

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

## **Report**

**16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**  
ECO Secretariat-Tehran

## Report

The 211<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the ECO Secretariat. 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 Kazakhstan, 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.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Council adopted the following agenda for deliberations:
  1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 211<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
  2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 210<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
  3. Holding the next 13<sup>th</sup> Summit and 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
  4. Progress on ECO Vision 2025
  5. **Administrative matters:**
    - a) Continued discussions on the post of Programme Officer of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics
    - b) Recommendations of the Selection Panel
  6. Following pending issues with Member States delegations
  7. Any other business
  8. Date of the next CPR Meeting

### **Agenda Item No.2**

#### Adoption of the Draft Report of 210<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting:

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 210<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/210/2 7 (7<sup>th</sup> April 2016) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/210<sup>th</sup> CPR/2016/477 dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

### **Agenda Item No.3**

#### Holding the next 13<sup>th</sup> Summit and 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

4. The CPR Chairman informed the Council that as per Article IV of Treaty of Izmir (The ECO Charter), "The Heads of State/Government of the Member States shall meet biannually or more often if considered necessary by the Member States. The Summit meetings shall review the objective conditions and progress in implementation of ECO Programmes and Projects and shall also serve as the highest-level forum for exchange of views on regional and global issues of common interest to the ECO Region".

5. The Council was further briefed that 12<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit was held almost four years ago in 2012 in Baku (Azerbaijan). The Council was also briefed, in details, about the

following meetings of Heads of State/Government of the ECO Member States held previously:

11 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2010
10 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran)	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2009
9 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Baku (Republic of Azerbaijan)	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2006
8 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Dushanbe (Republic of Tajikistan)	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
7 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2002
6 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran)	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2000
5 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan)	11 <sup>th</sup> May 1998
Extraordinary Summit	Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)	13 - 14 <sup>th</sup> May 1997
4 <sup>th</sup> Summit	Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)	14 - 15 May, 1996
3 <sup>rd</sup> Summit	Islamabad (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)	14 - 15 March 1995
2 <sup>nd</sup> Summit	Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)	6 - 7 July, 1993
1 <sup>st</sup> Summit	Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran)	16 - 17 <sup>th</sup> February 1992

6. It was recalled that after the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) along with 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in 2014 which was welcomed by the delegations of Member States. However, most recently, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has informed that in 2016 it has prior commitments to host the SAARC Summit and other high-level events. Therefore, it will not be possible for them to host 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit at Islamabad this year. It was also suggested that the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit may be hosted by another willing ECO Member State in the year 2016 and that Pakistan will be happy to host the next (14<sup>th</sup>) ECO Summit at a convenient date.

7. It was also reiterated that there are issues of vital importance including development and adoption of New ECO Vision-2025 which require immediate attention and resolution at the highest level. Moreover, in the new reality of time, the Summit may give an impetus to cooperation in the framework of the Organization and define new directions to achieve mutually beneficial objectives of the Member States through closer cooperation in the spheres of trade, transportation, energy and other areas of cooperation.

8. The CPR Chairman requested contributions from all the distinguished delegates for two issues: one for the hosting of 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and the other hosting of 22<sup>nd</sup> ECO COM Meeting and enquired whether we could separate the meetings in different times or stick together at the same time whereby a country that is volunteering to convene the next Summit will host the COM Meeting simultaneously?

9. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** taking the floor mentioned that ECO Summit could not be held for the last 4 years, likewise regular ECO COM Meeting could not be hosted since 2013, therefore, ECO Secretariat may consult with ECO Member States for holding ECO COM Meeting along with the ECO Summit.

10. The Ambassador of the **Kyrgyz Republic** mentioned that we have two issues: **first**, the Secretariat has circulated Note Verbale regarding Pakistan's position for not holding the Summit Meeting and **second**, is there any official response from any Member States willing to host the Summit? He further requested the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to shed more light on the issue of Summit.

11. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** added that details have already been conveyed to the ECO Secretariat through a Note Verbale by the Embassy, which is very clear. He said that due to some administrative difficulties, Pakistan is not in a position to host the Summit. He further mentioned that in the Note Verbale it has been stated that Pakistan will be happy to host the next (14<sup>th</sup>) ECO Summit at a convenient date. He also stated that right now we have SAARC Summit and other high-level engagements which are obliging us to offer this opportunity to any other Member States to come forward for convening the Summit/COM Meeting.

12. The CPR Chairman also clarified the second point raised by the Kyrgyz Ambassador stating that until now no official response for convening the next Summit/COM has been received from any Member State.

13. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** taking the floor mentioned that it is a very important issue and as mentioned earlier it has almost been four years that we could not convene the Summit and it is important that it is convened as soon as possible. He said that first, in terms of practicality we should focus on holding both meetings back-to-back because we cannot easily agree on fixing dates for such high-level events and if we have some progress, hopefully in the near future, we can focus on holding them together.

14. He further said that in terms of volunteering, it seems that there is no country volunteering for hosting the meetings and he also has no formal indication as yet from his authorities but after the CPR meeting, he will check with his authorities for a chance of hosting the Summit and COM Meetings in Turkey.

15. After deliberations, the CPR Chairman concluded that the promising words made by the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey could be recorded in the report. The Chairman further said that the same agenda would be discussed during the next CPR Meeting and hoped by that time every Member State will have enough time to convey their views/comments formally to the Secretariat in convening of the Summit and COM Meetings.

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

##### Progress on ECO Vision 2025

16. On the sidelines of the 26<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting, a day-long Brainstorming Session on ECO Vision 2025 entitled "**Future Search Conference**" was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Azadi Hotel, Tehran. After the conference which was attended by the Heads of Delegation, Permanent Representatives of ECO Member States, Heads of ECO Institutions and other officials, the participants proposed the following as the new "Vision Statement" for ECO:

*“ECO will pave the way to a territory of integrated and sustainable economies as well as free trade achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation.”*

17. The First Draft of the ECO Vision 2025 was circulated among the Member States and the views/comments received from Member States were incorporated in the Revised Draft Vision 2025 which was also circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat’s Note Verbale No. CFU/ECO-Vision/2016/608 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016. The Member States were requested to convey views/comments on the Revised Draft document preferably during one month’s time enabling the Secretariat to finalize the “Vision & Strategy” during a high-level Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of Development and Planning or by a Special CPR before the next Summit/COM Meeting.

18. The Secretary General informed the Council that the Secretariat has already circulated the second Draft ECO Vision-2025 incorporating the recommendations of the Member States and Future Search Conference.

19. The Secretary General also shared his opinion that the new draft ECO Vision-2025 may be placed before ECO Planning & Development Ministerial Meeting before its final approval by the Council of Ministers. In this regard he further added that Ministers of Planning of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey have supported the idea of organizing Ministerial meeting on ECO Vision.

20. Dr. Adnan, Director (T&I) and Coordinator of the ECO Vision 2025, briefed the Council about the contents and preparation of the draft vision, stating that the Secretariat started preparation exercise in last quarter of 2015. He said that the draft vision was prepared after series of in-house meetings, incorporating recommendations of the “Future Search Conference” held on the sidelines of 26<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting and inputs of the ECO Member States. The draft was circulated again on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 for final inputs from the Member States after which it will be placed for consideration by the Ministerial meeting of ECO Ministers of Planning and Development before its final approval by the COM Meeting.

21. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** indicated that he has no update on the proposal of hosting of meeting by Minister of Development of Pakistan and will give the position after consulting with the Capital. He was of the view that the vision document indicates the future direction as well as constraints of the Organization and for it to be practical, the longstanding issues of “Scale of Assessments” and “share of Member States” need to be resolved. Moreover, the financial modalities for implementation of the draft vision also requires to be clearly stated.

22. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** while appreciating the briefing by the Secretariat on the ECO Vision-2025 document, informed that the formal comments/views of Republic of Azerbaijan will be submitted to the Secretariat in due course and stressed that the document should not be drafted and adopted just for the sake of having some guiding document instead it should also serve to actually benefit the Member States and also increase the efficiency of the Organization.

23. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan** appreciated the briefing by the Secretariat and efforts for preparation of ECO Vision-2025 document. He said that formal views/comments will be communicated to the Secretariat once received from the capital. The Representative sought clarification on terms; "ECO Vision Fund", "Role of CPR" and "Monitoring Process of the Implementation of ECO Vision".

24. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** appreciated the briefing by the Secretariat on ECO Vision-2025 document. He said that formal views will be communicated to the Secretariat in due course. The Representative asked for clarification regarding establishment of Desks ("*Trade Facilitation Desk*" & "*Investment Facilitation Desk*") for dealing with specific issues. He said it would be a beneficial step in enhancing the capacity of the Organisation. He enquired whether this desk will be manned through a new wing or managed by the existing personnel of the Secretariat. The Representative requested the Secretariat to inform the Council about the financial aspect of establishment of these 'Desks'. He further highlighted 'technology' which is an important sector for cooperation between ECO Member States and proposed establishment of a specialized desk for it at the ECO Secretariat.

25. The Secretary General explaining the points raised by the delegates during the discussion regarding (i) ECO Vision Fund, (ii) CPR Role and (iii) establishment of Desks, emphasized that this is a draft version and the Secretariat is expecting inputs/contributions from the Member States.

26. The Secretary General mentioned that out of six core priorities, three are very clear and universally acknowledged by Member State; Transport, Trade and Energy while three new priorities have been added in the draft vision document; Tourism, 'Economic Growth' and 'Productivity and Social Welfare and Environment' and Secretariat expects more discussion, inputs and contribution from Member States on the new priorities.

27. He also requested attention of the participants regarding the "expected outcomes" under each priority area indicating that they are essentially programmes and projects to achieve the goals under each priority area and emphasized that they need to be quantifiable and matching the capacity of the Secretariat to realize them. He stated that although Secretariat has employed its full capacity, additional contributions are necessary by the Member States.

28. He underscored the importance of 'implementation mechanism' for realizing the ECO Vision-2025 and for this the concept of Vision Fund has been incorporated along with undertaking the organizational reforms, which have also been recommended by the last COM.

29. The Secretary General finally explained that at present this document is at a proposal stage and will pass through the process of SOMs, Ministerial and COM Meetings for taking a final shape. *He also clarified that the Secretariat will not be having "Desks" instead it will be managed by the existing staff without any financial implications.* He said that there is also an idea to improve the Follow-up and Coordination Department to prepare the review of the ECO Vision and follow-up mechanism for the Work Plan.

30. After lengthy deliberations, the CPR Chairman concluded that we should wait till the formal responses and reactions on the second Draft Vision-2025 from the distinguished Member States are received.

#### **Agenda Item No.5**

##### **Administrative matters**

##### **a. Continued discussions on the post of Programme Officer of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics**

31. As per instructions of the 205<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, the Working Group on the post of "Programme Officer for Project, Economic Research and Statistics" convened its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 to discuss future distribution of the post of "Programme Officer for Project & Economic Research and Statistics (PERS)". The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan proposed that the post may be circulated among the Member States for nomination of suitable candidates. The Iranian delegate did not agree to circulate the post among the Member States and proposed that the tenure of Mr. Amini be extended or another appropriate Iranian nominee may be appointed until the conclusion of the new distribution formula under the reform process. During 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the concerned Member States (Iran and Pakistan) agreed to have informal consultations and expressed the hope that an agreement would be reached between them. However, the Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the Council (208<sup>th</sup> CPR) that due to engagements in Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting, consultations could not be held but hoped that the matter will be resolved soon. The issue was pending in 209<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting to be discussed in the next CPR (210<sup>th</sup>). However, the Council was informed that consultations could not happen due to New Year's break and the progress will be shared in the next 211<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting.

