

REPORT

21st Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (Tehran, 17-19 May, 2011)

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

The Regional Planning Council meets at least once a year and evolves basic strategies/policies and plans in accordance with the objectives and principles of regional cooperation laid down in the Treaty of Izmir, as well as policy guidelines and directives of the Council of Ministers

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REPORT

Report of the 21st RPC Meeting **(Tehran, 17 – 19 May, 2011)**

1. The Twenty First Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 17 – 19 May, 2011 in Tehran, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Preparatory/Review meetings were held on the sidelines.

2. The meeting was attended by delegations from all Member States, namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The delegation of ECO Secretariat, led by Secretary General His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, participated in the meeting. The Representatives of the ECO's Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutes, including the ECO Trade and Development Bank, the ECO Cultural Institute, the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the ECO College of Insurance, the ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company, the ECO Educational Institute and the ECO Science Foundation attended the meeting. The representative of International Organization for Migration (IOM) also participated in the meeting. The list of participants is placed at *Annex-I*.

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

3. His Excellency Mr. Amir Mansour Borghei, Vice Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran delivered welcoming remarks. H.E. Mr. Borghei expressed confidence that the deliberations, ideas and decisions of this meeting would promote enhancement of cooperation in various fields of ECO activities. He noted that fostering and strengthening economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the ECO Member States serves the purpose of ensuring progress and prosperity of the peoples of the region.

4. The ECO Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi thanked the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 21st RPC Meeting and making impeccable arrangements. Mr. Maroofi outlined major achievements made during 2010 as well as perspective for future. Referring to the milestones achieved during the year, the Secretary General requested the wholehearted support of the Member States for the effective implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) and ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA). He also requested the Review Committees to critically examine the project proposals of the Secretariat and suggest best implementation methodologies to achieve the desired results. He mentioned that the 11th ECO Summit and 19th COM meetings (Istanbul, 2010) have provided guidelines to promote dynamism and efficiency in the organization. He expressed confidence that the delegates attending the 21st RPC meeting would contribute in implementation of the recommendations and guidelines given by the leaders of the Member States through in-depth and thorough review of the ECO projects/programs for the upcoming period. A copy of his statement is attached at *Annex-II*.

5. The RPC Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his inaugural address, His Excellency Mr. Salehi, while extending a warm welcome to all delegates for participation in the meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council, highlighted the importance of the meeting in reviewing the economic activities of the Organization and setting up priorities for the coming year. He appreciated the steps that ECO had taken in various fields, including trade, transport, energy, agriculture, campaign against drug trafficking and emphasized more effective steps towards regional integration. The Minister noted that the ECO Member States enjoy huge capacities and potentials for becoming a major actor on the international scene and called for reviewing plans to further boost regional cooperation. He stressed the need for replacing euro and dollars with national currencies in all the Member States of the ECO for intra-regional trade. He renewed Iran's commitment to provide all kind of support for project-oriented approach of ECO. A copy of the statement is attached at *Annex-III*.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

6. As per practice, the head of delegation of the host country i.e. the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Amir Mansour Borghei, Vice Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, chaired the 21st RPC Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Council adopted the following agenda:-

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
 - Welcoming address by His Excellency Mr. Amir Mansour Borghei, Vice Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Statement by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General
 - Inaugural statement by His Excellency Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statements by the Heads of Delegation
5. General Guidelines for the Preparatory/Review Committees of the RPC meeting
6. Reviewing progress of implementation of ECO's approved programmes of action and projects and consideration of the new programmes and projects for the year 2010 in the following areas:
 - Trade and Investment;
 - Transport & Communications;
 - Energy, Minerals and Environment;
 - Agriculture, Industry and Tourism;
 - Human Resources & Sustainable Development;
 - Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit
 - Projects and Economic Research & Statistics;

- Inter-Regional ECO Activities:
 - i. ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies
 - ii. International Relations
- 7. Annual ECO Calendar of Events for 2011-2012
- 8. Any other business
- 9. Date and Venue of the next Meeting
- 10. Adoption of the Report
- 11. Vote of Thanks

Agenda Item No. 4

Statements by the Heads of Delegation

8. The Heads of Delegation from the Member States made statements, outlining their countries' policies and views on the programmes and activities of the Organization. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are placed at *Annex-IV*.

9. The Presidents of the ECO Trade and Development Bank and the ECO Cultural Institute as well as the representatives of other ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions, i.e. the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the ECO College of Insurance, the ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company and the ECO Educational Institute delivered statements highlighting their activities and perspective for 2011. Copies of the statements are attached at *Annex-V*.

10. H.E. Dr. Mohammad Nahavandian, President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines/Chairman of ECO-CCI, made a presentation on global economic developments and ECO region. Copy of the presentation is attached at *Annex-VI*.

Agenda Item No. 5

General Guidelines for the Preparatory/Review Committees of the RPC meeting

11. The Council deliberated and endorsed the General Guidelines for the Preparatory/Review Committees of the 21st RPC meeting (*Annex-VII*) related to quality and number of the ECO events/meetings included in the Draft Calendar of Events (COE) for 2011-2012. The Council took note of these guidelines which were earlier endorsed by the 168th CPR Meeting (11th May, 2011) and requested the Preparatory Committees to consider the proposed meetings/events very critically and come up with a Calendar which is purely result-oriented and within the financial and human resources of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 6

Reviewing progress on implementation of ECO's approved programmes of action and projects and consideration of the new programmes and projects for the year 2011 in the following areas:

- Trade and Investment;
- Transport & Communications;
- Energy, Minerals and Environment;
- Agriculture, Industry and Tourism;

- Human Resources & Sustainable Development;
- Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit
- Projects and Economic Research & Statistics;
- Inter-Regional ECO Activities:
 - i. ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies
 - ii. International Relations

12. The sectoral preparatory/review meetings were presided over by representatives of different Member States as given below:

(a)	Trade and Investment	-	H.E. Mr. Amjad Ali Sher, Director General (ECO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan.
(b)	Transport and Communications	-	H.E. Mr. Saeed Mojtahed Soleimany, Director General (International Affairs), M/o Road and Transportation, Iran.
(c)	Energy, Minerals & Environment	-	H.E. Mr. Masoud Hashemian, Vice Deputy Minister of Oil, I.R. of Iran
(d)	Agriculture, Industry & Tourism	-	H.E. Mr. Metin EKER, Director General, Foreign Economic Relations, State Planning Organization, Turkey
(e)	Human Resources & Sustainable Development	-	H.E. Dr. Mohammad Jaffar Malek, Deputy Director General for International Affairs, M/o Health and Medical Sciences, Iran.
(f)	Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit	-	H.E. Amb. Mahmood Bayat, Director General (International Relations), Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran
(g)	Project and Economic Research & Statistics	-	H.E. Mr. Metin Genckol, State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey
(h)	Inter Regional ECO activities: (i) ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies and (ii) International Relations	-	H.E. Mr. Amjad Ali Sher, Director General (ECO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan.

13. The Council dwelt at length on the programmes and proposals contained in the Working Papers prepared by the ECO Secretariat. These included reviewing the progress of implementation of ECO programmes and projects approved by the 20th RPC and the 19th Council of Ministers, status report on the implementation of ECO Calendar of Events for 2010-2011, consideration of new programmes and projects for the year 2011.

14. The Council noted, with appreciation, the work of the Secretariat for implementation of the decisions of RPC and other high level ECO organs, highlighting the progress made on implementation of the ongoing Programmes/Projects and Calendar of Events for the year 2010. A brief resume, covering the main areas of activity, is given below:

(a) Trade and Investment

15. The Council noted the offer of events/meetings made in 2009 and 2010, but not confirmed by the Member States so far. It urged the early confirmation of the events particularly the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy (Kazakhstan), 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Central Banks (Iran), 2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of the Trade Promotion Organizations (Azerbaijan), Workshops on Trade Policy (Pakistan) and 3rd ECO Trade Fair (Kazakhstan). It further called upon the I.R. Iran for early hosting the 1st Meeting of ECO Heads of Tax Administrations.

16. As part of the revised strategy adopted and confirmed by the ECO CPR with a view to reducing the number of events and meetings, the Council decided to write off a meeting/event from its calendar not convened/held in a period of two years.

17. The Council appreciated the briefing by the delegates of Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey on the activities undertaken as well as those planned by their authorities in promoting regional trade, investment, and strengthening cooperation in areas of economy and finance as called for by the 11th ECO Summit and 19th COM. It urged Member States to effectuate ECOTA provisions with a view to achieving more liberalized trade among the Contracting Parties through implementing tariff concessions, eliminating Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs), improving trade facilitation and harmonizing regulations.

18. The Council taking note of the postponement of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in May 2011 requested Member States to confirm participation as the host Afghan authorities have rescheduled the event on July 11-13, 2011 in Kabul. The Council further observed that the delay in hosting the Ministerial Meeting has contributed to the unsatisfactory level of progress on various ECO initiatives and activities in trade, investment, finance, customs, private sector cooperation and visa simplification.

19. Taking into account the significance of ECOTA for the region, the Council observed that due to the divergent positions taken by the Contracting Parties during the 2nd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council, the implementation of tariff concessions remained far from achieved. The Council urged the Contracting Parties to reconsider their divergent positions/stances (if any) in implementing tariff concessions in accordance with the already agreed understanding reached during the 1st Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council.

20. The Council urged the Contracting Parties to implement decisions of the 1st and 2nd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council to ensure early execution of commitments on granting tariff concessions for expansion in intra-regional trade and investment. It also invited the ECO Member States to initiate negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement in line with decision of the 18th COM.

21. The Council considering the significance of enhanced market access for expansion of intra-regional trade, recommended establishment of the ECOTA Implementation Fund and allocating sufficient amount by CPR as per decision of the 2nd Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council.

22. The Council appreciated the assurance given by Tajikistan during the 2nd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council that appropriate measures were being taken for signing and

ratification of the Protocol on Annexes of ECOTA and that the required actions would be completed during the 1st half of 2011.

23. The Council stressed that views/comments for initiating actions on preparation of the Draft framework Comprehensive Economic Partnership Treaty (CEPT) as proposed during the 19th COM, may be forwarded by the Member States to the Secretariat.

24. The Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to expedite announcing dates of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy so that the cooperation institutionalized through the Ministerial Meeting particularly on Prevention of Corruption and Money Laundering, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Privatization as well as Monetary and other macro-economic policies etc could be sustained in the region.

25. The Council underscoring the need for intensifying cooperation in the fields of finance and economy and in line with the policy guidelines set forth by the Summit, COM and the Ministerial Meetings on Finance and Economy stressed early implementation of the decisions relating to strengthening private sector cooperation.

26. The Council urged all the signatory Member States which have not yet ratified the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) to ratify it, and non-signatory Member States to sign the Agreement at the earliest.

27. The Council appreciated the initiative of the Afghanistan to host the 1st Meeting of the ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs), on the sidelines of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting of Commerce/Foreign Trade scheduled on July 11-13, 2011 in Kabul. The Council further urged Member States to ensure their participation in accordance with the revised schedule.

28. The Council requested Iran and Turkey to offer trainings on setting up Special Industrial/Economic Zones in the other Member States. The two Member States requested the other Member States to convey detailed proposals as to the nature of trainings and facilities required.

29. The Council requested Tajikistan to announce the exact dates for hosting the 4th ECO Investment Conference, in 2011 on priority.

30. The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for offering to host the “Training Programme on Improving Investment Climate in ECO Member Countries and Turkish Experience” to be organized on 25-26 May, 2011 in Ankara and thanked ECO Secretariat for its efforts in obtaining IDB funds for the programme. It tasked the Secretariat to seek similar support from IDB for the smaller economies of ECO.

31. As a follow up of the decisions of the meetings of the COM, 1st ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) and ECO-CCI, Council recommended offering incentives for participants from Member States in each others’ Exhibitions/Fairs and to allocate space for ECO Pavilions in Trade Fairs or organize specialized ECO Fairs during 2011.

32. The Council urged Member States for early formulation of proposals on sector specific/specialized ECO Fairs to be coordinated by ECO-TPOs. It further requested Kazakhstan for early hosting of the 3rd ECO Trade Fair and/or an additional Specialized ECO Trade Fair in 2011.
33. The Council welcomed the offer of Afghanistan to host the 3rd ECO Trade Fair in 2011 if Kazakhstan abstains from announcing the dates of the event by July 2011.
34. The Council stressed urgent actions to be taken towards implementation of the decisions of the 1st Meeting of ECO Heads of TPOs particularly on the draft ECO Agreement on Joint Trade Promotional Activities.
35. The Council appreciated the confirmation of Azerbaijan on hosting the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of TPOs during November/December 2011 and requested Member States to initiate preparations for the meeting.
36. The Council took note of the new proposal on establishing ECO Commodity Forum under the Project on Expanding Intra-regional Trade and called upon Member States to forward appropriate proposals on the sectors planned to be promoted and also identify authorized bodies for necessary coordination of activities to be organized in 2011.
37. The Council urged Member States to coordinate with their National Chambers/private sector bodies for the timely confirmation of their participation in the 4th ECO Business Forum scheduled to be held in Kabul preceding the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting of Commerce/Foreign Trade.
38. The Council appreciated development of exclusive plans (Integrated Market Promotion Plan - IMPP) for the smaller economies of ECO and called upon the Member States to offer special package to support trade promotional programmes of these economies during 2011.
39. The Council took note of the request of the Republic of Tajikistan for development of the country's securities market infrastructure including legal framework, computer programmes for securities market monitoring, expertise services, training and technical assistance etc. The Council recommended that a specific project proposal be submitted by Tajikistan for consideration/approval of the CPR.
40. The Council reiterating the decisions of 18th COM and 20th RPC on hosting WTO activities urged Member States not having hosted Trade Policy Review Sessions (TPRS) to host these Sessions during 2011 and stressed initiating actions on the recommendations of TPRS hosted by Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey.
41. The Council reiterated the need to facilitate the accession process of the Member States to the WTO and recommended the WTO members of ECO namely Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Turkey to provide appropriate support in the aforementioned process.
42. The Council urged Member State that with a view to facilitating Pakistan to firm up fresh dates, participation in the 7th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs

Administrations (CHCA) may be confirmed in advance so that the event postponed twice in 2010 could be hosted during 2011.

43. The Council stressed ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment and Operations of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank by the signatories so as to operationalize the Data Bank in Turkey by 2011.

44. The Council urged Member States (except Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) to convey their readiness to sign the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters during any of the upcoming ECO events.

45. The Council welcomed the application made by Afghanistan and Republic of Azerbaijan to become member of the ECO Bank. The Council urged the other ECO Member States, particularly the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic to commence their membership process following the outcomes of the 11th ECO Summit so that the membership of the Bank could be expanded.

46. The Council appreciated the activities of the ECO Bank and requested the Bank to initiate necessary arrangements in order to launch technical assistance operations as early as possible.

47. Building upon the decision taken by the 11th ECO Summit in Istanbul, the Council requested the ECO Trade and Development Bank to consider offering further facilities to promote intra ECO regional trade.

48. The Council noted that with a view to accelerating commercial activities in the region, completion of ratification procedures by Iran and Turkey may be expedited to operationalize the ECO Reinsurance Company during 2011 as planned by the authorities in Pakistan.

49. The Council acknowledged the recommendations of the ECO-CCI and encouraged continuation of the activities being undertaken to foster private sector cooperation in the region. The Council also stressed the importance of simplification of visa requirements in particular the issuance of multiple entry visas as well as ECO Visa Stickers for the facilitation of trade among businesses in the region.

50. The Council stressed on early provision of details of the visa fee structure for the businessmen of the fellow ECO Member States and urged hosting of the meeting of the Permanent Committee of Experts for Visa Facilitation by one of the signatory of the Agreement/Additional Protocol on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers.

51. The Council urged Member States to encourage and activate Business Women Organizations for participation in the Seminar offered to be hosted by the Ministry of Women Affairs of Afghanistan in 2011.

52. The Council requested Member States to coordinate implementation of the activities of the ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building and recommended Member States, particularly, Pakistan and Turkey, having achieved progress on TBT/SPS measures to volunteer hosting a regional/international Seminar during 2011.

53. The Council appreciating the ECO Web Portal activities hosted by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey called upon the remaining Member States to host similar Orientation Seminars for facilitating the operations of Web Portal by their nominated National Focal Points (NFPs).

54. The Council appreciated the ECO plans for setting up Data Base and Virtual Exhibition. It further stressed Member States to expedite providing inputs for the Study on the Regional IT infrastructure as per decision of the 18th COM.

55. The Council appreciated the completion of the first ever Study on Trading Patterns in the ECO Region and called for maintaining continuity in regularly updating facts and figures contained in the Study on biennial (two yearly) basis. The Council further encouraged the Secretariat to link up plans for future development of the Study with WTO related activities in conformity with the relevant COM decisions.

56. The Council urged Member States to formulate proposals under the Project on Expanding Intra-regional Trade and also called on the Secretariat to undertake promotional activities for selected sectors by involving private sector representative bodies.

(b) Transport & Communications

57. The Council appreciated Turkmenistan for offering to host the 8th Ministerial Meeting of Transport and Communications on 28-29 June 2011. It urged all the Member States to expedite confirming participation in this important meeting at minister's level. The Council recommended that Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications should be held on annual basis.

58. The Council appreciated the Kyrgyz Republic for offering to host the 9th Transport Ministerial meeting, as announced in the 158th Meeting of the CPR. The dates of the 9th Ministerial Meeting will be specified during the 8th Ministerial Meeting.

59. The Council noted that an international consultant is preparing the programme on development of rail, road and maritime corridors in the ECO region with the assistance of the national consultants under the Joint ECO/IDB Project on implementation of the TTFA. This would partially fulfill the Draft Programme of Action for submission to the 2nd HLEG Meeting on the subject for final decisions. It was hoped that the draft programme would be ready in the first half of 2011. The Secretariat will circulate the date and venue of the 2nd HLEG Meeting to the Member States. The communications component of the Programme should also be prepared and including in the agenda of the meeting by the Secretariat. The CPR may be approached for funding, if required. The Council also urged all Member States and Secretariat to ensure effective communications regarding studies going on under the abovementioned projects The National Consultants should be given a specific deadline to submit their report.

60. The RPC also recommended that an item titled "Provision of Financial Resources for Implementation of the Projects to be included in the New ECO Plan of Action for the Decade of Transport and Communication" be included in the Agenda of the ECO Ministerial

Meetings on Finance and Economy, and other ECO events dealing with investment and financing.

61. The 11th ECO Summit Declaration (Istanbul 2010) re-affirmed that in the framework of implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) among ECO Member States priority should be given to the enhancement of international trade and road transport facilitation instruments, aiming at harmonizing Custom procedures and facilitating border crossing, notably the 1975 TIR Convention as well as other Conventions and Agreements mentioned in the TTFA.

62. The Council requested Turkmenistan to expedite ratifying the TTFA. It also invited Uzbekistan to expedite signing and ratifying the agreement.

63. The Council expressed satisfaction on completion of the Interim Report of the ECO International Consultant, on MTPL insurance Component of the ECO/IDB Joint Project on TTFA. The Council requested the Member States to convey their views and comments on this Report.

64. The Council requested the Member States, except the Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey, to nominate their National Consultants on Insurance components of the Project on the TTFA. Those Member States who have already nominated their consultants may expedite providing their country reports, except Pakistan.

65. The Council asked the Secretariat to host the 3rd Meeting of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC and the Second Meeting of the ECO Council of Bureaux (ECO-CoB) of the White Card Scheme upon submission of country reports by at least three Member States. The cost of the Meeting will be covered from the funds available in ECO/IDB project.

66. The Council asked the ECO Secretariat and CIT to expedite finalizing the draft ECO rules for use of wagons, rules and procedures for international rail passenger and freight traffic through utilizing a senior legal officer from CIT under the aegis of the ECO/IDB Project on implementation of TTFA. The draft rules and procedures prepared by the International Consultant should be submitted to the next meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC and also for endorsement by the Heads of Railways Meeting.

67. The Council expressed satisfaction on the publication (January 2011) and distribution of the ECO Road and Railway Transit Routes Maps by the Secretariat. It also appreciated IDB for funding this activity. The Maps would also be utilized as part of Annex-I of the TTFA, subject to the approval of TTCC.

68. The ECO Secretariat was asked to expedite suggesting, in close contact with the Member States and the concerned international organizations, the dates and venue of a Joint Workshop with OSJD, UIC, OTIF, CIT, UNECE, and UNESCAP on development of uniform railway rules and regulations for Euro-Asia with particular emphasis in the ECO region. The draft rules and regulations, once drafted by the International Consultant, should be submitted to the Railways Committee of TTCC and Heads of the Railway Meeting for consideration. The Council also recommended that the next Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Committee may be held in 2011 utilizing funds from the ECO/IDB joint project. The

Council recommended the ECO Secretariat and the Member States to attend the next session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law.

69. The Member States were requested to actively participate and provide country reports on accession to/implementation of the international legal systems enlisted in the railway related provisions of the TTFA, notably those within the framework of UIC, OTIF, and OSZhD. The reports may also contain possible needs for capacity building and training programs to ensure effective implementation of such conventions.

70. The Council recommended that the ECO/IDB Joint Project on TTFA may analyze the challenges and opportunities for transit transport along the major corridors in the ECO region and modernization of the border crossing points.

71. The Council recommended that the Transit Trade Committee of the TTCC should be strengthened and as such the Member States were requested to ensure active participation of their Customs Administration in the Meetings of that Committee. It was also recommended to outsource the implementation of the Customs component of the IDB project to UNCTAD. This component should be completed within six months.

72. The Council requested Iran to expedite fixing the dates and venue of the 1st ECO-plus China Seminar on the Silk Road in 2011.

73. The Council expressed satisfaction on active participation and common position of the Member States in the ECO Contact Group Meeting on the sidelines of the UNECE's Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport, WP.30 and the 51st Session of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, AC.2 (Geneva, 1st – 4th February, 2011). The RPC requested the Member States to actively participate and take common position in the next meetings of the ECO Contact Group, which will be held on the sidelines of the next WP.30 and AC.2 Sessions in Geneva.

74. The Council appreciated Turkish TOBB for organizing a study tour on 25th May 2011, back to back with ECO/ITU Regional Conference on TIR Convention (Istanbul 23-25 May, 2011) to Turkish Kapikule border point for the Member States to familiarize with the successful experiences in modernizing the border crossing points in Turkey.

75. The Council expressed satisfaction on successful organization of the National Capacity Workshop on TIR Convention in 2010 in Kabul with partnership of the ECO Secretariat and IRU. It resulted in expediting the revitalization of the implementation of the TIR Carnet in Afghanistan. The ECO and IRU were asked to expedite holding a similar Workshop for Pakistan in 2011.

76. The Council recommended that the 5th Meeting of the TTCC be held in 2011 in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with its auxiliary bodies. The Meetings will be supported by the TTFA Fund. If the funds available in the TTFA Fund were not found to be sufficient, the Secretariat may approach the CPR for replenishing the Fund. These events will be included in the SSF Fund.

77. The Council recommended that the Secretariat may draft the Work Programme of the TTFA Fund and submit it during the upcoming Meeting of Ministers of Transport and Communications in Ashgabat and TTCC Meeting.

78. While reviewing the progress on implementation of the ECO/IDB Joint Project on the TTFA, the Council noted that, so far, the insurance component has approximately been finalized and will be submitted in a regional workshop and the next Meeting of the insurance Committee and the TTCC. It was also noted that the National and International Consultants for preparation of a regional study on corridors are in the final stages of finalizing their reports. The international consultants on Road and Rail have also been identified and would shortly be recruited. It is expected that the project would be completed before the end of 2011. The Member States who have not yet nominated their national focal points and national consultants were requested to do so at the earliest. The Member States who have nominated their consultants may expedite providing their country reports.

79. The Council expressed satisfaction on successful organization of the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for establishing the ECOLPAF in Istanbul in September 2010, which revised the draft Statute of the Federation and agreed on institutional arrangements to set up the Secretariat of the Federation upon approval of its Statute. Accordingly, the revised draft Statute was circulated by the Secretariat for final comments and views of the Member States. The establishment process of the ECOLPAF will be finalized upon the adoption of the Statute by its first General Assembly and final approval of the next COM. The next preparatory Meeting of ECOLPAF will be held in June-July 2011 in Tehran.

