



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**REPORT
of
The 20th Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council
(Antalya, 16 – 18 February, 2010)**

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The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Report of the 20th RPC Meeting (Antalya, 16 – 18 February, 2010)

1. The Twentieth Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 16 – 18 February, 2010 at Antalya, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Turkey. Preparatory/Review meetings were held on the sidelines.

2. The meeting was attended by delegations from 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 delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State participated in the meeting as an Observer. The Representatives of the ECO's Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutes, including the ECO Cultural Institute, the ECO Trade and Development Bank, the ECO College of Insurance, the ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company, the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the ECO Reinsurance Company and the ECO Seed Association attended the meeting. The Head of UNIDO Representative Office, Turkey and a Senior Researcher from SESRIC 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 Dr. Kemal Madenoglu, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey made the welcoming remarks stating that the high level participation from the Member States proves their strong commitment for enhanced cooperation in various fields of ECO activities.

4. The RPC Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Cevdet Yilmaz, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey. In his inaugural address, Dr. Yilmaz extended a warm welcome to all delegations for participation in this important meeting. He mentioned that apart from being neighbour to global centers of power such as the EU, China and Russia, the ECO Member States have rich natural resources and high agricultural potential. In order to gain maximum benefit from this potential, the Minister emphasized the need for carrying forward regional cooperation under the umbrella of ECO. Referring to the current statistics about the trade volume within the ECO he said that there is a need to make more progress especially in trade relations within the organization. For that purpose, the Minister proposed that free trade agreements could be the starting point for these efforts. He stated that a number of projects from trade to transport, from agriculture to energy have been brought on ECO's agenda and there was dire need to further realize these projects. The Minister renewed Turkey's commitment to continue to provide increasing support to projects within the framework of ECO. A copy of his statement is attached at *Annex-II*.

5. The ECO Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi thanked the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 20th RPC Meeting and making excellent arrangements. He stated that the RPC meeting is an important annual event which provides an opportunity to review the past progress and to chalk out ECO future course of action for realization of its collective goals and objectives. The Secretary General gave an overview of the important meetings held, decisions made and follow-up actions taken during the year 2009. He also mentioned that Turkey is considered as a role model for regional and economic modernization which is acting as a bridge between the East and the West, opening new gates for the ECO Member States. Mr. Maroofi urged the Member States to expedite signing and ratifying the ECO agreements. He concluded that in the globalized world, regionalism was gaining more significance and regional approach offers collective solutions to challenges that transcend the boundaries of a single nation. Referring to the potential and will of working together for the realization of common goals and objectives of ECO, the Secretary General emphasized the need to work with sharper focus, renewed commitment and greater vigor. A copy of his statement is attached at *Annex-III*.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman.

6. His Excellency Dr. Kemal Madenoglu, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the meeting. Dr. Madenoglu thanked the participants for electing him as the Chairman of the 20th RPC Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Council adopted the following agenda:-

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
 - Welcome address by His Excellency Dr. Kemal Madenoglu, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey
 - Statement by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General
 - Inaugural statement by His Excellency Dr. Cevdet Yilmaz, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statements by the Heads of Delegation
5. Consideration of the report of the Secretary General on ECO activities for 2009
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
Natural Disaster Management
 - 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 2010-2011
 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 all the ten Member States made statements, outlining their countries' policies and views on the programmes and activities of the Organization. The Representative of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered his statement. Copies of the statements are placed at *Annex-IV*.

9. Mr. Murat Yulek, Managing Director, PGlobal Global Advisory and Training Services Ltd. of the Republic of Turkey made a presentation on Post-Crises Macroeconomic Trends and Policy Recommendations for Developing Countries. Copy of the presentation is attached at *Annex-V*.

10. 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 College of Insurance, the ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company, the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the ECO Reinsurance Company delivered statements highlighting their activities and perspective for 2010. Copies of the statements are attached at *Annex-VI*.

Agenda Item No. 5

Consideration of the Report of the Secretary General on ECO activities for 2009

11. The Secretary General's annual report to the Council on the activities of the Organization during 2009, circulated to the Member States, was discussed at length during the Meeting.

12. The Council appreciated the comprehensive report and took note of the useful observations and suggestions reflected in the Working Papers prepared by different Directorates.

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 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
Natural Disaster Management
- Projects and Economic Research & Statistics;
- Inter-Regional ECO Activities:
 - i. ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies
 - ii. International Relations

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

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| (a) Trade and Investment | - | H.E. Syed Mushtaq Ali Shah, Director General (ECO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. |
| (b) Transport and Communications | - | H.E. Mr. Saeed Mojtahed Soleimani, Director General (IR), Ministry of Transport of the Islamic Republic of Iran |
| (c) Energy, Minerals & Environment | - | H.E. Mr. Ferruh Tigli, Director General, State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey |
| (d) Agriculture, Industry & Tourism | - | H.E. Mr. Sherimkulov Medetkhan, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Iran |
| (e) Human Resources & Sustainable Development Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit Natural Disaster Management | - | H.E. Mr. Mohammad Hussein Niknam, DG of International Affairs of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran |
| (f) Project and Economic Research & Statistics | - | H.E. Ms. Bakhtia Muhammadijeva, Deputy Chairman, State Agency Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan |
| (g) Inter Regional ECO activities: (i) ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies and (ii) International Relations | - | H.E. Syed Mushtaq Ali Shah, Director General (ECO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan |

14. 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 19th RPC and the 18th Council of Ministers, status report on the implementation of ECO Calendar of Events for 2009-2010, consideration of new programmes and projects for the year 2010.

15. The Council noted, with appreciation, the work of the Secretariat for implementation of the decisions of RPCs and other high level ECO organs, highlighting the progress made on implementation of the ongoing Programmes/Projects and Calendar of Events for the year 2009. A brief resume, covering the main areas of activity, is given below:

(a) Trade and Investment

16. The Council requested the Member States to expedite confirming their participation in the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade to be hosted by Afghanistan in April/May 2010 and also send their views and comments on the agenda of the meeting, circulated by the Secretariat.

17. The Council requested Kazakhstan to consider hosting the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy during 2010. Kazakhstan agreed to convey the response on hosting the meeting through diplomatic channels.

18. The Council urged Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan to expedite submission of their Positive, Negative and Sensitive Lists for early implementation of the ECOTA tariff concessions.

19. The Council appreciated the assurance given by Tajikistan that appropriate measures were being taken for signing and ratification of the Protocol on Annexes of ECOTA during the 1st half of 2010. The Council also requested the non-signatory Member States to sign ECOTA at their earliest convenience.

20. The Council appreciated the readiness of Turkey to convene the 2nd Meeting of the ECOTA Cooperation Council soon after Iran submits its lists to the ECO Secretariat for circulation.

21. The Council recommended the Member States to consider initiating activities on the removal of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to facilitate growth of regional trade.

22. The Council recalling the decision of the 1st Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Corruption and Money Laundering, reiterated its request to the Member States to identify and convey to the Secretariat within three months, the areas where training of officials of the relevant institutions is required. The Council also requested the relevant Member States to convey their offers regarding the available training programs.

23. The Council urged the Member States (except Azerbaijan which has already responded positively) to convey their views/comments on the Draft Plan of Action on Combating Corruption and Money Laundering prepared by Turkey.

24. The Council urged the Member States (except Turkey and Turkmenistan already responded positively) to send their views/comments on the Draft Multilateral Treaty on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

25. The Council requested the Member States (except Turkey which has already responded positively) to convey their nominations for the Committee on Taxation and Avoidance of Double Taxation.
26. The Council urged the relevant authorities of Iran to announce the exact dates for the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Central Banks.
27. The Council welcomed the offer of Iran to host the Working Group Meeting on “Global Financial Crisis: Lessons Learned and Experience Gained by ECO Member Countries” in Tehran on 24-25 February, 2010. The Council requested the Member States to confirm their participation at the level of Deputy Finance Ministers, Heads of Central Banks, Heads of Chambers and Stock Exchanges.
28. The Council requested Pakistan and Turkey to encourage their private sectors to organize ECO Auto Parts Shows as recommended by the 3rd Business Forum in Karachi, Pakistan.
29. For creating awareness on Branding of Products and Trade Marks, the Council recommended the interested Member States to organize seminars for the regional organizations responsible for Trade Marks/Intellectual Property Rights.
30. In order to serve the needs of manufacturers and exporters, the Council recommended all the Member States to hold ECO Trade Fairs as regular annual activity on rotational basis.
31. The Council welcomed the offer of Kazakhstan to host the 3rd ECO Trade Fair in October 2010.
32. The Council welcomed the initiative of Iran to organize an ECO Trade Fair in Milan, Italy, in September 2010, in order to promote the commercial presence of ECO Member States in international markets. It also urged the Member States for selecting leading firms for a successful participation in the subject Fair.
33. The Council took note that the ECO-CCI Secretariat would organize the participation of the Member States in the 13th International MUSIAD Trade Fair to be held on 6-10 October, 2010 in Istanbul.
34. The Council called on the Member States to allocate ECO Composite stall/pavilion in their major Trade Fairs for the firms from other Member States to display their products/publicity materials.
35. Welcoming the hosting of the First ECO Specialized Fair on Printing and Packaging Industries in Mashhad, Iran, the Council requested the Iranian authorities to announce hosting the 2nd Fair during 2010.
36. The Council requested the Member States to improve coordination between Trade Officers and trade organizations so that the requisite information related to developments in trade, tariff and investment regimes, trade review, profiles of firms

active in the region and upcoming events (fairs/exhibitions, symposia, seminars etc.) are disseminated through the Trade Officers Working Group (TOWG) Newsletter.

37. The Council urged the Member States to convey the Secretariat the progress on implementation of the decisions taken in the 1st Meeting of the Heads of ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs).

38. In pursuance of the decision of the 1st Meeting of the Heads of TPOs to develop regional Trade Associations/Unions, the Council urged the Member States, except Turkey, to nominate National Focal Points (NFPs) from the TPOs for further coordination with the Secretariat. The Council requested the Member States to convey the schedules of International Trade Fairs hosted by the countries to the Secretariat to be announced among the business circles of ECO Member States and to be displayed on the ECO-CCI and ECO TPOs websites.

39. The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 1st ECO Seminar on Women Entrepreneurship Development during the first half of 2010, in collaboration with ECO-CCI Women Entrepreneurs' Council. The Council appreciated interest conveyed by Afghanistan for hosting Seminar for ECO Women Entrepreneurs.

40. The Council urged the Member States and the ECO-CCI to provide inputs for the upcoming ECO-UNIDO Project on Women Entrepreneurship Development.

41. The Council requested the Member States to provide information on women entrepreneurship activities, list of firms/businesses etc. for the ECO Web Portal for further coordination at the regional level.

42. The Council called on the non-signatory Member States to sign/ratify and the signatory countries (except Turkey) to ratify the Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank at the earliest.

