

# Annexes I-VIII of the Report of 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM)

*(28 February 2017; Islamabad-Islamic Republic of Pakistan)*

<b>ANNEX-I</b>	List of Participants
<b>ANNEX-II</b>	Welcoming Remarks by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the Chairman of the 21 <sup>st</sup> COM
<b>ANNEX-III</b>	Statement by H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca, ECO Secretary General
<b>ANNEX-IV</b>	Statement by H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Chairman of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> COM
<b>ANNEX-V</b>	Statements by Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</li> <li>2. Republic of Azerbaijan</li> <li>3. Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li>4. Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>5. Republic of Tajikistan</li> <li>6. Republic of Turkey</li> <li>7. Republic of Uzbekistan</li> </ol>
<b>ANNEX-VI</b>	Statements by the ECO Observers:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turkish Cypriot State</li> <li>2. Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States</li> <li>3. Energy Charter Conference</li> </ol>
<b>ANNEX-VII</b>	Statements by Heads of Regional and International Organizations: (1) UNESCAP
<b>ANNEX-VIII</b>	Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)</li> <li>2. ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)</li> <li>3. ECO Trade &amp; Development Bank (ECO-TDB)</li> </ol>

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### **The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

1. H.E. Hazrat Omar Zakhiwal, President's Special Envoy and Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan
2. Mr. Najibullah Hafizi, Duty Director General of Regional Cooperation Directorate of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Seyed Abdul Nasir Yousofi, Deputy Head of Mission Afghan Embassy, Islamabad
4. Mr. Khan Mohammad Alamyar, Director (Foreign Relations) Ministry of Economy
5. Mr. Nasim Kakar, Second Secretary, Afghan Embassy Islamabad.

### **The Republic of Azerbaijan**

1. H.E. Mr. Ali Alizade, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Head of delegation);
2. Mr. Elnur Aliyev, Head of Division of the Economic Cooperation and Development Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
3. Mr. Javid Musayev, Councillor of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Iran;
4. Mr. Farrukh Jumayev, First Secretary of the International Cooperation and Development Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

### **The Islamic Republic of Iran**

1. H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad ZARIF, Foreign Minister
2. H.E. Mr. S. Ebrahim Rahimpur, Deputy Foreign Minister
3. H.E. Mr. Mehdi Nonardoost, Ambassador of I.R. Iran to Pakistan
4. H.E. Dr. M. R. Jabbari, Director General Office of the Minister
5. H.E. Mr. Majid BIZMARK, Director General for International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. H.E. Mr. Eslami, Director General (West Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7. H.E. Mr. Abdolfazl MOHAMMADALIKHANI, Deputy Director General, International Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs General Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8. Mr. Ahmad SAFFARI, Deputy Director, ECO Affairs and Multilateral Economic Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Ms. Karimi, Pakistan Desk Officer
10. Mr. Abedeni, Expert, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad

### **The Republic of Kazakhstan**

1. H.E. Mr. A. Kamaldinov Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. H.E. Mr. A. Bakayev, Director General of the Asia Cooperation Department
3. H.E. Mr. B. Amreyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the I.R. Iran
4. H.E. Mr. B. Shabarbayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan

### **The Kyrgyz Republic**

1. H.E. Mr. Ruslan Biybosunov, Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2. H.E. Mr. Abdurazakov Avazbek, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the ECO and to the Islamic Republic of Iran
3. H. E. Mr. Eric Beishembaev Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
4. Ms. Chynara S Kenjebaeva, Head of the Department of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation in Public Investment Management and Technical Assistance of the Ministry of Finance
5. Mr. Kazybek Kochkonov, Advisor to the Department of Integration Associations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. Mr. Sagyn Ibraev, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
7. Ms. Nazira Mamatkanova , Attaché of the Department of Integration Associations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### **The Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

1. H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs
2. H.E. Seyed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs
3. H.E. Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Foreign Secretary
4. H.E. Ms. Tehmina Janua, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN-Geneva
5. H.E. Mr. Asif Durrani, Ambassador of Pakistan to Islamic Republic of Iran
6. Mr. Babar Amin, Director General (ECO&CAR)
7. Mr. Taimur Zulfiqar, Director (ECO & CAR)
8. Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Second Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran
9. Mr. Abdul Bari, Assistant Director (ECO)

#### **The Republic of Tajikistan**

1. H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, First Deputy Foreign Minister
2. H.E. Mr. Ilhom Abdurahmonov, Deputy Chief of Department of MFA
3. Mr. Anzor Tanibekov, Second Secretary, Embassy of Tajikistan, Islamabad

#### **The Republic of Turkey**

1. H. E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. H. E. Mr. Hakan Tekin, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Iran,
3. Mr. Ali Murat Basceri, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Mr. Ufuk Gokcen, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5. Mr. Taylan Ozgur Aydin, Acting Head of Delegation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. Mr. Fatih Unlu, Expert, Ministry of Development
7. Mr. Nihat Akbalik, Expert, Ministry of Development

#### **Turkmenistan**

1. H.E. Mr. Ahmet Kurbanow, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to I.R of Iran
2. Mr. Islam Sakhatow, Third Secretary

#### **The Republic of Uzbekistan**

1. H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullayev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran
2. H.E. Mr. Furkat Sidikov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3. Mr. Umid Babayev, Third Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

4. Mr. Bahodir Tashmanov, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tehran.

**Turkish Cypriot State (Observer)**

1. H.E. Mr. Sunat Atun, Minister of Economy and Energy

**Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States**

2. H.E. Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General

**Energy Charter Secretariat (Observer)**

1. Mr. Marat Terterov, Principal Coordinator
2. Mr. Can Ogutcu, Assistant (Expansion and Outreach)

**UNESCAP**

1. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary General of the United Nations & Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

**ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)**

1. H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Mazaheri, President
2. Mr. Esmail Zamani, Advisor
3. Ms. Maryam Mousavi, Advisor
4. Mr. Mahdi Omraninejad, Expert
5. Mr. Behrouz Neshan, Expert

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

1. Mr. Javaid Aslam, President
2. Mr. Tuncay Melektosun, D. Director (External Relations and Board Meetings Department)

**ECO Science Foundation (ECO SF)**

1. Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President
2. Engr. Khalil Raza, Scientific Officer
3. Mr. Ghuulam Abbas Rahar, Assistant Director

**ECO Postal Staff College (ECOPSC)**

1. Mr. Khalid Awais Ranjha, Director

**Regional Program for Food Security (ECO-RCC)**

1. Ms. Ulviye Burcu Serin, EU Expert, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey

**ECO College of Insurance**

1. Dr. Atousa Goudazi, Dean

**The ECO Secretariat:**

1. H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca, Secretary General
2. Mr. Seyed Jalaedin alavi, Deputy Secretary General
3. Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
4. Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
5. Dr. Muhammad Adnan, Director

6. Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director
7. Mr. Muhammad Muqeeb Asim Shah, Assistant Director
8. Mr. Muhammad Safdar, Programme Officer
9. Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
10. Mr. Djalynder Turgumbaev, Programme Officer
11. Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
12. Mr. Ghulam Nabi, Steno-Secretary
13. Mr. Arshad Ali Jatui, Steno-Secretary
14. Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Interpreter
15. Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Interpreter
16. Mr. Berik Buzaauov, Russian Translator

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**Statement by H.E. Dr. Javad Zarif**  
**Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**and Chairman of the 21<sup>st</sup> ECO Council of Ministers at the**  
**Opening Session of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers**  
**(28 February 2017)**

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Fellow Ministers; Distinguished Secretary General**  
**Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset, allow me to express my profound appreciation for your participation in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers of our Economic Cooperation. I would like to begin by paying tribute to the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting this meeting and for the excellent arrangements and gracious hospitality extended to us.

Since last COM Meeting, ECO's existing frameworks and networks for regional cooperation continued to function; thanks to the ECO Member States, ECO Secretariat and our partner organizations. Distinguished Secretary General has extensively elaborated in his Report on the sectoral achievements and challenges that the Organization has experienced since the 21<sup>st</sup> COM Meeting. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to him and his colleagues in the Secretariat for their dedication and efforts towards implementation of the ECO overall agenda.

**Dear Colleagues**

At the end of my tenure as the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, I would like to briefly share with you my views about the ECO as it stands now and as it ventures ahead to play a large role in the future of relations among our countries. In the 21<sup>st</sup> COM Meeting in November 2013, and in the "Tehran Communique", the Ministers clearly indicated that continued regional cooperation within ECO framework would require, first and foremost, enhanced institutional and operational capacities in the Organization, enabling it to respond in a timely and effective manner to the needs and aspirations of the Member States. Accordingly, the imperative of reform attained momentum, which was reinforced further by the evolving global trends in the context of the post-2015 global development agenda.

Notwithstanding the pending reforms and changes, the corresponding roadmap is now developed: the new "ECO Vision 2025". Member States, assisted by the Secretariat, have charted the "Vision" which lays out the ECO goals and programmes in the coming decade. The 'Vision', along with its associated plans for action, is expected to drive us towards further regional integration and cohesion. If it happens, ECO will celebrate an important milestone in its three-decade history of evolution.

Ensuring that the "Vision" and other such frameworks will deliver their expected output, in a timely and effective way, predominantly requires a new regional economic architecture for cooperation and integration within the ECO. This should

be based on a development paradigm and supported by fitting economic growth models for our Region. I firmly believe that ECO should invest more time and energy to carefully devise Vision's implementation frameworks and mechanisms, and to ensure conducive policy environment for its realization.

**Distinguished Friends,**

As a member-driven organization, no success in the ECO can be envisaged unless all Member States are actively involved. The "less than full membership" arrangements or agreements have revealed their negative structural and institutional impacts on the Organization. We need to have all Member States on board; while ECO in return needs to prove that it works for the whole membership. There has been a clear request by Member States that ECO should now focus on projects and programmes which bring about maximum economic benefits to the Member States and the Region as a whole ECO needs to prove its added value for each and every single Member States, enhancing the sense of ownership among them. Conversely, we, the Member States, should lend our full support to the Organization and its activities.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to continue its unwavering support for the ECO. We believe that the Economic Cooperation Organization is by far the best option for cooperation among the countries of the Region. We firmly believe ECO-sponsored regionalism not only improves prospects for individual and collective economic development, but enhances political and security relations among the Member States. We can ensure a more stable, peaceful and resilient community of countries through ECO's cooperation and integration schemes, uplifting also our capacities to respond individually and collectively to the challenges and vulnerabilities.

Let me conclude by assuring the new ECO Chairmanship, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, of the full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We will also continue our advocacy policy towards the Secretary General and the ECO Secretariat to accomplish their critical role in initiating, implementing and monitoring the activities within the Organization.