80. In line with the decisions of the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Reference Marine Organizations, the Council asked the Secretariat to keep contact with the concerned Member States and the relevant international organizations to secure funds for commencement of the study in two selected sea ports in ECO transit countries, to be designated, for providing transit facilities to other Member States.

81. The Council appreciated UNCTAD for offering to support organizing an international conference in Bandar Abbas with regard to development of logistics and transit trade in the ECO region in October 2011. The Council asked the Secretariat to keep contact with the Member States and UNCTAD to fix the dates and details of hospitality for this conference. The Islamic Republic of Iran may consider organizing this event.

82. The RPC requested the concerned Member States to provide regular progress reports on the road and railway projects enlisted in the 10th (2009) and 11th (2010) ECO Summit Declarations.

83. The Member States were requested to expedite providing their comments and views on the Interim Report of the ECO's International Consultant on Istanbul-Almaty and Almaty-Bandar Abbas Routes. The 3rd meeting of the en-route countries may be held in September 2011 in Bandar Abbas, utilizing the funds approved for the Feasibility Study by the CPR. The Secretariat was asked to expedite organizing the demonstration run of the Trains in contact with the concerned authorities of the Member States and the People's Republic of China in October 2011.

84. While welcoming the launch of ECO Container Train on Islamabad – Tehran – Istanbul Route from 2nd August, 2010, the Council expressed concerns about the operational problems facing the Container train.

85. The Council appreciated the Heads of enroute Member States for their support and attention to this Container train. It also appreciated the efforts of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) for formulating proposals on feasibility study and improvement of operations, for efficient and reliable operation of the ITI Container Train in collaboration with the business associations of Iran and Pakistan. The Council asked the ECO Secretariat to include these proposals in the agenda of the 7th HLWG Meeting to be held in June 2011 in Ankara.

86. The RPC expressed satisfaction on commencement of the feasibility study on the Tajik territory of the Railway Project for connecting China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran. The Council appreciated Iran for granting US\$1 million for this study. Taking into account the decisions of the 1st Ministerial Meeting of the En-route Countries (October 2010, Dushanbe), the RPC requested the People's Republic of China to consider funding the feasibility study in the territories of the Kyrgyz Republic. In case China is unable to grant funds for this purpose, the ECO Member States may consider doing so.

87. The People's Republic of China was requested to expedite fixing the dates and venue of the senior officials Meeting on the abovementioned project.

88. The Council noted with satisfaction that the financial pre-feasibility study of the said project in the territory of Afghanistan has been completed. The Council appreciated ADB for supporting this study.

89. The Council asked the Secretariat to keep contact with the concerned Member States and the relevant international and regional institutions and countries to hold a donors' conference regarding the ECO priority infrastructure projects. The dates, venue and funding arrangements of the conference may be suggested by the Secretariat.

90. The Council requested the Member States enroute the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran Railway Project to provide regular progress reports on the project, in line with the decisions of the 1st Meeting of the Trilateral Coordination Committee (July 2010). The enroute Member States were requested to confirm participation in the 2nd Meeting of the TTCC in Ashgabat on 30-31 May, 2011.

91. The Council expressed satisfaction on the successful organization of the ECO/IRU Silk Road Truck Caravan in September-October 2010, with the participation of trucks and drivers from eight Member States, which traveled about 11,300 km across Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkey. The Meeting also appreciated ECO and IRU for submitting the draft Report of the caravan, a copy of which was handed over to the participating delegations. The Report will be officially circulated by the Secretariat.

92. The Council appreciated the joint course of actions of ECO and IRU to follow up the monitoring of regular run of trucks in the ECO region under the TTFA, in line with the

decisions of the 11th ECO Summit (Istanbul, December 2010). It also requested the Member States to actively participate in implementing ECO/IRU course of action in this regard. The results and key findings of this project would be taken to the Road Committee of the TTCC for approval. The Council also asked the Secretariat to continue necessary coordination with IRU and take necessary measures for implementation of the project after finalization of the project document by CPR.

93. The Council requested the member states, except Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to expedite providing their comments and views on the ECO Common Visa Application Form, ECO Visa Stickers. It also recommended that the Working Group of the Embassies of the Member States in Tehran continue its work on this important subject.

94. The Council asked the Secretariat to keep contact with the Member States to hold the Senior Consular Officials Meeting on Visa related issues to be held in 2011. The Meeting requested inclusion of the Meeting of the Senior Consular Officials of the ECO Member States in the Work Programme of the TTFA Fund for 2011.

95. The Council requested Kazakhstan to expedite fixing the dates and venue of the 6th meeting of ECO Postal Authorities in 2011.

96. The Council expressed satisfaction that all Heads of State/Government/Delegation participating in the 11th ECO Summit (Istanbul, December 2010) affixed their signatures on a large replica of the ECO postage stamp, specially prepared for the Summit by the Turkish postal authorities. It asked the Secretariat to follow up with the host authorities of important ECO meetings to do the same in future meetings.

97. The Council requested all the Member States to actively participate in implementing the course of actions for launching the ECO Money Order system, developed by the Turkish PTT, as agreed in the 2nd Meeting on Technical and Financial Aspects of Financial Postal Services among the ECO Member States (Tehran, 16-17 April, 2011). The Secretariat should keep contact with the Member States in this regard, so that the thirds meeting would be convened as soon as possible, in Iran or any other interested Member States, to inaugurate the system.

98. The Council recommended that pursuant to the decision of the 5th Meeting of the ECO Postal Authorities held in Islamabad on June 22-23, 2009 for establishment of Pakistan Postal Staff College, Islamabad as ECO Postal College and submits its statute for approval of the upcoming COM Meeting.

99. The Council requested Iran to fix the dates and venue of the 14th Meeting of the Heads of the Telecommunications Authorities (HTA). The private sector telecommunications companies will also be invited to the Meeting.

100. The Council asked ECO, IDB and UNESCAP to expedite preparation of an action plan for operationalization of the trilateral MoU signed in 2009. The Secretariat requested ECO/UNECE/IDB to expedite preparing an action plan to implement the provisions of the trilateral MoU on transport development, signed between the three organizations in March 2011.

101. The Council asked UNCTAD to provide technical assistance to ECO in implementing Custom Transit Trade related provisions of the TTFA as well as the ECO's studies on provisions of transit facilities to landlocked countries. UNCTAD may also provide technical/financial support organizing an International Conference on Development of Transit Trade and Logistics in the ECO region at Bandar Abbas in October 2011.

102. The Council requested IDB to consider supporting the investment projects for development of road and railway infrastructure in the ECO region.

103. The Council requested OTIF, OSJD, UIC and CIT to assist the ECO in implementation of the ECO feasibility projects on different routes, as well as implementing the railway-related provisions of the TTFA.

104. The Council requested the Secretariat to keep contact with TRACECA to find out ways to implement joint activities in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two organizations in 2009.

105. The Council asked the Secretariat to finalize the joint plan of action with the UIC and its regional office for Middle East.

106. The Secretariat was requested to keep contact with Council of Bureaux of the Green Card (COB) to institutionalize cooperation between the two organizations.

(c) Energy, Minerals & Environment

- Energy

107. The Council appreciated Tajikistan for hosting the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum on 30 September - 1 October, 2010 in Dushanbe and took note on decision of the Ministerial Meeting about the adoption of the new Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation (2011-2015) and Dushanbe Declaration. The Council requested the Member States for active implementation of this Plan of Action. The Council also welcomed the offer of Iran to host the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum in 2012 in Iran.

108. The Council appreciated Iran for hosting the 1st High Level Expert Group (HLEG) meeting on Energy on 20-21 September, 2010 in Tehran and in pursuance of its Report welcomed the offer of Turkey for hosting the 2nd HLEG meeting on Energy in the first quarter of 2012.

109. The Council appreciated Turkey for hosting 9th and 10th International Training Courses for Energy Managers on 7-18 June, 2010 and 28 February -11 March, 2011 in Ankara, respectively. The Council also welcomed readiness of Turkey for holding the 11th International Training Course for Energy Manager in October 2012.

110. While appreciating Iran for hosting Workshops on "Processing of Heavy Cuts", "Petroleum Products" and "Refining Process of Petroleum Products" on 11-18 June, 2010 in Tehran, the Council welcomed the Iranian proposal on establishing the Oil and Gas Training

Centre in Iran with the cooperation of ECO Secretariat for specialized training courses in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemistry.

111. Taking into consideration the Report of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum (Dushanbe, 1 October, 2010), the Council welcomed the ECO Drilling Training Workshop to be organized in cooperation with Offshore Commissioning Solutions Company (OCS.)

112. The Council recommended the Secretariat would continue its cooperation with the World Bank (WB) on pursuing the regional energy trade issues. Therefore, the Council requested Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to consider holding 3rd Workshop on Regional Energy Trade in the ECO Region in cooperation with WB in 2011/12. The Council took note Iranian proposal on creating financial and banking facilities among ECO members, expanding the opportunities of trade, swap and energy transit in the region, the development of banking relations as well as enhancing cooperation with the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank.

113. The Council appreciated the offer of Iran to host the 3rd Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy and 1st meeting of the ECO Expert Group on Renewable Sources of Energy (back-to-back) in Tehran in November, 2011, and requested the Member States to actively participate in it. It also asked them to convey their proposals, if any, to the Secretariat for developing cooperation in this important field, as also for implementation of the ECO Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation (2011-2015). The Council welcomed the offer of Turkey for holding the 4th Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy in the second half of 2012.

114. The Council welcomed the proposal of Turkey to host the Workshop on Clean Coal Technology in second half of the 2011, within the implementation of Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation in the ECO Region (2011-2015) and requested all Member States to take active part in the Workshop.

115. The Council appreciated Iran for hosting a Joint ECO-OPEC Workshop on International Petroleum Market in Esfahan on 26-27 April, 2011, and emphasized the importance of cooperation, with organizations such as OPEC. The Council also recommended the Secretariat to enhance cooperation with the OPEC Secretariat.

116. The Council welcomed an initiative of the Secretariat to seek a financial fund from the international financial institutions for rehabilitation of the Project on Interconnection of the ECO Countries Power Systems, as it was raised once again at the 11th ECO Summit Meeting and 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (Istanbul, December, 2010) showing vast interest of the Member countries to cooperate in the Energy field, which is aimed at promoting power trade and power management in the region.

117. The Council welcomed an offer of Turkey to consider cooperation among the Member States called as "Natural Gas and Petroleum Supply Security", since the significant energy reserves of the some ECO Member States needs to be safely transported to the world markets. It was accordingly included in the Calendar of Events 2011/12. Therefore, the Council requested Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to kindly consider holding such an event sometime in 2011/12.

118. The Council urged Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to update details of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Energy/Petroleum and those who have not yet provided particulars of their NFPs to expedite the same.

119. The Council took note of Iranian proposal on facilitating of creation of private joint enterprises with participation of Member countries as well as non-member countries, in order to expedite the production, development, distribution, marketing, trade, transit and swap of crude oil, natural gas, petrochemical products and development of power networks.

120. The Council took note of Iranian proposal on cooperating with the Member States in the construction of two pipelines, namely Sarakhs-Jask for the gas export and Neka-Jask for crude oil export, as far as fulfilling energy trading infrastructure like oil and gas exporting pipelines and power networks, enhancing financial investment and technical development among Member countries are important for their cooperation.

121. The Council took note of Iranian proposal regarding establishing a Centre for Exchanging Technical-Engineering Services for ECO in Iran in order to share and exchange knowledge and experience of the Member States in oil and electricity industries, and reduce dependence on imported technology and know-how from the other countries.

122. The Council recommended the Secretariat to pursue further collaboration with UNESCAP and other Members of Inter-regional Working Group on Power Trade and Interconnection led by UNESCAP and ECO and convening of 1st Meeting of the Working Group in 2011/12.

- Minerals

123. The Council appreciated the offer of Iran to host the 4th ECO Mineral Experts Group meeting on 24-26 May, 2011. Since important decisions need to be taken to carry forward cooperation in the field of Minerals, the Council emphasized on the Member States to take part actively in the meeting.

124. The Council recommended the Secretariat for seeking funds for ECO Geosciences Database Project, feasibility study of which has already been done by Geological Survey of Iran.

125. The Council appreciated the offer of National Cartographic Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 1st Meeting of ECO Head of Surveying and Mapping Organizations on 26-27 September, 2011 in Tehran. The Council emphasized on the Member States to actively take part in the meeting and confirm to the Secretariat their participation as early as possible.

126. The Council noted with concern the slow cooperation of the Member States in providing timely data and implementation of project on compilation of Mineral Distribution Map (MDM) of ECO region and called for accelerating providing requested data to timely implementation of this project by the Project Manager. The Council appreciated Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for providing the requested data and urged the remaining Member States to do the same.

127. The Council urged Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to update details of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Minerals and those who have not yet provided particulars of their NFPs to expedite the same.

- Environment

128. The Council urged all Member States to update their National Focal Points (NFPs) details on Environment and those who have not yet provided particulars of their NFPs to expedite the same.

129. The Council requested all Member States to submit their National Progress Report to the ECO Secretariat, annually, in the beginning of the each year, with coverage of the previous year, on the basis of the single agreed format.

130. The Council appreciated 6 Member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey) for providing the Secretariat with their comments on draft Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming (2011-2015) which was proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. This would be discussed and finalized by the Senior Officials Meeting preceding the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment and adopted by the 4th Ministerial Meetings to be held on 9th June, 2011.

131. The Council took note of the Iranian proposal: "In order to implement the Plan of Action for Cooperation on Environment, as a first step, the Secretariat should prepare a regional program for this purpose. The program would translate the Plan of Action to national and regional projects with specific time frame and quantitative indicators required for monitoring its implementation. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a project profile for preparation of the regional program and submit to the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment. Once the project document is approved by the Ministers, the Secretariat should approach relevant international organizations and the CPR for allocation of the necessary funds for the implementation of the Project.

132. The Secretariat could be requested to prepare a project profile for preparation of the regional program and submit it to the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment. Once the project document for the preparation of a regional program is approved by the Ministers, the Secretariat should approach relevant international organization and the CPR as well for allocation of the necessary funds for the implementation of the project. Member States also consider financial and technical contribution to this project".

133. The Council thanked eight Member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan) which have provided the particulars as well as contact details of their officials for the E-mail Group. The above named countries are requested to provide their focal points so as to benefit that information network. Those countries nominated their focal points are strongly requested to follow the instruction of the concerned Turkish authorities for providing input and sharing relevant environmental information. The concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey are also requested to kindly keep this Secretariat abreast of progress in operating the E-mail Group.

134. The Council appreciated the establishment on the project basis of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (IEST) for ECO region and requested all Member States to indicate their willingness for cooperating with the IEST.

135. The Council welcomed an 8-week Environmental Management Training Course for 20 scholarships (1st June, 2011, Karaj, Iran) to be organized by the Department of Environment of Iran and ECO-IEST, and appreciated Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey for nomination of their representatives for participation at this training course. The Council also called on the remaining Member States to identify their outstanding applicants for participation at the mentioned training course.

136. The Council welcomed Cooperation on Watershed Rehabilitation and requested all Member States to kindly offer their willingness to host the relevant event. The Council also took note of the Iranian proposal on shifting this issue to Agriculture Division of the Secretariat.

137. The Council was informed that the 9th issue of the ECO Bulletin on Environment was published in February 2011 based on material received from Afghanistan and Turkey. Since 5th WGM (22-23 May, 2008, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan) on Environment agreed that the Bulletin be published biannually, the Council requested all Member States to take active part in preparation and publication of the next issues of Bulletin and forward their relevant materials/articles to the Secretariat on regular basis. The Council took note of Iranian proposal on including the National Progress Report in the Bulletin also.

138. In view of the importance of the subjects to be addressed in the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment and consideration of status of implementation of the decisions of the mentioned Ministerial Meeting, the Council requested all Member States to kindly indicate their willingness for hosting the 6th WGME some time in 2012.

139. The Council appreciated Republic of Turkey for hosting Pre-COP (Conference of Parties) on 3-4 May, 2010 in Antalya. The Council also appreciated the offer of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to host some events in the Calendar of Events on Biodiversity. The concerned authorities of mentioned countries are requested to finalize arrangements for exact venue and dates of the meeting. The remaining Member States were requested to show their willingness and positively consider holding at least one event from those included in the Calendar of Events on Biodiversity.

140. The 2nd Experts Group Meeting on Ecotourism back to back with the Conference on Assessment basis of the Environmental, Economic and Cultural Benefits of Ecotourism were held in Baku on 10-12 June, 2010. The Council thanked the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting these events and making such a nice arrangement and extending excellent hospitality to the participants. The Council appreciated the offer of Turkey to host 3rd Experts Group Meeting on Ecotourism in 2012 and welcomed the Iranian proposal on shifting Ecotourism issues to Tourism Division in the Secretariat.

141. The Council appreciated the offer of Iran to host the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment to be preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting in Tehran on 7-9 June, 2011. The Council called on the Member States to actively take part in the meeting and confirm to the Secretariat on their participation at the highest level as early as possible.

142. In the light of general guidelines approved by the Plenary Session of the 21st RPC Meeting, the issues related to Ecotourism have been shifted to the Directorate of Agriculture, Industry and Tourism.

(d) Agriculture, Industry and Tourism

- Agriculture

143. The Council appreciated with thanks the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and 2nd Donors' Conference on the implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) in 2012.

144. The Council requested the Secretariat and Turkey as coordinating country for the implementation of the RPFS to arrange joint missions to donor/funding institutions to pave the way for their active participation and contribution to the implementation of the RPFS.

145. The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a background paper on the implementation of RPFS and submit it to the 2nd Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the RPFS in the last quarter of 2011. The background paper will include possible ways and means for ensuring financial contribution and support of the Member States to the implementation of RPFS. It also requested the Secretariat to include issues related to financial contribution of the Member States to the RPFS in the agenda of ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy.

146. The Council urged the Member States to prepare project proposals and submit them to the 2nd Coordination Meeting for necessary action. It took note of four project proposals prepared by Turkey related to animal diseases, pastures, pest management and extension services.

147. The Council appreciated with thanks the preparation of a Regional Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Project by FAO in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat for seeking financial assistance from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP). The project document will be submitted to the CPR for endorsement and authorizing Secretary General to sign the document.

148. The Council appreciated the preparation of a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) with the amount of US\$ 450.000 by the Secretariat and FAO upon the request of Turkey for the implementation of the PERFS. It also appreciated that a second project for the same purpose to be financed by the Turkey-FAO Partnership Program (FTPP) had been submitted to the FTPP Steering Committee (SC) for review/approval in May 2011. The two project documents will be submitted to CPR for approval and authorization of Secretary General to sign them. The Council requested the CPR to consider the allocation of seed money for these projects from ECO FGPF.

149. The Council requested Member States (except Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) to finalize the necessary action to apply to IDB through their Ministries of Finance and other donor institutions to follow-up the financial support for their national projects under the RPFS.

150. The Council took note with appreciation that the 3rd ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference would be held in Turkey in November 2011 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the Conference. It welcomed the decision of the 2nd General Assembly of the ECOSA held in 2010 in Istanbul to organize workshops/training courses in the fields of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) (in Iran), the Seed Testing (in Pakistan) and Field Control (in Azerbaijan in cooperation with Turkey).

151. The Council welcomed the proposal of the 2nd Phase of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Project, which was prepared by FAO, ECO and ICARDA with a budget of 5.9 million USD and submitted to European Union (EU) and IDB for full or partial financial assistance. The Council requested the Secretariat to submit the final project document to be revised in line with the comments/views of the donor agencies to CPR for endorsement and authorization of Secretary General to sign it.

152. The Council welcomed the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the region proposed by Turkey within the scope of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTTP) with an amount of 350.000 USD from FTTP + 50.000 from ECO Feasibility Fund = 400.000 USD, which will be signed between Turkey, ECO and FAO after approval of CPR.

153. Recalling the relevant decision of 19th COM to establish ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water in the field of Agriculture in Islamabad, Pakistan, the Council requested the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and ECO Secretariat to sign an agreement for the utilization of US\$ 50.000 from ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund (ECO-FGPF) as seed money in this regard.

154. The Council thanked Pakistani authorities for organizing the Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture and requested the Member States to offer hosting the 2nd Working Group Meeting in 2011.

155. The Council appreciated with thanks the initiative of the ECO Secretariat and ECOSA for preparation of a Directory of the public and private seed companies in the ECO Member States and requested the Member States to provide necessary information in this regard.

156. The Council thanked Member States for signing of MOU for the establishment of (ECO-RCRM) and requested Uzbekistan also to sign it.

157. The Council welcomed the agreement signed between ECO Secretariat and the Meteorological Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRIMO) for the utilization of \$ 50.000/- USD from the ECO-FGPF for establishment of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) and requested IRIMO to organize Working Group Meeting and Training Programme on Climate Modelling and Natural Disasters in ECO Region.

158. The Council appreciated that the Turkish State Meteorological Service had prepared four international training programs for the ECO Member States in 2011 as follows and requested the Member States to actively attend them:

- a. Training Course on “Flash Flood Forecasting Model Concept”, Istanbul Facilities of RTC Turkey, September 2011.
- b. Training Course on “Basics of Calibration”, Ankara Facilities of RTC Turkey, 12 to 14 September 2011.
- c. Training Course on “Basics of Numerical Weather Prediction and Practices”, Alanya Facilities of RTC Turkey, 26 to 30 September 2011.
- d. Training Course on “Climate Analysis and Applications”, Alanya Facilities of RTC Turkey, 10 to 19 October 2011.

159. The Council requested the Member States to designate their focal points for the Working Group established by the 3rd ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations Meeting held in 2010 in Antalya to work on developing projects under cooperation proposals put forward by Turkey.

160. The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to specify the exact dates of the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations to be held in 2011.

161. Recalling the relevant decision of 19th COM to establish ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) in Tehran as a specialized agency of ECO, the Council requested the Member States to sign/ratify its statute.

162. The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host Training workshop on Management of Food and Mouth Disease for one week in late September 2011 in Tehran and a training workshop on laboratory diagnose animal disease in Kerman in mid of December 2011 respectively.

163. Recalling the relevant decision of the 19th COM, the Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the 2nd Expert Group Meeting on bio-safety in 9-11 October, 2011 for the establishment of the ECO-ABN.

- Industry

164. The Council asked the Republic of Kazakhstan to confirm hosting the 4th ECO Ministerial and 3rd HLEG Meetings on Industry in 2011 at its earliest convenience.

165. The Council appreciated the establishment of the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) at ECO Secretariat and requested the Member States to sign (except Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey) and ratify the Statute of RISCAM. For early operationalisation of RISCAM, the Council also requested the Member States in collaboration with ECO Secretariat to expedite the accomplishment of tasks assigned to ICU in the Road Map for the provisional implementation of RISCAM Statute.

166. The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the offer hosting a workshop on conformity assessment in 18-20, July 2011. It also thanked Turkey for hosting of two workshops on standardization and accreditation at the second week of December 2011. The Council requested Kazakhstan to consider hosting the workshop on metrology and convey the exact dates and details to ECO Secretariat at the earliest. The delegate of Turkey declared that in case there is no other voluntary country, Turkey is ready to host the 5th EGM on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in 2012.

167. The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 1st Task Force Meeting of relevant experts for the establishment of a database on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology and related website in 2011/2012. The exact date and details of this meeting would be determined based on the relevant information to be gathered from the Member States by ECO Secretariat.

168. The Council thanked Islamic Republic of Iran for its offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration and the 5th Meeting of HLEG on Privatization and Private Sector Development on 3-4 September, 2011 in Tehran. The Council thanked Republic of Turkey for launching the ECO Website on Privatization and requested from the Member States uploading the required data into the website and designate their focal points for this purpose. It was noted that upon completion of this process, Turkey would organize a training workshop for the focal points on the utilization of the website and in concurrence with this another workshop on public-private partnership. The Council also took note that Turkey is ready to extend training and technical assistance on privatization practices to the experts from the Member States.

