

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

## **Report**

**4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**  
ECO Secretariat-Tehran

## Report

The 210<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 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.

### Welcoming Remarks of the Council for the new Deputy Secretary General

2. At the outset, the CPR Chairman wished all the distinguished delegates "NOUROZ felicitations". He welcomed and congratulated Mr. Kanan Nazarov from the Republic of Azerbaijan for taking-up his new assignment as the Deputy Secretary General of ECO Secretariat and expressed the hope that he would be able to render his best services to the Organization. The Permanent Representatives of ECO Member States, who attended the meeting, also welcomed and congratulated Mr. Kanan Nazarov on his appointment as the new Deputy Secretary General of ECO. They expressed the hope that Mr. Kanan would uphold the objectives, principles, rules and regulations of the ECO which are important for smooth functioning of the Organization. They assured their full support to the new Deputy Secretary General in achieving goals of the Organization.

3. Mr. Kanan Nazarov in his remarks reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the Council in his favour. He said that it was a great honour and privilege for him to participate in the first CPR Meeting as the new Deputy Secretary General of ECO. He expressed the hope that he would try his best to serve the Organization in order to achieve the goals and objectives with the support of Member States. He also expressed his profound appreciation to the Member States for extending their support to his candidature.

### Agenda Item No.1

#### Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Council adopted the following agenda for deliberations:

### Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 210<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 209<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
3. Approval of Non-ECO Events and Events that are organized on the sidelines of the regional and international Conferences and Meetings
4. Consideration of the Work Programme for 2016-2017 for its submission to the COM
5. Administrative matters:
  - (i) Continued discussions on the post of Programme Officer of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics
  - (ii) Recommendations of the Selection Panel

6. **External Relations:**
    - Cooperation with United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation (UNOSS)
  7. Pending issues with Member States delegations
  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 209<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting:**

5. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 209<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/209/2 (23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016) which was circulated among the Member States via Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/209<sup>th</sup> CPR/2016/302 dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.

## **Agenda Item No.3**

### **Approval of Non-ECO Events, as well as Events that are organized on the sidelines of the Regional and International Conferences and Meetings**

6. During the last CPR Meeting (209<sup>th</sup>), besides giving a comprehensive presentation by the ECO Secretariat covering various aspects of the issue such as kind of events, modalities and legalities etc, there were certain Non-ECO Events whose subjects, dates and venues were not clearly mentioned and in Council's view, the decision to attend Non-ECO Events required careful consideration. The Council also suggested that the Secretariat may take concurrence of CPR before attending each Non-ECO Event. However, after protracted discussion, the Council approved the List of Non-ECO Events except those which do not have clear dates/venues and that these would be discussed in the next CPR Meeting (210<sup>th</sup>). Moreover, the Council also approved two meetings on the sidelines of the international events i.e. **(i)** ECO Consultative Ministerial Meeting on Environment on the sidelines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Nairobi (23-27 May 2016 and **(ii)** 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Health Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, Geneva (18-26 May 2016) and the rest to be discussed/decided in the next CPR Meeting.

7. In the meantime, the Secretariat updated the List of Non-ECO Events by mentioning the dates/venues along with incorporating details of the meetings on the sidelines of the international events. The list was circulated to the delegates/Representatives of the Member States for consideration and approval.

8. The Secretariat informed the Council that as instructed in the last CPR (209<sup>th</sup>), it has updated the List of Non-ECO Events by giving dates/venues and other details. The Council considered and approved the List of Non-ECO Events as well as Events that are to be organized on the sidelines of the Regional and International Conferences and Meetings. A copy of the List is attached as *Annex-II*.

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

#### Consideration of the Draft Work Programme 2016-2017 for its submission to the COM

9. The Draft Work Programme was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/WP-2016-17/2016/**203** dated 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. In the 209<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey informed the Council that they have received some modifications from the authorities and hoped that these could be reflected in the Draft Work Programme. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran assured the Council that once Turkish modifications were received, views would be conveyed to the ECO Secretariat and would be able to discuss the issue in the next CPR Meeting (210<sup>th</sup>). He further made a reference to the Meeting of 205<sup>th</sup> CPR where it was stated that the Secretariat needed to amend the Draft Work Program for the year 2015-2016 and required carefully concentration in order to avoid duplication of the RPC Report and provide a clean Work Programme containing the priorities of each Directorate within its field of activities, based on the RPC Report and the ECO Vision.

10. It is pertinent to mention that the Secretariat circulated the views and proposals of the relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey regarding the Paragraphs 103, 123, 192 and 315 of the Draft Work Programme for the year of 2016-2017 to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/WP-2016-17/2016/**244** dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. Moreover, the Secretariat also updated the Draft Work Programme 2016-2017 in respect of Trade & Investment and PERS Sections as well as incorporating the view of the Republic of Turkey and circulated the same to the Member States vide Note Verbale No. CFU/WP-2016-17/**420** dated 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

11. The CPR meeting further deliberated on the Work Programme 2016-2017. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated its earlier stance/observation regarding the format of the Work Programme. However, he said that as lot of time has been spent in preparation of this Work Programme, it endorses the Work Programme 2016-2017 with the hope that in future the Secretariat would prepare comprehensive Work Programme where its activities are measurable at the end of the year in order to evaluate the performance of the Organization.

