

The 10th RPC Meeting

Report

(Tehran, 10 February, 2000)

No. CON/RPC-10/2000/Rpt.(Adopted)

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 07-10 February, 2000. The Meeting was attended by the delegations of Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretary General of ECO. The representatives of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item No. 1

INAUGURATION OF THE MEETING.

2. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ali Nadjafi, Vice-President and Head of Plan & Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A copy of his inaugural speech is placed at **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item No. 2

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

3. H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs and head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

4. The Agenda adopted by the Meeting is placed at **Annex-III**. The Council also decided to form an open-ended drafting Committee.

Agenda Item No. 4

OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

5. The heads of participating delegations made their opening statements outlining their policies and views on the projects/programmes and activities of the Organization. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are placed at **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item No. 5

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON ECO ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 1999 INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRUCTURING PROCESS.

6. The Secretary General of ECO presented his annual Report to the Council on the activities of the Organization during 1999. A copy of the Report is placed at **Annex-V**. In his Report, the Secretary General highlighted the salient activities of the Organization during the past one year and also presented a few observations and suggestions for consideration by the Council.

7. The Secretary General also apprised the Council of the new developments in the field of external relations, in particular the technical assistance and grants received from various regional and international organizations. The Council appreciated the Secretary General's untiring and fruitful endeavours in obtaining requisite assistance as well as in enhancing the image of the Organization by representing it in various international fora.

8. The Council noted with appreciation the comprehensive report presented by the Secretary General on the activities of the Organization as a whole and took due note of the following observations and suggestions made in the Report:

i) The Secretariat's proposal for a "Special Support Fund" in its annual budget from the year 2000 in order to provide air-tickets for one delegate from each of the 7 Member States (excluding Pakistan, Turkey and Iran) for selected events/meetings, to be determined by the CPR.

ii) The delegates from Member States should participate in the ECO events at the required level with appropriate authorization and instructions as recommended in the Working Papers.

iii) The Council may reiterate its decision taken in its 9th session (para 119 of its Report), regarding the utmost efforts that should be made by the Secretariat to hold the ECO events approved by the RPC as per schedule. However, if no country volunteers to host an important event, the Secretariat should endeavour to hold it in its headquarters on non-hospitality basis.

iv) The Secretariat should continue to consolidate and expand its contacts with international and regional organizations so as to avail of their financial and technical assistance and rely on professional links with them. The Council welcomed the Secretariat's proposal for the support of the Member States regarding such contacts with various international agencies and bodies in their individual capacity as well.

9. The Council welcomed the Secretary General's proposal with respect to authorization to allow the Secretary General to utilize Feasibility Fund upto a limit of US\$50,000 with the prior approval of the CPR, in each case, as described in para V of the last section of the Secretary General's report. The Council asked the Secretary General to present a report to the 10th Session of the ECO Council of Ministers suggesting ways and means for the optimum utilization of the ECO Feasibility Fund so that the implementation of priority projects may be facilitated. The ECO Secretariat may also explore the possibility of using services of the ECO-CEC for the preparation of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of the ECO priority projects.

Agenda Item No. 6

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECO APPROVED PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS.

10. The Regional Planning Council (RPC) discussed the proposals, programmes and projects included in Working Papers and Reports of the various Directorates of ECO Secretariat, including the Status Report on the ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for

1999 – outlining the progress achieved in implementation of those activities - and made the following recommendations:

A) Transport and Communications

11. The Regional Planning Council noted with appreciation the comprehensive and practicable Status Report on implementation of the ongoing Programme/Plans and Proposals in the field of Transport and Communications approved during the previous meetings of RPC prepared by the concerned Directorate of the ECO Secretariat.

12. The Council welcomed the completion of construction of the Turkmenabad (Charjev)-Kerki-Kerkichi railway line in Turkmenistan with the length of 203 km and development of the first phase of the Druzhba border interchange station with capacity up to 2.5 million tons per year as well as reconstruction of Aktau commercial sea port in Caspian Sea, envisaged within the framework of the Programme of Action for ECO Decade of Transport and Communications (1998-2007).

13. The Council endorsed the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group to finalize the draft Terms of Reference of the ECO Permanent Commission on Transport and Communications (PCTC) held at ECO Secretariat on 4-5 September, 1999 and requested the forthcoming 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications (Islamabad, 24-28 April, 2000) to consider the draft TOR of the PCTC on the basis of the Member States' final views for final decision.

14. The RPC endorsed the Reports of the 4th and 5th Meetings of HLEG to finalize Annexes of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) held at ECO Secretariat on 12-13 April and 6-7 September, 1999.

15. The Council, keeping in view the urgency of the matter and taking into account the good work done on the Annexes of TTFA on the sidelines of the 10th RPC, requested the Member States to convey their final views, if any, on the TTFA Annexes by 20th March, 2000. Based on these views the Draft of TTFA Annexes may be finalized by the Senior Officials Meeting (to be held at Islamabad on 24-26 April, 2000) and submitted to the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications (to be held at Islamabad on 27-28 April, 2000) for finalization and recommendation to the 10th ECO Council of Ministers' Meeting for approval and adoption.

16. The RPC requested the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to endorse an initiative of the Central Insurance Authorities (Bimeh Markezi Iran) to host the first meeting of the ECO insurance sub-committee comprising the representatives of the central insurance authorities of the Member States to consider a draft of ECO Uniform Agreement on Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability Insurance, which will be prepared by the same Iranian authorities.

17. The Council expressed its gratitude to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iranian Islamic Republic Railways' Research Center for

valuable cooperation in publication of the ECO Road and Railway Network Maps which were circulated among the participating delegations of the Member States before the beginning of this Meeting. Any shortcomings or errors in these maps shall be amended when these are updated in the second edition.

