



**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)
SECRETARIAT**

**Report of
The 20th Council of Ministers' Meeting
(Baku, The Republic of Azerbaijan, 15th October, 2012)**

Report of The 20th Council of Ministers' Meeting

The Twentieth Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 15th October, 2012. The Meeting was attended by delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. A delegation of the ECO Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, participated in the meeting. The representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions, international and regional organizations and a delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State as a guest also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

2) The Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 13-14 October 2012 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev welcomed the delegations from Member States. He expressed his thanks to the ECO Secretary General and his staff for making necessary preparations and documentation for the meeting. He hoped that the Meeting will have fruitful discussion and a successful outcome.

3) The Secretary General of ECO His Excellency Ambassador Shamil Aleskerov also delivered a short statement in the opening session of SOM. He welcomed the Senior Officials and expressed the hope that they will make positive and constructive contributions to the deliberations. He said that ECO has completed 20 years of its establishment and was actively pursuing its goals and objectives. He also expressed his thanks to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this important ECO event in Baku.

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration/Opening of the Meeting

4) In his Opening Statement, His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, who was the incumbent Chairman of Council of Ministers (COM), highlighted the steps taken during Turkey's Chairmanship to reform ECO in order to meet the new challenges. He hoped that these steps would further improve the effectiveness of the Organization. A copy of his statement is placed at **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

5) His Excellency Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Agenda Item No. 3

Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 20th COM

6) After assuming the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, made a statement in which he underlined the need for strengthen the cooperation among Member States particularly with regard to grappling with economic challenges and upgrading infrastructure. He also called for greater cooperation with international and regional organizations especially ASEAN and African Union. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item No. 4

Secretary General's Statement to the 20th COM

7) His Excellency Ambassador Shamil Aleskerov, the Secretary General of ECO, also delivered a statement in which he presented a brief account of the activities and achievements of ECO during last two years. He noted that the current ECO initiatives in trade, investment, energy, environment, science & technology, education, agriculture and industrial cooperation will go a long way in increasing effectiveness of the organization as it is about to celebrate its 20th Anniversary. A copy of his statement is placed at **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item No. 5

Treaty Event

8) The Treaty Event provided a distinct opportunity for the Member States to reaffirm/demonstrate their continuing commitment to the objectives of the Organization by signing/or depositing instruments of ratification of the ECO Agreements.

9) The Islamic Republic of Iran signed the Statute of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECOVECO) and deposited the instrument of ratification of the Statute of the Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Metrology (RISCAM) during the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6

Adoption of the Agenda

10) The Council adopted the following agenda of its meeting, which was endorsed by the 181st CPR Meeting (Tehran, 9th October, 2012) and the Senior Officials Meeting (Baku, 13-14 October, 2012).

1. Inauguration
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 20th COM
4. Secretary General's Statement to the 20th COM

5. Treaty Event
6. Adoption of the Agenda
7. Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation
8. Statement by Observer
9. Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies
10. Statements by Heads of Regional and International Organizations
11. Establishment of Parliamentary Assembly of ECO
12. Implementation of ECOTA
13. Energy Cooperation in the ECO Region
14. Report on status of contribution by the Member States to the Secretariat's Budget
15. Briefing by the Chairman of the 3rd ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and consideration of its Report
16. Consideration of the ECO Secretary General's Report
17. Status Report on Agreements between ECO Member States
18. ECO Institutions:
 - a) Annual Reports of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies:
 - i) The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)
 - ii) ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
 - iii) ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)
 - iv) ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECOTDB)
 - v) ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECOCCI)
 - vi) ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECOCEC)
 - vii) ECO College of Insurance (ECOCI)
 - viii) ECO Seed Association (ECOSA)
 - ix) The ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECORCRM)
 - b) Status Report of the ECO Secretariat on Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies under process of establishment:
 - i) ECO Re-insurance Company (ECORC)
 - ii) ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM)
 - iii) ECO Veterinary Commission (ECOVECO)
 - iv) ECO Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) for the Implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECORPFS)
 - v) The ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture
 - vi) The ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECOMCC);

- c) Consideration of proposed new Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies for establishment:
 - i) ECO Logistics Providers' Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)
 - ii) ECO Postal Staff College
 - iii) ECO Police (ECOPOL)
19. Status of implementation of ECO Projects, Programmes and Proposals:
- Projects
1. 3rd Phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of the ECO Member States in Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ)
 2. ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade
 3. ECO Trade and Investment Web Portal
 4. ECO/IDB Joint Project for Preparation of a Regional Program for Implementation of the TTFA
 5. ECO Railway Network Development Plan, prepared under the aegis of ECO/IDB Joint Project on preparation of a regional programme for implementation of the TTFA
 6. Construction of Railway b/w Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran
 7. ECO Container and Passenger Train Istanbul-Almaty
 8. ECO Container Train Bandar Abbas–Almaty
 9. ECO Container Train Istanbul-Islamabad
 10. Construction of railway from China to Europe through the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey
 11. Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara(Iran) – Astara(Azerbaijan) Route
 12. ECO Road Transport Corridors on KTAI & ITI
 13. ECO/IRU project on monitoring of Regular Run of Trucks in the ECO Region
 14. Visa Sticker for Drivers and persons involved in the transit transport
 15. ECO Online Money Order (OMO) Transfer System through Postal Services
 16. Development and Harmonization of Environmental Standards in ECO Region
 17. Regional Program for Implementation of Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States 2011-2015, jointly with ECO Institute for Environmental Science and Technology
 18. ECO Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST)
 19. Reconstruction Projects for Afghanistan
 20. ECO-FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the ECO Region
 21. ECO Blood Safety Network
 22. ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Network
 23. EU-funded Project on Fight Against Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with ECO Member States

