



209th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

14th February, 2016
ECO Secretariat-Tehran

Report

The 209th CPR meeting was held on 14th February 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 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:

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 209th CPR Meeting
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 208th CPR Meeting
3. Participation of the ECO Secretariat in Non-ECO Events
4. Approval of Non-ECO Events
5. Consideration of Work Programme for 2016-2017 for its submission to the COM
6. Consideration of the proposed lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from Special Support Fund (SSF)
7. Consideration of the revised budget proposal for two projects/studies for approval of funding by ECO Secretariat, as per usual practice for implementing of ECO projects:
 - (i) Economic Management Modeling in the ECO Region
 - (ii) Analyzing Food Security Issues in the ECO Region
8. Allocation of US\$ 50,000/- from the FSGPF in support of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region
9. Administrative matters:
 - (i) Appointment for the post of Deputy Secretary General
 - (ii) Continued discussions on the post of Programme Officer of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics
 - (iii) Recommendations of the Selection Panel
10. Any other business
11. Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 208th CPR Meeting:

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 208th CPR Meeting, contained in the document ECO/CPR/208/2 (20th January 2016), circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/208th CPR/2015/98 dated 21st January, 2016 along with

amendments proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paragraph 25 of the Report. The proposed amendments had already been circulated to the Member States vide Secretariats Note Verbale No.CFU/208th CPR/2016/193 dated 3rd February, 2016.

Agenda Item No.3

Participation of the ECO Secretariat in Non-ECO events

4. During the last CPR (208th), the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran had highlighted the fact that in the Calendar of Events for the year 2016, there are certain Non-ECO Events whose subjects, dates and venues are not clearly mentioned. Moreover, decision to attend Non-ECO Events needs to be carefully taken considering the importance of attending those for ECO. He suggested that ECO Secretariat may take concurrence of CPR before attending each Non-ECO event. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had supported the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran while adding that reports on the events may also be submitted for information of the Member States.

5. The Chairman, after deliberation and on the proposal of the Secretary General proposed to the Council to work more on this proposal and the same issue could be placed on the agenda in the next CPR Meeting (209th) in order to discuss in details and to receive response from the Member States on the issue and after that it could be a kind of guidelines for the organization that how to convene events on the sidelines or attendance of Non-ECO events by the Secretariat.

6. The CPR Chairman gave brief of the discussion on the issue in the last CPR and invited Secretariat for updates.

7. ECO Secretariat gave a comprehensive presentation covering various aspects of the issue i.e. kind of events, modalities, legalities etc. with the conclusion that:

- (i) Approval of CPR on the individual event before the non-ECO events is not practical and does not figure in the modalities. CPR may wish to make comments/share its views on how Secretariat should organize the sideline events/participate in the non-ECO events before recommending the Calendar of Events to COM;
- (ii) Coordination between the Secretariat and the Chairmanship for the sideline events can be further improved; and
- (iii) Reporting system of the events' outcomes can be improved.

(A copy of presentation is enclosed as **Annex-II**).

8. **Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran** while appreciating the comprehensive presentation of the ECO Secretariat proposed to discuss the issue in next CPR given the depth of the issue. Citing example of Extraordinary COM Meeting held on the sidelines of UNGA Meeting with only two Foreign Ministers participation, he was of the view that sideline meetings do not serve the purpose and result in adversely affecting the status/prestige of ECO. He was of the opinion that Calendar of Events for Non-ECO Events may be approved on quarterly basis.

9. Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran while expressing willingness to adopt only those events in which the Secretariat has been invited by other International Organizations in order to increase the visibility of the ECO but emphasized that his delegation cannot adopt the list of whole Non-ECO events or sideline meetings.

10. The **Ambassador of Tajikistan** appreciated the presentation given by the Secretariat. He sought clarification regarding the event; "Investment Conference" in

Tajikistan. The Secretariat clarified that it is part of regular ECO Calendar of Events and has already been approved in the 208th CPR Meeting.