18. The Council requested the Turkish authorities to start implementation of the establishment of a Data Bank on this Network as well as preparation of a detailed Directory to help the drivers of road transport, from early this year and to be finalized the same in the year 2001 on the basis of the TOR prepared by the ECO Secretariat.

19. The RPC urged the Member States (except Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkey) to furnish their focal points for the National Inter-ministerial Committees for border-crossing facilitation and promotion of international transport and their Action Plans for 2000 to the ECO Secretariat at the earliest. It also recommended to the Member States (namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) to attend the future sessions of the Project Working Group (PWG) on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation under UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) in Almaty as observers taking into account the importance of the problems discussed during the sessions of the said group for the whole ECO region.

20. The Council requested the Member States to consider accession to the remaining international transport facilitation conventions listed in the Programme of Action for the ECO Decade of Transport and Communications (1998-2007).

21. The RPC approved the Report of the 4th Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railway Authorities held in Lahore (Pakistan) on 26-28 October, 1999 as a whole and endorsed the following in particular:

- i) The Action Plan of the ECO Member States for opening International Passenger Traffic on Almaty-Tashkent-Tehran-Istanbul route of the Trans-Asian Railway main line and the request of the said meeting to the Member States to ensure the completion of all organizational, technical, legal and financial details of preparatory work as well as advertising arrangements by 15 December, 2000 for opening of this passenger traffic.
- ii) The recommendations to the Railway Authorities of the Member States to consider the UIC's paper on the establishment of Global Rail Corridors and to take part in the Corridor Task Forces' activities instead of the appointment of a common transport operator for the Trans-Asian Railway line as previously envisaged.
- iii) The decision on the preliminary schedule of the proposed demonstration container train to be run from Almaty to Istanbul on the Trans-Asian Railway route prepared by the Kazakhstan Railways and the request to the same authorities to prepare an agreed schedule for the demonstration train in order to launch it within the year 2000.
- iv) The approval of the Technical Experts Group Meeting's recommendations on establishment of a Common Information System for efficient organization of railway transportation held in Tehran on 29-30 August,

1999, particularly the recommendation to install automated-working places at border interchange railway stations of Iranian Serakhs and Turkmen Serakhs as well as Azeri Julfa and Iranian Julfa.

- v) The decision to set up an Experts Group to study and formulate a flexible tariff policy for economical and efficient organization of railway transportation in the ECO Region.
- vi) The proposal of the Pakistan Railway authorities to consider the possibility of designation of the Pakistan Inter-Regional Railway Training College, Walton as ECO Railway Training College after a detailed paper on this subject which has been prepared by the said authorities and circulated via the ECO Secretariat.

22. The Council took note of the endorsement of the draft texts of MOUs both between ECO/OSZhD and ECO/UIC by the said ECO railway authorities meeting and requested the 10th COM Meeting to authorize the Secretary General to sign the same with these Organizations. It also urged the Governments of Pakistan and Turkey to implement its previous recommendation on joining the OSZhD for the common benefit of the ECO region and its railway transport system.

23. The Council noted the proposal of the Iranian Islamic Republic Railways to exchange complimentary passenger travel facilities among the Railway departments/authorities of the ECO Member States to facilitate travel in the ECO region and recommended to the same Iranian authorities to submit at first the details of the said facilities to the ECO Secretariat for circulation among the Member States.

24. The Regional Planning Council took note with satisfaction of the signing of the Technical Assistance Grant Agreement between IDB and ECO concerning introduction of Multimodal Transport Operations in the ECO Region on 11 September, 1999 and endorsed the agreed Time-Schedule of the ECO/IDB/ESCAP/ UNCTAD Work Programme for implementation of the said joint project. It also requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to ensure proper implementation of the project activities in due course.

25. The Council, expressing its strong support to the ECO Shipping Company requested the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran to give the ECO Shipping Company a special permission to issue its own shares to enable the signatories' national banks to make redemption of their quota of shares for further sale among the national and private companies within their respective countries as well as to extend the financial lease of two vessels currently being operated so as to enable the company to amortize for these vessels.

26. The Council requested the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to kindly host the 1st Meeting of the Civil Aviation Authorities and Heads of National Airlines of the Member States to consider the ECO Air project and other vital matters of the air transport on the appropriate dates of the year 2000. It also asked the Member States to

furnish their views/proposals for closer cooperation in the field of Air Transport to the ECO Secretariat at the earliest so as to include them in the agenda of this meeting.

27. The RPC took note of the Report of the 12th Meeting of the Directors General of National Telecommunication and Postal Authorities of the ECO Member States held in Istanbul on 1-3 December, 1999 as a whole and endorsed the following in particular:

i. The decision to set up a Working Group of Experts to settle the existing technical and operational issues related to the Trans-Asian-Europe Fiber Optical Cable System (TAEFOS).

ii. The request of the said meeting to the concerned research/design centers etc. of the Member States to prepare papers including programmes of their research projects and methods of their implementation and convey them to the ECO Secretariat by 1st July, 2000 to be used by the Experts Group to formulate a detailed draft programme of joint research and design activities for implementation by the Member States.

iii. The request to the Member States to implement the recommendations of the said meeting to conclude bilateral agreements during the year 2000 to promote closer cooperation in the field of postal services including the international EMS and exchange of philatelic products by those Member States which have not yet done so.

iv. The request to the Member States to convey the requisite information in the filled format on training facilities and separate list of universities and colleges in the field of telecommunications and postal services, including their facilities for foreign students to the ECO Secretariat by 1st March, 2000 so as to enable the Secretariat to publish a consolidated reference document/booklet both in English and Russian for circulation among the Member States for practical use.

