



*218th Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*

Report

*8th February, 2017
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

Report

The 218th CPR Meeting was held on Wednesday 8th 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 218th CPR Meeting for deliberations:
 1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 218th CPR Meeting
 2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 217th CPR Meeting
 3. Submission of Calender of Events 2017 to the COM for approval (*Continued*)
 4. Continued discussions on preparation for 22nd COM Meeting and 13th Summit:
 - a. Deliberations on achievable milestones before 13th Summit
 - b. Consideration of Draft Islamabad Declaration
 - c. Consideration of the Working Document on Reforms
 - d. Deliberation on Draft ECO Vision-2025 along with its Implementation Framework and Vision Fund
 - e. Consideration of the Working Document on new ECO Scale of Assessments
 - f. Participation of the Turkic Council Secretariat in its capacity as Observer, as well as Special/Honourable Guests, Regional and International Organizations and Financial Institutions in 22nd COM and 13th Summit Meetings
 - g. Organizational and any other issues related to preparations for the Summit
 5. Signing 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. Administrative Matters:
 - (a) Recommendations of the Selection Panel
 7. Any Other Business
 8. Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 217th CPR Meeting

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 217th CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/217/2 (30th January 2017) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CPR/217 Meeting/2017/144 dated 30th January, 2017.

Agenda Item No:3

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

4. The 27th Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 5-8 December, 2016 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran endorsed the Calendar of Events 2017. The 27th RPC Report along with Calendar of Events 2017 was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/27th RPC/2016/1461 dated 13th December 2016. In 216th CPR meeting while approving the report of 27th RPC along with Work Programme 2017, decided to defer the consideration of Calendar of Events 2017 until the next CPR Meeting. In-depth deliberations were held at the 217th Meeting and it was decided to defer the agenda item "Calendar of Events 2017" to be discussed in the next (218th) CPR meeting.
5. At the outset, the ECO Secretary General said that discussion on the said agenda item took place in the last CPR and the Secretariat is awaiting approval of the Calendar of Events 2017. He said that in case the discussion prolongs, then the Council's approval is again required to perform Events by the Secretariat until next CPR.
6. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi informed the Council that a Note Verbale No. ECO-7/2/2017/06 dated 3rd February 2017 was received by the ECO Secretariat from Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the request to include an event "*2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO)*" in the Calendar of Events 2017 and to be supported from SSF. The event is scheduled to be held at Islamabad in May 2017.
7. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kanan Nazarov informed the Council that an event "*Heart of Asia Istanbul Process*" scheduled to be held in 2017 in the Republic of Azerbaijan was inadvertently deleted from Calendar of Events 2017 at the time of approval of the Report of 27th RPC meeting. In this connection Council's approval was sought for inclusion of the same event in the Calendar of Events 2017.
8. The Ambassador of the *Kyrgyz Republic* informed the Council that due to other events in 2017, *it is not possible* to hold "*4th Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity*" in the section of Energy, Mineral and Environment of the Calendar of Events 2017 this event in Kyrgyz Republic. He further informed that the government is organizing a global forum on preservation of snow-leopard with participation of all countries of the region.
9. The Council decided to keep the above event in the Calendar of Events 2017 with venue to be decided later.
10. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Tajikistan** informed the Council that it will not be possible for Tajikistan to host the "*2nd Ministerial Meeting of Transport/Railways of the countries enroute the railway from China to Europe through the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran*". However, the Ambassador said that there is concurrence to hold the same event in Tehran.
11. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** while expressing his delegation's full confidence in Secretary General's discretion conveyed its concurrence with Non-ECO events in ECO Calendar of Events 2017. The Representative requested for circulation of *a post-event report* by the ECO Secretariat for all non-ECO events.
12. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** said that as per stance which was reflected in the last (217th) CPR Report, Turkey wants to adopt the Calendar of Events 2017 as a whole and also wishes to sort out the issues regarding the events proposed by the Observer State (Turkish Cypriot State), and said that without the resolution of this issue the Calendar of Events 2017 *cannot be accepted* at this point.

13. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** proposed adoption of Calendar of Events 2017 as a whole, leaving the events which require decision, to be considered later on case-to-case basis with informal consultations.

14. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** suggested that both the Representatives (**Iran and Turkey**) may take initiative for having informal/formal consultations in order to resolve the issue at the earliest, as it will reflect on the COM and Summit, Calendar of Events, being an important activity.

15. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** appreciated the views and consideration of the Ambassador of Pakistan stated that he is well aware of the importance of the Calendar of Events and wished to adopt it as soon as possible. He underlined that meetings had been arranged by the Observer States in the past and ECO has precedence in this regard.

16. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** by making a reference to the later part of the explanation of the Ambassador of Turkey pointed out that, in the past, despite inconsistency with the ECO rules and opposition expressed by some Member States, some events, as exceptions, were scheduled by observer. The matter should not be used as a basis for further request by observers for hosting the ECO Event.

(The 219 CPR Meeting held on 20th February 2017 approved the addition of this para for insertion in the 218th CPR Meeting Report).

17. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** informed the Council that during the tea-break, informal consultations took place with the distinguished Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and it was decided to continue further consultations on the issue. The Ambassador sincerely hoped that before the next CPR meeting they will be in a position to find a common ground on this issue.

18. After protracted deliberations, the Council decided to defer the agenda to be discussed in next (219th) CPR Meeting and also include all events and amendments proposed by the distinguished Permanent Representatives, Representatives and the Secretariat. Moreover, the Council also authorized implementation of the events of the Calendar scheduled to be held before the next COM Meeting (February 28, 2017). This will also apply to events proposed for SSF covers.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

19. Under this agenda item, the Secretary General briefed the Council on the issues mentioned at sub-items (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (g). He said that the Secretariat has yet not received any response on the document on Achievable Milestones. He further mentioned that some of the issues under the Milestones have also been elaborated under different items such as Agendas of SOM/COM and Islamabad Declaration. However, the Secretariat is still waiting concrete contributions on issues mentioned in the Milestones. He informed that the Secretariat is working on "ECO Reform" and "Scale of Assessments" for the last three years. In his opinion the upcoming Summit has a good chance for the Organization to conclude Reform process and Scale of Assessments. He 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 and "Working Groups of EPG" recommendations.

20. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi briefed the Council about the preparations for the upcoming COM and Summit. He informed that the Secretariat has

circulated Draft Agendas of SOM, COM and Summit and the Annotated Agenda of SOM has also been issued. He said that the Secretariat has only received comments from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and observation from ECO Trade Development Bank (ECO-TDB) on SOM agenda, which can also be discussed today. Communications received in this regard have already been circulated among the Member States. Deputy Secretary General informed the Council that documents on “Achievable Milestones”, “ECO Reforms”, “Scale of Assessments”, “ECO Vision-2025” and “Vision Fund” have also been circulated to the Member States. He said that the Secretariat has only received comments on the Scale of Assessments from the Kyrgyz Republic to-date. He informed that the Secretariat has good coordination with the Pakistan Embassy in Tehran and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad for COM and Summit preparations.

21. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* informed the Council about issue of invitations to special guests, he said till this morning he has not received any information but assured the Council to circulate the same among the Member States as soon as it is received.

22. The Ambassador also enquired from the distinguished Member States whether advance teams will be coming to Islamabad for the Summit as it is very important in terms of logistics for making the arrangements and secondly enquired from the distinguished representatives whether the spouses of the Heads of Governments will also accompany them as this would enable the authorities in Islamabad to chalk-out programmes accordingly. He requested the Member States for confirmation in this regard well before the Summit to complete the exercise.

23. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** proposed extending invitations by the host authorities as a ‘*Special Guest*’ to some other Heads of States and Heads of International Organizations such as the Secretary General of ASEAN because the Organization has very close relations.