43. The Council welcomed the offer of Pakistan to host the 7th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administrations (CHCA) in the second half of 2010 and requested the host authorities to indicate exact dates and venue for the meeting.

44. The Council welcomed the interest of Afghanistan to join the ECO Bank and requested the relevant authorities of Afghanistan to initiate membership process as soon as possible. The Council also urged other Member States to join the Bank and benefit from its operations.

45. The Council welcomed the signing of the Articles of Agreement for the Establishment of ECO Reinsurance Company by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and requested them to ratify the Agreement at the earliest. The Council also requested the other Member States to expedite joining the Company.

46. The Council appreciated ECO-CCI for organizing five important events (10th General Assembly, 13th Executive Committee alongside the Transportation

Committee, Industry and Investment Committee and the 2nd Women Entrepreneurs Council meetings in 2009.

47. The Council recommended the Member States particularly the Central Asian Member States to host the meetings of TPO's, ECO-CCI, Business Forums, Fairs, Seminars for strengthening private sector cooperation.

48. The Council welcomed the offer of Azerbaijan to host the 4th ECO Business Forum together with the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of TPOs in the second half of 2010.

49. The Council requested the Member States to convey their views on the proposals on Regional Multi-Dimensional Trade and Investment Strategy and establishment of the ECO Joint Investment Company.

50. The Council urged the Member States to provide details about visa procedures for businessmen, including visa fee structure, single/multiple entry and other relevant regulations, for placing it on the ECO Web Portal.

51. The Council called on the non-signatory Member States to join the Agreement/Additional Protocol on Visa Facilitation for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States to facilitate travel of businessmen, investors and transit drivers.

52. Recalling the decision of EGM on Visa Facilitation on setting up of a Permanent Committee of Experts for Visa Facilitation to consider all related issues and submit its recommendations to CPR and COM, the Council urged the Member States to expedite conveying their views and comments on the proposal.

53. The Council requested the signatory Member States to ratify and the non-signatories to sign and ratify the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) along with the amendments at the earliest.

54. The Council welcomed the offer of Afghanistan to host the 1st Meeting of the ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies in 2010.

55. The Council appreciated the offer of Turkey to host training program on "Improving Investment Climate" subject to availability of financing from international organizations/financial institutions such as IDB.

56. The Council urged Investment Promotion Agencies of Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to provide inputs for the plan/study to be carried out within the framework of cooperation with the Office of the UN High Representative of LLCs/LDCs for investment related policies, institutions and their needs for creating a more favourable environment for greater flow of investment.

57. The Council requested Tajikistan to expedite indicating dates for hosting the 4th ECO Investment Conference in 2010.

58. The Council requested the Member States to provide views/comments and implementation status on the recommendations of the 1st EGM of the ECO-UNIDO

Project on Trade Capacity Building of the ECO Member States held at the Secretariat in December 2007.

59. The Council urged the Member States to convey their recommendations for inclusion in the Project document being developed for the 3rd Phase of ECO-UNIDO Project on Trade Capacity Building of ECO Member States.

60. The Council requested the Member States to send the list of selected experts and resource persons of their relevant Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ) organizations to be associated with upcoming ECO - UNIDO Project activities.

61. The Council requested Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to finalize their capacity-building requirements to be covered under the 3rd phase of the ECO –UNIDO Project.

62. Recalling the progress made by Pakistan and Turkey on TBT/SPS measures, the Council requested the Member States particularly Pakistan and Turkey to volunteer hosting a regional/international Seminar during 2010. The Council welcomed the offer of Pakistan to host the International Symposium on SPS/TBT on April 26-27, 2010.

63. The Council requested the Member States to firm up their positions on the proposed regional Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for the sake of facilitating ECO-UNIDO Project plans.

64. The Council requested the concerned Member States to nominate two NFPs for ECO Trade Net Web Portal, each representing Trade and relevant Investment Authorities and convey their contact details.

65. In order to provide opportunity to NFPs and the representatives of key economic organizations, the Council requested the Member States who have not yet hosted the Orientation Seminars for the ECO Trade and Investment Information Network Web Portal, to host the events in 2010.

66. Recalling ECO's initiative to carry out a comprehensive study of the Regional IT Infrastructure within the context of ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal, the Council requested the relevant organizations of the Member States to provide inputs on the national IT Policy and the existing infrastructure for incorporating the same in the proposed study. The Council welcomed the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance (OIETA) of Iran's offer for coordination with the Secretariat in joint activities.

67. For developing a Project on supporting IT related requirements of Trade and Investment Organizations of the smaller economies of ECO (Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan), the Council requested the Member States to send proposals for financial and technical assistance.

68. The Council, recalling the decision of the 18th COM, requested the Member States to initiate necessary preparatory work for organizing Trade Policy Review

Sessions on the pattern of WTO within the framework of ECO-Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) project so that experts/consultants may plan their visits in the 1st half of 2010.

69. The Council welcomed the offer of Pakistan to host a five-day workshop on any one of the following subjects: (i) Trade Policy Modelling (ii) Tools of Trade Policy Analysis (iii) Trade Facilitation in the 21st Century (iv) Techniques of Trade Policy Impact Assessment (v) Trade and Development: Evaluating Development Dimensions of International Trade. The Council requested the Member States to convey to the Secretariat their preference with respect to their choice of topic.

70. The Council requested the Member States (except Afghanistan and Turkey) to expedite action on completing the Questionnaire for ECO-PIDE Study Project circulated during January 2009.

71. The Council recommended ECO Secretariat to expand cooperation with IDB in its WTO related programs.

72. The Council requested Iranian authorities to convey new dates for the Seminar on “Branding and Trade Marks” to be organized in 2010.

73. The Council requested the Member States to send information on national developments regarding WTO related matters through their designated NFPs, to be placed on Trade Net Web Portal for publicizing the information.

74. The Council requested Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to recommend three most important Trade Associations/Unions for a lead role in Integrated Market Promotion Plans (IMPP) keeping in view their national Trade Policy strategies.

75. The Council took note of the decision taken by the 1st Meeting of the Heads of ECO TPOs to establish ECO Trade Association at regional level and recommended coordination of activities in consultation with ECO-CCI.

(b) Transport & Communications

76. The Council called the Member States on active participation in the 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications, scheduled for late June/Early July 2010 in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Secretariat in close coordination with the host authorities would inform the Member States of the exact dates and venue and circulate the program and working papers of the meeting within one month.

77. Taking into consideration that the next meetings of the TTCC and its technical committees for 2010 will be held in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Council recommended merging the Ministerial Meeting with the meeting of the TTCC increasing the level of the TTCC. This will enhance the level of the TTCC and ensure strong commitment of the Member States to the implementation of the TTFA as ECO’s basic document in the field of transport. Accordingly the ministerial meeting on transport and communications would be organized annually.

78. The Council welcomed the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the TTCC (Astana, 6th November, 2009) and noted that the 5th Meeting of the TTTC, as well as the Meetings of the auxiliary bodies of the TTCC would be held in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Meetings will be partially supported by the TTFA Fund.

79. The Council called for expediting the preparation of the New Programme of Action for ECO Decade of Transport and Communications as the ECO Master Plan for development of Transport and Communications. Appreciating IDB's readiness to grant a TA for preparation of the Master Plan for development of transport and communication, the Council emphasized the need for the cooperation of the Member States and the relevant international institutions, including UNECE, UNESCAP, and ADB in undertaking the above study. In order to benefit the experiences of the above-mentioned organizations, an inter-agency workshop would be held in March 2010 in ECO Secretariat in Tehran. The second meeting of the HLEG on Program of action would be organized within the same TA project shortly after its approval by IDB.

80. The Council requested Uzbekistan to expedite acceding to the TTFA, and Turkmenistan to ratify it at an early date.

81. The Council expressed satisfaction on the establishment of the ECO Council of Bureaux (ECO-CB) for Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability Insurance Scheme (ECO White Card) and called for early implementation of the decisions of the 1st Meeting of the Council, held at the ECO Secretariat in August, 2009, so that the ECO White Card Scheme, approved by the TTCC in 2008, could start operation in 2010.

82. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for seconding an officer to help in running the ECO-CB. The Meeting requested Iran to extend the tenure of the seconded officer until the ECO-CB gains enough momentum to set up its own offices.

83. The Council requested those Member States who have not yet nominated their National Bureaux to the ECO-CB, to expedite doing so at the earliest possible.

84. The Council appreciated the Green Card CoB for warm welcome extended to the ECO's delegation that visited the headquarters of the CoB in Brussels and requested the CoB to continue assisting the ECO in setting up the White Card Scheme through transfer of experiences and technical assistance.

85. The Council requested CPR to consider the allocation of scholarship grants from FSGGF for organizing a Master Degrees programme for ten students, two from Afghanistan and one from each the ECO Member Countries at the ECO College of Insurance, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Member States in implementing the White Card Scheme. The college may co-finance the scholarships.

86. The Council suggested holding the next meeting of the ECO-CB as well as a short term training course on white card to be organized by the ECO college of Insurance in the second half of 2010. These events may be supported by the SSF and TTFA Fund.

87. The Council expressed satisfaction on the appointment of a highly qualified professional as the International consultant for MVTPL Insurance under the ECO/IDB Joint Project on the TTFA and requested the Member States to expedite nominating their national consultants to that project.

88. The Council welcomed the decisions of the 3rd Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC, held in Astana on 5th November 2009. The Meeting appreciated the CPR for allocating funds for implementation of a feasibility study on the ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty Route and expressed satisfaction that the selection of the international consultant for the feasibility study had been finalized by the Secretariat. The Meeting hoped that the demonstration train would be launched in late July-early August, 2010. It decided that the Feasibility Study would cover Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes. The next Meeting of the countries en-route to Bandar Abbas-Almaty route would be held together with that of the Istanbul-Almaty route. The meeting may be held in ECO Secretariat-Tehran within the abovementioned project in March/April 2010.

89. The Council requested the en-route Member States as well as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to facilitate the ECO's mission to their country within the above-mentioned study.

90. The Council expressed satisfaction that the ECO Demonstration Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route was inaugurated on 14th August, 2009. It appreciated the ECO Secretariat for organizing a field survey to examine technical and operational issues during the demonstration run. The Council recommended the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for continuation of the study through extending the term of service of the consultant. It recommended conducting similar studies for the ECO trains on other routes as well.

91. Welcoming the decisions of the 4th Meeting of the HLWG of the en-route Member States on the ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Route (held at the ECO Secretariat on 27-28 January 2010) , the Council hoped the return run of the demonstration train from Istanbul to Islamabad would be conducted on 2nd August 2010, as scheduled by the HLWGM. The Meeting called for frequent meetings of the working group until such time as the regular operation of the train is achieved.

