



*221st Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*

Report

*12th June, 2017
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

Report

The 221st CPR Meeting was held on Monday 12th June 2017 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. 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. The ECO Secretary General along with concerned officials of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as *Annex-I*.

2. At the outset, the Council offered '*Fateha*' and adopted one minute salience on the tragic and dastardly terrorist attacks in Tehran. The Council also expressed deepest condolences to the families of the victims as a result of these attacks. The Council praised the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its swift action and expressed full solidarity with Iran and called for unity among the Ummah.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Council adopted the following Agenda of 221st CPR Meeting for deliberations:

Agenda

1. *Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 221st CPR Meeting*
2. *Adoption of the Draft Report of the 220th CPR Meeting*
3. *Allocation of US\$50,000/- from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for financing the Second Phase of the Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region*
4. *Allocation of Supporting Fund of US\$50,000/- for KTI Project*
5. *Authorization of the CPR for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with "TEPAV" and "SESRIC" for Capacity Building Activities on Economic Research and Statistics through utilizing of available facilities of both Organizations and with United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSS)*
6. *Special Conference on Afghanistan*
7. Administrative matters:
 - (a) *Continued discussion on the post of Programme Officer of Project, Economic Research and Statistics*
 - (b) *Recommendations of the Selection Panel*
8. *Any other business*
9. *Date of the next CPR Meeting*

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 220th CPR Meeting

4. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 220th CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/220/2 (25th May 2017) which was circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CFU/CPR/220 Meeting/2017/666 dated 25th May, 2017.

Agenda Item No.3

Allocation of US\$50,000/- from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for financing the Second Phase of the Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region

5. The 136th CPR Meeting held on 10th June 2008 approved an amount of US\$50,000 to be utilized from the Feasibility Study Fund for the Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region. The *First Phase* of the study was completed in April 2011 by Pakistan Institute of

Development Economics (PIDE) and circulated to ECO Member States. (An electronic version of the same was also placed in the ECO Web-Site).

6. The 22nd and 23rd RPC meetings decided that the Secretariat may again initiate process of hiring the relevant organization/firm from an ECO Member State to carry-out the Second Phase of the Study. The CPR was requested to allocate a budget amounting to US\$ 50,000 from FGPF for the purpose. The 187th CPR held on 8 September 2013 decided that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting the Second Phase of Study may be discussed during the Trade Ministerial Meeting. It was also decided that the Secretariat will approach other international organizations for assistance in conducting the study without any financial implication on the part of Secretariat and also asked the interested Member States to volunteer in conducting the Second Phase of the Study.

7. The 25th RPC Meeting noted that due to non-holding of 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in 2014, the ToRs for the Study also remained un-approved. Moreover, the Secretariat had also not received an appropriate response from the relevant international organizations e.g. UNCTAD, ITC and IDB as well as from the Member States for assistance to conduct the Study. The RPC requested the Secretariat to submit the status report to CPR for a final decision on conducting the Study.

8. The 26th RPC agreed that the Second Phase of the Study may be started and requested the Member States to give their full support to the Secretariat to hire a relevant organization for carrying out the study. The Meeting also agreed with the proposal of Pakistan that the CPR may consider allocating the required funds from the General Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) to conduct the Second Phase of Study on the Trading Patterns in ECO Region by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). The Secretariat vide its Note No. T&I/2ndTP/2016/1106 dated 6 September 2016 has already circulated a detailed project proposal to Member States. As it was agreed by the 26th and 27th RPC Meetings, the CPR was requested to allocate an amount of US\$ 50,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for the *Second Phase* of the Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region to be conducted by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) who successfully conducted the First Phase of the Study in April 2011.

9. Director for Trade and Investment of the ECO Secretariat Mr. Muhammad Adnan, briefed the Council on the Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region. He gave a presentation on background of the previous study and presented the proposal on the Second Phase of Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region. He informed that the views of Kyrgyz Republic have been incorporated in the proposal. The Council was also informed of the coverage/scope of the proposed study, along with request for allocation of US\$ 50,000/- from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for the proposed study to be conducted by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

10. The Council considered and approved allocation of US\$ 50,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) for financing the Second Phase of the Study on Trading Patterns in ECO Region by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

Agenda Item No.4

Allocation of Supporting Fund (US\$50,000) for KTI Project

11. The Meeting of the Heads of Railways of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran corridor (KTI) held on 6th February 2017 and attended by the Heads of Railways of the three enroute countries and representatives from IDB and UNESCAP, discussed and agreed on the ways of commercializing the railway and asked the ECO Secretariat as

well as IDB and UNESCAP to take necessary steps for initiating the regional consultancy project within three months. The 13th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railways (17-18 April 2017, Baku) was briefed by the ECO Secretariat on the actions taken in this regard. The Meeting while appreciating IDB and UNESCAP for their support to ECO initiative requested their continued support and contribution towards the Project.