Programmes and Proposals

1. FAO Technical Cooperation Project: (TCP) “Support for the Implementation and Development of the CountryStat Framework ECO Countries (Pilot Country Afghanistan)”
 2. ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS)
 3. ECO Joint Economic Research Programme
 4. Proposals for enhanced trade and investment cooperation in the region
 5. Status of Energy Cooperation in the ECO Region
20. Review of ECO’s Comprehensive Plan of Action of External Relations and Approval of relevant documents:
- Approval of the Draft ECO Modalities for granting Observer and/or Dialogue-Partnership Status
 - Approval of Draft ECO Modalities for signing new agreements with Regional/International Organizations, States and Institutions
 - Granting Observer Status to Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS)
 - Status of Cooperation with International/Regional organizations, States and Institutions
 - Status Report on Agreements and MoUs signed between ECO and other Regional/ International Organizations
21. Review and approval of ECO activities:
- i. The Meetings of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) (166th – 181st CPRs)
 - ii. Reports of the 21st & 22nd RPC Meetings:
 - Annual Calendar of Events for 2011-2012 & 2012-2013
 - Work Programmes for 2011-2012 & 2012-2013
 - iii. Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings held after the 19th COM Meeting:
 - 3rd ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting
 - 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment
 - 4th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade
 - 8th Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communication
 - iv. Status of implementation of decisions of the 19th COM Meeting
22. Financial and Budgetary Issues:
1. The ECO Secretariat’s Budgets for 2012
 2. The ECO Secretariat’s Audit Reports for 2010 and 2011
 3. The ECI’s Budget for 2012
 4. The ECI’s Audit Reports for 2010 and 2011
 5. The ECO Science Foundation Budget for 2012
 6. The ECO Educational Institute Budget for 2012
 7. ECO Reconstruction Fund for Afghanistan
 8. ECOTA Implementation Fund
 9. TTFA Fund
 10. ECO Tourism Promotion Fund
 11. ECO SF-Science and Technology Fund

23. Administrative Matters:
 - a. Endorsement of appointment of ECO Secretary General
 - b. Appointment of President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)
 - c. Appointment of President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
 - d. Appointment of President of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)
 - e. Extension of tenure of Deputy Secretary General
 - f. Appointment of new Deputy Secretary General
 - g. Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the ECO Secretariat
24. **Preparation for the 12th Summit:**
 - i. Draft Agenda
 - ii. Draft Baku Declaration 2012
 - iii. ECO Awards 2012
25. Any other business
26. Date and venue of the next meeting
27. Consideration and adoption of 20th COM Report, prepared by SOM
28. Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting

Agenda Item No. 7

Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation

11) The Ministers/Heads of delegation delivered their statements, outlining their countries' policies and views on the programmes and activities of the Organization. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are placed at **Annex-V**.

Agenda Item No. 8

Statement by Observer

12) The Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking Countries also delivered a statement. A copy of the statement is placed at **Annex-VI**.

Agenda Item No. 9

Statements by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies

13) The Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and affiliated bodies attended the meeting and made brief statements. These include the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI), ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB), ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI), ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI), ECO Re-insurance Company (ECO-RC) and the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM). Copies of their statements are placed at **Annex-VII**.

Agenda Item No. 10

Statements by the Heads of Regional and International Organizations

14) The delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State and Representative of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) also delivered statements. The. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are placed at **Annex-VIII**.

Agenda Item No. 11

Establishment of Parliamentary Assembly of ECO

15) The Council welcomed and extended full support to the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO as an affiliated body. It also welcomed that the First General Conference of the proposed Parliamentary Assembly of ECO will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan in December 2012.

Agenda Item No. 12

Implementation of ECOTA

16) The Council welcomed the decisions of the 3rd ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting and reiterated the importance of trade liberalization in the region, called upon the Contracting Parties to the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to complete all legal and procedural requirements for implementation of the Agreement with effect from January 1, 2013. The Council urged the Contracting Parties to submit their negative, positive and sensitive lists to the Secretariat by 15th November, 2012.

17) The Council invited the remaining Member States to accede to ECOTA to pave the way for economic integration of the region.

Agenda Item No. 13

Energy Cooperation in the ECO Region

18) The Council took note of the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a feasibility study to be conducted in the field of Energy Cooperation. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum, wherein the study will be considered.

Agenda Item No. 14

Report on status of contribution by the Member States to the Secretariat's Budget

19) While appreciating the Member States who had paid their contributions, the Council asked the remaining Member States to do so at the earliest. The Council emphasized the need for the Member States to make necessary arrangements for timely remitting their contributions, specifically, during the first quarter of each financial year.

20) The Council asked the Secretariat to prepare a plan for recovery of arrears from the concerned Member States and inform the CPR from time to time about the implementation of the plan.

