

The Informal COM Meeting

Statement by H.E. Mr. Turkekul Kurttekin, Ambassador & Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Turkey to the UN

(UN - New York, 02 October, 2003)

Annex-IX

*Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,*

Also I would like to congratulate Ambassador Dr. Narbayev of Kazakhstan on his election as the ECO Secretary General and wish him all the best for the successful tenure.

My delegation also would like to extend its appreciation for his predecessor Ambassador Seyed Mojtaba Arastou for his able leadership for our organization. My country accords high priority to the development of regional economic cooperation. In line with this, our country has already introduced some initiatives among them, inter alia, the establishment of ECO Cotton Producers and Exporters Forum and ECO economic research and statistical Centre, unification of ECO energy system and related parallel activities. These all should be particularly mentioned. We also stress the importance of conducting a conference on Energy, Trade and invite all concerned parties to scrutinize our proposals.

Following up on the activities of ECO since the 13th meeting of ECO Council of Ministers held in last June in Bishkek I would like to draw some parallels. First of all it is ECO Economic Agreement adopted during the ECO Trade Ministers meeting held last July in Islamabad. We are of the view that it will open new opportunities for the governing of intra-regional trade among the member states through phasing out tariff and non-tariff barriers. At the same time we stress on the need to speed up the process of singling out a Consulting Company to be in-charge for conducting feasibility study on the project entitled "Unification of ECO energy system and related parallel activities".

To increase efficiency and effectiveness in the ECO activities we stress the importance of strengthening the interaction with international financial institutions and donors countries accumulating the experience gained by them and availing of existing data base. In this regard the cooperation with United Nations and other agencies of United Nations system is of paramount importance. In the context of intra-regional cooperation and globalization we support the strengthening of ECO-ASEAN partnership formula and endorse the work of ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of UN General Assembly.

I would like to associate myself also with the previous statement made by our distinguished colleague from Pakistan. We are facing with the so-called question of quantity and I see now huge necessity as to how to transfer and translate these quantity very good on paper you know projects, into quality. So in this context I would like to appeal distinguished Secretary General to make a review of the latest consideration of this august matter and it would be helpful for the group of eminent person to try to give

us non-paper at least of the fruitful items on which we can further endeavour. It is very important for our organization to move further and to step up with the concrete and tangible results. Otherwise I am afraid we will be facing the same problem which was facing here now in the United Nations and I see that it also would be fruitful for us to refer to the United Nations experience as to how to revitalize our agenda, how to move further on this subject and what is the best way to tackle this kind of question.

In conclusion I would like to express my delegation's deep appreciation to the current Chairman H.E. Mr. Askar, Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan and to thanking you for this wonderful luncheon and to wish all the best in his further endeavours.

I thank you.