

**ECO Secretariat  
Tehran**

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**Summary Record**  
**14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting**  
*(September 25, 2014 - New York)*

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ECO Joint Ministerial Meeting was held on September 25, 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia (country coordinator for ASEAN-ECO relations) and H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Chairman of ECO COM) on behalf of ASEAN and ECO respectively. It was attended by the Foreign Ministers/Representatives of ECO and ASEAN Member States. The Secretariats of the two Organizations were represented by H.E. Ambassador Shamil Aleskerov, ECO Secretary General and H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary General.

**Agenda-item No. 1**

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

2. H.E. Mr. Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, and co-chair from ASEAN side, opened the Meeting and delivered his inaugural remarks. He welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed his confidence that the Joint Ministerial Meeting would be useful in strengthening the cooperative relationship between the two Organizations.

3. H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the co-chair from ECO side, in his remarks, joined the ASEAN co-chair in extending a warm welcome to the participants. He welcomed the holding of the ASEAN-ECO Joint Tourism Forum in the coming period and expressed the hope that the Joint Business Forum would be held in the coming year to promote contacts among the private sectors of the two regions.

4. The two co-chairs handed over the proceedings of the meeting to the senior officials from the two sides.

**Agenda-item No. 2**

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The following Agenda was unanimously approved by the Joint Meeting:

- i. Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs
- ii. Adoption of the Agenda
- iii. Business Arrangement
- iv. Developments in ASEAN and ECO
- v. Review of ASEAN-ECO Cooperation and Future Direction
- vi. Other Matters
- vii. Adoption of draft Joint Press Release
- viii. Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs

### **Agenda-item No. 3**

#### **Business Arrangement**

6. The Meeting unanimously adopted the Business Arrangements, as finalized by the two Secretariats.

### **Agenda-item No. 4**

#### **Developments in ASEAN and ECO**

7. Under this agenda item, the Secretaries- General of ASEAN and ECO briefed the Meeting about the developments pertaining to their respective Organizations.

8. The Secretary General of ASEAN gave a detailed overview of the recent developments in the ASEAN region. He informed that through its activities in various sectors, ASEAN is moving closer to its Plan of 2015. It was informed that the 24th ASEAN Summit was recently held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in May 2014, wherein the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN Member States provided political will for the various initiatives in a number of important areas. The Summit also stressed on the significance of maintaining cooperation and building trust and confidence to solve regional conflicts through principles of International Law.

9. Through the efforts of the ASEAN Member States, the Organization was speaking in one voice on key global and regional issues. He briefed that the recent measures taken by the Member States had facilitated cooperation in the areas of trade, food security and economic integration.

10. He further informed that during the recent period, domestic demand had been resilient in the ASEAN region and high FDI inflows had been recorded. Injection from the international development banks such as ADB would further support the regional economies. He mentioned that comprehensive regional partnerships were being cultivated to support the economic activities in the Member States.

11. The ASEAN Secretary General also informed that ASEAN continues to be more productive and comprehensive in its external relations with other regional and international organizations.

12. In the security dimension, the ASEAN Member States are fostering cooperation to tackle the problems of cyber crime, piracy and terrorism. Referring to the cultural and social priorities of the ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretary General informed that cross-sector activities were being organized to promote cooperation in these areas.

13. It was informed that the future vision of ASEAN will be based on the achievements made by the Organization in the past. He also informed that the ASEAN's role in making itself more people-oriented was being supported by its membership.

14. The ECO Secretary-General thanked his counterpart from ASEAN for providing a detailed briefing about developments in the ASEAN region. He went on to provide a brief overview of ECO's current programmes and activities in various sectors. He mentioned that despite different levels of development and economic growth, the ECO Member States were making efforts aimed at regional integration.

15. Referring to the importance of trade and investment promotion, he apprised the meeting about the implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the activities of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB). He also informed the meeting about the start of the joint project with UNIDO aimed at enhancing capacities of the member states with special focus on standards, metrology, testing and quality.

16. With regards to the transportation sector, he informed about the progress achieved in the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (Uzen-Bereket-Gorgan) railway project. He also mentioned that further to the successful completion of the ECO/IDB Joint Project and preparation of the ECO Road and Railway Development Plans, a partnership forum would be held in the coming time to secure financing for the projects envisioned in the Plans.