92. The Council recommended that the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Chinese side, would follow up the extension of the Istanbul-Almaty Container Train to Urumchi. If the Bandar Abbas-Almaty Train is extended to Urumchi, demonstration train may be launched at the same time with the Urumchi-Istanbul train. Then the demonstration train may split into two directions in Mashhad.

93. The Council appreciated Iran for offering to host the 5th Meeting of the en-route countries of the ITI Express in the last week of April 2010 in Tehran. The Council decided to organize business forums of buyers-sellers of the major commodities to be carried by ITI -Express in ECO Secretariat in 2010. ECO-CCI and National chambers of commerce and industry of the concerned Member States would also be invited to the forums.

94. The Council welcomed the decisions of the Trilateral Meeting of Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan at the ECO Secretariat on 26-27 January, 2010 and requested the three Member States to expedite the feasibility studies and construction projects, so that the railway would be opened by the end of 2011, as agreed by the presidents of the en-route countries. The Council called for regular meetings of the Trilateral Coordination Committee set up for the above project with the involvement of the ECO Secretariat and IDB.

95. The Council welcomed the decisions of the railway committee for convening a workshop on railway equipment manufacturing capacities of the Member States, as well as An inter-agency workshop jointly with OsZhD, UIC, OTIF, CIT, UNECE, UNESCAP in early 2010 on the application of the Common CIM/SMGS Consignment Note in the ECO Region and ECO rules and regulation for traffic by rail.

96. The Council requested the Member States to expedite submitting to the ECO Secretariat the updated questionnaire on rail transport, and nominating their national focal points and consultants for the ECO/IDB Joint Project on the TTFA.

97. The Council requested the Member States to expedite providing the Secretariat with their comments and views on the railway Transit Routes Map. The said map would be finalized by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Railway Committee to be held in early 2010 in Tehran utilizing the TTFA Fund.

98. The Council welcomed the decisions of the 3rd Meeting of the Road Committee (Astana, 3rd November, 2009) and expressed satisfaction on concrete measures adopted by the three Meetings of the Consular Officials of the Embassies of the ECO Countries in Tehran (June-October 2009) to prepare common visa application form, common visa sticker, and other measures for securing the implementation of the provisions of the TTFA regarding facilitation of visa for drivers. The Council requested for inclusion of the Meeting of the Senior Consular Officials of the ECO Member States in the Work Programme of the TTFA Fund for 2010.

99. The Council requested the Member States who have not yet done so, to nominate their relevant authorized bodies to endorse visa applications of the drivers of vehicles and persons engaged in international transport through issuing introductory letters by mid March 2009.

100. The Council requested the Member States to expedite providing their comments and views on the blueprint of the ECO road maps, and to return to the ECO Secretariat the updated questionnaire on road transport dully filled-in within one month. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Road Committee would be held in early 2010 to finalize the transit routes map and the road network map and release them for publication.

101. The Council asked the Secretariat to maintain contacts with the Member States and the relevant international institutions to assure launching the ECO demonstration truck caravans from Turkey via Iran and Afghanistan to Central Asian and from Pakistan through Afghanistan to Central Asian Member States in May 2010 and

appreciated International Road Transport Union (IRU) for its support to this important initiative and preparations of draft ECO Permit. The Truck Caravan may be planned to reach to Kyrgyzstan during the Ministerial Meeting and TTCC in late June. The Caravan on its return from Kazakhstan would cross the Caspian Sea through Aktau and Baku ports and would continue its journey via Tehran to Istanbul.

102. Taking into account the importance of the ECO Truck Caravan and its timely arrangements, the Council requested an extra ordinary/special meeting of CPR on this issue at the earliest to consider necessary measures for launching caravan and to allocate funds from the FSGPF to cover its expenses as requested by the Secretariat. The representative of IRU may also be invited to the CPR Meeting.

103. The en-route Member States were requested to provide the Secretariat with the exact route and timetable of the movement of the Caravan in their territories, contact details of their focal points responsible, composition of caravan (types and number of trucks as well as types and amount of goods to be carried), details of ceremonies to be organized on arrival of Caravan to their capital, contact details and designation of the expert to accompany the caravan, as well as any other information which may help better arrangement of caravan in less than one month. The nominated associations for membership in ECOLPAF may also be engaged in organization of the Caravan. The governments of the en-route countries would ensure safeguarding and security of the Caravan in their territories.

104. The Council welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran's offer to host the 1st ECO-plus China Seminar on the Silk Road in the second half of 2010. The exact dates of the Seminar would be finalized by the host authorities in one month. The Council also appreciated the IRU's readiness to contribute to the organization of the seminar at the highest possible level as a joint annual ECO/IRU seminar to be held in the ECO Member States discussing trade and road transport facilitation issues with an emphasis on revitalization of the Silk Road.

105. The Council requested the Member States who have not yet nominated their national consultants for road component of the ECO/IDB TA Project on the TTFA to do so at the earliest. The TOR of the consultants would be circulated by the Secretariat in two weeks.

106. The Council welcomed the decisions of the 2nd Meeting of Transit Trade Committee of the TTCC, held in Astana, on November 4, 2009. Expressing satisfaction on having the 1st Meeting of the ECO Contact Group convened in 2009 on the sidelines of the UNECE/IRU working group meetings in Geneva, called for holding the next meetings of the Contact Group at the sidelines of all the meetings of the UNECE Working Party 30 and the Administrative Committee for the TIR Conventions. The Council appreciated the IRU for a regional study on the status of TIR system in ECO countries.

107. The Council appreciated the offer of Turkey to arrange a study tour of the Member States in order to familiarize them with the successful experiences in modernizing the border crossing points in Turkey interimsly planned for April 14-15, 2010. The host authorities would convey the details and the program of the study tour in two weeks.

108. The Council called for enhanced cooperation between the ECO and ADB, particularly, in the context of the CAREC programme.

109. The Council recommended holding a workshop in 2010, utilizing the TTFA Fund, with the participation of the Member States, UNESCAP and UNCTAD to elaborate on ways to setting up National Inter-ministerial Committees for Border-Crossing Facilitation and Promotion of International Transport and streamline their functioning.

110. The Council requested Afghanistan and Pakistan to expedite fixing the dates of their respective National TIR Capacity Building Workshops. The Joint ECO/OTIF workshop in Pakistan may be organized back to back with TIR workshop on mid March 2010.

111. The meeting requested Pakistan to expedite the process of accession to COTIF, enabling the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Train (ITI Express) to function under a uniform legal system.

112. The Council appreciated the readiness of UNCTAD for technical assistance in implementing the customs/transit trade related component of the ECO/IDB Joint Project on the TTFA and requested the Member States to expedite nominating the national consultants for this project.

113. The Council appreciated IDB for granting a TA for preparation of a regional programme for implementation of the TTFA. The meeting requested the Secretariat to finalize the selection and recruitment of the international consultants under the said project. The Meeting requested the Member States to expedite nominating the National Consultants and National Focal Points for the Project.

114. The Council requested the Secretariat and the Member States to assure expeditious implementation of the Work Programme of the TTFA for 2010, as approved by the 4th Meeting of the TTCC, held in Astana on 6th November, 2009. The Council requested the CPR to consider allocation of US\$ 50,000 for implementation of the Work Programme of the TTFA Fund in 2010 as recommended to the previous meetings of RPC and COM.

115. The Council expressed satisfaction that a methodology was at the final stages of approval by the CPR for contribution of the Member States to the TTFA Fund on voluntary basis, as per decisions of the 3rd TTCC and the COM. The Member States may consider voluntary contribution for 2010.

116. The Council requested the Member States, except Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan, to indicate the name and contact details of their respective national associations for the establishment of the ECOLPAF as requested by the Secretariat through official notes verbal. The Member States, except Iran, Pakistan, and Tajikistan may also expedite providing their comments and views on the draft Statute of ECOLPAF.

117. The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to expedite specifying the dates and venue as well as conditions of hospitality for the preparatory meeting of ECOLPAF to be held in September 2010. Iran, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan, who have offered to host the third to fifth meetings of ECOLPAF may propose tentative dates for the next meetings of ECOLPAF.

118. The Council appreciated Iran for allocating a sizable plot of land to the ECO at Chabahar Free Zone, making it possible to inaugurate the “ECO Zone” at Chabahar in 2009. The Council appreciated similar initiatives of Pakistan in Gwader port details of which would be sent to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the Member States. The Council hoped that these initiatives would create a unique opportunity for the landlocked Member States to make investments and economic activities in these areas. The meeting appreciated the offer of Azerbaijan to host the 5th Meeting of the HRMO in 2012.

119. The Council took note of the information provided by the Representative of Azerbaijan on construction of a new international trade port and logistics centre to be located in the suburb area of Baku as well as establishing free economic zone in that area. Subject to provision of the required data and information by Azerbaijan, it was suggested to include the project for establishment of the logistic center in the list of ECO’s projects for inclusion in the agenda of the donors/investors conferences within the organization.

120. The Council requested the Member States to convey to the Secretariat the completed questionnaires on implementation of the maritime transportation related provisions of the TTFA not later than two months.

121. The Council requested the concerned Member States to send their views and comments on setting up a Task Force for the Study on the Demand for Sea Transportation in Caspian Sea, as decided by the 4th HRMO within one month.

122. The Council requested the concerned Member States to provide the under secretariat of the Maritime Affairs of Turkey, through the Secretariat, with the relevant information on their sea ports with a view to update and improve the contents of the ECO Marine website: ecomarine.org.

123. The Council requested the Member States to provide regular reports to the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the regionally important projects enlisted in the report and declaration of the 10th ECO Summit Meeting. The Council Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan to host the next meeting of the en-route countries of the Herat-Kashghar Railway project at Ministerial Level in early 2010. The meeting appreciated Iran and Asian Development Bank for implementation of the feasibility study of the route in Tajikistan and Afghanistan respectively.

124. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were requested to assist the ECO Secretariat in developing a package of projects for improvement of the capacity and infrastructure of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul railway route. ECO-TDB may assist the Secretariat and the Member States in developing a model such as a trilateral consortium etc. for financing and implementing the above-mentioned package.

125. Noting the report of the Meeting of the en-Route Countries of the ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty Route (Astana, 2009), the Council expressed satisfaction that the time table had been received from Iran, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It requested Kazakhstan to provide its time table for forwarding to the Chinese Railways for providing their revised time table from Urumchi to Dustik.

126. The Council appreciated the CPR for allocating US\$100,000 for the feasibility study on operationalizing the ECO container and passenger trains on Almaty-Istanbul route. The Meeting expressed satisfaction that the international consultant of the train was selected by the Secretariat and that the national consultants and national focal points were being nominated by en-route countries as well as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Taking into account the delay in commencement of the project, the Secretariat may consider replacing the consultant, if so need.

127. The Council hoped that the demonstration run of the container train would be launched by the late July-early August 2010, as agreed by the above meeting. The Council requested the Member States to participate actively in the next meeting of the en-route countries, scheduled for early 2010. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to keep contacts with the concerned authorities of the People's Republic of China to make necessary arrangements regarding the train. The Secretariat would send missions to the en-route countries as well as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan within the study project.