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**Statement by ECO Secretary General  
H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim AKCA**

**at the  
22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting**

**28 February 2017, Islamabad**



**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,  
Honourable Foreign Ministers of the ECO Member States,  
Dear Participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great privilege and honour for me to address this important Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers.

Notwithstanding that the Extra-ordinary COM Sessions were held in New York, COM has not been able to convene its regular Meeting for more than three years to comprehensively discuss the socio-economic, political and scientific developments taking place at the regional and global levels.

So allow me to share with you information on the ECO overall profile.

### **Excellencies**

The population of ECO Region has reached to 471 million with the 30 percent increase compared to the world population increase of 20 percent in the last 15 years.

Meanwhile, total GDP of the member states crossed US \$ 1 trillion and 795 billion and income per capita is close to US \$ 4,000.

The share of ECO's aggregated GDP to the world GDP improved from 2.06 percent in 2000 to 2.63 percent in 2015.

On the trade count, ECO has modest performance. The share of ECO merchandize trade to world trade reached 2.10 percent in 2015 from 1.41 percent in 2000.

ECO's intra-regional trade witnessed improvement to 8.7 percent in 2015 as against 5.3 percent in 2000, that is requiring concerted efforts to boost it to targeted 20 percent.

These figures taken from the ECO Report that is prepared for this Summit, Fifteen Years of Economic Cooperation and Development (2000-2015), illustrate the sustained progress and advances that the region has made since the new millennium started, despite huge challenges on internal and external fronts including global financial crisis, international economic slowdown and sharp fall in oil prices. Taking this forward will require sustained efforts and explore possibilities with a range of partners, regional as well as international, to exploit the vast potential.

### **Mr. Chairman,**

During the period from the last COM Session, ECO has continued to implement programmes and projects as developed and decided by different sectoral ministerial meetings, as well as meetings of the Regional Planning Council and Council of Permanent Representatives. Trade, transport and energy continued to be the core areas of ECO agenda, while other issues of global and regional importance, including food security, environment, industrial production and tourism, were also pursued within ECO.

In **trade and Investment sector**, the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB) has expanded its operations and membership. Trade Capacity Building Project is being carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the areas of Standards and Quality. ECO Reinsurance Company is the low hanging fruit of the Organization. However, non-implementation of ECOTA calls for a new approach.

Activities of ECO in **Transport Sector** remain the strongest; under the 'Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)', important initiative have been undertaken in partnership with IDB, which include approvals of several road and rail corridors. This would better connect the region internally and with the rest of the world. Special emphasis has been given to corridors which will give access to ECO land-locked countries to major sea ports in the South and markets in East and West. At present, two feasibility studies are in-process for ITI and KTAI road corridors. ECO in partnership with en-route member countries will be embarking on commercialization of KTI Railway corridor through an 'exclusive corridor management mechanism' teaming up with IDB and UNESCAP. A study on development of border points and harmonization of customs provisions has been finished successfully.

On ICT, ECO in collaboration with the ITU has successfully conducted a study in 2016 on ICT needs of the region, which will be presented along with 'ICT Strategy for the ECO Region' to the upcoming ECO ICT ministerial meeting for approval and implementation.

**In the Energy Sector**, we have little cooperation at the regional level in ECO platforms. Despite the fact that major pipeline projects are out of the ECO portfolio, certain progress in the ECO Regional Electricity Market (REM) and in renewable and alternative energy sources has been achieved.

**Environment**, as a cross-cutting sector in the region and in the world, got more interest from member states and international organizations. ECO has worked closely with UN institutions and was granted Observer Status in the respective UN organizations and conventions. Two major projects regarding environmental standards and combating desertification have been conducted.

### **Excellencies**

Agriculture is a key sector and essential in achieving food security for ECO region and developing countries. It employs 37 percent of total active population of the region. Under the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security several projects have been implementing targeting the food security through collaboration with relevant international organizations.

**In the Industry Sector, the premises of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology** and its "Technical Management Board of Conformity Assessment were officially inaugurated, and the ECO Nanotechnology Network (ECONAN) has been established. The Memorandum of Understanding for ECO - WIPO cooperation on intellectual\industrial rights is finalized for signature.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, **tourism** development has been proposed as priority area in the ECO Vision 2025. Two International ECO-Silk Road Food Festivals were held; preparation of Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is in process and the Secretariat is

negotiating with UNESCO to utilize mutual potentials of the two organizations for promotion of tourism activities and enhance the capacities of the region.

ECO has been conducting several **research** projects through ECO regional centers and NGO's of member states.

*"Economic Management Modeling in the ECO member countries" and (ii) "Analyzing Food Security Issues in the ECO Region" have been studied by Institute for Development Economics of Pakistan (PIDE), and two new economic research projects "Setting Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) and capacity building for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan" and "Decomposition on Input-output Table at the Regional Level" are under process. The ECO-FAO joint project on CountrySTAT Programme in the Food and Agriculture Sector is also worth mentioning. Approval of the Memorandums of Understanding with OIC-SESRICT and the Turkish Research Center TEPAV are under process.*

Establishment of ECO Research Centre in Baku as the ECO economic think tank is also imminent.

### **Excellencies,**

Having derived the guidance from the Treaty of Izmir, decisions of the Summits and COM, ECO has developed its external relations.

ECO enjoys observer status with the United Nations and its various organs such as UN Environment Assembly, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, UN Convention on biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nation Conference on Trade and Development, World Trade Organization, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Islamic Development Bank. Reciprocal observership between ECO and Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat is now before this COM meeting for formal approval.

Over the years, ECO has signed 45 MoUs and Agreements with the UN system as well as other regional and international organizations. It merits mentioning that certain MoUs/Agreements are in the different phases of process like the ones with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and World Tourism Organization to enhance scope of activities for development of the ECO-region.

### **Excellencies,**

In line with the international community's post 2015 development agenda and the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", ECO started to develop its Vision for coming 10 years, namely, the "ECO Vision 2025". The draft document has been finalized after continuous engagement and inputs from the Member States. This document is built on the lessons learned from implementation of the ECO Vision 2015 adopted in 2005 in Astana. The draft Vision 2025 addresses the emerging needs and requirements for economic development of ECO Member States and the Region as a whole. The draft Vision document attempts to focus on core areas of trade, transport connectivity and energy, as per the needs and aspirations of the Member States, as well as tourism as another sector on which Member

States have agreed to focus on realization of its great potential for the Member states. I sincerely hope that the Council today may adopt this important document.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Excellencies,**

I would like to bring to your attention one of the biggest challenges encountering ECO and its viability. ECO is facing financial constraints which have seriously affected the performance of the Organization. The non-payment and unilateral reduction of contributions by some Member States have resulted in one of the biggest challenges encountering the Organization. Availability of sufficient resources is imperative for the realization of ECO Vision and its goals. This is why I would like to stress for timely resolution of the issue of "Scale of Assessments" by Member States to realize the goals of regional cooperation and joint prosperity.

Before concluding, I would like to once again thank your Excellencies for your participation in this important and timely meeting and would like to reiterate the need for your valuable support and contributions to the Organization. Let me conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hospitality provided to the delegations and excellent organization of all events.

**I thank you for your kind attention**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Chairman of the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM,**

*(Islamabad, 28 February 2017)*

**Distinguished Foreign Ministers of the ECO Member States,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

May I welcome all the distinguished Ministers and delegates to the 22nd Council of Ministers Meeting. With your support and guidance, I look forward to a very positive outcome from this meeting.

I also take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to my colleague, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for steering this body with great distinction since 2012.

We also acknowledge and appreciate H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Acka, Secretary General ECO and his team for their hard work and dedication in preparing for this Summit.

**Excellencies,**

As one of the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Pakistan firmly believes that ECO has the potential to bring economic prosperity and progress to the region. We remain strongly committed to our common goal to raise the quality of life of the people of the ECO Region through greater connectivity, expansion of intra and inter regional trade, and removal of trade barriers.

Today, our traditional friendship and cooperation provide a solid plank for undertaking new initiatives and programmes to realize the ECO vision.

This year, we also celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the expansion of ECO in 1992, when seven new members joined the Organization.

For the ECO region that stretches from the Himalayas in the East to the West of Dardanelles and from the Arabian Sea in the South to Russian Urals and Siberia in the North, the concept of Regional Connectivity offers immense potential for progress, prosperity and development of its 450 million people.

Accordingly, Pakistan is hosting the 22nd ECO Summit on the theme of "Connectivity for Prosperity".

As envisaged in the Draft ECO Vision 2025, we need to collectively work towards realizing the three long-term sectoral priorities of ECO: (i) Development of transport

and communication infrastructure; (ii) Facilitation of trade and investment; and (iii) Effective use of the region's vast energy resources.

We have achieved substantial results in the past, but we have a long way to go in realizing our shared vision of an integrated, inter-connected and prosperous region.

**Dear Colleagues,**

The long-term prospects of ECO depend on renewing the necessary political will of all member states and to find common ground in promoting effective regional cooperation and on establishment of efficient and effective institutions that can transfer actual benefits to all member states.

Global peace, stability and prosperity cannot be achieved in silos in the inter-connected world of today. Our region is faced with a number of challenges including extremism, terrorism, drug-trafficking and trans-national organized crimes. Similarly, natural disasters and environmental hazards are putting extra strain on economic progress of the states. Therefore, innovative approaches and concerted efforts would be required for the socio-economic and human development of our peoples.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

ECO region, due to its vast natural and human resources, has the potential to become a formidable economic block. However, there are certain priority areas which need our immediate attention:

First, the trade figures of ECO reflect a dismal picture of a region that is one of the least integrated in the world, operating far below its potential, as compared to regional blocs such as ASEAN and NAFTA. The implementation of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) is essential in order to remove the existing trade and non-trade barriers and establishment of a Free Trade Area in the ECO region. Although ECOTA entered into force in 2008, some member states still have reservations on some aspect which, I hope, we can address without delay.

Second, lack of regional connectivity and integration of infrastructure is one of the major impediments. Also important is the ongoing work of the technical committees on Road, Railway, Insurance, Transit trade and legal issues, working under the umbrella of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (ECO-TTFA). We have to identify and remove major barriers hampering smooth movement of goods across the region.

Third, for efficient movement of goods the member states need to focus on the corridor - based approach for greater connectivity between different corridors, where feasible.