32. The CPR Chairman asked the concerned Member States (Iran & Pakistan) to brief the Council about the progress on the issue.

33. On this sub-agenda item the Council was informed that consultations are still underway and result will be communicated in the coming CPR.

##### **b. Recommendations of the Selection Panel**

34. The Selection Panel's meeting was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 and on its recommendations, the Council took the following decisions:

##### **(i) Director (EME) (Category-I, D2)**

35. The Council approved the appointment of Mr. Fuad Farzalibayov (Azerbaijan National) as Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment (Category-I, D2) in place of Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, for a period of three years effective from the date of his joining the ECO Secretariat.

##### **(ii) Programme Officer (Category-II, P1)**

36. The Chairman of the Selection Panel further informed the Council that on the request of the Secretariat, the possibility of re-employment of Ms. Zukhra Abisheva (Kazakhstan National) who will be completing her third consecutive re-employment (after retirement) on 27 June 2016 was also considered. In this connection, the formal response from the Kazakh Embassy in Tehran is still awaited. Moreover, the Representative of Kazakhstan in the meeting said that, in principle, there is no objection for re-employment of Ms. Abisheva and that its Embassy has not yet received formal advice on the subject from the capital.

37. Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mentioned that while he has no objection for the re-employment of Ms. Abisheva, the Member States should have been informed about the communication between Secretariat and Republic of Kazakhstan and the issue should be reviewed first by the Selection Panel. He enquired if the extension has been requested by the ECO Secretariat?

38. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan further sought clarification about the word "staff" because in his opinion the staff means people who come on deputation and believe that they do not include the 'staff' which is directly or openly recruited by the Secretariat i.e. where the Selection Panel is not involved. He also requested the Legal Adviser to elaborate the rules position under which the Secretary General has the power to re-employ.

39. The Legal Adviser drew the attention of the Council to the provisions of Article 19.2.4 of the Staff Regulations by which the Secretary General was vested with the right to re-employ a retired staff: "Upon attaining the age of 60, the Secretary General may, however, re-employ on yearly basis a retired member of staff for a further period which shall not exceed five years".

40. He added that since article 6.10 of the Staff Regulations states that "For all appointments, the concurrence of the Government of the nation concerned shall be required.", the exercise of Article 19.2.4 is subject to the obtaining of the concurrence of the Member State of the concerned staff. To this end, the Embassy of Kazakhstan has been informed on the issue at hand.

41. On the question of the definition of "Staff", the legal advisor while affirming the definition of "staff" in the "definition" section of the Staff Regulations, stated that the word staff is a reference to the persons appointed against the staff strength. He further referred to the categorization of staff done by the Staff Regulations under Article 5.2 which provides that "With the exception of the Secretary General, the Staff of the Secretariat shall consist of three categories: Category-I: Directing Staff, Category-II: Professional Staff and Category-III; Auxiliary Staff". He underlined that Ms. Abisheva is a retired staff of category II namely professional staff to whom the substantive right set forth in Article 19.2.4 can be applied.

42. The ECO Secretary General concurred that due to Ms Abisheva's valuable and good experience, the Secretariat is obliged to require her services for a further period of one year. He informed the Council that the situation was evaluated by the Secretariat in consultation with the Legal Adviser.



43. After deliberations, the Council approved the re-employment of Ms. Zukhra Abisheva (Kazakhstan National) as Programme Officer (Category-II, P1) for a period of one year effective from 28 June, 2016 *in accordance with Article 19.2.4 and Article 6.10 of the ECO Staff Regulations*, explained by the Legal Adviser in Paras 39, 40 & 41 above.

#### **Word of Thanks to the outgoing Director**

44. The CPR Chairman and the Council paid tributes and appreciated the out-going Director (EME) Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov for his hard-work during his tenure which he performed very professionally to promote ECO's objectives.

