



*219th Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*

Report

*20th February, 2017
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

Report

The 219th CPR Meeting was held on Monday 20th February 2017 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States. The ECO Secretary General along with concerned officials of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as *Annex-I*.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Council adopted the following Agenda of 219th CPR Meeting for deliberations:

Agenda

1. *Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 219th CPR Meeting*
2. *Adoption of the Draft Report of the 218th CPR Meeting*
3. *Submission of Calendar of Events 2017 to the COM for approval (continued)*
4. *Continued discussions on preparations for 22nd COM Meeting and 13th Summit:*
 - a. *Consideration of Draft Islamabad Declaration*
 - b. *Deliberations on Achievable milestones before 13th Summit*
 - c. *Consideration of the Working Document on Reforms & new ECO Scale of Assessments*
 - d. *Deliberations on Draft ECO Vision 2025 along with its Implementation Framework and Vision Fund*
 - e. *Organizational and any other issues related to preparations for the Summit*
5. *Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TEPAV and SESRIC for Capacity Building Activities on Economic Research and Statistics through utilizing of available facilities of both Organizations (continued)*
6. *Authorization of the CPR for signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)*
7. Administrative matters:
 - (a) *Recommendations of the Selection Panel*
8. *Any other business*
9. *Date of the next CPR Meeting*

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 218th CPR Meeting

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 218th CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/218/2 (30th January 2017) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CPR/218 Meeting/2017/272 dated 16th February, 2017.

4. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that a paragraph has been provided to the Secretariat for its insertion in the 218th CPR Report (*New Para 16*). Furthermore, the Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi informed the Council that the Secretariat has received a Note Verbal from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for insertion of their position in para 44 of the 218th CPR Report (*New Para 45*) and sought concurrence of the Council for its insertion in the 218th CPR Report.

5. After deliberations, the Council approved the adoption of 218th CPR Report with amendments/insertion of the paras proposed by the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* and *Iran respectively*.

Agenda Item No:3

Submission of Calender of Events 2017 to the COM for approval.

6. Approval of the Calendar of Events 2017 was continuously discussed since 216th CPR Meetings and, in-depth deliberations also took place in 218th Meeting, where it was further decided to discuss the same agenda in the next (219 CPR) Meeting.

7. The Council continued deliberation on the issue of Calender of Events for 2017. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* mentioned its position, that the Observer States cannot hold any meeting on the basis of ECO Regulations. The Representative proposed that in order to submit a clean text for the SOM and COM, in the column of venue, only '*TBD*' can be mentioned and then the whole Calendar of Events 2017 can be approved.

8. However, the Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* did not accept the proposal of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to approve the whole Calendar of Events 2017 without the resolution of the issue.

9. The ECO Secretary General informed the Council that after 28th February 2017, the Secretariat will face difficulty in implementing the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events especially for March/ April 2017.

10. After deliberations, the Council decided to submit the Calendar of Events 2017 for decision in the upcoming SOM/COM Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Continued discussions on preparations for 22nd COM Meeting and 13th Summit

11. Under this agenda item, the Secretary General briefed the Council on the following issues mentioned at sub-items (a),(b),(c), (d) and (e):

Islamabad Declaration

- (a) Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) held seven sessions, however, due to non-consensus, Islamabad Declaration has still not been finalized.

Achievable Milestones

- (b) The Secretary General informed that the Secretariat has not yet received any response on the document on Achievable Milestones. He further said that some of the issues under the Milestones have also been elaborated under different items such as Agenda of SOM/COM and Islamabad Declaration. However, the Secretariat is still waiting concrete contributions on issues mentioned in the Milestones.

ECO Reforms & Scale of Assessments

- (c) He said that most of the Member States are principally in favour of having the Reforms process but comments of the Member States on Reforms, also correlated with the Scales of Assessments, are still awaited except from Pakistan. Regarding **Scale of Assessments**, the Secretary General informed that the Founding Members of the Organization agree with the proposed share of 22% each. Moreover, the Kyrgyz Republic has officially informed its position to the ECO Secretariat but the positions of other Member States are still awaited.

The Secretary General said that the Secretariat has done its best by developing a linkage between Reforms and Scale of Assessments and believed that these are well prepared and are based on EPG recommendations and the Working Groups on reform.

ECO Vision 2025 & Vision Fund

- (d) With regard to the **ECO Vision Fund**, detailed discussions have been held and the Member States have not communicated any official position on the issue to-date.

(e) **Organizational and other issues related to preparations for the Summit**

12. Under sub agenda (e), the ECO Secretary General briefed the Meeting about ECO Delegation's visit to Islamabad (Pakistan) on 9 - 12 February 2017 where meetings were held with the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, the Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chief Coordinator of the 13th Summit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the meetings matters of substantial and coordination issues as well issues regarding arrangements of SOM/COM and Summit were discussed.

13. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi also briefed the Council about the preparations for the upcoming 22nd COM and 13th Summit and stated that almost all the arrangements in coordination with the host authorities have been completed. He further informed that an Advance Team will be leaving for Islamabad on 22nd February 2017. On the enquiry by the Chairman, the Deputy Secretary General informed that the Annotated Draft Agenda and the Programmes of SOM, 22nd COM and 13th Summit have already been circulated among the Member States. Copies of these documents were also circulated/provided to the representatives during the CPR Meeting.

14. The Co-Chairman (**Iran**) briefed the Council about the discussions held in PrepCom meetings stating that discussions were held on the issues of (i) *Draft Islamabad Declaration, Scale of Assessments* and *ECO Reforms*. He said reports of the PrepCom have been issued. He further informed that on the issue of Scale of Assessments, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey have given consent to their proposed share as 22% each. The Co-Chairman also informed the Council about the finalization of eight names for the ECO Awards 2017.

15. The Co-Chairman (**Pakistan**) informed the Council that the PrepCom thoroughly discussed the *Islamabad Declaration* but full consensus between the Member States could not be achieved.

16. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** taking part in the discussion offered to host a Dinner on 22nd February 2017 where he hoped to resolve some of the issues in this informal gathering. He further informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has invited 'China' and the 'United Nations' as Special Guests in the 13th Summit.

17. The Ambassador of the **Kyrgyz Republic** mentioned that it has already provided its views/comments and hoped for insertion/incorporation of these views in the Islamabad Declaration.

18. The Ambassador of Uzbekistan taking the floor informed the Council about the principled position of Uzbekistan stating that the Islamabad Declaration of 13th Summit must be aimed at comprehensive and overwhelming development of the Organization rather than addressing political conflicts. He said that this is one of the key reasons of decrease in the activities of the Organization. He said that Uzbekistan, due to its stated policies will not join in any Summit Declaration with political contents. While thanking

the offer and proposal by Iran, he informed that Uzbekistan refrains from accepting ECO Award 2017.

19. The Secretariat updated the Council that the PrepCom in the capacity of the Awards Selection Committee has finalized the names for the ECO Award 2017 *except* Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan. Moreover, the nominee from the Azerbaijan will be included in the list and all the Member States will be informed about the finalized names through a Note Verbale.

20. After thorough deliberation, the Council decided that, all relevant documents will be taken by the Secretariat to Islamabad for further deliberations in SOM and COM Meetings. The Chairman emphasized politicizing the Islamabad Declaration may be avoided as the member countries have their concerns and then there will be a problem in concluding the Declaration and he hoped that all Member States would be cooperative in this regard.

21. The Council further approved the nominees for the ECO Awards 2017. A copy of list of finalized names of ECO Awards 2017 is attached at Annex-II.

Agenda Item No. 5

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TEPAV and SESRIC for Capacity Building Activities on Economic Research and Statistics through utilizing of available facilities of both Organizations

22. Meetings with the Representatives of TEPAV and SESRIC were held on the margins of Sixth Session of OIC Statistical Commission (5-6 November 2016 in Konya, Turkey), with the consideration to utilize the expertise of the two organizations specialized in Economic Research and policy and taking into consideration that ECO is embarking upon the new Vision-2025 in which economic research in priority areas like trade, transport, energy etc, would be of high importance. Both the Organizations i.e. TEPAV and SESRIC are interested in joint economic research programmes with ECO and have shown willingness to extend collaboration in multiple forms and areas through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). As per the modalities, the ECO Secretariat has already circulated the Background Papers on both the above mentioned Organizations to the Member States vide its Note Verbale No. PERS/SESRIC&TEPAV/2016/1429 dated 1st December 2016.

23. In the preceding CPR meetings, the Deputy Secretary (TC, PERS & CFU) briefly informed the Council about the above mentioned two Organizations i.e. TEPAV and SESRIC. However, the Islamic Republic of *Iran* informed that consultations are still taking place with the Iranian focal point and hoped to provide information in the next CPR Meeting.

24. Taking the floor, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* before conveying its positive response for signing of MoUs with TEPAV and SESRIC, asked the Legal Adviser to inform the Council whether the ECO Secretariat can sign an MoU with a non-governmental organization?

25. The Legal Adviser informed the legal position and read-out the related paragraphs of the modalities which are as under:

Scope

"These Modalities sets forth procedure and formalities to be followed by ECO whilst entering into an agreement for mutually beneficial cooperative relations with other Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions, in

keeping with the Articles II (m) and XIV (4) of the Treaty of Izmir. These Modalities are aimed at streamlining ECO's current procedure/practice with regard to initiating, signing and implementation/follow-up on the agreements in the sphere of external relations."

Approval by the CPR

"Once the negotiations on draft agreement have been successfully concluded, the draft text shall be circulated to the Member States for their views and subsequently submitted to the CPR for approval. To the extent possible, efforts shall be made by the Secretary-General to circulate the draft text to the Member States not later than 2 months before the issue is placed on the agenda of the CPR Meeting for final decision."

26. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* after the explanation by the Legal Advisor by quoting the '*Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions*', conveyed its principle concurrence for entering into negotiations by the ECO Secretariat with *TEPAV* and *SESRIC* for enhancing cooperation. He hoped that the Secretariat will provide the Draft MoUs with justification report regarding the positive effects of cooperation with these Organizations to the Member States, which will also enable the Iranian focal point for consideration and, thereafter the Secretariat will be formally informed.

