



# Summary Record of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit

## ANNEXES:

- *Annex-I* : *List of Participants*
- *Annex-II* : *Statement Chairman of the 12<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit*
- *Annex-III* : *Statement by Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit*
- *Annex-IV* : *Statement by ECO Secretary General*
- *Annex-V* : *Report by the Chairman of the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM*
- *Annex-VI* : *Statements by Heads of State/Government of the Member States*
- *Annex-VII* : *Statements by ECO Observers*
- *Annex-VIII* : *Statements by Special Invitees*
- *Annex-IX* : *ECO Islamabad Declaration*

1<sup>st</sup> March 2017  
Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## Summary Record

The 13<sup>th</sup> Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Meeting was attended by:

1. H.E. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal,  
Special Envoy of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
2. H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
3. H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani,  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
4. H.E. Mr. Askar Myrzakhmetov,  
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan
5. H.E. Mr. Sooronbay Zheenbekov,  
Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic
6. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
7. H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon,  
President of the Republic of Tajikistan
8. H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan,  
President of the Republic of Turkey
9. H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,  
President of Turkmenistan
10. H.E. Mr. Ulugbek Rozukulov,  
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan

2. In addition, the following dignitaries participated in the Summit as Special Guests:

1. H.E. Mr. Zhang Yesui, Executive Vice Foreign Minister/  
Representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China
2. H.E. Mr. Tadamichi Tamamoto,  
Special Representative of the UN Secretary General

3. The delegations of the ECO Observers, including Turkish Cypriot State, Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and Energy Charter Conference, the Heads/Representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies, as well as UNESCAP attended the Meeting. H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), along with the relevant staff of ECO Secretariat also participated in the Meeting. *The list of participants is attached at Annex-I.*

4. The 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit was also preceded by 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) and Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held on 28 February 2017 and 26-27 February 2017, respectively.

#### Family Photograph

5. Before inauguration of the Meeting, a family photograph ceremony was held.

#### **Agenda Item No. 1**

##### Inauguration of the Meeting

6. The 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit started its proceedings with recitation from the Holy Qur'an.

- Welcoming Remarks by the Chairman of the previous (12<sup>th</sup>) ECO Summit

7. H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the outgoing Chairman of ECO Summit, called the Meeting in order and made his brief opening statement. In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for hosting the Summit and extending warm hospitality and making excellent arrangements for the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. He reaffirmed support and commitment of the Republic of Azerbaijan to ECO activities and stated that his country has hosted two ECO Summits in 2006 and 2012. Underscoring the extensive cooperation among ECO Member States within the frameworks of ECO, he touched upon the activities carried out and tangible progress made during Chairmanship with Azerbaijan since 2012 and gave an overview of held and future ECO activities to be hosted by Azerbaijan.

8. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan also called for further strengthening and undertaking proactive ECO Regional synergic collaborations among the Member States for enhancement of regional trade, connectivity and energy corridors and social welfare of the peoples of the region in line with new ECO Vision 2025 in order to make the Organization an effective regional

economic bloc and global economic player. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-II.*

- Election of the Chairman

9. As per ECO established practice, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan proposed H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to be elected as the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. He affirmed to support the Chairmanship of the brethren country, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, during its term of Presidency.

10. The Meeting unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. The Heads of State/Government and Delegations congratulated H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for his election as the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and expressed confidence that under his able Chairmanship, ECO would make significant progress towards achieving its goals and objectives.

- Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit - H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

11. After national anthem of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the new Chairman of the Summit, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in his statement, expressed his sincere thanks to the delegates for electing him as Chairman and reposing confidence on him. He welcomed all delegates to the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Islamabad and deeply appreciated H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Republic of Azerbaijan, for ably steering the ECO since the 2012 ECO Summit held in Baku. The Prime Minister of Pakistan also thanked ECO Secretary General and his team for the support extended in making the Summit a success.