24. The Co-Chairman (**Iran**) briefed the Council about the discussions held in seven sessions of PrepCom meetings stating that:

- (a) Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) held seven sessions and in all meetings quorum was achieved. He said that in the meetings all the issues mandated to the PrepCom were covered. The Committee held discussions on ‘Islamabad Declaration’. He informed that there is a difference of opinion among the Member States about including political issues along with economic issues in the Declaration. Presently there are many bracketed paras which need decision. He hoped that next PrepCom will be able to come-up with clean text.
- (b) As for the **ECO Reforms**, the Co-Chairman informed the Council that keeping in view the previous meetings of Working Group, discussions were held about ECO Reforms. He said that most of the Member States are principally in favour of having the Reforms process in the Secretariat. He said that the issue of ECO Reforms is co-related with the Scales of Assessments. He said comments of the Member States on Reforms are still awaited.
- (c) Regarding **Scale of Assessments**, the Co-Chairman informed that Kyrgyz Republic has officially informed its position to the ECO Secretariat and positions of other Member States are still awaited.

- (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.
25. The Co-Chairman (**Pakistan**) taking the floor briefed the Council about the progress of seven sessions of PrepCom meetings stating that:
- (a) the Committee tried to deliberate thoroughly on *Draft Islamabad Declaration* in order to achieve consensus but unfortunately without any headway. He said that PrepCom did manage to get agreement on almost 70% of the text but 30% of the paras are still undecided on which he said, the worthy Ambassadors may deliberate and decide in today's meeting. He recalled that there were good deliberations and the PrepCom tried its best to come-up with a solid document of "Islamabad Declaration". He believed that contested issues need this '**August House**' to make final decisions.
 - (b) on the issue of '*ECO Reforms*', the Member States have not received responses from the capitals. Using the forum, the Co-Chairman of PrepCom requested the Member States to come-up with clear decision in this regard so that some progress is shown in the next CPR.
 - (c) on the issue of "*Scale of Assessments*" the Committee received positive inputs from some of the Member States but responses from other Member States are still awaited. He requested the distinguished Ambassadors to use their influences to get a decision on the issue in this respect from the capitals.
26. After the detailed briefings by the Co-Chairmen of PrepCom and the distinguished Permanent Representatives, the **CPR Chairman** urged the Co-Chairmen (*Iran and Pakistan*) and the Representatives of the Member States to concentrate on economic issues, progress and good vision for the Organization. He said that all Member States do have their concern and have the right to propose and reflect their positions in the Declaration. The CPR Chairman opined that the Declaration must be without naming of any country. He emphasized the PrepCom to make its utmost efforts to conclude the clean text for Islamabad Declaration.
- (a) *Consideration of Draft Islamabad Declaration*
27. The Ambassador of **Turkmenistan** said that Declaration is a sensitive document and supported the idea of CPR Chairman that the Islamabad Declaration may address mainly economic issues. He said that ECO is an Economic Organization and while finalizing the Islamabad Declaration, all the Member States may keep common issues in the Declaration for the attention of COM and Summit.
28. The Ambassador of the **Kyrgyz Republic** supported the views of the Ambassador of Turkmenistan. He said that we may try to prepare a harmonic and brief Declaration and not overload it with details of political and sensitive issues. He said that at the same time all the Member States are also the members of United Nations and OIC and they can follow up other sensitive issues within the framework of other organizations.
29. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan** informed the Council about the receipt of views/comments from the capital for inclusion in the Islamabad Declaration in Article 9, 10, 14 and 26. The Representative hoped that these would be included in the Declaration as well as shared with other Member States.
30. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** while welcoming the inputs by Afghanistan in Islamabad Declaration suggested some grammatical/cosmetic

changes in the proposed paragraphs for inclusion in the declaration which were done on the spot.

31. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Tajikistan** said that the Islamabad Declaration is the main document to be adopted in the Summit. He said it reflects the work of the Organization. He praised the work of PrepCom/Working Groups having representatives of all Member States in their efforts to have acceptable document but as was mentioned in the preamble of the Declaration, the main attention is given to the political issues rather than economic ones. He said that it would be relevant if focus is on economic aspects. The Ambassador requested addition of a para in the preamble; “welcome recently unanimously adopted UNGA Resolution on International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development 2018 – 2028” sponsored by 180 UN Member States including ECO Member States.

32. The Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** while supporting the stances of the CPR Chairman and the views expressed by the Ambassador of Tajikistan regarding concentrating on economic issues in preparation of the Draft Islamabad Declaration stated that ECO is a trade and economic organization and its Declaration should also reflect this fact.

33. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** on the issue of inclusion of political matters in the Declaration said that this Declaration is not the internal document of the Secretariat rather it is a political document and reflection of political priority of all Members States under the umbrella of ECO.

34. The Ambassador said that the world is changing rapidly and policy and challenges changes even quicker and we should go forward and overcome the obstacles. The Ambassador said that ECO is an international organization of 10 friendly countries, sharing same religion, history, culture and language. He said each country is sovereign on its foreign policy but at the same time we are bound to each other in geography. He said that it is encouraging to observe a mutual understanding and respect of our leaders in different political formats and platforms. The Ambassador said that in his view, ECO is the platform of understanding, respect and assistance and should also respect each other’s sensitive political issues and it should support and help in overcoming each other’s obstacles.

35. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** agreed that this is not a political organization and we are in an economic-oriented organization but, he is unable to comprehend the logic that the Declaration may not be a political one. In contrary he opined that the Declaration is a political document and we support the idea that all sensitive political issues of the Member States should be reflected in this document.

36. The Representative further added that the Delegation of Azerbaijan is ready and open for the consideration and support the proposals of the esteemed Member States on the draft Declaration. He said that as the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Iran and in his capacity as Representative of Azerbaijan to ECO, he solicits all members understanding and support in Azerbaijan’s proposals, which have an economical significance and political sensitivity. He recalled that paras proposed by Azerbaijan are also supported by UN Resolutions as well as 42nd & 43rd sessions of the OIC Foreign Ministers Conferences. He requested for understanding and consideration of all Member States to include Azerbaijan’s sponsored paras in the Declaration.

37. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** stated that he understands the concerns shown by some delegates about the Declaration and maintained that he wants

its text to be acceptable to all Member States and also that it addresses all common concerns. He said that Turkey has formulated proposals for the draft declaration text in this line of thought. He supported the logic of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan on the Declaration saying that sometimes it is not easy to make distinction between economic and political issues and that some political developments have strong repercussion on economies as well as trade relations and that is why they should not be ignored. He explained about the failed coup attempt in Turkey last summer which has been perpetrated by Fetullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO) and underlined that this terrorist organization poses a danger to friendly countries within ECO as well. Therefore, it needs to be included in the Declaration.

38. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** said that the PrepCom in its meetings could not find consensus due to the nature of Declaration and requested CPR to decide its nature. He said if political issues are added to the Declaration then the Islamic Republic of Iran also has its position on different issues including visa ban on seven Muslim countries by one country. However, he emphasized the ECO being an Economic Cooperation; the Declaration may retain a predominantly economic nature.

39. After deliberations, the CPR Chairman was of the opinion that if necessary political issues may be included in the Declaration in general form without referring to specifics. He was of the view that countries may use ECO as an Organization for economic cooperation for the betterment of all Member States. He hoped that keeping up with the above principles; a cleaner text for the Declaration is achievable which may be shared with the capitals for final assertions.

(b) Deliberations on Achievable Milestones before 13th Summit

40. The Secretariat circulated the List of Achievable milestones to the Member States vide Secretariats' Note Verbale No. CFU/Summit/2016/1528 dated 28th December 2016 with the requested to provide their inputs, views/comments. However, views/comments have not yet been received.

41. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** appreciated the Secretary General for the idea of drafting the milestones before the Summit. It became a guideline for Member States and the Secretariat to work towards productive Summit with successful outcomes.

42. The Ambassador informed that based on information received from the capital; work is actively going on to present Charter of the ECO Research Center for signatures during Summit. He requested the Secretariat to take into consideration the esteemed Member States who have expressed their willingness to sign the ECORC Charter.

(c) Consideration of the Working Document on Reforms and Scale of Assessments

43. The Working document on Reforms was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariats' Note Verbale No: CFU/22nd COM & 13th Summit/2017/107 dated 24th January 2017 and Note Verbale on Scale of Assessments was circulated on 12th January 2017 vide Secretariat No. CFU/22nd COM & 13th Summit/2017/15. They were discussed during Fourth Session of Preparatory Committee for 22nd COM and 13th Summit meetings held on 25th January 2017 at the ECO Secretariat. The Member States delegation were requested to provide their inputs, views/comments on the Working document.

44. The Ambassador of the **Kyrgyz Republic** informed the Council that he would like to attend the next Selection Committee meeting with regard to selection of Director

HRSD. He also made observations about the “*ECO Reform Document*” and the “*Scale of Assessments*” and said that number of posts in the Secretariat may not be linked to shares of Member States as some founding Member States have big economies and cannot be compared with the smaller countries’ economies.

45. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan** referring to the documents on “*Reforms*” and “*Scale of Assessments*”, stated that as all Member States know Afghanistan presently holds only one position in the ECO Secretariat (at the level of P1). He suggested that as discussed in previous CPR Meetings, Afghanistan welcomes the reform process and positively consider the increase of its share from 1.28% to 1.78% under the condition that at least two positions would be allocated to Afghanistan in the ECO Secretariat. The Representative further reminded the Council that based on the previous agreements, the next time that the post of SG goes to one of the founding members, the post of DSG will be allocated to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, therefore, it should be reassured that the reform processes doesn’t interfere with this arrangements.

(d) Deliberations on Draft ECO Vision 2025 along with its Implementation Framework and Vision Fund

46. The latest version of Draft ECO Vision 2025 was circulated to the Member States well before. The Position sheet on ECO Vision Fund was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariats’ Note Verbale No: CFU/22nd COM & 13th Summit/2017/51 dated 12th January 2017. It was discussed during Second Session of Preparatory Committee for 22nd COM and 13th Summit meetings held on 16th January 2017 at the ECO Secretariat. The Implementation Framework document has also been circulated by the Secretariat to the Member States vide its No.CFU/ECO Vision 2025/2017/172 dated 2nd February 2017.

47. Taking the floor, **the ECO Secretary General** highlighted the importance of the issue of Scale of Assessments stating that the current Scale of Assessments has a problem as the Secretariat is facing difficulty due to non-receipt of some Members’ share, fully or partially, and this is not a sustainable situation for the Secretariat so action is required in this regard. He further informed that the Secretariat has not received any official communication or views on the Scale of Assessments from the Member States except from Kyrgyz Republic. The Secretary General said the upcoming Summit is a chance to overcome this problem and hoped that PrepCom will attend to this problem and the issue of Scale of Assessment could be finalized.

48. Regarding ECO Vision, the Secretary General said that it has almost been completed and the Secretariat has also circulated the document on Implementation Framework and hoped to receive contributions from the Member States on it as it is based on the ECO Vision Document. Moreover, he informed the Council that almost all important elements of the Vision-2025 have also been included in the Islamabad Declaration which is another indication that it has been welcomed by the Member States.

(e) Participation of Turkic Council Secretariat in its capacity as observer, as well as Special/Honourable Guests, Regional and International Organizations and Financial Institutions in 22nd COM and 13th Summit meetings

49. The Secretariat of Turkic Council vide its Note Verbale Ref. No: 2017/0032 dated 27 January 2017, informed the ECO Secretariat that a delegation from the Secretariat of Turkic Council would like to participate in 22nd COM and 13th Summit meetings to be held from 28 February to 1 March 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan in its capacity as ECO Observer.

