



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

### Report

*2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017*  
*ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

## Report

The 220<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting was held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Iran. It was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States except Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and the Republic of 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*.

### Handover-Takeover Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the CPR

2. At the outset, outgoing Chairman H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in his brief statement mentioned that more than 30 CPR meetings were held under his Chairmanship and during this period some important projects were finalized and some were initiated such as ECO Electricity Market, KTI Railway Project between Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran, and establishing RISCAM Secretariat, etc. He said that this indicates countries' collective and sincere commitment and affiliation towards ECO goals and objectives. The Ex-Chairman also appreciated the support extended to him by the ECO Secretary General and his team during his Chairmanship.

3. As per ECO Rules of Procedure, outgoing Chairman H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (the current COM Chairman) H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to assume the Chairmanship of CPR meeting. He hoped and wished that during the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Durrani, the Organization will continue to achieve its desired goals and objectives.

4. H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Iran and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to ECO assumed the Chairmanship of the CPR Meeting. In his statement, the Ambassador and CPR Chairman said that it's a great honour and responsibility bestowed upon him to Chair this prestigious Council. He highlighted the success of 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit for reaching certain decisions. He said that he would be looking forward to the support of all the distinguished Member States. He appreciated the valuable efforts and standards set by the outgoing Chairman H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for smooth functioning of the CPR meetings.

5. The ECO Secretary General in his statement congratulated H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani on assuming the Chairmanship of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The Secretary General thanked the outgoing Chairman H.E. Mr. Bizmark for his substantial contribution to the ECO during his able chairmanship in CPR and RPC meetings. He appreciated the outgoing CPR Chairman's capacity and management skills in handling difficult issues. The Secretary General further said that fortunately we are not losing him as he will continue to serve ECO family as Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. The Council congratulated H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on assuming the chairmanship of CPR and assured full support and cooperation for enhancing the activities of the Organization. The Council also expressed thanks to the outgoing Chairman H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his excellent performance as Chairman of the CPR meetings.

7. The Council expressed condolences to the families of the victims of the landslide in Kyrgyzstan and to the Kyrgyz nation and prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed souls in eternal peace. The Council also expressed its condolences on the sad demise of Mr. Serik Zhumabekov, the senior Diplomat of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran and an active Kazakh delegate to ECO.

### **ECO Award Ceremony**

8. On the occasion, an ECO Award Ceremony was held in which the ECO Secretary General presented ECO Award to Mr. Mohammad Mehdi NAJAFPUR from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of Science of Technology. Mr. NAJAFPUR was selected by the Award Selection Committee but could not present himself on the occasion of 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Islamabad where the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan distributed the ECO Awards to the selected nominees.

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

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

9. The Council adopted the following Agenda of 220<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting for deliberations:

#### **Agenda**

1. *Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 220<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting*
2. *Adoption of the Draft Report of the 219<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting*
3. *Follow-up to the decisions of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> Summit:*
  - (a) *ECO Reforms and New ECO Scale of Assessments*
  - (b) *Implementation of ECO Vision 2025*
4. *Authorization of the CPR for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, "TEPAV" and "SESERIC" for Capacity Building Activities on Economic Research and Statistics through utilizing of available facilities of both Organizations*
5. *Administrative matters:*
  - (a) *Continued discussion on the post of Programme Officer of Project, Economic Research and Statistics*
  - (b) *Recommendations of the Selection Panel*
6. *Any other business*
7. *Date of the next CPR Meeting*

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

#### **Adoption of the Draft Report of 219<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting**

10. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 219<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/219/2 (9<sup>th</sup> March 2017) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CPR/219 Meeting/2017/363 dated 09<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

### **Agenda Item No:3**

#### **Follow-up to the decisions of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> Summit:**

#### **(a) ECO Reforms and New Scale of Assessments**

11. The 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting held in Islamabad on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the proposals for "New Scale of Assessments" and "ECO Reforms" and directed the CPR to finalize these issues at the earliest, preferably

within four months. The Council urged the Member States to resolve the issue of Scale of Assessments as soon as possible in order to keep the Secretariat financially viable.

12. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi briefed the Council on this sub-agenda item and said that before the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit and 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting, there was a decision of CPR to establish a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) to look into different issues which were to be taken to COM for final decisions. He said that the Secretariat prepared two working papers (i) '*Scale of Assessments*' and (ii) '*ECO Reforms*'. Both the papers were circulated among the Member States and also placed in PrepCom meetings and were also included in the agenda of 218 and 219 CPR meetings, however, no discussion took place on the basic content of the proposals – the Secretariat only received positions on the papers from Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan. The same position was shared with the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting and the COM decided vide para 31 of Report of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM which states as under:

*“The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the proposals for the ‘New Scale of Assessments’ and “ECO Reforms” and directed the CPR to finalize these issues at the earliest, preferably within four months. The Council urged the Member States to resolve the issue of Scale of Assessments as soon as possible in order to keep the Secretariat financially viable”.*

13. Deputy Secretary General stated that resolution of the issue of Scale of Assessments is important as the Secretariat is facing financial issues. He also stressed that the ECO Reforms is also very important as the COM has approved the ECO Vision document which has certain priority areas and for meaningful implementation of Vision there is a requirement for necessary reforms within the Secretariat and the COM has taken the notice of this fact and recommended that these issues may be resolved preferably within four months.

14. The ECO Secretary General mentioned that 'Scale of Assessments' and 'ECO Reforms' are longstanding issues which were thoroughly deliberated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> EPG Report which also gave recommendations in this regard. He said that alternative scenarios have been developed by the Secretariat for settling the issue but unfortunately the CPR or Extraordinary COM (2015 & 2016) were unable to take decision.

15. He said the Secretariat developed ECO Reform proposal in anticipation of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM which has three parts: *first*; ECO Secretariat Reforms, *second*; Recruitment Policy for the ECO Secretariat staff and *third*; Reforming the ECO Institutions. He said that except the last part i.e. 'Reforming the ECO Institutions', the other two proposals have already been circulated among the Member States and upto now the Secretariat has only received responses from three Member States i.e. Afghanistan and Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan. On the issue of Scale of Assessments, the Secretariat has received positive responses from the Member States especially from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. The Secretary General expected that both the issues would be discussed by the CPR for early finalizations in order to overcome the Secretariat's financial problem as due to non-payment of contributions by Member States, the Secretariat has substantial deficit which is now upto 18% and accumulating yearly.

16. The ECO Secretary General further mentioned that the new ECO Vision has been approved by the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting in Islamabad with six priority areas. He said that the ECO Secretariat structure needs to be synchronised with the Vision document. Moreover, the Secretariat has to prepare a Work Programme for 2018-2019 but it is difficult to assign the task to the Directorates in present structure. He requested the CPR

to decide and finalize these issues of 'Scale of Assessments' and 'ECO Reforms' enabling the Secretariat to implement the ECO Vision.

17. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* taking the floor stated that these issues have already been discussed, in depth, in different CPRs and even at the level of 13<sup>th</sup> Summit/22<sup>nd</sup> COM in Islamabad which directed to decide and finalize the issues at the CPR level with a timeframe of four months. However, he opined that according to his experience within the CPR, it could not be a good framework to discuss in details in order to come up to a conclusion on these issues. He proposed establishment of a '*Working Group*' with active participation and full contribution by all Member States to discuss the issues of 'Scale of Assessments' and 'ECO Reforms' in details and come up to a conclusion.

18. The Representative of the Republic of *Azerbaijan* supported the proposal of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

19. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* mentioned about the Scale of Assessments and reiterated Pakistan's position in this regard. He said that Pakistan agrees to contribute 22% share subject to the condition that the other two founding members will also maintain the same scale. On the ECO Reform document, the Representative said that Pakistan lend its *conditional support* to the proposal subject to rotations of the following posts among the Member States:

- (i) Three posts of Deputy Secretaries General i.e. Admn, HR, Trade & Investment & IR and Transport & Communication; and
- (ii) Eight proposed Heads of Section of the ECO Secretariat.

20. The Representative supported the suggestion of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to form a *Working Group* with full authorization from the capitals to discuss the issues in details and come up to a conclusion.