17. The ECO Secretary General briefed the meeting about the initiatives currently being pursued in the areas of food security, disaster risk management, environment, renewable energy and fighting transnational organized crime. He also informed that ECO is working on a proposal to establish a regional electricity market for flexible trading of electricity.

18. The ECO Secretary General also informed that steps are being taken to enhance ECO's cooperation with other regional and international organizations, including the UN system for the purpose of securing technical and financial assistance for its activities and programmes.

## **Agenda-item No. 5**

### **Review of ASEAN-ECO Cooperation and Future Direction**

19. Under this agenda item, the meeting exchanged views on the current status of ASEAN-ECO Cooperation, and considered proposals to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two sides.

20. The Representative of Indonesia called for consolidating and enhancing the relationship between ASEAN and ECO in the areas of trade and investment, narcotics control, development of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and tourism, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

21. The Representative of Indonesia mentioned that there was also a need to develop cooperation in other areas of common interest, such as climate change and environment and promoting people-to-people contacts,

22. Welcoming the holding of the ASEAN-ECO Joint Tourism Forum in Antalya, Turkey in November 2014, the Representative of Indonesia informed that relevant officials from Indonesia would be participating in the event.

23. The Representative also called for revising the ASEAN-ECO Memorandum of Understanding. It was mentioned that the revised MOU must take into account the current regional and global developments and must envisage cooperation in three areas, namely: economic, social and political. The Representative noted that there was a need to address the current challenges through coordinated approach and joint actions in important areas.

24. The Representative of Cambodia called for the implementation of the MOU and the Work Programme and proposed holding a senior officials' meeting in this regard.

25. He welcomed the ASEAN-ECO Joint Tourism Forum planned to be held in Antalya, Turkey in November 2014 and also called for holding a Joint Business Forum in 2015.

26. The Representative of the Philippines while appreciating the ASEAN-ECO Joint Tourism Forum scheduled to be held in Antalya in November 2014 mentioned that the relevant authorities of the Philippines look forward to receiving the official invitations from the event hosts.

27. The Representative also stressed on the importance of promoting contacts among the private sectors of the two regions and in this regard called for organizing the ASEAN-ECO Joint Business Forum, as decided in the last Ministerial Meeting.

28. It was mentioned that there was a need to revisit the MOU to strengthen the cooperation between the two sides. The Representative also mentioned that the

Contact Group of ECO Ambassadors based in Jakarta can play an important role in enhancing the cooperative relationship between ASEAN and ECO.

29. The Representative of Turkey highlighted the significance of cooperation with other regional and international organizations and mentioned that due to Turkey's multi-dimensional security and economic concerns, his country attached great importance to cooperation with ASEAN.

30. He mentioned that although steps were being taken to develop cooperation in the tourism sector, there was a need to broaden and strengthen the existing cooperation. He further noted that there was a need for result oriented activities from both sides in the coming time period.

31. The ECO Secretary General informed that in pursuance of the decision reached at the last Joint Ministerial Meeting, the ASEAN-ECO Joint Tourism Forum was being held in November 2014 in Antalya. He also informed that the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries had recently offered to hold the ASEAN-ECO Joint Business Forum in Pakistan in the coming year. The ECO Secretary General stressed on the need to have practical cooperation in various areas and invited officials from the ASEAN Secretariat to the ECO Secretariat to exchange views on the Work Programme for the implementation of the MOU.

#### **Agenda-item No. 6**

##### Other Matters

32. No issues were discussed under this agenda item.

#### **Agenda-item No. 7**

##### Adoption of draft Joint Press Release

33. The Meeting adopted the press release prepared by the two Secretariats. A copy of the press release is placed at Annex-I.

#### **Agenda-item No. 8**

##### Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs

34. In their closing remarks, the co-chairs thanked the Ministers/Representatives for their participation as well as for their suggestions during the course of the meeting.

35. The co-chairs also noted that the recommendations made during the meeting would be useful to enhance the cooperation between the two sides and could add value to existing relationship between ASEAN and ECO.