11. **The Ambassador of Republic of Turkey** while appreciating the presentation observed that there needs to be timely decision on the Calendar of Events as two Non-ECO Events are scheduled in the present month. He further opined that CPR may come up with concrete proposal and that Turkey has no objection to approve the Calendar of Events in present form. However, in the light of reservations by other Member States, if Secretariat may come up with financial implications of Non-ECO Events, it might help in decision-making.

12. **Secretary General** mentioned that this issue has been on the agenda of second consecutive CPR and we are already in the 2nd month of the year, therefore, there is a need of urgent decision on the issue. He was of the view that annual Calendar of Events including non-ECO events has to be approved as single document as envisaged in Rule 30 of Rules of Procedure. Also that it is the prerogative and duty of the Secretary General to prepare it and represent Organization himself or through designated staff, as per approved ECO Modalities.

13. **Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan** while appreciating the presentation by the ECO Secretariat, called for discussing the whole Calendar of Events in entirety in the next CPR rather than discussing it on three month basis, as proposed by Iran. He was of the view that Non-ECO Events in the Calendar needs to give more details in terms of subject, venue and date.

14. The Legal Advisor on the invitation of the CPR Chairman informed the Council that the Rules of Procedure define the required approach for approval of the Calendar of Events by COM in Rule No. 30 (ECO Rules of Procedure) but it remains silent on the contents of calendar including sidelines events. He added that based on practice, Calendar of Events is approved for two years and it has been proposed for recommendation of CPR based on this precedent. On the sideline events, he placed emphasis on the importance of these meetings as well as the need for the establishment of modalities for holding such meetings at the sidelines of global events.

15. After protracted discussion, the Council approved the List of Non-ECO Events except those events which do not have clear dates/venues and would be discussed in the next CPR meeting. Moreover, the Council also approved two meetings on the sideline of the international events i.e. (i) ECO Consultative Ministerial Meeting on Environment on the sidelines of the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Nairobi (23-27 May 2016 and (ii) 3rd ECO Health Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 69th World Health Assembly, Geneva (18-26 May 2016) the rest to be discussed/decided in the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No.4

Approval of Non-ECO Events

16. Based on the discussion on **Agenda Item No. 3 "Participation of the ECO Secretariat in Non-ECO events"**, the Council approved the List of Non-ECO Events except those which do not have clear dates and venues and would be discussed in the next CPR meeting. 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 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Nairobi (23-27 May 2016 and (ii) 3rd ECO Health Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 69th World Health Assembly, Geneva (18-26 May 2016) the rest to be discussed/decided in the next CPR Meeting. A copy of List of Non-ECO Events is enclosed as **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item No.5

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

17. The Draft Work Programme has been circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/WP-2016-17/2016/**203** dated 4th February, 2016. The Draft Work Programme was submitted for consideration of the CPR which would then be submitted for final approval by the Council of Ministers.

18. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** informed the Council that they have received some modifications from the authorities which have been communicated to the Secretariat and hoped that these could be reflected in the Draft Work Programme once the views from other Member States are received on these changes.

19. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** said that as soon as changes communicated by the Republic of Turkey are received from the Secretariat, they would convey their views and would be able to discuss it in the next CPR Meeting. He further mentioned that "the Secretariat needs to amend the Draft Work Program for the year 2015-2016 according to the deliberations made at the 205th CPR Meeting. The Secretariat further needs to carefully avoid duplication of the RPC Report and provide a clean Work Program containing the priorities of each Directorate within its field of activities, based on the RPC Report and the ECO Vision."

20. The CPR Chairman decided that once the amendments proposed by the Republic of Turkey and views from other Member States are incorporated, thereafter the Draft Work Programme would be discussed during the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No.6

Consideration of the Proposed Lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from Special Support Fund (SSF)

21. The Lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from the Special Support Fund were circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CoE 2016-17/2016/**204** dated 4th February, 2016.

