



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)
SECRETARIAT
(TEHRAN)

Statements

By

The Foreign Ministers/Heads of Delegations

(The 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers, 22 December, 2010, Istanbul)

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Statement by H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting
(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

**Excellency Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu,
Excellency Secretary General
Excellencies Ministers
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address the 19th ECO Council of Ministers' Meeting and I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you Minister Davutoglu and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 11th ECO Summit Meeting in the beautiful city of Istanbul, a city which only 50 days ago on November 2-3, 2010 was host to another important event namely the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA IV).

Excellency Minister Davutoglu,

Let me congratulate you on your election as chairman of the ECO Council of Ministers. It is my earnest conviction that under your stewardship, the Organization will witness greater successes and accomplishments. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent and able chairmanship since previous Council of Ministers Meeting and allow me to congratulate His Excellency Ali Akbar Salehi, for his appointment as the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Let me also commend H.E. Secretary General and his team for preparing a comprehensive report and timely preparation of documents for this year's Meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

As Secretary General's report indicates, since our last meeting in March 2009, we have had considerable achievements in various areas of the organization's activities.

Progress in the area of trade and investment promotion within the ECO region is encouraging. ECO Trade Agreement is receiving further support by the member states which will help us move towards establishing a Free Trade Area in the region by 2015.

There is however, much to be done to meet the full trade potential in the ECO region and to increase the share of our region in the global trade.

Afghanistan attaches great importance to trade promotion particularly with the ECO member states and I am confident that the implementation of Afghanistan Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement as an excellent example of a bilateral trade and transit cooperation agreement will have a huge contribution to regional trade and connectivity.

I am pleased to see that that the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade will be held in Kabul in June 2011 which will undoubtedly offer us an excellent opportunity to discuss a variety of issues pertaining to trade promotion and facilitation in our region.

Mr. Chairman,

The role of private sector in regional projects is ought to be strengthened and investment opportunities in the ECO region needs to be further promoted. We, on our part, are trying to create an enabling environment to support investment in Afghanistan.

As part of these efforts we held the First International Investment Conference on Afghanistan on November 30th this year in Dubai with the cooperation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, where participants agreed to establish “The Afghanistan International Investment Friends” in order to help the Government of Afghanistan to accelerate efforts to develop sufficient economic capacity and continue enacting appropriate policies, laws and regulations to promote and protect investment, economic growth and employment generation in Afghanistan.

We recognize, however that enhancing trade and investment opportunities requires improved connectivity and development of infrastructure.

As H.E. President Karzai stated in his important speech in the Kabul Conference of July 20th this year, Afghanistan in the future will be the nexus of regional economic cooperation and we are committed to share the benefits of Afghanistan’s centrality with our neighbors and countries in the region particularly the ECO member states to increase transit of goods and energy as well as movement of people within our region.

Our national road and railway programs have been precisely designed to serve this important vision of Afghanistan for regional cooperation.

It was in September this year that the ECO Truck Caravan passed along some of the newly built regional, national and provincial roads across the northern Afghanistan which is clearly indicative of the progress made in the implementation of our National Road Program.

Moreover, considerable progress has been made on the extension of regional railways to Afghanistan and through Afghanistan to other countries including the railway route from China along Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan to Afghanistan, and through Afghanistan to Iran, Turkey and Europe.

In this connection, I am pleased to refer to the construction of the Hiratan – Mazar-e-Sharif railway which will be completed in the next few weeks; the ongoing construction of the Sangam-herat

railway and the ongoing preparation of the pre-feasibility study report for the Kandahar- Chaman railway.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Energy cooperation needs to remain on the top of our activities within the organization. Progress made on TAPI Gas Pipeline and CASA 1000 projects are promising and with signing of the two important agreements on TAPI on December 11th this year, we are now one crucial step closer to the implementation of this large scale regional project.

I hope that the Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation 2010-2015 which has recently been approved in the Second ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Petroleum, will help the member states foster and strengthen various areas of energy cooperation in the ECO region.

Another key area of cooperation in our organization is agriculture. Given the high dependency of the Afghan population on agricultural productivity and the growing food needs, we attach special importance to sustainable agriculture development and food security in Afghanistan.

We appreciate those available areas of agricultural cooperation which have special focus on Afghanistan and while engaging actively in the activities of the ECO Seed Association, we are expecting to further benefit from the existing programs such as the ECO Regional Program for Food Security and the Technical Cooperation Program on Strengthening the Seed Supply as well as the newly proposed programs and institutions in the area of agriculture development.

Other areas of cooperation in our organization such as industry, health, natural disaster management, environment and human resources development have also witnessed considerable achievements.

On fighting narcotics, terrorism and organized crime, a set of various meetings and training programs have been held within the organization to improve coordination and strengthen the member states capacity in fighting the menaces of these daunting threats.

These challenges, being regional in nature and interconnected, continue to threaten our societies. Success in defeating these challenges requires an integrated and comprehensive approach as well as increased regional efforts and continued international support.

As part of efforts to this end, we need to strengthen our cross-border cooperation including greater inter-security agency coordination and information sharing among the member states.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Despite our joint and continued efforts in various areas of cooperation within our organization, our achievements still do not match the enormous economic potential exists in our region. We must intensify our efforts to further expand and diversify the organization's activities and move towards further strengthening ECO as an efficient and dynamic organization. We must further focus on long-term strategic plans with measurable targets and benchmarks.

To this end, the expansion of the organization's relations with international and regional organizations must be pursued more effectively and we welcome the adoption of the Plan of Action for Enhancement of External Relations of ECO.

We appreciate the decision by the Secretariat to become a member of the High-Level Core Group of Regional Bodies on Afghanistan which was established in the Meeting of Regional Bodies held on July 19th, 2010 in Kabul.

We also appreciate the active participation of the ECO Secretariat and the member states at the meetings of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) as the only Afghanistan-focused regional economic cooperation framework and look forward to the establishment of a continued cooperation framework between the ECO Secretariat and the Centre for Regional Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan which serves as the Secretariat for both RECCA and the High-Level Core Group of Regional Bodies on Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

We are grateful for the contributions made to the Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan and for the approval of our proposed projects. We are in the process of preparing a new list of priority projects which we hope to be approved by the organization.

I would also like to emphasize the need for support by the Secretariat and the member states to the work of ECO Park in Herat which is devoted to ECO to symbolize the importance of regional cooperation and friendship within our organization.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government of Afghanistan, while being committed towards the Organization's goals and objectives as outlined in the Treaty of Azmir and ECO Vision 2015 is striving to further involve in the ECO activities including those of the Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions and is hence keen to continue hosting more of the ECO events in Afghanistan.

At the end, let me once again express my gratitude to you Mr. Chairman for hosting this important meeting of the Council of Ministers and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Thank you.

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting
(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)**

**Dear Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to express our deep gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for a traditionally warm Turkish hospitality and impeccable organization of the meeting.