12. In line with the aim of the Project to analyze various aspects of railway transport including the need for a corridor management mechanism, the scope of the work will *inter-alia* cover commercial, legal, technical, institutional and operational aspects of the corridor, include country and regional level studies, propose an inter-governmental agreement for commercializing KTI corridor and agree on a time-bound corridor action plan. The calculation of costs made by ECO Secretariat and IDB Secretariats concludes that a minimum amount of US\$ 270,000 would be required to defray the costs and complete the Project. Accordingly IDB's preparedness to allocate 75% share of total cost of about US\$ 200,000 for this purpose has been received and as a result contribution of US\$ 70,000 is to be made by ECO Secretariat.

13. Director for Transport and Communications of the ECO Secretariat Mr. Seyed Mohsen Esper, briefed the Council stating that this Project has been followed by the Member States and accordingly inaugurated in 2014 by the Presidents of three Member States. He said that the Project is one of the few projects in which there has been gradual progress. He said KTI rail route is in place and working on a random basis. He said the Secretariat has been trying to address the real problem raised by the Member States and accordingly has taken different types of steps looking for an efficient mechanism to regularize and commercialize the route adding that the Secretariat believes that Project may serve as a show-case and a replicable model. The Representative said that the meeting of KTI Railway Heads held in February 2016 mandated the ECO Secretariat to initiate a process towards commercialization of the KTI route with the assistance of IDB and UNESCAP. The Secretariat provided initial Information Paper to the Member States and is in the process of finalization of a draft to be presented to the Member States. He said that the Heads of ECO Railways in their meeting held in April 2016 fully endorsed the plan and asked the ECO Secretariat to continue its mandate provided by the KTI Heads. He informed the Meeting that IDB has kindly agreed with the request of the Secretariat to allocate an amount of US\$ 200,000 for this project which, as per practice, calls for a 20% contribution of ECO Secretariat. The Representative requested the Council for approval of US\$50,000 as contribution of ECO Secretariat for fulfilling its obligation and mandate.

14. The Council considered and approved allocation of US\$ 50,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) as ECO's contribution to enable the ECO Secretariat to fulfill its mandate of implementation of the said Project.

Agenda Item No.5

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

15. In accordance with the decision of 210th CPR, the ECO Secretariat, as per the modalities and negotiations with the UNOSS, finalized the text of the MoU between the "*Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)*" and the "*United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSS)*". The final text of the MoU was shared with the Member States vide its Note Verbale No. IR/UNOSS/2017/208 dated 9th February 2017.

16. In line with the decision of the 219th CPR on signing of an MoU between the “*Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)*” and both the “*Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)*” and the “*Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)*”, the ECO Secretariat, after negotiating with the SESRIC and TEPAV, has finalized the texts of the proposed MoUs, as per the modalities. The draft texts of MoUs were shared with the Member States through Secretariat’s Note Verbale No. PERS/MoU ECO-SESRIC/2017/395 dated 13th March 2017 and Note Verbale No. PERS/MoU/SESRIC/2017/477 dated 10th April 2017 respectively.

17. During 220th CPR Meeting, 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. Keeping the position of the Republic of Kazakhstan in view, it was decided to take-up the said agenda again with the request that the Representative of Kazakhstan may take-up the matter with the capital for an expeditious response in order to finalize the issue soon.

18. The Representative of the Republic of *Kazakhstan* conveyed the concurrence for signing of three MoUs with UNOSS, SESRIC and TEPAV.

19. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* informed that there is no objection in signing of MoUs with UNOSS and SESRIC, however, for MoU with TEPAV response from the focal point is still awaited. He said that the Secretariat may go ahead with signing of MoUs with ‘*UNOSS*’ and ‘*SESRIC*’ accordingly.

20. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* reiterated the stance that ‘*TEPAV*’ is one of the leading Think Tank Organizations and can provide good support and help for ECO Secretariat and that signing of MoU with TEPAV will be very useful for ECO Secretariat. The Ambassador urged the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make their utmost efforts to get a final position from the focal point in the next CPR Meeting. He also stressed that decision on signing of three MoUs may be taken as a package in the next CPR meeting.