128. In line with the decisions of the First Meeting of the en-route Countries of the ECO Container Train on Bandar Abbas-Almaty Route (Astana, 05 November, 2009), the Council recommended that the Feasibility Study conducted by the ECO on Istanbul-Almaty Train would also cover the operational, marketing and technical issues of the Container Train on Bandar Abbas-Almaty route. The Council hoped that the demonstration run of the container train would be launched in late July-early August 2010, starting from Almaty on round trip basis. In this connection, it was agreed to hold consecutive meetings of the en-route countries to settle all the issues concerning tariffs, timetable, marketing, customs issues, as well as other technical and operational issues. The next meetings of the en-route countries would be held in the early 2010 in ECO Secretariat-Tehran.

129. Given the inadequate progress in the field of civil aviation, the Member States were requested to provide the secretariat with their proposals to improve Civil Aviation Cooperation in the region. The Meeting recommended that the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Civil Aviation Authorities and Heads of National Airlines be deleted from the calendar for 2010.

130. The Council welcomed the decisions of the 5th Meeting of the ECO Postal Authorities, held in Islamabad on June, 2009 and expressed satisfaction on the issuance of the ECO Common Stamp on the occasion of the 10th ECO, which was unveiled by the Presidents of the ECO Member States in Tehran. The Council welcomed the suggestion to have the next Common Stamp issued on the occasion of the 11th ECO Summit, and a philatelic seminar held on the same occasion.

131. The Council requested the Member States to participate actively in the 6th meeting of ECO postal authorities, to be held in Kazakhstan in 2010.

132. The Council appreciated Iran for hosting the 'ECO Workshop on privatization of postal services and cost accounting" on 31st January-1st February 2010 in Tehran.

133. The Council appreciated Turkey for hosting the 'ECO Workshop on Technical and operational aspects of establishing financial postal services between the Member States, held in Ankara, on 21 October 2009. Expressing satisfaction on the installation of video-conferencing equipment at the ECO Secretariat, the Council recommended that the first video-conference be organized to consider the system developed by Turkey for interconnection of postal financial systems of the ECO Member States, which was first introduced at the said Workshop.

134. The Council noted that the 14th Meeting of the Heads of Telecommunications Authorities (HTA) and the 5th Meeting of TAEFOS could not be held in 2009 due to lack of quorum and decided that the HTA Meeting be held in the second half of 2010 in Tehran. The Agenda of the TAEFOS Meeting would be merged into that of the HTA Meeting. The Council appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host this important meeting in Tehran, requested the host authorities to convey the exact dates and conditions of hospitality to the Secretariat at the earliest.

135. The Council expressed satisfaction on the increasingly enhanced relationship of the ECO with relevant international and regional organizations on transport development. In particular, the Meeting noted, that good working relations, through reciprocal participation in meetings, exchanging MoUs, and setting up joint projects, had been established with UNESCAP, UNCTAD, IDB, UIC, IRU, IMO, OTIF, UPU, FIATA, CIT, CoB, UNECE, and UNOHRLLS.

(c) Energy, Minerals & Environment

- Energy

136. The Council took note that cooperation in the energy sector is among the three top priority areas of ECO and important decisions need to be taken to carry forward cooperation in that field. Taking into account that the 1st Ministerial meeting on Energy/Petroleum held almost ten years ago, it is necessary that the Second Ministerial meeting be held without further delay. Since the Plan of Action on Energy/Petroleum Cooperation in ECO Region expires in 2010, the Council called for accelerating implementation of it and recommended for its possible revision and extension by the 2nd Ministerial Meeting. The Council welcomed the readiness of Tajikistan to host the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum in July/August 2010 in Dushanbe.

137. The Council requested the Member States to host the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) meeting on Energy, in the first half of 2010 and requested to expedite indicating exact dates and venue as well as format of hospitality. Kyrgyzstan agreed to consider hosting it and would inform the Secretariat in this regard shortly. HLEG would be mandated to consider revising the Plan of Action.

138. In pursuance of para 140 of Report of 19th RPC, the Consultant (NESPAK) utilizing available data of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey prepared a Technical Study Report on the Feasibility Study on Interconnection of Electricity Systems of the ECO Member States. This Report was sent to concerned Member States for their views and comments. Turkey has presented their views. Council also urged Iran to expedite presentation of their views and comments.

139. The Council appreciated Turkey for hosting 8th International Training Course for Energy Managers on 25 May – 5 June, 2009 in Ankara. It welcomed the offer of Turkey to hold 9th International Training Course for Energy Managers on 7 - 18 June, 2010 and another such program in 2nd half of 2011.

140. The Council while stressing the importance of cooperation and exchange of experiences among the Member States in the field of refinery welcomed readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold Workshops on "Petroleum Products" and "Refining Process of Petroleum Products" in second week of May 2010, and Workshop on "Processing of Heavy Cuts" in the second half of 2010. The Council requested the concerned Iranian authorities to convey to the Secretariat the venue and exact date of the above Workshops at the earliest.

141. The Council recommended the Secretariat would continue its cooperation with the World Bank (WB) on pursuing the regional energy trade issues. Therefore, all the Member States are requested to consider holding 3rd Workshop on Regional Energy Trade in the ECO Region in cooperation with WB in 2010.

142. The Council welcomed the readiness of Iran to host the 1st meeting of the ECO Working Group on Renewable Sources of Energy in the second half of 2010 and requested it let the Secretariat know the venue and exact date of the meeting. The Council agreed with the proposal of Azerbaijan that the Member States should convey information/data regarding their renewable energy sources to the Secretariat before holding the above meeting.

143. While appreciating Turkey for hosting 2nd Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy on 30 September – 1 October 2009 in Ankara, the Council welcomed Report of the Workshop and requested the remaining Member States to indicate their willingness to host 3rd Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy in 2010.

144. The Council appreciated Iran for hosting a Regional Workshop on Development of Hydropower Plants on 9-12 November, 2009 in Tehran and Esfahan. The Council welcomed the Report of the Workshop as well as the recommendation of this Workshop regarding establishment of Regional Centre on Water in Iran and recommended the CPR may consider this proposal. The Council hoped the remaining Member States would consider hosting next Workshop in 2010.

145. The Council recommended to 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 2010.

146. The Council appreciated offer of Iran to host a joint ECO/OPEC Workshop on Petroleum Marketing in April 2010.

147. The Council welcomed an initiative of the Secretariat to conduct a study on ECO Regional Energy Trade arrangements, took note with appreciation that the Secretariat has prepared the project proposal on this study which is to be sent to IDB for its financing. The Council also agreed that the partial financing might be allocated from ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund and meetings relating to this project should be included in the Calendar of Events for 2010. The Council also advised the Secretariat that before submission of a proposal to IDB it should be shared with the Member States for their information.

- Minerals

148. The Council requested Kazakhstan to refresh its offer to host the 4th ECO Mineral Experts Group meeting in 2010 and indicate the venue and exact dates for the meeting. Since important decisions need to be taken to carry forward cooperation in the field of Minerals it is necessary that the ECO Mineral Experts Group meeting be held without further delay. The Council also advised the Secretariat that in view of the necessity of holding this meeting without further delay the other Member States may also be approached to consider hosting it.

149. The Council appreciated the Geological Survey of Iran as the Project Manager for its implementation and completion of contract on “Feasibility Study on Establishing Databanks of ECO Geosciences Database” by the end of 2009, as scheduled and providing to the Secretariat the Final Report on feasibility study which was sent to all the Member States.

150. The Council appreciated the Geological Survey of Iran as the Project Manager for its efforts on the implementation of project on compilation of Mineral Distribution Map (MDM) of ECO region. It also stressed the importance of cooperation from the Member States in providing timely data and designation of NFPs on the project to facilitate the easy and timely implementation by the Project Manager.

151. The Council urged the following Member States: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to update data of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Minerals and those who have not yet provided particulars of their NFPs to expedite the same.

152. The Council appreciated the offer of Turkey to organize training course for two participants from each Member State on Mineral Exploration with Remote Sensing Techniques at the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) in the second half of 2010, details of which would be conveyed by Turkey to the Secretariat shortly.

- Environment

153. The Council expressed its desire for accelerating implementation of the ECO Plan of Action on Environment and recommended for its possible evaluation and if needed revision and extension by the 4th Ministerial Meeting proposed to be held in Tehran in 2010. The Council emphasized the need for enhancing cooperation in the field of environment by jointly addressing common concerns and requested the Member States to ensure more active participation in relevant events.

154. The Council emphasized the importance of National Progress Reports (NPRs) on implementation of ECO Plan of Action on Environment as a vital tool for assessing the status of implementation of this Plan in the respective countries. While appreciating Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkey for submitting their Reports for 2008 the Council advised the remaining Member States to expedite their NPRs latest by the end of March 2010, enabling the Secretariat to prepare an integrated Report for circulation to the Member States and to the next Ministerial Meeting on Environment (Tehran, 2010). The NPRs have to be submitted, in the beginning of each year, in the agreed format. The Member States were also requested to ensure timely submission of their NPRs for 2009.

155. Underlining the need for holding the 6th Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Environment (WGM) prior to the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment (scheduled to be held in Iran in 2010) so as to thoroughly prepare its agenda and make required arrangements, the Council strongly urged all the Member States (excluding Iran) to consider hosting the 6th WGM on Environment in the first half of 2010 and inform the Secretariat of their offer shortly.

156. 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 and took note that Iran agreed to hold this meeting in mid November 2010 subject to holding the 6th WGM upto June 2010. While requesting the concerned authorities of Iran to finalize arrangements for the meetings, the Council emphasized on the Member States to actively take part in the meeting and make timely confirmation to the Secretariat of their participation.

157. Emphasizing early establishment/operationalization of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (IEST) and taking into account academic/technical aspects of its activities, the Council took note of the information that Iran would provide nominations of three candidates for the post of the President of the Institute shortly as per decision of the 153rd Meeting of CPR.

158. The Council requested the concerned authorities of Kazakhstan to expedite indicating exact dates and venue for hosting the 2nd Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Biodiversity in the first half of 2010. While appreciating the offers of Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan for hosting meetings on Biodiversity in 2010-2011, the Council requested them to finalize programmes of the meetings and inform the Secretariat of their details at the earliest. The Council strongly urged the remaining Member States to indicate their willingness to host meetings on Biodiversity and also called for

expediting provision of particulars of their national focal points on that subject, to the Secretariat.

159. The Council welcomed 150th CPR approval of Azerbaijan as a Coordinating Country for implementation of ECO Plan of Action on Ecotourism, and took note of the detailed list of activities proposed by them for cooperation in this field during 2010-11 and that Azerbaijan would consider hosting the 2nd Experts Group Meeting on Ecotourism in 2010 and convey their position in writing to the Secretariat in due course. The Council requested the Member States to keep the Secretariat abreast of their interest in organizing some of the activities mentioned in the said list.