12. While reaffirming the commitment attached by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to ECO's activities and agendas, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif remarked that 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization's expansion is a welcoming occasion for renewing ECO Member States' commitment to the Organization's founding principles and ideals. He underscored the need for boosting Organization's effectiveness, dynamism and visibility in line with new ECO Vision 2025 and observed that intra-regional trade in ECO is much below its potential. Thus, he stressed that cooperation within the framework of ECO, such as operationalization of ECOTA, can protect the Member States from global economic upheavals and increase regional trade exponentially. The Chairman also emphasized on promoting regional socio-economic development and prosperity through greater

connectivity, enhanced economic integration with multiple dimensions, including transportation corridors, ICT, energy, agriculture and cultural ties within ECO frameworks in view of emerging global and regional challenges. In this perspective, he viewed that the theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit has been titled as “*Connectivity for Regional Prosperity*” both inspired by shared past and evidence of commitment to a future of shared prosperity in the ECO Region. Besides, he also touched upon the great significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being recognized as a catalyst for energy infrastructure, transport connectivity and trade in the whole of South and Central Asia. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-III.*

- Statement by ECO Secretary General

13. At the outset, H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca, ECO Secretary General expressed his profound gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Islamabad and making excellent arrangements for the delegates. He felicitated H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for assuming the Chairmanship of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and hoped that under his able leadership, the Organization will make further progress and development. He also extended his sincere thanks to the outgoing Chairman, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Republic of Azerbaijan, for his excellent guidance to ECO, since 2012, as Chairman of the 12<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit.

14. The ECO Secretary General in his statement highlighted the important activities of the Organization undertaken since the 12<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit (16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Baku, Azerbaijan). He mentioned that the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit provides ample opportunities to the Heads of State/Government to review the Organization’s performance and provide guidance for the future endeavours to achieve its objectives and goals, including transforming into reality the agenda of the Summit – *Connectivity for Regional Prosperity*. He also briefed on overall profile of the ECO Region and ECO’s completed, ongoing and future projects, programmes and action plans. The ECO Secretary General called upon the Member States to support and actively participate in the activities of the Organization as well as extensively contribute to the pragmatic implementation process of ECO Vision 2025. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-IV.*

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

### Adoption of the Agenda

15. The 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit Meeting adopted the following agenda as recommended by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on 28 February 2017 in Islamabad:

### **Inaugural/Opening Ceremony**

- Family Photograph
  - 1. Welcome Remarks by the Chairman of the Previous (12<sup>th</sup>) ECO Summit
    - Election of the Chairman
    - Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit
    - Statement by the Secretary General
  - 2. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 3. Report by the Chairman of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting
  - 4. Statements by Heads of State/Government
  - 5. Statement by Observers, as per Modalities
- and**
- Statements by the Special Invitees (if any)
- 6. Adoption of the Islamabad Declaration
  - 7. ECO Awards Ceremony
  - 8. Any Other Business
  - 9. Date and Venue of the next Summit
  - 10. Vote of Thanks and Concluding address by the Chairman
  - 11. Closing of the Meeting
- Press Conference
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### **Agenda Item No.3**

#### Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of COM by the Chairman of COM

16. H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic Pakistan, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM), presented the Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM to the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and briefed on the overall deliberations and key decisions taken by the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM. *A copy of the Report of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM is attached as **Annex-V**.*

### **Agenda Item No.4**

#### Statements by the Heads of State/Government

17. The Heads of State/Government/Delegations in their statements highlighted the key activities carried out in their national and regional level programmes within the ECO frameworks. They underscored the need for expansion of cooperation in various fields in line with ECO Vision 2025 and reaffirmed their support to the objectives and goals of the Organization for economic development, social welfare and peace and stability in the ECO Region. *Copies of their statements are attached as **Annex-VI**.*

### **Agenda Item No.5**

#### Statement by the Observers and Special Invitees

- Statement by the Observers

18. President of the Turkish Cypriot State, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States and Representative of the