This meeting is a culmination of another round of consistent cooperative efforts within the ECO aimed at bringing positive changes for the development and prosperity in our increasingly important region.

Dear Colleagues,

The Republic of Azerbaijan attaches high importance to cooperation with this organization and its member states. We are certain that the decisions of today's meeting would become important steps on a way of reinvigorating the Organization, increasing its effectiveness and responding to challenges in the region.

Let me stop only on a few of many various projects in our region. Bearing in mind that transport is a key constituent area of cooperation within the ECO and an essential prerequisite for regional trade development, we consider that it is necessary to exert efforts towards early completion of the major regional railway projects, namely Baku-Tabilisi-Kars and Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran) – Astara (Azerbaijan), which will for sure benefit the countries of the ECO region.

Pursuing the policy of development of transit potential, Azerbaijan strives to diversify and modernize its transport infrastructure, which will serve the interconnection of the Trans-European and Trans-Asian railway networks. Along with this, the construction of the New International Sea Trade Port and its International Logistic Centre will significantly increase the competitiveness of the international transport corridors and transit capacity of the countries of the region.

Azerbaijan is active in realization of the energy projects, which will play a prominent role in diversification of supply of hydrocarbon resources, enhancement of energy security and boost the economies of the involved countries, including those of ECO member states, which are involved in these projects.

Despite the positive developments in the ECO, we can not be fully satisfied with the progress and believe that the real potential of the Organization still remains untapped. To fully realize it the ECO member states need to continue the process of reforms aimed at improvement of the efficiency of our Organization.

We need to bring the overall organizational setup of the ECO in accordance with the needs and challenges of our countries and of the whole region. We have succeeded in the establishment of the ECO as a full-fledged organization, however, it needs to be operated efficiently and in concert. To improve this situation common and shared vision, as well as strong commitment and engagement of all the ECO member states is very essential.

Our activities should become more focused, project-oriented, particularly in the planning and implementation phases. Moreover, it should be based on certain priorities and be relevant to our organizational capacities and limited resources. We are confident that the prioritization of cooperation fields, as well as increasing of the efficiency of the ECO working and expert groups would boost an overall effectiveness of our Organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While setting the reforming guidelines it is crucial that the challenges of political, social and humanitarian character encountered by the member states be adequately addressed by the Organization. One can not talk genuinely of the regional cooperation when we still, unfortunately, have places of instability across our region. The unresolved and protracted conflicts possess the most serious risks and challenges that our region and the Organization face. We should undertake more resolute attempts to address the settlement of these conflicts.

As you are all aware, the occupation of almost 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan by neighbouring Armenia and the existence of around 1 million refugees and IDPs in my country remains one of the major impediments for the development, prosperity and security of the whole ECO region.

Azerbaijan stands ready for a speedy resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict based on restoration of my country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. I am thankful to the Organization and its member states for the support they extended to Azerbaijan's position in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Republic of Azerbaijan stands ready to play a proactive role in developing cooperation within the ECO and will continue to strive along with other member states towards the realization of rich potential of our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.

In the Name of Allah

Statement of H.E. Ali Akbar Salehi, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting (Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

**Your Excellency Dr. Ahmet Davutogulu,
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Turkey
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It's a great honour for me to be among my colleagues in the 19th Council of Ministers. At the outset, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey especially H.E. Dr. Davutoglu the honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Here in the beautiful city of Istanbul and in an atmosphere full of friendship and brotherhood, we have the opportunity to consider issues related to the region and the world as well as to take more effective steps towards furtherance of cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organization.

**Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Spreading over more than 8 million square kilometres, ECO Region possesses the most strategic positions in the world geography. Huge energy resources including oil, gas and water, minerals and boundless natural and agricultural bounties and above all the huge human resource of 400 million inhabitants with long time cultural and historical bonds have granted the region a remarkable position and status which needs collective effort in order to be optimally benefited from.

Special circumstances are currently existing in our region and the world. Like many other regions and countries, ECO States have also been hit by the global financial crisis. In order to mitigate the negative impacts of such a crisis, besides national measures, we have to attach special significance to multilateral measures in the framework of regional organizations like ECO.

Fortunately, while having established necessary institutional structures, ECO has been able to create broad relations with international and regional organizations and institutions and to develop a framework of regional cooperation in various areas and sub-areas. Organizing regulation COM's and Summits as well as Expert and Ministerial Meetings in various fields have established a proper organizational framework to carry out the relevant activities. In essence, the participation of member states at various levels and fields of decision making has been institutionalized.

On the other hand, in recent years, since the Organization has adopted a practical and project-oriented strategy, we had a successful implementation of regional projects. In trade and investment sector we have been witnessing the active role of ECO Trade and Development Bank in financing important national and regional projects in ECO Member States. We hope that as the members and contributions to this bank increase, it could become one of the influential financial institutions in the region. We also hope that through the removal of some technical difficulties in the

implementation of ECOTA, it could be implemented more expeditiously. At this juncture, I am pleased to inform the Council that my government very recently submitted the positive list for the first year of implementation of ECOTA.

In transport sector in recent years, impressive advancements have been achieved.

ECO has the capacity to become one of the most important and influential organizations of the region. This is reiterated by the political will of the member states which has been expressed and institutionalized at the highest possible level. It is known by the experience of recent years that in case of elimination of the barriers, ECO could implement very important and effective projects.

Moreover, it appears that, in the current circumstances and in order to perform its ever increasing duties, ECO Secretariat needs to strengthen its human resources in terms of quality and quantity. This is so serious that it would overshadow all activities of the Organization. Therefore, while carefully observing the staff regulations at the time of recruitment individuals and attaching special importance to their qualifications and expertise, we have to address the need to increase the number of staff members especially in professional levels at the Secretariat. Increasing the participation of ECO Member States particularly in technical and sectoral areas through establishing national mechanisms and strengthening their interactions with ECO Secretariat is also among other issues which needs serious consideration.

In order to take up the above proposals, ECO Secretariat, with the active participation of its Member States and taking advantage of technical capacities of other regional and international organizations as well as hiring international consultants, could conduct a study with the view of reviewing strategies, programs and plans and strengthening capacity building in Member States. The result of such a study could be used in revising of ECO Vision 2015. Islamic Republic of Iran hereby announces its readiness to assist the Secretariat to carry out the study.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

Expansion of ECO international relations as well as strengthening its convergence approach through developing working relations with other regional and international organization especially with those we have signed MOU's or bilateral, multilateral agreements is of great importance. In this connection we have to avoid decentralization and make sure these relations are aimed at strengthening ECO's programs and expediting the implementation of projects.

I'm confident it's not far that our Organization becomes a perfect example of regional cooperation. We have to strive to remove shortcomings and barriers and strengthen spirit of cooperation, partnership, interaction and motivations among ECO family in order to perform our organizational commitments and duties with the view of increasing the role of ECO in the region and making it an efficient instrument to secure our economic, political and even security interests of Member States. We hope that by strengthening this trend we could witness the realization of ECO objectives as envisaged in Vision 2015.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization which has placed a high priority on ECO programs, will continue to utilize its capacities and capabilities toward the economic growth and development of political and cultural relations in the region.