160. The Council requested the concerned Iranian authorities to expedite renewing their offer for hosting the 2nd Seminar/Training Course on Watershed Rehabilitation sometime in 2010 and also emphasized upon the Member States to actively participate in that event.

161. The Council was informed that the 8th issue of Bulletin on Environment was published in January 2010 based on material received from Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey only. Unfortunately, non-contribution of material by the Member States causes delay in its publication on regular basis, thus, the Council urged on them to ensure timely provision of necessary material to the Secretariat so that the next issue of the Bulletin could be published well in time.

162. While reiterating the timely provision and exchange of relevant information through the National Focal Points (NFPs) as the most important means for accelerating the pace of cooperation especially for implementation of the ECO Plan of Action on Environment and avoiding delays in daily routines, the Council emphasized upon the Member States to provide and update particulars of their NFPs on regular basis.

163. Being informed that no Member State has so far provided information as per request of Turkey as a coordinator for establishment of an E-mail Group for exchange of environmental information, the Council requested the Member States to expedite the requisite information.

164. The Council advised Iran to submit the proposal on Development and Harmonization of Environmental Standards in ECO Region as per decision of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the 5th Working Group Meeting on Environment for consideration of the CPR.

(d) Agriculture, Industry and Tourism

• Agriculture

165. The Council requested the Member Countries to volunteer to organize the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in their respective countries.

166. The Council elected the Republic of Turkey as the Coordinating Country for the implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS).

The Council welcomed the offer of Turkey to organize the Coordination Meeting on the Implementation of the RPFS in 2010. It also decided that the Coordination Meeting would deliberate on how to proceed with the implementation of the RPFS including the establishment of Regional Programme Coordination Unit. Turkey offered that the Regional Programme Coordination Unit be established in Ankara. The Council also thanked Turkey for its pledged country-contribution through FAO Sub-regional Office in Ankara.

167. The Council appreciated with thanks FAO's support and ECO's initiatives for attracting more donors' interest to RPFS. In this regard, it welcomed that detailed project proposals on some components like wheat productivity improvement, rangeland management, establishment of Gene bank, agricultural trade promotion will be developed for submission to donors for financial assistance.

168. The Council also welcomed new proposals by the Secretariat on Seed Exchange Programme and Breeding of High Yielding Goats i.e. Saanean Goats especially in the bordering areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

169. The Council appreciated IDB's financial assistance to various ECO programmes and projects including the ones in agriculture. IDB had already approved national projects proposed by Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan. Projects of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are still under evaluation. The Council requested the Secretariat to continue following up the matter.

170. The Council appreciated the successful completion of the 1st phase of ECO-FAO Technical Cooperation Program on "Strengthening Seed Supply in the ECO Region" through which the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) was established in Turkey. The Council welcomed that 2nd Phase of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Project by FAO and ICARDA was prepared with a budget of 5.9 million USD and was in the process of submission to European Union (EU) for full or partial financial assistance.

171. The Council appreciated with thanks the concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey, ECO Secretariat, ECOSA, FAO and ICARDA for jointly organizing the First ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) International Seed Trade Conference (ECOSA-2009) held on December 2-4, 2009 in Antalya, Turkey, which was attended by more than 230 participants, as being one of the biggest events in ECO's history in terms of participation. It was also welcomed the organization of the first General Assembly Meeting of ECOSA on December 1, 2009 on the sidelines of the Conference. The Chairman of ECOSA briefed the Council regarding the latest developments with respect to activities of the Association.

172. The Council thanked the concerned authorities of the Republic of Turkey and ECOSA for hosting the 2nd ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference on October 28-31, 2010 in Istanbul and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for offering to host the 2nd General Assembly Meeting of ECOSA in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2010 respectively.

173. The Council welcomed that training courses would be conducted by ECOSA in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat and the relevant international organizations to support the national seed associations in the ECO Region, including their establishment.

174. The Council also welcomed the initiative to organize workshops / events on enhancing Seed Exchange and Trade in the region and international seed markets in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat to be conducted by ECOSA. IDB had agreed, in principle, to provide financing for some activities.

175. The Council approved 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.

176. The Council requested ECO and ECO-RCRM to sign the agreement for utilization of the Seed Money allocated from ECO Feasibility Fund at the earliest. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 2nd ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations Meeting in 2010.

177. The Council appreciated the approval of 144th CPR, in principle, for the allocation of seed money from ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund for the establishment of the ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water in Pakistan subject to the concurrence by Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkey. During the meeting, the representatives of Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkey have also expressed their concurrence in this regard. The Council also expressed its thanks for financial contribution by IDB for organization of the Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of the ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, in April, 2010.

178. The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for organizing the 2nd ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations Meeting held on April 20-21, 2009 in Antalya, Turkey. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey to finalize their negotiations on the location of the ECO Permanent Commission for Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases (ECO-VECO) to proceed with the opening of the Statute of ECO VECO for signature and ratification of member countries. The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations in 2010.

179. The Council welcomed the offer of Iran to host the 2nd Meeting of National Focal Points of ECO-ABN on 22-23 May, 2010 in Iran. The Council further requested the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute (ABRI) in cooperation with ECO Secretariat to initiate necessary actions for the early establishment of the Network. The Council also thanked the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey for providing the information related to Intellectual Property Rights in biotechnology to help establish ECO-ABN and thanked Turkey for conveying draft Plan of Action for Development/Harmonization of Bio-safety Regulations. Member States were also requested to assign their national focal points for ECO-ABN.

- Industry

180. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in June 2010. It recommended to the Council of Permanent Representatives to support the HLEG meeting preceding the Ministerial Meeting from ECO SSF.

181. The Council, for early operationalization of the RISCAM, requested the ECO Secretariat to accelerate the establishment of the Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU) and requested Iran and Kazakhstan to appoint their experts for ICU. Turkey had already appointed its expert for ICU. The Council requested the Member States to sign (except Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey) and ratify the Statute of RISCAM. It thanked Turkey for offering to host the 4th EGM on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology and the Workshop on Standardization and Accreditation in November/December 2010 and requested active participation from Member States. Iran would convey the details of the specialized workshops which it would host, to the Secretariat.

182. The Council thanked Turkey for offering to host the 5th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration and the 4th Meeting of HLEG on Privatization and Private Sector Development on 29-30 April, 2010, in Istanbul. The Council requested the Member States to kindly indicate their readiness for hosting the 4th Privatization Workshop in 2010. The Council requested the relevant Member States to fill in the questionnaire prepared by Turkey to enable the development and launch of the ECO Joint Website on Privatization. The Council requested the Member States, except Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey, to convey the required data for inclusion on the joint website. The Council was informed that the joint website would be launched by Turkey by the end of April 2010.

183. The Council thanked Turkey for offering to host the 1st Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2010. Turkey would convey the Secretariat the exact dates of the meeting by the end of March 2010. The Council reiterated its request from the member states (except Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan) to convey the filled in questionnaire prepared by Turkey for developing a training program in the field of industrial property rights.

184. The Council thanked Pakistan for hosting the 2nd ECO Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SME Development held on 26-27 October, 2009, in Lahore and welcomed the agreed on project proposals and offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding a training workshop on SME's Clusters development in 2010. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 3rd ECO Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SME Development in October 2010.

185. The Council thanked Iran Nanotechnology Initiatives Council (INIC) for launching the ECO Nanotechnology Network on 26 May, 2009 under www.econano.org. It thanked Iran for hosting the 1st Steering Committee Meeting on establishment of ECO Nanotechnology Network (ECO-NAN) on 5th November, 2009 in Tehran. The Council noted that the Letter of Agreement between ECO Secretariat and INIC was signed on 26 May, 2009 for utilization of US\$ 50,000 from the ECO

Feasibility Fund. The Council appreciated Iran's country contribution of US\$100,000 to ECO-NAN. It requested Member States (except Iran and Turkey) to convey their country profile to the Secretariat at the earliest and fulfill other activities envisaged in the Work Plan.

186. The Council reiterated its request to the Member States (except Azerbaijan and Iran) to fill in the questionnaires prepared by Iranian Industrial Development Research Organization (IDRO) to be used for the establishment of Technology Transfer Centre and (except Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) to nominate focal points on technology transfer and management. Since the website of ETT had been launched, member states were requested to enter their relevant data in the website to make it more useful. The Council requested Iran to prepare project proposals (Phase 1&2) for submission to CPR for allocation of US \$ 50,000/- from the Feasibility Study Fund.

187. The Council took note of the approval of Kazakhstan's proposal for Establishment of ECO Representative Office for Development of Science and New Technologies in Almaty by the 18th COM and authorization of CPR for making decisions on Modality for Establishment of New Regional Centres. In this regard, the Council appreciated that the Republic of Kazakhstan would convey their detailed project proposal within one month to ECO Secretariat and to cooperate with the Secretariat to finalize the matter through the CPR.

- Tourism

188. The Council thanked Turkey for hosting the 2nd Ministerial Meeting and the 4th High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Tourism on October 22-23, 2009 and welcomed the outcome of the meetings. It requested all Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat for implementation of the Plan of Action on Tourism.

189. The Council thanked Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey for their readiness to provide financial contribution to the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund as soon as it became operational as well as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan that recently announced in the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism to contribute 20,000 US\$ to the 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. The Council took note that modality of the Fund had been approved by the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism as well as by the 18th COM.

190. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to inform the Secretariat regarding the exact dates for hosting the Working Group Meeting on Revival of Silk Road and hospitality details for participants, within one month.

191. The Council requested all the Member States to consider and encourage the feasible joint ventures and national tourism investment projects to strengthen the Tourism infrastructures in the region.

192. The Council thanked the ECO Cultural Institute for progress in preparing the ECO Tourism Guidebook with the support of the ECO Secretariat and noted with appreciation that the ECI will proceed with its final publication soon as decided by the

2nd Ministerial Meeting. The Council also expressed its thanks to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHTO) for its pledge to cover the expenses of the publication.

193. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to hold the Second International Tour Operators Seminar in May 2010 in Tehran, First ECO Nations Sport Competitions in 2010 and Nowruz Festival & Tourism Exhibition in March 2010. The Council also appreciated the offer of the Turkish Cypriot State to host a joint sports tournament and tourism related event in 2010.

194. The Council requested Tajikistan to consider hosting the 5th HLEG Meeting and 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

(e) **Human Resources & Sustainable Development**

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

- **Human Resource and Sustainable Development:**

196. The Council while appreciating the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd HLEG on Human Development and MDGs implementation, scheduled for 12-13 January 2010, which was postponed due to lack of quorum, requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to offer fresh dates for this event. The Council encouraged the other Member States to confirm their participation in the meeting.