Finally, there is a need to focus attention on ECO's Specialized Agencies, Associations and affiliated bodies which can complement the activities of our organizations and promote greater economic and cultural integration. In this regard, there is a need to:

increase the membership, scope and activities of ECO Trade and Development Bank for subsequent enhancement of intra-regional trade and connectivity. The Bank can serve as an EXIM Bank for the member states to support trade and development activities within the region.

increase the membership and ratification of ECO Re-Insurance Company so that the company becomes operational and contributes towards enhanced trade activities. enhance cooperation between public and private sectors of member states through ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

increase membership and ratification of ECO Science foundation to promote scientific, technological and innovative research collaboration among member states and to enhance economic development in the region.

increase membership and ratification of ECO Cultural Institute for developing, understanding and promoting closer cooperation among the people of member states in the field of culture, literature and art.

use the platform of Parliamentary Assembly of ECO to promote the democratic values among member states.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

May I avail this opportunity to apprise this august gathering about the state of Pakistan's economy. Pakistan has accelerated its economic growth from an average of 3% in 2007-2012 to 4.7% in the last four years. The priority goal of our government has been economic development, as an important pre-requisite for achieving peace and stability. All macro-economic indicators are looking up which has raised the investors' confidence in the country.

We are taking serious steps to upgrade our road infrastructure in order to facilitate smooth flow of goods with our neighbours. We are confident that China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would galvanize trade opportunities with the ECO region. In this regard, from Gwadar Port to Taftan border and revival of Silk Road are significant projects. Pakistan has also launched Integrated Transit Trade Management System to revamp the transport infrastructure.

We have also made good progress in combating the scourge of terrorism and extremism through a comprehensive strategy of law enforcement and targeted military operations. We are therefore confident of providing safe transit passage for smooth flow of trade activities without any barriers.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my firm belief that the ECO region is poised for economic prosperity, peace and stability through enhanced regional connectivity, greater integration and removal of trade barriers.

Greater connectivity among the Member States through rail, road, sea and air linkages will act as a catalyst to boost intra-region trade. The ECO region can benefit from the CPEC and Gwadar port as it would bring down the cost and time of transportation considerably.

Let us all work towards transforming the ECO region to a formidable economic block and realize the vision of our leadership by using the full potential of our natural and human resources.

I wish you all a very pleasant stay in Islamabad.

I thank you.



**Statement by Ministers/Heads of Delegation of the Member  
States  
at 22<sup>nd</sup> ECO Council of Ministers (COM)**  
(28 February 2017)

Statement by H.E. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal  
President's Special Envoy and Afghanistan's Ambassador to Pakistan  
at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting (COM) of the Economic  
Cooperation Organization (ECO)

February 28, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Honorable Mr. Chairperson

Honorable Secretary General

Excellencies, distinguished heads of delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Pakistan for hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and for the warm hospitality extended to us all.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, on his election as the Chairperson for ECO – 22<sup>nd</sup> COM. We look forward to his wise and energetic leadership and assure him of Afghanistan's full support and cooperation.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the ECO Secretariat for its hard work and preparations for this meeting.

Excellencies,

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is one of the most important regional forums, with unique geo-strategic location, linking the East with the West.

ECO's core objective to achieve collective economic prosperity and sustainable economic growth for all through regional connectivity and economic cooperation falls within Afg's regional policies and endeavors.

However, despite our region's endowment with significant economic power, vast natural resources, dynamic work force and huge development potentials that could have been harnessed in the interest of all our nations, our region's share in the global market continue to be insignificant and poverty and vulnerability increasingly prevalent.

Many of our challenges are shared and require collective actions. In order to unlock our individual potential, we need to reshape our policies that promote peace, stability and trust as core objectives.

In addition they should be aimed to remove existing barriers to trade, transit and greater connectivity and develop our capacities and physical infrastructure.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Afghanistan joined the ECO in 1992 and since then has been committed to the realization of its goals and observations of its principals.

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process and the RECCA are two Afghan-led regional cooperation initiatives, which are aim at enhancing regional connectivity.

The key purpose of all our efforts is to sustain peace, stability and economic prosperities in Afghanistan and within our region.

Regional Economic Organizations such as ECO can provide us with an opportunity to address our shared challenges and utilize our regional potentials through collective actions.

There is no doubt that economic growth and sustainable development are interconnected to security and stability; without peace there could no sustainable development.



Unfortunately, terrorism, extremism and narcotics are the major challenges which have undermined our national and regional efforts.

My country is at the forefront of the war on terrorism and is paying a high price on a daily basis. However, to combat these three menaces effectively, they requires our collective efforts and a united stand.

Mr. Chari, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am certain that the decisions we are making today, once and if implemented, will have a direct impact on the well-being of our people.

In particular, the adoption of the ECO Vision2025 is indeed a major step forward in realizing our shared objectives. It will not only strengthen the organization, but will also guide us through the next decade.

My delegation would like to highlight the following points:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomes and endorses the ECO VISION 2025 agenda, the ECO VISION 2025 implementation plan as well as the ECO VISION FUND with its financing modalities.

We have already committed and endorsed the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, Sandai Framework for Disaster Reduction (2015 -2030), the Paris agreement and Vienna Program of action for Landlocked Developing Countries (2014-2024). These are, in fact, the core parts of ECO VISION 2025 agenda toward regional economic integration and connectivity.

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The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has also received the accession of WTO, ratified the ECOTA agreement and supports the scope of trade to be enhanced from preferential to free trade agreement and will ratify the remaining agreements and MoUs in accordance with the ECO implementation Plan.

Last but not least, in the 2017 ECO event calendar, we are confirming to host three events including the “ Special Conference on Afghanistan” in May this year.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Afghanistan’s commitment to the realization of the goals and objectives of the ECO and once again, I wish to extend my warmest gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm hospitality and well-organized meeting.

Thank you.



**Statement of H.E. Ali Alizade, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
at ECO Council of Ministers Meeting  
February 28, 2017, Islamabad**

**Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our hosts in Pakistan for the traditional warm hospitality so kindly extended to us and excellent arrangements of the meeting. As we enter 2017, we are turning a new page in the development of the ECO. This turning stage has historical, economic and structural dimensions. Historical is based on the fact that seven out of the ten ECO Member Countries joined the organisation 25 years ago and the way we know ECO today, came to the existence. Economic one refers to the today's uncertain state of the global economy, the implications and challenges that they impose on our region. Structural one is about how we adapt our organisation to new challenges and what changes we should embark on based on our historical track record and current environment. Thus, it is a right time to look back and evaluate the results, our achievements and identify the areas which require a special attention.

Last 25 years for Azerbaijan were the period of building our statehood, economy and strengthening our place in the world and the region. That was tough path but we have succeeded not only in reaching the national goals, but also in becoming important player in the regional cooperation.

We perceive the regional cooperation as essential element of national development. In this regard, cooperation within ECO is of crucial importance for Azerbaijan. ECO region is endowed with a huge potential: It has a vast mineral resources, it is strategically located. But the real treasure lies in the people we have, and the history and values we share. We need to convert these advantages into economic and social growth; we need to capitalize on them to transform the region into geography of peace, progress and success. The ECO is called to play a vital role in this transformation.

I hope that ECO Vision 2025 that today we will take up for our endorsement, will be instrumental in achieving our aspiration of transformation. This transformation shall be measured, and trade and connectivity are good indicators of where we stand at the moment and can serve as a benchmark of where we should move to.

Our share of in global GDP, trade and exports are all well below the region's potential. ECO trade figure with the rest of world is just around USD650b with the region being net importer. This shows that we have two kinds of challenges: firstly, our total contribution to global trade is just around 2%. The region's GDP's share in the global economic output is around the same figure which I qualify as unsatisfactory at least due that fact the region represents around 6% of the global population. Secondly, unfortunately the region is a net exporter of foreign exchange, but not services and goods, and this is despite the fact the region possesses a substantial part of the world's natural resources and the best minds. Those are the very important pointers that show that we can and should do much better.

Transit capacity is an essential strategic competitive advantage of the ECO region. Our cooperation in enhancing our connectivity, specifically in road and railway sector is of paramount importance.

Plugging ECO region into global traffic of trade, and commercializing intra-regional transit networks and corridors is of paramount importance for the region's development.

As a cradle of many civilizations, our region offers tremendous opportunities for tourism development. We have so many things to proudly share with the rest of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good neighbourhood, humanity and tolerance are the core values of Islam which enabled so many different cultures, traditions and religions to successfully coexist and interact in our lands over more than millennium. Today these values are still to be promoted as essential ingredients of global peace and stability. Azerbaijan is putting substantial efforts in spreading this understanding. In the years to come we will keep introducing the genuine values of Islam. We declared 2017 as the year of Islamic Solidarity. It is my pleasure to invite all ECO member countries to Azerbaijan to take part at Islamic Solidarity Games this year.

National resources will not be enough to implement all the regional projects and involvement of international financing institutions is crucial. In this regard, ECO Trade and Development Bank require support from our all countries to enable it to play more active role in financing the projects of regional importance. Bringing in new financing sources to regional projects should be a major pre-occupation of the ECO Secretariat, alongside with ECOTDB. ECO Secretariat and ECOTDB should also enhance their cooperation with other regional organizations and financial institutions in creating synergy effect and fund mobilizing to contribute to the economic growth in the region.

It is also very important for our cooperation that we understand and demonstrate solidarity towards the issues that affecting our individual economies. In this regard, I would like to note that the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani lands is not solely grave violation of the international law but a humanitarian and economic disaster.

Armenian regime is committing on a daily basis filthy embezzlement and squandering of the wealth of Azerbaijani people on the occupied territories. This has a direct setback on the Azerbaijani economy, and deprives us of many opportunities both for a national growth and regional cooperation. For example, the Armenian occupation denies Azerbaijani-Iranian cooperation on the more than 100 km section of the international borders between our two brotherly countries.

Armenian regime is sparing no effort in trying to involve other countries in its illegal activities perpetrated in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This is an attempt to acquire accomplices in a crime against people of Azerbaijan. It is a direct matter of our cooperation, that all ECO members deny any role in and reject any invitation to plundering the national wealth of Azerbaijan. I am sure that ECO Member Countries

will take a firm position in this issue and will firmly demonstrate that only international law shall shape the cooperation in our region.

I would like to reiterate our strong believe and commitment to the noble mission of ECO to change cooperation within the region. I am sure that with our common efforts ECO will be able to contribute to stability and prosperity in the region.

Thank you for the attention.

**Statement by H.E. Mr. A.Kamaldinov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Kazakhstan at 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Foreign Ministers**

*(28 February 2017, Islamabad)*

**Dear Chairperson, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs!**

**Dear Mr. Secretary General!**

**Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!**

Let me express my sincere gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers.

I express my condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan in relation to the recent terrorist attacks in your country. Kazakhstan strongly condemns acts of terrorism, which cause the death of innocent civilians. We are convinced that there is a need for a large-scale and efficient cooperation among all countries in the world to combat terrorism and extremism.