Agenda Item No. 15

Briefing by the Chairman of the 3rd ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and consideration of its Report

21) The Council appreciated the Report of the 3rd Eminent Persons Group (EPG), established pursuant to the Istanbul Declaration 2010 (Istanbul, 23 December 2010) and the decisions of the 19th Council of Ministers Meeting (Istanbul, 22 December 2010) to study and review the work of the Organization including the ECO Vision 2015, and asked the Secretary General to prepare a roadmap for implementation of the recommendations of the EPG and submit it to CPR for consideration. The Council also authorized the CPR to take action on behalf of the COM in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 16

Consideration of the ECO Secretary General's Report

22) The Council appreciated the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of ECO since the last COM meeting (Istanbul, 22nd December, 2010). The Secretary General's Report gave an economic overview of the region; outlined major achievements of the Organization; and reviewed ongoing ECO projects, programmes and external relations.

Agenda Item No. 17

Status Report on Agreements between ECO Member States

23) The Council considered the Status Report on implementation of the Agreements concluded by the Member States and invited those Member States who have not yet done so to sign/ratify these Agreements. The Council also urged the Member States to ensure smooth implementation of those agreements which have already come into force.

Agenda Item No. 18

ECO institutions:

A. Annual Reports of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies:

24) The Council took note, with appreciation, of the annual reports submitted by the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions and expressed the hope that the Regional Institutions/Specialized Agencies would continue to play a meaningful role in the progress and economic development of the region.

25) The Council, considering the need to infuse fresh dynamism into the working of ECO Specialized Institutions and Affiliated Bodies, took the following decisions:

i. ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

26) The Council took note with appreciation the activities of the Institute to promote cultural cooperation in the region. The Council also invited those Member States which have not yet signed/ratified the Charter of the Institute to join it.

ii. ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

27) The Council welcomed the establishment of ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad, Pakistan, as a specialized agency of ECO and appreciated its planned activities aiming at strengthening cooperation in the field of Science & Technology. It also invited the relevant Member States to ratify the Charter of ECO Science Foundation.

iii. ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)

28) The Council welcomed the operationalization of ECO Educational Institute in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey as a specialized agency of ECO and underscored its role in strengthening cooperation among educational and training institutions in the region. It also invited the concerned Member States to ratify the Charter of the Institute.

iv. ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECOTDB)

29) The Council welcomed the signing of Articles of Agreement of ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB) by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and noted with appreciation the contribution of the Bank to the development of the region. It urged the Bank to step up its activities focusing on trade financing, and initiating regional programmes and projects for trade facilitation in the region, in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat. The Council called on the remaining Member States to join the Bank to give momentum to the efforts for growth and sustainable development in the region.

v. ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ECO-CCI)

30) The Council appreciated the activities of the ECO-CCI and requested it to hold regular trade promotion activities, including business forums, trade fairs and to conduct market research. The Council encouraged the national Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Member States to assist the ECO-CCI in organizing such events.

vi. ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)

31) Urging the Member States to benefit from the expertise and services offered by ECO-CEC in the engineering sector, the Council underlined the need for the Member States and the ECO-CEC to take early steps in the light of the study on

impediments faced by the ECO-CEC jointly prepared by the Secretariat and ECO-CEC in 2010.

vii. ECO College of Insurance (ECOCI)

32) The Council expressed its satisfaction over the activities of the ECO College of Insurance and successful holding of its 1st BOT Meeting and urged the College to enhance its activities for the promotion of Insurance education in the region.

viii. ECO Seed Association (ECOSA)

33) The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host 4th ECO Seed Associations (ECOSA) International Trade Conference, International Seed Fair/Exhibition and 4th General Assembly Meeting of ECOSA in January 2013 in Antalya, Turkey and requested the Member States to actively attend the events.

34) The Council requested the ECOSA to prepare a project proposal on the ECO Seed Exchange Mechanism in collaboration with the relevant international organizations and a training course on seed industry for ECO Member States to be submitted to IDB for financial assistance.

ix. ECO Regional Centre for Risk Management for Natural Disasters (ECORCRM)

35) The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing the Working Group Meeting and Training Programme on Climate Modeling and Natural Disasters in ECO Region on June 25-27, 2012 in Tehran. The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to convey the exact date and venue for 3rd ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations Meeting.

36) The Council requested the Member States to designate their focal points for the Working Group established by the 2nd ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations meeting held in Antalya in 2010 to draw up project proposals for cooperation in this area. It requested Turkey to convey the exact dates and venue for organizing training programmes for the ECO Member States in 2013.

B. Status Report of the ECO Secretariat on Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies under process of establishment

37) The Council took note of the status report of the ECO Secretariat on Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies which had already been approved by the COM but not operationalized yet and observed as follows:

i. The ECO Re-insurance Company (ECORC)

38) The Council called upon the concerned Member States to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of ECO Reinsurance Company to make it operational.

ii. **The ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM)**

39) The Council noted the activities to operationalize the Institute including operationalization of Interim Coordination Unit and allocation of US\$ 50,000 from ECO FGPF to help the establishment process and appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for ratification of its Statute, and invited the relevant Member States to sign/ratify its Statute for early operationalization.

iii. **ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)**

40) The Council welcomed the signing of the Statute of ECO-VECO by the Islamic Republic of Iran and appreciated the inauguration of the premises of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) in Tehran by the Veterinary Organization/Ministry of Agriculture of Islamic Republic of Iran and invited the remaining Member States to sign/ratify its Statute.

iv. **ECO Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) for Implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECORPFS)**

41) The Council appreciated that the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) for implementation of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security in Ankara will soon be inaugurated by Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Turkey during the 5th Ministerial Meeting, and invited the Member States to support its work.

v. **ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture**

42) The Council appreciated the establishment of the ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture in Islamabad, Pakistan and invited the Member States to support its work.

vi. **The ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC)**

43) The Council requested the relevant Member States and the Secretariat to expedite the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Centre (ECO-MCC) and invited the Member States to support its work.