45. On the occasion, the Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan expressed that in ECO and other international organizations, Azerbaijan has always pursued policy to nominate their qualified candidates who can bring value to the work of the Organizations. She further said it is also very pleasing to note that Mr. Zenalov has managed to accomplish those goals within his three years tenure in ECO and hoped that his successor would continue the good work and further contribute to the Secretariat's endeavours.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6**

##### **Pending issues with the Member States delegations**

46. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) informed the Council that "Sixth Working Group Meeting on Environment" will be held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan between 1-2 June 2016. He said that by now five countries have confirmed their participation and two more countries have indicated their participation. The Deputy Secretary General requested these two countries for their official confirmation and other Member States to send their nominations for the event.

47. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out that there are two important meetings which have been postponed more than two times. First is the "*Ministerial Meeting on Trade*" to discuss matter like ECOTA etc which was scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Tehran and so far no confirmation has been received. He further informed about the second meeting; "*First ECO Senior Consular Officials Meeting on Facilitation of Visa for Driver*" scheduled to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Tehran, he informed that five countries have confirmed their participation. He requested the remaining Member States for early confirmation of participation.

48. Deputy Secretary General (T&I,AIT & IR) informed the Council regarding the Ministerial Meeting of Commerce, the Secretariat will request the Iranian authorities to re-schedule the date of the meeting and also request to propose separate dates for Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Trade Fair. He assured that during this week the Secretariat will issue a Note Verbale in this regard.

#### **Agenda Item No.7**

##### **Any other business**

49. The Secretary General informed the Council about following two issues:

- (i) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Cypriot State vide its letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, informed the ECO Secretariat that a delegation from the Turkish Cypriot State would like to participate in the "**Sixth Working Group Meeting on Environment**" to be held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan between 1-2 June 2016. Furthermore, the Ministry had requested the Secretariat to provide the Head of Turkish Cypriot State delegation with the opportunity to address the ECO Member States at an appropriate stage of the deliberations within the framework of the Chapter IV (Rights and Obligations) of "ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO".

50. The Council approved the participation of Turkish Cypriot State in its capacity as "Observer" in the "**6<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Environment**" to be held on 1-2 June 2016 in Islamabad, in accordance with the ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO.

- (ii) The Secretariat has received a letter No. ECOSF/Gen/15 (25 April, 2016) from the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) regarding the extension in the tenure of Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECOSF. The Secretary General stated that the issue require to be deliberated and asked the DSG (T&I) Mr. Kanan Nazarov to brief the Council in detail. Deputy Secretary General (T&I,AIT & IR) briefed the Council stating that the ECO Science Foundation sent a letter to the ECO Secretariat informing that the tenure of the President will be expiring on 2nd June, 2016. The fact in mind that ECO Council of Ministers appoints the President to this post, Science Foundation requested the CPR to take appropriate measures and ECO Secretariat replied to the Science Foundation emphasizing that the relevant articles of additional protocol to the Charter and procedural rules should be observed and according to the rules reflected in the Charter of Science Foundation, there is need for recommendation of Board of Trustees (BoT), however, ECO Science Foundation is facing difficulties in holding/organizing BoT. For this reason, the matter is submitted for consideration of the CPR Meeting.

51. Taking part in the deliberations on the issue of extension in the tenure of Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mentioned that basically Prof. Soomro worked very hard and he is the only one running the Organization. He said that ECOSF has skeleton staff and besides President, there is no one to take over the charge if he leaves on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016. He said that instructions from Islamabad have not yet been received and as soon as these are received the matter will be formally taken-up with the Secretariat to circulate the extension of President ECOSF till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016. The Representative cited two possible options: (i) ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) itself circulates to the Member States for extension as out of ten, five are the Member of ECO Science Foundation and (ii) the Embassy can request the Secretariat to circulate among the Member States and get reply from the capitals. The Representative requested CPR's guidance for solution to this situation.

52. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran appreciating the job performed by Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of the ECO Science Foundation said that we need to follow the regulations. He said either it should be circulated by the Secretariat or the Science Foundation itself among the Member States; we have the same experience with regard to the ECO Cultural Institute. He further said that we should wait for official confirmation from Pakistan and will take-up the position accordingly.