21. After deliberations, the Council decided to take-up the same Agenda Item of signing of three MoUs with UNOSS, SESRIC and TEPAV in the next CPR meeting, as a package.

Agenda Item No.6

Special Conference on Afghanistan

22. The idea of an "ECO Special Conference on Afghanistan" was initiated by RPC and supported by the 13th ECO Summit. The purpose of the Conference is to have high-level policy discussions on how Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) may continue its support to Afghanistan. The Conference is envisaged to focus on two principal themes: (i) "*Evaluation of the ECO existing support programmes for Afghanistan*" and (ii) "*New ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan*". The Conference was first scheduled for October 2016 and then again in May 2017 in Kabul. However, in both the cases, it was postponed due to lack of quorum.

23. CPR Chairman requested all the distinguished delegates of the Member States to ensure that this conference takes place on schedule and said that we cannot afford delaying those reconstruction activities in Afghanistan.

24. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) Seyed Jalaledin Alavi briefed the Council stating that the idea was raised in the Regional Planning Council (RPC) and endorsed in two-three RPCs. He said that the Secretariat had the opportunity to have the Conference at the Ministerial-level back-to-back with Ministerial meeting scheduled for ECO Vision in October 2016 in Kabul. However, due to cancellation of Ministerial meeting on ECO Vision, the said Conference was also postponed. The dates were again fixed for hosting the said conference in May 2017 in Kabul and again due to lack of quorum, the conference had to be postponed.

25. Deputy Secretary General said that the Conference is important for evaluation of the performance of the "ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan" established in 2004. There were pledges and contributions by 4 ECO Member States into the Fund from which the Secretariat has so far implemented 4 projects in Afghanistan. The Fund resources have almost been exhausted while a list of new projects has been proposed by Afghanistan. Besides deliberating on the future of the Fund, the Conference is also expected to develop an "ECO Advocacy Policy for Afghanistan" in line with new realities and emerging needs and requirements to be raised by Afghani authorities in the Conference, taking into account also the ongoing programmes/plans by international community in Afghanistan.

26. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* appreciated the briefing by the Deputy Secretary General and thanked the Secretariat in putting efforts in organizing the Conference in Kabul which could not be materialized due to lack of quorum. He further regretted that in spite of approval by the 13th Summit/22nd COM in Islamabad for organizing the Conference in May 2017, it again could not be held due to lack of quorum. The Ambassador said that instructions have been received from capital to request the ECO Secretariat to draw an appropriate strategy to either organize the said Conference at the ECO Secretariat or else could be convened on the side-lines of Ministerial meeting in the field of Economy and Finance.

27. After briefing by the Deputy Secretary General and by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the CPR Chairman requested the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to approach the authorities in the capital for having the final views to be formally communicated to the ECO Secretariat about venue and/or organizing it with some other activity. The Chairman opined that this is an exclusive issue and a special conference on Afghanistan and its importance should not be diluted. He said that it may have been postponed due to lack of quorum but the Member States could be pursued to play active part for the construction projects in Afghanistan. He also opined that the Conference may be held in Afghanistan.

28. At the end, the CPR Chairman decided to postpone the Agenda Item for the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative matters

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

29. The 205th CPR meeting held on 1st 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. 207th 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 26th 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.

30. In the 220th CPR Meeting, Deputy Secretary General (TC & PERS) of the Secretariat 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 employees 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. It was further informed that in the 213th 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.

31. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** informed the Council in the 220th CPR Meeting 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.

32. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** reiterated its stance taken in 213th 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.

33. The CPR Chairman, after the deliberations on the issue 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.

34. The CPR Chairman requested the Representatives of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** and **Pakistan** to continue their consultations and convey the outcome in the next CPR meeting.

b. Recommendations of the Selection Panel

35. The ECO Secretary General informed the Council that initially on receipt of nomination from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Selection Panel meeting was fixed on 12th June, 2017 to consider the nomination of Ms. Bayan Adilbekova - Kazakh National – for the post of Programme Officer (Category-II, P1) in place of Ms. Abisheva Zukhra. However, later on the same nomination was withdrawn and, therefore, no Selection Panel meeting was held.