Once again I would like to express my thanks to the brotherly and friendly Government of the Republic of Turkey, particularly to H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu the honorable Foreign Minister for their cordial hospitality and organizing this meeting. I also would like to express my gratitude to the honourable Secretary General of ECO and all the concerned staff members of the Secretariat for all the efforts they have made to prepare the documents of this meeting.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Statement by Mr. K.Sarybai Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting**

(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

**Honourable Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Esteemed Secretary General,**

It is a great honor and privilege for me to speak on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan before the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting in the city of Istanbul.

While expressing our sincere sympathies as regards to the devastating floods which have taken place in Pakistan, on behalf of the Kazakhstan Delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to convey our profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its generous gesture extended to the brotherly Pakistan in hosting this Meeting.

I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to our Delegation and enabling a friendly ambiance for this event.

I wish to congratulate His Excellency on his assumption of the Chairmanship of the 19th Council of Ministers Meeting. We are all looking forward to benefiting from the fruitful outcomes that this meeting would result under his able chairmanship and I assure H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu of Kazakhstan's whole hearted support in making the Meeting a great success.

Mr. Chairman,

As the world is gradually recovering from the global economic crisis, the upward trends in ECO's real economy growth at an estimated 5 percent rate during 2010 reflects the region's strong resilience to potential post-crisis level.

As an example, in Kazakhstan, owing to the immediate measures taken by the government to stabilize the economy, the country's real GDP growth during the first half of the current year rebounded to 8 percent rate.

In terms of real sector stabilization during crisis years in 2008-2009, Kazakhstan has injected over 15 billion US dollars (15% GDP) to overcome negative impact of the financial crises. In the meantime, investor confidence has gradually restored. Inward Foreign Direct Investment flows neared 7 billion US dollars. The country's outward investments reached 5 billion US dollars in 2009.

During 2010, Kazakhstan has launched the Program for Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development under which the public and private resources are now being used for specific diversification initiatives. Productivity, innovation and value chain production have become the main drivers of the Program. As a result of timely steps, unemployment declined to pre-crisis

levels and stood at 5.6 percent for 9-month period in 2010. Over the same period, an average inflation rate was recorded at low 6.2 percent. Social safety nets provided most needed support to individual households. Growth is now back on track, and the economy is preparing to breakthrough in its innovative industries.

Mr. Chairman,

Developing Asia is now becoming a “locomotive” of world economy. In this regard, it accounts to nearly half of total world’s growth. Given this background, more and more regional states are now following an ever increasing trend towards regionalism, namely, resolving complex economic challenges in a concerted manner.

Bearing in mind that trade is one of the priorities in ECO’s development agenda, and as such it has been highlighted in the ECO Vision 2015, we note with satisfaction that the Organization has shown healthy performance. The overall trade volume in ECO accounts to an estimated 2.0 percent share in world’s overall trade. This is an impressive indicator which is competitive with that of other regional organizations, including ASEAN. Likewise, the FDI inward flows to ECO region over period 2004-2009 accounted for over 2.0 percent, on average, which was higher than in Central and Eastern Europe and in Emerging Economies.

Speaking of an individual country’s performance, I would like to note, that Kazakhstan’s overall trade volume during January-September 2010 has reached 61.5 billion US dollars showing 23.3 percent increase compared to the same period in 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

In the field of energy, sustainable production and consumption of energy resources are the core pillars of the long-term economic prosperity of the ECO region. In this domain, Kazakhstan apprehends to the interests which are common for energy suppliers, consumers and transporters in promoting global energy security. From this stance, Kazakhstan remains firmly committed to its strategy of diversification of export routes.

While diversifying our export routes, we continue exporting resources through Russia to Europe. In the same respect, we firmly follow our stance of expanding our hydrocarbon flows through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline upon the implementation of the Kazakhstan Caspian Transportation System (KCTS). The gas pipeline connected Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China and which became operative in recent year, along with the Western Kazakhstan-West China oil pipeline were very important.

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We also pay attention to the development of the transit and transportation capacity of the ECO. In particular, Kazakhstan has stated construction of the “West Europe – West China” road, “Zhetygen - Korgas” railway, as well as “Uzen – Kyzylkaya – Bereket – Etrek - Gorgan” new railway, which connected Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf.

Excellencies,

International partnerships within ECO are expanding. Specifically, ECO’s interaction with the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** is an ongoing process. Since June 2010 Kazakhstan is Chairing the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**. During our presidency we intend to continuously implement steps aimed at the main goals of the Organization, which are strengthening mutual confidence and good-neighborly relations and forging strong links with international and regional organizations.

I would like also mention here about importance of the ECO’s interaction with CICA, the process initiated by President of Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. N.A.Nazarbayev. Likewise, ECO’s initiative to combat drug trafficking to and from Afghanistan deserves mentioning as it involves a joint collaborative effort of ECO countries and the EU.

This direction becomes especially meaningful in the light of our efforts in the framework of the ECO to move towards a new regional model of financial and economic set up. If pursued along this path, the European countries could be involved through the OSCE’s economic dimension into the potential partnership with the ECO economies.

I would like to also emphasize the recent initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A.Nazarbayev to elaborate a new OSCE document in the economic and environment sphere of cooperation – “Maastricht+”. This document, as he said “should reflect current post-crises realities of the transformed world and its aim – to become a kind of roadmap in mid- and long term perspective”.

As you may know on 28-30th of June 2011, Kazakhstan will convene in Astana the 38th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the **Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)**, Chair this important political decision making body of the OIC. It is evident that all member countries of the ECO at the same time are members to the OIC. In this regard, I would like to highlight that our efforts towards integration in trade-and-economic spheres, are aligned with the existing agendas of both organizations in their pursuit of the common development goals.

Honourable Chairman,

The world community follows the process of rehabilitation of economy and stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan with increased attention. Our country supports the efforts of the

international community focused on the facilitation of reconstruction efforts in the country in partnership with the Afghan authorities including in the framework of the ECO.

In this regard, I would like to note that Kazakhstan initiated educational cooperation program for the Afghanistan and under this program Kazakhstan will allocate 50 million US dollars for education of 1000 afghan citizens in Kazakhstan's higher education institutions in the years of 2010-2018.

The economic situation in Kyrgyzstan still remains fragile due to political events that occurred earlier this year. Kazakhstan stands for stability in Kyrgyzstan and has already provided relief to bring the situation in this neighboring country to normalcy.

In 2011, Kazakhstan plans to host an International donor conference aimed at assisting revival of the economy of Kyrgyz Republic. Along this part, Kazakhstan has called on the world community to develop a large-scale International Relief Plan for Kyrgyzstan. We hope that the new Kyrgyz leadership will attract more investment and the economic situation in this brotherly republic be improved soon.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,**

Taken in their integrity the above mentioned efforts will surely provide a strong foundation for the next phase of ECO's economic development. ECO has risen to the challenge of the global economic crisis and is firmly on course towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

The task before ECO today is not an easy one. However, it is the time that demands transformation. It demands change, and boldness, and courage.

