

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Ministers

## Report

( Tehran, 22-23 May , 1991 )

The first meeting of the Council of Ministers of the ECO was held in Tehran on May 22-23, 1991. The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey were led by H.E. Mr. M. Akram Zaki, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Isin CELEBI, Minister of State respectively. His Excellency Mr. Ali Reza Salari, Secretary General, Economic Cooperation organization also attended the meeting. The list of participants is at **Annex. I**.

The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Hasan Habibi, First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of His Excellency's speech is at **Annex. II**.

2. H. E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was elected by acclamation as the Chairman of the meeting.

3. The Council unanimously adopted the agenda of the meeting (**Annex.III**).

4. The meeting was addressed by the Honourable Leaders of the three delegations and the Secretary General of the ECO. The texts of the statements are at **Annexes. IV, V, VI and VII**.

5. The Drafting Committee consisted of the following delegates from the three member countries:

i) Mr. Farhat Hussain, Joint Secretary,  
Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad.

ii) Mr. Celal ARMANGIL,  
Head of Research Department,  
Directorate General for Economic Cooperation among Islamic  
Countries, Ankara.

iii) Mr. Kormi Nouri,  
Deputy Director General (West Asia) Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran.

6. The Secretary General of the ECO presented before the Council a report on the activities of the Organization under article XXIX (5) of the Treaty of Izmir. The text of the Report of the Secretary General is at **Annex. VIII**.

The Council took note of the Report and observed that it should be referred to member states for consideration.

7. The Council examined the Report of the Council of Deputies held in Tehran on February 16 - 17, 1991. The following decisions were taken:

a) The Audit Reports for the years 1987-1988; 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 were approved (**Annexes. IX and X**).

b) The ECO Budget for the years 1990-1991, and 1991-92 as examined and adopted by the Council of Deputies, were approved with the condition that the savings already available for 1989-90 and 1990-91 with the Secretariat should be deducted from the contributions of the member states for 1991-92.

8.

a) The Council examined the Report of the ECO Award Committee (**Annex. XI**) held in Tehran on February 16, 1989 and approved their recommendation for the grant of the award .to the following personalities:

1. Mr. Ismail Gulgee Agha (Pakistan) in the field of Fine Arts.
2. Professor Dr. Turhan Baytop (Turkey) in the field of Natural Sciences.
3. Dr. Seyyed Jafar Shahid.i (Iran) in the field of Social Sciences.

b) The Council, after examination, adopted the revised framework and the modalities for the ECO Award in future as per **Annex. XII**.

9. The Council examined and adopted the Report of the Regional Planning Council held in Tehran on April 27-28, 1991 and took the following decisions:

a) The guidelines relating to the working procedures for the seven Technical Committees were approved and are placed at **Annex. XIII**.Z

b) The programmes regarding the work for the six Technical Committees as recommended by the Regional Planning Council in its Report dated 27-23 April, 1991, were approved.

c) The programme of work for the seventh Technical Committee in the field of Infrastructure & Public Works was also approved and is at **Annex. XIV**.

d) Consolidated Calendar of ECO Meetings/ Events for 1991-1992 was approved (**Annex.XV**).

10. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan/ proposed that the question of the establishment of a Technical Committee on Narcotics Abuse Control be considered. The delegations of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey took note of the proposal and undertook to convey the views of their governments in due course. A copy of Pakistan's proposal is at **Annex - XVI**.

11. The delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran presented the following suggestions for consideration by the Technical Committees:

- i) Cooperation relating to Customs matters including prevention of smuggling. (CECC)
- ii) Avoidance of Double Taxation. (CECC)
- iii) Holding of meetings among the Railways and Aviation authorities. (CCTC)

The Council took note of the suggestions and indicated that these may be considered at an appropriate time by the member states.

12. The Council decided to have their next meeting in February/March 1992 in Pakistan.

13. At the end of their deliberations of the items of the Agenda, the Honourable Ministers, in order to reflect the consensus of the member states, signed the Memorandum of Understanding as at ***Annex. XVII***.

14. Council of Ministers unanimously adopted the Report of their first meeting held in Tehran on May 22-23, 1991.