22. The Ambassador of **Tajikistan** informed that in the Working Programme they have raised the issue of Events which are to be financed from Special Support Fund (SSF) and would like to focus the attention on "Investment Conference" to be held in the year 2016 in Tajikistan. He suggested considering this Conference to be co-financed (50%) and asked for a response in this regard.

23. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** consented to the proposal of the Secretariat. However, he said that utilization of the Fund would be on the pattern of existing mechanism for utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF).

24. The Council considered and approved the proposed Lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses to be financed from the Special

Support Fund (SSF) on the existing mechanism. Copies of Lists of Meetings/Events and Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses are enclosed as **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item No.7

Consideration of the revised budget proposal for two projects/studies for approval of funding by ECO Secretariat, as per usual practice for implementing of ECO projects:

(i) Analyzing Food Security Issues in the ECO Region

25. The said Project under the framework of **ECO Joint Economic Research Program** and is being followed by Directorate of PERS. Pakistan is the Coordinating Country for the Project and the Implementing Agency- Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) which agreed in co-financing this vital project by contributing US\$ 10,000. The remaining amount of US\$ 40,000 is to be provided by ECO from/through FGPF making a total budget of US\$ 50,000. The project aims to :

- a. assess the current situation with food insecurity in ECO region;
- b. suggest regional collaborative measures for mitigating food insecurity;
- c. examine policies related to pricing, procurement;
- d. trade of major food items in member states; and
- e. reflect those food security issues that have not been covered by ECO-RPFS (ECO-Regional Program on Food Security)

26. The project will also provide the suggestions for regional collaboration for mitigating food insecurity by identifying various factors influencing current food insecurity in the ECO region.

27. The relevant facts with regard to the above are enumerated as under:

- The subject proposal was floated in the 8th National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting on Economic Research and Statistics held in April 2011 in Baku.
- The Secretariat recommended PIDE to focus on those research issues that have not been captured by ECO-RPFS.
- The revised project proposal was circulated in 2012 to Member States for views. Based on feedback, the Secretariat informed Pakistan of views and asked for final completion of the project proposal.
- It was discussed in the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER), held in November 2012 in Baku. As recommended by PSCER, the Secretariat requested the PIDE to make necessary amendments in the project proposal which was received in March 2013.
- The Secretariat also communicated with UNFPA for co-financing of the project but no response was received. In the meantime, the Secretariat requested the coordinating country for co-financing of the project.
- The 3rd PSCER Meeting in 2014 requested the Secretariat for submission of the project proposal to the CPR for approval.
- The project has also been reviewed by the 8th and 9th PMG Meetings.

28. Paras 289 and 290 of 26th RPC Meeting held on 13-17 December, 2015 in Tehran says that:

- **Para 289:** " *The Council took note of the Project Proposal titled "Trade Liberalization and Food Security in ECO Region" by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Coordinating Country, and requested the concerned authorities of Pakistan for co-financing with an allocation of US\$ 10,000/- of total budget US\$ 50,000/- for the project. Moreover, the Council informed*

that this project proposal has been confirmed by the Member States through review at expert level meetings."

- **Para 290:** *"The delegation of Pakistan submitted revised proposals and informed that the Government of Pakistan agreed to co-finance for both the projects (rest of the financing will come from the ECO Secretariat). The Council thanked Islamic Republic of Pakistan for co-financing of the research projects and endorsed them."*

29. During 26th RPC Meeting the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan reiterated the interest to implement the project and concurred in co-financing the said project by PIDE-Pakistan. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan vide Note Verbal No.ECO-7/21/2015/38 dated 01 December 2015 has informed the Secretariat about co-financing of the project and submitted a revised Project proposal prepared by the Implementing Agency to the ECO Secretariat.

30. Mr. Urmantayev Akim, Director of the ECO Secretariat briefed the Council, in detail, on the above mentioned project. He requested that as all procedural requirements/formalities have been completed, approval of co-financing of the project may be granted so that Implementing Agency - PIDE Pakistan may start working on it.

31. The Council appreciated the briefing and after consideration approved the project whereby the Implementing Agency (PIDE - Pakistan) would contribute US\$10,000 and rest of the amount i.e. US\$40,000 would be provided by ECO Secretariat through FGPF making a total budget of US\$50,000.

