

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ersin Tatar, Minister of Finance,
of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
at the 20th Meeting of the Council of Ministers
(Baku – 15th October, 2012)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,**

It is a great honour for me and my delegation to participate in the 20th Council of Ministers Meeting of Economic Cooperation Organization. I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the fraternal hospitality extended to myself and my delegation from the moment of our arrival in Baku.

Furthermore, I would like to extend to H.E. Dr. Shamil Aleskerov our heartfelt congratulations on the assumption of the post of Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization and wish him every success in this important post.

Distinguished delegates,

As you are all well aware, the Turkish Cypriot people have been regularly attending the meetings of ECO Regional Planning Council and Technical Seminars since 1993 in line with the “Modalities for the participation of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus in ECO activities” which were set in accordance with the relevant amended Article of Izmir Treaty and the proposal of the 11th Session of the Council of Deputies of 18 October 1992, whereby the Council of Ministers in its extraordinary meeting adopted the afore-mentioned modalities on 28 November, 1992 in Islamabad.

Furthermore, the Turkish Cypriot people have been attending ECO meetings and activities under the name of Turkish Cypriot State, in accordance with the decision adopted at the meeting of ECO Council of Ministers held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 12 September, 2004 which stated that “the Council decided that the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus should continue to participate in the ECO activities under the name envisaged by the UN Secretary-General’s settlement plan”.

It should also be noted that, the TRNC is an observer member to the organization of Islamic Cooperation and participates in all its activities, works and meetings at all levels including the Islamic Summit. Needless to say, our observer member status within the OIC has enabled our country to further improve our relations with OIC Member States and all its affiliated and subsidiary institutions. It helped to organize joint activities on educational and investment

issues with OIC Secretariat and specialized agencies of the OIC. In this context, bearing in mind that all the ECO Member States are at the same time members of the OIC, i would like to emphasize that acquiring an observer status in the ECO will certainly help to further improve our already existing relations and liaison with the ECO Secretariat and its Member States.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to bring to your kind attention that, our country hosted two important ECO events on “Air and Water Pollution Control” and “Waste Water Management and Treatment Technology”, in August 1998 and May 2004, respectively. Both events enjoyed a great deal of success and the Member States enormously benefited from these workshops.

It is also significant to note that, during the 22nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the ECO, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in July 2012, a proposal to organize an ECO event in Northern Cyprus was taken up and favorably received by all of the member countries and was placed on the ECO’s Calendar of Events for 2012-2013 namely that “ECO University Sports Tournament” will take place in 2013. I would like to reiterate our commitment to host this important event in our country in 2013, which will embrace all sportsmen and sportswomen from all ECO member countries.

Distinguished delegates,

I take this opportunity to reiterate once again that we would like to further develop our relations in fields of trade, tourism and higher education with a view to increasing our bilateral relations with the Member States. This will certainly help the Turkish Cypriot people to enhance their economic well-being

Before I conclude, I would like to inform all the Member States that we have already submitted our formal application to acquire an observer member status within ECO which we have been proudly associated with since 1992. I am confident that the esteemed Member States will support our application and the ECO Secretariat will take all the necessary steps to initiate the procedure.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

**Statement by Mr. Hisham Taleb Maarouf, Director,
Islamic Development Bank, Regional Office, Almaty
at the 20th Meeting of the Council of Ministers
(Baku – 15th October, 2012)**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov!
Honorable Ministers of Foreign Affairs!
Excellency, Secretary General of ECO!**

I am very honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Islamic Development Bank on this prominent event and I am pleased to convey the gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this important meeting in beautiful city of Baku. The meeting arrangements provided by the Government of Azerbaijan for the participating guests are highly appreciated.

The Islamic Development Bank is privileged to be the reliable partner of the Economic Cooperation Organization initiatives and is very delighted to participate in the growing ECO activities that benefit and contribute to the expanding economic and trade ties among the IDB member-countries.