28. The Council also endorsed the following conclusions of the said Meeting:

- a) To establish an ECO Data Base on telecommunication equipment and its components, which are manufactured in the ECO Member States, to be included in the ECO Telecom Website instead of the proposed study on the present level of production of different types of telecommunication equipment components and possibility of their joint production in the ECO Region.
- b) To delete the relevant sub-para 1.5(b) of the Plan for the Development of Telecommunications and Postal links in the ECO Region, dealing with (a) above.
- c) To accept a proposal of the telecommunication authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare a draft format of Data on telecommunication equipment components for further consideration and approval by the relevant authorities of the Member States.

29. The Council welcomed the decision of the UNDP to fund the following consultancy assistance in the field of Transport and Communications, under the ECO/UNDP Project on ECO Capacity Building of the ECO Secretariat:

- i) Pre-feasibility study of the rolling stock and railway equipment management.
- ii) Preparation of a conceptual paper on research cooperation in the field of telecommunications.
- iii) Organization of the four seminars in different Member States on implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement of 1998.

30. The Council accepted with appreciation the proposal of Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications in Islamabad on 27-28 April 2000 and the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials preceding it on 24-26 April, 2000.

31. In this connection, the Council also appealed to the concerned transport authorities of the Member States to furnish their comments/proposals, if any, on the draft Agenda of the said biennial Ministerial Meeting prepared by the ECO Secretariat and circulated to Member States vide its Note No. CCTC/TCM/00122 dated 23 January, 2000 to the ECO Secretariat by 1st March, 2000.

B) TRADE AND INVESTMENT

32. The Council urged the Member States (except the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey) to confirm their participation in the First ECO Trade (Commerce) Ministerial Meeting scheduled to be held from 4 to 6 March 2000 in Tehran.

33. The Council endorsed the report of the Second High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the ECO Region (held in Karachi, 2-4 August, 1999). The Council noted with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Turkey to hold the Third HLEG Meeting on Tariff and NTBs in the ECO Region.

34. The Council also noted the importance of timely data on trade statistics as well as developments with regard to trade policy changes to be communicated to the Secretariat for further planning and analytical action and in this regard urged the Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat.

35. The Council noted that although the Transit Trade Agreement entered into force since December 1997, it is not yet being implemented. Therefore the Council urged the Member States to try to finalize the procedural issues by the end of 2000, including :

- i. Rules and Regulations concerning the ECO Passage Document
- ii. Nomination of Guaranteeing Associations
- iii. Maps of transit routes and customs entry/exit points.

36. The Council also requested the remaining Member State (i.e. the Republic of Azerbaijan) to expedite the ratification of the Agreement.

37. The Council also noted with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 3rd Transit Trade Committee Meeting along with the Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of ECO TTA and ECO Passage Document.

38. The Council endorsed the report of the 6th Heads of Customs Administrations Meeting held in Tashkent in June 1999 and endorsed the decision of the establishment of the Council of ECO Heads of Customs Administrations which will act as a main policy body in respect of regional customs cooperation. Furthermore, the Council noted with appreciation the organization of training activities on customs issues by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey.

39. The Council also appreciated the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the next 7th ECO Heads of Customs Administrations meeting to be held in June, 2000 in Baku.

40. The Council took note of the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance the cooperation against smuggling and customs frauds, using the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s Model Agreement in this regard. The Council also took note of the views expressed by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan that the ECO Member States may cooperate to improve the image of the region regarding the drug-related activities.

41. The Council recommended to the Secretariat to continue its efforts on dissemination of information on trade and investment opportunities. In this regard, the Council expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for offering to host the 2nd ECO Seminar on Trade and Investment Information Networking scheduled to be held in September/October 2000. The Council also welcomed and appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the 3rd Seminar on the said subject and took note of the proposal that the present ECO trade cooperation shall be extended inter-alia to Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), Electronic Commerce and Bar-coding (ECB).

42. The Council, while recalling the entry into force of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the Member States, requested the Member States to report on its implementation to the Secretariat. The Council also requested that signatory Member States who have not ratified the Agreement to expedite the process and invited the non-Signatory Member States to join the Agreement. The Council took note of the views expressed by the delegation of Uzbekistan that the accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to this Agreement is premature at this stage. Furthermore, the Council took note of the proposal of the Kyrgyz Republic that there is a need to up-grade the Agreement in accordance with the change/improvement of visa policies in the ECO region.

43. In pursuance of the Ashgabat Declaration (May 1996), the Council requested the Member States to participate in the 1st. Expert Group Meeting comprising the Central Bank representatives or the related authorities, on Mutual Payment Arrangement in Tehran in August 2000. However, the confirmation for the said Meeting shall be conveyed to the Secretariat by early July, 2000.

44. The Council was informed that the ratification of the ECO Trade & Development Bank Agreement is at the latest stage in the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Council also welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to hold an Interim Committee Meeting to review and discuss the related issues on the establishment of the Bank, for which Turkey undertook to convey the date and venue of the Meeting.

45. The RPC also urged the signatory States to ECO Reinsurance Company to complete the formalities expeditiously so that the two institutions commence their operations simultaneously as it is already agreed in MOU on ECO Reinsurance Company, signed in March 1995.

46. The Council also expressed thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for organizing the 4th. ECO Trade Fair to be held in Karachi from 20 to 25 April 2000.

47. The Council once again reiterated the importance of the interaction of business communities of the Member Countries mainly through the activities of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) and ECO Trade Fair. However, it was observed that participation in the ECO Chamber activities and trade fairs was not satisfactory. The Council, therefore, urged the Member States to persuade their National Chambers to actively participate in the ECO Chamber Meetings and ECO Trade Fairs.

48. The Council endorsed the joint ECO/ITC project initiative in increasing the intra-ECO trade and recommended the ECO Secretariat to continue to approach the relevant international organizations and agencies for financial assistance to implement the project.