**Dear participants!**

One of the main priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy is to develop comprehensive cooperation with ECO Member States.

This year the Organization is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has become an important multilateral platform that facilitates the development of our region, which has a lot of potential.

However, this potential is not being used to the full effect.

Today's meeting and the upcoming Summit should identify joint measures to enhance the effectiveness of our cooperation and activities of the Organization.

**Dear colleagues!**

The Economic Cooperation Organization is one of the first regional organizations that Kazakhstan joined at the dawn of its independence. We are firmly committed to the progressive development of regional cooperation and interested in the development and strengthening of the ECO as an authoritative regional platform.

We believe that ECO should focus on development of those main areas of cooperation which the Organization was established for.

First of all, we need to move towards convergence of infrastructure projects. Kazakhstan is implementing a "Nurly Zhol" strategic program. We are ready to pair it with large projects under the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union and China's "Silk road Economic Belt". I am confident, that this will create many opportunities and will bring significant economic benefits to all Member States.



Secondly, Kazakhstan is determined to take part in ensuring energy security. In this context, Kazakhstan is hosting the international exhibition EXPO-2017 in Astana under the theme “Energy of the Future”, where renewable energy sources relevant to both developed and developing countries will be presented. We would like to thank all ECO Member States for confirming your participation in the Exhibition.

Thirdly, we will continue to promote the issues of food security in the region. In order to reach this goal, Kazakhstan initiated the establishment of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFC), headquartered in Astana. Given that all ECO Member States are also members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, I would like to encourage you to join and ratify the IOFC Charter.

**Dear participants!**

The issues of regional and global security are at the top of the international agenda. We believe that the situation in **Afghanistan** is critically important to the security and stability in the ECO Region. Kazakhstan is investing more than 50 million US Dollars to train afghan students and construct schools and hospitals. 2 million US Dollars of humanitarian assistance was also allocated to support the Afghan army.

We are committed to promoting further political and economic reintegration of **Iran**. Kazakhstan has contributed to finding the solution regarding Iran’s programme by supporting constructive dialogue between stakeholders, and conducted two rounds of multilateral negotiations. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018 years, we will continue working in this direction for the benefit of the ECO region.

**Dear colleagues!**

I am confident that the ECO reform will lead to positive results, including ensuring its capability to respond to new modern challenges, and to realize its full potential.

I would also like to express my confidence that the upcoming Summit will be an important step towards the effective realization of the multifaceted potential of the Organization’s Member States with a view to promoting the well-being and prosperity of our countries and peoples.

I wish all the participants of the meeting successful work.

Thank you for your attention!

## STATEMENT

**Director of the Department of Integration Associations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, endowed with special powers to participate as the Head of the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic at the 22nd Meeting of Council of Ministers of ECO**

*(Islamabad, 28 February 2017)*

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Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Dear Heads of Delegations,  
Dear Mr. Secretary General,

On behalf of the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic and on my own behalf, let me welcome all participants of the 22nd meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization and express our sincere gratitude to the Pakistani side for the good organization of this meeting, warm welcome and hospitality.

First, let me congratulate the Pakistani side with the beginning of the chairmanship in ECO, wish success and express the hope that the Organization's activities will rise to a new qualitative level.

This meeting provides us with a good opportunity to discuss the prospects for cooperation between ECO Member States and exchange views on topical issues.

The Kyrgyz Republic has always been committed to the principles of mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation within the framework of the ECO, and this was the main goal of the country's accession to the Organization.

The ECO region has all the necessary capabilities, including human resources, economic opportunities, natural resources, communications in order to realize the goals and objectives of the Organization, to develop mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries.

In this regard, there is a need to develop and implement coordinated actions, increase the effectiveness of the Organization's activities, expand the project work in priority areas and their practical implementation.

We consider it expedient to intensify the relations of ECO with other international organizations and financial institutions. This is important for joint work on investment projects and in order to attract financial resources for their implementation.

It is important to translate into practice those thoughts and ideas that are laid down in the Charter of the Organization. Among them, I would like to highlight the expansion of transport communications and energy networks in the ECO region.

The Kyrgyz Republic attaches great importance to the implementation of such projects as "CASA-1000" and the transport corridor "KTAI".

We consider it important to actively use such a financial instrument as the ECO Trade and Development Bank, designed to promote investment activities in our region.

**Dear participants of the meeting,**

The Kyrgyz side supports the intentions of some ECO states to reform and improve the effectiveness of the Organization's activities.

Despite the positive aspects of our cooperation, it should be recognized that at present the role of ECO in the system of regional economic ties does not correspond to the existing potential of both the Organization and our countries.

Our common aspirations and regional projects face difficulties in their practical implementation. It is necessary that the Organization moves to a qualitative level of development by optimizing its activities and meets the interests of all its participants.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Pakistani side, the Secretary General, the ECO Secretariat and all the permanent representatives of the Member States for the great preparatory work for this meeting.

**Thank you for attention.**

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**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi**  
**First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
**of the Republic of Tajikistan**  
**at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers**  
**of the Economic Cooperation Organization**  
*(28 February 2017, Islamabad)*

**Distinguished Mr. Chair,**  
**Distinguished Foreign Ministers and Colleagues,**  
**Distinguished Mr. Secretary-General,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for warm hospitality and provision of excellent arrangements for the success of today's meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Today we have gathered in the beautiful city of Islamabad not only to reiterate our political commitments, but also to review the progress in the implementation of the ECO programmes and projects and to exchange views on the ways forward towards strengthening our cooperation within the Organization.

The Government of Tajikistan highly appreciates the contribution of ECO in deepening and enhancing cooperation to promote economic development and social wellbeing in the region. We take note of significant progress achieved in this direction, despite the numerous challenges, which the region is facing. We believe that the only way to address these challenges lays in taking joint and coordinated actions and steps by all member-countries. That is why decisions to be adopted tomorrow by the Summit should bring new impetus to our cooperation, strengthen its effectiveness, deepen and enhance integration and coordination in achieving our common goals, as well in addressing the existing and emerging challenges.

Over the last years, the international community made great efforts in promoting global development agenda through adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To support the implementation of the new agenda ECO has developed its Vision 2025, which is considered as timely and important. The ECO Vision 2025 outlines the core principles and main areas of cooperation within ECO in line with the new global sustainable development agenda. We welcome that the document identifies several areas for cooperation within ECO taking into account particularities of the region.

As we know, the ECO region is endowed with abundant hydrocarbon resources and hydropower potential. In this regard, coordinated and efficient use of advantages of the region in energy resources provides an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of the ECO countries in diminishing, at the extent possible, the negative impact of fluctuations in the world energy market. Therefore, cooperation in energy should be considered as one of the top-priority areas of ECO.

Tajikistan is interested in the implementation of projects aimed at an increase of the intra-regional energy trade through combining advantages of the both sources of energy – renewable and non-renewable. In this context, the implementation of the CASA 1000 – an energy bridge between four member-countries – Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan could serve as one of the elements of future energy market in the region. It will not only increase energy trade, but also supports enhancing the access to affordable and renewable energy in the region.

At the same time, effective utilization of energy resources of the region should be considered in the context of addressing climate change. Climate change is negatively effecting the intensity and frequency of water-related disasters – serious obstacles on the way to achieving sustainable development. We believe that our efforts should be focused at reducing the risks and mitigating consequences of natural disasters through strengthening our potential in prevention and increasing awareness, promotion of investments in programs on disasters risk reduction and assistance to effected population and regions.



As a landlocked country, Tajikistan pays a special attention to the development of cooperation in the fields of transport, transit and communications. In this area, we are referring, not only to the establishment of modern infrastructures, but also to ensuring a free movement of goods, labor and capital that sometimes is hindered by artificial barriers. In this regard, paramount importance has the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) that is considered as an effective strategy to expand trade through development of the regional transit-transport cooperation and aimed at facilitating free movement of goods and services in the region.

Creation of an extensive network of railways across the ECO region will enhance our connectivity. In this context, we attach priority to acceleration of efforts to build the railway line Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan (TAT), as well as to realize the railway project Iran-Afghanistan-Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-China.

Tajikistan attaches a great importance to the economic cooperation with neighboring Afghanistan and supports the implementation of the ECO Action Plan on Afghanistan's reconstruction. Through the implementation of national and regional projects, particularly in the areas of energy, transport and communication, railroad construction, power plants and border trade Tajikistan has been making efforts to ensure the involvement of Afghanistan in the process of regional economic cooperation.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

Our region is endowed also with a rich historical and cultural heritage, which provides additional avenues for our cooperation. In our opinion, cooperation in economic dimension should be supported by adequate cooperation in culture, education and science, which could enrich people-to-people and business-to-business ties. Cooperation in tourism as one of the main areas of the ECO Vision 2025 could serve as a key to strengthen these ties and to enhance cultural and educational exchanges among our peoples. The year 2017 was declared by the UN as an International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and we hope that ECO will make every

effort to contribute to the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to reconfirm Tajikistan's commitment to ECO fundamental principles and its desire to improve multidimensional cooperation within the Organization.

I thank you for attention.

**SPEECH BY H.E. MR. MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU, FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 13<sup>th</sup> SUMMIT OF THE  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION (ECO)**

(28 February 2017, Islamabad)

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Colleagues,

It is always a pleasure to visit Islamabad. This time, we are here for the ECO Summit with the participation of our leaders and colleagues from the entire ECO region.

The 13th ECO Summit is held at a crucial time. Current political and economic challenges force us to reconsider the role of ECO.

The ECO has a huge potential to become an important regional player. However, we need to redouble our efforts to use this potential.

First of all, we need to put into force our trade agreement, ECOTA, to enhance intra-regional trade.

With this understanding, I call upon all the member states to complete the necessary requirements for joining ECOTA.

ECOBANK is an important body to finance trade through projects. We need to enhance the institutional and financing capacity of ECOBANK to meet the growing needs of the region.

Integration of regional transport systems and effective use of transit corridors is another important item on our agenda.

This is also in line with the theme of our Summit, "Connectivity for Regional Prosperity." Effective implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) and completion of the outstanding projects, such as Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor, should be our priorities.

Energy is another key field on which we must focus. Our region is rich in energy resources. Turkey is ready to transfer them to international markets.

A functioning agricultural sector is essential to ensure food security. The ECO Regional Coordination Center (ECO-RCC) has an important role to play here.

Environment is another field where we all have a common stake in deepening our cooperation. We have to share our good practices to create new ground for joint projects in this area.

Finally, we should also focus on tourism. Our countries have natural beauty, rich history and diverse cultural heritage. We can utilize them. As a leading country in the field of tourism, we are ready to share our experiences with our fellow ECO members.