169. The Council appreciated Republic of Turkey for organizing the 1st Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in the last quarter of 2011. The Council reiterated its request from the Member States to actively involve in this area of cooperation. The delegate of Turkey requested the Member States to work on specifying their needs and come up with proposals to be considered by the Committee to determine possible areas of cooperation. The Council also requested the Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan) to convey the filled-in questionnaire prepared by Turkish Patent Institute for organizing a training workshop.

170. The Council requested acceleration of implementation of the agreed projects proposed during the 3rd ECO Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SME Development. In case there is no volunteering country to host the 4th Steering Committee Meeting, Islamic Republic of Iran may consider hosting it in 2012. The Council requested Member States to convey their views on priorities, agenda items, opinions and / or comments well before the meeting in order to organize an effective and fruitful meeting. It also requested the designation of national focal points for SME cooperation.

171. The Council appreciated the readiness of KOSGEB of Turkey to share its experience on KOSGEB Business Matching Model to establish Business Matching Centers in ECO Member Countries to create business linkages between SMEs and to enhance the trade volume between ECO countries and also to share its experience on Technology Development Models and Technology Development Centers.

172. The Council requested Iran and Pakistan to circulate their proposals on “ECO SME Virtual Fair Project” and “ECO IDENE Project”, respectively.

173. Taking into consideration the positive synergy and the spill-over effects to create common policies and practices in ECO Member Countries, the Council requested Member States to organize best practices workshops on SMEs. In this regard the Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Workshop/Training Course on Industrial Clusters

Development, Best Practice for SMEs Governmental Experts of ECO Member States in February, 2011.

174. The Council requested the Member States to expedite the conveyance of their views on “ECO SME Expert Exchange Project” and “ECO SME Country Report Project” proposed by KOSGEB of Turkey.

175. The Council appreciated the efforts of Iran for the establishment of ECO Nanotechnology Network and thanked Iran for hosting the 1st Steering Committee Meeting ECO-NANO. The Council requested Iran to submit modified version of the project Water Treatment by Nano-Filtration Method.

176. The Council requested Iran to finalize the project proposals (Phase 1&2) “Identifying potential Transferors and Transferees in the ECO Region” and “Identifying Supporters of Technology Transfer Process in the Region” in collaboration with ECO Secretariat for submission to CPR for the allocation of US \$ 50,000/- from the Feasibility Study Fund and requested Member States to participate in the activities of ECO Technology Transfer Centre and updating the website of ETT.

177. The Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to confirm to the Secretariat about their interest to follow up the proposal made for the Establishment of ECO Representative Office for Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty, otherwise this item may be removed from ongoing programmes.

178. The council requested the Secretariat to follow up joint activities with Colombo Plan especially on “Training Program on SME’s” in collaboration with Colombo Plan Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

- Tourism

179. The Council requested Tajikistan to inform the Secretariat about their readiness for hosting the 3rd Ministerial Meeting and the 5th High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Tourism in 2011/12 at the earliest convenience.

180. The Council thanked Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey for their pledge to provide financial contribution to the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund. The Council requested the remaining Member States to contribute to the Fund, and also requested all Member States to nominate their representatives for the Board of the Trustees of the Fund.

181. The Council requested Afghanistan to announce the details for hosting the Working Group Meeting on Revival of Silk Road within one month.

182. The Council appreciated the publication of first ECO Tourism Guidebook in 5000 copies and thanked the ECO Secretariat, ECO Cultural Institute and the Iranian Cultural and Heritage Tourism Organization (ICHTO) for their contribution.

183. The Council requested Islamic Republic of Iran to confirm hosting of 1st ECO Nations Sport Competitions.

184. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran and ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for holding the first ECO Youth Ministerial Meeting in November 2010 in Tehran and welcomed the offer of Pakistan during the same meeting for hosting the second meeting.

185. In accordance with the report of the 2nd ECO Ministers of Tourism Meeting, the Council requested Republic of Turkey to finalize the preparations for Joint sports tournament and tourism related event in Turkish Cypriot State for 2011/12.

186. The Council appreciated the proposal made by Turkey on technical assistance and cooperation among the Member States in order to undertake in-depth tourism policy reviews of individual Member States. The Council invited Member States to propose joint mechanisms at ECO level in this regard.

(e) Human Resources & Sustainable Development

187. The Council deliberated in detail on issues of the agenda of the Human Resources and Sustainable Development Directorate (HRSD) including Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), health and disaster risk management. All the Member States reiterated their commitment to achieving these goals and objectives. The main points agreed upon are given as below:

- **Human and Sustainable Development:**

188. The Council while specifically emphasizing on Human Development made by the “ECO Vision 2015”, requested the Member States to offer new topics for cooperation under this field such as Poverty Alleviation and related matters, the training of the workforce and Education as well as Women Empowerment.

189. The Council appreciated the kind offer of I.R. Iran for proposing to host the 3rd High Level Expert Group Meeting (HLEG) on Human Development and MDGs in July 2011 and requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to actively participate in the event. As per recommendations of the 2nd HLEG on MDGs, as well as 19th and 20th RPC meetings, the 3rd HLEG meeting will focus on health related MDGs i.e. goals 4 (Reduce Child Mortality), 5 (Improve Maternal Health), and 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases). Therefore, the Council requested the concerned health authorities of the Member States to participate in the event.

190. The Council requested the Member States to prepare regional project proposals on health related MDGs in the ECO countries. The Council also called on the Secretariat to approach the relevant UN Agencies including UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and WHO for their support to both preparation of the project proposals and also implementation of them.

191. For better coordination and cooperation and facilitation on communication, the Council requested the Member States, to introduce/update the information of their focal points on health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), giving all relevant contact information (Name, Position, Tel., Fax, and particularly E-mail) at the earliest.

192. The Council appreciated the Secretariat’s efforts for restarting its previous initiative for preparing ECO Human (Sustainable) Development Report on a regular basis and

approached to UNDP as the most relevant UN Agency to seek their support. The Council also advised the Secretariat to continue its efforts for preparation of the report.

193. The Council appreciated the kind offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to hold a High Level Expert Group Meeting on Human Resource Development in second half of 2011, leading to the First ECO Ministerial Meeting on this topic.

- Health

194. The Council underlined the need to conduct a comprehensive regional study and preparation of Regional Program on Health. The Regional Program would identify the priority areas for regional cooperation and recommend appropriate activities and projects on each priority area. It would contain specific projects at regional and national level. These projects should be formulated based on a participatory approach with the Member States.

195. The Council called on the Secretariat to approach the WHO and other international organizations for technical and financial assistance to conduct the Study and preparation of the Regional Program. The consultant/s would also make trips to selected ECO Member States to get a clear picture of the present situation of the issues.

196. Giving the fact that consultant's report would rely on information provided by Member States, the meeting strongly recommended to the concerned authorities, particularly those working in Health Ministries, to positively support the consultancy and cooperate with the Secretariat in providing necessary information for preparation of the Regional Program.

197. The Council appreciated Kazakhstan for proposing to host the 2nd ECO Health Ministerial Meeting, separately back-to-back to the OIC Health Ministers Meeting scheduled for October 2011 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the Meeting.

198. The Council requested the Member States to kindly consider hosting the 2nd Meeting of High Level Drug Regulatory Authorities in 2011-12.

199. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Workshops on Pharmacovigilance and Drug Quality Control and also encouraged other Member States to host remaining workshops on drug/pharmaceutical related issues which were recommended by the first HLDA meeting i.e. Drug registration and licensing; Counterfeit Medicines; Current Good Manufacturing Practices.

200. The Council requested the Member States to kindly expedite nominating/updating the information of their focal points on Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authorities, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest.

201. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, being the coordinator for setting up the ECO Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authority Network, for preparing the draft modalities on the Network. The Council while emphasizing the importance of the Network, requested the Member States to consider the draft modalities and convey their Comments/views, if any, to the ECO Secretariat latest by end of September 2011.

202. The Council appreciated the Turkish authorities for making excellent arrangements for the 2nd Study Tour of Health Authorities of the Member States. Upon receiving the positive feed back from the Member States on first and second Study Tours organized in Iran and Turkey, respectively, the Council requested the other Member States to consider hosting the Third Study Tour for Health Authorities of Member States in 2011/2012.

203. The Council appreciated the kind offer of I.R. Iran to extend two scholarships to each Member States in the field of Master of Public Health (MPH) commencing in the last week of September 2011. The Council requested the I.R. Iran to provide further necessary information in this regards.

204. The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to propose exact date and hospitality details for the 3rd Meeting of ECO Heads/Authorities of Blood Transfusion Organizations scheduled to be held in 2012 in Baku.

205. The Council appreciated the Iranian authorities for organizing two back to back workshops on “Voluntary Donor Recruitment” and “Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion” held on 10-14 May, 2010 in Tehran.

206. The Council encouraged the other Member States to be volunteer to host training courses/workshops, seminars and introductory study tours from within the remaining priority areas, which were recommended by the First Meeting and reaffirmed in the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations/Authorities i.e. GMP in blood banks (training and inspection); Incorporation of IT and Automated Screening in blood transfusion system; Procurement collaboration (Blood bags and equipments); Hemovigilance; Collaboration in Plasma Industry (plasma collection and plasma fractionation)

207. The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with the detailed information of the training/academic courses in the field of blood transfusion, being conducted in their respective countries, which could also be offered to other Member States.

208. The Council welcomed the offer of I.R. Iran to organize Ph.D courses on haematology for ECO Member States. The Council requested the Iranian relevant authorities to provide the detailed information regarding the above-mentioned courses.

209. The Council requested the Member States to extend their utmost efforts and cooperation for establishment of the ECO Blood Safety Network, particularly in furnishing the already circulated questionnaires as the first step towards establishment of the Network.

210. The Council requested the Member States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to expedite nominating their focal points on blood transfusion cooperation, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest

211. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for making excellent arrangements for organizing the Workshop on "Prevention, Diagnosis & Treatment of Osteoporosis" and encouraged the interested Member States to benefit the experiences of Iranian health authorities in the field of Osteoporosis, particularly for establishment of the country-wide Osteoporosis Registry Network and relevant Laboratories.

- Cooperation on Natural Disaster Management

212. The Council requested the Member States to regularly submit information on their activities on Disaster Risk Management and related regulations to the ECO Secretariat for further distribution to the other Member States in order to increase public awareness on the importance of the Natural Disaster Management. The Council encouraged Member States to propose holding events/conferences/Seminars on Disaster Risk Management in 2011/2012.

213. The Council advised ECO Secretariat to continue cooperation on Disaster Risk Management with relevant international organizations such as UN-ISDR, UN/OCHA and UNHABITAT seeking their technical and financial support (if possible), towards the activities of ECO on Disaster Risk Management.

214. The Council requested the Member States to make their utmost efforts for implementation of the recommendations of the Five (1st to 5th) Annual ECO International Conferences on Disaster Risk Management.

215. The Council appreciated the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the ECO Sixth International Conference on Disaster Risk Management on 17-18 October 2011 and requested the host authorities to intimate the details of hospitality to be extended to the participants and requested the Member State to actively participate in the event. Since the Kyrgyz Republic also offered to host the event, the Council requested relevant Kyrgyz authorities to consider hosting the 7th ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management in 2012.

216. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for its kind offer to host the “Regional Conference on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction” on 24-26 July, 2011 and requested the Member States to confirm their participation in the event at the earliest.

217. The Council requested Member States (Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to expedite nominating their focal points on Disaster Risk Management, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest.

- Future Activities / New Proposals:

218. The Council appreciated the kind offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host 1st Meeting of the ECO Heads of National Organizations/Centers for Civil Registration in Tehran on 13-14 June, 2011 and requested the Member States to confirm their participation in the meeting and convey composition of their delegations to the Secretariat at the earliest. The Council also requested the Member States to intimate titles and names of the Heads of National Organizations/Centers for Civil Registration along with their contact details.

219. Based on the general guidelines approved at Plenary Session of the 21st RPC Meeting the issue of health tourism shifted to the agenda of the Directorate of Agriculture, Industry and Tourism.

(f) Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU):

220. The Council appreciated preparation of “Statistics and Analytical Report of Drug Seizures for the years 2008 – 2009 in the ECO Region”, by the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) and urged the Member States to continue sending their country reports and statistics on drug control to DOCCU for preparation of analytical reports.

221. The Council reiterated its request to Member States to initiate harmonization of their legal drug structures in agreement with the UN conventions. The Council encouraged the Member States who have not yet ratified the relevant UN Conventions to do so.

222. The Council noted with appreciation holding of the 3rd Meeting of ECO Interior Ministers in Istanbul on 23-24 December, 2010 and reiterated the Member States to expedite follow-up action on the Report to implement the decisions of the meeting.

223. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its offer to host the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting in Islamabad and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting. Member States were also requested to actively participate in the meeting at the highest level.

224. The Council appreciated the offer of the Inspection Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the First Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States on 21-22 May, 2011 and requested the Member States to actively participate and follow up the decisions of the meeting.

225. The Council noted with appreciation holding of the 1st Meeting of Chief of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States in Tehran and welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the 2nd Meeting of Chief of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States in Afghanistan. The concerned Afghan authorities were requested to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

226. The Council noted with appreciation holding of the 1st Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States in Tehran and welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 2nd Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States. The host authorities were requested to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

227. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st Meeting of Attorney Generals of the ECO Member States in Iran and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

228. The Council welcomed the offer of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for preparation of a Plan of Action against human trafficking and illegal migration with technical cooperation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in December, 2011. It further requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

229. The Council welcomed the initiative of the DOCCU for preparation of a Plan of Action for follow-up activities in line with the MOU signed between the ECO and IOM and

hoped that the same would be finalized by both side at an early date. The Plan would then be submitted to the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting, scheduled for 2011 in Pakistan.

230. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to organize 1st Meeting of Chiefs of Police of ECO Member States in 2011 and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

231. The Council noted with appreciation holding of the 1st Meeting of Border Commanders of ECO Member States in Tehran and requested that one of the Member States may volunteer to host its 2nd Meeting.

232. The Council appreciated the offer of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to host one training course on drug related matters in October, 2011 and requested the concerned authorities of Iran to indicate hospitality details.

233. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a Workshop on Terrorism and requested the concerned authorities of Iran to convey exact dates for this workshop in due course.

234. The Council took note of signing of the MOU on 3 February, 2009 between ECO and European Commission, for implementation of the project titled “Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan” with the ECO Member States and requested the Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the Project.

235. The Council took note of the proposal to organize meetings of National Focal Points and Drug Liaison Officers on drug control as also some workshops, funded by the EU Project and requested the Member States to actively participate in those activities.

236. Based on the decisions of the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting (Istanbul, December 2010), the Council appreciated nomination of focal points for cooperation in the field of (i) Drug, (ii) Terrorism, (iii) Organized Crime, (iv) Human Trafficking and (v) National Coordinator by Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey. It requested Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to kindly expedite nominating their focal points, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest.

237. The Council appreciated nomination of Liaison Officers for Police cooperation among the NCBs by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and requested the remaining Member States i.e. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to expedite nominating the same.

238. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host an EGM for formulating modalities for the preparation of a Regional Threat Assessment Report on Organized Crime and Terrorism and requested the concerned Turkish authorities to indicate exact dates and hospitality details for the meeting.

239. The Council also took note of the Revised Joint Regional Strategy to combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crimes, approved by the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers’

Meeting and requested the Member States to expedite implementation of the mentioned Strategy.

240. The Council while appreciating the Republic of Turkey for hosting the EGM for Evolving a Plan of Action (POA) on Combating Trans-National Organized Crime and requested the Member States to prepare grounds for implementation of this POA as it has been approved by the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul on 23-24 December, 2010.

241. The Council requested the Member States to fully support early establishment of ECOPOL as the same has been approved by the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting. In this regard, the Council further requested that one of the Member States may volunteer hosting the EGM for finalizing necessary formalities/documents for establishment of ECOPOL.

(g) Projects, Economic Research and Statistics

- Projects

242. The Council appreciated the Secretariat's renewed efforts to utilize the ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGSF) to finance projects in priority areas of trade, investment, transport and communications, energy, agriculture, minerals and economic research. The updated list of ECO projects is enclosed.

243. The Council welcomed establishment of the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) at Secretariat as its main objective is to ensure effective inter-agency coordination between ECO and international partner organizations on project implementation. To enable knowledge sharing on project implementation in the Member States, the Secretariat in collaboration with the UNDP project management team has conducted training for project responsible staff in February 2010. It helped align ECO project management techniques with those practiced in the UN system. Further, the Joint Training Programme for project risk management has been scheduled for the second half of 2011. It will be conducted by the Secretariat in collaboration with Islamic Training and Research Institute.

244. The Council agreed to extend the ECO's Plan of Action for Reconstruction of Afghanistan until a new Action Plan could be finalized. The Council requested the Government of Afghanistan to further speed up the communication process in response to the enquiries of the Secretariat so that it could proceed with implementation of the relevant reconstruction projects well in time.

245. The Council took note of total contributions and pledges of the Member States to the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan amounting to US\$ 11,150,000/-. These comprise US\$ 5 million each pledged by Pakistan and Turkey and \$ 1 million by Iran and \$ 150,000/- by Azerbaijan. The latter two Member States have transferred to the ECO Special Fund their entire contributions. Pakistan has so far transferred \$ 2 million and Turkey \$ 400,000/- of their pledged contributions. The remaining Member States have also been requested to make a contribution to the Fund, as a gesture of solidarity with the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to implement useful reconstruction projects in that country.

246. The Council expressed satisfaction over completion of physical construction of the Project on Deh Mazang Public Park and Maintenance of Kabul Zoo worth at US \$ 1.3 million. The last instalment of US \$ 195,000 would be released upon receiving the certificate of final completion of works from the Project Engineer via Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The document includes a certificate for satisfactory final completion together with a written request for payment along with bill of quantities and the copy of the invoices.

247. The Council welcomed completion of 70% of total construction works of Block A of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Training and Research Centre (MRRD) in Kabul worth at US\$ 600,000. This was confirmed by both the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation as well as the MFA of Afghanistan. Transfer of the second instalment of US\$ 180,000/- is under process so that it could be released in due time. Also the third instalment of MMRD Project has been released on 22 December 2010 according to the Habib Bank information.

248. The Council considered the follow up of the Secretariat through series of emails addressed to the relevant Afghan focal point assigned for the project on Construction of a Maternity Hospital in Faryab Province with new outlay of US\$ 1,004,985, requesting the concerned authorities in Afghanistan to expedite providing final draft agreement for the projects. The issue has been repeatedly discussed and asked from the relevant officials both in Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran. On this subject issue, also 3 meetings have been held with the First Secretary of Afghan Embassy in Tehran. The Council requested Afghanistan to provide final draft agreement of the projects.

249. The Council took note that the Secretariat has sent sample tender documents of the project on Construction of a School in Bamian Province with revised budget of US\$ 150,000 to the concerned Afghan authorities for necessary action. Following the request of the Afghan Embassy in Tehran and in order to accelerate the process for implementation of the project, the Secretariat agreed not to issue tender and asked the Embassy for a draft agreement so as to speed up the process. The issue has been repeatedly discussed and asked from the relevant officials both in Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran. On this subject issue, 3 meetings have been held with the First Secretary of Afghan Embassy in Tehran. The Council requested Afghanistan to take action on this issue.

250. The Council appreciated the signing of MOU on Implementing Reconstruction Projects in Afghanistan between Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and ECO Secretariat within the scope of the pledges/contributions made by the Republic of Turkey to the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan. The Council requested Afghanistan to continue submission of project proposals to the Secretariat, in this regard.

251. The Council requested the Secretariat to enhance its activities towards greater international cooperation. It may approach international financial institutions and donors, including IDB, ADB, World Bank and others to seek technical and financial assistance to add to ECO's efforts in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

252. The Council took note that Afghanistan Ministry of Economy will update the Secretariat in one month time on the implementation of ECO funded projects as well as on collection of new projects proposals after prioritizing. The Council emphasized the importance of timely payments upon accomplishment of project activities.

- Economic Research and Statistics

253. The Council noted with satisfaction the report of the 1st Meeting of the ECO Leading Economic Research Institutions (ELERI) held on 1-2 May, 2010 in Tehran and thanked the Population Studies and Research Centre for Asia and the Pacific of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this meeting. The Council requested the Member States to offer for hosting the 2nd Meeting of Leading Economic Research Institutions in 2011.

254. The Council noted with satisfaction the report of the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of ECO NSOs, held on 27-28 May, 2010 in Astana and thanked the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan for excellent arrangements of the meeting. The Council welcomed the offer of the Central Statistics Organization of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for hosting the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of ECO NSOs, scheduled to be held on 24-25 May, 2011 in Kabul and requested Member States to contribute to the agenda of the high level meeting by substantial inputs as regards new initiatives/proposals.

255. The Council noted with satisfaction the report of the 3rd High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics, held on 5-6 October, 2010 in Kabul and thanked the Central Statistics Organization of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for enabling the results based outcomes of the meeting. The Council also thanked the Federal Bureau of Statistics of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (FBS) for hosting the 4th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics held on 7-8 April, 2011 in Islamabad and noted with satisfaction the offer regarding the ECO Statistical Training Centre and the invitation of FBS to the ECO Member States to participate in the training course scheduled in July 2011. The Council requested those Member States that have not organized the High Level Expert Group Meetings on statistics, to do so and, in this regard, the 5th HLEGM is open for suggestions.

256. The Council considered setting up the Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology, established during the 3rd HLEGM on Statistics in Kabul. Already, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan have introduced their nominees for this Committee. The Council urged the remaining ECO NSOs to expedite the announcement of their respective candidates for the representation in the Committee. The Council also welcomed the offer of the State Committee of Statistics of Turkmenistan for hosting the 1st Meeting of this Committee in 2011.

257. The Council thanked the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) for conducting the 1st Training Workshop on ECOSTAT from 28 November to 1 December, 2010 in Tehran. In view of the benefits for the NSOs from such IT-based training, the Council requested those Member States which have IT facilities to provide similar training opportunities. The Council instructed the Secretariat to incorporate in the Statistical Capacity Building Programme the training needs of the Member States in areas such as: IT technologies, software, data warehousing, processing and dissemination as identified by the participants of the previously held workshops.

258. The Council took note of the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for collaboration between Pakistan and ECO countries in the areas such as cooperation between software companies, establishment of IT parks, investment in ICT sector of Pakistan, export of IT workforce, IT outsourcing from Pakistan and establishment of venture capital fund in Pakistan, on the statistics and economic research.

259. The Council noted with satisfaction the issuance of the ECO Annual Economic Report for 2009 through electronic means. It urged those Member States that have not provided yet the required data for compilation of the next issue of the Annual Economic Report (2010), to do so by end of May 2011.

260. The Council welcomed upload of the ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) and appreciated the effort of the Statistical Centre of Iran in designing, upload and support to ECOSTAT. The Council requested Member States to operate through ECOSTAT electronic tools their respective data from the stations in NSOs. The Council requested the Member States to follow frequency and quality and quantity criteria in provision of country data and information to ECOSTAT. Also, provision of positive news pertaining to country economic performance of Member States was welcomed by the Council. In this regard, the Council urged the National Statistical Offices of those Member States that have not nominated their Focal Points for ECOSTAT to do so at earliest in order to enable them access to internal site of the system. Already, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan have introduced their respective Focal Points for ECOSTAT to the Secretariat.

261. The Council appreciated Statistical Center of Iran (SCI)'s efforts in enabling access of the ECO Member States to ECOSTAT in this regard, and welcomed the countries' cooperation in updating the statistical data and tables on the ECOSTAT. The Council requested the Member States to forward their respective Compendia for year 2010 and also the most updated statistical reports, bulletins and yearbooks in order to disseminate these in the region via ECOSTAT.