21. The Representative of the Republic of *Kazakhstan* taking the floor stated that Kazakhstan's position on the Scale of Assessments and its contribution has already been communicated to the Secretariat and even submitted during the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. He said that Kazakhstan maintains the same position. The Representative supported the proposal for formation of a Working Group of Experts to discuss in details the ECO Reform document.

22. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* supported the proposal of forming the Working Group to discuss the issues of 'Scale of Assessments' and 'ECO Reforms' documents. In his opinion, the ECO Secretariat may invite Experts from the capital for the proposed Working Group which would be very useful.

23. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* referred to Paras 46 and 47 of the Report of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM wherein "the Council directed ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on behalf of the COM to consider establishing a CPR mechanism for the ECO Science Foundation for smooth functioning of the Institute." The Representative requested addition of this issue in the mandate of Working Group being established to deliberate/decide Scale of Assessments and ECO Reforms.

24. After deliberations, the Council decided to establish a *Working Group* of Experts to discuss the issues of 'Scale of Assessments' and 'ECO Reforms' in detail and come up with recommendation for finalization at the CPR level so that the instructions of COM could be implemented in the given timeframe. The Chairman asked the Secretariat in determining the date of first Working Group's meeting to be conveyed to all the Member States.

25. The Council also approved inclusion of the issue raised by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* for follow-up of the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Report by the same Working Group.

**(b) Implementation of ECO Vision**

26. The 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting held in Islamabad on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, adopted the “ECO Vision 2025” along with “Implementation Framework for ECO Vision 2025” as the basic reference document for the Organization, which was reviewed and finalized by the Senior Officials Meeting held on 26-27<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The Council urged the Member States to actively pursue the Implementation Framework of the ECO Vision 2025 for effective implementation of the goals envisioned in the document for enhanced regional cooperation.

27. The ECO Secretary General said the implementation of the Vision is more important than its preparation and requires ownership and collective efforts by the Member States. The Secretary General informed that ECO Vision’s ‘*Implementation Framework*’ includes Strategic Objectives and Expected Outcomes as well as Implementation and Follow-up mechanism along with detail of activities with time tables and responsible bodies. He said that successful implementation of the Vision will require sub-targets, programs and projects and believed that the year of 2017 is more important to identify and formulate the programs and projects to realize Vision’s strategic objectives and in this regard the relevant ECO bodies, Sectoral Ministries, RPC and CPR may put their efforts to produce clear Road Maps.

28. The Secretary General said that the Secretariat intends to propose a Road Map for 2017 to initiate the implementation of the Vision and as a first step to organize Sectoral Ministerial Meetings as many as possible, at least in the core priority sectors such as Trade, Transport, Energy and Tourism. The 2017 Calendar of Events includes 12 Ministerial Meetings.

29. Furthermore, he mentioned that the 27<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting held on 5-8 December 2016 at ECO Secretariat-Tehran decided for holding the following Ministerial meetings in 2017, which correspond to the six priority areas of Vision 2025:

Priority	Sector		Meetings
I	Trade	-	5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade (TBD)
II	Transport & Communications	-	9 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport ( <i>Ashgabat</i> )
		-	2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Meeting of ECO Ministers of ICT ( <i>Baku</i> )
III	Energy	-	4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum ( <i>Turkey</i> )
IV	Tourism	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism ( <i>Turkey</i> )
V	Economic Growth and Productivity	-	6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture ( <i>Pakistan</i> )
		-	4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry ( <i>Iran</i> )
		-	5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy (TBD)
VI	Social Welfare and Environment	-	6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (TBD)
		-	4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health (TBD)
		-	8 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction ( <i>Turkey</i> )
		-	4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting ( <i>Pakistan</i> )

30. It was mentioned that if the above Meetings are organized, the outcomes of these meetings will then become available to the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), scheduled for December 2017, which will enable to **(a)** give planning and development dimensions to these outcomes, and **(b)** translate them into operational work programmes for the implementation of the ECO Vision 2025.

31. The Secretary General further mentioned that the Secretariat has already circulated the list of Ministerial meetings to the Member States. He said the final dates of 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade are being finalized with the authorities in Pakistan and will be communicated to the Member States accordingly. He said that Turkmenistan has already committed to host 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport in Ashgabat and Azerbaijan is to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Meeting of the ECO Ministers of the ICT in Baku in December 2017. The Secretary General hoped to achieve the quorum in all three meetings.