Dear Colleagues,

We consider the adoption of the ECO Vision Document 2025 to be imperative.

This vision document will be a sign of our commitment to continue cooperation in various fields. With the establishment of the ECO Vision Implementation Fund, we will be able to finance programs and projects defined in this document.

We fully support the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG). We also believe that an inclusive and efficiency-oriented Reform Process will carry the Organization a step further.

On the other hand, no meaningful reform process can be achieved without a strong budget.

Unfortunately, current budgetary problems prevent us from transforming ECO into a more efficient organization.

We believe that all member countries should fulfill their responsibility in terms of burden-sharing. This is also important for strengthening the ownership of our Organization.

Since our resources are limited, our efforts in ECO should be more focused, realistic and efficient. We should define and concentrate on priority areas such as trade and investment, transport and energy corridors.

We hope that tomorrow's Summit will provide a new momentum to our cooperation in the ECO region. Thank you.

**Statement by**  
**the Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the meeting of the Council of**  
**Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Economic Cooperation Organization**  
*(Islamabad, 28 February 2017)*

Dear Mr. Chairman!  
Dear Secretary General!  
Dear Heads of the delegations!  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

At the beginning of my speech, let me first express gratitude on behalf of the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm welcome and high level of organization of this event.

It is a great pleasure to welcome the leaders of official delegations and express confidence that our joint work will be fruitful and will give a new impetus to the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Dear colleagues,

On the background of the current realities, we see the role of ECO through the prism of turning it into a factor of regional integration, in which the member states of ECO are striving to consolidate their efforts, resources and opportunities to achieve common objectives that are of priority importance for the peoples of the region.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has always advocated and is committed to the progressive development of regional cooperation and the achievement of economic prosperity based on mutual cooperation.

In our opinion, among the most priority areas of cooperation for the countries, which are members of the Organization, trade issues, as well as the development of transport and energy communications should be pointed out.

Uzbekistan has consistently supported objective approaches and sound initiatives to expand trade and economic ties in the region, as well as to develop transport and communication corridors.

We believe that the intensive development of the region's transit and transport potential, the creation of a modern communication network and new routes for transporting goods to world markets will give an additional impetus to the economic growth of the region.

In this context, I would like to briefly dwell on the very promising directions that open up to our countries in using the communication potential of our region in the light of modern realities.

These are the largest regional projects, such as the International Trans-Afghan Transport Corridor "Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Iran", the International Transport

Corridor "Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman" and the railway line "Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China". These projects can open huge opportunities for our countries to enter the world market and are of strategic importance for the whole region as a whole.

Dear Chairman,

Another important area of cooperation within the framework of the ECO is the development of the energy sector. We support the idea of construction of new gas transport communications and the development of oil and gas networks in the region. Uzbekistan, which possesses significant gas reserves, attaches great importance to the issues of its transportation, determining the optimal routes for the downstream regional pipelines.

Another important for Uzbekistan activity of the ECO is the expansion of cooperation in the field of investment, trade and interaction of the private sector of the economies of member countries, whereby the economic and social development of the region can be promoted. We need large flows of foreign direct investment, access to external markets and, in particular, the exchange of technology, which is a decisive factor in stimulating economic development.

During the years of independence, a favorable investment climate has been created in the Republic of Uzbekistan, a broad system of legal guarantees and benefits for foreign investors, a comprehensive system of measures to stimulate the activities of enterprises with foreign investment has been developed.

However, we must admit that, along with other areas of cooperation, in the framework of the ECO the attention is still not paid to the use of the economic potential of the ECO Member States, the implementation of large-scale projects. These scales of joint investment are not impressive. The potential of various major financial institutions are not sufficiently utilized.

In this regard, I think it necessary to note the need to continue reforms to improve the effectiveness of the ECO. We hope that these reforms will help our region to become an important center of economic activity.

To increase the effectiveness of the ECO, the Uzbek side calls not to dissipate its potential by making many decisions and projects that do not have a real economic base. It is necessary to provide concrete reinforcement of initiatives and projects with well-developed financing mechanisms and practical implementation within the established deadlines.

Proceeding from the fundamental goals and objectives of the Organization, aimed primarily at developing cooperation between the member countries in the field of trade, economics, investment, transport and communication, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation, we believe it necessary not to allow politicization of ECO activities and its use against third parties and forces.

The actions of the Organization and the documents adopted within its framework should be aimed at uniting efforts for universal development and prosperity.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to note that the chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran in ECO, in our opinion, was active and constructive and contributed to the further promotion of the common goals and objectives of Member States within the Organization.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with its chairmanship in the ECO for the next period and to wish H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, great success in the implementation of this responsible mission.

Allow me once again, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the hospitality and cordiality.

Thank you for attention!

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**Statements By ECO Observers**

**TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MR. SUNAT ATUN  
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND ENERGY  
OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS  
AT THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM)  
OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION (ECO)  
(ISLAMABAD, 28 FEBRUARY 2017)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN,  
MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
HONOURABLE MINISTERS,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**

IT IS A DISTINCT HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM) OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION (ECO). I EXTEND TO YOU ALL THE HEARTFELT GREETINGS OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE AND OUR GOVERNMENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO, AT THE OUTSET, THANK THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BROTHERLY PEOPLE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO ME AND MY DELEGATION SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN ISLAMABAD.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO H.E. MR. HALIL IBRAHIM AKÇA, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ECO, AND HIS ABLE SECRETARIAT, FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO AND COOPERATION WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,  
DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES,**

THE TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE, SHARES A COMMON HISTORY AND CULTURE WITH THE ECO MEMBER STATES, AND IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION.

NORTH CYPRUS HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION SINCE 1992, AND HAS BEEN AN OBSERVER MEMBER SINCE 2012, WHICH WAS EXTENDED IN SEPTEMBER 2015. OUR OBSERVER MEMBERSHIP STATUS GIVES US THE

OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DEVELOP OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH BROTHERLY ECO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

### **EXCELLENCIES,**

AS YOU ARE AWARE, NORTHERN CYPRUS IS A YOUNG YET RAPIDLY DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND TOURISM AS ITS TWO MAIN ECONOMIC SECTORS. I AM PROUD TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT OUR COUNTRY IS EMERGING AS A CENTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND A PROMINENT HOLIDAY DESTINATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

HIGHER EDUCATION CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY. TODAY, THERE ARE 14 UNIVERSITIES AND NEARLY 94,000 STUDENTS IN NORTH CYPRUS. THERE ARE ABOUT 52,000 TURKISH STUDENTS FROM TURKEY, 14,000 LOCAL TURKISH CYPRIOT STUDENTS, AND 28,000 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. OVERALL, WE HAVE STUDENTS FROM 131 COUNTRIES AND TEACHING STAFF FROM 65 COUNTRIES. THIS DEPICTS THE INTERNATIONAL AND DIVERSE CHARACTER OF OUR HIGHER EDUCATION. IT IS A PLEASURE TO STATE THAT ABOUT 6,000 OF OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM ECO MEMBER COUNTRIES, MOSTLY FROM PAKISTAN, IRAN, AZERBAIJAN, KAZAKHSTAN AND TURKMENISTAN. IT IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, IN THE PERIOD AHEAD, TO FURTHER INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM ECO COUNTRIES STUDYING AT OUR UNIVERSITIES.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD WELCOME A DECISION BY THE MEMBER STATES TO INCLUDE OUR UNIVERSITIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE RECOMMENDED LISTS FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THEIR STUDENTS.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO STATE THAT LAST YEAR WE HAVE GRANTED 5 SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM ECO MEMBER STATES IN LINE WITH OUR NOTE-VERBALE ADDRESSED TO THE ECO SECRETARIAT IN NOVEMBER 2015. HOWEVER ONLY 3 OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN UTILISED.



## **EXCELLENCIES,**

IN LINE WITH THE ECO OBJECTIVES, WHICH FORESEE TOURISM AS ANOTHER IMPORTANT AREA OF COOPERATION TO BE EXPLORED AND DEVELOPED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBER STATES, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT OUR COUNTRY WITH ITS UNSPOILT NATURE, RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, ECO-TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AND MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS IS AN IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM THE ECO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS IN 2016, NEARLY 1,7 MILLION TOURISTS VISITED OUR COUNTRY. THERE ARE AROUND 133 HOLIDAY ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AN OVERALL BED CAPACITY OF 21,500 IN OUR COUNTRY. THE ACCOMMODATION RANGES FROM 5 STAR LUXURY HOTELS TO HOLIDAY VILLAGES. OUR COUNTRY ALSO CATERS FOR SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM INCLUDING GOLFING, SCUBA DIVING, TREKKING AND HIKING, CYCLING, YACHTING AND ECO-TOURISM.

## **EXCELLENCIES,**

WE ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO NORTH CYPRUS AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE INVESTORS FROM THE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO NORTH CYPRUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND THE INCENTIVES OFFERED BY OUR GOVERNMENT. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST ESPECIALLY IN THE TOURISM SECTOR. HOTELS AND CONFERENCE TOURISM, SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM LIKE YACHT TOURISM AND MARINA CONSTRUCTION ARE JUST A FEW OF THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT AWAIT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN IN OUR COUNTRY. NEWLY DEVELOPING AREAS SUCH AS HEALTH TOURISM AND AGRO-INDUSTRY ARE ALSO CONSIDERED AS ATTRACTIVE FIELDS OF INVESTMENT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOREIGN INVESTORS. THOSE WISHING TO INVEST IN NORTH CYPRUS CAN BE SURE OF THE SUPPORT OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES, INCLUDING MY MINISTRY, NAMELY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENERGY, OUR STATE

PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE CYPRUS TURKISH INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY ARE AT THE DISPOSAL OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND OF BUSINESSMEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES THAT WE OFFER.

**DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**

I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO STATE THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS HOSTED FOUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ECO EVENTS IN THE PAST. THESE EVENTS INCLUDE THE WORKSHOPS ON "*AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL*" IN AUGUST 1998, "*WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY*" IN MAY 2004, THE "*1ST ECO UNIVERSITY SPORT GAMES*" IN APRIL 2013, AND MOST RECENTLY "*THE WORKSHOP ON TOURISM*" IN APRIL 2015. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THAT WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HOST FUTURE ECO EVENTS, INCLUDING SOME EVENTS IN 2017, NAMELY "*EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ECO-TOURISM*", "*MEETING ON PROTECTED AREAS*", "*MEETING ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES*" AND "*SECOND WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING AND BEST PRACTICES ON BIODIVERSITY ISSUES*".