262. The Council noted with satisfaction the approval of the two research project proposals by the CPR Meetings: Economic Policy Research on "Perspective of Intra Regional Trade in ECO Countries", Coordinator country: Kazakhstan (with estimated budget of US\$ 50,000, financed by the FGPF) and "Comparative Study on the Linkage between Energy Consumption and Population Dynamics in the ECO Countries", Coordinator country: Iran, Population Studies and Research Centre for Asia and the Pacific - PSRC (with estimated budget of US\$ 50,000 financed jointly by the UNFPA 50%, PSRC 45% and the ECO 5%). The Council requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement the ECO Joint Economic Research Programme. It also urged the Member States for active cooperation with the Secretariat in timely providing new research proposals based on the research needs inside the region and data and information on ongoing research studies.

263. The Council expressed its satisfaction to the ECO Secretariat for posting the first issue of ECO Economic Journal on the ECO website and compilation of the 2nd issue. The Council announced a call to the Member States for concept papers/abstracts/reviews for consideration of these for inclusion in the subsequent issues of the ECO Economic Journal. For assigning to the Editorial Board of the Journal, the Council also urged the Member States (excluding Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan) to convey their nominees.

264. The Council noted with satisfaction the report of the 8th National Focal Points on Economic Research and Statistics, held on 21-22 April, 2011 in Baku and appreciated the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this meeting. The Council welcomed the new project proposal "Trade Liberalization and Food Security in the ECO Region", proposed by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). The

delegate of Pakistan informed the Council that project proposal would convey as early as possible. The Council requested the remaining Member States that have not hosted the NFPM, to host the 9th NFPM.

265. The Council noted with satisfaction the results of the 1st Meeting of Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER) held on 3 May, 2011 in Astana. It expressed satisfaction for adoption of the ECO Plan of Action on Economic Research by the said meeting and requested the Member States to nominate their representatives to this Committee on permanent basis. The Committee will coordinate implementation of research projects in the Member States, prepare solid analysis for review of ECO Economic Policy for long term period based on recommendations of ECO decision making bodies and research findings, to develop effective fellowship schemes for raising academic proficiency in the region. The Council welcomed the offer of the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms of Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the 2nd PSCER Meeting in Baku in 2012. Turkey thanked Kazakhstan for hosting the 1st PSCER.

266. The Council appreciated PERS Directorate for continuous efforts in seeking technical and financial assistance from international organizations. The Council expressed satisfaction on the preparation of Regional Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on the development of the Country STAT in ECO region by the FAO. The Council requested the Secretariat to circulate the TCP proposal to Member States for their views and comments. The Council also demonstrated its satisfaction to UNIDO for offering project on development of SME sector, industries and concurrent development of FDI indicators in the region. The UNFPA joint cooperation with the ECO on the economic research project was highly evaluated by the meeting. The Council welcomed the intention of SESRIC, IDB, PARIS21, UNECE, UIS, UNSD and the World Bank in sustaining dynamic cooperation with the ECO and requested the Secretariat to integrate its efforts in the capacity building programme, statistical data sharing and research project implementation.

(h) Inter-Regional ECO Activities:

i) ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions:

267. The Council took note with appreciation of the presentations made by ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions and encouraged them to continue their efforts in their respective areas for promotion of ECO's objectives.

268. The Council expressed its serious concern at the inordinate delay in operationalizing ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in Islamabad and Ankara respectively. To avoid further delay, the Council recommended to CPR to establish a "High Level Task Group on ECOSF & ECOEI" comprising the Chairman of the CPR, Representatives of the relevant Member States and the Secretary General to speed up progress towards realization of ECOSF and ECOEI in a time-bound manner.

- ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

269. The Council renewed its earlier calls that the non-signatory Member States (Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) may accede to ECI's Charter and that the non-ratifying Member States (Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic,

Republic of Turkey) may expedite ratification of the Charter at the earliest. The Council noted that expansion in ECI's membership would strengthen ECI's capacity to carry out its mandated functions.

270. The Council took note of ECI's activities during 2010 as well as its work-programme for 2011 and urged ECI to intensify its efforts towards consolidating cultural affinities among the Member States by launching appropriate cultural programmes/projects in line with its aims as envisioned in ECI's Charter. The Council advised ECI to focus its cultural activities in the ECO region.

271. In order to accelerate progress on ECI's goals, the Council stressed the need for developing a comprehensive long-term programme of action to be approved by the Council of Ministers as stipulated in ECI's Charter. To that effect, the Council called on the ECI to initiate preparation of a long-term programme of action with technical assistance from the specialized organs of the UN system and OIC, if required, and submit it to ECI-CPR for finalization within 3 months together with an analytical evaluation of implementation of its previous 3-year Plan approved at the 2nd ECI Board of Trustees Meeting.

272. The Council took note of the establishment of ECI's Coordination Units in Kabul, Isfahan, Shiraz and Dushanbe and called on the ECI to develop efficient mechanism to utilize these Coordination Units for expeditious implementation and expansion of ECI's programmes and activities. The Council called on ECI to share performance of its Coordination Units with ECI-CPR on regular basis.

273. The Council took note of the interest of ECI to establish Coordination Units on Youth Affairs and Sports and called on the ECI to develop Modalities for establishing such coordination units in Specialized Areas. The Council further decided that ECI shall submit such Modalities to ECI-CPR for its endorsement and subsequently to COM for final approval at the earliest.

274. The Council expressed its appreciation to ECI on hosting "Exhibition of Works of Afghan Artist" and encouraged ECI to continue such activities by participation of artists from all Member States in future.

275. In recalling its previous decision, the Council took note of the delay in hosting ECO Sports Cup and urged the ECI to redouble its efforts to organize the event in 2011 with the participation of ECO Member States.

276. The Council called on the ECI to constitute its Executive Committee comprising cultural experts from the nationals of the Member States on equal basis as stipulated in Article 4 of ECI's Charter. The Council noted that the Executive Committee would be useful in developing comprehensive cultural programmes and giving practical recommendations for ECI's activities.

277. The Council took note of the MoUs signed by ECI and called on the ECI to review and share the outcome of its MoUs with the ECI-CPR and ECI BoT Meetings on regular basis. The Council requested ECI to seek approval of ECI-CPR/ECI BoT before entering into any cooperation agreement/MoU with International/Regional Organizations and non-ECO states.

278. The Council urged the ECI to actively follow-up on establishing purposeful cooperation with relevant United Nations Agencies, Funds and programmes especially the UNESCO in light of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/65/129 of 13 December, 2010 on “Cooperation between UN and ECO” adopted at the 65th UNGA session. The ECI may also intensify its efforts to expand its ties with other relevant regional and international organizations especially OIC and ISESCO to obtain their assistance both technical and financial for success of its programmes/activities in the region.

279. The Council called on ECI to hold its CPR Meetings on regular basis. It further asked ECI to submit its Annual Calendar of Events and programme to ECI-CPR for endorsement/approval.

280. In order to promote awareness about ECO region, its people and culture, the Council called on the ECI to annually organize “ECO Cultural Week” in coordination with ECO Secretariat on the occasion of ECO Day.

281. The Council requested all the concerned Member States to take necessary steps to ensure timely remittance of their annual mandatory contributions to ECI’s budget to enable the ECI carry out its functions in a smooth manner.

282. The Council requested the Member States to consider making financial contributions to ECI’s Cultural Trust Fund to enable ECI expand its programmes and activities in the field of culture. The Council also suggested to ECI to explore possibilities of obtaining financial assistance for its Fund from relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations.

283. The Council called on ECI to report progress on implementation of aforementioned decisions to ECI-CPR on regular basis.

- ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB)

284. The Council commended efforts of the Secretariat and ECOTDB in encouraging Member States to become full members of the Bank; welcomed the decision of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan to join ECOTDB and called on the other Member States to expedite joining the Bank at the earliest to benefit from its facilities and resources for development in the ECO region.

285. The Council took note with appreciation of ECOTDB’s cooperation with other international financial institutions including IsDB, ADB and others and reiterated its previous recommendations to the Bank to promote further its interaction with these financial institutions.

- ECO College of Insurance (ECOCoI)

286. The Council called on ECOCoI to constitute its Board of Trustees in line with Article 5 of its Statute and host its 1st Meeting without delay. The Council noted that the Board of Trustees would strengthen the role of ECO College of Insurance as an effective Regional Institution to contribute to the objectives of the Organization.

287. The Council called on the ECOCoI to develop draft mechanism/criteria for selection of three academic Representatives from the ECO Member States for the Board of Trustees of the College within three months.

288. The Council recommended to the Member States to consider nominating academic representative for the Board of Trustees of the College of Insurance upon finalization of draft mechanism/criteria for selection by the CPR.

289. The Council took note of ECOCoI plans to launch PhD program in "Risk and Insurance" in the future as well as to revise its undergraduate and postgraduate (Actuarial Science) curriculum".

290. The Council took note of ECOCoI request for allocation of resources for offering scholarships to students from the ECO Member States from the ECO resources. The Council recommended to the College to seek financial support from professional bodies and relevant International Funding Agencies as well in coordination with ECO Secretariat.

291. The Council expressed its deep appreciation to Government of I.R. of Iran for their offer to enhance the number of scholarships for students from the ECO Member States and reiterated its earlier recommendation to the Member States to benefit from the scholarships offered by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the graduate/undergraduate programmes of the College.

292. The Council took note of ECOCoI' plans to enhance collaboration with London Chartered Insurance Institute, the Society of Actuaries, Casualty Actuary Society and Canadian Society of Actuaries and encouraged ECOCoI to promote its contacts with relevant international insurance institutions especially those in the ECO region. The Council also recommended to the College to explore possibility of establishing an Electronic Forum of educational Institutes of the ECO Member States in the field of Insurance.

293. The Council requested the Member States to give suggestions to improve educational standards of ECOCoI.

- ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company (ECOCEC)

294. The Council renewed its previous call that the Member States help ECO-CEC in becoming an active Regional Institution of ECO in light of the recommendations of the Study on "Impediments faced by ECO-CEC" which was endorsed at the previous RPC and the 19th COM Meetings.

- ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI)

295. Bearing in mind the relevant paragraphs under 'Trade and Investment' section of the Report, the Council took note with appreciation of the activities of the ECOCCI in 2010 and encouraged it to continue activities in its mandated areas.

- ECO Science Foundation (ESF)

296. The Council expressed its appreciation to Pakistan for offering twice - first in January 2011 and later in April 2011 to host the 1st Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECOSF to

be preceded by a High-level Experts Group Meeting and took serious note of the postponement on both occasions due to lack of quorum. The Council appreciated the offer of Pakistan to host the Meetings in last quarter of July 2011 and urged the Member States to confirm participation as and when the exact dates are conveyed.

297. The Council requested the non-ratifying Member States (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uzbekistan) to ratify the Charter of ECOSF at the earliest.

298. The Council took note of the new position of Azerbaijan regarding non-ratification of ECOSF's Charter and requested Pakistan to provide copy of the Instrument of Ratification deposited by Azerbaijan to the Secretariat within 1 month from this Meeting. The Council stated that if Instrument of Ratification could not be submitted within this time, Azerbaijan would be requested to initiate its ratification process afresh.

299. The Council noted that the 2nd Experts Group Meeting on establishing ECOSF (August, 2010-ECO Secretariat) had urged the Member States to communicate contact details of their focal points to the Secretariat for efficient communication on matters related to ECOSF. The Council urged the Member States except Pakistan to expedite action by conveying contact details of their respective focal points.

300. The Council called on the Member States to give their comments on the draft Work Programme (2011-2012) prepared by the Ad-hoc Secretariat of the ECOSF.

- ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)

301. The Council appreciated the offer of Turkey to host 1st Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECOEI to be preceded by an Experts Groups Meeting in last quarter of 2011 and requested to convey exact dates to the Secretariat at the earliest. The Council urged the Member States especially those who have ratified ECOEI's Charter to actively participate in the Meetings.

302. The Council reiterated its previous calls that the non-signatory Member States of the ECOEI's Charter (Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan) kindly accede to it and that the non-ratifying Member States (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan) kindly expedite their ratification process to become full members of the ECOEI.

- ECO Reinsurance Company

303. The Council reiterated its earlier calls that Iran and Turkey expedite their ratification of the Articles of Agreement of the ECO Reinsurance Company. The Council also called on other Member States to join the Company.

ii) **International Relations**

304. The Council appreciated the steps taken by the Secretariat in expanding productive cooperative relations with the UN system and other regional and international organizations and urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts for promotion of purposeful cooperation with

ECO's partners. The Council also welcomed the adoption of biennial Resolution on "Cooperation between UN and ECO" at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly and called on the Secretariat to actively follow-up on its implementation.

305. The Council expressed its satisfaction at the efforts of the Secretariat in implementation of Comprehensive Plan of Action for enhancement of ECO's external relations; appreciated activation of ECO Contact Group at Vienna and urged the Member States to expedite sending instructions to all relevant Missions as identified in the revised Terms of Reference of the Contact Groups. The Council also emphasized the need for active participation by the Member States in the consultations/meetings to fully realize potentials of the Contact Groups in promoting interest of ECO.

306. The Council welcomed the preparation of draft Modalities for granting Observer and Dialogue-Partnership status at ECO by the Secretariat in accordance with Article XII of the Treaty of Izmir and recommended to CPR to finalize and submit these Modalities to the next meeting of the COM for final approval. The Council noted that these Modalities would be useful in consolidating and promoting strategic partnerships.

307. The Council appreciated the decision of 166th CPR Meeting to grant Observer Status to Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS) on provisional basis and recommended that upon finalization of draft Modalities for granting Observer/Dialogue-Partnership Status, the matter must be submitted to COM for final decision.

308. The Council appreciated Secretariat's interest in signing MoU with Developing-8 Organization and recommended to CPR to finalize the draft MoU circulated by the Secretariat.

309. The Council took note of Secretariat's interest to activate its contacts with ASEAN and recommended it to revive ECO-ASEAN joint Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session to give fresh impetus to cooperation with ASEAN.

310. The Council laid special emphasis on activating existing MoUs with regional and international organizations and in this regard appreciated the proposals of Turkey for joint activities/projects and urged other Member States to share their proposals with the Secretariat.

311. The Council took note of the interest of the Member States in the proposal of Pakistan regarding "Group of Diplomatic Training Institutes and requested Pakistan to consider hosting first Meeting of the Heads of Diplomatic Training Institutes in 2011 to work out the modalities for cooperation among the Diplomatic Training Institutes in the ECO region.

312. In order to pursue constructive, meaningful and focused cooperation, the Council tasked the Secretariat to develop draft Modalities for signing new MoUs. The Council recommended to CPR to finalize the draft Modalities and submit them to COM for final approval.

Agenda Item No. 7
Annual ECO Calendar of Events for 2011-2012

313. The Council while taking note with appreciation, report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Calendar of Events for 2010, approved the ECO Calendar of Events for 2011-2012 (*Annex-VIII*).

Agenda Item No.8
Any other business

314. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 9
Date and Venue of the next Meeting

315. The Council requested the Secretariat to approach the Member States through diplomatic channels for their offers to host the 22nd RPC Meeting and convey the details to the Member States about holding of the next RPC, within one month.

Agenda Item No.10
Adoption of the Report

316. The Report of the 21st meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item No.11
Vote of Thanks

317. On behalf of all the participating delegations, the Council expressed its appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this important meeting and making appropriate arrangements for making it a success. It also appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary General and his staff for preparing comprehensive Working Papers and other documents for the Council.

318. The Council concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair for conducting the deliberations of the meeting in a smooth and efficient manner. The Council also thanked the Chairmen of various Review Committees for successfully conducting the business of their respective Review Committees.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of Participant

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

- H.E. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Shahidi, Deputy Minister of Economy, **Head of the delegation**
- Mr. Farid Ahmed Matin, Director General of Policy Making, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
- Mr. Mohammad Asif Hurmat, Director General of International Affairs, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Ahmed Shah Taheri, Deputy Director of International Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industries
- Mr. Abdul Basir Rahmani, Expert Officer of ECO Section, Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation
- Mr. Rohullah Ahmadzai, Director, Investment Promotion, Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)
- Mr. Zubair Juenba, ECO Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic of Azerbaijan

- H. E. Mr. Javanshir Akhundov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Islamic Republic of Iran, **Head of the delegation**
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran
- Mr. Farid Damirli, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Nazim Ismayilov, Head of Section, Ministry of Transport
- Mrs. Meri Amirova, Head of Division, State Statistical Committee
- Mr. Orkhan Kazimov, Head Advisor, Ministry of Economic Development

Islamic Republic of Iran (Host Country)

- H.E. Mr. Amir Mansour Borgheei, Vice- Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Head of Delegation**
- Mr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, Director General, International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Jalaledin Alavi, Director, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Majid Shafipour, Vice President for Intl. Affairs and International Conventions, Department of Environment
- Mr. Masoud Hashemian, Acting Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum
- Mr. Saeed Mojtahed Soleymani, Director General of International Affairs, Ministry of Roads & Transportation
- Mr. Moosa Mousavi Zonooz, Director General of International Affairs, Ministry of Commerce
- Mr. Ali Azimlo, Director General, International Affairs, Ministry of Interior
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Karimi, Director General, Interpol

- Mr. Mohammad Jafar Malek, Deputy Director General of International Affairs, Ministry of Health
- Mr. Vahid Gowhari, Director of External Relations, TAVANIR, Ministry of Energy
- Mr. Yadolah Ebrahimi Fard, Director General, Presidential Office, Deputy for Strategic Planning
- Mr. Gholam Reza Izadi, Director General, Iran Statistical Center
- Mrs. Simin Abdolalizadeh Shahir, Director, International Organizations & Studies Department, Central Bank
- Mr. Ehsan Taher Fard, Deputy Director, Presidential Office, Deputy for Strategic Planning
- Mr. Mohammad Rezaee, Director, International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Interior
- Mr. Hassan Javadi, Head of Foreign Relations, Interpol
- Mr. Abolfazl Koudehee, Director for Investment Planning and Supervision, Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs
- Mr. Behrooz Olfat, Deputy Director General, TPO
- Mr. Mohammad Mirzaee, Deputy Director, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Mahmoud Goharpei, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Hamid Reza Anosheh, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Abassi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Ahmad Seifi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Mansour Nateghi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mrs. Azade Kian Pische, ECO Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Hasan Shaiste, Adviser to Director General, Interpol
- Mrs. Mojgan Kordbachcheh, Supervisor for the International Organizations Group, Ministry of Roads & Transportation
- Mrs. Hosseini, Expert, Ministry of Industry and Mines
- Mrs. Naghme Afshari, Expert, Customs Administration
- Mr. Behdad Ghazanfri, Adviser to the President, National Cartographic Center
- Mr. Naser Javadi, Expert, National Cartographic Center

Republic of Kazakhstan

- Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Head of the delegation**
- Ms. Aliya Duysebayeva, Head of Division for Technical Regulations, Ministry of Petroleum and Gas
- Mr. Nurjan Tursynbekov, Economy Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran
- Mr. Umirbay Abaidildin, Snr. Scientific Officer, Joint-Stock Company, Eurasia Water Center, Ministry of Environment

Kyrgyz Republic

- Mr. Zamirbek Beishenaliev, First Secretary, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Sagynbek Ibraev, Second Secretary, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran
- Mr. Daniyar Mamirbaev, Assistant of the Ambassador, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Tehran

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- Mr. Amajad Ali Sher, Director General (ECO, CARs&IT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Pakistan, **Head of the delegation**
- Dr. Aman Rashid, Charge de' Affaires, Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran.
- Dr. Ali Bat Khan, Chief, International Trade and Finance Section, Planning and Development Division, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, Second Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran.
- Mr. Shafqat Ullah, Assistant Director (ECO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Pakistan.

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- Mr. Sodik Khisayinov, Head of Real Sector Development, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, **Head of the delegation**
- Mr. Ahmad Tohirov, Head of Division for Economic Analysis and Forecasting, Ministry of Energy and Industry
- Mr. Komil Mirzoev, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran

Republic of Turkey

- Mr. Ahmet Yaman, Deputy Undersecretary of State Planning Organization (SPO), **Head of the delegation**
- Mr. Metin Eker, Director General, Foreign Economic Relations, SPO
- Mr. Selahattin Şahin, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health
- Mr. Mehmet Akif Koç, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tehran
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- Mr. Sefa Çavdaroğlu, Expert, SPO
- Mr. Metin Gençkol, Expert, SPO
- Mr. Kağan Akdoğan, Assistant Expert, SPO
- Mr. Nazım Gümüş, Expert, SPO
- Mr. Orhan Öztaşkın, Expert, SPO
- Mr. Şeref Tabak, Expert, Ministry of Transportation
- Mr. Kadriye Bodur, Assistant Expert, Ministry of Transportation
- Mr. Hüseyin Mızrak, Translator, Ministry of Energy

- Ms. Boğaçhan Yıldız, Expert, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. Utku Macit, Expert, Ministry of Industry
- Ms. Çiğdem Şamiloğlu Erkoç, Expert, Undersecretary of Foreign Trade
- Ms Şule Şahinaslan, Director of Section, Undersecretary of Treasury
- Mr. Ahmet Ussal Şahbaz, Consultant, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)
- Mr. Ufuk Ergin, Assistant Expert, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)
- Mr. Orhan Akçay, Chief of the Bureau, Turkish Railways

Turkmenistan

- H.E. Mr. Ahmed Gurbanov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Annacary Mulliyev, Head of Foreign Economy Department of Ministry of Economy and Development

Republic of Uzbekistan

- H.E Mr. Ilhom Akramov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Rustam Ahmedov, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tehran
- Mr. Sadriddin Safarov, Consul, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tehran

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

ECO Trade and Development Bank

- Mr. Murat Ulus, President, **Head of the delegation**
- Mr. Masoud Rekabdar, Vice President
- Mr. Omer F. Baykal, Chief Economist
- Mr. Fazli Sak, Manager

ECO Cultural Institute

- H. E. Dr. Hojjatollah Ayoobi, President, **Head of the delegation**
- Dr. Seyyed Mostafa Abtahi, Director
- Mr. Muhammad Reza Norouzshad, Director (International Affairs)

ECO College of Insurance

- Dr. Atousa Goodarzi, Dean, **Head of the delegation**
- Dr. Reza Ofoghi, Head of the Insurance Department

ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company

- Mr. H.M. Farkhondeh, **Head of delegation**
- Mr. Babak Javid, Expert
- Dr. Ashkan Jebelli, Expert

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Dr. Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General, **Head of the delegation**
- Mrs. Elham Heidari, Expert
- Mr. Mehdi Razzagh Shoar, Expert

ECO Educational Institute

- Mr. Ibrahim Zeki Karabiyik, Director of Section International Institutions, Ministry of National Education, Turkey

ECO Science Foundation, (Ad-hoc Secretariat)

- Mr. Manzoor H. Soomro, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation

International Organization

- Mr. Abdolreza Samadzadeh, IOM, Tehran.
- Mr. Mehran Razmehr, IOM, Tehran

Invited Guest

- H.E. Dr. Mohammad Nahavandian, President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines/Chairman of ECO-CCI.

