College of Insurance*
 - viii. *ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST)*
 - ix. *ECO Postal College*
 - **Availing training courses offered at Postal College**
 - x. *ECO Regional Center for Risk Management for Natural Disasters (ECORCRM)*
 - **Strengthening of Disaster Risk Management Regime in ECO Member States**
 - xi. *ECO Regional Coordination Centre for the Implementation of the Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RCC)*
 - xii. *ECO Seed Association (ECOSA)*
13. *ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/ Affiliated Bodies under the process of Establishment*
 - i. *ECO Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO)*
 - ii. *ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture*
 - iii. *ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC)*
 - iv. *Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Countries (PAECO)*
 - v. *ECO Police (ECOPOL)*
 - vi. *ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM)*
 - vii. *ECO Reinsurance Company*
 - viii. *ECO Research Centre (ERC)*
 - ix. *ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)*
14. *Preparation for the 13th Summit:*
 - *Draft Agenda*
 - *Draft Islamabad Declaration 2017*
 - *ECO Awards 2017*
15. *Any other business*
16. *Date and venue of the next meeting*
17. *Adoption of Report of the 22nd COM Meeting*
18. *Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting*

Agenda Item No.4

Reciprocal Observership between ECO and Energy Charter Conference

14. The Council approved the reciprocal observership status between ECO and Energy Charter Conference.

Agenda Item No.5

Treaty Event

15. Under this agenda item, no Treaty Event took place.

Agenda Item No.6

Statements by:

- Ministers/Heads of Delegation

16. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States made their statements, elaborating their countries' policies, action plans/programmes and activities for the Organization and overall regional cooperation in the framework of ECO. *Copies of their statements made available to the Secretariat are attached as Annex-V.*

- Statement by the Observers

17. The Minister of Economy and Energy of the Turkish Cypriot State, the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States and the Representative of Energy Charter Conference delivered their statements as Observers. *Copies of their statements are attached as Annex-VI.*

- Statements by the Heads of Regional and International Organizations

18. The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), invited in the COM Meeting, also delivered the statement. *Copy of Statement is attached as Annex-VII.*

- Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions

19. The Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions delivered short statements, presenting overview of their activities undertaken and future plans. These included, (i) ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), (ii) ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and (iii) ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB). *Copies of their statements are attached as Annex-VIII.*

Agenda Item No.7

Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General

20. The Council appreciated the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of ECO since the last 21st COM Meeting held in November 2013 in Tehran and the Secretary General's Report presented review of implementation of ongoing ECO Projects, Programmes and activities, financial matters, status of agreements amongst ECO Member States, ECO's relations with regional and international organizations, and update on ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies.

- I) Follow-up on 21st COM decisions

21. The Council reviewed the progress made since the 21st COM and urged the Member States, to continue to implement the decisions of the 21st COM, in collaboration with ECO Secretariat and relevant authorities of the Member countries.

II) Agreements between ECO Member States

22. The Council considered the Status Report on implementation of the Agreements concluded by the Member States and invited those Member States who have not yet done so to sign/ratify these Agreements. The Council also urged the Member States to ensure smooth implementation of those agreements which have already come into force.

III) Implementation of ECO Projects and Programmes

23. The Council reviewed and considered the ECO projects and programmes included in the Secretary General's Report and urged the Secretariat to speed up implementation process of the projects.

IV) Financial Matters

24. The Council took note of the arrears and urged the concerned Member States to ensure its resolution and urged the Member States, Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Kazakhstan, to fulfill their obligations and contribute their outstanding budgetary shares to the Secretariat. The Council also asked the Member States to ensure timely remitting of their contributions.

25. Kazakhstan informed the Council that its contribution to budget 2017 will be limited up to US \$ 220,000/-.

26. The Member States took note with concern of Kazakhstan's unilateral decision and urged to review its position.

V) ECO's relations with Regional and International Agencies

27. The Council appreciated the efforts made by ECO in strengthening its cooperative relations with regional and international organizations. The Council urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to further strengthen its external relations in light of the recommendations of the sectoral Meetings for enhancement of ECO external relations in concerned areas of cooperation for the visibility of the Organization.

Agenda Item No.8

ECO Vision 2025

28. The Council adopted the "ECO Vision 2025" along with "Implementation Framework for ECO Vision 2025" as the Basic Reference Document for the Organization, which was reviewed and finalized by the Senior Officials Meeting held on 26-27 February 2017. The Council urged the Member States to actively pursue the Implementation Framework of the ECO Vision 2025 for effective implementation of the goals envisioned in the document for enhanced regional cooperation. *Text of adopted ECO Vision 2025 and Implementation Framework for ECO Vision 2025 are attached as **Annex-IX**.*

29. The Council welcoming the intention to create the ECO Vision Fund called upon the Member States to extend voluntary contributions for the Fund in order to implement the key projects of the Organization under the new ECO Vision and asked the Secretariat to make efforts for securing 'International Funding'. The Council directed the CPR to finalize modalities for the fund at the earliest.