27. After deliberation the Council decided that the Secretariat may initiate negotiations and come up with drafts of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with the Organization (*TEPAV and SESRIC*) to be circulated among the Member States and then the finalized texts of the MoUs may be submitted to the CPR for its final approval.

Agenda Item No.6

Authorization of the CPR for signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

28. In line with the decision of the 201st Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (Para 29 of the Report) concerning the establishment of cooperative relationship with the World Intellectual Property Organization the Secretariat has entered into negotiation with WIPO with the aim of working out the text of the concerned legal document. After the exchange of views between the parties finally the text of an MOU has been drafted and finalized.

29. As per '*Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions*' the finalized Draft MoU should be circulated among the member states before its submission to CPR for its approval. To this end the Member States have been provided with the finalized negotiated text through Note AIT\WIPO\2017\12 dated 8 January 2017. It has also brought to the notice of the Member States that - by the said note- that the issue will be submitted to the 218th CPR for its approval.

30. Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT & IR) gave a short briefing stating that in the 201st Meeting of the CPR, the Council authorized the Secretariat to start negotiation with WIPO and consequently the Secretariat already concluded negotiations and finalized the text of the MoU which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note AIT\WIPO\2017\12 dated 8 January 2017. The DSG, as per the Modalities, sought concurrence of the august house for approval and signing the MoU.

31. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* while supporting the signing of MoU with WIPO said that there will soon be an ECO workshop on industrial property

rights in Tehran which will be a good opportunity for enhancing Organization's relations with regional and international organizations.

32. The Council considered and authorized the Secretariat for signing the MoU with **WIPO** as per *Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International organizations, States and Institutions*.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative Matters

(a) Recommendations of the Selection Panel

33. The Council was informed that no Selection Panel meeting was held.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any Other Business

34. The Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic made an observation by stating that it had sent a Note Verbale to the ECO Secretariat regarding nomination of Kyrgyz nominee for the post of Director (HRSD) and said that it has not been mentioned in the Agenda of the CPR.

35. On the observation, the Deputy Secretary General (TC & PERS) clarified that the position of the Kyrgyz Ambassador has been recorded in 218th Report (*Para 43*) which states that "the Ambassador of the **Kyrgyz Republic** informed the Council that he would like to attend the next Selection Panel Committee meeting with regard to selection of Director HRSD".

36. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) said that the Secretariat, through formal note, had already clarified on the Note Verbale from Kyrgyz Republic Embassy regarding the nomination for the post of Director (HRSD). He further explained that extension of the incumbent Director until the new nomination from Republic of Turkey has already been approved through circulation as agreed by the CPR; where no objection was received during the 2-week stipulated deadline. This is on the agenda of the 22nd COM for formal approval. On the distribution of the Post, he further informed the Council that in the past, the same post had been also claimed by both Turkey and Kyrgyz Republic which resulted in a decision by CPR in its 173rd meeting to divide the tenure of the post of Director (HRSD) into two halves (first 1½ years be filled by the candidate from Kyrgyz Republic and the second 1½ years be filled by the candidate from Turkey). The same CPR also decided that in the future the Post will be filled by the candidates from Republic of Turkey.

Agenda Item No.9

Date of the next CPR meeting

37. The Council decided to convene its next (220th) Meeting on *Monday 17th April, 2017 at 1000 hours* at the ECO Secretariat Tehran, and for any urgent matter referred by the COM/Summit to the CPR, the Secretariat will coordinate and inform the Member States accordingly.

38. While concluding the meeting, the CPR Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States for their participation and valuable contribution in the Meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Ahmad Haroon Najmpoor, Minister-Counsellor
- Dr. Zekria Iakoubi, First Secretary
- Ms. Zahra Badaghi, Administrative Assistant

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Mr. Javid Musayev, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General
- Mr. Abulfazl Mohammad Alikhani, Deputy Director General
- Mr. Ahmad Saffari, Deputy Director, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ahmad Reza Asghari, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Serik Zhumabekov, Minister-Counsellor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- Mr. Aziz Kurumbaev, Counsellor
- Mr. Kochorbaev Musa, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador
- Mr. Imran Haider, Deputy Head of Mission
- Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Second Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador
- Mr. Saidali Shosaidov, Embassy officer

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- H.E. Mr. Riza Hakan TEKİN, Ambassador
- Ms. Sinem Gokce, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- Mr. Ylyas Gayypow, First Secretary
- Mr. Islam Sakhatow, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullaev, Ambassador
- Mr. Bakhodir Tashmanov, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Muhammad Muqeeq Asim Shah, Assistant Director (IR)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Arshad Ali Jatoi, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, Persian Interpreter/Translator

List of Nominees for the ECO Awards-2017 as selected by the Selection Committee and endorsed by the 218th & 219th Meetings of the CPR

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

As informed to the Council, on receipt of nomination from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Secretariat will circulate the list to the Member States