Energy Charter Conference delivered their statements. *Copy of their statements are attached as Annex-VII.*

- Statements by the Special Invitees

19. The statements were also delivered by Special Guests invited to the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, including H.E. Mr. Zhang Yesui, Executive Vice Foreign Minister/Representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China and H.E. Mr. Tadamichi Tamamoto, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General. *Copies of their statements are attached as Annex-VIII.*

#### **Agenda Item No.6**

##### Adoption of Islamabad Declaration

20. The Summit adopted the Islamabad Declaration, as endorsed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Council of Ministers held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in Islamabad (along with observations by Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan). The Declaration provides future roadmap to the Organization on its priority areas of cooperation. *The text of the Islamabad Declaration is attached as Annex-IX.*

#### **Agenda Item No.7**

##### ECO Awards Ceremony

21. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, presented ECO Awards 2017 to the winners from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey in the fields of History, Culture, Literature and Fine Arts, Education, Science and Technology, Agriculture and Environment. The nominations of ECO Awards 2017 from 8 Member States were approved by the 22<sup>nd</sup> COM held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in Islamabad. The recipients were felicitated on receiving the awards of excellence. The names of the recipients are as follows:

S.No	Name of Country	Name of Nominee	Field/Category
1.	Afghanistan	Ms. Sima Rasuli	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts
2.	Azerbaijan	Mr. Pasha Karimov	Science and Technology
3.	Iran	Dr. Mohammad Mehdi NAJAFPOUR	Science & Technology
4.	Kazakhstan	Mr. Malik Burlibayev	Agriculture/Environment
5.	Kyrgyz Republic	Dr. Professor Anvarbek Mokeev	History, Culture, Literature, and Fine Arts
6.	Pakistan	Mr. Syed Jamal Shah	History, Culture, Literature & Fine Arts

7.	Tajikistan	Mr. Saidov Abdusattor Samadovich	Science & Technology
8.	Turkey	Mr. Hasan Celal Guzel	Education

**Agenda Item No.9**

Any Other Business

22. The Delegation of Turkmenistan stressed on further collaboration between ECO and Energy Charter Conference. He informed that Turkmenistan will host/chair the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference to be held on 28-29 November 2017 in Turkmenistan and invited the ECO Member States to participate in the Meeting.

**Agenda Item No.10**

Date and venue of the next Summit

23. The Summit agreed that the Secretariat will coordinate with Member States for hosting of the 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit through diplomatic channels.

**Agenda Item No.11**

Vote of Thanks and Concluding address by the Chairman

24. The Heads of State/Government and Delegation expressed their profound gratitude to the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of the of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit and warm hospitality extended to the delegations. They also congratulated ECO Secretary General and ECO Secretariat staff on the efficient and successful organization of the Summit.

**Agenda Item No.12**

Closing of the Meeting

25. The Chairman of the Summit, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in his concluding remarks, thanked all delegations for attending the ECO Summit and providing their valuable inputs and thought-provoking views during the course of deliberations, which made the Summit a success. He also appreciated the ECO Secretary General and ECO Secretariat team for assisting in preparation of relevant documents and coordination with all ECO Member States in organizing this important Meeting in an efficient manner.

26. Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan reiterated Government of Pakistan's commitment to ECO's objectives and stated that the Summit has underscored the shared desire for regional integration. In this



regard, he called upon Member States to reaffirm their commitments to adopt collective measures with regards to ECO's regional initiatives, paving the way for achieving desired goals of the Organization, as identified by the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and duly enshrined in ECO Vision 2025. Highlighting the peace as essential conduit for sustainable development, he underscored the importance of solidarity within the Islamic World in order to address the challenges that confront the adherents of Islam. To this end, he called for peaceful settlement of longstanding disputes, including the Jammu and Kashmir to advance the goals of stability and development of the entire region.

### Press Conference

27. The Chairman of the Summit, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan addressed a short press conference on the Summit.

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