In conclusion, may I acknowledge with appreciation the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of this Meeting provided by the Government of the Republic of Turkey and ECO Secretary General's sterling contribution.

Thank you.

**Statement by H. E. A. K. Isaev, Stats-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Kyrgyz Republic at 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting**

(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

**Distinguished Chairman,
Distinguished Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Head of Delegations
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Guests,**

{0>От имени делегации Кыргызской Республики и от себя лично позвольте приветствовать всех участников, а также поздравить турецких братьев с принятием председательства в ОЭС.<}0{>I would like to welcome all participants on behalf of the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic and on my own behalf, also congratulate our brotherly Turkish country on its assumption of the ECO Chairmanship.<0}

{0>Одновременно хочу выразить искреннюю благодарность Правительству Турецкой Республики за гостеприимство и радушный прием.<}42{>At the same time express my sincere thanks to the Government of Turkey for extending warm hospitality and cordial reception.<0}

{0>По нашему, заслуживает высокой оценки председательство в ОЭС в период с 2009 по 2010 наших Иранских друзей, а также подготовительная работа, проделанная всеми должностными лицами и сотрудниками Секретариата ОЭС во главе с уважаемым Генеральным секретарем ОЭС мохаммадом Маруфи.<}0{>We believe that Chairmanship of our friendly country Iran in ECO during the period of 2009-2010 and preparatory work done by all officials and employees of ECO Secretariat headed by H.E. Mr. M. Yahya Maroofi, Distinguished Secretary General deserve high appreciation.<0}

{0>**Уважаемый г-н Председатель**<}97{>**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,**<0}

{0>**Уважаемые коллеги**<}94{>**Distinguished colleagues,**<0}

{0>2010 год ознаменовался кардинальными общественно-политическими изменениями в нашей стране, став периодом серьезных испытаний, проверкой на прочность народного единства и государственной целостности республики.<}0{>2010 was marked by cardinal political changes in our country, becoming the period of serious tests, check for durability of national unity and the state integrity of the Republic.<0} {0>В стране принята новая Конституция, в соответствии с которой проведены выборы депутатов в Парламент.<}0{>In the country, the new Constitution was adopted according to which an election of deputies in Parliament was held.<0}

{0}>Сегодня независимый Кыргызстан проходит трудный путь перехода к парламентской форме правления.<}0{>Today independent Kyrgyzstan passes a difficult way of junction to the parliamentary form of government.<0} {0}>На сегодня избран Парламент, создано и утверждено новое Правительство Кыргызстана.<}0{>As of today the Parliament is elected, the new Government of Kyrgyzstan is established and approved.<0}

{0}>Мы высоко ценим помощь и поддержку братских государств, оказываемую сегодня Кыргызской Республике, от которой в немалой степени зависит успех реализации намеченных нами целей по реализации общественно-политических реформ в стране.<}0{>We highly appreciate the assistance and support of the brotherly states extended today to the Kyrgyz Republic on which the successful achievement of our purposes on realisation of political reforms in the country depends in no small way.<0}

{0}>Пользуясь возможностью, хочу выразить искренние слова признательности от имени Правительства страны и Кыргызского народа за предоставляемую Организацией и ее странами-членами моральную, гуманитарную и материально-техническую помощь Кыргызской Республике, позволяющую успешно преодолевать трудности на пути стабилизации ситуации в стране.<}0{>Taking this opportunity I would like to express sincere words on behalf of the Government and Kyrgyz people: gratitude to the Organization and its member countries for providing moral, humanitarian and material assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic which enables to overcome difficulties successfully on a way for stabilisation of a situation in the country.<0}

{0}>Сегодня завершаются строительные работы, проводимые Правительством Кыргызской Республики при активном содействии УВКБ ООН, по восстановлению разрушенных домов на юге Кыргызстана.<}0{>Today construction works on restoration of the destroyed houses in the south of Kyrgyzstan conducted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with active assistance of UN УВКБ are being completed.<0} {0}>Мы обращались к Генеральному секретарю ОЭС, что может послужить огромным подспорьем в деле укрепления межнационального согласия в Кыргызстане и продемонстрирует дух единства и солидарности стран-членов нашей организации.<}0{>We addressed to ECO Secretary General that can serve as huge help in strengthening of the international consent in Kyrgyzstan and will demonstrate spirit of unity and solidarity of member states of our Organisation.<0}

{0}>Ваше Превосходительство Генеральный секретарь<}67{>**His Excellency Secretary General,**<0}

{0}>и многоуважаемые Главы делегаций,<}59{>**Distinguished Heads of Delegations,**<0}

{0}>Хотел бы заверить Вас, что Кыргызстан продолжает рассматривать ОЭС как перспективную организацию и намерен и впредь активно участвовать в ее деятельности.<}0{>I would like to assure you, that Kyrgyzstan continues to consider ECO as the perspective organisation and is intended and actively henceforth to participate in its activity.<0}

{0}>Сегодня ОЭС является важной составляющей в проводимой нашей страной линии на развитие многостороннего сотрудничества со странами региона и подключение к региональным интеграционным процессам.<}0{>Today ECO is the important component in a link conducted by our country on development of multilateral cooperation among member states of region and joining regional integration processes.<0}

{0}>Мы убеждены, что структура нашей Организации должна быть открытой, транспарентной и равноправной, основывающаяся на верховенстве международного права и учета законных интересов всех стран-членов.<}0{>We are convinced that the structure of our Organization is to be open, transparency and equal in rights based on leadership of international law and on accounting of legitimate interests of all member states.<0}

{0}>Сегодня наши интеграционные устремления сталкиваются порой с трудностями в практической реализации решений по основным направлениям деятельности в рамках ОЭС.<}0{>Today our integration endeavours face at times difficulties in practical implementations of decisions in the main directions of activity within the ECO.<0} {0}>Мы должны выйти на новый уровень сотрудничества в современных условиях, выработать совместные меры по снижению риска влияния последствий мирового финансового и экономического кризиса в регионе ОЭС, оказывающих отрицательное воздействие на финансово -экономическое положение наших стран.<}36{>We should go into new level of cooperation in modern conditions, make joint efforts on decrease of the world financial and economic crisis impact in ECO region rendering a negative effect on financial and economic position of our countries.<0}

{0}>Мы приветствуем создание Банка торговли и развития ОЭС и работаем над возможностью членства КР в этом важном региональном финансовом учреждении.<}44{>We welcome the establishment of ECO Trade and Development Bank and Kyrgyzstan considers a possibility of joining to this important financial institute.<0}