49. The Council also welcomed the decision of the CPR to endorse the utilization of the ECO Feasibility Fund, for partial funding of the ITC Project.

50. The Council emphasized the importance of the study regarding the harmonization and reduction of transit charges and fees to be undertaken by the Secretariat in collaboration with the relevant international institutions and requested the Member States to furnish the requisite information to the Secretariat expeditiously.

51. The Council welcomed the relations established with the leading international organizations dealing with trade such as WTO, ITC, UNCTAD, ESCAP and IDB, and requested the Secretariat to further cooperate and seek their technical as well as financial assistance in various ECO activities.

52. The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretariat in establishing the relationship with WTO and welcomed the decision of the WTO for accordance of observer status to ECO in its relevant bodies. The Council also noted with appreciation the offer of WTO to hold the 3rd. WTO Seminar on Trade Negotiations Simulation for the Member States scheduled to be held from 6 to 10 May, 2000 at the Secretariat Headquarters, Tehran.

C) Energy, Minerals and Environment

Energy

53. The Council took note of the report of the 3rd High Level Experts Task Group meeting on ECO Oil and Gas Pipeline Route(s) (3RD-HLETG-Islamabad on 30th September-1st October 1999) together with the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the consultants for preparation of a feasibility study on ECO Oil and Gas Pipeline Route(s) as it was attached to the report of the meeting which has been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No.EM&E/3RD-HLETG/901016 dated 24th October 1999 and requested the concerned authorities in the Member States to fully cooperate with ECO Secretariat in fulfillment of the 3rd HLETG recommendations as outlined in its report. Some Member Countries also informed the Council about their achievements in the field of alternative ways of oil & gas pipelines.

54. The Council endorsed the report of 3rd Specialized Experts Task Group Meeting on Power and its attached Terms of Reference (TOR) for Technical and Economic Feasibility Study for Interconnection & Parallel Functioning of the ECO Countries Power Systems (3rd SETG, Ankara, 7-8 December 1999, the report of which together with the TOR has been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No.EM&E/3RD- SETG/PWR/12012 dated 18th December 1999) and welcomed the meeting's decision that the relevant Directorate in the ECO Secretariat will act as the Secretariat for the project. Moreover, the Council requested the concerned authorities in the Member States to extend their full cooperation to ECO Secretariat for implementation of the project, inter alia, to convey the required application to IDB for technical assistance as outlined and recommended in the aforementioned meeting's report.

55. The Council welcomed the idea that regional energy trade (electricity, coal, petroleum and petroleum products) create an opportunity for the economic development at regional scale with due consideration for environment. The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to organize meetings/events in this regard which, undoubtedly, will benefit individual member countries and the entire ECO region as cooperation in this field would provide Member States with more equitable access to cheaper energy and would enhance regional economic cooperation.

56. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Turkish authorities in publication of Energy Data Booklet (EDB) which was distributed during the 9th RPC meeting and requested the Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat in updating the information contained in the aforementioned booklet. Furthermore, the said EDB may

be provided on the ECO Internet Website, upon the approval of the Member States, in order to ensure cost savings and regular updating.

57. The Council with reference to para 59 and 60 of the 9th RPC Report regarding the Draft Phase-1 report on Joint Study on long term development of ECO Energy Supply and Demand, asked the Project Manager to expedite the final draft version of the aforementioned report as per said paras to the ECO Secretariat for circulation among the Member States. Moreover, the Council welcomed the idea that, in case the Project Manager does not provide the ECO Secretariat with the said final draft report by the end of August 2000, then the ECO Secretariat may undertake the revision and updating of the above mentioned draft report and upon the approval of the Member States may provide it on ECO Internet Website. However, the Secretariat may set deadlines regarding the entries on Internet Website.

58. In follow up of para 61 of the 9th RPC Report, the Council endorsed the report of the first ECO Meeting of Executive Directors of Oil, Gas, Petrochemical and Power Industries (1st MEDOG&P- Almaty 8-9 October 1999 circulated together with its attachments vide Secretariat's Note No. EM&E/MEDOG&P/ 90107 dated 24th October 1999) and endorsed the draft agenda for the First ECO Energy/Petroleum Ministerial meeting. With reference to the Draft Protocol on Cooperation in Energy/Petroleum to be presumably signed by the Ministers and the Draft Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation in the ECO region (2000-2004) attached to the aforementioned report, the Council took note of the Turkish views/comments and proposals as circulated vide ECO Secretariat's Note No.EM&E/MEDOG&P/20205 dated 5th February, 2000 and considered that Senior Officials gathering preceding the Ministerial meeting would give due consideration to finalize the above referred Drafts.

59. The Council considered that the aforementioned Ministerial Meeting in line with the provisions of the Treaty of Izmir and relevant ECO documents will pave the way for enhancing the regional cooperation in achieving the goals as set up in the ECO basic documents. The Council welcomed the Pakistan's offer to host the Ministerial meeting on the 4th of November 2000 in Islamabad.

60. The Council, in pursuance of its 8th and 9th reports, requested the ECO Secretariat to pursue its efforts in establishing cooperation and contact with international, regional, subregional organizations, institutes, banks active in the field of energy, environment and minerals sectors such as World Energy Council (WEC), World Petroleum Congress (WPC), International Gas Union (IGU), Interstate Oil and Gas Transport to Europe (INOGATE), Energy Charter Secretariat (ECT), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), ASEAN, ADB, IDB, UNESCAP, etc.