**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THE "ONE OF A KIND" 80 KM-LONG UNDER WATER PIPE LINE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY TRANSPORTING DRINKING AND IRRIGATION WATER TO NORTH CYPRUS FROM OUR MOTHERLAND TURKEY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PROJECT WILL MEET OUR WATER NEED FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS. TO ADD SOME DETAIL, 37 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF THE 75 MILLION CUBIC METRES SUPPLIED, WILL BE USED FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES. THIS WILL ENABLE A GREATER VARIETY AND QUANTITY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO BE PRODUCED, WHICH IN RETURN WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE OUR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND INCREASE OUR POTENTIAL FOR TRADE WITH YOUR ESTEEMED COUNTRIES. HAVING COMPLETED SUCH AN AMAZING PROJECT WE NOW LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE FOR SIMILAR INNOVATIVE UNDERTAKINGS TOGETHER WITH MOTHERLAND TURKEY.



**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE, YOUR BROTHERS IN CYPRUS, HAVE BEEN UNJUSTLY HELD HOSTAGE TO A SETTLEMENT AND, THUS, TO AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR DECADES DUE TO THE ISOLATION IMPOSED ON THEM, WHICH IS A HARSH REALITY IN THE DAILY LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE, IMPEDING OUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT IN ALL FIELDS OF LIFE.

IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE UNJUST AND INHUMAN ISOLATION IMPOSED ON THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE ARE LIFTED IMMEDIATELY IRRESPECTIVE OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS WHICH HAS NOT YIELDED ANY RESULTS DUE TO GREEK CYPRIOT INTRANSIGENCE.

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON THE ECO SECRETARIAT AND ALL THE BROTHERLY MEMBER STATES TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR TURKISH CYPRIOT BRETHREN AND URGENTLY TAKE CONCRETE AND SERIOUS STEPS TO EASE THE ISOLATION IMPOSED ON THEM. WE ARE READY TO TALK WITH THE ECO SECRETARIAT AS WELL AS WITH EACH AND EVERY BROTHERLY MEMBER STATE ABOUT A ROAD MAP ON HOW WE CAN FURTHER DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, WHICH CAN BRING BENEFICIAL RESULTS FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK, ONCE AGAIN, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE ECO SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN MAKING THIS MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR MOST KIND ATTENTION.

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General of the  
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of  
Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization  
(Islamabad, 28 February 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,  
Esteemed Ministers,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,

First of all I would like express that it is a great honor to address the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers Meeting (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization on behalf of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council).

Our relations with the ECO have been flourished throughout five years and gained a sound basis with the signing of an MoU in 2014. It is a very satisfying that just in 2015 we renewed our observer status at the ECO for another three-year period.

Within the framework of the observer states, and upon the invitation from the ECO, we have been regularly attending the COM meetings, Summit meetings as well as Regional Planning Council Meetings.

As the representative of an observer organisation, the members of which are also members of ECO, I would like to brief you on some of the recent activities of our organisation which run parallel and complementary to the objectives and activities of the ECO.

Acting on the basis of strong political will of the Heads of States, Turkic Council has intensified its efforts to remove the barriers before effective economic cooperation and has undertaken significant initiatives towards more focused and wider cooperation. These efforts and initiatives are aimed at transforming bilateral cooperation mechanisms that already exist among our member states into more coordinated multilateral cooperation structures. Regular meetings of experts and high level officials in various fields including customs, transport, information and communication technologies (ICT), alternative energy and economy have been held to achieve this end. Equally, cooperation in the field of culture and education, as well as collaboration among diasporas and universities demonstrate strong commitment of our Member States to closer and multi-dimensional cooperation among them.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that without political stability there can be no economic growth. Economic growth and political stability, as you know, are deeply interconnected. On the one hand, the uncertainty associated with an unstable political environment reduces investment and the pace of economic development. On the other hand, poor economic performance may lead to government weaknesses and political unrest.

With these in mind, we are leading and partaking in the initiatives to counter violent extremism and to raise further awareness regarding terrorism, genocide and crimes against humanity, through organizing international events.

Let me just briefly mention some of our other concrete projects and initiatives:

“The Modern Silk Road Tour Package Project”

“The Common History, Geography and Literature Textbooks Projects”

“Silk Road Initiative to Enhance Cooperation in Customs” (this initiative not only covers the member states but also other countries in the region, including China)

“Training Programs, seminars and workshops on customs, tourism, transport for the benefit of the experts and potential employees in the private sector”

“Facilitating the transfer of the successful practices regarding public-private partnership”

The list goes on, but I should stop here for the sake of saving time.

We are ready, as the Turkic Council, to cooperate in the initiatives of mutual concern with ECO and make use of the experience accumulated within our organizations.

This way we can move forward in strengthening our relations.

To conclude, I wish security, stability and prosperity in the ECO region, and also wish all the success for the Meeting through attainment of desirable results for all participants.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Short Statement by Representative of Energy Charter**  
**on behalf of the Energy Charter Secretary General**  
**at 22<sup>nd</sup> ECO COM**  
**(28 February 2017)**

Your Esteemed Excellencies; Dear Council of Ministers' Participants

I am delighted to be here in Islamabad on the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers meetings taking place today and I am here addressing you with a short intervention on behalf of the Secretary General of the International Energy Charter Secretariat, H.E. Ambassador Urban Rusnak;

We are based in Brussels, the capital of the European Union, but represent an ever growing constituency of more than 80 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to the ECO governing bodies for granting observer status to the International Energy Charter Secretariat, initially at the 217<sup>th</sup> ECO Council of Permanent Representatives Meetings in Tehran on 23 January 2017, and through formal approval during today's Council of Ministers.

Energy Charter observer-ship of ECO follows the granting of reciprocal observer status to ECO, which was approved by our constituency under the Japanese Chairmanship at the 27<sup>th</sup> Energy Charter Conference in Tokyo on November 26-27 of last year.

Energy Charter-ECO reciprocal observer status formal approvals come as a result of mutually beneficial and practical cooperation initiatives that have been developed by the Secretariats of both organisations during 2016.

In particular, I refer to a jointly organized technical workshop on the topic of '*Stimulating energy investments in an era of low oil prices and de-carbonisation*', which took place under the auspices of the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Energy Congress in Istanbul in October 2016.

This event addressed important regional initiatives on developing new strategies for countries embracing ambitious, long term energy policy solutions seeking to meet growing energy demand. This applied particularly to regional cooperation initiatives in the electrical energy sector, following requests from some key stakeholders in the ECO region.

And indeed, supporting all strands of regional cooperation in the energy sector, lies at the very core of the mission of the Energy Charter. As a leading, treaty-based international organization working on energy security matters, the Energy Charter promotes regional cooperation by:

- Providing legal security for energy investments right across its constituency
- Promoting cross border investment projects....
- .....and thereby stimulating a prosperous, cross border energy trade
- Helping its members and stakeholders secure unhindered transit of energy resources
- Providing a balanced approach towards energy security, which takes into account the needs of energy producing, consuming and transiting states.

This is, of course, a very small sample of our work.

Throughout its soon-to-be three decades of existence, the Energy Charter project has sought to provide a legal basis for the rules setting out the governing principles of behavior between state and market actors in the international energy sector.

Clear and transparent 'rules of the game', based on sound rule of law, are vital if much needed investments are to take place in order to meet rising energy demand. Such investments also help us travel further down the road towards more widespread energy access, as we all work together towards sustainable development more broadly. Few of us tend to challenge the idea that these are all goals well worth striving for, both in the ECO region and across the planet.

Ladies and gentlemen;

There is much potential for energy cooperation in the ECO region. These vast swathes of the Eurasian landmass lie at the heart of the historic trading routes between Europe and Asia.

Today, there is both potential and great need for the states of the ECO region to strengthen energy supply routes, build new energy infrastructure and promote grids/electricity networks at a cross border level.

There is a need to attract foreign and cross border investment into the energy sector in the region, the need to bolster the energy economies here and to ensure that energy continues to provide a fuel for sustainable growth.

Energy cooperation between the states of the region, working in unison with international organisations such as ECO and the Energy Charter, will go a long way in helping you realise these laudable goals.

The people of your region deserve no less than our collective and undeterred commitment.

And the Energy Charter should be seen as both friend and natural ally of ECO in helping you get there.

Eight of the ECO states are already full members of the Energy Charter by having signed and ratified the Energy Charter Treaty. While the two remaining ECO states, Iran, and our hosts, Pakistan, are not members of the Energy Charter Treaty, both are full observers, having signed the International Energy Charter Political Declaration which has now been adopted by more than 80 countries.

The Energy Charter Treaty remains open to their accession.

Having spent a large part of my life in our region, I wholeheartedly share your desire – as reflected in many of the interventions heard during the last two days – to see the ECO states working together to transform further into a prosperous trading bloc, particularly in the energy sector, for the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity for all who live here.

The Energy Charter will always be there with you. We will be stronger together

Sincerely

**Statement by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar,**  
**Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Executive Secretary of the**  
**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
**at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation**  
**Organization**

*(Islamabad, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017)*

**Your Excellencies, Ministers of the ECO Member States,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

ECO has been a long standing partner in development for the United Nations Commission for Asia and the Pacific, or ESCAP. All ECO members are also ESCAP members and are engaged in broader policy and normative debates of regional cooperation.

The combination of strategic geography, shared vision and abundant natural resources offer ECO enormous potential to leverage regional integration. To harness this potential it is important to emphasize the following areas.

First, a shared recognition needs to be developed that regional cooperation and integration has the potential to leverage sustainable development and growth, provided the infrastructure is aligned to support sustainability and resilience.

Second, the future economic and social integration of the subregion depends on how economic corridors can be enhanced by creating regional production and value chains, as well as new industries to revitalize economies and their trade with supportive diversification and job generation, while offering landlocked countries access to the sea.

Third, to enhance prospects for fuller integration of ECO, regional seamless connectivity is critical. It calls for, in the first round, the development of missing transport links, estimated at over 1300 kilometres and costing some \$ 5.15 billion.

Fourth, linked to this, is concern on the low level of intra-regional trade within Central Asia, estimated to be less than 6 per cent of the total. Unlocking the full potential of ECO's members will require more aggressive trade and investment agreements and supportive facilitation mechanisms and windows. ECO members at this point have more conducive agreements with non-ECO members than with their regional bloc partners.

Finally, ECO subregion needs to be recognized for its progress in energy cooperation as the cross-border CASA-1000 powerline and the TAPI gas pipeline projects are now underway.

This infrastructure, in addition to meeting the energy needs of industry, will enhance energy access in populous South Asian countries, while playing a much-needed role in reducing emissions and enhancing energy security. The flourishing bilateral agreements for electricity trade made recently between many ECO members augurs well for the longer term vision of an ECO subregional electricity market.

