

*214<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*

*Report*

*2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016  
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

## **Report**

The 214<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting was held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 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 except Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The ECO Secretary General along with concerned officials of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as *Annex-I*.

### **Welcoming Remarks for the new Ambassador of Pakistan**

2. The Chairman of the Council and Permanent Representatives/Representatives of ECO Member States, who attended the meeting, welcomed and congratulated H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani as the new Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Iran and expressed the hope that the Ambassador will contribute his experience to the Organization and assured their cooperation.

3. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in his remarks thanked the CPR Chairman and the Representatives of ECO Member States for their welcoming remarks in his honour and said that it was a great honour and privilege for him to represent Pakistan in the CPR Meeting. He assured that he would contribute his best with the cooperation of all ECO Member States in achieving the goals and objectives for the Organization.

### **Agenda Item No.1**

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

4. The Council adopted the following agenda of 214<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting for deliberations:

#### **Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 214<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
  2. Adoption of the Draft Reports of the 213<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
  3. Preparations for the upcoming ECO events in Kabul:
    - (i) Ministerial Meeting of Planning and Development on ECO Vision 2025
    - (ii) ECO Special Conference on Afghanistan
  4. Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF
  5. Practical measures of ECO to operationalize Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor
  6. Administrative matters:
    - (a) Entitlement of a former staff of the Secretariat
    - (b) Recommendations of the Selection Panel
  7. Follow-up on pending issues
  8. Any other business
  9. Date of the next CPR Meeting
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### **Agenda Item No.2**

#### **Adoption of the Draft Report of 213<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting**

5. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 213<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/213/2 (25<sup>th</sup> August 2016) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/213<sup>th</sup> CPR/2016/1073 dated 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

### Agenda Item No.3

#### Preparations for the upcoming ECO Events in Kabul

- (i) Ministerial Meeting of Planning and Development on ECO Vision-2025
- (ii) ECO Special Conference on Afghanistan

6. ECO Secretary General briefed the Council about the latest developments with regard to the above mentioned two important ECO Meetings scheduled to be held in Kabul (Afghanistan) on 22-24 October 2016. The Secretary General informed that an ECO delegation paid official visit to Kabul (Afghanistan) on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and held several meetings with the high dignitaries including meetings with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Mr. Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abdullah and Ministers of Economy and Foreign Affairs. During the meetings, related issues including ECO Vision, ECO reconstruction projects and holding of (i) Ministerial Meeting of Planning and Development and (ii) ECO Special Conference on Afghanistan were discussed. He said that a meeting was also held with the concerned Deputy Ministers to finalize the programmes of the proposed Ministerial Meetings on ECO Vision and ECO Special Conference on Afghanistan. Following dates and level of meetings were decided:

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| (i)  | <b>22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016</b> | Senior Officials level meetings  |
| (ii) | <b>24<sup>th</sup> October, 2016</b>                      | Ministerial level meeting in which both the issues i.e. ECO Vision-2025 and issues on Afghanistan will be discussed. |

7. The Secretary General also informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has formally issued invitation letters to all the Ministers of the Member States for the two Meetings and the Secretariat is awaiting confirmation from the Member States in this regard.

8. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) Seyed Jaleedin Alavi Sabzevari briefed the Council stating that the Secretariat has been mandated by the Regional Planning Council (RPC) to hold Special Conference on Afghanistan: to review the ECO supporting programmes for Afghanistan's development and reconstruction programmes and to discuss optimal policy by the Organization for Afghanistan in future. He was of the view that the Senior Officials will hold detailed discussion on these two items in the meeting and prepare recommendations/documents for the Ministers who are supposed to meet on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2016. He said that the Ministers, immediately after the meeting on ECO Vision, will continue meeting in order to consider the recommendations and outcome of the SOM on Special Conference on Afghanistan. The Draft Agenda and Programme for the ECO Special Meeting on Afghanistan will be prepared by Afghanistan and is awaited. He said that the Secretariat is also working on the background documents and evaluation report of the projects being implemented in Afghanistan under "ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan".

9. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) also informed the Council that the host country has offered hospitality of 1+2 to all the ECO delegations participating in Kabul events. He said being important events, it will be appropriate to extend support to cover air tickets to the Member States delegations. Therefore, CPR may approve provision of funding to cover travel expenses for ECO Member States delegations (1+2) travelling to Kabul for the meetings.

10. On a query, the Deputy Secretary General (Admn) informed that, as per past practice, CPR may authorize ECO Secretariat to utilize resources from General Feasibility

Fund to cover travel expenses of the Member States delegations to Kabul for maximum participation.

11. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan** expressed his gratitude on the successful visit of the ECO Delegation to Kabul where it held meetings with high level dignitaries including the President and Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Ambassador requested all the Member States for confirmation of participation in these important meetings.

12. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** sought clarification about how many people from the ECO Secretariat will be going to Kabul and whether the requested funds will also cover the expenses of the national delegations?

13. The Deputy Secretary General (Admn) confirmed that this funding is for the national delegations of the Member States i.e. **1+2** and further informed that as the events are in the Calendar of Events, therefore, further CPR authorization is not required for the ECO Secretariat delegation.

14. The Council appreciated the briefing by the ECO Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General (Admn) on the said agenda item and after deliberation, it approved the funding for the above mentioned two events in Kabul (Afghanistan) to cover travel expenses of the national delegations of the ECO Member States.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

##### Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF

15. Following request by some Member States and based on the practical experience on implementation of the existing SSF Modalities, including the scope and coverage of the Fund, the Council of Permanent Representatives at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 19 October 2015 requested the Secretariat to prepare the proposed revised "Modalities for the Utilization of ECO Special Support Fund" for consideration of the CPR. Accordingly and based on the experience gained from implementation of the SSF Modalities, the Secretariat prepared a revised text of the Modalities for consideration of the Member States.

16. During the 208<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting the Deputy Secretary General (Admin) made a presentation on the Modalities for Utilization of ECO Special Support Fund. The Presentation reviewed the current Modalities, its purpose, scope and their implementation. It also covered the previous amendments and brought to the notice of the CPR the scenarios for improvement of the Modalities. Following presentation made during the 208<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting, the proposed revised "Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund" (SSF) was circulated among the Member States through the Secretariat's Note Verbal No. ADM/EPG/2016/194 dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 for the kind consideration of the Member States. However, in this regard the Secretariat has not received any viewpoints/comments from the Member States. Moreover, upon the request of the Iranian delegation, during the recent CPR Meeting to revisit the matter, the revised "*Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF)*" was submitted before the Council for deliberation and possible decision.

17. On this agenda item, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* said that principally he supported the issue but due to its importance, proposed that CPR may establish a Working Group or Special Committee of all the ECO Member States to thoroughly discuss the issue of 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.

18. The Council, after deliberation, approved the proposal of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** for establishment of a Working Group to discuss the “*Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF*”. All ECO Member States were requested to actively participate in the Working Group’s meeting for which date and time will be indicated by the ECO Secretariat, in order to come-up with a final text of Revised Modalities for its onward approval by the coming CPR.

**Agenda Item No. 5**

Revised Practical measures of ECO to operationalize Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor

19. The 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications (28-29 June 2011, Ashgabat) decided to establish the road transport corridors between Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI). Accordingly, ITI High Level Working Group (HLWG) was established to take care of technical issues pertaining to ITI corridor. Upon accession of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the TIR instrument, all ECO Member States are considered TIR Parties; the 4<sup>th</sup> HLWG on ITI held in Islamabad on 17-18 August 2016, decided to launch a Truck Caravan as soon as TIR is activated in Pakistan. The Meeting proposed that National Consultants, who have been nominated to contribute to the filed study on ITI, may also accompany the Caravan to have firsthand knowledge of the problems at border crossing points. Furthermore, the ECO Secretariat was asked to take-up the matter with CPR for allocation of US\$ 50, 000 for this particular project.