61. The Council took note of the Proceedings of the Workshop/Experts Meeting on ECO Regional Cooperation in the field of Petroleum Refineries and Products, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Natural Gas (Mashhad, 13-14 November 1999 circulated vide Secretariat's Note No.EM&E/PE-LPG/ 911022 dated 23rd November 1999). The Council endorsed the output of the aforementioned workshop and encouraged the

concerned authorities of the Member States to enhance their cooperation in new activities. Moreover, the Council appreciated the concerned authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran readiness to hold a training workshop in follow up of the aforementioned event and asked the Member States to utilize this opportunity.

62. Considering the importance of regional cooperation on energy efficiency and conservation by enhancing public awareness involving private sector and creating markets for energy efficient products, the Council welcomed the Republic of Turkey's readiness to hold Workshop on energy conservation and efficiency and ad-hoc Committee Meeting of Experts, in Ankara in May 2000, to prepare the outline and Methodology for Energy Conservation in the ECO Countries.

63. The Council took note of the Secretariat's opinion on establishing the ECO Drilling Company (ECO-ECD) and welcomed the idea that instead of establishing ECO-ECD, the matters related to drilling activities may be pursued by ECO Consulting and Engineering Company (ECO-CEC), subject to the availability of the financial and other means.

Minerals

64. The Council took note of the Preliminary Annotated Programme/Agenda for the ECO Minerals Experts Meeting in cooperation with UNESCAP on enhancement of regional cooperation in minerals sector and drafting ECO Minerals Plan of Action prepared by the ECO Secretariat and circulated vide its Note No.EM&E/NE-UNESCAP/908001 dated 1st August 1999. The Council requested the concerned authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran to fix the date and venue of the subject event and emphasized the importance of the Member States cooperation in this field. Moreover, the ECO Secretariat was asked by the Council to take necessary steps in preparation of the Plan of Action in Minerals sector in cooperation with related regional and sub-regional organizations accordingly.

Environment

65. The Council reaffirmed its decision as per paragraphs 63, 64 and 65 of the 9th RPC Report and with reference to paragraph 19 and 20 of Almaty declaration (11 May 1998) adopted the Report on Experts Meeting on Energy Resources Development and their Environmental Impact Assessment in the ECO Region held at Islamabad (Pakistan) during 28-29 September 1999. The concerned authorities in the Member States were asked by the Council to consider the content of the aforementioned report as a preliminary work to cooperate on the Environmental Impact Assessment topic amongst ECO member countries, and encourage member countries to exchange experts and documents on this area.

66. Moreover, the Council welcomed the proposal of the aforementioned meeting so that regional training workshop may be held in the ECO region with the help of leading international agencies/resource person on transfer of technology, institutional

development for understanding the environmental issues and strengthening cooperation among the Member States in this regard. In this connection, the Council welcomed the idea that the concerned Directorate at the ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the relevant authorities in the Member States follow up the outcome of the above topics as follows:

- i) Recollection of energy-environment data-bases of the region.
- ii) Collection and dissemination of innovative and effective energy impact assessment techniques.
- iii) Identification of suitable institutional structures for treating energy-environment concerns in national energy plans of the Member States.
- iv) Suggesting development of linkages with other sub-regional, regional and international organizations dealing with energy environment issues.

67. The Council took note of the recommendation of the aforementioned meeting that similar meetings and workshops on environmental issues as well as EIA may be organized by the ECO Secretariat in cooperation with other regional, sub-regional and international agencies (i.e. UNESCAP, SACEP, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, EC, etc) and requested the Member States to offer to host such events. In this regard and in support of already adopted Plan of Action for ECO regional cooperation in environmental matters (i.e. pollution control etc), the Council welcomed the Turkish delegation's proposal to host various training programmes within the context of the establishment of regional training centers on air pollution at Refik Saydam Center of Hygiene in Ankara. The details of these training programmes will be reflected in the Calendar of Events.

68. Regarding the obligatory legal instruments on different environmental issues and conventions under preparation/implementation related to matters such as stable/persistent organic pollutants (POP/SOP) under the auspices of UN agencies (i.e. European Bureau of UNEP Secretariat of the Conventions, the UN Economic Commission for Europe), the Council took note of Uzbekistan delegation's statement underlining the importance of regional cooperation in the aforementioned field and requested the ECO Secretariat in close cooperation with the concerned authorities in Uzbekistan and other Member States to take necessary action accordingly.

69. The Council urged the Member States to take necessary action as required by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the World Environment Day which is held annually on 5th June and informed the Secretariat accordingly for onward transmission to UNEP.

D) Agriculture, Industry and Health

Agriculture

70. The Council, after detailed discussion on the proposals submitted by the Secretariat and the suggestions put forward in the meeting by the participants, made the following suggestions/recommendations:

- i) The Council noted with concern non-holding of meetings and events approved for 1999 under the agriculture, industry and health sectors mainly due to the lack of necessary quorum and stressed the importance of such events/meetings. The Council requested the Member States to actively participate in the events/activities to be approved for year 2000.
- ii) While reiterating the need for speedy supply of the requisite information by the Member States for completion and finalization of different documents such as the list of the agricultural research, training institutes and Experts/Professionals in the agriculture sector, Data on Exportable Surpluses and Importable Deficits of the Agricultural Commodities, fixed a deadline of June, 2000. In case the said information is not furnished by any Member State by the due date, the Secretariat would finalize its task by August, 2000, using the available international sources.
- iii) Taking note of the information, proposals compiled and circulated by ECO Secretariat, based on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan's proposals regarding formulation of a plan of action to combat desertification, the Council asked other Member States to send their views/suggestions in this regard by June, 2000. The Council welcomed the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold a training workshop in Iran, on Sand Dune Fixation, on the dates and venues to be confirmed latter.
- iv) The Council appreciated cooperation extended by the Member States namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan with regard to the development of the dwarf fruit trees and urged the other Member States to also send their country reports. The representatives of Pakistan and Turkey stated that they can share their experience in the development of dwarf trees especially Apple, which was welcomed by other Member States. Turkey may also hold a workshop on this subject during the next year.
- v) The Council took note, with satisfaction of the cooperation among, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey in the Sugar Beet Seed Development and endorsed Secretariat's proposal that at least one main research institute of the Member States currently involved in this field should be designated by July 2000 for exchanging information with each other and sharing experiences. A proposal was also tabled by Turkey on the subject which would be circulated to other Member States for views/concurrence.
- vi) With regard to the proposed establishment of a Commission for Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases in the ECO Region, the Council endorsed the proposal of the Secretariat to hold a HLEG meeting to finalize its scope, functions etc., in view of the significance of controlling transboundary animal diseases. The Secretariat may continue its endeavours to set up the said Commission with collaboration and

assistance, if possible of other regional and international organizations such as FAO.