C. **Consideration of proposed new Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Units and Affiliated Bodies for establishment:**

44) The Council deliberated this agenda item in detail and agreed as follows:

i. **ECO Logistics Providers' Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)**

45) The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2nd ECOLPAF Meeting in Tehran in 2011. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey to

expedite the activities of the ad-hoc Committee of ECOLPAF, which has been established to draft organizational documents enlisted in the Statute of ECOLPAF. It invited the Member States to provide relevant documents to Association of International Forwarding and Logistic Service Providers of Turkey (UTIKAD) to accomplish the task.

46) The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 1st General Assembly Meeting and 3rd ECOLPAF Meeting in Karachi in 2013.

47) The Council approved establishment of the ECO Logistics Providers Associations Federation (ECLPAF) in Istanbul as an affiliated body of ECO and its Charter. The Council took note of the observation of the Republic of Azerbaijan that the issue of joining ECOLPAF is still under consideration. It called on the Member States to extend support and cooperation for the success of ECOLPAF.

ii. ECO Postal Staff College

48) The Council approved the Pakistan Postal Staff College, Islamabad as ECO Postal Staff College and its Statute, as an affiliated body of the ECO, in line with recommendations of the 5th Meeting of the ECO Postal Authorities (Islamabad, June 2009) and the 21st RPC Meeting (Tehran, May 2011). The Council called for early operationalization of the ECO Postal Staff College and welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey to lend support to College in organizing training related courses.

iii. ECO Police (ECOPOL)

49) The Council took note that the deliberation on the establishment of ECO Police has not been completed. It invited interested Member States to continue efforts for its establishment. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for allocating US\$ 100,000 contribution to the ECOPOL Ad-hoc Fund.

Agenda Item No. 19

Status of Implementation of ECO Projects, Programmes and Proposals

50) The Council appreciated the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) for its systematic oversight of implementation of ECO projects and programmes. The Council supported the recommendations of the 22nd RPC held on 9-11 July 2012 in Tehran that the PMG may be entrusted with the project monitoring in ECO.

51) The Council deliberated on the Status of implementation of the following ECO Projects, Programme and Proposals, and observed as follows:

Projects

1. 3rd Phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of the ECO Member States in Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ)

52) The Council appreciating the progress achieved during the first two phases of the ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building underlined the need for start of the 3rd and final phase of the project at an early date. The Council noted that the implementation of the project will foster increased commercial and industrial cooperation among Member States.

2. ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade

53) The Council noted with satisfaction that the scope of the project on expanding intra region trade has been enlarged to cover trade promotional activities including specialized trade fairs, Buyers-Sellers delegations, symposia on leading export sectors, trade research and special support for the smaller economies of ECO under Integrated Market Promotion Plans (IMPP), and invited the Member States to send specific proposals to the Secretariat to plan and execute activities under the umbrella of the project.

54) The Council acknowledged the significant role of the private sector as an engine of growth and economic development in the region and called upon the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to enhance its role in cooperation with the private sector of the ECO Member States. The Council also reaffirmed their commitment to render all necessary support to enhance public-private partnership in ECO region.

3. ECO Trade and Investment Web Portal

55) The Council, appreciating the plans for setting up an ECO Data Base of Exporter/Importers and Manufacturers, urged the Member States to ensure regular flow of information to achieve the desired objectives of the ECO Web Portal and to expedite providing inputs for the Study on the trade related regional IT infrastructure. The Council directed the Secretariat to provide direct access to the Member States to the Data Base of Exporters/Importers.

4. ECO/IDB Joint Project for Preparation of a Regional Programme for Implementation of the TTFA

56) The Council noted with satisfaction that the reports on the rail, road and maritime corridors have been prepared under the aegis of the said Project and are being incorporated into the Regional Programme for Implementation of the TTFA and the Programme of Action for ECO Decade of Transport & Communications.

57) The Council urged the Secretariat to organize the wrap up meeting of the Project in 2012 or early 2013 in Istanbul to finalize the Programme of Action for

ECO Decade of Transport and Communications and a Donors' Conference to arrange the funds. The Council encouraged the Member States to include the projects identified in ECO-IDB joint project for regional programme in their national development plans to support implementation of the TTFA.

58) The Council called for early completion of the Insurance Component, and implementation of Action Plan of the White Card Scheme. It also called for expeditious outsourcing of the Customs Component to UNCTAD. The Council directed that IDB may be asked to extend the duration of the Joint Project for six months to complete the customs and insurance related component of the project.

5. ECO Railway Network Development Plan, prepared under the aegis of ECO/IDB Joint Project on preparation of a regional programme for implementation of the TTFA

59) The Council expressed satisfaction that the "ECO Railway Network Development Plan (ECORNDP)" was approved by the 11th Meeting of Heads of ECO Railway Authorities (Ankara, 28-29 June 2012). The Council called on all relevant national, regional and international organizations and funding institutions, including IDB, ADB, ECO-TDB and WB to actively participate in financing and implementing the projects envisaged in the ECORNDP.