20. It is mentioned that based on the decisions of HLWG on *ITI* and *KTAI* to undertake field studies on both corridors; two versions of ToRs regarding the field studies of the two corridors have been approved. Further, the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Islamabad noted that additional funds are required for successful completion of the studies and asked the Secretariat to approach the CPR for allocation of additional funds.

21. Director (Transport & Communications) of the ECO Secretariat Mr. Mohsin Esperri, briefed the Council by giving detailed breakdown of the requested fund indicating that the initial mandate provided by the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Transport Ministers has been further elaborated by the ITI’s HLWG 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Road Corridor held in Islamabad (Pakistan) on 17-18 August 2016. He said that the ECO Secretariat has completed its assignment by providing the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of both *ITI* and *KTAI* Corridors, which have been endorsed by the Road Committee and TTCC Meetings. The Director further informed the Council that the Secretariat is subsequently following the new mandate provided by the latest ITI Meeting on performing the Corridors Feasibility Study and test-run. He gave a cost break-down of the mandate and concluded that taking into account that the Secretariat has been able to mobilize US Dollars 30,000 from the International Road Union (IRU), a minimum of US\$50,000 would be required to fulfill the mandate provided by the Member States.

22. The Council appreciated the briefing by the Director (Transport & Communications) of the ECO Secretariat and approved US Dollars 50,000 (US Dollars Fifty Thousand only) for completion of the Field Studies of the *ITI* and *KTAI* Corridors.

**Agenda Item No.6**

Administrative matters

**(a) Entitlement of a former staff of the Secretariat**

23. In April 2015, the ECO Secretariat received a letter from a former employee of RCD-ECO, Mrs. Frideh Yeganeh Esfarjani (Iranian national) who brought to the attention of the Secretariat a pending case on her working relations with the ECO Secretariat.

According to her explanations, on the 21<sup>st</sup> year of her service in September 1985 and while on approved annual leave, she got fired. Following her failed attempts in the Secretariat to get back to work, the labour court of the host country (Iran) issued a verdict in her favour in 1988 requesting the Secretariat for remedial measures. She also informed the Secretariat that she had not received her entitlement under the Termination Benefit Fund of the Secretariat.

24. Following Mrs. Yeganeh's letter, the ECO Secretariat examined the case internally through collecting and studying all possible information and available documents, taking into account the facts surrounding the matter as well as the applicable administrative law and practices. The Secretariat later on briefed the CPR on its findings as well as on the way to settle the case amicably.

25. The Council at its 212<sup>th</sup> Meeting decided that the matter requires more time for evaluation and said that any further question from any Member State can be raised with the Legal Office of the Secretariat and then it could be discussed in the next CPR Meeting. Following the 212<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, Secretariat circulated among Member States a document titled "The Case of Mrs. Farideh Yeganeh Esfarjani: Some Observations by the ECO Secretariat" (Note verbale No. LA/2016/999 dated 4 August 2016), presenting an overview of the case, legal opinions and findings as well as options for settling the case.

26. The 213<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting further deliberated on the issue and the Council decided that the case could be discussed in the future CPR. The Secretariat also informed that a draft decision will be prepared and circulated for the ease of Member States for possible decision in the next CPR. Accordingly, the below draft decision is now before the Council for consideration:

*"Following consideration of the case brought to it by the Secretariat, the Council authorized the Secretary General to amicably settle, at his discretion, the case of Ms. Farideh Yeganeh Esfarjani. Settlement to this effect should not exceed the projected 20,000 USD, which will be paid from savings of the Secretariat. To the extent possible, this settlement should not create precedence for the future claims."*

27. On the issue, the Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** while appreciating the Secretariat in preparing a detailed report, raised following observations as:

- (i) The Secretariat is relying on the documents provided by the person and does not have its own record;
- (ii) The event is dated in 1985 and the ruling of the host country's court was announced in 1988; the reasons for non-follow up of the case by complainant and/or by the ECO Secretariat are not elaborated; and
- (iii) The legality of the last sentence of the decision proposed by the Secretariat (para 26 above) needs examination with reference to further liabilities. And in case there are rightful claims from the past why they may not be considered?