- vii) Taking note that there is a vast scope of cooperation among the Member States for trade of plants and seeds, the Council stressed upon the need to hold the next meeting of Experts to finalize the proposal about the ECO Plant Protection Organization (ECO-PPO), keeping in view the proposal formulated by the Secretariat.
- viii) Acknowledging the need for cooperation among the Member States to control Sunn Pest, Rodent and Desert Locust in order to save colossal crop losses in the region, caused by pest attacks, the Council urged the Member States to furnish country reports to this Secretariat by the end of June 2000 in this regard, indicating the measures adopted to control them. On the issue of Desert Locust attack. The Council expressed the desire that Member States may consider the possibility to host a Workshop.
- ix) The Council reiterated the need to enhance experts' exchanges among the Member States in the agriculture sector as it would help in sharing of experiences, human resource development, helping in increased productivity of the sector and ensure food self sufficiency.
- x) The Council took note of the issues identified for discussions during the proposed Seminar on Food Security, scheduled to be held in ECO Secretariat in October, 2000 and while endorsing these proposals appealed to all Member States to actively participate in the activity and help in formulating a comprehensive regional strategy in this regard.
- xi) While having discussed the proposed TORs (Page 19 para 60 of the Working Paper) for the IDB/FAO/ICARDA/ECO joint project identification mission, the Council expressed full support for the said mission and proposed certain modifications in the TORs. The Council requested the relevant authorities in the Member States to extend full cooperation to the mission. The Council also requested the concerned Member States to convey their acceptance of the mission expeditiously. The tentative dates for the mission would be April, 2000.
- xii) The RPC taking note of the proposal of Pakistan, recommended that in line with the ECO Ministerial Conferences on Trade, Transport & Communications and Energy to be held during the current year, ECO Ministerial Conferences on Agriculture, Industry and Development of Human Resources may be held during the year 2001.
- xiii) The RPC appealed to the Member States to come forward to host ECO Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and on Development of Human Resources.

Industry

71. The Council, acknowledging the importance of successful integration of ECO Member States into the globalization process, promotion of international trade, investment and technology flow and highlighting the importance of the regional cooperation in the industrial sector, recommended the following proposals, plans and

programmes in view of their priority and relevance to the goals and objectives of the organization:

- i)** The Council appreciated the cooperation of Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Uzbekistan in providing the relevant information regarding the concessions and incentives for industrial development and growth and requested the remaining Member States to expedite the requisite information. On receipt of the complete information, the ECO Secretariat would approach UNIDO and ESCAP for holding a joint review of such incentives and concessions for formulating recommendations to make the industrial policies of the Member States more attractive for investment both from within and outside the region.
- ii)** The Council, taking into consideration the need for transfer of technologies in the industrial sector to keep pace with the developing world, endorsed the proposal of the Secretariat to organize activities, possibly with UNIDO and ESCAP collaboration and cooperation.
- iii)** While considering the scope of further strengthening cooperation between ECO and UN ESCAP in the fields of privatization, industrial policy restructuring, development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Private Sector Development, investment related transfer of technology etc., the Council asked the Secretariat to further intensify its efforts to strengthen its relationship with ESCAP and hold joint activities.
- iv)** The Council also appreciated ESCAP's cooperation in launching a mission to the Republic of Tajikistan during October, 1999 and stated that similar missions should be carried out to identify the specific areas for maximum utilization of the complementarities in the economies of the Member States.
- v)** With regard to the ECO-CEC Seminar proposed to be held in Lahore (Pakistan), on 27-28 April, 2000 (dates proposed by the Secretariat), the Council requested the Member States (specially the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Central Asian Member States) to attend the seminar.
- vi)** The Council requested the Secretariat to finalize expeditiously the arrangements with the World Bank or Islamic Development Bank to hold the workshop on privatization.
- vii)** Moreover, the Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Workshop of Managers of Research and Development Centers and Investors during July, 2000.
- viii)** The Council took note of the proposal made by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the ECO Member States may be invited to attend the workshop on Small and Medium Enterprises Development in Tehran being organized by the Asian Productivity Organization, in near future.
- ix)** The Council decided that the Ministerial Meeting on Industry may be held in the year 2001 and welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host this meeting.

- x) Regarding the proposal of the UNCTAD to hold a training programme on Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) during 2000, the Council endorsed cooperation between ECO and UNCTAD in this regard.
- xi) The subject relating to the production and encouragement of investment among all the Member States in the ECO region should be transferred to Directorate of Trade & Investment, when appropriate.
- xii) The ECO Secretariat may prepare and submit to CPR a report on including the Tourism Sector in the activities of the ECO Region and on including the Tourism Sector as a Sub-Sector in the Agriculture, Industry & Health Directorate of the ECO Secretariat.

Health

72. The Council took note of the proposals of the Secretariat for strengthening cooperation in the health sector among the Member States and the regional and international organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO and urged the Member States to extend their full support to the Secretariat by furnishing their proposals and suggestions in this regard.

