

*217th Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*

Report

*23rd January, 2017
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

Report

The 217th CPR Meeting was held on Monday 23rd January 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*.

2. At the outset, on the request of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Council offered condolences on the sad demise of former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Ali Akbar Hashmi Rafsanjani and the tragic fire incident of 'Plasco Building' in Tehran where many Iranian brethren lost their precious lives.

3. The Council also welcomed the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Avazbek Abdurazakov for his new assignment and hoped that he will support CPR with his experience and knowledge during deliberations.

4. The Kyrgyz Ambassador reciprocating the sentiments of the Council Members, thanked and assured his full support and cooperation in the work of the Organization.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Council adopted the following agenda of 217th CPR Meeting for deliberations:

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 217th CPR Meeting
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 216th CPR Meeting
3. Submission of Calender of Events 2017 to the COM for approval.
4. Continued discussions on preparation for 22nd COM Meeting and 13th Summit
5. Consideration of recommendations of the Working Group on revision of Modalities for Utilization of SSF
6. Singing 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)
7. Reciprocal Observer Status between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Energy Charter Conference (ECC)
8. Participation of Turkish Cypriot State in 22nd COM and 13th Summit Meeting in its capacity as Observer
9. Administrative Matters:
(a) Recommendations of the Selection Panel
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 216th CPR Meeting

6. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 216th CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/216/2 (2nd January 2017) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CPR/216 Meeting/2017/1 dated 3rd January, 2017.

Agenda Item No:3

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

7. The 27th Reginal Planning Council (RPC) held on 5-8 December, 2016 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran endorsed the Calender of Events 2017. The 27th RPC Report along with Calendar of Events 2017 was circulated to the Member States vide 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.

8. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) updated the Council and informed about the circulation of the detailed list of ECO Calendar of Events as well as events which will be covered through the SS Fund. He said that the Secretariat has received a Note Verbale from the Islamic Republic of Iran requiring information of ECO Events for the last three years (2014-2016). The ECO Secretariat has shared the details of ECO and Non-ECO events giving the details of the planned activities in every year and how many of planned activities were held/accomplished besides giving information by mentioning division of ECO and Non-ECO events under each Directorate of the Secretariat. The said information has also been shared with the Member States. Deputy Secretary General further informed that the Secretariat has circulated two Lists i.e. **(i)** ECO Calendar of Events and **(ii)** Events to be funded through SS Fund, to be approved by the CPR.

9. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* said that there is no objection on the ECO Events along with sideline events. However, about Non-ECO events generally there is no objection but mentioned that some of them are open without any time/venue, therefore, the Secretariat has been requested to provide list of events for every six months especially those which are very important and required Secretariat's attendance being within the mandate of the Organization and also to have better relations with the international organizations.

10. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* on the said agenda item reminded that while discussing the Calendar of Events at the RPC meeting, it was decided to discuss meetings which were proposed to be organized in the Turkish Cypriot State later at the CPR level. He further mentioned that four meetings were offered to be organized at the Turkish Cypriot State which he believes will contribute to the work of the Organization. He was of the opinion that organizing of ECO meetings outside ECO countries has precedent in the past. He called on all the fellow Member States to finalize the issue as well while dealing with the Calendar of Events before the COM meeting.

11. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* on the stance of the Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* stated that about the issue of meetings to be organized by the Turkish Cypriot State, he does not have any instructions from the authorities. He proposed that either these should be left as it is, to be decided later on case-by-case basis or could be organized/hosted by any other Member States. He further said as per the regulations, Co-Chairmanship is not possible. He said that the Iranian side is agreeable to the existing Calendar of Events for approval.

12. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* on the response of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* said that Turkey's position was very clear as was made in the RPC meeting and said that there is no clear hindrance in the rules & procedure in terms of organizing such meetings by an Observer Member. He said rather than extending this we could try to work this out and find a solution in the next CPR before the upcoming COM and Summit meetings. He further highlighted that as the Calendar

of Events 2017 has not been approved, the matter can be discussed and considered for approval, as a whole, in the next CPR meeting.

13. The Representative of the Republic of *Azerbaijan* taking part in the discussion opined that the Calendar of Events 2017 may be deferred till the next CPR meeting. He further said that a Note Verbale has been sent to the ECO Secretariat stating that Azerbaijan is ready to host the Third Meeting of Heads of Anti- Corruption Agencies and Ombudsman in 3rd/4th week of April 2017 and asked the Secretariat to also mention the said event in the Calendar of Events 2017 for discussion in the next CPR meeting.

14. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* highlighted that there is no mention in the list of Calendar of Events about the Special Conference on Afghanistan and requested the Secretariat to mention the same in the list.

15. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) on the observation raised by the Representative of Afghanistan said that this important Conference which was the part of Calendar of Events 2016 was supposed to be held back-to-back with Ministerial Meeting on ECO Vision in Kabul, Afghanistan in October 2016. However, the Meeting could not be held due to quorum. He informed that the ECO Secretariat has received a Note Verbale from the Embassy of Afghanistan indicating two sets of date for organizing the said conference in Kabul in May 2017 which the Secretariat will be circulating among the Member States soon. The Deputy Secretary General said that it was already in the Calendar of Events 2016 and can be reflected in the Calendar of Events 2017 and may be supported from the SS Fund.

16. The ECO Secretary General sought the clarification on the stance of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Secretariat may provide lists of Non-ECO events every six months in a tabulated form. He said that as the complete Calendar of Events 2017 has to be discussed and considered for approval in the next CPR; therefore, Council's approval for exemption of upcoming events scheduled before the next CPR meeting is solicited.

17. After protracted deliberations, the Council decided to defer the said agenda item "Calendar of Events 2017" to be discussed in the next (218th) CPR meeting. However, the Council approved, as a package, all the events which are scheduled before the next CPR including the events to be covered through the SSF.

18. The Council further approved inclusion of events pointed out by the Representatives of *Afghanistan* and *Azerbaijan* in the Calendar of Events 2017.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

19. The 22nd COM and 13th Summit is scheduled to be held on 26th February - 1st March 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The 216th CPR Meeting decided to establish a "Preparatory Committee" to be co-chaired by the current Chair (Iran) and the upcoming Chair (Pakistan) to discuss all issues related to the upcoming COM and Summit Meetings. The Council also decided to hold first session of the Preparatory Committee on 9th January 2017. The Council further decided 20th January 2017 as the deadline for receiving the final nominations for the ECO Awards 2017.

20. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) updated the Council about the present status of the upcoming Summit meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan. He said that as per the decision of the last CPR (216th) for establishment of a Preparatory Committee (PrepCoM) for preparation of the Summit. He said that three sessions of this Committee have been held and minutes of these meetings have been circulated among the Member

States. He informed that the ECO Secretariat has circulated the following documents to the Member States:

- (i) **Draft Agendas of (i) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), (ii) Council of Ministers (COM) and (iii) 13th Summit.** The ECO Secretariat is waiting comments/observations from the Member States to finalize the same and put before the next CPR;
- (ii) **Draft Islamabad Declaration**
(Secretariat is awaiting response from ECO Member States)
- (iii) **Milestones:** the achievable events that can be possibly declared during the 22nd COM and 13 Summit
- (iv) **Agreements/Treaties** between the Member States which required minimal signatures (one or two countries) or their ratification.
- (v) **Hospitality details** have been received from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Secretariat will be circulating the same along with Guidelines and Information Note to the Member States.

21. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) requested the Member States for early provision of comments/views on the Draft Agendas, Islamabad Declaration, achievable milestones and on Agreements/Treaties as early as possible enabling the Secretariat to finalize the issue and put before the next CPR. He further informed about the confirmation for attending the COM/Summit which have been received from:-

- (i) Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan** (Delegation will be led by the Foreign Minister)
- (ii) Islamic Republic of **Iran** (Participation by the President and the Foreign Minister)
- (iii) Republic of **Uzbekistan** (Headed by Deputy Prime Minister)
- (iv) Turkish Cypriot State (as an Observer)
- (v) ECO-TDB (Delegation will be led by its President)

22. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) further briefed the Council stating that the next PrepCom meeting will be held on 25th January 2017 and will deliberate, on ECO Reforms, a Working Paper on which will be circulated shortly. The Secretariat has already circulated the proposal on Scale of Assessments and waiting inputs from the Member States. He also informed that proposed "Implementation Framework for ECO Vision-2025" is being finalized and will be put before the next CPR for approval.

23. Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT and IR) informed the Council stating that the ECO Award ceremony has been planned to be held during the upcoming 13th Summit in Islamabad. He said that the Secretariat has requested the Member States through a Note Verbale on 27th December 2016 for conveying the nominations for the ECO Awards. He said that in the last CPR a deadline was fixed (20th January 20-17) for re-conforming the already received nominations from the Member States. He said yesterday the ECO Secretariat has received confirmation of the nominations from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Deputy Secretary General requested the remaining Member States for speedy provision of their nominations in order to consider all nominations in the Selection Committee's meeting. He also requested the Member States for nomination of their Experts for the ECO Award Selection Committee meeting which will be held soon and the ECO Secretariat has already circulated a Note Verbale on 19th January 2017 in this regard.

24. Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT and IR) further informed that on the request of some Member States, the ECO Secretariat has prepared a Working Paper on ECO Vision Fund, which will be circulated to the Member States today and discussed in the PrepCom meeting on 1st February 2017.

25. The Co-Chairman (**Iran**) briefed the Council stating that three sessions of PrepCom have been held. In the first session, the Committee discussed (1) organizational work, including topics and time table of the future PrepCom meetings, (2) consideration of the draft Islamabad Declaration, and (3) deliberations on achievable milestones before the 13th Summit. In the second session, the Committee discussed 'Scale of Assessments' and 'ECO Vision Fund', whereas in the third Session outline of proposal on ECO Reforms, Status of ECO Regional Agencies and Affiliated Bodies and Status of ECO External Relations was deliberated. He mentioned that 30th January 2017 has been fixed as the deadline for receiving inputs on all the documents provided to the Member States. The Co-Chairman requested all the Member States for their active participation in the upcoming PrepCom meetings to discuss and come up with final outcome on these issues which will be submitted to the CPR for approval.

26. The Co-Chairman (**Pakistan**) informed the Council that it has been decided by the Government of Pakistan to hold the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on "26-27 February 2017" and asked the ECO Secretariat to revise the dates of SOM meeting in the Draft Agenda of SOM accordingly. He said that in all the PrepCom meetings, due to paucity of time in the upcoming COM/Summit, deadlines have been set. He requested all the Member States to observe the guidelines and submit their views and comments on all the issues which have been discussed/circulated prior to the deadline so that after the discussions, a final document is presented to the next CPR meeting.

27. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* invited the attention of the august house regarding Pakistan's side proposing a theme: titled "*Connectivity for Regional Prosperity*", which will be circulated soon for discussion to finalize it. He mentioned that it is not going to be a burdening document. The Ambassador emphasized on importance of regional prosperity.

28. The Ambassador of Pakistan stressed on the importance of "*Summit Declaration*" and hoped to have fruitful discussion on it, after receiving inputs from capitals. The Ambassador further said that as mentioned by the Representative of the Secretariat, invitations have already been extended from the Prime Minister to the Heads of State/Government as well as from the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs to his counterparts. He informed that hospitality details and information regarding focal persons in Pakistan as well as in the Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran have already been communicated to the Secretariat and hoped the Secretariat would convey all the information to the Member States. He specifically mentioned that in case of extra delegates of the Member States, advance information would be required to make hotel reservations accordingly.

29. The Ambassador of Pakistan further informed the Council about the proposed Summit Logo. He requested the Secretariat to circulate the Information Note to all the Member States containing all the information on logistic, transportation, bilateral meetings, registration, arrival/departure, security, media, visas, Liaison Officers, interpretation and point of contacts. Similarly, he requested the Secretariat to provide details of all delegations including Member States, Observers, Secretariat staff and Affiliated Bodies in order to make all necessary logistic arrangements accordingly. He requested provision of all the necessary information as early as possible.

30. The Representative of the Republic of *Uzbekistan* enquired if there is any time limit for the speeches by Representatives at the COM and the Summit. The Secretary General replying to the query said that the Secretariat will be circulating an Information Note today whereby all necessary information will be included.

31. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* indicated a discrepancy in the Logo stating that the flag of Afghanistan is upside down and requires rectification. Moreover, he requested that the logo may be circulated among the Member States for their comments.

32. The Ambassador of the *Kyrgyz Republic* taking the floor mentioned that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is making serious efforts in preparation for the forthcoming COM and Summit meetings and the Embassy is actively contacting the capital on daily basis. The Ambassador said that some information in preparation of the COM/Summit is required by the capital for which the Embassy has sent two Note Verbales for provision of the required information. He said that proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyz Republic on the Draft Islamabad Declaration may kindly be circulated among the Member States which will also be discussed in the upcoming PrepCom meetings for its finalization.

33. The ECO Secretary General raised another issue for the attention of the Council stating that the Secretariat intends to prepare a documentary that may be used in the Summit. For this purpose services a professional producer is required. He also mentioned that an amount of US\$14,000 is saved in the Publication Head of Account in the budget of 2016. The Secretary General sought approval of the Council for utilization of this amount.