197. As per recommendation of the 2nd HLEG on MDGs, as well as 19th 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). It also recommended the participation of concerned health authorities of the Member States in the above meeting.

198. The Council appreciated the Secretariat, UNICEF and the Consultant Team for their coordination/cooperation and support in accomplishing successfully the task of preparing the regional report on health related MDGs in the ECO countries. The Consultant Team will present detailed report to the 3rd HLEG meeting on MDGs to be held in 2010 in Tehran.

199. The Council requested concerned officials of the Member States to positively consider the report and prepare their comments by end of April 2010, if any. As per decision of the 1st ECO Health Ministerial Meeting (4-5 February 2010-Baku, Azerbaijan) the Council also requested the Member States to prepare regional project proposals based on the findings and recommendations of the report.

200. The Council also directed the Secretariat to approach the relevant UN Agencies and International organizations including UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO to seek their technical and financial support for both preparation of the project proposals and their implementation.

201. The Council recommended Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to allocate some complementary fund from ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund for preparation of such project proposals as well as their implementation.

202. The Council while appreciating Iran and Turkey for nominating their National Focal Points (NFPs) on health related MDGs urged the remaining Member States to kindly expedite doing so by giving all relevant contact information (Name, Position, Tel., Fax, and particularly E-mail).

203. As per decision of the 1st ECO Health Ministerial Meeting (4-5 February 2010-Baku, Azerbaijan), the Council also called on establishment of a committee comprising of related focal points of the Member States to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the regional MDGs report as well as evaluation of any projects or coordination among the Member States.

204. The Council appreciated the Secretariat's initiative, approaching to United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP), which is the most relevant UN agency, to seek its support and benefit from its expertise for preparing ECO Human (Sustainable) Development Report, annually.

205. The Council advised the Secretariat to continue its efforts for preparation of the report. The meeting also recommended relevant decision making bodies of ECO, mainly CPR, to allocate some complementary fund from ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund to finance preparing such a report, if needed.

- Health

206. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly the Ministry of Health, for hosting and making excellent arrangement for the first meeting of ECO Health Ministers in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 5 February 2010, preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting on 4th February 2010. The Council encouraged the Member States to implement the decisions and guidelines of the meeting.

207. The Council emphasized on the importance of the Baku Declaration and appreciated the Health Ministers for producing such a significant document. The Council encouraged the Member States for realization of this document in letter and spirit.

208. The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan made by Honourable Health Minister of Kazakhstan during the first meeting of the ECO Health Ministers, to host the 2nd meeting separately back-to-back to the OIC Health Ministers Meeting scheduled for 2011 and requested relevant authorities of

Kazakhstan to furnish the exact date and other details of the meeting to the Secretariat for further coordination among the Member States.

209. The Council acknowledged, the Pharmaceutical regional cooperation is one of the important aspects of the health sector with large capabilities, which merits due attention of the Member States.

210. The Council welcomed the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 2nd High Level Experts Group meeting on Drug (Pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authorities in the 2nd half of 2010 at Karachi, Pakistan. The Council while requesting Pakistan to propose exact date of the meeting, asked the other Member States to actively participate in the meeting.

211. The Council requested the concerned authorities of Iran to kindly provide fresh dates for the two ECO Workshops, namely: i) Pharmacovigilance and ii) Drug Quality Control which were postponed at the last moment due to lack of quorum. It further requested the Member States to actively take part in the above Workshops and confirm their participation in these events.

212. The meeting also asked other Member States to come forward hosting relevant events on pharmaceutical cooperation particularly on priority areas i.e. Drug Registration and Licensing; Counterfeit Medicines; Current Good Manufacturing Practices which were proposed by the first ECO High Level Drug Authorities Meeting held in Tehran on 13-15 November 2007.

213. The Council appreciated nomination of focal points on pharmaceutical cooperation from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey and requested remaining three Member States to kindly expedite nominating their focal points on Drug (pharmaceutical) Regulatory Authorities, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest. The meeting also commented that these focal points may attend the concerned meeting/s.

214. The Council appreciated the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be coordinating country for setting up the ECO Drug Regulatory Authority Network. For the initial step, Iranian authorities may prepare the framework of the Web page as a part of the whole Network.

215. The Council asked the concerned Iranian authorities to prepare the modalities of the Network clarifying various aspects such as structure, objectives, activities, budget issues etc. It also requested the Secretariat to circulate the same among the Member States for their consideration and comments, if any.

216. The Council requested all the Member States (except Turkey) to send the addresses of their Drug Regulatory/Drug related websites to be placed on ECO website for initiation of establishing the ECO Drug Regulatory Network.

217. Considering the positive feedback from the Member States during the First Study Tour for health authorities of the Member States (9-12 December 2007, Tehran), the Council encouraged the Member States for continuation of this kind of

activities. The ECO Secretariat was also instructed to approach relevant international organizations particularly the UNFPA to secure their support for such activities on a regular basis.

218. The meeting appreciated the offer of Turkey to conduct the Second Study Tour on 1-5 March 2010 in Ankara and Istanbul and requested the Member States to expedite confirming their participation in the event and actively participate in the said Study Tour. The host authorities would provide hospitality along with a round trip air-ticket for two (2) participants from each Member State.

219. According to recommendation of 19th RPC meeting, the Council requested relevant Iranian authorities to provide further necessary information for conducting the course on Master of Public Health (MPH) for empowering health authorities of the ECO Member States to be held in 2010. The meeting recommended other Member States to arrange similar activities, as well, in order to promote the health management capacities of the Member States.

220. The Council expressed satisfaction on the follow up carried out by the Secretariat and the efforts by Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization in materializing the establishment of “ECO Blood Transfusion Services Network”. The Council also highlighted the importance of the establishment of the Network and asked all the Member States to extend their utmost efforts and cooperation in this field.

221. As per recommendation of the first ECO meeting of Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations, reaffirmed by the 1st Health Ministerial meeting, the Council requested the Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) to expedite nominating/updating the information of their focal points on blood transfusion cooperation, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses at the earliest.

222. The Council welcomed the kind offer of Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization to host two back to back workshops on “Voluntary Donor Recruitment” and “Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion” on 10-14 May 2010. The Council encouraged the Member States to confirm their participation on the proposed events.

223. The Council also welcomed the kind offer of concerned authorities of Pakistan to hold the Consultative Workshop on Blood Safety in Pakistan in the year 2011. The Council requested Pakistan to provide detailed information including exact date and hospitality for the Workshop at the earliest and asked the Member States to confirm their participation in the proposed event.

224. The Council welcomed the offer of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization to conduct Master and Ph. D courses on Blood Transfusion for the ECO Member States in English and requested Iranian relevant authorities to provide comprehensive information in this regard.

225. The Council urged the Member States (except Iran and Pakistan) to propose activities on other priority areas approved by the First Meeting of the Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations/Authorities. These would include; GMP in blood banks; Incorporation of IT and Automated Screening in blood transfusion system;

Procurement collaboration (Blood bags and equipments); Hemovigilance and Collaboration in Plasma Industry.

226. The Council appreciated the offer of Turkey to host the Second Meeting of the Heads of Blood Transfusion Organizations/Authorities of the ECO Member States on 26-27 April 2010 in Ankara and requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to actively participate in the event. The host authorities will kindly provide local hospitality for two participants from each Member State.

227. The Council welcomed the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the workshop on Prevention of Osteoporosis and requested the concerned authorities to provide exact dates and other details of the workshop.

228. The Council while emphasizing the importance of the cooperation and coordination/contacts among municipalities of the ECO Member States through existing fora such as “Asian Mayors Forum” (its first meeting held on 19-20 November, 2008 in Tehran), proposed the Member States to consider hosting ECO Mayors Meeting in 2010/2011 and inform the Secretariat of their views.

229. The Council requested the Secretariat to circulate further details of the Mayors Meeting among the Member States.

- **Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU):**

230. The Council urged the Member States (except Iran Turkey and Pakistan) to continue sending their country reports and statistics on drug control to DOCCU for preparation of analytical reports.

231. The Council reiterated the Member States (except Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan) to expedite sending information to the Secretariat for preparation of a legal document for regional cooperation on drug control so that the same could be prepared by the Secretariat.

232. The Council thanked the Turkish National Police for their valuable cooperation extended to the DOCCU and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize training course titled, “Workshop on Law Enforcement on Drug Issues” (14-18 June, 2010) at TADOC and requested the Member States to actively participate in the workshop.

233. The Council welcomed the offer of the Counter Terrorism Department of the Turkish National Police to host “Counter Terrorism Course” (14-28 June, 2010) at Ankara and requested the Member States to actively participate in the said training programme.

234. The Council appreciated the offer of the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to host training courses namely, (i) Workshops on Addiction Treatment for Physician, (ii) Workshop on Drug Demand Reduction for Psychologists and (iii) Workshop on Drug Concealment Methods for

Anti Narcotic Forces of the Member States. The Council further requested DCHQ to convey the exact dates for these workshops in due course.

235. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 2nd Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Control in Pakistan last week of April 2010 and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting, giving sufficient time for the Member States to confirm their participation.

236. The Council expressed satisfaction for expanding cooperation between ECO and International Organization for Migration (IOM) including signing of the MoU on 27th January, 2009. It also requested the Secretariat to continue pursuing for organizing an Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for preparation of a plan of cooperation against human trafficking and illegal migration among the ECO Member States, in collaboration with the IOM.

237. 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 3rd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting, scheduled in Turkey 2010.

238. The Council also took note of the Joint Regional Strategy to combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crimes, approved by the 2nd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting and requested the Member States to expedite implementation of the mentioned Strategy.

239. The Council noted holding of the 2nd Meeting of ECO Interior Ministers in Ashgabat in 2008 and reiterated the Member States to expedite follow-up action on the Report for implementation of the decisions of the meeting.

240. Based on the decisions of the 2nd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting (Ashgabat, May 2008), 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, Turkmenistan 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.

241. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 1st Meeting of National Coordinators in Tehran subject to receiving nomination of seven National Coordinators from the Member States.

242. As per decisions of the 2nd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting to establish a data bank regarding Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crime in the Secretariat, the Council urged the Member States (except Turkey) to expedite submission of their relevant data/information to the Secretariat at the earliest. It requested the Secretariat to draft and circulate a standard format for the consideration of the Member States.

243. The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Interior Ministers in October, 2010 at Istanbul and requested the Member States to actively participate at the highest level.

244. The Council expressed satisfaction for signing of the MOU on 3rd February, 2009 between ECO and European Commission, for implementation of the project titled “Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan” with the ECO Member States and requested the Secretariat to facilitate starting of the Project.

245. The Council while appreciating the European Commission for funding the Project titled “Fight Against Illicit Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan” with the ECO Member States and requested the GTZ to nominate the Operative Coordinator at earliest possible to start implementation of the project without further delay

246. The Council took note of the proposal to organize the 3rd National Focal Points Meeting to discuss the implementation of the EC Project and requested the Member States to actively participate in it.