73. The Council also expressed satisfaction on the agreement of UNFPA to hold a Conference on Expanding Contraceptive Choice and Improving Quality of Reproductive Health Programme in Istanbul (Turkey) during May 2000 and requested the Member States to convey their nominations for the Conference expeditiously.

74. The Council also endorsed, in principle, the areas jointly identified by the ECO Secretariat and UNICEF for future cooperation as included in para 141 of the working paper and asked the Secretariat to develop concrete proposals jointly with UNICEF to undertake activities, especially eradication of Polio from ECO region.

E) Economic Research & Statistics and	Project Research
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Economic Research & Statistics

75. The Regional Planning Council took note of the Status Report prepared by the Secretariat on cooperation in the fields of Economic Research, Statistics and Data Communications, during 1999 and endorsed the recommendations as recorded in the succeeding Paras.

76. The Council endorsed the report of the 2nd Meeting of the National Focal Points on Economic Research and Statistics (NFPs) held in Almaty on 4-7 October, 1999 and requested the Member States to take necessary actions for implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting. The RPC urged the member countries (Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), who had not yet designated their National Focal Points on Economic Research to do so at the earliest and communicate their particulars to the ECO Secretariat.

77. The Council approved the contents and format of the ECO Statistical Yearbook and the list of socio-economic indicators to be collected from the Member States in the revised format approved by the 2nd Meeting of NFPs. At the same time the Council accepted the proposal of the State Statistical Institute of the Republic of Turkey to change measurement of two indicators as production of ferrous and non-ferrous metals from national currency to ton. The RPC expressed its concern for incomplete statistics provided for the Statistical Yearbook and strongly urged the National Focal Points of the Member States to collect and complete the required statistical indicators from all the national sources within two months.

78. The RPC appreciated the fact that recently Kazakh Statistical Agency and State Statistical Institute of the Republic of Turkey circulated among the Member States their meta-data information as a model supplementary material. The Member States were requested to describe the meta-data information along with index definitions used in their countries and submit it to the ECO Secretariat in 2000. It was further decided that, in addition to the Statistical Agency of Kazakhstan and State Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Turkey, the Statistical Centre of Islamic Republic of Iran would also summarize the member countries meta-data information which will be collected and submitted to 3 Member Countries mentioned above by the ECO Secretariat. The RPC emphasized that based on summarized information a manual guidebook on the methodological issues of statistics for the better understanding and comparison of country indicators should be prepared properly and in due course.

79. The Council expressed satisfaction that the draft Annual Economic Report for the year 1999 with its new contents including for the first time the relevant information and data pertaining to ECO regional developments has been prepared by the ECO Secretariat in collaboration with the National Focal Points on Economic Research and Statistics. The Council reviewed in detail the draft and requested the Member States to furnish final description of their respective country portions according to new contents and also to fill in the missing statistical data within a period of one month to enable the Secretariat to finalize the report for publication by the end of March, 2000.

80. The RPC endorsed the Secretariat proposal to compile and publish an "ECO Business Guidebook". The RPC was informed that contents of the guidebook had been approved by the 2nd Meeting of NFPs and it will be published in September, 2000. The Council underlined the importance of this publication for the business circles and requested the Member States and ECO Secretariat to complete it on time.

81. The Council welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat to design and implement the ECO Joint Economic Research Programme. The Council was informed that four main topics for the joint research were approved by the 2nd Meeting of NFPs, whereas Economic Research Institutes to be involved in the design and implementation of programme were not yet proposed by the Member States. Therefore, the Council urged the Member States to submit their proposals at the earliest and also called for volunteers to host the Workshop to approve the Research Programme for further implementation.

82. The RPC took note of the financial problems being faced by the Secretariat to implement of the ECO Joint Economic Research Programme and recommended the ECO Secretariat to initiate through the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) possible utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund for this purpose. The RPC also requested the ECO Secretariat to evolve a procedure and timeframe for the implementation and financing of the research programme and submit it as a proposal for consideration and approval of CPR.

83. The Council while appreciating that a Local Area Network consisting of 49 personal computer systems with Internet, E-mail and printing facilities had already become operational with technical assistance of UNDP/APDIP requested the ECO Secretariat and Member States to expedite the establishment of ECO Intra-regional Network (ECO-NET) based on computer information technology to fully exchange the data communication. The Council was informed that the Workshop on the final arrangements for ECO-NET will be held at the ECO Secretariat with participation of communication experts from Member States. Taking into consideration that assessment report on the information technology status should be prepared by the ECO Secretariat for the Workshop, the Council requested once again the Member States (except Iran and Turkey) to provide the relevant information as per the questionnaire already circulated among the member countries by April 2000.

84. The RPC requested the Secretariat to design and put on the Internet the ECO Web Site, to expedite finalization of the location of ECO Web Site on Internet by May, 2000.

85. The Council welcomed the Secretariat's Programme for the development of ECO Databases. The Council was informed that ECO Secretariat is going to develop the basic contents of the Databases through evaluating the requirements of the sectoral Units and with technical assistance of the Data-Development Group of the World Bank or any other suitable consulting agency under the ECO/UNDP Project, or "Capacity Building of the ECO Secretariat".

PROJECT RESEARCH

86. The Council appreciated the activities of the Directorate of Project Research (DPR) for 1999 as outlined in the working paper, including the updated List of ECO Projects with the analysis of the issues and problems related to the projects, and recommended to continue this activity, to conduct an extensive evaluation of the promising projects and to prepare a publication on ECO Projects.

87. The Council requested the Member-Countries to indicate their preferences on the projects listed by the Secretariat based on the regional economic interests. Action plans should be formulated identifying the most acceptable and feasible ways and means of their implementation and possible sources of financing.