50. The Council considered and approved the participation of Turkic Council Secretariat, in its capacity as ECO Observer in 22nd COM and 13th Summit to be held on 28th February and 1st March 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan, in accordance with the ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO.

(f) Organizational and any other issues related to preparations for the Summit.

ECO Awards

51. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kanan Nazarov taking the floor informed the Council about the ECO Awards. In his briefing he said that ECO Award Selection Committee in its meeting held on 6th February 2017, under the Co-Chairmanship of Iran and Pakistan, considered and finalized the nominations received from four countries i.e. (i) Afghanistan, (ii) Iran, (iii) Pakistan and (iv) Tajikistan. The recommendations of Selection Committee have already been circulated by the Secretariat among the Member States. However, it was agreed that nominations from the remaining five countries i.e. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkey and Turkmenistan will be submitted for consideration and finalization by the CPR Meeting. Deputy Secretary General said as another CPR meeting is being scheduled on 20th February 2017, therefore, we may have another meeting of the ECO Award Selection Committee in order to finalize the nominations of the remaining Member States. He said that in today's CPR meeting we may finalize nominations of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan. However, as the Secretariat has two nominations from Tajikistan and as per past practice, one nominee of each Member State will have to be considered. Therefore, the distinguished Ambassador of Tajikistan may indicate the nominee to be considered for the ECO Award. Deputy Secretary General requested the remaining Member States for submission of their nominees for the ECO Awards to be considered in next Selection Committee meeting.

52. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Tajikistan** proposed two nominees for the ECO Awards, however, he said that Mr. Saidov Abdusattor Samadovich can be considered for the ECO Award.

53. Permanent Representatives/Representatives of **Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey** informed the Council about receipt of their nominations for the ECO Awards from respective capitals. They further said that formal communications in this regard will be sent to the ECO Secretariat soon for consideration in the Selection Committee of the ECO Awards in its upcoming meeting.

54. The Representative of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** said that a nominee for the ECO Award is under consideration in the capital and would be communicated to the Secretariat in due course.

55. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** and **Co-Chairman** of the PrepCom/ECO Award Selection Committee proposed approval of four names which have already been allocated by the Selection Committee, as per priority (*Annex-II*) and the rest of the names for the ECO Award could be finalized in its upcoming Selection Committee meeting and a final report in this regard will be submitted for consideration and approval in the next CPR Meeting to be held on 20th February 2017.

56. The Co-Chairman of ECO Awards Selection Committee further proposed awarding of the ECO Award to a nominee from the *Republic of Uzbekistan* as well.

57. The ECO Secretary General informed the Council that ECO's PERS Directorate has prepared a report: "ECO: Fifteen Years of Cooperation and Development (2000-2015)", which analyses the economic performance of the region in last 15 years. He said

that the report after inputs from the Member States will be distributed in the 22nd COM/13th Summit.

58. After lengthy and protracted discussion on all the issues (*sub-agendas: a,b,c,d,e & g*) mentioned in the agenda, the CPR Chairman informed that another CPR Meeting will be scheduled before the upcoming 13th Summit on 20th February 2017, and that PrepCom can also deliberate further on these issues and come-up with consensus on (i) “*ECO Reform*”, “*Scale of Assessments*”, “*Vision Fund*” and “*Islamabad Declaration*” for final consideration by the CPR.

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

59. 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.

60. At the 216th CPR Meeting, the Deputy Secretary (TC, PERS & CFU) briefly informed the Council about the above mentioned two Organizations i.e. TEPAV and SESRIC. He said that as per modalities, the Secretariat has already circulated the information about the two organizations to the Member States and requested the CPR’s authorization for starting formal negotiations in order to sign MoUs with both the Organizations. However, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that the matter has been taken-up with the relevant focal point and as soon as consultations are finalized, the Secretariat will be informed accordingly. At the 217th CPR Meeting, the Representatives of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* informed the Council that consultations are still taking place with the Iranian focal point and hoped to provide information in the next (218th CPR) . The Secretary General also informed that both the Organizations (*TEPAV and SESRIC*) are waiting for dates from the ECO Secretariat. He requested for speedy process from the Iranian side in this regard.

61. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed that still no final instructions have been received on the technical point of view from the focal point but hoped that the issue could be finalized before the upcoming Summit and the ECO Secretariat will be informed in this regard as soon as possible.

62. The Ambassador of the **Kyrgyz Republic** informed that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic supports the proposal for signing of MoUs with *TEPAV* and *SESRIC*.

63. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** said that TEPAV is a distinguished research organization in Turkey and opined that it can contribute to the Organization. He urged the distinguished Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for speeding-up the process so that the same could be finalized before the upcoming Summit.

Agenda Item No. 6
Administrative Matters

(a) Recommendations of the Selection Panel

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

Agenda Item No. 7
Any Other Business

65. Under this agenda item, the ECO Secretary General informed the Council that as the next (219th) will be a Special CPR, therefore, the Secretariat will place the same agenda by putting Calendar of Events 2017, signing of MoUs with TEPAV & SESRIC and other items relating to the upcoming 22nd COM and 13th Summit in Islamabad.

66. The Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi further proposed fixing the date of the next PrepCom meeting for finalization of matters relating to upcoming Summit such as (i) *Islamabad Declaration*, (ii) *Scale of Assessments*, (iii) *ECO Reforms* and (iv) *ECO Vision Fund* as Monday 13th February 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the ECO Secretariat and a formal Note Verbale in this would be circulated among the Member States after the CPR meeting. He hoped for resolution and consensus on the issue in the meeting.

67. The Council approved the proposal of holding the PrepCom Meeting on Monday 13th February 2017 at the ECO Secretariat.

68. The ECO Secretary General informed the Council that an ECO delegation consisting of (i) Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi and Assistant Director (CFU) Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, will be visiting Islamabad from 9-11 February 2017 to hold meetings with the relevant authorities in Islamabad for finalization of relevant issues relating to the upcoming 22nd COM and 13th Summit Meetings.

Agenda Item No.8
Date of the next CPR meeting

69. The Council decided to convene its next (219th) Meeting on Monday 20th February, 2017 at 1000 hours at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran.

70. Moreover, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed the Council by proposing that the planned *Inaugural CPR Meeting of ECO-ECI (after taking the Office of the new President of ECI)* on 20th February 2017 could also be held at the ECO Secretariat after the regular (219th) ECO CPR meeting, as per the protocol.

71. On this proposal from the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the CPR Chairman said that both CPRs could be fixed/convened according to the protocol.

72. 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:

- H.E. Mr. Huseynov Bunyad Samad oghly, Ambassador
- Mr. Javid Musayev, First Secretary

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
- Mr. Mansour Salehfard, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Serik Zhumabekov, Minister-Counsellor
- Mr. Nurzhan Abdullayev, Counsellor
- Mr. Erzhas Biguzhanov, Second Secretary

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Avazbek Abdurazakov, Ambassador
- 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:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Kurbanow, Ambassador
- Mr. Islam Sakhatow, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Mr. Bakhodir Tashmanov, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jaleedin 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 Muqeet Asim Shah, Assistant Director (IR)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, 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 Meeting 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 Mahdi NAJAFPOUR	Science & Technology
4.	Kazakhstan	---	---
5.	Kyrgyzstan	---	---
6.	Pakistan	Dr. Syed Jamal Shah	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
7.	Tajikistan	Mr. Saidov Abdusattor Samadovich	Science & Technology
8.	Turkey	--	--
9.	Turkmenistan	--	--
10.	Uzbekistan	--	--

Note: The next meeting of the Selection Committee will finalize the names from the remaining Member States for submission to the 219th CPR.