36. The Secretary General further informed the Council that the term of Ms. Abisheva Zukhra, Programme Officer will terminate on 27th June 2017 and it will not be possible for the Secretariat to leave the post of Programme Officer vacant in the important

Transport Directorate. Therefore, if nomination by the Republic of Kazakhstan for the post of Programme Officer will take time then the Secretariat proposes to re-employ Ms. Abisheva Zukhra as Programme Officer for Transport and Communications Directorate (Category-II, P1) effective from 28th June 2017, till the joining of her replacement.

37. The Representative of the Republic of *Kazakhstan* informed the Council that it has not received a new nomination from the capital and is still under consideration. He further said that until a new nomination is received, Ms. Abisheva Zhukhra may continue as Programme Officer in the Secretariat till the joining of her replacement.

38. The Secretary General also informed the Council that upon attaining the age of superannuation (60 years) by Mr. Farhad Najafzadeh Khoei, Chief Accountant of the ECO Secretariat, his services are required to be re-employed until a new nomination is received from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

39. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* conveyed their concurrence for the proposal of the ECO Secretariat for re-employment of Mr. Farhad Najafzadeh Khoei, Chief Accountant (Category-II, P3) till the joining of his replacement.

40. The Council considered and approved the proposals of the Secretariat for re-employment of:

- (i) *Ms. Abisheva Zukhra* as Programme Officer (Category-II, P1), effective from 28th June 2017, till the joining of her replacement.
- (ii) *Mr. Farhad Najafzadeh Khoei* as Chief Accountant (Category-II, P3) for a period of one year effective from 2nd June 2017/or until the joining of his replacement, whichever comes earlier.

Agenda Item No.8

Any Other Business

41. Under this agenda item, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* first of all thanked the Council for expressing sympathies on the terrorist attacks in Tehran. He brought to the attention of the Council about the decision taken in the last CPR meeting (220th) to establish a *Working Group* of Experts to discuss the important issues of 'Scales of Assessment' and 'ECO Reforms' and come-up with recommendations/conclusion so that the instructions of 22nd COM could be implemented in the given timeframe of four months. He further said that the Secretariat has to determine the date of convening the first Working Group's meeting, however, as yet no information has been received on this count.

42. Taking the floor, the Ambassador of the Republic of *Uzbekistan* expressed his country's full support to the re-consideration of Scales of Assessment for the year 2018 and onwards. However, he said that the final position of Uzbekistan regarding the new Scales of Assessment with minimum share of 2% or without minimum level will be conveyed to the Secretariat in due course of time.

43. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi explained to the Council the decision of the 220th CPR meeting to establish a *Working Group* of Experts to discuss the issues of 'Scales of Assessment' and 'ECO Reforms' and come up with recommendations so that the instructions of COM could be implemented in the given timeframe of four months. Deputy Secretary General mentioned that the ECO Secretariat had submitted two proposals during the COM meeting which were approved by the CPR meeting as 'Agenda for the COM': *one* was on 'Scales of Assessment' and *second* was on Reforms of the Secretariat and Recruitment Policy. However, in the meantime, the Secretariat

received a Note Verbale of 13th May 2017 from the Islamic Republic of Iran which was circulated among the Member States but has not received any views/comments in this regard.

44. Deputy Secretary General said that the Note Verbale informed that during the meetings of Working Group, established to finalize the recommendations for CPR to implement 3rd EPG report during 2014-15, consensus was achieved on 50-60% issues indicated in the EPG report and these may be utilized along with the services of international consultants for finalization of reforms. ECO Secretariat, however, could not locate documentary evidence of consensus reached on the issues of Scales of Assessment and/or ECO Reforms.

45. Deputy Secretary General said that because of the above it was felt appropriate to get clarification of the CPR on the position and scope of work of the Working Group established by the 220th CPR meeting before convening its first meeting.

46. ECO Secretary General said that it was understood from the Note Verbale that it indicates separation of Reform Agenda from the Scales of Assessment and, therefore, due to this confusion the matter is brought for clarification by the CPR. He said, however, it will be ensured that the Working Group may continue its job focusing deliberations on both the issues of Scales of Assessment and ECO Reforms.

47. While appreciating the clarification by the Secretariat, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that there was no intention to stop the Working Group's process. However, the contents mentioned in the Note Verbale were basically to emphasize utilization of the experience of previous Working Group meetings. The Permanent Representative said that the activity of the Working Group should continue to finalize the outcomes on these issues as the Secretariat is facing problems with the Scales of Assessment. Mentioning of hiring of international consultants in the Note Verbale, he clarified, was only a proposal.