32. The Secretary General said the second step would be to organize RPC Meeting at Ministerial-level to consolidate all available outputs agreed by the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings. The Secretary General further informed that the Development Minister of the Chairmanship has already showed interest to host the RPC meeting in Pakistan at Ministerial level. He said that the matter will be discussed in this CPR whether it will be appropriate for the Secretariat to hold CPR at the level of Ministers in Pakistan or otherwise. He said the final step will be to prepare the Work Program of 2018 as an output of the RPC meeting. He believed that though the programme is a bit ambitious but with your support it is not beyond our capacity.

33. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* while welcoming the proposal for hosting the RPC Meeting in Islamabad at Planning Ministerial level, observed that according to the experience, RPC meetings are held at the level of Deputy Ministers of Planning; however, representatives are deputed to attend the RPC meeting.

34. The Secretary General said that if the coming RPC is a normal meeting and not at the Ministerial level then the ECO Secretariat Tehran will be a better option for holding the 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting.

35. After deliberation, the Council decided that the ECO Secretariat may take-up the matter with the host authorities for clarification whether the 28<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting, if scheduled in Islamabad (Pakistan), will be at Ministerial-level.

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

Authorization of the CPR for signing the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and 'TEPAV and SESRIC for Capacity Building Activities on Economic Research and Statistics through utilizing of available facilities of both Organizations'.

36. In line with the decision of the 210<sup>th</sup> CPR regarding the signing of an MoU between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSS), the ECO Secretariat, after negotiating with the UNOSS, has finalized the text of the proposed MoU, as per the modalities, after exchange of views and bilateral meetings with the UNOSS. The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization, as per the modalities, has already shared the finalized negotiated text with the Member States vide its Note Verbale No. IR/UNOSS/2017/208 dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

37. Moreover, as decided in the 219<sup>th</sup> CPR, the Secretariat, after negotiating with the 'SESRIC' and 'TEPAV' and as per the modalities, shared the texts of both the MoUs with the Member States vide its Note Verbales of 12<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 respectively.

38. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* informed the Council that they agree with signing of MoUs with (i) the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSS) and (ii) SESRIC. He also informed the Council that in

an OIC meeting last week he had a chance of meeting with the Head of SESRIC who is waiting for signing of the MoU and also intends to visit ECO Headquarters. The Permanent Representative assured his support in this regard.

39. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* further mentioned that as far as TEPAV is concerned, type, style and structure of the Organization are not known. However, signing of MoU with TEPAV is under consideration with the focal point and the Secretariat will be informed in due course of time.

40. The Representative of the Republic of *Turkey* taking the floor reiterated that 'TEPAV' is one of the leading '*Think Tank*' and it had already conducted many projects in Turkey. He assured the Council that TEPAV holds high academic standards and can provide good support for ECO Secretariat. As such signing of MoU with TEPAV will be very useful for ECO.

41. The Representative of the Republic of *Kazakhstan* informed the Council that though the Embassy has received the texts of three MoUs from the Secretariat but instructions from the capital in this regard have not yet been received. The Representative assured the Council for taking-up the matter with the capital for speeding up the issue and the Secretariat will be informed accordingly.

42. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* informed that a formal communication regarding signing of three MoUs by the Secretariat has been sent to the ECO Secretariat.

43. The Council, keeping the position of the Republic of Kazakhstan in view, decided to take-up the said agenda later again. The CPR Chairman also requested the Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan for taking up the matter with the capital for an expeditious response in order to finalize the issue soon.

## **Agenda Item No. 5**

### Administrative matters

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

44. The 205<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 asked ECO Secretariat to inform ECO Member States on the history of the posts of Research Officer (PERS) so that next appointee can be selected by the CPR. The position remained vacant due to difference of opinions, on the distribution of the post between Iran and Pakistan. 207<sup>th</sup> CPR requested both countries to resolve the difference bilaterally. The issue could not be resolved during 208,209, 210, 211 and 212 CPR meetings. During 213 CPR meeting, Pakistan proposed that "*this particular post of Research Officer was discussed between Iran and Pakistan and Pakistan agrees allocation of the post to ECO Member State(s) which is not represented in the Secretariat, especially the Central Asian Republics*". However, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran referring to their Note Verbale of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 stated that Iran can provide an Expert for the position to the Secretariat on secondment (temporary) basis (for three month period) till the resolution of the issue.

45. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi briefed the Council stating that the issue is pending for the last one year and the Secretariat is without the Programme Officer in the PERS Directorate of the Secretariat. The Secretariat tried to manage the work and published reports with the help of other colleagues but the rules do not permit any monetary benefit for extra work which becomes discouragement for the employee to take additional work besides their own. He said creating relations with SESRIC and



TEPAV through MoUs was also an effort to cover the gap in economic research, which also remains pending.

46. Deputy Secretary General further informed that in the 213<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, Pakistan took the position that it is not interested in occupying the post and it could be allotted to ECO Member States(s) which is not represented in the Secretariat especially the Central Asian Republics. Deputy Secretary General requested the CPR for resolving the issue soon as the Directorate is suffering a lot without the Programme Officer.

47. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed the Council that as already committed, Iran can provide an Expert to the Secretariat on secondment till the reform process is completed and Iran requires more time for further consultations in order to come up to a conclusion.

48. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** reiterated its stance taken in 213<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting that the post could be allotted to ECO Member States(s) which is not represented in the Secretariat especially the Central Asian Republics. Moreover, the Representative observed that views of the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for provision of an Expert on secondment seems doable but said that it will be an adhoc arrangement; therefore, we may look into a permanent solution of the issue.

49. The CPR Chairman, after the deliberation on the issue said that discussions have already taken place and hoped that further consultations between Iran and Pakistan would be fruitful in reaching a consensus to fill the important post of Research Officer in the Secretariat.

**b. Recommendations of the Selection Panel**

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

**Agenda Item No.6**

Any Other Business

51. The ECO Secretary General informed the Council that an invitation has been received from the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) for attending the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 in Istanbul. He said that as the event is not mentioned in the Annual Calendar of Events 2017, therefore, approval of CPR is required.

52. The Council approved the participation of ECO Secretary General to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 in Istanbul.

53. Under this agenda item, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed the Council about holding of the following two events:

- (i) Workshop on ECOPOL to be held in Tehran in the next week for which quorum has been achieved; and
- (ii) International ECO-Silk Road Food Festival to be held on 10-12 May 2017 in Zajan - Iran

54. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the attending delegates of the Member States for their participation in the above mentioned two events.

55. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* taking the floor informed the Council about holding of the '*Special Conference on Afghanistan*' scheduled to be held on 11-12 May 2017 in Kabul and said that unfortunately so far quorum has not been

achieved. He further informed that some nominations have been received at a low level and regretted that this is happening for the second time. The Ambassador requested the delegates of Member States attending the meeting for expeditious nominations and confirmation of their participation in the Special Conference on Afghanistan enabling the authorities in Afghanistan for smooth organization of the Conference.

56. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* confirmed its participation in the Conference. However, the level and delegation details will be communicated to the ECO Secretariat as soon as it is finalized.

**Agenda Item No.7**

Date of the next CPR meeting

57. The Council decided to convene its next (221<sup>st</sup>) Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 1800 hours followed by *IFTAR/Dinner* at the ECO Secretariat Tehran.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:**

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

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

- Mr. Javid Musayev, 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, Deputy Director General
- Mr. Ahmad Saffari, Deputy Director, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Ahmad Reza Asghari, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Shahrokh Edrisabadi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

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

- Mr. Yerbol Akhmetov, Minister-Counsellor

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

- H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador
- Mr. Imran Haider, Deputy Head of Mission
- Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Second Secretary

**Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:**

- Mr. Islomudin Saifidinov, Second Secretary
- Mr. Saidali Shosaidov, Embassy Officer

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

- Mr. Murat Muhaciroglu, Deputy Head of Mission
- Ms. Sinem Gokce, Third 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. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Muhammad Muqeeb Asim Shah, Assistant Director (IR)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Arshad Ali Jatoi, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, Persian Interpreter/Translator

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