As a partner and implementer of the ECO programs, the IDB witnessed tremendous growth of ECO activities and operations that underpinned the collaboration among the joint member-countries. Trade facilitation, logistic services, transport communication, introduction of acceptable trade regimes, road infrastructure development, and introduction of new routes, energy generation, distribution and efficient utilization across the member-countries are the outcome of the ECO efforts during the last years. Pursuing the same tasks in the region, from the very beginning the IDB become an active participant of the ECO activities, where the Bank, alongwith the other multilateral banks and its sister institutions, has been involved in the projects that have regional importance and recognition.

As Your Excellencies are aware, the IDB has been always supporting the regional integration of its member-countries by itself and through the active participation in various regional activities. ECO has played a leading role in determining the bases of bilateral and regional cooperation. The IDB followed the outcomes and agreements endorsed by the joint member-countries under ECO programs and provided its financial assistance to the number of projects. The bright testimony of the IDB efforts could be observed in successful development of the road corridors, energy generation and transmission, trade promotion activities and capacity building. Currently, our road infrastructure portfolio in our joint member-countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) totals to US\$ 1,8 billion. We are proud to say that IDB is financing a number of road corridors that are interconnecting the Central Asian countries with South Asian countries and Turkey, which create the exit from the landlocked area to the sea ports. To mention a few, the Western Europe-Western China Road Corridor in

Kazakhstan, Improvement of National Highway in Uzbekistan, various international road corridors in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

With burgeoning transportation linkages that physically connect the neighboring countries, the IDB attaches a great importance to the trade facilitation and removal of trade barriers. For this to happen, the Bank via its frequent respective programs and workshops encourages its member-countries to adopt the advanced examples of international trade. The IDB appreciate in this regard the ECO activities, which extends a tremendous number of the professional knowledge and experience-sharing tools through the seminars in joint member-countries.

As the energy sector represent one of the driving factors of the economic growth of the countries in the region, the IDB has already financed a bulky number of the energy projects totaling to US\$ 2.2 billion. In considering the energy projects, IDB has always given an importance to the interregional power export development. The energy transmission projects in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Pakistan are noteworthy and obvious manifestation of the IDB willingness to transfer the power from energy-rich to energy-deficient regions, thereby creating the sustainable energy security in its member-countries.

Excellencies,

The Islamic Development Bank is proud to be an active participant of ECO activities, therefore, while benefiting from the ECO achievements, the IDB will expand its assistance to its member-countries. Speaking precisely for the next years, IDB is planning to contribute additional US\$1.5 billion for reconstruction and upgrading the transport and energy sectors among its member countries in Central and South Asia. To meet the growing demand of its member countries in the region, the IDB will also collaborate and mobilize additional resources from the members of the Arab Coordination Group, which includes the Kuwait Fund, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Saudi Fund for Development and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, which are very keen to coordinate their efforts to finance projects in the transport and energy sectors.

Currently we are considering the official invitations of the Governments of Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Uzbekistan to hold the next Round Table Meetings of the Coordination Group in order to consider the list of the priority projects to be presented by the abovementioned governments for their further possible financing.

Finally, let me reiterate the Bank's desire to continue its support to its member-countries in strengthening their economic ties and integrity. In close cooperation and coordination with our international financing partners and sister institutions and with the Governments of the countries in the region the IDB Group will continue to commit itself to work closely with all parties in order to strengthen and

to deeply widening our cooperation with ECO member-states for realizing their key development objectives.

Thank you.

Date for countries in million US\$:

Countries	Road Projects	Energy Projects
Afghanistan	50.5	16.5
Azerbaijan	51.4	598.3
Iran	107.1	553.0
Kazakhstan	434.1	0
Kyrgyz Republic	78.2	64.1
Pakistan	203.8	866.4
Tajikistan	71.9	40.9
Turkey	631.7	110.1
Turkmenistan	438.4	0
Uzbekistan	179.8	262.1