28. The Ambassador reiterated that keeping the above in view, his delegation fully supports the rights of all ECO personnel and said that they should be paid their entitlements in full after their completion of tenure/retirement etc. by the Secretariat. However, in this case there are lots of questions despite the efforts of the Secretariat, he further said that he is worried about the "Statute of Limitations" as well.

29. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** suggested that CPR may defer this case for the next meeting and in the meantime the Secretariat may provide some additional documents/information to the Member States for taking a decision, as the

Legal Adviser in his explanation earlier had mentioned that the Secretariat has the relevant documents. He further said that this is not a typical case and intention is not to delay the case but to take a correct decision. The Ambassador further reflected that 20,000 dollars is not a small amount of money, therefore, we do not want to make a hasty decision which sets a bad precedence. He also endorsed the stance of the Ambassador of Pakistan that clarification is needed if ECO Secretariat's employees are subjected to the Iranian law despite being employees of an international organization.

30. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** said, being an internal case of the Secretariat; it should have been followed by the Secretariat and not the ECO Member States. He further opined that local staff has the right to open the case in the local courts and the court can finally take a decision and inform the relevant Embassy/Mission.

31. The Legal Adviser of the Secretariat brought to the attention of the Council that the case is an old one; the Secretariat could not suffice to a letter submitted to it for the examination of the case. Therefore, the dismissed staff was asked to provide documents at her disposal which could support the claims set out in the letter. It does not mean that the examination of the case was based on the documents received. The Secretariat considered the existing documents in the Archive of the Secretariat for the examination of the case.

32. He further added that the Labour Court of Iran issued its decision in 1988 but it does not mean that the concerned staff refrained from resorting to internal settlement of the case till 1988 or after the issuance of decision of the Court. Lack of internal justice system was the main hindrance for a proper consideration of the case in the Secretariat. In the absence of such a system, the accused person should only ask the accuser to consider the legality of the decision taken. There was no equality of arms in this case. Therefore, the case was taken to the Labour Court of the host country by the dismissed staff after being disappointed from its internal settlement.

33. The Legal Adviser furthermore made a reference to the last sentence of the "draft decision" which states that "to the extent possible, this settlement should not create precedence for the future claims." And said that this has been added to the proposed draft decision based on the comments made by the Members of the Council in previous meetings. He expressed the hope that the Organization would be able to establish the internal justice system just like other international organizations for the settlement of the differences on the matters related to the small community of staff.

34. On the legality of the decision, he said that the rules effective in 1984 were precise on the required procedure which should have been followed for a proper decision. Based on the said rules, the issuance of "settlement of charges" and the need for giving a reasonable opportunity to the staff for answering the charges were the required procedure for taking a proper decision. These procedures were not observed in this case. This major defect affects the legality of the decision taken in 1985. He further mentioned that apart from the defect in the procedure, the charges - mentioned as the cause of dismissal of the staff - were examined. The charge of absenteeism which was raised against the concerned staff was mainly related to the duration in which she was away from work based on the approved annual leave. Taking into account the meaning of "absenteeism" which is "unscheduled absence from work" the absence from work based on an approved annual leave could not be regarded as a charge of absenteeism. On the other charges of non-observance of the administrative considerations and violation of rules, he added that these are general by nature; in order to be considered as a charge

they should have been specified. In this case, these charges were stated as the cause of dismissal without being specified or exemplified.

35. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** taking the floor mentioned that in this particular case it needs mentioning that this case dates before formation of ECO. He agreed to the observations raised by the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey. However, at the same time he said we are talking about an employee who had served this Organization. So he said there is an humanitarian aspect to it as well which needs to be resolved. The Ambassador expected that the Secretariat may come-up with clear observation because just putting up the problem is not enough unless they bring up the solution as well. He said his delegation is comfortable and can go along with consensus but at the same time hoped the concerns of the Member State would be looked into and in this particular case both humanitarian and legal aspects will be kept in view while concluding the case.

36. The Ambassador further clarified by stating that why he raised the issue of humanitarian aspect was because there is a Headquarters Agreement with the host government and the inviolability of the International Organization and its staff need to be kept in mind. Therefore, he said whatever decisions are taken should be within the ambit of the Secretariat, its jurisdiction, inviolability and the diplomatic immunity it enjoys.

37. After the deliberations, the CPR Chairman said that in his opinion these kinds of issues are purely the internal affairs of the Secretariat. He further mentioned to the distinguished Member States that for the last three months, the subject issue is being discussed and the explanations are being repeated again and again. In his opinion there is no need of bringing up this case for the approval of the CPR.

38. The Secretary General informed that basically the purpose of bringing the issue in the CPR is to get formal approval for provision of funds as the competent authority.

39. The Council, however after detailed deliberations, decided to defer the case to be discussed again during the next CPR Meeting and asked the Secretariat to provide all necessary documents/information asked by the Member States.

**(b) Recommendations of the Selection Panel**

40. The Council was informed that the Selection Panel's Meeting was held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran and on its recommendations, the Council approved the appointment of Ms. Fatma Murat (*Turkish National*) as Documentation Officer (Category-II, P2) of the ECO Secretariat, for a period of four years effective from the date of joining the Secretariat.

**Agenda Item No.7**  
Follow-up on Pending Issues

**and**

**Agenda Item No.8**  
Any other business

41. The CPR Chairman proposed that both the Agenda Item No.7 and 8 may be combined in one Agenda together.

42. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi reiterated about the decision of the post of Programme Officer of the PERS Directorate of the ECO Secretariat. He said in the last CPR (213<sup>th</sup>), it was decided to come up with a final conclusion of the matter.

43. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed that until now there is no progress in the matter. However, as the new Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has taken over his assignment, it is hoped that the matter will soon be finalized in a meeting and the CPR will be informed accordingly.



44. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kanan Nazarov informed the Council regarding receipt of a Note Verbal from the Turkish Cypriot State for participation as "**Observer**" in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism scheduled to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016 in the Republic of Turkey. He requested the distinguished Member States for expeditious confirmation of participation in the said meeting.

45. The Council approved the participation of Turkish Cypriot State in its capacity as "**Observer**" in the "**3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism**" scheduled to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016 in the Republic of Turkey, in accordance with the ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO.

46. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kanan Nazarov also highlighted about the "**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Council of Heads of Custom Administration**" scheduled to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He requested the distinguished Member States for expeditious confirmation of participation in the said meeting.

47. Under this agenda item, the Secretary General taking-up the floor informed the Council that the Secretariat has issued the Report of the Extraordinary COM Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. He further informed the Council that it was decided in the Ex-COM Meeting that "**if no Member State offers to hold next ECO Summit and COM Meeting within one month of holding of this EX COM meeting, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will hold the next ECO Summit and COM Meeting**". The Secretary General said that in this regard the Secretariat has issued a letter to the Member States with the request that the Secretariat expects a reply in this connection by the end of October 2016.

48. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed that it has not yet received the Extraordinary COM Meeting Report. He said that decision of the Special CPR Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016, with reference to informing EXCOM about the issue of "**Inauguration of RISCAM Secretariat in Tehran**" has not been complied with.

49. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran further mentioned that the case of "**Re-appointment of the President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) for another period of three years**" was discussed and decided in EXCOM Meeting in New York under Agenda Item "Other Matters", although as per SOM decision the minutes of the BoT of ECOSF were to be circulated to all ECO Member States and after comments (if favourable) were received it was to be taken-up in EXCOM Meeting. He informed that Islamic Republic of Iran sent comments to ECO Secretariat showing reservation to new appointment of Professor Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro as the President of ECOSF for another three years owing to legal complications to this decision being not in line with the ECOSF Charter and regulations. However, the comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran were not circulated to all ECO Member States and the case was presented to EXCOM Meeting without above facts.

50. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi on the observations of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the issue of "**Inauguration of RISCAM Secretariat in Tehran**" said that the issue was duly presented to the EXCOM Meeting for discussion and is reflected in para 39-40 of Extraordinary COM Meeting Report. The DSG to the other query i.e. ECOSF, said that all proceedings of the Special CPR Meeting acting as SOM for Extraordinary COM Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 were recorded in the SOM Report and the same was taken to the EXCOM Meeting and discussed there. He further mentioned that the Secretariat received two letters: one with regard to ECO-ECI from the Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran and the second from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to ECOSF. He said

both letters were shared prior to EXCOM meeting with the Permanent Missions of Iran and Pakistan in New York.

51. The Secretary General taking the floor further informed the Council by stating that as a Secretariat, we fully informed the COM Members participating in the Meeting in New York. He said that on receipt of letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to ECOSF, the same was circulated to the Member States and was also sent to the Permanent Missions of Iran and Pakistan in New York respectively. Moreover, the ECO delegation requested both Iranian and Pakistani sides for their separate meeting before the COM Meeting to discuss the issues in order to come to a conclusion on the issue before EXCOM Meeting. The Secretary General said that, in his opinion, both the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Pakistan were fully briefed about the matter and allowed EXCOM Meeting to take an appropriate decision on the issue.

52. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** taking part in the discussion said that on the issue of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), the spirit was to allocate or extend this tenure to Pakistan for another period of three years. He said that he is not sure whether appointment of the President of ECOSF is person or country specific. However, as the BoT of ECOSF agreed on new appointment of President of ECOSF for three years, therefore, Ministers at EXCOM Meeting in New York also agreed. The Ambassador further said that with regard to the appointment of new Executive Director of ECO Cultural Institute, request has been made as a stop-gap arrangement for a few months extension (preferably six months). He said that the authorities in Pakistan are being pursued for early process of nomination for the post of Executive Director for the ECO Cultural Institute.

53. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** while responding to the above request of the Ambassador of **Pakistan** said that principally there is no objection but the issue will be discussed with the Ambassador during the meeting. The Representative further said that while honouring the decision of the EXCOM Meeting, he is not satisfied with the explanation and decision-making process and his concerns may be recorded in the CPR Report accordingly.

#### **Agenda Item No.9**

##### Date of the next CPR meeting

54. The Council decided to convene its next (215<sup>th</sup>) Meeting **on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016** at the ECO Secretariat. **However, due to emerging commitments of the CPR Chairman, the date of next CPR Meeting (215<sup>th</sup>) has been revised to Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 and then from Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 to Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at 1000 hrs in the ECO Secretariat.**

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:**

- H.E. Dr. Nasser Ahmad Noor, Ambassador
- 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, Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ahmad Saffari, Deputy Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ahmad Reza Asghari, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Mohammad H. Moazzami, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

**The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:**

- Mr. Serik Zhumabekov, Minister-Counsellor

**The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- Mr. Mr. Aziz Kurumbaev, Counsellor, Charge d, Affaires a.i.
- Mr. Kochorbaev Musa, First Secretary

**The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:**

- H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador
- Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Third Secretary

**Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:**

- Ms. Manizha Rahimi, Third Secretary
- Mr. Saidali Shosaidov, Embassy officer

**The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:**

- H.E. Mr. Riza Hakan TEKİN, Ambassador
- Mr. Taylan OzgurAydin, Embassy officer

**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. Mohsen Esperi, Director (Transport and Communication)
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- 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

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