30. The Kyrgyz Republic made observation that ECO Vision 2025 and its Implementation Framework would be implemented taking into account national interests and commitments within other regional and international integration entities.

Agenda Item No.9

New Scale of Assessments & ECO Reforms and Amendments in ECO Legal Instruments

31. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the proposals for the 'New Scale of Assessments' and "ECO Reforms" and directed the CPR to finalize these issues at the earliest, preferably within four months. The Council urged the Member States to resolve the issue of Scale of Assessments as soon as possible in order to keep the Secretariat financially viable.

Agenda Item No.10

Implementation of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)

32. The Secretariat briefed the Meeting of the current state of implementation of the ECOTA, as well as signing/ratification of the agreement and its annexes.

33. The Council, after hearing the comments of all the Member States, which remained as before, decided to urge the CPR and the Secretariat to keep up the efforts to operationalize the 'ECOTA'.

34. The Council called upon Iran to submit lists so that the implementation process of the ECOTA could be started expeditiously. The Council also requested Tajikistan to submit the remaining lists and also ratify the Annexes to the Agreement at the earliest, as without the operationaliation of ECOTA the region cannot move forward economically.

35. The Council invited the remaining Member States to accede to ECOTA to pave the way for economic integration of the region, as envisaged in the 'Treaty of Izmir'.

Agenda Item No.11

Review and Approval of ECO Activities

- **Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings**

36. The Council adopted the Reports of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) 213th to 217th.

37. The Kyrgyz Republic Delegation recorded its reservation on Paras 44 and 45 of the agenda items 7 and 8 of the Report of 214th CPR Meeting, Paras 19 and 20 of the agenda item No 5 of Report of the 215th CPR Meeting, paras 57 and 59 of the agenda item 9 of Report of the 217th CPR Meeting as well as the para 4 of the Chapter "F" of the Report of ECO Secretary General to the 22nd ECO COM where the Turkish Cypriot Republic has been mentioned.

- **ECO Secretariat's Budget for the Year 2017**

38. The Council held deliberations on the Secretariat Budget for the year 2017 and approved it as endorsed by 217th CPR Meeting (17th January 2017).

- **Report of the 27th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

- Annual Calendar of Events 2017
- Work Programme 2017

39. The Council adopted the Report of the 27th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 5-8 December 2016 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran along with ECO Work Programme 2017 and ECO Calendar of Events-2017. *Copy ECO Calendar of Events 2017 is attached as Annex-X.*

- **Appointments/Extension in Tenures**

- (i) Extension of tenure of Deputy Secretary General

40. The Council approved the extension in tenure of Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari (**Iranian National**), Deputy Secretary General in-charge of Administration; Human Resource and Sustainable Development; Energy, Minerals and Environment; and Drugs and Organized Crime (Category 1, D-3) for one year until 29th January, 2018.

- (ii) Extension of tenure of Director

41. The Council approved the extension in tenure of Mr. Mohsen Esperri (**Iranian National**), Director for Transport and Communication (Category-I, D2) for one year until 3rd December, 2017.

- (iii) Extension of tenure of Director

42. The Council approved the extension in tenure of Mr. Ugur Kilcarslan (**Turkish National**), Director of Human Resources and sustainable Development (Category-I, D2) effective from 8th January 2017, until the nomination of another candidate for that position.

Agenda Item No.12

Annual Reports of ECO Special Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies

43. The Council reviewed the annual reports submitted by the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies and appreciated the efforts made by these bodies in supporting the process of socio-economic development in the region. It expressed the hope that these Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies will play an active role in achieving the goal of regional economic cooperation and integration. The following ECO bodies made their statements and reports during the SOM Meeting.

- (i) ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

44. The Representative of ECI informed that it is striving, in accordance with the mandate of ECO-CI, to preserve and promote the common cultural heritage of the region, which is not possible without proper contribution and collaboration of the ECO Member States. The Council on the request of ECI instructed the Member States to actively participate in the cultural programmes/events organized by ECI.

- (ii) ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB)

45. The Representative of the ECO-TDB requested the Member States, who have not joined the ECO-Bank to do so, which would facilitate in mobilization of resources available in the Region for their economic development.

- (iii) ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF)

46. The Representative of the ECO Science Foundation stated that so far five member states have ratified the Charter of ECOSF and requested other Member States to follow the suit. He said ECOSF is taking steps for promotion of Science and Technology. He further mentioned that Scientists, Researchers and Engineers are being supported through provision of travel grants.

47. The Council directed ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), on behalf of the COM, to consider establishing a CPR mechanism for the ECO Science Foundation for smooth functioning of the Institute.