48. The Representative of the Republic of *Azerbaijan* taking the floor said that in the 220th CPR on the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran which was also supported by Azerbaijan, a Working Group was established to discuss the issues of Scales of Assessment and ECO Reforms. He proposed that the Working Group of the ECO Member States may only discuss these issues without considering the previous three years Working Group meetings on EPG Report and also said that there should not be any time limitations of four months for the Working Group.

49. The Ambassador of the *Kyrgyz Republic* first congratulated H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on assuming the Chairmanship of CPR. He said that Kyrgyz position on the Scales of Assessment and ECO Reforms has already been expressed during 13th ECO Summit and 22nd COM meetings in Islamabad. However, after the establishment of a Working Group, the capital has been approached for the renewed position and response is awaited in this regard and as soon as it is received the Secretariat will be informed. The Ambassador further informed that in the absence of the concerned officer in the Embassy who is looking after the ECO affairs, the Council may consider the possibility of Kyrgyz delegation's participation through correspondence.

50. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Turkey* enquired about what will be the starting point. He proposed that the Secretariat may prepare a Working Paper on both the issues i.e. 'Scales of Assessment' and 'ECO Reforms' and circulate them to the Member States for onward transmission to respective capitals for instructions and for ease of taking decisions.

51. The ECO Secretary General informed the Council that both the proposals on 'Scales of Assessment' and 'ECO Reforms' have already been circulated among the Members States. However, summary of both the issues incorporating latest positions on these proposals received by the Secretariat from different Member States will be circulated alongwith the Note Verbale communicating the date of the first meeting of the said Working Group.

52. After deliberations, the Council decided to convene, as many meetings as possible, of the established Working Group, to discuss the issues of '*Scales of Assessment*' and '*ECO Reforms*', as directed by the Council of Ministers (COM). The CPR Chairman requested mandatory participation of all the Member States in the Working Group meetings as it will be in the interest of every country. The Chairman also appreciated the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Scales of Assessment and hoped that the proposal would be discussed thoroughly in the Working Group. The Chairman also asked the ECO Secretariat to keep the Kyrgyz Republic posted on every development of the Working Group, through correspondence. He also hoped that the Kyrgyz Republic will also convey their reactions through correspondence immediately which will be circulated and can be accommodated for further discussions in the Working Group meetings.

53. Under this Agenda Item, ECO Secretary General mentioned the following points:

- (i) The Secretariat has been working closely with IDB on several projects and to further improve the partnership, an ECO delegation will visit IDB Headquarters, Jeddah in July 2017 to discuss and evaluate various ECO projects which have already been financed by IDB and also to discuss new proposals.
- (ii) The ECO Secretariat is waiting certain dates from Turkmenistan about holding of Transport Ministerial Meeting.
- (iii) The ECO Secretariat is waiting dates for holding Regional Planning Council Meeting (at Ministers level) in Pakistan.

54. The Ambassador of *Turkmenistan* first congratulated H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on assuming the Chairmanship of CPR and on the query of ECO Secretary General informed the Council that October 2017 will be the month of holding of Transport Ministerial Meeting. However, the formal dates in this regard will be communicated to the ECO Secretariat later.

55. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* informed the Council that as far as holding of RPC Meeting in Pakistan is concerned, the matter has already been referred to the concerned Ministry and a response is awaited which will be communicated to the Secretariat accordingly.

Agenda Item No.9

Date of the next CPR meeting

56. The Council decided to convene its next (222nd) Meeting on Monday 24th July, 2017 at 1000 hours at the ECO Secretariat Tehran.

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

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
- Ms. Nasrin Esmaeili, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Yerbol Akhmetov, Minister-Counsellor

The Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Avazbek Abdurazakov, Ambassador

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:

- Ms. Farangis Bekova, Third Secretary
- Mr. Saidali Shosaidov, Embassy Officer

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- H.E. Mr. Riza Hakan TEKİN, Ambassador
- Ms. Sinem Gokce, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Kurbanow, Ambassador
- Mr. Islam Sakhatow, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullaev, Ambassador
- Mr. Bakhodir Tashmanov, 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. Mohsen Esperi, Director (Transport and Communication)
- Mr. Mohammad Adnan, Director (Trade and Investment)
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Muhammad Muqeeq Asim Shah, Assistant Director (IR)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, Persian Interpreter/Translator