The ECO Secretariat

1. H. E. Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, Secretary General
2. Mr. Fatih Unlu, Deputy Secretary General (TI, AIT, IR)
3. Mr. Altaf Asghar, Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS, CFU)
4. Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi, Deputy Secretary General (EME, HRSD, Adm)
5. Mr. Waqar Ahmad Shah, Director (Trade and Investment)
6. Mr. Esmaeil Tekeyh Sadat, Director (Transport and Communication)
7. Mr. Ahmet Furkan, Director (Agriculture, Industry & Tourism)
8. Mr. Ali Khanbutaev, Director (Energy, Minerals & Environment)
9. Ms. Bayan Adilbekova, Director (Project, Economic Research & Statistics)
10. Ms. Matluba Turaeva, Assistant Director (Coordination and Follow Up)
11. Mr. Jawad Ali, Assistant Director (International Relations/Specialized Agencies)
12. Mr. Ahmad Reza Asghari, Assistant Director (Administration)
13. Mr. Faruk Feza Ustunkaya Chef d' Cabinet
14. Mr. Hossein Pourkarami, Officer In-Charge, DOCCU

15. Mr. Bahram Heidari, Legal Advisor
16. Mr. Ahmad Saffari, Programme Officer, (HRSD)
17. Mr. Syed Mohammad Moddaressi, Chief Accountant
18. Mr. Muhammad Farooq, Research Officer (T&I)
19. Ms. Bilge Kalkavan, Programme Officer (T&I)
20. Mr. Hooman Fathi, Programme Officer (T &C)
21. Ms. Abisheva Zuhre, Programme Officer (T &C)
22. Mr. Khosrow Hajian, Research Officer (AI&T)
23. Mr. Hasan Shahin, Programme Officer (AI&T)
24. Mr. Djalyzbek Turgunbaev, Programme Officer (EME)
25. Mr. Reza Samieifard, Programme Officer (EME)
26. Mr. Mohammad Amini, Programme Officer (PERS)
27. Mr. Muhammad Tayyeb, Secretary
28. Mr. M.H Kayani, Secretary
29. Mr. Imran Ahmad, Secretary
30. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad, Secretary
31. Mr. Farooq Iqbal, Secretary
32. Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Secretary
33. Mr. Shafqat Amir, Secretary
34. Ms. Aynur Mammedova, Russian Interpreter
35. Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, Russian Interpreter
36. Mr. Timur Ahmetov, Russian Translator
37. Ms. Madina Dilmuradova, Russian Translator
38. Mr. Amir M. Javaheri, Persian Interpreter/Translator
39. Mr. Mohammad Yousaf, Data Base Officer
40. Mr. Mohammad Reza Malakooti, IT Expert
41. Mr. Amir Reza Ashtiani, IT Department
42. Ms. Samaneh Javaheri, Persian Typist
43. Mr. Morteza Abdullhi, Publishing Operator

**STATEMENT BY THE
ECO SECRETARY GENERAL**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. M. Yahya Maroofi, ECO Secretary General
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, I.R. Iran
H.E. Mr. Amir Mansour Borgheei, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman
Distinguished Heads of ECO Delegations,
Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions,
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I wish to extend very warm welcome to the distinguished delegates to the 21st session of the ECO Regional Planning Council being held in Tehran-the city which has been a munificent host to a multitude of ECO meetings in the past. I must thank the Government of I.R. Iran for their generous hospitality and impeccable arrangements for the event. The increasing frequency of ECO Meetings in Tehran is indeed an expression of Iran's keen interest in realizing the cherished goal of regional integration as envisioned in the Treaty of Izmir. I wish also to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran for his gracious and kind presence at the inaugural session. Sir, your personal attention and support to ECO has been a source of great strength for us. We shall continue to benefit from Your Excellency's wise counsel in realization of our objectives.

At this point, allow me to express my warm felicitations to H.E. Mr. Amir Mansour Borgheei, on his unanimous election as the Chairman of the 21st Session of the RPC. His chairmanship would certainly navigate the deliberations to most fruitful conclusions.

The RPC Meeting, as usual, holds extraordinary significance for the work of ECO. For, while taking stock of our performance since its last session, it would set goals for our future work. Above all, the decisions reached in the span of next two days would provide fresh impetus to Organization's work in various sectors. A detailed Working Paper covering all aspects of ECO's progress has been circulated. Here, I would like to briefly summarize key developments on various fronts.

Excellencies

Trade is a priority area for promoting regional integration as it guarantees a growing and dynamic regional economy leading to the path of socio-economic progress. We believe that meaningful cooperation in the region could only be achieved with liberalized trade under an open, free and fair trading system. The recently published ECO-PIDE "Study on Trading Patterns in the ECO Region" reveals that a trade potential of over US\$ 280 billion remains unutilized annually. It is a staggering figure – an eye opener for our policy makers to undertake urgent measures for giving a new direction to the content and scope of regional trade and investment.

Distinguished Delegates

May I also invite your attention to the fact that the last Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade was held six years ago? Afghanistan offered hosting the 4th Ministerial Meeting in Kabul in May 2011. It is regrettable that this meeting of great significance was postponed as confirmation for participation at Ministerial level was conveyed by only one Member State. With this state of affairs it would be unjustified to expect tangible progress by ECO without the whole hearted support of Member States. I am sure that for the rescheduled dates of the Meeting in June 2011, all the Member States would now confirm participation. It is extremely important for making further head way towards our declared goals of establishing a Free Trade Area in the region by 2015.

ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) aims at formation of a sound regional block with opportunities for growth in trade, finance, industry, investment, transit and other fields of economic development. Realizing that the progress on the Agreement remained stalled in last three years, the Secretariat hosted the ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting in April 2011. Owing to a divergent position of one member state, the remaining Contracting Parties could not take the historic step of effecting ECOTA tariff concessions. This has brought the regional trade initiative to the verge of uncertainty. Our appreciations are not unfounded in view of parallel moves by some Member States to launch other arrangements. The membership needs to take a fresh start, rethink and re-evaluate their parallel initiatives. We must recognize that concerted efforts are required to fulfill our commitments in accordance with the aspirations of our political leadership. We cannot afford delay action as time is of essence.

On the institutional mechanisms, ECO has covered good ground during the year. We express our deep gratitude to the President of the Republic of Turkey for taking personal interest in the expansion of the membership of ECO Trade and Development Bank. After Afghanistan, the Bank is currently processing the membership of Azerbaijan. We have also received positive indications from Kyrgyz Republic to join the Bank.

ECO Reinsurance Company is another institution being established for boosting commercial cooperation. The ratification procedures by Iran and Turkey are being completed to operationalize the Company in the next few months. Preliminary steps towards the institutional mechanisms on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building have already been initiated. We have also made headway in setting up new ECO forum of the Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies.

Excellencies

In Transport, tangible progress has been made in most of the activities recommended by the 20th RPC. During September-October 2010, the ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan made 11,300 km demonstration journey across the region. Comprising of trucks from eight Member States, this historical Caravan contributed to enhance regional cooperation in road transport. While appreciating our initiative, the 11th ECO Summit directed the Secretariat to start regular run of the trucks among the Member States. Accordingly, we have prepared jointly with IRU an action plan to start and monitor the regular run of trucks.

In the sector of rail transport, the ECO has achieved commendable progress such as:

- (i) The regular monthly operation of the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route has been started. Measures are also being followed to revitalize the ECO Container Trains on Istanbul-Almaty Route and open up a new container train service on Almaty Bandar Abbas Route by end of 2011.
- (ii) Another milestone achieved during the previous year is measures to open up a railway line from China to Europe via Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey. The pre-feasibility study for Afghanistan has already been completed. The feasibility study in Tajikistan has started with a US\$1 million grant by Iran. We are in contact with the enroute countries and potential donors to start the study in the Kyrgyz Republic, pursuant to the 1st Ministerial Meeting of the enroute countries.
- (iii) The construction of railway between Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran is going on smoothly, pursuant to measures taken by the trilateral Coordination Committee of the enroute Member States and ECO (Astana, June 2010). The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

Implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) is followed up at all levels. The ECO White Card is on the verge of enforcement. The common visa Sticker for drivers and its procedures are being finalized. The ECO road and railway transit route maps have been published.

Excellencies,

It is worth mentioning that after a successful TIR Capacity Building Workshop in Kabul, organized by the Secretariat, Afghanistan is ready to implement TIR Convention in the near future. A similar workshop is proposed for Pakistan.

Also on the directive of the 11th ECO Summit to promote TIR system in the region, a Regional Conference on TIR Convention will be held on 23-24 May 2011 at Istanbul, with the participation of stakeholders from the Ministries of Transport, Customs, and Transport Associations. I would request the Member States to actively participate in this Conference at senior official's level. Participation in the event is fully funded.

In the communication sector, we are making headway in launching an important ECO regional project for online money transfer through post offices. An online system has been developed by Turkey and is now operational, on pilot basis, between Azerbaijan and Turkey. In order to launch this system among all the Member States, a meeting was held in Iran in April 2011, where Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey agreed to start operation within four months. I would request remaining Member States to join this online. Since Pakistan has established network of online money order system, I will request them to join this project at the earliest.

Efforts are also underway to establish ECO Logistic Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF) in the near future. Active cooperation of logistic organization of Member States for establishment of ECOLPAF would be highly appreciated.

Excellencies

Energy is a lifeline in the development of any country, therefore to enhance cooperation in Energy and Petroleum; we have developed a 5 years plan of action during our 2nd Ministerial Meeting which was held after a gap of 10 years at Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In line with the action plan, we have conducted number of High Level meetings, including workshops and training courses to share the experience to build the capacity of the relevant institutes of the Member States. Recently, we have also arranged a Joint ECO-OPEC Workshop on “International Petroleum Market” after a gap of 8 years in Esfahan, April, 2011.

Simultaneously, we are trying hard to develop potentials in the field of Geology, Mineral and Geometric Engineering, we have planned some events during this year. Your participation in these events will facilitate to achieve the desired objectives.

Excellencies

Due to increase in population and massive urbanization in the region, a marked growth in agricultural productivity is required to provide food security and to build prosperous economy. In pursuance to this objective ECO with the technical assistance of FAO has stated a Regional Programme for food security and seed supply. ECO/FAO-SEC project on Seed Sector Development in the ECO region has also been approved recently and will be launched soon. The Secretariat is actively working to establish ECO Regional Centre for efficient use of water in Pakistan, ECO-RCRM, ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network and the ECO Permanent Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) in Iran.

We have also decided to concentrate more on industrial cooperation in 2011 and 2012. We have planned some capacity building training programme in SME sector in cooperation with IDB and Colombo Plan.

Excellencies,

We have immense tourism potential in our region. To highlight the historical sites and tourist information, we have published the first ECO Tourist Guide Book. We are also planning to hold 3rd Ministerial Meeting in 2011 in Tajikistan to prepare some action plan to improve the tourism sector in the region.

Mr. Chairman

The role of statistics and economic research is crucial for adequately assessing the ongoing regional development. Science based analyses, forecasts and economic data are central for all calculations, measurements and defining future trends in the development of the Organization. In lines with these objectives, ECO Secretariat in collaboration with Statistics Centres of Iran has developed ECOSTAT and it has become operational with ten member states having access to ECO data base.

We have also established ECO Training Centre on statistics in Islamabad. It will further upgrade experts' profile in the region in the medium and long term. The first training

exercise has been scheduled during the coming July. ECO has set up regular partnership with FAO, UNIDO, ESCAP, UNFPA and IDB through the ongoing projects which aim to facilitate capacity building process in the region in agriculture, industries and SME development through statistics.

In the field of economic research, the Joint Economic Research Programme of ECO has been developed and approved by the 19th COM. It will now generate economic analyses output to lay down the foundation for long term economic strategy of the Organization. Seven research study projects are currently being implemented in the Member States of which one has successfully been completed.

Mr. Chairman

In the health sector, there is a great potential to expand cooperation among the Member States. In this regard, we arranged the 1st ECO Health Ministers Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan to finalize action plan for achieving joint cooperation in the health sector, particularly in the fields of health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Blood Transfusion and Pharmaceutical affairs. In line with this action plan, we are also working on establishing ECO Blood Safety Network and Drug Regulatory Network. I hope that 2nd Ministerial Meeting scheduled for October 2011 in Kazakhstan would further strengthen our cooperation in health sector.

Distinguished Delegates

The campaign against drugs, terrorism and trans-national organized crime are among ECO priority. We are working closely with the European Commission (EC) within the framework of ECO-EC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement the project titled "Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan" with the ECO Member States. A consortium of GIZ, Interpol, UNODC, BKA Germany and ECO-DOCCU has been established to enhance technical capacity of Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) of ECO and National Centre Bureaus (NCBs) of the ECO Member States. The Container control and the Forensic laboratories are additional component of the project. Efforts are also underway to establish the ECOPOL to coordinate against transnational crime through intelligence sharing, harmonization of policies and operations.

Mr. Chairman

We have made sustained efforts to pursue close cooperative relations with the United Nations and other regional and international organizations as well as relevant non-ECO states. ECO's image in the international arena is growing. Whilst, new MoUs have been signed with the Turkish International Cooperation & Development Agency (TIKA), International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) and a trilateral MoU with UNECE and IDB, efforts have also been made to put into operation existing MoUs. The United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session adopted a biennial resolution on ECO-UN cooperation. The ECO Contact Groups have been established. The one with UNIDO in Vienna has already started its activities. Draft Modalities for granting Observer/Dialogue Partnership status at ECO will be finalized soon. These will help realize the idea of granting Observer/Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO as envisioned in the Treaty of Izmir. Also, establishment of ECO Troika is in the offing.

We are experiencing growing interest among regional blocks to cooperate with ECO. Recently we have granted observer status albeit provisionally to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS). Moreover, the Developing-8 (D-8) Organization has shown keen interest in establishing cooperation between ECO and D-8. It is our earnest desire to make ECO a vibrant and dynamic regional organization as envisioned in ECO Vision 2015.

Excellencies,

I have given you an overview of our performance since 20th RPC. We have not been able to utilize our potential fully because of certain constraints and bottlenecks but we still feel that we have achieved some milestones especially in transport sector during the last one year. We have the urge and intention to produce best results and for that purpose we would require whole hearted support of our Member States. Before concluding, I will request the honourable delegates to critically examine the project proposals of the Secretariat in the review meeting and suggest best implementation methodologies to achieve the desired results.

At the end, I once again thank the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for arranging this meeting in Tehran and I wish you all successful deliberation and a pleasant stay in Tehran

**STATEMENT BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTER
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister
of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 21st Meeting of the
Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Distinguished Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to attend the 21st Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council. At the outset, I wish to welcome all high-ranking officials and delegations from the ECO member states and specialized agencies and regional institutions to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is also a great honor and privilege for us to have all other distinguished participants including authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran at this meeting.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we all know ECO region offers immense capacities for expansion of the regional cooperation. The big market of the Region with population which exceeds 400 million constitutes a great potential for the promotion of the manufacturing sector, the regional economic growth as well as intra-regional trade if appropriate and favourable planning is duly made. Based on the available statistics, the total foreign trade of the member states in 2009 stood at around 613 billion US dollars including US\$ 310 billion export and US\$ 303 billion import. Only 7% of the foreign transactions of the member states were Intra-regional trade. I hope our Organization can make further efforts for preparing the ground towards implementation of the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and enhancement of customs cooperation whereby realizing the goals and objectives already set for ECO trade sector.

Our region also enjoys an exquisite geographical situation, geopolitically called the “Heartland”. Bordering the European Union, huge markets of India and China, Russian Federation and the strategic Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman regions, the ECO region is privileged by strong comparative advantages which, unfortunately, have not yet been exploited. We hope that by implementation of such important regional projects like the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), we will witness extensive economic and transit cooperation between ECO and other parts of the world particularly the neighbouring regions.

ECO region is one of the energy richest regions in the world. It plays a key role in energy production and its transit to other parts of the world. But despite its high capacity in the energy sector no eye-catching activity has taken place so far in this field. Therefore, I would like to request the distinguished Secretary General and relevant authorities of the member states to take innovative methods and initiatives to ensure the optimal use of the comparative advantages of the region in the energy sector.

In the recent years, very promising developments like preparation of the ground for implementation of the ECOTA, enforcement of the TTFA, activation of railway corridors in different routes, provision of preparation of the ECO regional plan for food security and agricultural development, implementation of joint ECO and EU anti-drug projects and establishment of the ECO statistical network have taken place and I hope through our more effective steps towards regional integration we will witness a better future for our region.

**Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

If we consider the ECO's performance in the last two decades, we can easily find out that the Organization has collected valuable and fruitful experiences in favour of regional integration. But more remains to be done to reach the genuine goals and objectives of the Organization. We all believe that the pace of progress of the ECO towards regional cooperation has been very slow and the Organization has not yet been able to meet the expectations of the member states. For this reason, the Heads of States during the last ECO Summit in Istanbul decided to reconsider the structure and programmes of the Organization. Eminent Persons Group (EPG) is now mandated to discharge a part of this responsibility. In this respect, it was decided that the EPG shall submit its proposals for fundamental reforms of the basic documents, structure, and ECO sectoral activities with a view to making ECO more dynamic, efficient, pragmatic and visible organization. The Regional Planning Council (RPC) is also of a significant role for realization of desires and wishes of the Heads of the ECO member states. This RPC meeting is expected to take necessary decisions and initiatives for this purpose.

In spite of the five month delay in holding the RPC meeting and adoption of the ECO work programme and calendar of events for the year 2011, this RPC meeting shall take necessary measures to make all activities of the Organization target-oriented ones through utilizing new and modern planning and management methods and techniques. I am confident that by active participation and contributions of all participants and through removing unnecessary programs, reforming the ECO calendar of events and annual work program, setting desired goals and objectives as well as workable timetable, this Meeting will play its important role for implementing latest decisions of the ECO Summit and will change the meeting-oriented approach of the Organization into the project-oriented and result-oriented one.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In addition to the above-mentioned issues as the prime responsibility of this meeting, we should pay due attention to the need for necessary requirements needed for better and effective implementation of the programmes and plans. As a matter of facts and in the recent years, the scope and depth of the activities of the Organization have been remarkably expanded while at the same time the expectations of the nations in the ECO region have drastically increased. In order to meet these increasing demands, in addition to the precise and scientific planning, we need to make assessment of the financial and human resources needs of the Organization and to explore ways and means to guarantee that these resources are available to the Organization to fulfill its core mandates.

As the distinguished Secretary General mentioned before, one of the serious requirements of the Organization now is additional financial resources for the projects. In fact, financial resources required for implementation of projects is considered as an important element of the target-based and project-oriented approach of the Organization. Therefore, all member states should make their own contribution in this regard.

In this respect, I would like to express the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond positively to the Secretary General request for financial assistance to the Organization. This is built on our constant strong support towards the Organization as well as our dedication to enhanced brotherly and friendly relations with the ECO Member States.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretary General and the Secretariat staff as well as our colleagues in the Protocol Department for the excellent arrangements for the organization of the present meeting. I also wish to thank my colleagues in the ECO Bureau in the Foreign Ministry.

I wish all the success for this meeting as well as a pleasant stay in Tehran for all the delegates.

Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATION

- **The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**
- **The Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **The Islamic Republic of Iran**
- **The Republic of Kazakhstan**
- **The Islamic Republic of Pakistan**
- **The Republic of Turkey**
- **The Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Statement by H.E. Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Shahedi, Deputy Minister of
Ministry of Economy, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
at the 21st Regional Planning Council Meeting of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

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

First of all, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, let me extend my warm gratitude to the Leadership and management team of ECO organization for inviting us at the 21st Regional Planning Council which is one of the most important occasions of ECO organization. I wish further success, prosperity and cooperation for better economic and social development relations of the ECO Member States.

I also would like to express my profound appreciation and thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its tireless efforts, excellent arrangement, warm hospitality and invaluable services during this program.

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

Ten years ago, Afghanistan was facing the major challenges of war, conflicts and instability. We had no ties with the international communities and even with the UN agencies, but fortunately, today we are active member of many regional economic cooperation's including ECO organization and moreover, we are active member of the UN where we are committed to all UN Law and Charters. Furthermore, Afghanistan enjoys international donors assistance for reconstruction and development.

In the past ten years, Afghanistan suffered economic and security problems, but in the other side there have been improvements in many areas, for instance; rehabilitation, reconstruction of the roads, highways, energy, transmission and extension of the electricity power from the neighbouring countries, telecommunication services reached almost half of the population, discovery of some huge mines, good improvement in the private sector, fiscal and monetary systems, social protection, education, health, governance and justice system, freedom of speech and media, gender equity and human rights, where everything gets better year by year. All these positive changes happened with the great technical and financial assistance of the international donors and the government itself.

In the International Conferences the International Communities and donors have pledged (69) billion US\$ in total, from which (56.8) billion US\$ has been spent in different areas till 2010 and among that (28) billion US\$ has been spent for reconstruction and development purposes.

In result of International financial assistance and investment by NGOs, government agencies and private sectors, the GDP has increased from (4) billion US\$ in 2002 to (14.7) billion US\$ in 2010.

In the last nine years, there have been some good improvements in the education sector and now we have (13,734) schools throughout the country where (7) million students are enrolled, among which (38%) of them are female, while nine years ago, female students were not allowed to go to school.

We have good improvements in the health sector. The numbers of Hospitals and Clinics which have been constructed in the capital and provinces are increased and (86%) of the population has been covered by the health services. Child mortality rates and maternal mortality rates decreased.

More than (6000) KM highways and roads are constructed and within a year our ring road which has a great impact on our regional development will be completed. Fortunately our country has vast of natural mines which are good opportunities for the local and international investors to invest in Afghanistan, especially for the ECO member countries. Afghanistan is rich of coal, copper, irons, gold, natural gas and many other mines, which are the main source for socio-economic development of our country and a good opportunity for the ECO members to begin investment in this country.

With all these development in different sectors, still we are suffering from corruption, insecurity, terrorism and puppy cultivation and we believe that we cannot overcome them alone without assistance of the international partners, because most of the problems have regional linkages and we need a joint strategy for the solution of these critical issues. Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) focused on the regional economic issues and it is one of the priority programs of the Government. No doubt, this effort needs more time, more money, more human capacity, more equipments, better management and discipline, and more financial support from international partners.

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

ECO member states have a lot of cultural, historical, geographical values in common, and this bridge between the north and south, east and west certifies close relationships between these countries and definitely, it is for the benefit of the region and the world as a whole. Close cooperation between these states can be useful for peace and stability, fight against narcotics, fight against corruption, fight against regional terrorism and it helps to tie-up and strengthens socio-economic relationships with regional countries.

In brief, cooperation between the ECO member states can play key roles in bringing peace, security and sustainable socio-economic and political development in the region; therefore, we need a unified strategy for business transactions, transport and transit of the goods and facilitation for economic development for these countries.

Areas of Cooperation between ECO Member States are as follows:

- ECO member states should strengthen economic and business relations. For this purpose we need to simplify the transit procedures between these member states.

Fortunately, Afghanistan has signed bilateral agreements and set official protocols with some ECO member countries concerning economic and business cooperation and transit facilitation.

A transit and business agreement between Afghanistan-Pakistan has been signed on October 28, 2010 in Kabul, which is a very good improvement in the area of business and transit between these two countries.

The importance of these agreements could be useful when the government and responsible bodies implement them.

- ECO Member States should cooperate to strengthen the private sectors in these countries. Therefore, these countries should remove obstacles and problems and provide facilities for these activities. So, they need to change their rules and regulations and concentrate on infrastructure development.
- The Member States of ECO organization should focus on extension of infrastructure and main projects in the region, such as highways, ring roads, construction of railways in the ECO Member States to connect them to each other.
- Furthermore, ECO member countries should cooperate in the area of energy which is very important for the socio-economic development in a country and it should be considered as the first priority.

Signing of the Pipeline agreement between Afghanistan – Turkmenistan – Pakistan – India (TAPI) last year was not only for the benefit of these four countries, but it was for the benefit of the whole region.

- Cooperation between ECO state members in the Agricultural Sector is very important too. Food Security and regular cooperation in agricultural and livestock sector is very crucial and it has a very positive impact in our economic development.

The ECO state members should focus on health and education sector. Although some works done in these sectors, but that is not enough for this sector.

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

Fortunately, according to the 20th Session of ECO (RPC) 3rd Session of Statistical Conference of ECO Member States in October 5-6, 2010 held in Kabul.

It is expected that the 3rd Session of ECO Member States of statistical heads held in Kabul at 24-25 May 2011 and some preparation have been already taken.

According to 20th RPC Session in the following year was expected to hold at first and second May 2011 Conference of Commerce Ministers, Head of the Department of Investment Development of ECO Member States at Kabul. Preparation was made by concerned departments, but unfortunately due to incompleteness of ECO members, and then informed ECO Secretariat the postponement of the Session.

Therefore, the Afghan side proposed that the conference of Commerce Ministers, Head of the Department of Investment Development and Chamber of Commerce according to 20th RPC Resolution in proper time should hold in Kabul.

Thanking you.

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Javanshir Akhundov, Ambassador,
the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the Economic Cooperation Organization at the 21st RPC Meeting
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Secretary General,
Dear delegates,**

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan I would like to welcome the delegates of the 21st meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) and emphasize that it's a big honour for us to participate in this event.

On behalf of the delegation and me personally I express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality as well as to the ECO Secretariat for the efforts in making arrangements. I congratulate H. E. Mr. Bourgai for being elected a Chairman of the meeting and hope that under his efficient leadership we would achieve desirable results during the meeting.