(ii) Economic Management Modeling in the ECO Region

32. The Project initiated under the framework of **ECO Joint Economic Research Program** and are being followed by Directorate of PERS. Pakistan is the Coordinating Country for the Project and the Implementing Agency is Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) who agreed in co-financing this vital project by contributing US\$ 10,000. The remaining amount of US\$ 40,000 is to be provided by ECO from/through FGPF making a total budget of US\$ 50,000. The project aims to review the existing strategy of economic development in ECO region and identify a new strategy of economic management in regional countries and is expected to provide RPC and COM with an Economic Strategy for the ECO Region.

33. Few facts with regard to the above are enumerated as under:

- 18th RPC and 19th RPC Meetings (2008 and 2009) considered and endorsed respectively Pakistan as the Coordinating Country and recommended the project under the revised title "Economic Management Modeling in ECO countries".
- The Secretariat received the revised formatted project proposal in March 2010.
- The Project was presented by Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER), held in November 2012 in Baku.
- ECO Secretariat requested Implementing Agency (PIDE) to re-formulate the project proposal and indicate co-financing of the project by PIDE.
- The Secretariat also communicated with UNFPA for co-financing of the project but no response was received.
- The 3rd PSCER Meeting in 2014 requested the Secretariat for submission of the project proposal to the CPR for approval.
- The project has been reviewed by the 7th, 8th and 9th PMG Meetings accordingly.

- The 26th RPC Meeting held on 13-17 December, 2015 in Tehran vide Para 288 and 290 says that:
 - **Para 288:** *"The Council took note of the Project Proposal titled "Economic Management Modeling in ECO Countries" by Pakistan as coordinating country, has been considered by the 7th and 8th PMG Meetings accordingly, and requested the concerned authorities of Pakistan for co-financing with an allocation of US\$ 10,000/- of total budget US\$ 50,000/- for the project. The Council also requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to submit the updated project profile form to the Secretariat for further action."*
 - **Para 290:** *"The delegation of Pakistan submitted revised proposals and informed that the Government of Pakistan agreed to co-finance for both the projects (rest of the financing will come from the ECO Secretariat). The Council thanked Islamic Republic of Pakistan for co-financing of the research projects and endorsed them."*
- It is evident that during 26th RPC Meeting the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan re-iterated the interest to implement the project and has concurred co-financing of the project by PIDE-Pakistan.
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan vide Note Verbal No.ECO-7/21/2015/38 dated 01 December 2015 has informed the Secretariat about co-financing of the project and submitted a revised Project proposal prepared by the Implementing Agency to the ECO Secretariat.

34. The Director of the ECO Secretariat also briefed the Council on the above project. He requested that as all procedural requirements/formalities have been completed, approval of co-financing of the project may be granted so that Implementing Agency - PIDE Pakistan may start working on it.

35. The Council after consideration approved the project whereby Implementing Agency (PIDE - Pakistan) would contribute US\$10,000 and rest of the amount i.e. US\$40,000 would be provided by the ECO Secretariat through FGPF making a total budget of US\$50,000.

Agenda Item No.8

Allocation of US\$ 50,000/- from the FSGPF in support of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region

36. The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (9th June 2011) welcomed the proposal for developing a regional project to combat desertification with a special emphasis on dust haze and sand storm in the region. During bilateral talks between ECO Deputy Secretary General and UNEP officials in Nairobi, UNEP expressed interest to assist ECO in implementation of this project. The ECO-IEST was subsequently requested by 23rd RPC to prepare detailed project proposal/Preliminary Study on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region. The Study prepared by ECO-IEST was circulated among the Member States for comments. The Secretariat circulated the comments received from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the Preliminary Study and requested the remaining Member States to convey views/comments at the earliest. The comments of ECO-IEST in response to the Pakistan's comments were also circulated among the Member States. It was further mentioned that feedbacks from other Member States will be collated and consolidated by the Secretariat for further consideration and possible decision.