247. The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey for hosting an Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Combating Trans-national Organized Crime for evolving a Plan of Action in May, 2010 and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details of the meeting. It further requested the Member States to actively participate in the meeting as it was postponed last year due to the lack of quorum.

248. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the First Meeting of Border Commanders of the ECO Member States and requested the host authorities to indicate a new date. It requested the Member States to actively participate in the meeting as it was postponed last year only due to the lack of quorum.

249. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting an Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Terrorism in May or June, 2010 and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

250. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to organize Regional Workshop on the use of border control equipments and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the workshop.

251. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its readiness to organize 1st annual meeting of Chiefs of Police of the ECO Member States and requested the host authorities to indicate exact date and hospitality details for the meeting.

252. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2nd High Level Experts Group Meeting on Combating Drug, Terrorism and Organized Crime in the first week of June, 2010 at Tehran. It further requested the

concerned authorities of Iran to indicate hospitality details to be offered to the participants for the information of the Member States.

253. The Council thanked the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st Meeting of the Heads of Interpol of the ECO Member States at Tehran. It requested Iran to indicate further details of the meeting for the information of the Member States.

254. The Council thanked the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1st Meeting of the Chief of Police of Anti Narcotics of the ECO Member States at Tehran and requested the host authorities to indicate further details for the information of the Member States at earliest.

255. As envisaged in the MOU signed between the Secretariat and the Colombo Plan, the Council appreciated the offer of Colombo Plan to support organizing two workshops namely (i) Training workshop for youth leaders for enhancing life skills in Drug Abuse prevention and (ii) Training of Trainers in Preventive Drug Education in Schools for teachers.

- **Natural Disaster Management**

256. The Council considering the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti and huge possible loses in event of a disaster on economies and progress of the Member States, appreciated the efforts by the Secretariat to promote cooperation on disaster risk reduction at the regional level including holding the Fourth ECO Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Dushanbe- Tajikistan), participation in the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and cooperation with the relevant organizations.

257. The Council endorsed the convening of the following meetings in 2010:

- The Fifth ECO Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (the venue to be determined later);
- Symposium on Drought Management (Iran);
- Workshop on Climate Change and Natural disaster (Iran);
- Two-day long policy workshop in School (ECO Secretariat)
- Regional Conference on Natural Disaster Management. (Afghanistan)
- Meeting with the OECD on the issue of the School Earthquake Safety (France)
- The Fourth Asian Ministers Meeting on the Disaster Risk Management (the venue to be determined later);

258. The Council while appreciating the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the Fourth ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management (Dushanbe, 7-8 October, 2009), requested the Member States to take necessary measures to implement the conference recommendations including considering allocating special budget to tackle issues related to the disaster management.

- ECO and UN agencies cooperation

259. The Council given to cooperation relating disaster risk management between ECO and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN/ISDR) on the basis of the MoU between ECO and UN/ISDR, including organizing jointly the Fourth ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management in Dushanbe- Tajikistan, appreciated further cooperation between two organizations especially for implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) at local, national, and regional levels.

260. The Council also urged of full realization of the main objectives of the "Global Campaign on School Earthquake Safety" and "Global Campaign on Hospitals Safety", and requested all the Member States to take necessary measures to make sure to have seismic assessment of all schools in the ECO region and also try for retrofitting of these schools by the year 2015, as specified by the Hyogo Framework for Action.

261. The Council took note of continuation of cooperation between ECO and UN/OCHA to promote regional cooperation to strengthen disaster preparedness and support the Member States, appreciated the efforts made by UN/OCHA for holding two meetings in the year 2010 namely "Symposium on Drought Management", and Workshop on "Climate Change and Natural Disasters" and requested all the Member States to participate actively in those meetings.

262. The Council also appreciated cooperation with Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in order to initiate an international study on improving school earthquake safety in the ECO region.

263. The Council recognizing the importance of disaster risk management in the ECO region and taking note of the recommendation of relevant meetings, called acceleration the establishment of the ECO Disaster Risk Management Fund.

(f) Projects and Economic Research & Statistics

- Projects

264. The Council agreed that the Economic Cooperation Strategy for the ECO Region needs revision in the light of current global developments and progress made by the Member States since 2002, as well as the priorities set in the ECO Vision-2015.

265. 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.

266. The Council welcomed the establishment of the Project Monitoring System (PMS) to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation. It

recommended that based on the Guidelines for ECO Projects prepared by the Directorate and regulatory project related documents of ECO, the Directorate develops an Action Plan on Enhancing Project Implementation in ECO. The Council agreed with the request of Afghanistan to devise new mechanism for transfer of funds to ensure timely implementation of the projects.

267. The Council agreed to extend the ECO's Plan of Action for the 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.

268. 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 already transferred to the Fund their entire contributions. Pakistan has so far transferred \$ 2 million and Turkey \$ 400,000/- of their pledged contributions. The Council, while appreciating their contribution, requested Pakistan and Turkey to process more transfers from their pledged amounts to the Fund. It also requested the other Member States, as a gesture of solidarity with the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to make financial contributions to the Fund enabling the Secretariat to initiate more reconstruction projects in that country. The Council welcomed the initiative for signing an MOU between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and expressed the hope that such an instrument would facilitate transfer of more amounts from total pledge of the Republic of Turkey to the Fund. It also appreciated the TIKA's involvement in implementing reconstruction projects in Afghanistan within the scope of contribution of Government of Turkey and hoped that due to valuable expertise and capacity of the Agency, more projects could be initiated leading to an increase in the pace of reconstruction. The Council agreed that the amount pledged by Turkey would be transferred through TIKA.

269. The Council expressed satisfaction over completion of nearly 80% of total physical construction of the Project on Deh Mazang Public Park and Maintenance of Kabul Zoo worth US \$ 1.3 million. The first and second instalments of US\$ 325,000 and US\$ 390,000 were paid to the implementing agency (Afghan Construction Company) in May 2007 and October 2008 respectively. The third instalment of US\$ 390,000 is being processed to be released by the Secretariat. The Council called upon the Afghan authorities to ensure that the implementing agency meets all the requirements of the contract for early completion of the project.

270. The Council welcomed the signing of the Contract for the Implementation of the Project on Construction of Block A of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Training and Research Centre (MRRD) in Kabul for US\$ 600,000. The first instalment of US\$ 150,794/- is being processed to be released by the Secretariat. The Council called upon the Afghan authorities to ensure that the implementing agency meets all the requirements of the contract for early completion of the project.

271. The Council took note of the decision of the 149th CPR Meeting (Tehran, 7 June 2009) approving the new outlays of US\$ 1,004,985/- and US\$ 150,000 /- for the Projects on Construction of a Maternity Hospital in Faryab Province and Construction of a School in Bamian Province respectively and requested the concerned Afghan authorities to expedite necessary actions.

272. The Council requested the Secretariat to coordinate with the Afghan Government, to follow-up new projects to be proposed by the concerned Afghan authorities for the consideration of CPR provided that resources were available.

273. The Council requested that Secretariat further strengthen its cooperation with such international partners as the World Bank, IDB, FAO, UNIDO, UNECE, OECD and ECO Trade and Development Bank to obtain funds and technical support for various ECO projects and programmes.

- Economic Research and Statistics

274. The Council thanked the offer of Kazakhstan to host the 2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of National Statistical Offices in May 2010 in Astana. It requested the Member States to forward their proposals on the draft Agenda of the 2nd MHNSOs. With the view that the agenda items planned for the 7th NFPM have already been discussed at the NFPs Meeting in Antalya, it was suggested to convene the 8th NFPM during 2010 in Kyrgyz Republic. The Council appreciated the offer of Azerbaijan to consider hosting this meeting.

275. The Council noted with satisfaction the report of the 2nd HLEG Meeting of National Statistical Offices of the ECO Member States held on 24-25 September 2009 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Council welcomed the offer of Afghanistan to host the 3rd HLEG Meeting in Kabul in October 2010.

276. The Council recommended to explore the possibility of unifying and harmonizing the Statistical Methodology in line with the international standards for ECO regional NSOs, and stressed the importance to incorporate need based methodologies, especially in calculating the statistical data, starting from such areas as data on fuel, FDI, agriculture. The Council decided to place the issue on the Agenda of next HLEGM scheduled to be held in Kabul in October 2010.

277. The Council also noted with satisfaction the results of the Workshop on National Accounts on 17-20 May 2009 and a Training Course GIS on 19-22 April 2009 hosted by Statistical Centre of Iran and requested the Member States that have training facilities at NSOs to offer similar courses to enhance capacity building on statistics as well as statistical needs.

278. The Council expressed its satisfaction to the Population Research and Studies Centre of Iran for its readiness to host the 1st Meeting of the Leading Economic Research Institutions on 1-2 March 2010 in Tehran and requested the Member States to actively participate in formulation of a common Economic Policy for the region, which will be deliberated in this meeting.

279. The Council noted with satisfaction the issuance of the ECO Annual Economic Report for 2008, distributed among the Member States. Positive feedback was received from Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. Wide regional users forwarded the Secretariat requests for hard copies of the Report for the use of students and scholars. Positive information about the economic performance on ECO countries was provided through informal briefings. The Council urged the Member States to provide their necessary inputs for the next issue of the Annual Economic Report by the end of March 2010. In this regard, timely submission of statistical tables for year 2009 and country reports was stressed.

280. The Council recommended that the Secretariat continue preparing reports/papers/surveys relating to ECO's regional economic development for its various meetings, News Bulletins and Website. The Council noted that technical and financial assistance of international donor organizations and the ECO Feasibility Fund be utilized to that end. To support of effective dissemination policy in the ECO region, it was suggested that the Member States forward their statistical publications, such as yearly bulletins, and other publications containing economic information to the Secretariat in electronic and hard modes. Example of good collaboration in this matter of Iran and Azerbaijan was noted.

281. The Council welcomed the establishment of the ECO Statistical Network and noted with appreciation the work performed by the Statistical Centre of Iran to demonstrate the test version on 17th January 2010 at ECO Secretariat. It also requested the IT Directorate of the Secretariat to help the SCI in uploading the Network. User friendly Russian version was thought necessary.

282. The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in reviewing and updating the statistical tables on the ECO Web and recognizing the importance of the accuracy and frequency of statistical data, it requested the Secretariat, if it deemed necessary, to employ a seconded officer for a period of six month on rotational basis from the Member States.

283. The Council expressed its satisfaction to the ECO Secretariat for its efforts to publish the first pilot issue of the ECO Economic Journal and requested the Member States to provide analytical articles, papers, reviews to the Secretariat. While thanking the Journal's Editorial Board, the Council requested that the provisions stipulating the functioning of members of the Board should be included into the Editorial Policy.