The Republic of Azerbaijan attributes a great attention to the Summit, COM and CPR meetings, since these meetings assign the goals and objectives, projects, programmes and economic plans in various sectors. I would like to recall our offer to host the next ECO Summit in Baku in 2012 which was enormously endorsed by the Summit. To increase efficiency of the ECO activities we need to identify priorities in the projects and programmes implemented/or designed by the Organization.

As you may know, establishment of the effective and modern transport network is an important element in the economy of each Member State, and transport, energy and communications remain to be priority segments of our cooperation. The efforts of the Organization should be directed at establishing an integrated railway network and improvement of the transport infrastructure in the region. Since the increasing volume of commodity turnover is one of the major objectives of the Organization, transport development projects should be given priority. The Organization needs to ensure establishment of the railway network connecting the capitals of the Member States, its modernization and joining to the railway network of Europe and Middle East.

We highly appreciate launching the railway Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul. We wish to inform you that the International Transport Corridor "North-South" project is one of the major ones today. Therefore, we consider it very important to include implementation of the transport project "Rasht-Gazvin-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan)", which is part of the "North-South" project, into the priority programmes and projects of the Organization. Upon completion of this project as well as construction of the railway "Baku-Tbilisi-Kars" the Member States would be able to utilize this opportunity which may result in increasing the commodity turnover. Once again we are stressing the importance of concrete actions to be taken by the Organization in implementation of transport corridors for economic benefit of the region.

We highly appreciate implementation of the project Truck Caravan "Silk Road" which took place in September-October last year and in which Azerbaijan took an active part.

We consider that implementation of such projects gives opportunity to explore the potential of the ECO region in transit transport sector, evaluation of the current situation and taking measures to overcome difficulties.

Dear delegates,

We consider that there is enough potential for transforming our Organization into more efficient one which may concentrate on programme/project implementation. Programme/project orientation may help in enhancing cooperation between the Member States as well as in economic and social development of the region. For efficient implementation of the regional projects we need to interact with the UN Specialized Agencies, and, in case of shortage of financial resources, to make efforts to attract funds from reliable financial institutes of Europe and Asia.

At the same time to improve legal and functional mechanisms of multilateral cooperation within the Organization, it is necessary to carry out regular analysis of the activities of the Organization, evaluate its every action, follow up the reforming process and functional mechanisms of the Secretariat as well as to improve the follow up mechanism of the decisions of the high-level meetings and give priority to concrete projects of cooperation among the other ECO meetings/events. It is necessary to enlarge the geography of establishment of new ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions and affiliated bodies.

Dear delegates,

We repeatedly point out that the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to play an active role within the Economic Cooperation Organization. We believe that as a result of joint efforts and existing potential of the Organization the Member States would strengthen their positions in the coming years.

In the conclusion, once again we express our gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Secretariat for hosting and arranging the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Moussavi, General Director,
International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic
Republic of Iran at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

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

At the outset, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all esteemed delegations attending 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I am confident that within the framework of the guidelines of the 11th ECO Summit Meeting in Istanbul and with active and high level participation of the Member States, the 21st Meeting of the RPC will be a milestone in achieving the ECO's objectives in different sectors.

Mr. Chairman,

During the year 2010, the Secretariat and Member States could take long strides towards implementation of the decisions of the 20th RPC Meeting particularly in areas of Transport, Agriculture, Statistics and Health. The ground was prepared for implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and establishment of the ECO Re-insurance Company. ECO Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad Container Train started its regular operation providing services to the business community of the three major economies of the region. The ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan was launched in September 2010 with participation of eight member states. Rail and road transit routes maps were finalized and published. Regular meetings of the Consular officials of the Embassies of ECO member States in Tehran led to finalization of the draft Uniform Visa Application Form and ECO Visa Sticker. The ECO Visa in the initial stages will be utilized by the transit drivers of member states.

Establishment of the ECO Logistics Provider Associations' Federation (ECOLPAF) and the Secretariat of the ECO Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability Insurance Scheme (White Card) have reached to the final stages. We also witnessed major progress in building rail and road missing links in the region bringing about closer commercial and economic ties between the member countries.

In the agriculture sector, the ground work has been done to implement the ECO Regional Program for Food Security and Agriculture Development. In the health sector, we are going to have new momentum through establishment of the ECO Blood Safety and Drug Regulatory Networks. Establishment of the ECO statistical network (ECO-Stat) in February 2011 at the Secretariat was another development which would provide Member States and the Secretariat with access to data and information necessary for planning and policy making.

All these developments indicate the potential of the region for expansion of friendly relations and encourage us to increase efforts to strengthen regional cooperation within the ECO's framework.

Mr. Chairman,

Expansion of trade and economic relations with the ECO countries is of high priority in the regional policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Having common border with six ECO member states and adequate rail and road linkages with the neighbouring countries, we have developed concrete plans for facilitation and simplification of transit of goods to and from ECO landlocked countries.

During the year 2010, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran started implemented of the Fifth Five Year Economic Development Plan as well as a comprehensive economic development reform covering all sectors of the economy. One of the major components of this plan is the facilitation and simplification of the customs procedures which will, *inter-alia*, lead to smooth transportation of the goods and commodities to and from ECO countries.

Mr. Chairman,

As it was raised in letters of His Excellency Secretary General to Foreign Ministers of the Member States, apart from their scale of assessment, the financial contribution of the member countries to the ECO's projects and activities is of high significance.

In this connection as it was raised by His Excellency Dr. Salehi in his inaugural statement, Islamic Republic of Iran is considering positive response to the request of the Secretary General in order to facilitate implementation of the ECO projects and activities and functions of the Eminent Persons Group.

Furthermore, in line with the decisions of the previous meetings of the RPC, Islamic Republic of Iran has already granted one million US\$ for feasibility study of the standard gauge railway project connecting Kashghar in China to Herat in Afghanistan. This important project will connect China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey. The feasibility study of this project in Afghanistan was accomplished by the Asian Development Bank in the year 2010.

As the host country of the ECO's headquarters, we have also provided about 350,000 US\$ for renovation of the Secretariat's premises in the year 2010. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also provided the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) with a nice and big building in the most expensive areas of Tehran which was visited by the honourable Permanent Representatives of the Member States during the last meeting of CPR.

In line with our commitments to regional cooperation within ECO's framework, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also decided to extend a Master of Public Health scholarship to 18 students (two from each member state) in the Tehran Medical University, and a Master level scholarship to 20 students (2 from each member state) on Actuary Sciences through the ECO College of Insurance. We will also organize an 8 weeks training course for two senior experts from each country on environmental issues in the Iranian Institute for Environmental Science and Technologies.

Mr. Chairman,

Apart from the abovementioned contributions by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ECO Statistical Network (ECO-Stat) was also established with the technical and financial assistance of Statistical Center of Iran. The ECO-State officially started its operation in February 2011, during the 166th Meeting of CPR.

Furthermore, the Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran through outsourcing to a competent private company designed the ECO Visa Sticker with necessary and specific technical and security elements. The Sticker has already been sent to member states through the Secretariat.

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,**

At the end, I would like to reiterate the firm commitment of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to actively participate in the ECO's projects and activities and to extend any support to ECO Secretariat for fulfilling its responsibilities.

Once again, I wish fruitful deliberations and concrete outcome for this meeting and a pleasant stay for delegation from the Member States in Tehran.

Thank You.

Statement by Mr. Umirbay Abaidildin, Representative of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 21st Regional Planning Council Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)

**Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic missions,
Dear Secretary General, dear delegates,**

I would like to welcome the delegates of the 21st meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) and wish them every success, prosperity and achievements in the personal life and their efforts to deepen the integration and mutual relationship between our countries in various areas of cooperation.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am confident that this meeting under your efficient leadership will have a success and be held in the atmosphere of mutual understanding and support of the Permanent Representatives of the Member States.

Dear Secretary General,

I wish to express gratitude for your efforts, enormous work and contribution in the development of the ECO as well as your permanent participation in the Astana Economic Forums. Recently you took part in the 4th Astana Economic Forum and you were one of the honored guests in the forum.

**Dear Ambassadors, representatives of the diplomatic missions,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a big honor to participate in the RPC meeting together with you as your colleagues. I hope that our common work and efforts will contribute into integration of the economic relationship and strengthen the ECO position in the world as well as create favorable conditions for economic development in the region, successive and phased integration of the Member States in the world system of economic relations through improving mutually beneficial and intra-regional economic cooperation and mutual assistance in the various aspects of social and cultural and scientific and technical development.

Focusing on maintenance of the favorable external economic environment necessary for a balanced and successive development, Kazakhstan utilizes efficiently its geographic situation between largest world economic centers in order to promote the regional development. In this regard, ECO is one of the active regional actors embodies the economies of the Middle East, Transcaucuses , South and Central Asia.

Kazakhstan takes into account the great potential of the ECO region with its vast human resources market of 380-million people that is very important in wide-scale projects and which has not been fully utilized.

Thank you for your attention.

**Statement by Mr. Amjad Ali Sher, Director General, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Honourable Chairman,
Honourable Secretary General, Mr. Mohammad Yahya Maroofi,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a matter of great honour for me to represent Pakistan at the 21st Regional Planning Council's meeting of the ECO. The Council is an important forum not only to formulate proposals and programmes for the ECO activities relevant to its goals and objectives, but also to review the follow-up action and progress on the preceding meetings.

My delegation and I feel delighted that the Council's meeting is taking place in the grand city – Tehran. We are obliged to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm reception and generous hospitality. Excellent arrangements made for this meeting are highly appreciated.

Allow me “Mr. Chairman” to congratulate you on your elections as Chairman of the 21st RPC Meeting. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation the excellent services made by the outgoing Chairman – our brotherly and friendly country – The Republic of Turkey.

Mr. Chairman,

The current Council's meeting is poised for our collective efforts towards realizing our aspiration for economic growth and development as well as broader regional cooperation through comprehensive policies and measures. A review of the past activities, achievements and challenges would guide us to formulate more effective policies for enhanced cooperation in specific areas within the framework of the ECO.

I hope the deliberations in the Specialized Committees and main Session of the RPC would yield fruitful and tangible results for the collective benefit of all Member States.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Pakistan, as one of the founding members of the ECO, truly believes that this important Organization is destined to achieve economic progress and prosperity for the entire ECO region. We are fully committed to the goals and objectives of ECO.

It is encouraging to note that the Organization has taken concrete steps during the past years to realize its objectives by developing cooperation in various fields through signing of numerous agreements in different sectors and setting up specialized regional institutes.

Distinguished Delegates,

Having a population of over 400 million and an area rich in natural resources with high agricultural potentials, the ECO region has accorded the Organization every opportunity to become a strong viable regional economic entity.

It is to our mutual benefit that ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) which was concurred for the purpose of liberalizing trade in the ECO Region, be implemented on top priority basis. I urge the Contracting Parties to complete the necessary formalities so that the regional economies on the whole can start benefiting from this important Agreement. My government believes that this Agreement together with the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) will prove to be an engine of growth for all the Member States.

One of the major problems of trade among developing countries is financing. It is gratifying to see that ECO Trade and Development Bank has launched its financing activities and credit programs for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). I would like to invite all Member States to participate in the working of this Bank and benefit from the services offered.

Excellencies,

We believe that development of an efficient and modern transportation and communication network among the ECO Member States is the key factor in expansion of trade and socio-economic integration. Pakistan welcomes the regular run of the ECO Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Container Train.

In this spirit, the launch of the ECO Silk Road Truck Caravan from Pakistan is also a significant milestone achieved by the Organization. All the ECO Member States would immensely benefit from road linkages amongst them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to share with you Pakistan's socio-economic progress and future outlooks. Pakistan has started formulating Growth Strategy to promote sustained high economic growth arguing that growth should be market-led and not government-led, Private sector should be the main driver of growth, and the market will generate innovations, entrepreneurship, transformation of cities and youth employment.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Treaty of Izmir envisaged the establishment of ECO Science Foundation as a Specialized Agency of ECO to function as a reservoir of highly skilled scientific and technical manpower and to facilitate promotion of scientific research among the Member States.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, this important Foundation has not been able to start functioning despite a lapse of many years. The Basic Documents of the Foundation have

been finalized during the successful 2nd Experts Groups Meeting held in Tehran in August, 2010.

Pakistan will soon be conveying new dates for hosting the 1st meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. This meeting will render the Foundation operational. I, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, would like to invite all ECO Member States to participate in this important meeting.

Distinguished Delegates,

Pakistan is leading ECO's efforts for the reconstruction of our brotherly neighbour, Afghanistan. We have pledged a total of US\$ 5 million and have already remitted US\$ 2 million for the ongoing reconstruction activities in Afghanistan under the auspices of this Organization.

Excellencies,

Pakistan fully endorses the goals and objectives of ECO. WE will spare no efforts on our part to realize these in minimum possible time.

Mr. Chairman,

I am of the firm belief that under your able guidance the meeting will achieve the desired objectives of accelerating the pace of economic cooperation between the Member States. The technical sessions, I am sure, will draft ECO's agenda for the year, keeping the imperatives I have just mentioned, in mind. In the coming days we will examine closely the progress achieved thus far, and examines fresh proposals to promote conditions for sustainable economic development and to raise the standard of living and quality of life of our people.

In the end I would once again like to place on record our profound thanks to our hosts, the ECO Secretariat for their generous welcome and excellent arrangements made for the meeting, and to the Government of Iran for making special provisions for the guests.

I thank you.

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ahmet Yaman, Deputy Undersecretary of
State Planning Organization (SPO), of the Republic of Turkey
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**His Excellency, Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran
His Excellency, the Secretary General of ECO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me and my delegation to be in the magnificent capital of our friendly and brotherly neighbour Iran, on the occasion of the 21st Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for the endeavors of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting this meeting and thank them for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation.

I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Secretary General, Muhammad Yahya Maroofi for his valuable work and contribution during his tenure to the ECO activities and to develop our cooperation in various fields.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

ECO has a unique geo-strategic location and is a linking point between the East and the West. Our organization has a significant economic power. Our region, with its vast natural resources, and dynamic work force has a huge development potential which we should harness in the interest of all our nations. By pursuing regional cooperation, enhancing existing relations and strengthening economic ties among member countries, we are today much more hopeful that this organization will achieve its objectives.

In this connection, I would like to state that in its capacity as the current Summit Chairman of ECO, Turkey shall work in close cooperation with the Secretariat and the member countries for the realization of objectives of ECO cooperation. To this end, we need to enhance the dynamism, efficiency, and visibility of the ECO.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

In Istanbul Summit, our leaders had the opportunity to conduct a mid-term review of the ECO Vision 2015, which we are already half-way through. The leaders reiterated their commitment to achieve the targets set in the Vision. Among these targets, increasing our intra-regional trade to 20 per cent by 2015 is of prominence, given the low share of trade among our countries and the importance of regional trade in fostering cooperation.

Nevertheless, after 5 years, we have recorded only a modest progress in enhancing the intra-regional trade. Our pioneering trade liberalization project, the ECO Trade Agreement is yet to be implemented. Obviously we have differences in the interpretation of the implementation clauses of the Agreement. But I am quite optimistic that with firm

commitment and dedicated work, we can overcome these differences and soon start to implement this important Agreement to the benefit of all parties.

Distinguished Delegates,

I strongly believe that trade liberalization schemes produce win-win outcomes for all the parties involved. Turkey's experience with regard to the free trade agreements shows that they have substantially boosted Turkish trade volume with these countries. More remarkable, despite the shrinking trade volumes during the recent crisis, trade with these countries remained relatively stable.

It is my firm conviction that ECOTA would produce similar outcome for the contracting parties. In this sense, putting ECOTA back on track is beyond fulfilling an international obligation imposed by a Treaty. It is more of a realization of the commitment pledged so as to raise the welfare of our people; support the development of our brotherly nations and raise the status of our countries as a trading block.

With this understanding, I call upon the member states that are party to the Agreement, to expedite the completion of necessary formalities to implement tariff concessions without any further delay. I also invite other member countries to be party to ECOTA and benefit from the liberalized trade.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

We all are aware of the importance of the ECO Trade and Development Bank for enhancing ECO Cooperation. The Bank is making great strides to become a vibrant financial institution and a vehicle for project financing in the ECO region. There is no doubt that by increasing its membership, the Bank would attract more resources to make itself a stronger financial institution. By this way, it would also strengthen its ability to mobilize funds within the international capital markets.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate my desire to see the member countries which have not yet joined the Bank as new members, soon. As a founding member and the host of the Bank, Turkey is ready to provide any support to facilitate the accession procedures for these member countries.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Another important issue in our cooperation is encouraging the participation of the private sector and businessmen in the ECO activities. We cannot reach our goals without the involvement of the private sector. In this vein, I appreciate the work done by the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry thus far, and wish Iran which has assumed its chairmanship earlier this year, a successful chairmanship.

A favourable business environment is also an essential element in economic development. We should recognize the importance of improving investment climate in our region that would contribute to job creation, poverty alleviation and development. I would

like to express my support to the Secretariat's efforts in this regard. In this context, on 24-26 May, the Undersecretariat of Treasury of Turkey will organize a workshop in Ankara, wherein it will share Turkey's experience on improving investment climate with member countries. I would like to invite member countries to the workshop for a productive three-day of work.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

The objective of enhancing regional trade of ECO would remain elusive in the absence of a well-developed system of transport in the region. Moreover, the majority of ECO members is land-locked and need facilitation of transit traffic. Therefore, we believe that the implementation of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) would facilitate establishment of viable region-wide corridors of trade and investment, transport and communications. TTFA is essential for the free flow of goods, services and investments in the ECO region.

To this end, the customs procedures of all ECO countries should be harmonized and operate on a standard basis. Such harmonization will contribute to the elimination of non-tariff barriers in the region. The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) in cooperation with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) develops projects to achieve this common goal. Based on Build-Operate-Transfer Model, TOBB successfully pursues the modernization projects of border gates in its region and similar projects can be developed and implemented in the ECO Region as well. The TOBB will organize a workshop and a study visit to share its border gates modernization experience with the member states in a short while.

Our cooperation in the area of railways is also quite promising. Last year we have successfully launched regular operation of the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad container train, which has also carried emergency aid in the aftermath of the flood disaster to our Pakistani brothers and sisters, who were victims of the flood. Recently, however, we have faced some difficulties in the operation of the train. But I believe that within the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood, we may overcome these obstacles.

Esteemed Delegates,

In the area of agriculture, we have several ongoing projects which deserve greater attention from us. The Regional Program for Food Security is the most important one covering nine regional projects and one country specific project for Afghanistan. Turkey attaches great importance to the success of this Program because it would be an important step for ECO in the way of ensuring food security. Therefore, Turkey volunteered to undertake the coordination of the implementation of the Program. In this conjunction, I would like to thank the esteemed Council for electing Turkey to coordinate the implementation of the Program at the last meeting in 2010.

In its capacity of the coordinator of the RPFs, Turkey will also host the Regional Coordination Center of the RPFs. Currently, we are working with the Secretariat and FAO to establish and activate the Center in soonest time. FAO is on the verge of finalizing a technical cooperation program with amount of approximately US\$ 500,000/- to contribute to the

establishment of the Center. Another project with the same purpose will be financed by Turkey through its partnership with FAO.

I would like to emphasize the ownership of the Program by the member states for its success both with respect to its implementation and attraction of donor support. For this reason, constitution of an effective communication among the Regional Coordination Center, the member states and the Secretariat is of vital importance. As you remember Turkey hosted the first donor's conference in 2008, and will host the second conference in 2012. We have been working on preparing a number of project proposals to submit to this conference for donor support. Other Member States are also expected to contribute to the Program by preparing proposals and taking necessary actions before the donors' conference and thus show their ownership of the RPFS.

Distinguished Participants,

The establishment of the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) in Ankara in 2009 has been a milestone in our agricultural cooperation. ECOSA plays a crucial role in the development of the seed sector in the region and integration of national seed markets at regional level and beyond. The rising interest of the member states and international seed community in the activities of the ECOSA is quite pleasing.

The establishment of ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) in Ankara last year was another important achievement. The objectives of the Center are accurate measurement of meteorological parameters; capacity building with respect to calibration of meteorological instruments; improvement of calibration methods and reference instruments. The calibration of meteorological devices is required for accurate measurement of meteorological parameters. This in turn would positively contribute to agricultural activities and production. The Center shall work to extend calibration services and for increasing the capacity of the Member States in calibration of meteorological devices. I would like to call on the relevant national institutions of the member states to benefit from the services of the ECO-MCC and to actively participate in its activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In this context, I would like to announce that Turkey is ready to host the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in 2012. I believe that we will register a good deal of progress in the area of agriculture at this critical meeting. I would like to request the member states to participate in this meeting at highest level and with a good preparation in order to obtain the optimum progress.

As for Industry, I wish particularly to draw your attention to the Regional Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology Institute RISCAM. I think we should accelerate the establishment of RISCAM by signing and ratifying its statute and by taking required action enshrined in the Road Map. RISCAM would highly contribute to the liberalization of intra-regional trade by substantially eliminating non-tariff trade barriers in the area of standards.

Esteemed Delegates,

Tourism sector in the ECO Member States has a vast potential that waits to be realized through effective and fine calibrated policies. Turkey with a market share of 3.1 percent in the World tourism shows a rapid growth rate in both tourist arrivals and revenues. Among the World's top 20 tourism destinations it ranks 7th in terms of tourist arrivals and 9th in terms of tourism receipts. Tourist arrivals increased from 1.2 million in 1980 to 28.6 million in 2010, while receipts increased from 326 million US dollars to 20.8 billion US dollars in the same period. It would be great honour for my country to share its experiences with ECO member states and to extend them technical assistance for development of the tourism sector in their countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

In today's globalized world, it is not possible to contain the political and economic problems within national borders. In this framework, it is getting more difficult for countries to provide peace and prosperity to their citizens alone, without developing international cooperation. This new global environment increases the importance of regional organizations.

ECO is considered as a valuable instrument for regional economic development. With this belief, I would like to reiterate that my country is fully committed to the principles and targets envisioned by the ECO and will continue, as in the past, its constructive cooperation and partnership with the Member States, as well as with the ECO Secretariat.

**Mr. Chairman,
Esteemed Delegates,**

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my firm belief that this esteemed Council will come up with fruitful results and take another step in enhancing the ECO cooperation. I wish you all the success in the conduct of the Meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Ilhom Akramov, Ambassador,
the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the Organization of the Economic Cooperation at the 21st RPC Meeting
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Heads of delegation,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a high level of organization of the meeting which will strengthen a long-term basis for cooperation among the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The current meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization is one more opportunity to synchronize watches on the key directions of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Member States and discuss the problems of interaction, first of all, in the area of economy and trade, transport communications, agriculture and environment since they become today the areas of great significance.

Dear delegates,

The Republic of Uzbekistan gives great importance to the development of transport communications, to the integration into the international transport corridors which may give an additional impulse to further strengthening regional trade and economic cooperation.

In our view, the most important task of the ECO in the transport and communication section is a rational utilization of the vast territory of the region in order to make transport traffic more cost-effective reducing shipping and material resources costs.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has initiated a big regional project on construction of the International Transport Corridor “Iran-Oman-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan” connecting the Central Asian countries with the Persian Gulf states. The project has a strategic importance for the whole region.

In this connection interaction in the issues of peace and stability in Afghanistan that is a necessary condition for development of not only transport communications but opening wide possibilities for regional cooperation is a major direction of our cooperation.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has desire and enough potential to contribute into the construction of the economic objects and reconstruction of the transport infrastructure of Afghanistan.

ECO Member States should continue fighting against illicit drug trafficking that threatens seriously our people. Despite of the progress achieved in this direction, we need to make further efforts to abolish this evil.

Dear delegates,

We wish to point out the achievements of the ECO Secretariat in implementation of the projects in the areas of agriculture, food security and environment.

We wish once again to recall on the catastrophic fate of the Aral Sea, desiccation of which has a tragic consequences not only for the Central Asia but for the Eurasia space. The last decades the Central Asian countries, situated namely in the low reaches of the waterway, suffer from shortage of water that has social and economic consequences. Different and ambiguous

approaches in the water resources management prevent from sustainable development and cause ecological collapses.