34. The ECO Secretary General further briefed the Council stating that the Secretariat has been working on ECO Reform Document which contains three dimensions: **one**; "*New Chart for the ECO Secretariat*", **second**; "*Recruitment Policy*" and **third**; "*ECO Specialized/Regional Institutions*". The Secretary General further mentioned that the Secretariat has two main principles while preparing the Reform Document i.e. (i) develop a link between the staff positions and the share of contribution and (ii) improve efficiency by increasing technical staff in the Secretariat. He said that all the important issues of "*Scale of Assessments*", "*Reform Agenda*" and "*ECO Vision Fund*" can be elaborated together and hoped that these issues could be finalized before the upcoming Summit.

35. The Council approved the proposal of the ECO Secretary General for utilization of an amount of US\$14,000 from savings of the budget of 2016 for preparation of a documentary on ECO.

36. The CPR Chairman, after deliberations, requested the Representatives of the Member States for active participation in the PrepCom meetings in order to finalize the attainable issues such as "*Islamabad Declaration*", "*ECO Vision Fund*", "*Reforms*" and make their utmost efforts to provide clean texts to COM/SOM and our leaders in the Summit.

Agenda Item No. 5

Consideration of recommendations of the Working Group on Revised "Modalities for Utilization of SSF"

37. The proposed revised "Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund" was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ADM/EPG/2016/194 dated 4th February 2016 for the kind consideration of the Member States. The Secretariat did not receive any viewpoints/comments from the Member States. Upon the request of the Iranian delegation during the 213th CPR Meeting, the revised "Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF)" was submitted before the Council in its 214th Meeting for deliberation and possible decision. The 214th CPR Meeting established a Working Group or Special Committee comprising

representatives of all ECO Member States to thoroughly discuss the revised “Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF)” and come up with a concrete report for its approval in the next CPR Meeting.

38. The established Working Group held three sessions on 31st October, 27th November and 20th December 2016 to consider the proposed revised “Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF)”. In the 216th CPR Meeting, the Council was informed that the Working Group will submit its report regarding “Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF)” in the next CPR (217th) Meeting.

39. The Chairman of the Working Group briefed the Council stating that in the previous meeting some Member States had no instructions from their capitals and hoped to finalize the same in the upcoming Working Group’s meeting for which the ECO Secretariat will fix a date by circulating to the Member States for holding the Working Group’s meeting for the proposed revised “Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF).

40. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* mentioned that the attendance in the Working Group’s meetings established for the SSF has been very thin. The Ambassador proposed that the Working Group’s meeting should be on ‘Quorum Basis’ rather than ‘open ended’. In his opinion all Member States’ participation is very important as any recommendation by the Working Group can become non-representational due to lack of participation. He requested that the CPR should decide about the quorum of the Working Group. He further opined that normally the Working Groups are open-ended in international organizations, however, if we retain an open ended Working Group then those Member States who do not participate should indicate that they will go along with the recommendation/decision of the Working Group.

41. The CPR Chairman sought the legal views on the issue of the quorum and possibility of ‘troika system’ based on rules of the Organization with the aim of enhancing participation of Member States. The Legal Advisor, on the issue of quorum, while referring to the ECO Rules of Procedure, brought to the attention of the Council that in case of other meetings, namely meetings other than COM, CPR and RPC, the quorum provided for in the concerned ECO Rules of Procedure is simple majority of total membership. He added that this is without prejudice to the practice of holding of open ended working group or ad hoc committees by CPR. On the issue of TROIKA, the Legal Advisor said that ECO Rules of Procedure contain no rule on the matter at issue. He added the rule [Rule No. 22] providing for the establishment of the bureau of the chairpersonship including Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a rapporteur may serve the same purpose.

42. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** agreed with the observation of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** regarding necessity of quorum for any Working Groups’ meeting.

43. The Representative of the Republic of *Azerbaijan* taking the floor while appreciating the observation made by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan requested all Members’ active participation in the Working Group meetings in order to have good result. He proposed that after the Working Group’s meeting, the ECO Secretariat may circulate the outcome of the meeting and give a deadline for feedback on the outcome from those members who did not attend the meeting.

44. After deliberations, the Council decided that the Working Groups' Meeting on SSF will be held on '*quorum basis*' for detailed discussion and the final outcome is submitted for decision by the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 6

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

45. 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.

46. 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.

47. In the 216th CPR Meeting, 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.

48. 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 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.

Agenda Item No. 7

Reciprocal Observer Status between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Energy Charter Conference (ECC)

(i) The Secretary General of Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) Secretariat H.E. Mr. Urbar Rusnak, through the official letter of 20th October 2016 has expressed interest to become Observer at ECO. He also expressed readiness to grant Observership to ECO at the Energy Charter Conference (ECC). (Secretariat's Note Verbale No: EME/ECO-ECC/2016/1419 dated 29th November 2016).