{0}>Совместно с другими странами ОЭС, мы активно участвуем в работе по развитию транспортных коридоров Восток-Запад и Север-ЮГ, что дает странам ЦА возможность выхода к Персидскому заливу.<}56{>Kyrgyzstan together with other ECO countries actively participates in work on development of the transport corridors East-West and North-South that provides opportunity to Central Asia to get access to Persian Gulf. <0} {0}>Придаем большое значение продвижению проекта строительства железной дороги Узбекистан – Кыргызстан – Китай, который включен в Стамбульскую декларацию и программу действий ОЭС по развитию транспорта и коммуникаций в регионе ОЭС.<}81{>We also give a great value to advancement of Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan–China railway construction project which is included in the Istanbul declaration and ECO Action program on development of transport and communications in the ECO region.<0}

{0}>Как известно в настоящее время центрально-азиатские республики, наряду с последствиями мирового финансового кризиса также переживают энергетический кризис.<}0{>As it is known now the Central-Asian Republics along with the world financial crisis impacts also suffer an energy crisis.<0} {0}>В этой связи Кыргызстан примет самое активное участие в реализации проектов в сфере энергетики.<}35{>In this regards, Kyrgyzstan will take active participation in the projects implementation in power field.<0}

{0}>Мы также приветствуем все большую роль, которую начинает играть Всемирный банк в реализации региональных проектов ОЭС в области электроэнергетики.<}0{>We also welcome increasing role which starts to play the World Bank in implementation of ECO regional projects in the field of power industry.<0} {0}>В числе таких проектов можно отметить ОЭС проект передачи электроэнергии, который предполагает экспорт электроэнергии из

Таджикистана, Кыргызстана и других ЦА государств на быстро растущий рынок Афганистана и Пакистана.< }0{>Among such projects it might be noted ECO power transmission project which assumes export of the electric power from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and other Central-Asia states on fast boosting market of Afghanistan and Pakistan.< }0{>В этом плане, одним из перспективных проектов является проект CASA 1000.< }34{>In this regard, one of perspective projects is CASA-1000 project.< }

{0}>В данном контексте хотелось бы отметить, что последствия революционных событий на экономику Кыргызстана, в особенности на ее сельскохозяйственный сектор привели к угрозе продовольственной безопасности в республике.< }0{>In the given context it would be noted that revolutionary events impacts on economy of Kyrgyzstan, in particular on its agricultural sector caused threats for food safety in the Republic.< }0{>По предварительной оценке продовольственной и сельскохозяйственной программы ООН (ФАО) в 2010 г. ожидается снижение показателей урожайности.< }0{>According to preliminary estimation for the UN FAO Food and Agricultural Program in 2010 productivity indicators decreasing is expected.< }

{0}>В этой связи Кыргызская сторона выражает надежду на скорейшее рассмотрение Исламским банком развития вопроса финансирования национальных проектов по Кыргызстану в рамках Региональной программы ОЭС по продовольственной безопасности.< }0{>In this regard, Kyrgyzstan expresses hope for early consideration of their national projects upon Regional program for food security by the Islamic Development Bank for financing.< }

{0}>Подводя итоги, мы призываем все страны-члены внимательнее присмотреться к значительному водно-энергетическому, транзитно-транспортному и ресурсному потенциалу Кыргызстана.< }0{>Summing up we urge all member-states to look narrowly at Hydropower, transit-transport and resource potential of Kyrgyzstan more attentively.< }0{>В первую очередь – к широким возможностям нашей страны стать одним из основных стран-экспортеров электроэнергии в регионе и важным звеном в системе транспортно-транзитных коридоров между странами-членами ОЭС и Китаем.< }0{>First of all, attention is to be paid to wide capabilities of our country to become one of the fundamental countries-exporters of the power supply in region and the important link in transport-transit corridors between ECO member-states and China.< }0{>Таким образом, мы рассчитываем на укрепление инвестиционного, технологического и торгово-экономического сотрудничества с нашей страной в рамках ОЭС.< }34{>Thus we expect for enhancing of investment, technological and trade and economic cooperation with our country.< }

{0}>**Уважаемые коллеги,< }100{>Distinguished colleagues,< }**

{0}>Как вам известно, в соответствии с решениями 10-го совещания СМВД ОЭС (2000 г., Тегреан), каждая страна-член имеет право занимать хотя бы одну директорскую должность в Штаб-квартире ОЭС.< }41{>As you know, according to decisions of 10th ECO COM meeting (Tehran, 2000), each member-state has the right to hold at least one management post in ECO Secretariat.< }

{0}>Не скрою, что Кыргызская Республика, являясь полноправной страной-членом ОЭС, испытывает в данном вопросе некую дискриминацию со стороны стран-основателей нашей организации.<0}>I will not hide that the Kyrgyz Republic being full member-state experiences in the given question certain discrimination from the countries-founders of our Organisation.<0}> {0}>В связи с ущемлением наших прав в вопросе сбалансированного распределения директорских должностей в Штаб-квартире ОЭС, Кыргызская Республика вполне справедливо выставила в прошлом году свою кандидатуру и вот уже больше года добивается ее назначения на должность Директора по устойчивому развитию и человеческим ресурсам ОЭС, занимаемую Турцией.<0}>In connection with infringement of our rights in assignment of management posts in ECO Secretariat, the Kyrgyz Republic quite fairly nominated its candidate last year and here more than one year tries to get his appointment to the post of the Director for human resources and sustainable development taken by Turkey.<0}>

{0}>К сожалению, по итогам многочисленных переговоров между странами-членами, не удалось придти к консенсусу по вопросу назначения на эту должность кандидатуру Кыргызстана либо Турции.<0}>Unfortunately, upon of numerous negotiations between member-states it was not possible to come to a consensus concerning appointment of a nominee of Kyrgyzstan or Turkey.<0}> {0}>Однако, в процессе двухсторонних контактов между двумя странами, наблюдались положительные сдвиги, способствовавшие нахождению обоюдно выгодного компромисса.<0}>However, in the course of bilateral contacts between two countries, the positive outcomes promoting mutually favourable compromise were noticed.<0}>

{0}>Отмечая вышеизложенное, а также полное соответствие и высокую квалифицированность нашей кандидатуры представленной на эту должность, обращаюсь к нашим турецким братьям и без того оказывающим всемерную поддержку моей стране, ознаменовать наш сегодняшний форум принятием справедливого решения по восстановлению представительства Кыргызстана в Штаб-квартире ОЭС.<0}>Emphasizing above said and also complete conformity and high qualification of our candidate nominated to this post I address to our Turkish brothers providing all-round support to my country even without that, to mark our today's forum adoption of the fair decision on restoration of representation of Kyrgyzstan in ECO Secretariat.<0}>