In this connection the Republic of Uzbekistan considers that all the decisions on utilization of water resources in the region, including construction of hydro-power stations, should not harm by no means to the ecology and interests of the population of the neighbouring countries.

Dear colleagues,

The Organization may develop new areas of cooperation. Uzbekistan considers one of the priority directions within the ECO may be cooperation in the area of investments, trade and interaction between private sectors of the Member States' economies.

In terms of tendencies of the world economy development and global financial crisis, one of the important tasks of the ECO is establishment of a developed and multiform system of the regional trade and ensuring the access of the Member States to the world markets in order to smooth the consequences of the global financial crisis.

The soonest way out of the crisis and easing its consequences would depend on effective and agreed measures within as a single country as well as the world community in the whole.

For this purpose the leadership of Uzbekistan implements some programs providing additional assistance to the bank and financial structures, supporting the industrial sector of the economy, increasing industrial efficiency and export opportunities, providing additional tax benefits and preferences, etc. The year 2011 is announced a year of small business and private entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan by the President and a relevant state program to support development of entrepreneurship has been adopted.

Dear participants,

Let me touch upon the macro-economic and qualitative results of the social and economic development in the first quarter of 2011, which testify the productivity of the measures implemented in deepening the reforming process in the economy of the country. As a result of measures undertaken in structural reforming, speedy modernization, technical and technological updates the growth of the GDP comprised 7,6%, with low inflation rate of 2,7% and with profit in the state budget of 0,3% to the GDP. Economic growth was provided by increase of industrial products on 6,2%, agricultural products on 5,8%, transport and communication – 10,8%, retail turnover – 13,1%, paid services – 13,8% and export – 28,5%. Today Uzbekistan has been making wide-scale preparations to the 20th anniversary of the Day of Independence.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

At the end I would like to express hope that the output of the today's meeting would promote to successful realization of joint efforts on the way to enhancement and strengthening cooperation and, what is most important, its efficiency.

Thank you for your attention.

**STATEMENTS BY THE
ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/
REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

- ECO Trade and Development Bank
- ECO Cultural Institute
- ECO College of Insurance
- ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company
- ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ECO Educational Institute

**Statement by Mr. Murat Ulus, President of the ECO Trade and Development Bank
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellency, Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be in Tehran and to attend the 21st Regional Planning Council meeting of ECO. I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality extended to us. Before giving brief information about our achievements and plans, I would like to share with you some thoughts about the current developments in global economy and its possible effects on the ECO region.

Excellencies,

The global economic recovery remains uneven. The uncertainty still prevails. Weaknesses in major economies, volatility in financial and currency markets, surge in commodity prices and sovereign debt issues pose important risks to global growth. New global financial arrangements are struggling to avoid markets to go back to business-as-usual. In light of these global facts, the economic recovery remains broadly on track in the ECO region. The economies of the region showed a considerable economic growth of 5.3 percent in 2010. The total GDP of the region hit US\$ 1.53 trillion in 2010 and per capita income reached to US\$ 3,700. The economic growth in the region is expected to continue in 2011. However, the regional economies need to remain vigilant to the global risks.

Excellencies,

Over the last decade, the global economy has been undergoing profound changes. Particularly, the current global crisis has led fundamental change in the development paradigm. Adoption to new global economic governance, growth models, institutional and policy shifts are on the focus of development prescriptions of future. The gravity of world economic growth is shifting towards to developing countries in the east. It is estimated that by 2030, developing countries will account for nearly 60 percent of world GDP. New window of opportunities are opening up for development. At this point, the ECO region would be receiving further attention. The reasons for enhancing regional economic cooperation and integration are becoming more important for the countries of the region. This imposes a heavy load of homework. Primarily, improvement of business environment in the region, integration of physical infrastructure as well as regulatory frameworks needs to be intensified. Increasing investment in new technologies, innovation, R&D and human capital would ensure the efficiency and competitiveness of the regional economies. Similarly, convergence to higher levels of prosperity requires promotion of private sector development. We have to make this region a dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain.

Excellencies,

In view of these major changes, the efforts of the Bank are focused on making a fundamental contribution to the regional cooperation. We aim to be a key player in bringing a fresh impetus to the regional cooperation. In this context, the humble success criteria of the Bank is to contribute 0.5 percent increase in the economic growth of Member States and one percent improvement in the regional trade. Within this perspective, the total amount of loans disbursed by the Bank ascended to about US\$ 400 million by the end of April 2011. I would like to underline that the Bank has been able to achieve sound financial ratios without registering any non-performing loan in its portfolio. Overall, the Bank ensures firm adherence to sound banking principles and practices which is evident from its present robust financial position.

The representative offices of the Bank in Tehran (Iran) and Karachi (Pakistan) are fully functional and are playing an effective role to identify and understand the local economic dynamics and investment requirements.

Excellencies,

The Bank offers a range of medium-to-long term loans directly or through financial intermediaries to private and state owned entities. We deliver a strategic agenda through demand based, country-owned, and results-oriented partnership strategies and related technically viable programs of assistance. The Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs) prepared by the Bank, define the strategic approach in each member country. In this context, sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, energy, transport and communications, which have potential impact on the development of the Member States, are given special attention. In addition, the cross-country operations involving or indirectly benefiting several regional countries are in our targets.

We have been able to establish a network of about 25 partner Financial Intermediaries (FIs) in the region and a total amount of US\$ 600 million credit lines has been activated. Through, this network we are offering short and medium-term loans to facilitate transactions of exporters/importers and support the financing needs of the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). So far, the total amount disbursed under SME finance programme reached to US\$ 103 million, which have been benefited by over 400 SMEs for their investment and working capital requirements.

On the other hand, in order to promote intra-regional trade we have launched a short term trade finance facility. Under this facility, while we finance exports to all destinations, import finance is limited to those goods produced by the ECO Member States. The total amount disbursed through this programme so far amounted to US\$ 112 million. However, we are entering into new agreements and introducing mechanism for achieving more shares in financing regional trade. The other operations of the Bank are focused on corporate and project financing. The investment needs of corporate firms and public sector entities are catered by direct lending from the Bank. In corporate finance, the total amount of approvals reached to US\$ 265 million by the end of April 2011. Facilities provided to energy supply project in Pakistan, metro project in Turkey and irrigation and wastewater system projects in Iran are among the eminent examples under this section. The bank has been able to establish a robust pipeline of projects and total commitments in this segment are expected to increase

in the future. Finalization of co-financing arrangements being carried out with relevant MDBs such as Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) would be a factor in improving our portfolio. In this respect, let me inform you that we are about to finalize a co-finance deal with relevant partners regarding a Wind Power Plant project in Pakistan.

In short, I would like to emphasize that we plan to introduce new facilities and programmes to improve our activities. We are also working to obtain a favourable credit rating to mobilize necessary resources and further develop our portfolio.

Excellencies,

Let me highlight that within a very short period of time, the Bank finds itself on firm footing. The coming years would determine how this Bank would improve its vital role and maximize development contribution. I am confident that the Bank's efforts would be realized with support of ECO countries. At this stage, accession of new members to the Bank has as a paramount importance. The 11th ECO Summit meeting held on 23rd December 2010 in Istanbul had been a promising event with regard to accession of new members to the Bank. Particularly, the statements of the Heads of States/Governments of the ECO countries such as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic clearly addressed their decision or intention to become a member of the Bank. Consequently, the formal application received from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to become a member was approved by the Board of Governors of the Bank on February 25, 2011. We are now working with the relevant Afghan authorities to finalize the membership process. I would also like to inform that before attending this meeting, I have received the formal application of the Republic of Azerbaijan to become a member of the Bank. The Board of Governors would be convening next month to decide on the membership process for the Republic of Azerbaijan. We hope that these two new candidate countries would finalize the necessary accession process and the membership Bank would be enlarged to five countries by the end of 2011.

Excellencies,

In light of this welcoming development, I would like to reiterate my invitation to relevant ECO Member States to join the Bank and benefit from its resources. The membership of all ECO Member States in the Bank would certainly help us to become a premier development institution in the region. In this respect, the Bank is ready to provide any advisory assistance to the prospective ECO Member States to smoothly process their admission.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Statement by Dr. Hojjatollah Ayoobi, President of the ECO Cultural Institute
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Honorable Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset I wish to congratulate our distinguished Chairman for his deserved election and I am confident that under his able leadership we will have a very successful meeting.

Since, our last year report to the last RPC Meeting, ECI, with sincere cooperation of Member States, has succeeded to realize parts of its objectives. Since a comprehensive report on ECI's activities in 2010 has been circulated among distinguished delegates, I only mention highlights of these achievements for your kind consideration.

- To implement Article IV of the Charter of the Institute, ECI's First Coordination Unit was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Culture of Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe in May, 2010.
- In April 2010, the Honorable Minister of Culture and Information of Afghanistan inaugurated the Second Coordination Unit in Kabul.
- The 3rd Meeting of ECO Heads of National libraries, held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey in October 2010 was attended by heads/representatives from 8 ECO Member States.
- Music Concert with participation of famous Iranian singer was performed in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in July, 2010.
- The First ECO Calligraphy Festival, displaying works of prominent calligraphers of the ECO region, held in October, 2010 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.
- The 2nd ECO Calligraphy Festival also held in December 2010 in Kabul, Afghanistan. A Collection of works of prominent calligraphers from ECO Member States displayed in these important cultural events.
- The First Exhibition of art works of national of Afghanistan, residing in Iran, was held in October, 2010 in Isfahan.
- The conference of experts and researchers on the two of the most prominent poets of ECO region, Shams Tabrizi and Mawlana Rumi was held in November, 2010 in the City of Khoy.

- The 1st Meeting of Ministers of Youth Affairs of ECO Member States held in November, 2010 in Tehran.

The meeting explored ways of cooperation among the ECO Member States in youth affairs and studied the feasibility of establishment of ECO Union of Youth Affairs.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran provided a large new building as the Permanent Headquarters of ECI. In a grand ceremony attended by the Ministers of Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Tajikistan, the new building was officially inaugurated in March, 2011.

The new Headquarters, located in a prestigious part of Tehran, is fully equipped with state of the art facilities, and has special hall to host different cultural events by the ECO Member States.

- ECI's Monthly Economic, Social and Cultural News Magazine, ECO Times has been published since January 2009 in 19 issues. The magazine's website as well as ECI's website on tourism is now operational.
- The first edition of ECO Tourist Guidebook containing tourism information of ECO Member States and a selection from Divan Rudaki (Breeze from Bukhara) in four languages were published in 2010.
- The construction of ECO Park in Tehran is in its final stage.
- The 5th ECI Board of Trustees Meeting was held in March, 2011 in Kabul, Afghanistan. High level delegations from the four signatory Member States: Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan attended the Meeting.
- ECI actively participated in the 2nd Norooz World Festival, held in Tehran in March, 2011 by inviting several musical groups from ECO member States.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

One of the most important programs on our agenda during current year is that with sincere cooperation of ECO Secretariat, and in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution of December 2010, ECI is on its way to closely cooperate with UNESCO by participating in its relevant activities, therefore paving the way for opening a new chapter to introduce the rich culture of ECO region to the world. Having said that Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to request this meeting to endorse our endeavour, and to recommend the Member States representatives in UNESCO to cooperate with ECI for the said purpose. It may be added that ECI's detailed activities for 2011 has been already presented to you by ECO Secretariat and I feel no need to repeat it here.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, let me stress that ECI has enjoyed sincere collaboration of the Member States to fulfil its objectives so far and its future success will solely depend on the Member States' continued cooperation. Therefore, joining of the Non Member States to

ECI as well as accession of those Member States who have only signed ECI's Charter will greatly help ECI to further achieve its objectives in promoting and advancing regional cultural cooperation among the ECO nations.

Thank you.

**Statement by Dr. Atousa Goodarzi, Dean, ECO College of Insurance
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It's my great honor to present College's achievements and prospective challenges to the 21st Regional Planning Council (RPC).

These achievements can be the result of attempts of a group of contributors, including the Chancellor of the Allameh Tabatabai' University, faculty members and the students of the College.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ECO College of Insurance mission is to achieve scholarly excellence in education and research. The ECO College applies knowledge to exemplify a spirit of excellence by provision of a learning environment that encourages students of the Members States to realize their highest aspirations.

His Excellencies,

The College has a long history to fulfil the respected Member States' academic and proficiency requirements in some disciplines and degrees. We will try to improve the College potentials through concentrating on post graduate degrees especially provision of a PhD in risk and insurance for the first time in Iran, in order to satisfy ECO Member States growing needs for skilled human capital. In this respect, I would like to appreciate I.R. of Contributions.

College's programs comprises of a period of four years education leading to BS in Insurance Management as well as two courses of MS and MA in Actuarial Science and Area Studies.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegations of the Member States,**

The main objective of the College is providing an academic environment with the highest standard of the education, training qualified students, establishing formal links with research centres and other well-reputed universities in the region and the world.

To follow College's goals we enriched the College's library during last year. Today, the College is in possession of about 6500 English and more than 2700 Farsi books.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the College and the Central Insurance of I.R. of Iran, short-term courses for professional in insurance industry were held; meanwhile there are some arrangements to extend research collaboration for translating insurance textbooks.

The international collaborations with well-reputed insurance training centres such as Society of Actuaries and the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) continued during last year.

Mr. Chairman,

During the last year the College participated in several important research events such as managing insurance panel in “Global Economic Crisis and Its Effects on Financial and Industrial System” Conference, as well as participation in the first international “E-Insurance” Conference and the seminar on “Insurance & Development”, which was held by the central insurance and insurance research center of I.R. of Iran.

**Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,**

It’s my great honor to inform that state-based subsidized low-rate student loans provided to College students in the last academic year approached 55.5 thousand dollars. As well as, University dormitory accommodation has been arranged for all Iranian and non-Iranian students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To improve the education standards, we invite the ECO Member States to avail several annual Iranian-government scholarships (backed by accommodation arrangements) granted to the College, exclusively for highly qualified non-Iranian applicants from the ECO Member States). Meanwhile, there are some provisions made to increase the number of scholarships for which due coordinations with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of I.R. of Iran are fulfilled. ECO countries are expected to participate and provide similar scholarships for their talented students.

The last important point is we are arranging to hold the first session of the College’s Board of Trustee during next two months.

In the end, I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to distinguished delegations of the Member States my highest considerations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Statement by Mr. H.M. Farkhondeh, ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

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

ECO-CEC was established in the year 1996 under ECO's Charter with the approval of ECO Council of Ministers. In the 15th meeting of ECO Council of Ministers held at Astana in 2005. ECO-CEC was awarded the status of Specialized Agency of ECO to provide engineering services to all countries of ECO region.

The founding companies of ECO-CEC are NESPAK from Pakistan, TUMAS and TUSTAS from Turkey and PIDEDEC of Iran.

The purpose of this establishment is to render engineering, surveys, planning, feasibility studies, and design and consultancy services for the projects, to be realized mainly in ECO countries as stated in the contract.

The Iranian and Turkish Companies are mainly specialized in performance of EPC grass roots and development and revamping projects in the fields of oil and gas pipelines, refineries, petrochemical and industrial engineering, while the Pakistani partner in all other fields of infrastructural developments and engineering, including communication, power, urban development public health, telecommunications, water resources development and agriculture.

ECO-CEC has been trying hard to seek projects; however, only two projects given below were awarded:

- Pre-Feasibility study of Nawar Bridge in Afghanistan which was completed satisfactorily.
- Feasibility Study of Electricity Transmission Interconnection between ECO Member States. This project was for Feasibility Study of Electricity Transmission Interconnection between ECO Countries. However, adequate data for carrying out study was provided only by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey despite repeated requests. Therefore, ECO terminated the Project.

The 20th RPC Meeting held in Antalya, 2010, Mr. Javed Khizar Hayat, Managing Director ECO-CEC attended the above meeting and gave a detailed briefing to ECO.

During the presentation, it was requested that ECO-CEC being a specialized agency of ECO needs to be supported by ECO to make it successful as Consultancy Company for Member States. Presently ECO-CEC is facing severe financial crisis due to non availability of any assignment in ECO region, (any further delay can be disastrous for future of the Company)

In order to alleviate financial problems of ECO-CEC, ECO Secretariat has circulated letter (No.ECO(IR)/ECO-CEC/2011/099 dated on 27 January, 2011) to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran and the Embassies of the Member States in Tehran requesting the Member States to facilitate ECO-CEC to become a viable regional institution by making it possible for them to bid for the projects financed by ECO resources and other National Projects. ECO-CEC is thankful to ECO Secretariat for this help.

**Statement by Dr. Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Secretary General,
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI)
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

**Ladies, Gentlemen,
Dignitaries,**

I would like to welcome the respective delegates participating at the 21st Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting in Tehran.

It is a pleasure for me as the Secretary General of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry to address such a magnificent meeting.

Herein I would like to thank and appreciate the ECO Secretariat which has provided any kind of efforts to ECO-CCI for the fulfillment of its objectives.

As you know according to the ECO statute since the recent General Assembly and Executive Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI held on January, 2011 in Tehran, I.R. Iran, after termination of the chairmanship of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Turkey the Secretariat of ECO Chamber has been assigned to Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines who has conducted many implementations with respect to various decisions made during the said meetings.

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) has made many valuable contributions to development of trade and investment among private sectors of member countries during its chairmanship of ECO-CCI in the past three years for which I would like to thank and appreciate their optimal achievements during their Chairmanship.

Accordingly we can summarize the activities of ECO-CCI during 2010 as follows:

- Activation of 'Fairs Section' on ECO-CCI Web Site.
- Participation in the 20th Regional Planning Council Meeting on February, 2010 in Antalya, Turkey.
- Knowledge Sharing Workshop for the Government Institutions and Chamber of Commerce from ECO Countries, April, 2010, Istanbul.
- Organizing ECO-CCI 14th Executive Committee and Trade Facilitation Committee Meetings on June, 2010 in Ankara.
- Visits to ECO-CCI Member Chambers such as Iran – Pakistan – Azerbaijan – Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for following up the activities of ECO-CCI on the basis of its objectives. Since 2007 by compiling the "ECO-CCI 10 year Development Plan" the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry has strived to alleviate the barriers on the way to promotion of trade and investment in the region and capacity building in the industrial and trade infrastructures of the private sector with cooperation and coordination of all member chambers.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,**

With respect to the fact that the full report of ECO-CCI Activities in 2010 has already been distributed among the honorable delegates I would avoid over elaboration, but I will mention some of the major view points of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

- Firstly: The Arbitration as a very important element of trade dispute settlement has always been focused on by international business communities and the ECO is not an exception. During the years since the formation and promotion of the ECO organization, trade disputes and lack of a centralized focal point with branches in member countries dedicated to trade dispute settlement which has hindered the further development of intra-ECO trade and investment.

Hence, the Arbitration Procedures of the ECO-CCI has been approved during 4th Executive Committee Meeting of the ECO-CCI on July, 1996.

On the contrary the Internal Regulations of the ECO-CCI Arbitration Center was prepared by the ICCIM and distributed among the participants in the recent General Assembly Meeting of the ECO-CCI in January 2011 in Tehran for their consideration.

Thus with establishment of the ECO-CCI Arbitration Center the economic, trade and investment operators of the region will be further assured to develop regional economic convergences which can lead to the augmentation of the economic growth of the member countries.

- Secondly: The visa issue as a major hindrance to the promotion of trade, transit and investment among member countries has to be addressed through collaboration of governments and private sectors of member countries. Since the Visa simplification Agreement could not serve its purposes special attention should be given to visa for the businessmen of the member countries.
- Thirdly: The ECO Trade and Development Bank can play a vital role in provision of export/import credit line and promotion of its funds and activities for trade transactions and filling the gap of the banking system among member countries. Operations such as L/C opening can be taken in to consideration in the coming meetings of the Board of Governors of ECO-TDB.
- Fourthly: In order to deal with some of major problems regarding the transit issue in the region, most member countries who are members of the TIR convention can benefit from its vast scope of advantages in line with the advantages of the ECO Transit Trade Framework Agreement (TTFA).

In this respect there is a high potential for collaboration of member countries in the field of transport for which the ECO-CCI will do its best to be realized.

**Mr. Chairman,
Respective Delegates,**

Herein, based on above points, the ECO-CCI has the following recommendations:

- With respect to the paramount importance of formation of the ECO-CCI Arbitration Center, it is requested that the RPC offer its full support to the establishment of the center.
- It is requested that implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) with 4 ratifying countries as a fast track approach towards benefiting from the agreement be conducted promptly.
- Women have a significant role in the world and regional economies, thus the RPC is requested to offer its support to the ECO-CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council (WEC) and give due back up to activities such as seminars, conferences, training courses, workshops on women entrepreneurship in ECO countries to further involve them in the regional economic development process of ECO.
- Visa facilitating for transit truck drivers is strongly requested.
- Visa Stickers is demanded to be issued for active and high profile businessmen of member countries. We propose in the initial stage at least 100 top businessmen of each member country be granted multiple Visa Stickers.
- With respect to vast natural gifts of the ECO region which makes it one of the world's most potential tourism markets and its high capacity for medical and health tourism promotion, special privileges are required to be put in place for tourism operators as well as Health Tourism activists of ECO countries.
- Since lack of a seamless banking system as well as gaps within bilateral banking collaborations of ECO countries heavily impedes development of intra-ECO trade and investment co operations, we hardly request expansion of activities and capital of the ECOBANK to trade financing and trade operations. It can highly benefit the intra trade cooperation and further expand the trend of investment in the region.

At this point on behalf of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry I wish the 21st Regional Planning Council Meeting full success on the way to promotion of economic integrity among the honorable Member States.

**Statement by Mr. Ibrahim Zeki Karabiyik, Director of Section,
ECO Educational Institute
at the 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

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

I regret to state that ECO Educational Institute is not open/operational yet. Let me brief you on that.

In 2009, Turkey made all necessary arrangements for 1st BoT Meeting of ECO Educational Institute. However, lack of quorum prevented us to give a start for the work of ECO-EI.

As it is known, ECO Educational Institute is established in line with the 10th Article of the Treaty of Izmir, which deals with the “Special Agencies and Regional Institutions”.

The Charter was signed by 8 ECO Member Countries during the ECO Meeting in Almaty on 9 May, 1998.

It is also dedicated by the signatory states that the ECO Educational Institute shall be located in Ankara, Turkey.

Five (5) Member States of ECO listed below have ratified the Charter of the ECO Educational Institute:

- Iran
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkey

Aims of ECO Educational Institute

The ECO Educational Institute shall function as an initiating, coordinating, financing and monitoring agency mainly to:

- Carry out researches in education and training experiences of the Countries of the Region for the purpose of shedding light on and strengthening of those values which bind the peoples of the Region together;
- Promote teaching of the languages of the Region;
- Organize conferences, seminars, congresses and in-service training in the fields of education and training;
- Develop cooperation in teaching of History, Literature and Geography of the Member States for establishing closer ties among the peoples of the Region;

- Grant awards and prizes to eminent scholars and provide scholarships to the academicians, students and teachers in the fields of education and training.
- Other areas of priority for ECO-EI can be establishing close cooperation with other international institutions such as Council of Europe, European Union, UNESCO and World Bank for improving the quality of the education systems of ECO Member Countries.

First Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of ECO Education Institute

Ministry of National Education of Turkey plans to organize the meeting in Autumn this year.

To this end, MoNE expects to hear that the ECO Member States, especially ones ratified the Charter are willing to participate in the First BoT Meeting of ECO Educational Institute.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope that by the kind interest and assistance of Ministries of Education of ECO countries and Secretary General of ECO, ECO-EI will open before the end of current year.

Thank you

Annex-VI

PRESENTATION

**by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Nahavandian,
President of Iran Chamber of Commerce,
Industries & Mines/Chairman of ECO-CCI**

**ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS AND ECO REGION**

**Presentation by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Nahavandian, President of
Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Mines/Chairman of ECO CCI
at 21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

It is a pleasure for me to be here with you. I thank the organizers and I welcome all the delegates from ECO member countries to Tehran.