12. The Secretary General explained that after the last CPR meeting (209<sup>th</sup>), the Secretariat has updated the Work Programme 2016-2017 with the available information from Turkey and from other Member States and also held several meetings in the Secretariat with the aim to further improve the Work Programme. The Secretary General was of the opinion that the follow-up mechanism can be improved by preparing a progress report within the year for the Work Programme and decisions undertaken during CPRs and Ministerial Meetings can be followed-up and in this regard the Secretariat is going to develop a "mechanism". ***He requested that the Member States may provide their inputs, in writing, for improvement of the Work Programme and follow-up mechanism.***

13. After deliberations, the Chairman concluded that by having general endorsement of the Council on the Draft Revised Work Programme 2016-2017 and considering the information and comments made by the Secretary General, the Draft Work Programme

may be submitted to the next COM for approval. A copy of the approved Work Programme 2016-2017 is attached as *Annex-III*.

## **Agenda Item No.5**

### Administrative matters

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

14. 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>).

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

16. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the Council that after consultations, which could not happen due to New Year's break, the progress will be shared in the next CPR Meeting.

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

17. The Selection Panel's meeting was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 and on its recommendations, the Council adopted the following decisions:

##### ***i. Extension in the tenure of Mr. A. Gaffar Erbek, Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet (Category-I, DI)***

18. The Council approved the extension in the tenure of Mr. A. Gaffar Erbek (**Turkish National**), Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet (Category-I, D1), for a period of two months effective from **15<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**.

19. The Council, on the recommendation of the Selection Panel, also requested the Republic of Turkey for nomination of a suitable candidate for the post. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the Council that the name of a new candidate for the subject post will be submitted to the Secretariat soon.

*ii. Administrative Assistant (Category-II, P2)*

20. The Council approved the appointment of Mr. Abdul Jabbar (**Pakistan National**), as Administrative Assistant (Category-II, P2) in place of Mr. Muhammad Adnan for a period of four years effective from the date of his joining the ECO Secretariat.

*iii. Extension in the tenure of Mr. Muhammad Adnan, Administrative Assistant (Category-II, P2)*

21. The Council approved the extension in the tenure of Mr. Muhammad Adnan (**Pakistan National**), Administrative Assistant (Category-II, P2) till his replacement (Mr. Abdul Jabbar) joins the ECO Secretariat.

**Agenda Item No.6**

External Relations:

**Cooperation with United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation (UNOSS)**

22. The United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation (UNOSS) is the UN body responsible for coordinating South-South cooperation in the United Nations system and also among other intergovernmental organizations outside of the UN system. It is mandated to help targeted countries and organizations in their efforts to promote cooperation among their member states. To fulfil its mandate, UNOSS initiated a process of exploring the possibilities of concluding memoranda of cooperation with some regional and intergovernmental organizations. OIC concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation with UNOSS in January 2016.

23. Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT & IR) briefed the Meeting stating that the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSS) recently approached the ECO Secretariat for possible cooperation arrangement with ECO. The UN Office also expressed its readiness to explore with ECO some programmes of technical cooperation. He said that the UN Office provides the most efficient and comprehensive support for countries to work together to use their wealth of resources and also supports national, regional and global development efforts. He informed that the UN Office acts as subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly and manages UNGA Fund for South-South Cooperation and other Trust Funds for economic and technical cooperation. He further informed that more developing countries are turning to UNGA in order to use opportunities of South-South Cooperation. He stated that in line with the "ECO Modalities on signing agreements with regional and international organizations, states and institutes", a comprehensive Background Paper was prepared and circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. IR/UNOSS/2016/413 dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. The Secretariat sought authorization from the Council enabling the Secretariat to enter into negotiations with UNOSS for mutual beneficial cooperation.

24. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan while appreciating the briefing by the Deputy Secretary General, enquired about which other regional organizations are partners with UNOSS and possibility of duplication of work. He also asked with regards to the financial implications of undertaking joint programme with

UNOSS. He indicated that a response on the document circulated by the Secretariat will be shared in due course of time.

25. The Deputy Secretary General added that the UNOSS is coordinating the south-south cooperation within the UN System and among the UN agencies. It is also responsible for promotion of South-South cooperation among countries. It has recently started to approach regional organizations for cooperation. In January 2016, UNOSS signed a MoU with OIC which will be followed-up with a Strategic Framework for Cooperation which is now under negotiations.

26. He further explained that as the UN focal point, UNOSS is the right body to ensure non-duplication. As financial aspects of the cooperation are concerned, there is south-south cooperation fund as well as other funds available through donation by donor community. ECO relations with UNOSS will facilitate access to available funds. Established relations with UNOSS will also provide opportunity for trilateral partnerships with potential donors. He also informed the Meeting about the recent development where UNOSS Director has been appointed by the UN Secretary General as his Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation.

27. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the detailed briefing by the Deputy Secretary General and also the comments made by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the issue. He supported the cooperation of the ECO Secretariat with the relevant bodies of the UN system and in this case UN South-South Cooperation. He said that they do not have any objection that the ECO Secretariat may have closer contact with UNOSS in order to seek opportunities for further cooperation. He hoped to receive further information, in due course. He also hoped that, if there is a need for signing of MoU in this respect, the ECO Secretariat would surely provide a draft MoU to the Member States for their views.

28. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the Council that the Background Paper provided by the Secretariat has already been sent to the capital and response is awaited. He further added that in principle Turkey has no objection to such kind of cooperation.

29. The Secretary General informed the Council that the Secretariat may engage with UNOSS to work out a draft MoU, which will then be shared with Member States for assessment prior to any formalized partnership.

30. After deliberations, the Council decided that the ECO Secretariat may interact with the UNOSS and prepare a draft MoU which may then be shared with the ECO Member States.

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

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

31. The Secretary General informed the Council that the Secretariat has decided to bring pending issues of importance to the notice of the CPR and that from next time the Secretariat will formally circulate the pending issues in writing as well.

32. Deputy Secretary General (T&T, AIT and IR) informed the Council about the two events being organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran:

**(I) First Package of Events**

- a. 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade schedule to be held on 22 – 24 May 2016;
- b. 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016; and
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Trade Fair to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2016

(Note Verbale of the Secretariat dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 have been circulated among the Member States mentioning all details regarding local hospitality and agenda. The Secretariat requested the Member States for conveying of confirmation and composition of respective delegations as the deadline mentioned is 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2016)

33. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran while appreciating the Secretariat in bringing up the above mentioned three events to the knowledge of the Council further reminded/requested the distinguished Member States for expeditious response for participation of their respective delegations in the above mentioned three events enabling the host authorities to finalize the required arrangements accordingly.

**(II) Second Event**

*Third Meeting of ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations scheduled to be held on..11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2016 in Ankara.*

(Only four countries i.e. Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey have confirmed for their participation. The remaining Member States were requested for their early confirmation and provision of composition of their delegations.)

34. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey brought to the attention of the Council that the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of ECO Customs Administration will be held on 16 – 17 May 2016 and it is expected that the “*Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistantance in Customs Matters*” will be an important part of the agenda of the subject meeting. He said that the Draft Agreement has been submitted to the ECO Secretariat (including the amendments by the Republic of Turkey) which was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat’s Note Verbale No.CFU/210<sup>th</sup> CPR/2016/441 dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. He requested the distinguished Member States to convey their views on the Draft Agreement/Amendments proposed by the Republic of Turkey taking into consideration the forthcoming meeting on the issue.

**Agenda Item No.8**

Any other business

35. The Secretary General informed and sought the concurrence of the Council to attend the the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Foreign Ministers on “*Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)*” scheduled to be held on 27 – 28 of April 2016 in Beijing (China). In this connection he has received a formal “*Invitation Letter*”



from Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the Peoples' Republic of China. It is mentioned that the meeting will be on hospitality basis.

36. The Secretary General further gave a short briefing on his participation in the high level segment of the the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) held on 14-16 March 2016 in Vienna. The Meeting was convened to finalize the preparations for the upcoming United National General Assembly Special Session on World Drug Problem. In his statement, the Secretary General highlighted the efforts of ECO to counter the drug problem as ECO Region is among the most drug-affected regions in the world. He said that during his visit, he also held bilateral discussion with Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC and exchanged views on future cooperation including for realization of sustainable development goals. He also held bilateral talks with the Director General of UNIDO. Press Releases on both the events are available on the ECO Website.

37. Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, also informed the Council that at the invitation by the Interpol Secretary General, ECO Secretariat attended the Interpol dialogue on an effective multilateral policing architecture against new emerging threats. The Meeting was chaired by Interpol Secretary General and attended by the heads of regional police and law enforcement organization from across the world, including EUROPOL, AMERIPOL, ASEANAPOL, AFRIPOL and GCCPOL as well as UNODC. They were interested to learn about the ongoing process of establishment of the ECOPOL. Accordingly, a presentation was made to inform them about the ECOPOL process. In bilateral discussions with the Secretary General of Interpol, he also offered readiness to help ECOPOL in its establishment and functioning.

38. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan after the briefings by the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General while appreciating the engagements as meaningful noted that the ECO needs to focus on the issues of regional economic integration being the main mandate of the Organization.

#### **Agenda Item No.11**

##### Date of the next CPR meeting

39. The CPR decided to convene its next (211<sup>th</sup>) meeting on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 1000 hours.** The venue of the Meeting will be communicated later.

40. 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. Aboulghasem Tahmasebi, Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Tofigh Sedigh Mostahkam, Senior expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

### The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- 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

### Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador
- Ms. Manizha Rahimi, Third Secretary

### The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- Mr. Mehmet Sait Guler, Second 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. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Gaffar Erbek, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Translator
- Mr. Berik Buzauov, Russian Interpreter/Translator

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