88. The Council recommended that the ECO Secretariat to actively cooperate with the ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company (ECO-CEC) on preparation of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of the ECO priority projects in the field of Trade, Transport and Communications, Energy and Environment, etc.

89. The Council also advised that assistance/support from the international organizations, funding agencies and banks etc. should be solicited to the extent possible for implementation of the ECO regional projects.

90. The Council observed that there was a strong need for development of human resources by training the senior officials, experts and specialists of Member States involved in implementation of ECO projects and advised the Secretariat to increase and strengthen contacts/relations with different regional and international organizations and financial institutions with the aim of organizing short training courses and workshops/seminars etc. for the senior officials and experts from ECO region.

91. The Council endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to complete the ECO Directory of Training Institutions and Roster of Leading Experts of the ECO Member-States in priority areas and called upon the Member States to submit all the required information needed by the Secretariat for preparation of these documents on priority basis.

**F) COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE,
STATUS REPORT ON ECO REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES AND DRUG CONTROL**

92. The Council was informed about the Status Report prepared by the Secretariat on ECO Regional Institutions and ECO Specialized Agencies. While emphasizing the importance of ECO Regional Institutions and ECO Specialized Agencies in their respective fields of activity, the Council expressed the wish that formalities relating to ratifications may be accomplished without further delay so that the said Institutions and Agencies could become operational at the earliest. The Council was also briefed on the latest developments regarding the ECO Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies.

93. The RPC expressed its satisfaction on the holding of the Second Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran on January 25-26, 2000 with attendance from all the eight signatory Member States of the ECI Charter. The Council also took note of the important decisions of the BOT such as the appointment of H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Borujerdi as the new President of the Institute for the remaining period, the approval of the basic documents including the amendments in the ECI Charter, the approval of the ECI's budget for the year 2000, provisional approval of the Institute's Emblem and approval, in principle, of ECI's 3-year Plan of Action pertaining to cultural activities for the ECO region.

94. The Council reiterated its last year's call to the Member States who had not yet ratified the ECI Charter to do so and invited the two non-signatory Member States i.e.

Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan to consider acceding to the ECI Charter. Meanwhile, pending ratification, the signatory Member States were expected to participate fully in the meetings and activities of the Institute and take appropriate steps to pay the budgetary contributions.

95. The Council was apprised of the present status of the ECO Science Foundation, which unfortunately could not be operational until now. In this connection, the Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in pin-pointing the discrepancies in the Basic Documents of the ECO Science Foundation which are required to be in conformity with those of the ECO Cultural Institute as was decided during the 8th COM Meeting. The Council expressed the wish that the basic documents of the ECO Science Foundation would be finalized soon enabling the concerned Pakistani authorities to convene the long overdue first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. In this regard, the Pakistani delegation informed the Council that the first meeting of the BOT could be convened in September-October 2000 in Islamabad.

96. The Council urged all the signatory Member States for expeditious completion of ratification formalities with respect to the Charter of the ECO Educational Institute so that the Institute could become operational at the earliest.

Drug Control

97. The Council noted with satisfaction the start of the operations of the Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) established in the ECO Secretariat as envisaged in the ECO Plan of Action on Drug Control and in the joint ECO-UNDCP Project Document w.e.f. July 25, 1999. The Council also noted the progress so far achieved in procuring the required equipment and in establishing the network of national focal points as laid down in the Project. The Council requested the remaining four Member States, namely Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to furnish the particulars of their national focal points for liaison with DCCU and all drug-related information without further delay in order to make the cooperation more efficient and result-oriented.

98. The Council was apprised of the upcoming programmes of the DCCU which, inter alia, include the holding of two Task Force meetings at the Secretariat, a study tour of ECO/DCCU staff to UNDCP Headquarters, Interpol Headquarters and Barbados to study Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism and an assessment tour to the ECO Member States, as envisaged in the Project.

99. The Council was informed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran about their intention to introduce a draft ECO Convention on Drug Control during the upcoming Task Force Meetings. The Council took note of the Iranian proposal which would be circulated to the Member States by the ECO Secretariat on its receipt and thoroughly studied at appropriate ECO fora.

100. The Council recommended to the ECO Secretariat, as envisaged in the joint ECO/UNDCP project, to come into contacts with the other International Organizations dealing with the problems of combating drug trafficking, to periodically inform them on measures taken in combating the production and drug trafficking in the ECO Member Countries.

Agenda Item No.7

FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT ANNUAL ECO CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS FOR 2000.

101. The Council considered the draft ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2000, prepared by the ECO Secretariat in three Sections, in accordance with the priority and relevance of the events/meetings to the goals and objectives of the organization and to facilitate its appraisal, implementation and follow-up. The Council finalized it with certain modifications for submission to the 10th COM for its approval. The Calendar of Events/Meetings 2000, recommended by the Council, is placed at ***Annex-VI***.

102. The Council also appreciated the kind offer of some Member States who accepted to host certain ECO Events/Meetings and called upon the other Member States to volunteer to host those events for which venues had not yet been finalized. The Council also urged all Member States to confirm their participation at appropriate level in the scheduled events.

Agenda Item No. 8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

103. No issue was raised under this item of Agenda.

Agenda Item No. 9

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

104. If there was no offer from any other Member States to host the 11th RPC Meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host that Meeting. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran and requested that the dates and venue for the Meeting may be notified in due time.

Agenda Item No. 10

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

105. The Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 11

VOTE OF THANKS

106. On behalf of all the participating delegations, the Heads of the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey expressed their deep appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and the warm hospitality extended to them.

107. The Council concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair for conducting the deliberations of the Meeting in a smooth and efficient manner. Expressing its satisfaction with the arrangements made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold this Meeting, the Council also appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary General and his able staff for preparing the comprehensive Working Papers which facilitated the work of the Council.

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