60) The Council requested IDB to continue its assistance to ECO projects envisaged in the ECORNDP for conducting technical and financial pre-feasibility or feasibility studies. The Council asked the CPR to replenish the TTFA Fund to assist in financing feasibility studies and other activities related to effective implementation and monitoring of the ECORNDP.

61) The Council instructed the Secretariat to organize donor conferences and inter-agency meetings in the context of the trilateral MoUs among ECO-IDB/UNEESCAP and ECO/IDB-UNECE to accelerate the preparation of the action plans and smooth financing of the projects. The Council asked the ECO Secretariat and IDB to hold a joint meeting in 2012, with the participation of interested Member States, in order to make the required arrangements.

62) The Council asked the ECO-TDB to set up a regional partnership forum to boost partnership with the development and financial agencies, and national and regional stakeholders for implementation of the ECORNDP. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Forum would be jointly prepared by the Secretariat and ECO-TDB by the end of 2012.

6. Construction of Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran

63) The Council expressed the hope that construction of Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran would be completed in the first half of 2013. The Council hoped that the operational and technical coordination for launching regular freight services along this route would be made by the next meeting of the Trilateral Coordination Committee, scheduled for 1-3 December, 2012 in Tehran.

7. Container and Passenger Train on Istanbul-Almaty Route

64) The Council urged all the enroute Member States to remove the existing obstacles to regular operation of the ECO Container and Passenger Train Istanbul-Almaty. It urged the Member States to reduce the high tariff imposed on goods by the enroute Member States. The Member States were requested to actively participate in the upcoming High Level Working Group Meeting on this train, which is scheduled for 1-3 December, 2012 in Tehran.

8. ECO Container Train on Bandar Abbas–Almaty Route

65) The Council noted with satisfaction the demonstration run of Bandar Abbas-Almaty Container Train on 17th October 2011 and called for early commencement of the regular operation of the ECO Container Trains on this route. The Member States were requested to actively participate in the upcoming High Level Working Group Meeting on this project, which is scheduled for 1-3 December, 2012 in Tehran.

9. ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) Route

66) The Council urged all the enroute Member States of the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route to ensure the regular operation of this train and in this regard, requested IDB and ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) to provide funds for the up-gradation of the Quetta-Taftan segment of this corridor.

10. Construction of railway from China to Europe through the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey

67) The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for granting US\$ 1 million to carry out the feasibility study in the territory of Tajikistan and hoped that the study would be completed by the end of 2012. It called the interested enroute countries and the international funding institutions to help in securing funds for conducting the feasibility study in the territory of Kyrgyz Republic and to implement the construction projects in Afghanistan.

68) The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for offering to host the Senior Officials Meeting of the enroute countries in 2012 and the Ministerial Meeting in 2013 on the project.

11. Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran) – Astara (Azerbaijan) Route

69) The Council called upon the enroute countries to expedite the implementation of Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran) – Astara (Azerbaijan) Route. It welcomed the decision to establish a Working Group on this project and appreciated the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 1st Meeting of the Working Group in 2012.

70) The Council also welcomed the progress achieved on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway project.

12. ECO Road Transport Corridors on KTAI & ITI

71) The Council expressed satisfaction that the work on two road transport corridors, one between Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul, and the other between Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, has commenced and appreciated the allocation of substantial funds by the CPR. The Council urged the Member States to expedite implementation of the Action Plans approved for these corridors.

72) The Council urged the ECO Secretariat and IRU to commence the joint Pilot Project for the application of the TIR Convention along the ITI Road Corridor in 2012.

73) The Council appreciated the test run of Afghan trucks to ECO member states under coverage of the TIR Convention in February 2012 and welcomed the arrangements for additional test runs to enhance the capacity of the relevant Governmental and private institutions of Afghanistan in operating the TIR system. It hoped that the reactivation process of the TIR Convention in Afghanistan would be completed by the end of 2012. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for arranging the training course for the officials of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Mashad in April 2012. It also hoped that non-acceding Member States would accede to that Convention at an early date.

13. ECO/IRU project on monitoring of Regular Run of Trucks in the ECO region

74) The Council expressed satisfaction on the completion of the ECO/IRU Joint Project for Regular Monitoring of Trucks in the ECO region and asked the Secretariat and IRU to complete the report of the project for follow up action and removal of obstacles to smooth flow of transit transport by the Member States.

14. Visa Sticker for Drivers and persons involved in the transit transport

75) The Council hoped that the Islamic Republic of Iran will revise the Unified ECO Visa Sticker and its issuance procedure for Drivers and Persons Involved in Transit Operations as soon as possible. The final draft will be submitted for the consideration of a Senior Consul Officials Meeting of the interested Member States.

15. ECO Online Money Order (OMO) Transfer System through Postal Services

76) The Council invited the Postal Authorities of the relevant Member States to sign the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the operationalization of the Online Money Order transfer system through Postal Services approved by the 2nd

ECO Meeting on Financial Postal Services (April 2011, Tehran), as soon as possible. The Council also invited the remaining Member States to join the system.

16. Development and Harmonization of Environmental Standards in ECO Region

77) The Council requested all Member States to take active part in the implementation of this Project and invited those Member States who have not yet designated their Experts-Focal Points for this project, to expedite introducing their Experts Focal Points.