284. The Council noted with satisfaction the cooperative efforts of SESRIC, FAO, UNESCAP, IDB and UNECE in sustaining dynamic cooperation among National Statistical Offices in the region and requested the Secretariat to integrate its efforts in the field of training, capacity building and statistical data sharing. The Council appreciated FAO assistance for its Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) and suggested to form a Technical Advisory Group between FAO-ECO with participation of experts from the Member States to develop the regional program. Other international partners will also be invited to take part in the Group.

285. The Council welcomed UNDP's intention to design the training program for Prince-2 for the Secretariat. In this respect, it suggested that based on the outcome of training of staff of the Secretariat, specific need based training program on IT-based

project monitoring system should be designed for the ECO Member States. The system should be simplified for the Member States.

286. The Council welcomed the UNIDO's intention to cooperate with the ECO to materialize the establishment of the Statistical and Economic Data Base on FDI. If implemented, the project will enable ECO to create its distinctive competitiveness on statistical database on regional FDI.

287. The Council noted SESRIC's information about the joint SESRIC-ECO capacity building activity scheduled for Tajikistan in March, 2010 and recommended to revive the proposal to set up a Joint ECO-SESRIC Group of NSOs as decided at 1st HLEGM in October 2008 in Tehran.

288. The Council noted the need to use the ECO SSF for the ECO meetings in statistics, projects and economic research to comply with the previous practices. The Council recommended that the Member States should nominate their respective NFPs for economic research in view that this area is distinctive from statistical activities.

289. The Council adopted the Calendar of Events/Meetings of the PERS Directorate for 2010.

(g) Inter-Regional ECO Activities:

290. The Council reiterated its earlier recommendation that the non-signatory Member States should sign the Charters of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), ECO Science Foundation and ECO Educational Institute and requested the signatory Member States to ratify the Charters at the earliest.

- ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

291. The Council took note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the ECI during 2009. It emphasized the need to further expand its activities to the entire ECO region. The Council also urged the Member States to take active part in the activities of the ECI.

292. All concerned Member States were requested to take necessary steps to ensure timely remittance of their contributions to ECI's budget.

293. The Council took note with appreciation of the establishment of the ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (ECI-CPR). It expressed satisfaction that the ECI-CPR has become functional and would meet on monthly basis to decide issues on behalf of the ECI BOT.

294. The Council while appreciating the allocation of US \$ 1 million out of US \$ 2 million pledged by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the ECO Cultural Trust Fund, urged other Member States to make contributions to the Fund.

295. The Council took note of the distribution of the 4th draft of the ECO Tourist Guide-Book during the 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism held in Antalya, October 22-23, 2009, and noted with satisfaction that ECI will publish its final version soon.

296. The Council appreciated the proposal of the ECI, as endorsed by the 4th BOT Meeting, to participate in the national cultural events of the Member States and urged the Member States to extend invitation to ECI for participation in their respective national cultural events. The Council also recommended the ECI to arrange cultural events on the sidelines.

297. The Council took note with appreciation of the proposal of the ECI to organize the First ECO Sports Cup in 2010 and urged the Member States to take active part in the event. The Council recommended arranging such events on regular basis.

298. The Council recommended to the ECI to focus on Youth and Women Affairs in line with the decisions of the 4th ECI BOT. The Council also recommended to the ECI to benefit from relevant UN specialized Agencies and other international/regional organizations in this regard.

299. The Council thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for transferring the ownership of fully equipped new building as the permanent Headquarter of ECI in Tehran.

300. The Council welcomed the proposal of ECI to annually hold an international festival in the field of music, theatre and cinema especially for the ECO Member States.

- ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB)

301. The Council appreciated the activities/operations of the Bank during 2009 and urged the Member States who have not joined the Bank yet to do so in order to take full benefit of the Bank's operational products.

302. The Council welcomed the approval of 'New Membership Rules' by the Board of Governors of the Bank to facilitate admission of new members.

303. The Council appreciated the setting-up of the ECO-TDB Representative Offices in Iran and Pakistan.

304. The Council welcomed the signing of a MoU between ECO-TDB and IDB and recommended to further establish cooperative relations with other financial institutions to cater for the financial needs of the development projects in the region.

- ECO College of Insurance (ECO-CI)

305. The Council took note of the efforts of the College to obtain accreditation of its MSc Actuarial Science degree from the Society of Actuaries, Casualty Actuary Society and the Canadian Society of Actuaries. It also appreciated the College for hosting short-term courses for professionals in insurance industry in collaboration

with the Central Insurance of Iran. The Council recommended the College to further establish contacts with relevant regional/international institutions/professional bodies.

306. In order to create better awareness about the activities/programmes/courses offered by the College, the Council recommended the College to circulate necessary information about its academic sessions, recognition of degrees and scholarships etc to the Member States and the Secretariat.

307. The Council reiterated its earlier recommendation to the Member States to send their best students to the ECO College of Insurance and to fully avail the 10 graduate/under-graduate scholarships offered by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Council took note of the special request of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for enhanced number of scholarships.

308. The Council appreciated the offer of the IDB to grant 9 scholarships for the MSc Actuarial Science and urged the College to finalize modalities in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat. The Council took note of the request of College of Insurance for possible allocation of some amount from the Feasibility Fund for scholarships.

309. The Council appreciated the initiative of the Secretariat to donate books for the Library of the ECO College of Insurance.

310. The Council urged the College and the Secretariat to organize courses for the implementation of the ECO White Card Scheme at the earliest.

311. The Council welcomed the proposal of the College to introduce MBA degree course at the college.

312. The Council reiterated its earlier recommendation to the College to organize short-term training courses and workshops in the field of Insurance and Actuarial Science and seek funding for organizing these courses and workshops from IDB, other IFIs and donor agencies.

313. The Council requested the Member States to support Students' thesis/dissertation in Actuarial Science and Area Studies. It also requested the Member States to give suggestions to enhance the efficiency of the College.

- ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company (ECO-CEC)

314. The Council took note with appreciation of the Study conducted by the Secretariat in consultation with the ECO-CEC and endorsed the recommendations made therein.

315. The Council called on the Member States to facilitate effective participation by ECO-CEC in the bidding process for the projects financed from ECO resources and for other national projects, particularly by timely exchange of information.

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

316. The Council appreciated the establishment of the ECO-CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council and development of the Women Entrepreneurs Council website. It urged the Member States to take active part in the activities of the Women Entrepreneurs Council (ECO-CCI-WEC).

317. The Council appreciated activation of the ECO CCI website and urged the Member States to update the relevant information on regular basis to make the website more useful.

318. The Council welcoming the signing of MoU between ECO CCI and ICCI and urged launching of promotional activities under the said MoU. It also appreciated the efforts of the ECO CCI to foster relations with Eurochambres Global Chambers Platform.

319. The Council urged the ECO-CCI to organize awareness campaigns, seminars and road shows to project regional trade and investment potential.

- ECO Science Foundation (ESF)

320. The Council while recalling its decision of the 19th RPC, took note of the delay in provision of comments on the draft Rules of Procedures, Staff Regulations as well as on draft budgetary estimates and draft working formula circulated by the Secretariat. It called on the concerned Member States to expedite their response within two months of the RPC so that the date for convening the 2nd Expert Group Meeting could be announced.

321. The Council appreciated the offer of the Secretariat to organize the 2nd EGM at the Secretariat to finalize the documents before its final approval by the Ist BOT. The Council urged the Secretariat to announce the date within two months of the RPC in consultation with the Member States.

322. In order to make the Foundation functional, the Council urged Pakistan to announce dates for holding the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ESF at the earliest.

- ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI)

323. Taking note of the postponement of the First meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO-EI in 2009 due to lack of quorum, the Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host this event in October 2010. The Council called on the Member States to confirm participation in the event at the earliest possible so as to make the institution functional without further delay.

- ECO Reinsurance Company

324. The Council welcomed the signing of the Articles of Agreement of the ECO Reinsurance Company by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. It urged all the concerned Member States to become its members to benefit from its services.

325. The Council called on the concerned Member States to expedite ratification of the Articles of Agreement of the Company enabling it to start its operations during 2010.

(ii) **International Relations**

326. The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to promote relations with international and regional organizations and UN bodies and relevant non-ECO states and urged further enhancement of relations to get more support, technical and financial, for ECO projects. The Council urged Member States to support the Secretariat on ongoing projects/programmes with international/regional organizations.

327. The Council took note of the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Centre within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan as the Secretariat for the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) and welcomed the willingness expressed by Afghanistan to establish effective partnership between the Centre and the Organization in developing joint programmes on regional cooperation issues.

328. The Council took note with appreciation of the approval of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for enhancement of ECO's external relations, and urged the Secretariat to take necessary steps for its implementation.

329. The Council urged the Secretariat to reactivate the ECO Contact Groups with UN System and with other regional and international organizations at the earliest.

330. The Council urged the Secretariat to circulate draft Modalities for the grant of observer status/dialogue partnership to the Member States at the earliest.

331. The Council recommended CPR to work out modalities for establishing ECO troika of the previous, present and future Chairmen of the Council of Ministers to support ECO's external relations.

Agenda Item No.7

Annual ECO Calendar of Events for 2010-2011

332. The Council took note with appreciation of report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Calendar of Events for 2009-2010. The Council while approving the ECO Calendar of Events for 2010-2011 (*Annexure-VII*) made the following observations:

- i) As per decision of the 18th COM meeting, each Member State should host, at least, two ECO meetings a year from the calendar. The Council asked the Secretariat to follow-up implementation of this decision.
- ii) The Council emphasized the need for active participation from all the Member States in the meetings/events, approved by the RPC because it has

been observed that many of the ECO meetings were previously postponed only due to the lack of quorum.

- iii) The date and venue of all meetings/events would be fixed latest by three months after holding of the 20th RPC meeting. In order to avoid rush of events towards the end of the calendar year, the Member States might plan the activities evenly throughout the year.
- iv) The Council asked the Secretariat to follow the Principles/Guidelines governing the attendance of ECO Secretariat in the Meetings, as approved by the 111th CPR Meeting, held on 10th April, 2006.
- v) The Secretariat should establish a close relationship with NFP's in different sub-sectors well in advance of meetings so that the requisite documents/working papers and necessary information about events/meetings could reach them in time, keeping in picture the respective Missions of the Member States in Tehran and the MFA of Iran.

Agenda Item No.8

Any other business.

333. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 9

Date and Venue of the next Meeting.

334. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 21st RPC Meeting at Islamabad. Exact dates will be communicated through diplomatic channel.

Agenda Item No.10

Adoption of the Report.

335. The Report of the 20th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item No.11

Vote of Thanks

336. On behalf of all the participating delegations, the Council expressed its appreciation and thanks to the State Planning Organization, Government of the Republic of Turkey and the ECO Secretariat for making appropriate arrangements for this important meeting.

337. 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. It also appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary General and his staff for preparing comprehensive Working Papers and other documents for the Council.