As part of ESCAP's vision for a dynamic, prosperous and sustainable Asia-Pacific, debates on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration, or RECI, focus on fostering economic cooperation through the formation of an integrated market; development of seamless connectivity; enhancing financial cooperation; and addressing shared vulnerabilities and risks.

RECI is a process that can drive trade facilitation including through electronic paperless trade and through investments and innovation that will capitalize on ECO's strategic location as a hub between three predominant global markets – East Asia, South Asia and Europe. Through investments in modernization and linking of infrastructure for seamless connectivity across the region, and combined with supportive enabling policies, RECI can open up opportunities for private sector involvement in areas such as infrastructure development; economic diversification and export competitiveness; and implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway to enhance digital connectivity. Progress in these areas will promote shared prosperity and can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the transboundary goals.

Regional cooperation across Asia-Pacific region is to receive further impetus from the Belt and Road and the Eurasian initiatives – both need to be well coordinated to develop further interlinkages and foster industrial development. Three of six economic corridors proposed under the Belt and Road Initiative pass through the ECO subregion to connect Asia with Europe.

A comprehensive dialogue, addressing both traditional and newer drivers of RECI, will take place in Bangkok this April at the Asia-Pacific regional conference on RECI where our member states will deliberate the priorities and next steps needed to fast track regional integration. The deployment of a revitalized partnership with ECO is an important building block towards the achievement of this common endeavor.

To conclude, I encourage ECO to leverage ESCAP's multi-sectoral agreements, our policy work and experiences gained in more advanced sub regional integration models. We welcome you or your fellow ministers to ESCAP's upcoming Asia-Pacific inter-governmental meetings and the annual commission session convened in May that will also mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ESCAP. The possibilities afforded by regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific are tremendous and offer an important way forward to address some of the complications stemming from recent reversals in globalization.

I look forward to ESCAP and ECO continuing to work together in pursuit of our shared goals.

I thank you.

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## ANNEX-VIII

### **Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions at 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Minister (COM)**

*(Islamabad, 28 February 2017)*

#### **Statement by President of ECO Cultural Institute H. E. Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Mazaheri The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers 28 February 2017**

##### **Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

This meeting is a great occasion for ECO Cultural Institute to present an account of its latest achievements and international activities in area of culture.

No doubt the most sublime element critical to the existence of communities is culture. Culture creates identity as well as integration of the nations in a region. In the current era of globalization, culture not only provides the ground for peace and friendship between nations, but also has fundamental influence on enhancement of economic cooperation. That is why consideration of cultural diplomacy and the role it plays in improving relations between states is essential.

We are fortunate to live in a region that enjoys the utmost diversified cultural commonalities. These common points are the legacy of our ancestors, always denoting a message of peace, spirituality, friendship and peaceful life for the people of this region.

Utilizing effective devices such as arts, culture and literature shared by all nations of the region, inter-cultural dialogue could be encouraged and based on the collective wisdom, a unique regional cultural diplomacy would be developed to bring glory and pride for people of the region in the era of globalization. ECO Cultural Institute recognizing the vital role of these numerous commonalities in strengthening bonds of friendship, makes efforts in its new chapter of activities to take effective steps towards realization of the regional diplomacy through cooperation, sympathy and sincere participation.

During my short tenure of office as the president of this international cultural body, a wide range of activities have been organized to meet the objectives envisaged in the Institute's charter. Three studies are going to be published, among them is a selection of articles by Tajik scholars on Roudaki's life and works. Also, to preserve the aforesaid common cultural heritage, a comprehensive research project on cultural security of the ECO Member States will be unveiled in 2017.

To establish network connection among cultural centers, national libraries and museums of the region, the first Regional Training Workshop on the Museum Environment and Preventive Conservation, jointly organized by ECO Cultural Institute, Cultural Heritage Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and participated by museum professionals from the ECO Member States. Furthermore, the Institute plans to arrange the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of National Libraries in the near future.

Among top priorities of the ECO Cultural Institute is partnership with academia in area of culture. To this end, the first Meeting of ECO Universities of Arts' Presidents was held and twenty scholarships were granted to the students of the region. Organizing joint academic events, round tables, student and faculty exchange programs are the other objectives the Institute pursues within the framework of such partnerships.

**Honorable Ministers,**

Promoting regional cooperation pertaining to the sports is another goal emphasized in the ECO Cultural Institute's charter. To this end, the Institute has organized the first ECO Chess Cup, participated by all the ECO Member States and will arrange more sports events in the future to promote it in the region.

Successful activities of the Institute was followed by the third poetry night to celebrate winter, in collaboration with the embassy of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tehran, well-attended by poets of the region. The presented poems will be published as a valuable reference of contemporary poetry in the region.

Also, ECO Cultural Institute has carried out major renovation to its premises involving specialized library, diplomatic conference center and gallery to furnish the distinguished ECO Member States with a great venue to promote their culture, arts and literature.

Music is the common language of all nations and music of ECO region is famed worldwide. To promote traditional music of ECO nations, ECO Cultural Institute and music groups of the region have jointly organized a wide variety of events, including a musical performance on Rumi entitled "Bayati Mevlevi Ayini", in association with Republic of Turkey's Yunus Emre Cultural Institute in Tehran.

Also, to honor the great, ancient arts of the region, ECO Cultural Institute has arranged numerous arts events including an exhibition of traditional arts masterworks by prominent artists of the region, entitled "Transcendent Arts".

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

I would like to inform that the Institute's performance has been praiseworthy as the sixty fifth session of the UN general assembly, in a resolution on cooperation between the UN and ECO, para 28, appreciates the work being done by the Cultural Institute to expand and strengthen the cultural ties among the ECO Member States, and requests the relevant UN institutions, especially the UNESCO, to extend support to the programs and projects of the Cultural Institute aimed at promoting the rich cultural heritage of the region. To this end, Continuous and constructive interaction with other regional and international cultural institutions in the years ahead will be one of our objectives.

**Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers;**

Today, media image building in the form of cultural diplomacy is more than ever being considered as using media and related facilities is believed to be a powerful mechanism for this type of diplomacy. I would like to inform that ECO Cultural Institute recognizing the importance of mass consciousness of the common cultural heritage and its impact on enrichment and development of cooperation in all aspects in the region as well as significance of publicizing the existing cultural, educational and social problems of the region, will publish monthly magazines in common languages of the region (Persian, English, Russian, Urdu and Turkish). Definitely contribution of authors of the region will enrich its content.

Moreover, to maximize contribution of the ECO Member States and their luminaries, the Institute plans to establish councils in areas of arts, culture, literature and research to enhance the Institute's performance with their consultancy.

Tourism promotion as the most important cultural mechanism for sustainable development is another objective to be seriously pursued by the Institute.



We are pleased to announce that recently some states in the region have shown interest in accession to the Institute, obviously, contribution of the region's states is essential for the Institute's success in its mandates and enhancement of regional cooperation in the area of culture.

**Honorable Ministers;**

Over the years, the ECO Cultural Institute has not been able to change annual contribution of its member states while the annual growth of inflation and rising costs is a global phenomenon, always making difficulties in organizing cultural activities. Despite financial constraints and a budget remained unchanged for years, ECO Cultural Institute has always made efforts to bring together through its activities a large gathering of eminent personalities of the region in areas of culture, art and literature. The distinguished member states of the Institute may kindly reconsider its budget and their contributions.

**Excellencies;**

ECO Cultural Institute has set spectacular goals for the upcoming three years to be achieved in partnership with the states in the region. With your support as the ECO Member States and based on collective wisdom, we strive to prepare the ground for realization of united regional cultural diplomacy.

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its hospitality and special arrangements to make this event another successful experience in ECO's history.

Thank you

**Statement by Mr. Javaid Aslam, President of the ECO Trade and Development  
Bank (ECO-TDB) at 22<sup>nd</sup> ECO Council of Ministers Meeting (COM)  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
28 February 2017**

**Mr. Chairman  
Distinguished Ministers/Heads of Delegations  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Honourable Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to state that it is a great pleasure and honor for me to participate to the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM meeting. Let me also express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and the ECO Secretariat for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for these important ECO events.

**Mr.Chairman,**

Let me start by highlighting some of our observations regarding developments in global economy. Nine years after the start of the crisis, the global growth outlook is still weak and holds challenging downside risks. Global growth is projected to slow to 3.1 percent in 2016 before recovering to 3.4 percent in 2017. This subdued recovery and in particular the weakness in investments play role in explaining the deteriorations in global trade.

Overall, there is a sense of normalcy there, but economies are being more subject to extreme conditions. Volatility in commodity prices, slowing down of capital flows, possible shift toward protectionism and geopolitical developments continue to weigh on economic development strategies of our region.

**Excellencies,**

In spite of these challenges, so far, our member countries have shown great resilience. The regional output grew 2.8 percent in 2015 and our forecast point out to a growth of 3.5 percent in 2016. The modest improvement in the region's growth outlook in 2017 mostly reflects some recovery in commodity prices, improvements in industrial output as well as more competitive currencies. Endowed with variety of enormous resources and geo-strategic advantages, the ECO region remains truly an attractive destination for investment and doing business. We shall take advantage of external conditions to press ahead with well-sequenced structural reforms and advance fiscal adjustment, where needed. We need to achieve growth rates leading to an annual regional economic growth rate close to 7 percent. This will enable our region to catch up with other country groups and accommodate huge labor force entering into our economies every year.

**Mr.Chairman,**

The new phase of sustainable growth in the region should open opportunities for further deepening our business relations. The biggest challenge ahead of us is move to

a growth which is based on high productivity and innovation. We should catch-up to frontier status in technology and innovation. Notably, private sector is the critical driver of this process. It is also quite evident that a well-functioning and connected financial sector would contribute to mobilizing resources and enhancing business flows to the region.

Overall, we need more policy-interventions to reduce related business barriers. In this respect, I am confident the new ECO Vision 2025 would further catalyze regional solidarity. To this end, we rightly want to play our role and deliver even more impact in the future. We remain committed to contribute and facilitate resource for successful achievement of goals of the new Vision.

**Mr.Chairman,**

Yesterday, at the senior officials meeting, I had the opportunity to inform the main achievements of the Bank. And we submitted a comprehensive report to the respective Council as well. Here, I prefer not to go into details of our operations.

In summary, I am pleased to inform that the Bank is keeping a healthy pace of development. Since 2008, when the Bank started its operations, the total amount of loans disbursed to various operations in the member states exceeded 1.2 billion U.S dollars as end of December 2016. We have a major role in encouraging the private sector and integrating our entrepreneurs into global supply chains. Thus, significant parts of our resources are channeled to trade finance, making the Bank's involvement in the region's trade more inclusive. Small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are a major source of growth and employment in our region. Therefore, under our dedicated lending program, we have provided more than 338 million U.S dollars for development of SMEs. Indeed, we are doing ever more in supporting development of successful projects. Our involvement in realizations of various projects in the areas of wind power, transport, infrastructure and energy efficiency have been remarkable. These projects are assessed as having good or excellent development impact.

