

## The 16<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers

### Outline Plan of Action

( Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 04 May, 2006 )

*Annex-IV*

#### Outline Plan of Action for Strengthening ECO's Relations/Cooperation with Regional and International Organizations

1. ECO has established itself as a vibrant functional regional organization. There is a growing realization that the organization has been effective in promoting regional cooperation among its member states in collaboration with similar sister organizations in UN bodies.
2. Article XIV of the Izmir Treaty refers to the external relations of the ECO and other international and regional organizations. ECO enjoys observer status with the United Nations, World Trade Organization, Organization of Islamic Conference and the Islamic Development Bank.
3. The biennial resolution by the UN General Assembly on ECO and UN cooperation has important bearing on ECO's relations with all UN agencies. A number of resolution have been adopted in the United National General Assembly in the context of expansion of cooperation with ECO ([Annex-A](#)).
4. The Heads of State/Government of the member states and the Council of Ministers which is the highest policy and decision making body of the ECO have encouraged and endorsed the establishment of cooperative arrangements between ECO and major regional and international organizations and institutions within and outside the UN system for joint efforts towards implementation of ECO's economic projects and programmes. The list of ECO's MOUs and Agreements with the international/regional organizations and agencies are at [Annex-B](#).
5. The ECO in conformity with the above policy has established cooperative linkage with several UN agencies and other regional bodies. Result has been close interaction between ECO and these agencies/organizations for development and promotion of projects in all priority areas of ECO.
6. In order to enhance the external relations of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the following outlines for the preparation of a comprehensive and workable plan of action is proposed:
  - i) The outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with international organizations may be reviewed annually.
  - ii) The ECO Secretariat may categorize the international/regional organizations with which the ECO has institutionalized cooperative relations and prioritize them for follow up.
  - iii) The ECO Secretariat may reactivate its Contact Group within UN and with other regional and international organizations to mobilize the financial and technical assistance for the implementation of ECO regional projects; to harmonize their positions on issues of common interest and to launch joint activities with the relevant organizations.
  - iv) A Troika comprising the previous, current and future chairmen of the Council of Ministers may be formed to support ECO's external relations.
  - v) In line with Para 6 of the Principles/Guidelines governing the Attendance of ECO Secretariat in Meetings/Events, the ECO Secretariat should participate in the relevant meetings of the international organizations with which it has observer status or cooperative relationship like United Nations, World Trade Organization, OIC and Islamic Development Bank which should be planned and reflected in the annual calendar of events.

- vi) Modalities for the realization of the idea of dialogue partnership/observer status with International Organizations as well as dialogue partnership with development/donor partners should also be worked out in accordance with Article XIV of Izmir Treaty in order to mobilize their financial and technical assistance for the implementation of ECO regional projects. Such modalities should be approved by the COM.
- vii) The Secretariat shall prepare a Comprehensive Plan of Action to enhance ECO's external relations within the framework of the above outlines during 2006 which should also include the most suitable and required projects and programmes to be implemented with the assistance of each international organization with which ECO has signed MOU/Agreement. The Council of Permanent Representatives is authorized to consider and approve such Plan of Action on behalf of the COM.

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[Annex-A](#)

**UNGA Resolutions - Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**

1. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 48/2
2. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 50/1
3. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 51/21
4. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 52/19
5. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 53/15
6. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 54/100
7. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 55/42
8. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 56/44
9. United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 57/38

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[Annex-B](#)

**ECO's MOUs and Agreement with International/Regional Organizations and Agencies**

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|---|----------------|
| 1. ECO-UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific) | July 1993      |
| 2. ECO-IDB (Islamic Development Bank)   | July 1993      |
| 3. ECO-UNIDO (UN Industrial Development Organization)                                 | January 1994   |
| 4. ECO-UNICEF (UN International Children's Emergency Fund)                            | January 1994   |
| 5. ECO-OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference)                                   | September 1994 |
| 6. ECO-UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)   | September 1994 |
| 7. ECO-UNDCP (United Nations Drug Control Programme)                                  | March 1995     |
| 8. ECO-UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)                                    | March 1995     |
| 9. ECO-UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)                  | December 1995  |
| 10. ECO-FAO (UN Food & Agriculture Organization)                                      | December 1997  |
| 11. ECO-ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area)       | June 1999      |
| 12. ECO-UNCTAD (UN Conference on Trade & Development)                                 | November 1999  |
| 13. ECO-UIC (International Railway Union)   | January 2001   |
| 14. ECO-International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)                                   | March 2001     |
| 15. ECO-OSJD (Organization for Cooperation of Railways)                               | September 2001 |
| 16. ECO-WCO (World Customs Organization)  | March 2003     |
| 17. ECO-CP (Colombo Plan)   | May 2003       |

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| 18. ECO-UNECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe)      | June 2003     |
| 19. ECO-UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)    | August 2004   |
| 20. ECO-WMO (World Meteorological Organization)        | December 2004 |
| 21. ECO-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) | January 2006  |

**Signing of MOUs is under process with following organizations:**

1. SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)
2. IMO (International Migration Organization)
3. ILO (International Labour Organization)

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