{0}>**Уважаемые участники,**<100}>**Distinguished Participants,**<0}>

{0}>В заключение своего выступления хочу выразить надежду на то, что в скором будущем, принимаемые проекты экономической интеграции в рамках нашей организации получат новое дыхание и дополнительное ускорение.<0}>In conclusion of my speech I do hope that in the near future, approved projects on economic integration within the framework of our Organisation will receive new breath and additional acceleration.<0}> {0}>Надеюсь, что нынешняя встреча продемонстрирует всем, что наши страны все больше осознают себя, как единое сообщество, готовое брать на себя ответственность – как за собственное экономическое благополучие, так и за решение проблем региона.<0}>I do hope, that this meeting will demonstrate everyone, that our countries realise themselves as the uniform community, ready to assume the responsibility both for own economic wellbeing and for the solving the problems of region.<0}>

{0}>Позвольте еще раз поблагодарить братский народ Турции за отличную работу организацию совещания 19-го Совета Министров ОЭС, пожелать успешной работы предстоящему Саммиту ОЭС, а также поздравить всех с наступающим Новым 2011 годом и пожелать всем мира и процветания.<}0{>I would like to thank once again fraternal people of Turkey for excellent organisation of this19th ECO COM and wish successful work on forthcoming ECO Summit and also congratulate all with coming New Year 2011 and wish peace and prosperity.<0}

{0}>Благодарю за внимание<}96{>Thank you for your kind attention!<0}

**Statement by .H. E Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister
of Pakistan at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting**
(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

**Your Excellency
Professor Ahmet Davutoglu
Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey**

Mr. Yahya Maroofi

Secretary General of ECO

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great honour and privilege for me to represent Pakistan at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers' meeting in the historic city of Istanbul.

I would first like to avail myself of this opportunity to convey, on behalf of Pakistan delegation, and on my own behalf, our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Summit and extending warm reception and generous hospitality to us.

Pakistan-Turkey friendship is time tested and unique. Our brotherhood is based on centuries old bonds of history, culture, faith and traditions. We always have a special place for each other in our hearts.

The cultural and spiritual links between our two peoples are abiding as they are deep. Maulana Rumi and Allama Iqbal epitomize the essence of our mystical and philosophical traditions. They are eternal symbols of our glorious past.

I am pleased to re-visit Istanbul, the beautiful, cultural and commercial capital of Turkey. A city that truly reflects the grandeur of our rich and common history and our collective heritage. Thus, an appropriate venue for the 11th ECO Summit.

I would like to extend my warmest felicitations to you, my brother and friend, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Council of Ministers. We are confident that under your able, sagacious and experienced leadership this meeting will be a great success.

May I also express our deep appreciation to my Iranian colleague for steering this body with distinction for the past year.

Our appreciation is also due to His Excellency Mr. Yahya Maroofi, Secretary General of ECO and his team from the Secretariat for successfully organizing this important event.

Excellencies,

The theme of this Summit is of great importance. Five years ago, we agreed on Vision 2015. It charted out a pragmatic roadmap for the next ten years. This is, therefore, an appropriate occasion for mid-term review and stock taking.

While we take great deal of satisfaction in having achieved substantial results, we are still far from realizing the lofty objectives of an integrated, inter-connected and prosperous region.

Excellencies,

The ECO member States share many commonalities, which bind us all into a cohesive fraternity. We are heirs of a rich cultural heritage. Our region is equally rich in resources, both human and material.

As one of the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Pakistan firmly believes that this important Organization has great potential for contributing to the achievement of economic progress and prosperity in the ECO region. Our commitment to the goals and objectives of the ECO stems from this very strong conviction.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to note that the ECO has emerged as a dynamic organization with the passage of time. It is characterized by a strong institutional framework, an active interaction with other regional and global bodies and an all-compassing agenda.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Global peace, stability and prosperity are indivisible. The global effects of economic and financial turmoil are not far behind us. We need to devise mechanisms to effectively respond to contemporary challenges with enthusiasm and dedication.

The global financial crisis has not been the sole setback. There is a plethora of challenges threatening the region. Terrorism, drug-trafficking, trans-national organized crime and natural disasters are undermining our efforts to contribute to the economic progress and prosperity of the people. This calls for innovative approaches and focused attention on socio-eco development.

Excellencies,

It is our primary responsibility to make the Secretariat as strong and as viable as possible so that its capacity to deliver in an efficient manner does not get adversely affected. My delegation, therefore, urges all member states to make timely contributions towards its budget.

One of the fundamental objectives of the ECO is to ensure liberalization of trade through lowering trade barriers. The ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), therefore, remains at the heart of ECO's ambition to establish within the region, a free trade area by 2015. The ECO Vision 2015 justifiably accords it the top priority. The Agreement has the potential to create vast opportunities for the economic uplift of our peoples. Together with the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), it can prove to be the engine of growth in the region.

I am happy to report that Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to implement ECOTA bilaterally. We are also pleased that Afghanistan too has conveyed the Positive, Negative and Sensitive lists in the context of ECOTA. We are hopeful that the other signatories would provide the necessary Lists at an early date so that this important Agreement is implemented in the near future. At the same time, Pakistan strongly urges the non-Signatories to join this Agreement.

What trade is to the prosperity in the region, connectivity is to the trade. The Development of an efficient and modern transportation and communication network among the ECO Member States is an important factor in expansion of trade and socio-economic integration. Pakistan welcomes the commencement of the ECO Islamabad – Tehran – Istanbul Container Train which had its inaugural run in August last year.

The recent launch of the ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan is a very important milestone achieved by the Organization. This linkage would not only help boost trade but also serve as an effective vehicle to increase people to people contacts and promote tourism among the member countries. We hope that this Caravan, like the ECO Container Train would be able to start its regular run in the near future.

The existence of trade, transit and transport corridors across the region will guarantee economic development and the prosperity of our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is heartening to note that the ECO Trade and Development Bank has started its operations. A Representative Office has been opened in Pakistan. We are confident that this project in tandem with the ECO Reinsurance Company, the latter when established, will play a crucial role in providing the necessary financial security to the business community of the ECO region. We request the remaining signatories to complete the necessary formalities for ratification of the Articles of Agreement for the establishment of the Re-insurance Company at an early date. I would invite the remaining Member States to join this project.

One of the objectives of the ECO, as stipulated in the Treaty of Izmir, is to enhance efforts for effective utilization of the agricultural potentials of the region. Vision 2015 also envisages food and security for the region. The agriculture sector is of immense importance for the ECO Member States as it plays a key role in employment, exports, food security and provision of raw materials. It, therefore, requires greater attention.

Conservation of water in the face of higher growth rate in developing countries demands our full attention at the regional level. The ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water should go a long way to serve as a regional resource hub for addressing water related issues in our region. I request all Member States to actively support its early establishment in Pakistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan attaches great importance to science and technology for the advancement of our countries. The Treaty of Izmir envisaged the establishment of ECO Science Foundation as a Specialized Agency of ECO. The foundation would not only function as a reservoir of highly skilled scientific and technical manpower, but also facilitate promotion of scientific research among the Member States.

Unfortunately, this important Foundation has not been able to start functioning despite a lapse of many years. However, we have recently made positive headway. The Basic Documents of the Foundation have been finalized during the 2nd Experts Groups Meeting held in Tehran on 30-31 August, 2010.