17. Regional Programme for Implementation of Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States 2011-2015, jointly with ECO Institute for Environmental Science and Technology

78) The Council welcomed the decision of 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment to approve Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2011-2015) and invited the Member States to financially contribute to the implementation of the Regional Programme. In this regard, the Council invited the Member States to actively participate in the Workshop proposed by the Secretariat in the framework of the programme.

18. ECO Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST)

79) The Council appreciated the activities of the Institute and encouraged it to continue its programmes in line with the relevant objectives of the organization.

19. Reconstruction Projects for Afghanistan

80) The Council urged those Member States that have not committed their pledges to the ECO Special Fund for Afghanistan, to do so, at the earliest convenience. It also urged the Member States to transfer the amount pledged by them for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan. The Council took note that the following projects have been completed so far and requested the Secretariat to provide information on the impact of those projects.

- Construction of Deh Mazang Public Park and Rehabilitation of Kabul Zoo
- Construction of Rural Rehabilitation Institute Block “A” of Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation
- Construction of a Maternity Hospital in Faryab Province

20. ECO-FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the ECO Region

81) The Council while welcoming the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the region, proposed and financed by Turkey within the scope of

FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP), thanked the concerned authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey for signing the said project and requested other Member States to do so, as three signatories are required for its implementation.

21. ECO Blood Safety Network

82) The Council noted the progress made on the issue during the year 2011 and called for its early setting up and requested the Member States to extend their utmost efforts and cooperation in this field.

22. ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Network

83) The Council while emphasizing on the importance of the ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authority Network, requested the Member States for their cooperation in the process of establishing the Network and making it fully functional.

23. EU-funded Project on Fight Against Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with ECO Member States

84) The Council expressed satisfaction on the activities undertaken so far within the context of the project and encouraged the Member States to support active implementation of the activities under each of the four components. The Council also appreciated the European Commission for extending the project for another two years i.e. till December, 2013. The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to appoint the officials from Pakistan and Turkey in the Drug and Organized Crime Control Unit (DOCCU) of the ECO.

Programmes and Proposals

1. FAO Technical Cooperation Project: (TCP) "Support for the Implementation and Development of the CountryStat Framework ECO Countries (Pilot Country Afghanistan)"

85) The Council welcomed the agreement between ECO and FAO which was signed on 29th May 2012 to strengthen statistical capacity in the ECO Member States on agriculture. It also noted with satisfaction that after completion of the component of this technical cooperation project in Afghanistan by FAO, the next phase of the project covering the ECO region will be completed by FAO and ECO.

2. ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS)

86) The Council welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 5th Ministerial Meeting and 4th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Agriculture on November 13-16, 2012 in Antalya, Turkey and the 2nd Donors' Conference on the implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-

RPFS) in 2012. It urged the Member States to actively participate in the Meetings.

87) The Council welcoming efforts for launching the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey, thanked their financial assistance in this regard. The Council requested all Member States to support the activities within the implementation of the ECO-RPFS.

88) The Council invited Member States to prepare project proposals to be submitted to the 2nd Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the RPFS for necessary action and took note of preparation of the project for the ECO Member States on trans-boundary animal diseases.

89) The Council welcomed the preparation of a Regional Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Project by FAO in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat for seeking financial assistance from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and requested the Secretariat to follow up the issue and inform the Member States about the latest developments.

3. ECO Joint Economic Research Programme

90) The Council expressed full support to ECO Joint Economic Research Programme and called for establishing ECO Research Centre to serve as the regional think-tank with the primary objective to develop strategies for ECO region.

91) It also noted with satisfaction preparation of ECO Annual Economic Report for period 2009 and 2010 and availability of electronic versions of these issues as well as of ECO Economic Journal on ECO Web for the benefit of a broad regional user. The Council appreciated establishment of ECOSTAT and requested those Member States that have not provided statistical compendia yet, to do so, at the earliest possible.

4. Proposals for enhanced trade and investment cooperation in the region

92) The Council re-affirmed that enhanced regional trade and investment cooperation in the region will not only promote economic integration of the Member States but also strengthen the efforts to address other socio-economic challenges, such as poverty alleviation, employment generation, expansion of the industrial output and sustained export growth. The Council accorded approval to the Secretariat's proposals for shoring up trade and investment cooperation in the region.

Agenda Item No. 20

Review of ECO's Comprehensive Plan of Action of External Relations and Approval of relevant documents

- i) Approval of the Draft ECO Modalities for granting Observer and/or Dialogue-Partnership Status

93) The Council approved the Modalities for the grant of Observer and/or Dialogue-Partnership Status to other Regional or International Organizations, States and Institutions in line with the relevant Articles of the Treaty of Izmir.

- ii) Approval of Draft ECO Modalities for signing new agreements with Regional/International Organizations, States and Institutions

94) The Council approved the Modalities for signing new agreements with Regional/International Organizations, States and Institutions.

- iii) Granting Observer Status to Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS)

95) The Council granted observer status to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS) in accordance with Article XIV 4-5 of the Treaty of Izmir.

- iv) Status of Cooperation with International/Regional organizations, States and Institutions

96) The Council appreciated the efforts made by ECO in expanding productive relations with the United Nations system, regional and international organizations. It urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to further strengthen its external relations in light of the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan of Action for enhancement of ECO external relations.