(iv) ECO Postal Staff College

48. The Representative of the Postal Staff College made a report of the activities of the ECO Postal Staff College and informed that ECO-PSC has been imparting training courses for the ECO Member States. The PSC will continue to conduct the courses. He further informed that a course on postal technologies is offered in July 2017. The Council urged the Member States to avail this opportunity which is in line with the theme of the Summit 'connectivity'.

(v) ECO College of Insurance

49. Representative of the ECO College of Insurance in the statement highlighted the activities of the College and requested Member States for their cooperation in order to achieve its goals and objectives. The Council appreciated the activities of ECO College of Insurance and urged the ECO Member States to continue their cooperation with them.

(vi) ECO Coordination Center (ECO-RCC) for the Implementation of the Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS)

50. The Council on the request of the ECO-RCC urged the Member States to provide their project proposals on food security to ECO-RCC through Secretariat and directed the RCC to find financial support of international donors to commence projects under Regional Programme for food Security (RPFS). The Council also urged the Member States to attend the meetings in order to implement the programme in a successful manner.

Agenda Item No.13

ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions under the process of Establishment

51. The Council deliberated on Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies under process of establishment and urged the Member States and asked the Secretariat to consider establishment of new ECO Bodies based on willingness of at least 3 to 4 Member Countries and they need to be periodically reviewed for their utility and effectiveness.

52. The Council urged early completion of formalities for entry into force of ECO Reinsurance Company Agreement and encouraged other Member States to also join it.

Agenda Item No.14

Preparation for the 13th Summit

i. Draft Agenda

53. The Council deliberated upon and agreed to recommend the following draft agenda for the 13th ECO Summit Meeting to be held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 1 March 2017:

Inaugural/Opening Ceremony

➤ Family Photograph

1. Welcome Remarks by the Chairman of the Previous (12th) ECO Summit
 - Election of the Chairman
 - Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 13th Summit
 - Statement by the Secretary General
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report by the Chairman of 22nd COM Meeting

4. Statements by Heads of State/Government
5. Statement by Observers, as per Modalities *and* Statements by the Special Invitees (if any)
6. Adoption of the Islamabad Declaration
7. ECO Awards Ceremony
8. Any Other Business
9. Date and Venue of the next Summit
10. Vote of Thanks and Concluding address by the Chairman
11. Closing of the Meeting

Press Conference

ii. **Draft Islamabad Declaration**

54. The Council deliberated and agreed to submit the draft Islamabad Declaration 2017 to the 13th ECO Summit for adoption.

55. The Kyrgyz Republic refrained from supporting paras of political nature.

56. Due to neutral status, Turkmenistan refrained itself from adoption of Islamabad Declaration.

iii. **ECO Awards 2017**

57. The Council approved the names of winners of ECO Awards 2017 from Member States, comprising 8 nominees as recommended by the 218th and 219th CPR Meetings. The Council congratulated them on excellent performance in their respective fields. The names of the winners of ECO Awards 2017 are as follows:

| No. | Name of Country | Name of Nominee | Field/Category |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Islamic Republic of Afghanistan | Ms. Sima Rasuli | History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts |
| 2. | Republic of Azerbaijan | Mr. Pasha Karimov | Science and Technology |
| 3. | Islamic Republic of Iran | Dr. Mohammad Mehdi NAJAFPOUR | Science & Technology |
| 4. | Republic of Kazakhstan | Mr. Malik Burlibayev | Agriculture/Environment |
| 5. | Kyrgyz Republic | Dr. Professor Anvarbek Mokeev | History, Culture, Literature and Fine Arts |
| 6. | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Mr. Syed Jamal Shah | History, Culture, Literature and Fine Arts |
| 7. | Republic of Tajikistan | Mr. Saidov Abdusattor Samadovich | Science & Technology |
| 8. | Republic of Turkey | Mr. Hasan Celal Guzel | Education |

Agenda Item No. 15

Any other business

58. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 16

Date and venue of the next Meeting

59. The proposal of the Secretariat to hold meetings of COM and the Summit in alphabetical order was agreed by the Council and Republic of Tajikistan (next Member State in alphabetical order) graciously agreed to host the next (23rd) COM Meeting in

Tajikistan in 2018. The exact dates and venue of the meeting would also be coordinated with the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 17

Adoption of Draft Report of the 22nd COM Meeting

60. The Council unanimously adopted the Report of the 22nd COM Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 18

Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting

61. The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for conducting the deliberations in a smooth and efficient manner, and to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to all delegations. The Council also appreciated the able Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Foreign Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the Senior Officials Meeting.

62. The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretary General and the Secretariat staff for preparing comprehensive documents and assisting the hosts in making the 22nd Council of Ministers Meeting a success.