Pakistan will be hosting the 1st meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation in January 2011. This meeting will render the Foundation operational. On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I would like to extend a cordial invitation to the Ministers for Science and Technology of the ECO member States to participate in this important meeting.

We welcome the establishment of the ECO Regional office on Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty, Kazakhstan. An operational linkage could be established between these two institutions to make them more useful and result-oriented.

One of the unique strengths of the ECO region is its richness in mineral and energy resources. This cumulative abundance of resources gives it an unparalleled advantage. Pakistan is keen to see proliferation of the infrastructure and energy projects in and across the ECO region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan has been at the forefront of ECO's efforts for the reconstruction of our brotherly neighbour, Afghanistan. We have pledged a total of US\$ 5 million and have thus far remitted US\$ 2 million. We are pleased to note that a lot of reconstruction activities in Afghanistan are taking place under the umbrella of this Organization.

Excellencies,

We have a vision for the region, the vision to see it transformed into a stable, peaceful, and prosperous area.

As a founding member of the ECO, Pakistan had associated itself with the Organization's activities with a sincerity of purpose. We are optimistic that the ECO has the ability to move ahead, faster. I reiterate Pakistan's commitment to contribute optimally for an early and full realization of ECO's objectives.

I wish the 19th Council of Ministers great success.

I thank you all.

**Statement by His Excellency Zarif Khamrokhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Tajikistan at the 19th ECO Council of Ministers' Meeting**

(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to welcome all participants of the 19th ECO Council of Ministers' meeting on the hospitable Turkish land and express gratitude to the Government and the people of Turkey for extending warm reception and generous hospitality to our work.

I would like to extend my warmest felicitations to you, Distinguished Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Council of Ministers and wish successes in your forthcoming activities. My appreciation is also to ECO Secretariat headed by His Excellency Mr. Yahya Maroofi, Secretary General of ECO for successfully organizing this important event.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cooperation in trade among ECO member-states plays a key role as the priority field. Considering the population growth and demand for more food, there is a genuine need to intensify cooperation in agriculture to solve the common issues and implement the agricultural potential. The Regional Program for Food Security (RPFS) prepared by FAO and ECO needs to become the main field for ECO agricultural cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The further decision for power supply is only possible through Hydropower development in ECO countries in general and in particular in Tajikistan, which has huge power generation potential. Unfortunately, nowadays Tajikistan uses only 5 % of power generation potential. However, in ECO countries namely Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran have demand for this production. In this context, earliest completion of the feasibility study of CASA-1000 project prepared by World Bank and its implementation for creation of the effective energy market in ECO region are most important.

{0>В этом контексте, особую значимость приобретает скорейшее завершение ТЭО проекта CASA-1000, подготовленная всемирном банком и его реализация для создания эффективного рынка энергии в регионе ОЭС<}>0{><0}

{0>Душанбинская декларация и новый План действий по сотрудничеству в энергетике/нефти 2005-2015 гг., принятые министрами энергетике/нефти стран ОЭС в октябре 2010 г. в Душанбе, также является важным механизмом для усиления сотрудничества стран в вопросах взаимосоединения энергосистем<}>37{>Dushanbe declaration and new Plan of Action for energy/petroleum cooperation in the ECO region (2005-2015) adopted by the ECO Ministerial meeting on energy/petroleum held in Dushanbe in October 2010 also is the main mechanism for enhancing interconnection of power systems.

{0>Для Таджикистана, который является развивающейся страной, не имеющей выхода к морю, решение проблемы транспортно-коммуникационной изоляции имеет жизненно важное значение.<}>45{>For Tajikistan, which is the developing and landlocked country the solving problems of the transport-communication isolation is vital.<0}

{0>Создание надежных и безопасных транспортных коридоров, обеспечивающих наименьшие издержки при транспортировке, будет содействовать ускорению темпов социально-экономического развития.<}>0{>Building-up of the reliable and safe transport corridors supplying the least costs at transportation, will promote enhancing social and economic development.<0}

Consideration of construction of roads, which would connect the countries of region and provide Central-Asian countries an access to ports of Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean is i{0>В наших общих интересах рассмотреть вопросы строительства дорог, которые соединили бы страны региона и обеспечили выход Центрально-азиатских стран к портам Персидского залива и Индийского океана.<}>0{n our common interest.<0}

{0>При этом речь идет здесь не только о создании современных коммуникаций, но и об обеспечении свободного передвижения товаров, рабочей силы и капитала, на пути которых порой воздвигаются искусственные барьеры.<}>0{>Thus this is not a question only of creation of modern communications but also about provision of free movement of the goods, labour and assets on which at time artificial barriers are raised.<0}

{0>В этой связи, особое значение приобретает выступившие в силу Рамочное соглашение по транзитным перевозкам (ТТФА), которое рассматривается как эффективная стратегия расширения торговли путем развития регионального транзитно-транспортного сотрудничества.<}>55{>In this regard, became effective mentioned Transit Transport Framework Agreement which is considered as an effective strategy for expanding trade by transit-transport regional cooperation. <0}

{0}>Уверены, что решения, принятые на прошедшей в начале ноября 2010 г. в Душанбе пятисторонней встрече министров транспорта, рассмотревшей вопросы объединения железнодорожных сетей Ирана- Афганистана- Таджикистана- Кыргызстана- Китая, придадут новый импульс для развития инфраструктуры ОЭС и выхода на качественно новый уровень в области транспортного сотрудничества.< }0{>We are confident that decisions taken by five-sided Ministerial meeting on transport held in the early November, 2010, in Dushanbe, which considered integration of the railway network of Iran-Afghanistan-Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-China, would give a new impulse for development of ECO infrastructure and qualitative new level in the field of transport cooperation.<0 }

{0}>Правительство Республики Таджикистан приветствует деятельность Координационного органа ОЭС по контролю за наркотиками и организованной преступностью.< }41{>The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan welcomes the ECO Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU).<0 } {0}>Пользуясь случаем еще раз, подтверждаю нашу заинтересованность по участию в работе совместного Центра планирования для обмена информацией между органами по борьбе с наркотиками Ирана, Афганистана и Пакистана.< }33{>Taking this opportunity I would like to confirm our interest on participating in work of the Joint Planning Center to exchange of information among Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan organisations on struggling against drugs. <0 }

{0}>Наиболее приемлемым путем реализации продуктивных программ, на наш взгляд, является создание **свободных экономических зон**.< }36{>One of the most comprehensible ways of implementation of efficient programmes, in our opinion, is creation of the **free economic areas**.<0 } {0}>Мы признательны Правительству Исламской Республики Иран за предоставление на своей территории земельных участков странам ОЭС для создания собственных свободных зон.< }39{>We are grateful to the Government of Islamic Republic Iran for the generous donation of its land to ECO countries for establishing their own free trade zones.<0 }