49. The meetings and interactions between ECO and ECT Secretariats over the past years have revealed areas for cooperation between two Organizations, particularly in terms of capacity building/experience sharing and policy advice. Joint ECO-ECT Roundtable held on 12th October 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey on the margins of the 23rd World Energy Congress where it identified the ongoing initiative of establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market as an area for possible ECO-ECT cooperation. ECT

Secretariat expressed its readiness to extend support to ECO through sharing its experiences and expertise and capacity building in promoting energy/electricity trade and transit, energy efficiency, energy investments and other possible issues. The recent UN Resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organizations adopted by UN General Assembly on 21st November 2016 also invited ECT to extend its support to ECO Regional Electricity Market.

50. The Energy Charter Treaty was developed on the basis of the 1991 Energy Charter and provides a multilateral framework for cooperation in the energy sector based on the principles of open, competitive markets and sustainable development. The envisaged aim of the Energy Charter Treaty is to strengthen the rule of law on energy issues, by creating a level playing field of rules to be observed by all participating governments, thereby mitigating risks associated with energy-related investment and trade. All ECO Member States are either members or observers of Energy Charter Conference. Established ECO-ECT relationship on the basis of reciprocal observership will enhance synergies and facilitate exchange of information and experiences between ECO and ECT in issues of common interest within the energy sector. The 27th RPC Meeting (5-8 December 2016, Tehran) has recommended that the collaborative institutional linkages between ECO and ECT Secretariats should be followed including through granting Observer Status to each other as well as continued cooperation in the relevant fields, including ECO REM, organizing awareness and capacity building programmes.

51. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* supported the agenda item and asked the Secretariat to move ahead. He said that it can bring an added value of the work besides contributing to the international visibility of the ECO Secretariat.

52. The Ambassador of *Turkmenistan* while supporting the proposal for establishment of Reciprocal Observer Status between ECO and ECC informed that Turkmenistan is busy in preparation of 28th meeting of Energy Charter Conference scheduled to be held on 28 - 29 November 2017 in Turkmenistan which will be a main event besides other events and activities at expert levels. He further informed that an event will also be jointly held, on the proposal of the Ministry of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the Energy Charter at Tehran. He requested active participation by the ECO Member States as well as Member States of Energy Charter in the upcoming events in Turkmenistan and Tehran.

53. The Representatives of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* and *Iran* supported the proposal for establishment of Reciprocal Observer Status between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Energy Charter Conference (ECC).

54. The Council after deliberation unanimously recommended, in accordance with the Chapter V of "ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)", establishment of Reciprocal Observer Status between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Energy Charter Conference (ECC) for its formal approval by the upcoming Council of Ministers (COM).

55. Moreover, the Council also recommended for extending an invitation by the host country (Pakistan) to the Secretary General of Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) H.E. Mr. Urbar Rusnak for participation in the upcoming Council of Ministers (COM)/Summit Meeting in Islamabad.

Agenda Item No. 8

Administrative Matters

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

Agenda Item No. 9

Participation of Turkish Cypriot State in 22nd COM and 13th Summit meetings in its capacity as observer

57. The ECO Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Cypriot State vide No. TRNC/2016/33061 dated 2nd December 2016 regarding participation of Turkish Cypriot State's delegation in 22nd COM and 13th Summit to be held on 26th February to 1st March 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan in its capacity as ECO Observer.

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

Agenda Item No. 10

Any Other Business

59. Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT and IR) brought to the notice of the Council that the ECO Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Cypriot State vide No. TRNC/2017/34258 dated 5th January 2017 requesting participation of Turkish Cypriot State's delegation in the "Second Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO Regional Coordination Centre (ECO-RCC) to be held on 16 - 17 February 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

60. The Council considered and approved, in accordance with the ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO, the participation of Turkish Cypriot State, in its capacity as ECO Observer in the "Second Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO Regional Coordination Centre (ECO-RCC) to be held on 16 - 17 February 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

61. The Secretary General further commented that ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO need to be changed for ease of procedure.

62. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** on the comments by the ECO Secretary General stated that the present Modalities seems reasonable for the time being and it can be deliberated after having more Observers from other International Organizations.

Agenda Item No.11

Date of the next CPR meeting

63. The date of the next (218th) CPR Meeting will be coordinated and circulated by the ECO Secretariat, through a Note Verbale, to the Member States in due course.

64. 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, 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

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:

- Ms. Farangis Bekova, Third Secretary
- 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 Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment)
- 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
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, Persian Interpreter/Translator