53. The CPR Chairman requested the Legal Adviser for legal position.

54. The Legal advisor started with explaining the Organizational Structure of the Science Foundation. He said, within the organizational Structure of the Science Foundation there are two chief decision making bodies: the Board of Trustees and the Council of Ministers. On the question of the appointment of the President of the Foundation, the COM has the authority, which is contingent on the recommendations by the Board of Trustees. He added that as per article 5 of the additional protocol to the Charter of the ECO Science Foundation the term of office of the president is non-renewable. The fact is that tenure of the incumbent President will come to an end on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 and convening of the meeting of BOT, before the termination date is not possible for receiving recommendations on the next President.

55. He further, in response to the question of the chair on the possibility of extension of the tenure of the President of the Foundation by CPR, explained that rules explicitly state that the tenure is non-renewable. He, however, stated that the CPR can take a decision about the appointment of the President when it is authorized by COM for this purpose. He added that addressing the question of extension of the tenure of the President of the Foundation in order to cope with the situation and avoiding any circumstances that may be regarded detrimental to the management and function of the Foundation should be regarded as an exceptional approach which is not consistent with the rules but the COM recognizes it unavoidable.

56. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** on the briefing of the Legal Adviser proposed to hold a Special CPR for this special case with participation of the Member States of the Science Foundation only to consider the case of Mr. Soomro. He further said that previously we also had special CPR on different issues.

57. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** while appreciating the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran enquired whether we have any legal provision for such CPR as in the past we do not have any practice. He reiterated that it is only Pakistan who is bearing the burden of ECO Science Foundation in addition to a partial payment by the Islamic Republic of Iran and this CPR may decide on this issue.

58. The CPR Chairman proposed that considering it an exceptional case, CPR on behalf of the CPR of ECO Science Foundation may take a decision in order to extend the tenure of office of the President Soomro for next three months and recommend it to the next COM.

59. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** requested that the extension may be given till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 to give sufficient time for circulation of the post and other necessary formalities for the purpose.

60. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, however, proposed that after consultation with the capital, they will send a Note Verbale to the ECO Secretariat for circulation to the Member States about extension of the tenure of the President ECOSF also mentioning the period of extension. If no response from the Member States is received by 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 on the issue, it will be considered positively.

61. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** mentioned that it has no objection whether the extension is for three or six months but emphasized that it should be upto a maximum of six months on non-renewable basis as an exceptional case and in the meantime on receiving the Note Verbale of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the relevant Member States may inform the Secretariat on their positions on the issue.

62. After lengthy deliberations, the CPR Chairman with the concurrence of the Council concluded the agenda by stating that as proposed by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Secretariat will wait for receipt of a Note Verbale to be addressed to the ECO Secretariat by the Embassy for taking-up the matter with the relevant Member States for the extension, with specific time period, in tenure of the President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro.

#### **Agenda Item No.8**

##### Date of the next CPR meeting

63. The CPR decided to convene its next (212<sup>th</sup>) meeting on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at 1000 hours at the ECO Secretariat.**

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.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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

- Mr. Ahmad Haroon Najmpoor, Minister-Counsellor
- Mr. Mohammad Hakim Sidiqi, Second Secretary
- Ms. Zahra Badaghi, Administrative Assistant

**The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:**

- Ms. Aysel Yagubova, 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 Safari, Deputy Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Sadegh Sadeghi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

**The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- H.E. Mr. Asanbek Osmonaliev, Ambassador
- Mr. Kochorbaev Musa, First Secretary

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

- H.E. Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani, Ambassador
- Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmad, Counsellor
- 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
- Ms. Sevgi Ilhan, Second Secretary

**The ECO Secretariat:**

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Muhammad Adnan, Director (T&I)
- Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Director (EME)
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Muhammad Muqet Asim Shah, Assistant Director (IR)
- Mr. Gaffar Erbek, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Translator
- Mr. Amriyo Boboev, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, Persian Interpreter/Translator

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