The job and responsibility of Regional Planning Council (RPC) is very important but the effectiveness of RPC has to be questioned at the outset of every meeting. This is the 21st meeting of RPC. We have to ask ourselves what has been the impact of the ECO RPC in the planning of every member country.

I asked the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have just got approved the fifth year Development Plan by our Parliament.

We have to ask ourselves what was the impact of RPC in our 5 years development plan?

We need some impact analysis in every member country. What is the message that we want to take from this RPC meeting to our own planning organizations in our countries?

Only if we shift our view in national planning to a sort of regional planning, thinking economically that looking at our national resources do not recognize the political map. The reserves of cooper, iron, the water resources that we have, they do not recognize political borders or boundaries.

If ECO is an economic organization really, we have to think economically, plan economically and act economically.

There is too much politics in ECO. Looking at the future of this area, we have to ask ourselves whether this raise of Asia that everybody is talking about in global economy, what role ECO is going to have? And what share we are going to have?

Now the figures say that GDP of all ECO member countries is amount 1.5 billion \$ in at last 2.7 billion by PPP, it is a 2.4 percent of the world GDP or 3 percent.

What is the share of our population? Are we gaining the same importance in the world economy as our number of population requires? The answer is no. What is our plan to get that? What is our plan to get a higher share in the world economy? This requires a global regional planning and that is a lesson that everybody has learnt from this global economic crisis which we had 2 years ago.

We have globalization going too fast in the last 15-20 years. But then because of the lack of global government, we have this shock and the shock has made every government to think again and take a step back, now nationalistic agenda is on act. The regional agenda is

our main focus. No globalization any more. It does not mean that globalization is going to die. Now, the approach has changed.

People are thinking about their labor force. The unemployment in their own economies is more than anything else.

All the rescue plans that they have taken, they are thinking more seriously about how to create jobs for their people, developed and developing alike.

What is our plan for unemployment in our region? What are projects for work together?

The point I want to stress on looking back 21 years of experience. We have been relying too much on government, it would not take us to the kind of development. We want to achieve in our economy. We have to shift the course we have to take our private sectors more seriously, and this applies to many countries in ECO family.

Most of us have had a history of state- run kind of economy and unfortunately those legacies are still with us, we have decided in Islamic Republic of Iran to have a major structural shift- from state-run economy to a private orientated economy that is a challenge. We realize that but one way forward is to have our hands together. Regional cooperation is one of the ways to give more significance to private sectors involvement in our economic development.

My humble suggestion is due to shortage of time that we talk about goals is good but not enough, talking about potentials that our economies have is good but not enough. We need planning and action on both planning and action my humble suggestion is to think of some regional projects.

There is one good example of regional project: UNIDO has put together a global map for gas pipe lines, one major plan that is a network a of gas pipe lines with the hub of liquid fraction and gasification In "Chabahar port" then benefits everybody not only in global economy but mainly the countries in this region, this is a good example of regional cooperation.

There are many project with regard to Caspian Sea Caspian Sea may die, if we do not take action. Caspian Sea is a rounded by ECO member countries,

Cannot we? Don't we want do something about it? On Trade services, on banking.

It is a pity that still we do not have representation of our banking systems in each other's countries. Why don't we have at least the volume of trade that we do together, through our banking system directly? Can't we do that? That is requires too much intelligence that we lack?

There needs to be an economic commitment which would be of course supported by political organizations and governments. But we have to make sure that our governments see the necessity and seriousness of the regional development.

The other plan that we can implement together is on Insurance, there is a good background of insurance training as we heard from Dr Goodarzi.

Can't we have our insurance companies get together to have a local network of insurance companies working together? Why should we be the net importer of trade services?

The countries who used to be called industrial economies now do not rely on industry any more, the main part of their economies is based on their service industry they also provide services to us, in service industry we do not have a better make of technology .

It only takes commitment and management - we can do that.

On transportation the geographical proximity of our countries is the best economic reason that we can do work together on transportation.

We shall not insist that my country has this transportation company and I want to support my own transportation company not yours and you do the same.

Nevertheless this is an apple that we can share if we work together.

The same is tourism. I don't want to go to examples as all of your lectures have been full of point to mention.

My humble accentuation is planning together acting together bring a better future for our children.

Thank you.

Annex - VII

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE
PREPARATORY/REVIEW
COMMITTEES OF THE RPC MEETING**

**General Guidelines for the
Preparatory/Review Committees of the 21st RPC Meeting
(Tehran, 17 May, 2011)**

1. As a result of the expansion of the ECO's activities in recent years, the number of events/meetings included in the annual calendar of the Organization has been drastically increased. Organization of so many events (about 150 events/meetings in a year) is beyond financial and human resource capacity of the Secretariat and, therefore, approximately half of the events included in the Calendar could not be realized. On the other hand, the Secretariat being heavily engaged in preparing the ground for realization of the events/meetings of the calendar, does not have time and capacity to duly follow up the decisions of the meetings organized. Therefore, it is suggested that, while revising the calendar, the RPC reduces the number of events to less than 100 meetings for 2011.

2. In the proposed calendar of the events/meetings, overlapping of responsibilities and duplication of activities of different directorates of the Secretariat is a problem which needs to be considered by the CPR and the RPC. For instance, the issues pertaining to disaster management are included in the work program of the HRSD and AIT directorates and DOCCU. The tourism related matters are being followed up by the AIT, EME and HRSD directorates. The matters related to the privatization which should normally be included in the calendar of the investment sub-sector, are being followed up by the AIT directorates. The issues pertaining to the drivers visa is being followed up by both T&C and T&I directorates.

Since there are some other overlapping areas of activities by the different departments of the Secretariat, it is suggested that the RPC takes necessary decisions to solve the problem through necessary adjustments to the draft COEs. This will increase productivity of the Secretariat through avoiding duplications and better concentration of resources.

3. The agenda of some of the events included in the annual calendar are of low value and weak relevance to the ECO core mandate, with disproportionate results, cost, energy and time. Therefore, it is suggested that the CPR and the RPC take initiatives to include in the Calendar of Events/Meetings the events with substantial items in their agenda and more possible tangible results. In other words, the ECO work program and Calendar of events/meetings should rather take a project and action oriented approach than a meeting oriented one.

4. Most of the non-ECO events included in the draft calendar were not specified and even did not have a definite title. Therefore, it is suggested that:

- The RPC may reconsider the proposed non-ECO events and may only include, in the calendar of the year 2011, the events of relevance to ECO activities and objectives. The non-ECO events included in the Calendar may be limited to the meetings with ECO related issues in their agendas. The CPR may ask the Secretariat to provide the RPC with the detailed information about the agenda

of the non-ECO meetings/events included in the Calendar, enabling the Member States to consider their relevance.

- Participation of the Secretariat in the non-ECO events/meetings which are not included in the Calendar shall be subject to the prior authorization of the CPR.
- The Secretariat should submit, in writing, the report of its participation in the non-ECO events/meetings to the CPR.

Annex-VIII

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR
2011-2012**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011-2012

TRADE & INVESTMENT

No	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/ Foreign Trade.	Afghanistan	11-13 July, 2011
2.	4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy	Kazakhstan	2011
3.	3 rd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council.	Afghanistan	2011
4.	1 st Meeting of the ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies	Afghanistan	2011
5.	7 th Meeting of ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration	Pakistan	2011
6.	2 nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs)	Azerbaijan	Nov/ Dec 2011
7.	4 th ECO Business Forum	Afghanistan	2011
8.	3 rd ECO Trade Fair	Kazakhstan	2011
9.	Orientation Seminars/Study visits under ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal Project.	To be hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	2011
10.	Trade Policy Review Sessions	In Selected Member States	2011
11.	Seminar on ECO Women Entrepreneurship Development	Afghanistan	2011
12.	Meetings of ECO-CCI Committee Meetings, 16 th Executive Committee and 12 th General Assembly Meetings.	To be hosted by Pakistan and other Member States to be determined, respectively.	26-28 July, 2011
13.	8 th BoG Meeting of ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB). The other meetings of ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB)	Antalya, Turkey To be determined	June 2011 2011-12
14.	Training Programme on Improving Investment Climate in ECO Member Countries and Turkish Experience	Turkey	25-26 May, 2011
15.	4 th ECO Investment Conference	Tajikistan	2011
16.	Events relating to Integrated Market Promotion Plans (IMPP) under ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade.	Smaller Economies of ECO (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan)	2011

17.	ECO Commodity Forum/Product Display under ECO Project on Expanding Intra-Regional Trade.	All Member States	2011
18.	1 st Meeting of ECO Heads of Tax Administration	Iran	2011-2012

Non-ECO Activities

1.	Events organized by WTO, WCO, COMCEC, UNIDO, UNDP and WIPO	To be determined (subject to the approval of the CPR)	2011
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TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Transport

No	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	8 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications	Ashgabat,	28-29 June, 2011
2.	5 th Meeting of the TTCC	Pakistan	2011
3.	5 th Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC	Pakistan	2011
4.	5 th Meeting of the Road Committee of the TTCC	Pakistan	2011
5.	3 rd Meeting of the Transit Trade Committee of the TTCC	Pakistan	2011
6.	3 rd Meeting of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC and the Second Meeting of the ECO Council of Bureaux (ECO-CB) of the White Card Scheme	Pakistan	2011
7.	11 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities	To be determined	2011
8.	7 th Meeting of the High Level Working Group Meeting on the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route.	Ankara (7 th Meeting)	21-22 June, 2011
9.	2 nd Meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Committee (TCC) on Construction of Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran	Ashgabat (the 2 nd Meeting)	30-31 May, 2011
10.	3 rd Meeting of the en-route countries of Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Container Trains (and its launching ceremonies)	To be determined	2011
11.	Visits of the Secretariat and the Consultancy team to the countries enroute Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Container Trains under the aegis of the Feasibility Study approved by the CPR	To be determined	2011
12.	Ministerial/SOM Meeting of the En-route countries for the construction of railway from	China	October-November

	China to Europe through the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Iran		2011
13.	National workshop on COTIF Rules/Regulations and TIR Convention	Pakistan	2011
14.	Regional Conference on TIR Convention and field visit to border crossing points, cosponsored by IRU and ECO/IDB Project	Istanbul	23-25 May, 2011
15.	2 nd and 3 rd Consultative Meetings of the ECO Coordination Group meetings on the sidelines of the 128 th -129 th sessions of the UNECE WP.30 and 52-53 rd sessions of AC.2	Geneva, Switzerland	2011-2012
16.	Meeting of the Senior Consular Officials of the Member States on visa facilitation for drivers.	To be determined	2011
17.	Regular Meetings of the Consular Officials of the Embassies of the Member States in Tehran on visa facilitation for drivers.	Tehran, ECO Secretariat	2011
18.	1 st ECO + China Seminar on the Silk Road	Iran	2011
19.	3 rd and 4 th Meetings for the Establishment of the ECO Logistic Provider Associations Federation	Iran and Pakistan	2011-2012
20.	Four regional workshops (on Road, Railway, Transit, and motor vehicle insurance) under the aegis of the ECO/IDB TTFA Project. The HLEG Meeting and the White Car CB would be convened in merger with these Workshops.	To be determined	2011
21.	Interagency Meeting with IDB on transport	Jeddah	2011
22.	ECO/UNCTAD Regional Workshop on transit logistics.	Bandar Abbas	October 2011
23.	Donors/Investors Conference for Financing ECO Transport Development Projects/Interagency Meeting on implementation of the MoU between ECO, UNESCAP and IDB and ECO, UNECE, IDB	To be determined	2011

Post & Telecommunication

No	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	14 th Meeting of the Heads of Telecommunications authorities of the ECO Member States	Iran	2011
2.	6 th Meeting of ECO Postal Authorities.	Kazakhstan	2011
3.	3 rd Meeting on Technical and Operational Aspects of Establishing Financial Postal Services	Iran has offered hosting/offers from other Member States awaited	2011

Non-ECO Events

No	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	Regional Workshop on Cooperation for Facilitation of International Road Transport*	Beijing	30 May-1 June, 2011
2	Workshop on Impacts of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism in OIC countries.*	Izmir	7-8 June, 2011
3	OTIF General Assembly/trilateral Coordination Meeting	Berne	23-24 June, 2011
4	UNECE Expert Group Meeting on Unified Railway Law subject to the inclusion of ECO matters in the agenda and back to office report to CPR.	Geneva	2011

ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

No.	Event/Meeting	Venue	Date
1.	3 rd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum	Tehran	Third quarter of 2012
2.	2 nd High Level Expert Group Meeting on Energy	Turkey	First half of 2012
3.	1 st Meeting of ECO Working Group on Renewable Sources of Energy	Iran	November, 2011
4.	3 rd Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy	Iran	November, 2011
5.	4 th Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy	Turkey	Second half of 2012
6.	Joint ECO-OPEC Workshop on "International Petroleum Market".	Esfahan, Iran	26-27 April, 2011
7.	Meeting/Workshop on "Natural Gas and Petroleum Supply Security"	To be determined	2011/2012
8.	Workshop on Clean Coal Technology	Turkey	Second half of 2011
9.	3 rd Workshop on Regional Energy Trade in the ECO Region in cooperation with World Bank	To be determined	2011/2012
10.	4 th ECO Mineral Experts Group Meeting	Tehran, Iran	24-26 May, 2011
11.	1 st Meeting of ECO Head of Surveying and Mapping Organizations	Tehran, Iran	26-27 September, 2011
12.	4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment to be preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting	Tehran, Iran	7-9 June, 2011
13.	Regional Meeting of Taxonomists (Mentioned in CoE on Biodiversity)	Tajikistan	2011/2012

14.	Meeting on Trans-Boundary Movement of Biological Specimens and Species	Iran	2012
15.	Experts Meeting on Alien Invasive Species	Turkmenistan	2 nd half of 2011
16.	ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) Experts Meeting	Pakistan	2011/2012
17.	Meeting of ECO Regional Scientific Committee (ERSC) on Conservation of Species and Habitat Protection	Afghanistan	2011/2012
18.	Experts Meeting on Conservation of Threatened, Rare, Endemic and Relict Species	Afghanistan	2011/2012
19.	2 nd Expert Group Meeting on Biodiversity	To be determined	2011/2012
20.	6 th Working Group Meeting on Environment	To be determined	2012
21.	ECO Drilling Training Workshop	To be determined	2011/2012

Non ECO Events

1.	10 th International Training Course for Energy Managers	Ankara, Turkey	28 February-11 March, 2011
2.	11 th International Training Course for Energy Managers	Ankara, Turkey	October 2012

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

Agriculture

No.	Meeting/Event	Venue	Date
1.	5 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and 4 th Senior Official Meeting (SOM) and 2 nd Donor's Conference on the Implementation of the ECO-RPFS.	Turkey	2012
2.	2 nd Coordination Meeting for the Implementation of the Regional Program for Food Security (RPFS)	Turkey	In the last quarter of 2011
3.	3 rd ECO Seed Association (ECOSA 2011) International Trade Conference, 3 rd General Assembly and 3 rd Board of Directors Meetings of ECOSA	Turkey	November 2011
4.	Workshop/training course on: a. PVP b. Seed Testing c. Field Control	Iran Pakistan Azerbaijan	2011 2011 2011
5.	2 nd Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture	To be decided	2011

6.	International Training Courses on;		
	a. "Flash Flood Forecasting Model Concept", Istanbul Facilities of RTC.	Turkey	September 2011
	b. "Basics of Calibration", Ankara Facilities of RTC.		12- 14 Sept. 2011
	c. "Basics of Numerical Weather Prediction & Practices", Alanya Facilities of RTC.		26 - 30 Sept. 2011
	d. "Climate Analysis and Applications", Alanya Facilities of RTC.		10-19 Oct. 2011
7.	3 rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organization	Azerbaijan	2011
8.	Training Workshops on;	Tehran, Iran	End of September 2011
	a. Management of Food and Mouth Diseases		
	b. Laboratory Diagnose Animal Disease	Kerman Iran	In the mid of December, 2011
9.	2 nd Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)	Iran	9-11 October, 2011
10.	3 rd Meeting of the Heads of ECO Veterinary Organizations	Iran	2012
11.	ECOSA 2011 Organizing Committee Meetings	To be determined	2011
12.	Joint Mission to donors /funding Institutions for the Implementation of RPFS.		2011

Industry

No.	Meeting/Event	Venue	Date
1.	4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and 3rd High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting	Kazakhstan (to be confirmed)	2011
2.	5 th EGM on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology	Turkey	2012
3.	Workshop on Conformity Assessment	Iran	18-20 July, 2011
4.	Workshop on Standardization	Turkey	2 nd Week of December, 2011
5.	Workshop on Accreditation		
6.	1 st Task Force Meeting for establishment of database on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology and related website	Iran	2011-2012
7.	6th Meeting of Heads of Privatization Administration of ECO Member States and 5th Meeting of High Level Experts Group on	Tehran	3-4 September, 2011

	Privatization and Private Sector.		
8.	First Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights	Turkey	Last quarter 2011
9.	4th ECO Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SME Development	Iran	2012
10.	2nd Steering Committee Meeting on Nanotechnology	To be decided	2011
11.	2nd Permanent Committee Meeting on Establishing ECO Technology Transfer Center	Turkey/Kazakhstan /Pakistan (To be decided)	2011
12	ECO-Colombo Plan “Training Program on SME’s” with the Financial Support of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)	Malaysia	4-5 November, 2011

Tourism

No.	Meeting/Event	Venue	Date
1.	-3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism -5th High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting	Tajikistan (To be confirmed)	2011 2011
2.	1 st Working Group Meeting on Revival of Silk Road	Afghanistan	to be confirmed
3.	2nd Youth Ministerial Meeting	Pakistan (to be confirmed)	2012
4.	1 st ECO Nations Sports Competitions	Iran (to be confirmed)	2011
5.	Joint sports tournament and tourism related event	Turkish Cypriot State(to be confirmed)	2011-2012

HUMAN RESOURCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

No	Event/Meeting	Venue	Date
1.	3 rd Meeting of High Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Human Development and prospect of MDG implementation	Iran	July 2011
2.	The 1 st Meeting of ECO Heads of National Civil Registration Organizations	Tehran, Iran	13-14 June, 2011
3.	High Level Expert Group Meeting on Human Resource Development	Tehran	2 nd Half of 2011

Health

4.	The 2 nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health	Kazakhstan	2 October, 2011
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5.	2 nd High Level Experts Group (HLEG) meeting on Drug Regulatory Authorities	To be determined	2011-2012
6.	3 rd Meeting of the Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations/Authorities of the ECO Member States	Baku, Azerbaijan	2012

Disaster Risk Management

7.	Regional Conference on Cooperation for Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Reduction	Kabul, Afghanistan	24-26 July, 2011
8.	6 th ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management	Kabul, Afghanistan	17-18 October, 2011

Non ECO Events

No	Event/Meeting	Venue	Date
1.	Seminar on Bam Earthquake	The city of Bam/Iran	5 – 8 March, 2011
2.	International Congress on Blood Transfusion Medicine	Tehran, Iran	April 2011
3.	Training Workshop on “Water and Sanitation Facilities in Disaster Situations”	Kish, Iran	30 May– 1 June, 2011

DRUG AND ORGANIZED CRIME COORDINATION UNIT (DOCCU)

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	4 th ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting	Pakistan	2011
2.	1 st ECO Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations	Iran	21-22 May, 2011
3.	2 nd Meeting of the Chief of Police of Anti-Narcotics of ECO Member States	Afghanistan	2011
4.	1st Meeting of Chiefs of Police of ECO Member States	Iran	2011
5.	2 nd Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States.	Pakistan	2011
6.	The First Meeting of Attorney Generals of the ECO Member States	Iran	2011
7.	Experts Group Meeting for preparation of a Plan of Action on Combating Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration	Iran/IOM	2011
8.	2 nd Meeting of Border Commanders of ECO Member States	Not yet decided	2011
9.	Workshop on Drug related matters	Iran	October, 2011
10.	A Workshop on Terrorism	Iran	2011

11.	Experts Group Meeting for formulating modalities for the preparation of a Regional Threat Assessment Report on Organized Crime and Terrorism	Turkey	2011
12.	Experts Group Meeting for finalizing necessary formalities/documents for establishment of ECOPOL.	Not yet decided	2011

Meetings to be funded from the EU-Project:

13.	3 rd National Focal Points Meeting on Drug Control Matters	To be decided	2011
14.	1 st Meeting of Drug Liaison Officers of the ECO Member States	To be decided	2011
15.	Training Course/workshop related to drug	To be decided	2011
16.	4 th National Focal Points Meeting on Drug Control Matters	To be decided	2012
17.	2 nd Meeting of Drug Liaison Officers of the ECO Member States	To be decided	2012
18.	Training Course/workshop related to drug	To be decided	2012
19.	Training Course/workshop related to drug	To be decided	2012
20.	Training Course/workshop related to drug	To be decided	2012
21.	Technical meeting with decision making bodies (Drug Demand Reduction) of ECO Member States	To be decided	2012
22.	3 rd Meeting of Drug Liaison Officers of the ECO Member States	To be decided	2012

None ECO Events:

1.	Paris Pact Round Table Meeting	Vienna	2011
2.	Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting	Vienna	2011
3.	Meeting organized by UNODC	Vienna	2011

PROJECTS, ECONOMIC RESEARCH, STATISTICS

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	4 th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics	Islamabad, Pakistan	7-8 April, 2011
2.	8th National Focal Points Meeting (NFPM) on Economic Research and Statistics	Baku, Azerbaijan	21-22 April, 2011
3.	1 st Meeting of Permanent Steering Committee for Economic Research	Astana, Kazakhstan	3 May, 2011
4.	3 rd Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (MHNSO)	Kabul, Afghanistan	24-25 May,

			2011
5.	2 nd Meeting of Heads of ECO Leading Economic Research Institutions (ELERI)	To be confirmed	2011
6.	1 st Meeting of Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology	Turkmenistan	September 2011
7.	1 st Working Group Meeting on Computer Science Statistics of ECO NGOs	To be confirmed	2011
8.	1 st Inter-Institutional Working Group Meeting on Statistical Capacity Building	To be determined	2011
9.	E-Learning Training Course on National Accounts	Islamabad, Pakistan	July 2011

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

No.	Meeting/Event	Venue	Date
1.	1 st Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) preceded by a High-level Experts Group Meeting (HLEG)	Islamabad, Pakistan	July 2011
2.	1 st Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI) preceded by an Experts Group Meeting (EGM)	Ankara, Turkey	Last quarter of 2011
3.	5 th Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) preceded by 4 th High Level Experts Group Meeting	Kabul, Afghanistan	13-14 March, 2011
4.	1 st Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CoI)	Tehran, I.R. Iran	2011
5.	1 st Meeting of Heads of Diplomatic Training Institute of the ECO Member States	Islamabad Pakistan	Last quarter of 2011

International Relations (Non-ECO Events)

No.	Meeting/Event	Venue	Date
1.	Technical Experts Meetings of the high-level Core Group on Afghanistan	Kabul, Afghanistan	2011
	High-level Core Group Meeting on Afghanistan		
2.	13 th Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Sub-Regional Organizations (ECO, SAARC, ASEAN, Pacific Island Forum) & UNESCAP	To be decided	2011
3.	12 th Session of the OIC Summit	-	2011
4.	38 th OIC-Council of Foreign Ministers	Astana, Kazakhstan	28-30 June, 2011
5.	Participation in the 66 th Session of the UN General Assembly	New York, USA	September 2011
	18 th Informal Meeting of Council of Ministers (COM) on the sidelines of the 66 th Session of the UN General Assembly		

MEETINGS OF THE DECISION MAKING ORGANS OF ECO

No.	Event/Meeting	Venue	Date
1.	21st Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)	Tehran, Iran	17-19 May, 2011
2.	20th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting	Afghanistan	November, 2011
3.	21st Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting	Azerbaijan	2012
4.	12 th ECO Summit	Azerbaijan	2012
5.	22 nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)	To be identified	To be identified

ECO AUDIT BOARD

No.	Event/Meeting	Venue	Date
1.	ECO Audit Board	ECO Secretariat	April 2011
2.	Mission(s) of Chief Accountant in connection with banking issues	London and/or Istanbul	2011