{0}>Республика Таджикистан со своей стороны также приглашает стран ОЭС к активному участию в подобных проектах.< }35{>The Republic of Tajikistan also calls the ECO member states to take part in such projects.<0 } {0}>В настоящий момент на территории Республики Таджикистан созданы две свободные экономические зоны Пяндж и Сугд, утверждены положения еще двух СЭЗ в Хатлонской области, а также в Горно-Бадахшанской автономной области, которые находятся вблизи границ наших стран.< }39{>As of today, in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan two free economic areas Pyandj and Sugd are established and position of two more Free economic zones are determined in Hatlon and GornoBadakhshan autonomous region, which are close to our countries borders.<0 }

Ladies and Gentlemen,

{0}>Республика Таджикистан придает большое значение экономическому сотрудничеству с Афганистаном и выступает за эффективное выполнение Плана действий ОЭС по восстановлению Афганистана.< }0{>The Republic of Tajikistan attaches great importance to economic cooperation with Afghanistan and supports effective implementation of the ECO Plan of Action ОЭС on reconstruction of Afghanistan.<0 } {0}>Мы можем внести значительный вклад в дело восстановления экономики Афганистана, согласно определенным Правительством

Афганистана приоритетным сферам.< } 0 { > We can generously contribute for reconstruction of Afghanistan economy, to priority spheres determined by the Government of Afghanistan.
< 0 } { 0 > Успешно работает межправительственная таджикско-афганская Комиссия по торгово-экономическому сотрудничеству, создана группа по организации пунктов приграничной торговли.< } 0 { > The intergovernmental Tajikistan-Afghanistan Commission on trade and economic cooperation is well functioning, the group on the organisation of trans-boundary trade points is established.< 0 }

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Tajikistan wellcomes all efforts made for boosting of efficiency of the Organization activity. We believe that radical reforms which should be aimed at the further boosting of output of ECO, rational selection of staff and also actualisation of Agenda of the Organization.

Thanks for your kind attention.

Statement H. E. Mr. Ahmed K. Gurbanov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to ECO in Tehran for the 19th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting

(Istanbul, 22 December, 2010)

Honourable Mr. Chairman!
Distinguished Foreign Ministers!
Distinguished Heads of delegations!
Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, let me express my gratitude to the Turkish side for the consent to host and hold the 19th meeting of ECO Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in a beautiful city of Istanbul and wish successful work to all participants.

Cooperation of Turkmenistan within ECO is an important component of good-neighborhood partnership with countries of the region, special attention to which is paid by the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov. The role of Turkmenistan in developing regional interaction is defined by such important factors as its big economic potential and favorable geopolitical location and also peaceful and good-neighborhood foreign policy course of the leadership. Priority directions of interaction with regional countries is cooperation development in trade and economic, transport and communication, fuel and energy and social-humanitarian fields.

I would like particularly focus on important transport & communication projects which once realized will play important role, first of all, in the development of trade and economic relations of the whole region. An example to this is Trans-Asian main railway line activities – “Tedzhen-Sarakhs-Meshhed” railway which has provided an access to Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea to the countries of the region. As known, opening ceremony of this railway has taken place within Fourth ECO Summit held in Ashkhabad in May 1996. Measures on enhancement of freight traffic on the Trans-Asian railway allowed reducing route time of trains up to 36 hours.

Within the framework of participation of the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov in Caspian Summit in October, 2007 in Iran, Joint Declaration of Presidents of Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic Iran and the Republic Kazakhstan on the construction of Uzen (Kazakhstan)-Kyzylkiya-Bereket-Etrek (Turkmenistan)-Gorgan (Iran) railway was adopted. This project is one of priority directions of “North-South” transport & communication corridor which has exclusive significance both for ECO member states and other Eurasian countries.

Transport and telecommunications highways construction and reconstruction projects of Turkmenistan combine and cross with the goals and objectives of Program of transport and communication development of the Economic Cooperation Organization. In our country a number of large-scale projects have been carried out in this direction, which serves not only national interests, but also social and economic development of all countries of the region. “Turkmenabat-Atamurat” and “Ashkhabad-Dashoguz” rail highways are actively functioning. At final stages there is construction Transkara Kum high-speed highway “Ashkhabad-Dashoguz”. These transport & communication routes are to enhance interstate cooperation in the region and beyond.

An important direction of trade and economic relations of ECO member states is the development and promotion of fuel and energy partnership. Being the large natural gas producer and supplier on the world market, Turkmenistan starts with the purposes of multiple piping system development.

As it was repeatedly mentioned by the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, our country possesses huge natural gas resources and is interested in energy resources export diversification. Simultaneously, our state is a supporter of observance of balance of interests of all process parties involved.

Now there are several projects on taking Turkmen energy carriers to the world markets in the agenda of a power policy of Turkmenistan. It is worthy to mention that routes of these pipelines will pass through the territory of this or that ECO Member State which will invariably promote further economic growth of these countries, solution of power supply issues, infrastructure development, augmentation of workplaces and, finally, will positively impact on socio-political environment in the region and the world.

Enhancing and diversity of foreign policy communications of Turkmenistan create favorable conditions for diversification of the international economic, trade and investment cooperation of our country. Taking into account objective geopolitical and resource advantages, strategic priority for Turkmenistan here is diversification of energy inflows, construction of a multiple pipeline infrastructure.

As it is particularly mentioned by the President of Turkmenistan, following this principle, our country, along with utilization of traditional routes, realized two new large projects on taking energy carriers to the world markets: “Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China” and new “Turkmenistan-Iran” gas pipeline.

As you know, another big energy project – construction of “Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India” (TAPI) gas pipeline is being actively implemented. It is supported by all member countries, large international financial institutions, including Asian Development Bank. TAPI project is logic continuation of the long-term energy strategy envisaging the construction of new international gas pipelines in various directions.

On 11 December, Summit of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India was held in Ashkhabad, which as a matter of fact, became a start of practical realization of the largest project – construction of TAPI transnational gas pipeline.

At the end of Summit, relevant documents were signed.

Honourable participants,

The President of Turkmenistan in his statement at 10th jubilee ECO Summit in March 2009, clearly stated that Turkmenistan will participate in ECO as an associate member.

First of all, it is related with international legal status of neutrality of Turkmenistan and its associated membership in ECO frameworks define the degree of participation in some directions. Thereupon, Turkmenistan reserves its decision-making right in separate issues, following its international commitments and neutrality principles.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize that we highly respect cooperation within ECO and attach significance to projects of economic and social interest. However, owing to our status we can not participate in preparation and adoption of the Declaration on the outcomes of the Summit and request to treat our position accordingly.

Honourable participants,

The president of Turkmenistan repeatedly noted that Turkmenistan considers ECO activity as one of the factors of positive development of regional processes, sees perspective potential in our organization for implementing national economic growth programs of member states. Our common goal is to use it as effectively as possible with a view of well-being and prosperity of people, world and regional progress.

Thank you for attention.