- v) Status Report on Agreements and MoUs signed between ECO and other Regional/International Organizations

97) The Council appreciated the efforts made by ECO in strengthening its relations with other Regional/International Organizations in the light of the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan of Action for enhancement of ECO external relations.

Agenda Item No. 21

Review and approval of ECO activities:

- i. The Meetings of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

98) The Council adopted the Reports of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for its sixteen meetings (166th – 181st ECO CPRs), held since the 19th COM Meeting (Istanbul, 22nd December, 2010) and appreciated the hard work done by the CPR.

ii. Reports of the 21st & 22nd RPC Meetings

- Annual Calendar of Events for 2011-2012 & 2012-2013
- Work Programmes for 2011-2012 & 2012-2013

99) The Council reviewed and adopted the Reports of the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the Regional Planning Council (RPC held in Tehran, Iran on 17-19 May, 2011 and 9-11 July 2012, along with the ECO Calendar of Events for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. The Council also approved the Work Programmes of the Secretariat for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 with amendments proposed by Turkey.

iii. Reports of the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings held after the 19th COM Meeting

100) The Council reviewed and took note of the reports of the following sectoral Ministerial meetings held since the 19th COM Meeting (Istanbul, 22nd December, 2010) and urged the Member States to take necessary measures to implement the decisions of those meetings and asked the Secretariat to actively follow up the implementation of decisions of those meetings on regular basis:

- a. 3rd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting
- b. 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment
- c. 4th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade
- d. 8th Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communication

101) The Council appreciated the Kyrgyz Republic for offering to host the 9th Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communication in 2013 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the meeting.

iv. Status of implementation of decisions of the 19th COM Meeting

102) The Council appreciated the preparation of a comprehensive follow-up report on implementation of decisions of the 19th COM meeting. The Council laid emphasis on speedy implementation of agreed decisions of the COM.

Agenda Item No. 22

Financial and Budgetary Issues:

1. The ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2012

103) The Council formally approved the Secretariat's budget for 2012 amounting to US\$ 3,552,995/-, which included US\$ 177,649 as Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (5% of the budget). The budget was endorsed by the 173rd CPR meeting (5-6 January, 2012 – Istanbul), on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

2. The ECO Secretariat's Audit Reports for 2010 and 2011

104) The Council approved the Audit Reports of the Secretariat's budget for 2010 and 2011 which had been considered earlier and endorsed by the 169th and 180th CPR meetings respectively. The Council directed the Secretariat to devise a mechanism for implementation of the audit reports and inform the CPR accordingly.

3. The ECI's Budget for 2012

105) The Council formally approved the ECI Budget for the year 2012 amounting to US\$ 457,330/- which was approved/endorsed by the 6th ECI-CPR held on 29th January, 2012 at ECI Headquarters, on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

4. The ECI's Audit Reports for 2010 and 2011

106) The Council approved the ECI's Audit Reports for the year 2010 and 2011 which had been discussed and endorsed by the ECI-CPR. The Council directed the ECI to resolve the observation raised by the audit party in their report under intimation to ECI CPR.

5. The ECO Science Foundation Budget for 2012

107) The Council formally approved the ECO Science Foundation budget for 2012 amounting to US\$ 0.475 million which was approved/endorsed by the 1st Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 20th December, 2011.

6. The ECO Educational Institute Budget for 2012

108) The Council formally approved the ECO Educational Institute budget for 2012 amounting to US\$ 0.501,520 million which was approved/endorsed by the 1st Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) held in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey, on 3rd April, 2012.

7. ECO Reconstruction Fund for Afghanistan

109) The Council took note of the information on completion of reconstruction projects in Afghanistan and requested the Member States to make further contributions and pledges to complete new projects.

8. ECOTA Implementation Fund

110) The Council while appreciating the establishment of the ECOTA Implementation Fund to support activities such as technical assistance, improving trade facilitation, holding seminars, arranging fairs and exhibitions and similar promotional programmes, underlined the need for optimal utilization of the Fund and called upon the Member States to contribute generously to the Fund.

9. TTFA Fund

111) The Council asked the CPR to replenish the TTFA fund by allocating an amount of US\$150,000 from FGPF in three installments for the period of 2012-2014, to enable the Secretariat to implement the Work Programme approved for the Fund by the Transit Transport Coordination Council. The Council also called on the ECO Member States to consider voluntary contribution to the TTFA Fund to enhance the functions of the Fund. The Council further directed the Secretariat to utilize the fund only on transport development activities.

10. ECO Tourism Promotion Fund

112) The Council thanked those Member States who have supported to contribute the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund and requested them to provide their pledged contribution to the ECO Secretariat account. It also requested these countries to nominate their representatives for the Fund's Board of Trustees (BoT). The Council also entrusted their ECO Permanent Representatives to constitute the BoT pending the nominations from the relevant Ministries.

113) The Council invited the other Member States to join this Fund and support the activities of strengthening the tourism infrastructures in the Region by implementation of joint tourism projects.

114) The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the first meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Fund in 2012-13.

11. ECO SF-Science and Technology Fund

115) The Council took note with appreciation of the 1st Board of Trustees Meeting of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) held on 19-20 December, 2011 in Islamabad. The Council approved the Modalities of its Science and Technology (S&T) Fund for funding projects/programmes of the Foundation.

116) The Council directed the Secretariat to ensure that the utilization of the aforementioned funds is confined to the approved modalities in letter and spirit.