Our dialogue with other Multilateral Development Banks such as IFC, ADB and IDB on developing strategic synergies for the benefit of the region has intensified, and culminated with co-financing arrangements. We are determined to expand such relations confidently.

The financial performance of the Bank has been outstanding over the last years. The total assets of the Bank are amounted to USD 640 million by the end of 2016. According to preliminary results our net operating income stand at USD 8.9 million in 2016. We continue to work hard at maintaining a well-diversified loan portfolio. The Bank has accumulated no NPL's this far which is one of the best levels among the peer institutions.

**Excellencies,**

We are coming close to achieving early our strategic operational targets set under the business plan for 2013-17. All the more, they were achieved in spite of the difficult economic circumstances. Overall, the Bank has established itself professionally in last 8 years. Added to this, we would be stepping up our efforts to make further

contribution to the region's growth and development in the years to come. The Bank should expand at this stage. Within this framework, membership enlargement remains a key institutional priority. Addition of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan as members of the Bank would help focus activities over the entire region. It will also consolidate the ECO family. I would like to reconfirm that the Bank is ready to provide all information and assistance that may facilitate their accession to the Bank.

**Mr.Chairman,**

Let me conclude by noting that considering the challenges and large investment gap in the region, there are a lot more grounds for us to cover. Obviously we also have some challenges. But, I am confident that with the support of member states, ETDB would further mobilize its skills and experience to deliver significant impact.

Thank you very much.

**Statement by Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECO Science Foundation  
(ECOSF) at the 22<sup>nd</sup> ECO Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting**

(Islamabad-Pakistan, 28 February 2017)

Excellency, the Chairman,  
Excellencies the Ministers and delegates from ECO Member States  
Excellency the Secretary General of ECO  
Excellencies, the Ambassadors  
Delegations of Specialized Agencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum!

At the outset, I congratulate the Chairman of 22<sup>nd</sup> ECO COM Meeting, on assuming the Chair of the Forum. It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to address this august forum.

Excellencies, on behalf of ECO Science Foundation and on my personal behalf, I express deep gratitude to all the Member States and ECO Secretariat for their continuous support to the Foundation. Our special thanks to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for patronizing ECOSF through its Ministries of Science & Technology and Foreign Affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to report that since the 21<sup>st</sup> COM Meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Meetings of Board of Trustees of ECO Science Foundation were held on 11 August 2015 and 18 August 2016 respectively in Islamabad. Both the meetings were co-sponsored and hosted by the Government of Pakistan. I am pleased to report that the Financial Regulations of ECOSF and the Priority Research Areas for funding by the Foundation have been approved by the Board. The approved Priority Research Areas are: Energy, Water, Food Security and Health with some overarching areas including Climate Change, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Migration. Subsequently the Foundation has formally launched the program by inviting the concept proposals and last date for submission is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. National Science Funding Agencies can also join hands by synergizing their programmes with ECOSF for joint funding. The BoT in its 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting also approved the appointment of Dr. Komail Tayebi, a citizen of Iran as Executive Director of ECOSF. He will hopefully join after Noruz.

ECOSF is also very pleased to report that we moved our offices in April 2016 to a new and permanent accommodation in the main building of Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan in Islamabad. The Foundation is very grateful to the Government of Pakistan for fulfilling their commitment.

Excellencies, the Charter and its Additional Protocol, though signed by all members, only five Member States have so far ratified. I take this opportunity to request the

non-ratifying member states, to do so as soon as possible to let the Foundation function at its fullest potential.

I would like to put on record our high appreciations to the Government of Pakistan for consistently paying the mandatory budget contribution to the Foundation ever since 2012. We are also grateful to Islamic Republic of Iran for paying budget contribution for the year 2012 and partial payment for 2013. I call upon all the full member states to kindly make their mandatory budgetary contributions at the earliest to strengthen the Foundation.

Excellencies, the ECOSF has established a "Science & Technology Fund" for financing the collaborative research projects. As per requirement, all the modalities for utilization of this Fund had already been worked out and approved way back in the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECO COM held in October 2012 at Baku, Azerbaijan.

Mr. Chairman, although pledges for voluntary contribution to the S&T Fund of the Foundation have been made in the past by the Governments of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, actual contribution has not come through, from any member state as yet. Thus, I request member states to contribute generously please for success of the initiative.

Excellencies, the Foundation has successfully initiated research collaboration between Pakistan and Tajikistan through Academy of Sciences of Republic of Tajikistan and International Center of Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) of University of Karachi – Pakistan. Partnership with IDB in its two Reverse Linkages Projects between Pakistan & Kazakhstan and Turkey & Pakistan for capacity building at a total cost of US\$ 1,434,400/- has been agreed upon and signed (ECOSF Share (US\$ 50,000/-). Moreover the Foundation has signed MoU with IDB for broader cooperation on S&T research and capacity building of the ECO Member States.

Let me assure you Excellencies that we are cognizant of the UN SDGs and the Global Agenda 2030 and all our programmes are tuned to contribute towards achieving SDGs by Member States. Now that the ECO Vision 2025 has been approved, it will be prominently linked and reflected in ECOSF programmes.

To pursue common goals, ECOSF has developed good collaboration with numerous International Organizations including; UNESCO, ISTIC, KISTIP, FEIAP, TWESCO, LAMAP France and IAP. The Foundation being an arm of ECO for STI would be very pleased to assist in the main programmes of ECO Secretariat especially of the Directorate of Energy and Environment. In this regard, I am pleased to share with the august house that the Foundation has launched a program of youth engagement and connectivity called “AppIdea2R” (Application Idea to Reality). It aims to develop software applications, broadly available to the public and related to one or more of the SDGs. The AppIdea2R Contest is an open opportunity for university students all over ECO Member States.

Excellencies, to ensure better engineering qualification standards in ECO region, ECOSF with UNESCO has also taken initiative for engineering qualification standardization as per FEIAP standards. This would allow engineers to travel not



only in ECO region but rest of the world. Pakistan Engineering Council has already been accredited by FEIAP and a High-Level Policy Forum is being organized in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in the last week of March 2017. Some high level Experts and Regulators of the world will participate in the Forum. We have already requested Secretary General of ECO to participate in the Forum to share the ECO Vision with reference to importance of engineering in infrastructure development.

Dear Delegates, the Foundation is of the view that Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) is pre requisite for STI Development anywhere. Therefore, the programme was launched in Astana-Kazakhstan in 2015. It is my great pleasure to report that after the successful launch of IBSE in Astana, with the support of our international collaborators, two very successful Capacity Building workshops for Master Teacher Trainers were organized in Pakistan (Sept 2016) and Iran (Jan 2017) with the support of National Organizations under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan and the University of Isfahan, Ministries of Education and SRT of Iran. More activities of this initiative are planned in 2017 in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite financial and logistic difficulties, the Foundation undertook numerous important scientific activities during the past three years. Details have been provided in the written progress report. Major activities are also enlisted in the Annex-I. The Foundation also maintains a dynamic website and circulates an electronic *ECOSF Newsletter*, issued every two months.

Finally, I would like to say that the Foundation is making all possible efforts to promote science, technology, innovation and scientific education activities in the region with the collaboration and support of International Organizations.; however, the greatest difficulty we are facing is; the slow response from some member states and the Focal Points need to be from most relevant STI institutions and must be activate for timely response. If the response is faster, I assure you Excellencies that coupled with increased financial contributions made by Member States; our activities would increase many folds.

At the end, I hope that the Members States will consider my requests positively in the interest of promoting connectivity and knowledge based socio economic development in the region. I express my sincere thanks again to Government of Pakistan and ECO Secretariat for the commendable efforts in convening this 22<sup>nd</sup> COM meeting.

I thank you Excellencies!

*Annex-I*

### **Major Activities undertaken by ECOSF**

1. Initiation of Travel Grants to Scientists/Researchers.
2. Nomination of scientific experts from the member states to numerous International Forums including LAMAP, TWAS and IPBES.
3. Joining hands with and support to Mustafa Prize based in Iran.

4. Initiation of “Iran- ECOSF Science & Research Cooperative Program” for 4 PhD level and 5 Masters level scholarships to the students of ECO Member States each year.
5. Following events organized/co-organized/participated by ECOSF during 2016 in collaborations with its partners and other national and international organizations:
  - a. Water Summit 2016 organized by the Secretariat for the Advancement of Science and Technology in Islamic World (SASTIW) based in Tehran- Iran in March 2016.
  - b. Facilitation of an interaction between Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and Secretariat for Advancement of Science and Technology in the Islamic World (SASTIW) and UNESCO Chair on Water Reuse of the University of Tehran.
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup>Invention to Innovation Summit at University of Balochistan (UoB) Quetta, Pakistan in May 2016.
  - d. 6<sup>th</sup>ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment, June 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan
  - e. 10th IEEE International Conference on Application of Information and Communication Technologies AICT2016 in October 2016 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
  - f. International Workshops on “Genomics and Genome Editing” May 2016 in Lahore-Pakistan.
  - g. Crystallography in Structural Biology” October 2016 in Lahore-Pakistan.
  - h. 8th SACAM Meeting in Almaty – Kazakhstan, Oct 2016. It is pertinent to mention that with the efforts of ECOSF, three ECO Countries namely; Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were accepted as full members of SACAM Network; whereas, Azerbaijan was given status of Observer during the meeting.
  - i. 1st International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Management (STIP&M), Nov 2016.
  - j. The 6<sup>th</sup>International Conferences on Management of Technology (IRAMOT) in Tehran-Iran – Dec 2016.
  - k. Conferences China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Regional Integration Organized by PSDE and Co-hosted by ECOSF from 13-15 Dec 2016.
  - l. 14thEurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences from 15-18 December 2016 at Karachi- Pakistan.
  - m. Water Rocket Challenge 2017 for youth at Karachi – Jan 2017.
  - n. 6<sup>th</sup> International Fisheries Symposium & Expo 2017 at University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan – Feb 2017.
  - o. Symposium and Workshop on Biowaste Derived Carbons for Waste-to-Bioenergy Conversion and Water Purification – Feb 2017.
  - p. Science Fun Mela for kids – Feb 2017.
  - q. International High Level Policy Forum and Workshop on Developing the Roadmap on Engineering Qualification Standardization, Accreditation and Professional System (EQSAPS) at Dushanbe, Tajikistan (27-29 Mar 2017).