37. The issue could not be finalized during 207th and 208th CPR Meetings as Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed that they are awaiting instructions on the issue from the capital.

38. After deliberations and consideration, the Council approved the project by allocation of US\$ 50,000/- from the FSGPF in support of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storm in the ECO Region.

Agenda Item No.9

Administrative matters:

a. Appointment for the post of Deputy Secretary General

39. The Extraordinary COM Session held in New York on 2nd October, 2015 considered the two nominations by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Azerbaijan for the vacant post of Deputy Secretary General in ECO Secretariat and agreed that consultations between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan on the issue of appointment of Deputy Secretary General to continue and be further discussed within CPR framework. Keeping the position in view, the CPR Chairperson proposed that in accordance with the guidelines given by the Ministers in New York, the two Member States may continue consultations between them and reach a consensus on the issue.

40. The CPR Chairman requested the Ambassadors of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan to brief the Council about the latest position on the matter.

41. **The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan** briefed the Council that consultations were held between him and Ambassador of Afghanistan with participation of CPR Chairman Mr. Majid Bizmark and came to an understanding/agreement that the nominee of the Republic of Azerbaijan would take-over the post of Deputy Secretary General in the ECO Secretariat for first tenure (3 years) and the next tenure (3 years) would be taken by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

42. **The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** while briefing the Council endorsed the stance of the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He said that as per Tehran Communiqué of 21st COM Meeting, it is essential that all Member States feel their tangible presence in this Organization. He further said that like other ECO Member States, Afghanistan have brotherly and friendly relations and came to an understanding in presence of CPR Chairman Mr. Majid Bizmark that the post of Deputy Secretary General, for the first tenure (3 years), be handed over to Azerbaijan and the next tenure (3 years) of the said post be given to Afghanistan. He expected support and cooperation from all Member States in this regard.

43. **The Ambassador of Tajikistan** echoing his views in the matter said that it is pleasing to know that both the countries reached a consensus. He enquired about procedure of automatic transferring/shifting of the post of Deputy Secretary General from Azerbaijan to Afghanistan and also is it in accordance with any declaration or agreement. However, he generally welcomed the decision and consensus reached between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. He hoped that the representative of Azerbaijan would contribute to the ECO activities as the Organization faces various challenges.

44. **The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran** also supported the proposal and congratulated both the Ambassadors of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan on reaching a consensus and also the Organization for having such an understanding.

45. **The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan** appreciated the efforts of CPR Chairman and Ambassadors of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan in resolving the issue. While

referring Pakistan's position that it believes in cooperation between ECO Member States, he recalled that ECO reform process is ongoing and it also includes restructuring as well as distribution of posts at Secretariat, therefore, the fate of Deputy Secretary General's position in future i.e. next six years is uncertain. Therefore, how such a commitment can be made at this point in time? He said that Pakistan's position will be clear once instructions are received from the capital and same will be conveyed in the next CPR.

46. The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan while appreciating the views/remarks expressed by the Ambassador of Pakistan proposed that we should put a time limit (one week or two weeks) and adopt the silence procedure.

47. **The Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic** also congratulated both the countries for finally reaching a conclusion. He said that it was done in favour of Organization's functioning. He said that in principle Kyrgyz Republic supports the proposal and hoped that in future there will be more mutual understanding between the Member States and said that this decision was taken in accordance with the recommendation of Extraordinary COM Meeting. He further said that in this way the non-Founding Member will have maximum participation in ECO's functioning and more representation on high posts in the Secretariat. Furthermore, he asked for legal modalities for such an arrangement.

48. **The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey** also taking part in the discussion congratulated the distinguished Ambassadors of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan for their efforts and also the role of CPR Chairman in reaching this result. He also said in principle Turkey supports the proposal by adopting the silence procedure for a week or ten days so that a fast decision is made in the matter. However, he said that confirmation from the capital is still awaited.