Agenda Item No. 23

Administrative Matters:

a. Endorsement of appointment of ECO Secretary General

117) The Council welcomed and approved the appointment of new ECO Secretary General, Ambassador Shamil Aleskerov and expressed the hope that in view of his vast experience in the field of multilateral diplomacy, he would put the Organization on the road to further progress.

b. Appointment of President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

118) The Council agreed to extend the tenure of office of Mr. Hojatullah Ayubi, President of ECI till 4th April, 2013. The Council also approved the appointment of Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Arif from Pakistan as President of ECO Cultural Institute with effect from 5th April, 2013 for a period of three years.

c. Appointment of President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)

119) The Council agreed with the decision/recommendations of the first meeting of Board of Trustees which was held in Islamabad on December 19-20, 2011 and appointed Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro (Pakistan national), as President of the ECO Science Foundation, for a period of three years.

d. Appointment of President of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)

120) The Council agreed with the decision/recommendations of the first meeting of Board of Trustees which was held on April 2-3, 2012 in Ankara and appointed Prof. Dr. Selahattin TURAN (Turkish national), as President of the ECO Educational Institute, Ankara, for a period of three years.

e. Extension of tenure of Deputy Secretary General

121) The Council approved the extension of Mr. Fatih Unlu, Deputy Secretary General (Trade & Investment, Agriculture Industry) till 31st October 2012 on the recommendations of the 179th CPR Meeting.

f. Appointment of new Deputy Secretary General

122) The Council agreed with the decision/recommendations of the Council of Permanent Representatives and appointed Mr. Hayri Maraslioglu (Turkish National) against the post of the Deputy Secretary General (Trade & Investment, Agriculture and Industry) in place of Mr. Fatih Unlu, with effect from the date of joining the Secretariat for a period of three years. The Council also appreciated Mr. Fatih Unlu for his contributions towards achieving the goals of the Organization.

g. Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the ECO Secretariat

123) The Secretariat in order to enhance efficiency of the organization, proposed some amendments to ECO Staff Regulations.

124) The Council authorized the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to consider and approve the proposals of the Secretariat regarding amendments to the Staff Regulations, on its behalf.

Agenda Item No. 24

Preparation for the 12th Summit

i. **Draft Agenda**

125) The Council deliberated upon and agreed to recommend the following draft agenda for the 12th ECO Summit meeting to be held in Baku on 16th October, 2012:

1. Opening Ceremony
 - National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Welcoming Remarks by the Chairman of the previous (11th) ECO Summit
 - Election of the Chairman
 - Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 12th Summit - H. E. Mr. Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statements by Heads of State/Government/Delegation
4. Report of the 20th Meeting of COM by the Chairman of COM
5. Statement by the ECO Secretary General
6. Date and Venue of the next Summit
7. Adoption of Baku Declaration 2012
8. Ceremony for ECO Awards
9. Any other business
10. Vote of Thanks and Closing Address by the Chairman of the 12th Summit
11. Closing of the Meeting

ii. Draft Baku Declaration 2012

126) The Council deliberated and agreed to submit the draft Baku Declaration 2012 to the 12th ECO Summit for adoption.

iii. ECO Awards 2012

127) The Council approved the names of winners of ECO Awards 2012 from Member States, comprising eight nominees recommended by the 179th CPR Meeting (Tehran, 31st July, 2012). The Council congratulated them on excellent performance in their respective fields. The names of the winners of ECO Awards 2012 are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Country	Name of Nominee	Field/Category
1.	Afghanistan	Mr. Mohammad Mir Raad	History , Culture , Literature & Fine Arts
2.	Azerbaijan	Mr. Asaf Nadirov	Economics
3.	Iran	Dr. Hassan Anousheh	History , Culture , Literature & Fine Arts

4.	Kazakhstan	Dr. Tuleutay Skakovich Suleymenov	Education
5.	Kyrgyzstan	Prof. Dr. Abdyrakhmanov Tolobek Abylovich	History , Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
6.	Pakistan	Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Shakoori	Science & Technology
7.	Tajikistan	Mr. Rahimov Farhod Qodirovich	Science & Technology
8.	Turkey	Mr. Sezai KARAKOC	History , Culture, Literature & Fine Arts

Agenda Item No. 25

Any other business

128) The Council agreed with the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for an Informal Meeting among the Foreign Ministers of ECO countries on the sidelines of the Council of Ministers Meeting.

129) The Council agreed with the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to grant Observer Status to the Turkish Cypriot State which also enjoys the Observer Status in the OIC.

130) The Council approved utilization of Reserve Fund to cover the ad-hoc relief of 10% increase in the salary and allowances of the Secretariat staff w.e.f 1st July, 2011 to 31st December, 2011 as decided by the 171st CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 26

Date and venue of the next meeting

131) The Council requested the Secretariat to ascertain the willingness of Member States for hosting the (21st) Meeting of the Council of Ministers. The exact dates and venue of the meeting would be conveyed to the Member States through diplomatic channels.

Agenda Item No. 27

Adoption of Draft Report of the 20th COM

132) The Council unanimously adopted the Report.

Agenda Item No. 28

Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting

133) The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for conducting the deliberations in a smooth and efficient manner, and to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to all delegations. The Council appreciated the able Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Foreign Minister,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan during the Meeting of the Senior Officials. The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretary General and the Secretariat staff for preparing comprehensive documents and assisting the hosts in making the 20th Council of Ministers Meeting a success.