49. The Legal Adviser was asked for legal opinion on how to proceed further. He said that based on this development, the CPR must take two decisions: (i) appointment of Deputy Secretary General to the vacant post; and (ii) decision about rotation of this post among the Member States based on the proposed sequence. On the former, he said that the case has already been referred to CPR by COM for decision making. On the latter, the CPR should refer the case to COM for approval.

50. Taking into account that the Council of Permanent Representatives intends to find a way to deal with these two decisions as the interrelated parts of the proposed compromise the Legal advisor added that acceptance of the Compromise could be followed by seeking the decision of COM through Silence Procedure. In this case it should be assumed that the Permanent Representatives after receiving the instructions from the respective Foreign Ministers (Members of the Council of Ministers) may choose to remain silent or break it with respect to the compromise on behalf and in the name of COM.

51. After lengthy deliberation on the issue, the Council agreed to recommend to the COM the following decision:

- “- To appoint Mr. Kanan Nazarov from Republic of Azerbaijan as the new Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT and IR) for a full term replacing Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu (Turkish national).
- The post of DSG allocated to a non-Founding Member will rotate to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for a full term immediately after Republic of Azerbaijan.”

CPR also agreed that absent a COM meeting, the Member States may be communicated through circulation. In case of no objection by any honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs in two weeks (by 28 February 2016), the above package may be considered as approved by COM.

b. Continued discussions on the post of Programme Officer of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics

52. As per instructions of the 205th CPR meeting, the Working Group on the post of "Programme Officer for Project, Economic Research and Statistics" convened its meeting on 14th 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. However, during 207th 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 before the next CPR (208). However, before 208th CPR, Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan could not meet and requested that the issue may be pended to next CPR (209th).

53. Due to dearth of time after extended deliberation on earlier issue, the Council decided that this sub-agenda item would be discussed in the next CPR meeting (210th).

c. Recommendations of the Selection Panel

54. The Council was informed by the Chairman that no Selection Panel meeting had been held since last CPR (208th).

Agenda Item No.10

Any other business

55. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed that though Pakistan has received budgetary information on DOCCU Centre in the Secretariat but would appreciate if comprehensive information could be provided by the Secretariat, in a tabulated form, which would be helpful for deciding the future course.

56. The Secretariat informed that it had provided the information through two Note Verbales. However, assured that all available information will be provided in a tabulated form.

57. The Secretary General informed the Council that the Secretariat had received a Note Verbale of 12th February 2016 from the Turkish Cypriot State with the request to participate in the "3rd Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity" to be held in Antalya (Turkey) between 1 - 4 March, 2016 in its capacity as observer member of ECO. The Secretary General asked the Council for its approval.

58. The Council considered and approved, in accordance with the ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO, participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the "3rd Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity" to be held in Antalya (Turkey) between 1 - 4 March, 2016 in its capacity as observer member of ECO.

Agenda Item No.11

Date of the next CPR meeting

59. On the proposal of the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Council decided to convene its next CPR Meeting (**210th**) in Mid-March 2016 (before Nouroz holidays) and the exact date of the meeting will be coordinated by the ECO Secretariat with the office of CPR Chairman for onward circulation/intimation to the Member States.

60. At the end the CPR Chairman conveyed his sincere thanks to the distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States for their constructive contribution in the meeting. He also congratulated both the countries - Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Azerbaijan on reaching consensus for filling the vacant post of the Deputy Secretary General.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- H.E. Dr. Nasser Ahmad Noor, Ambassador
- Mr. Ahmad Haroon Najmpoor, Minister- Counsellor
- Ms. Zahra Badaghi, Administrative Assistant

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Javanshir Akhundov, Ambassador
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Counsellor

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. Tofigh Sedigh Mostahkam, Adviser, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, Adviser, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Serik Zhumabekov, Minister/Counsellor
- Ms. Almira Toleubayeva, Attaché

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:

- 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 Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Akim Urmantayev, Director (PERS)
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Gaffar Erbek, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Translator
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Translator
- Mr. Amir Mohammad Javaheri, Persian Translator
