

The 2nd RPC Meeting

Report

(Tehran, 27-28 January, 1992)

The Second Meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Tehran on 27-28 January, 1992, with the participation of the delegations of the three member countries, namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Turkey and the Secretary General of ECO. The list of the participants to the meeting is at [Annex-I](#).

1. INAUGURATION

2. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Muhammad Tabibian, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs, Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of his statement is at [Annex. II](#)

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

3. The Leader of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Dr. Muhammad Tabibian was unanimously elected as Chairman of the meeting.

3. OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE LEADERS OF THE DELEGATIONS

4. The Meeting was addressed by H.E. Dr. Akhtar Hussan Khan, Leader of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Yavuz EGE, the H.E. Mr. Ali Reza Salari, Secretary General, ECO. Their statements are at [Annexes III, IV and V](#).

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Council adopted the Agenda unanimously which is placed at [Annex-VI](#).

5. CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES OF ECO

6. The ECO Secretariat presented a paper explaining the main recommendations of the committee ([Annex.VII](#))

i) Committee for Agricultural Cooperation

7. The Council examined and adopted the Report of the Committee for Agricultural Cooperation held in Istanbul on July 22-24, 1991 and endorsed the EGMs/Committee Meetings.

8. The Council recommended that the next meeting of the Committee for Agricultural Cooperation be held in Iran in November, 1992.

ii) Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation

9. The Council examined and adopted the report of the Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation held in Tehran on 3-5 September, 1991 with the following recommendations:

6. Protocol on Preferential Tariffs

a) The three sides might update the Tariff Rates as indicated in the Draft Annexes of the Protocol of Preferential Tariffs before the next meeting of the Council of Ministers. The council recommended that the Annexes should be ready for signing by the Ministers during the forthcoming Summit Meeting as already decided in the last Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The Council also recommended that in case the Tariff Rates could not be updated and examined by the member states within 10 days, then rates indicated in the existing agreed Draft Annexes as considered in the last meeting of the Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, should be signed during the Summit Meeting.

The Council also recommended that the Protocol on Preferential Tariffs should be ratified at the earliest.

b) ECO Investment and Development Bank

The Council decided to await the response of Turkish and Pakistan authorities to the dates recently proposed by the Iranian side for holding the meeting of the Heads of Central Banks of Iran and Pakistan and Head of the Turkish Development Bank. It was, however, recommended that efforts should continue to hold the meeting in the near future preferably before the forthcoming Summit.

c) Cooperation in the field of Insurance

The Council could not come to a complete consensus on the Conversion of ECO Reinsurance Pool into ECO Reinsurance Company. While the Iranian and Pakistan side stressed the importance of the establishment of the Company, the Turkish side reiterated their inability to raise the necessary share-capital for the proposed Company as well as to enforce compulsory cession on the private sector. The Council, however, recommended that Technical Committee should re-examine the issue.

d) ECO International College of Insurance

The Council was informed by the Iranian side that ECO College of Insurance had reopened in Tehran in September 1991. While appreciating the decision of the Management Board of the ECO Reinsurance Pool, with regard to the revival of the College, the Council proposed that the curriculum and the Status of the College should be studied by the

Committee with a view to making it an effective institution conforming to international standards.

iii) Committee on Technical and Industrial Cooperation

The Council examined and adopted the report of the Committee on Technical and Industrial Cooperation held in Tehran on 12-14 October, 1991 along with the proposed Events for 1992 under the Committee.

a) Possible Participation of Iran in TURK-PAK

The Council noted with satisfaction the willingness of Iran to become a partner in the TURK-PAK Consulting Company.

The Council recommended that the question of renaming the Company should be left to the company itself.

b) ECO Secretariat's Proposal to promote Industrial Cooperation among ECO Countries.

The council took note of the proposal put forward by the ECO Secretariat for providing incentives to the private sector for ECO Joint Venture Projects. The Council recommended that these proposal should be referred to the committee for Industrial and Technical Cooperation for detailed examination as well as formulation of recommendations for the next meeting of Regional Planning council/Council of Ministers.

iv. Committee for Cooperation in the field of Energy

10. The Council examined and adopted the Report of the Committee for Energy along with the recommendations of the Council of Deputies. The Council further recommended the following:

a) In line with the directives of the Council of Ministers regarding the avoidance of proliferation of EGMs, the Experts Group on Oil and Gas and the Experts Group on Export of Oil and Petrochemical products shall be combined to form one EGM on Oil, Gas, and Petrochemicals etc.

b) The proposed EGM on peaceful uses of Atomic Energy will not be established.

v) COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION

11. The Council examined and adopted the report of the committee with the following recommendations:

a) ECO National Airlines

The Council noted that in view of the establishment of private airlines in the member countries, the scope of the EGM on ECO National Airlines should be enlarged to include cooperation amongst private airlines of ECO countries. In this regard, the Council recommended that this aspect be

considered by the Committee for Transport and Communications in its next meeting. To this end, the council further recommended that the Committee for Transport and communications in its next meeting should also explore the possibilities of cooperation among the Civil Aviation authorities of the three member countries.

b) Multimode Transportation

The Council recommended that the concerned authorities in the member countries should accord highest priority to the completion and improvement of ECO Highway and Railway Networks.

c) Shipping and Port Facilities

The Council noted that a trilateral draft Agreement aimed at facilitating maritime navigation between ECO member countries was under consideration. The Turkish side stated that the present bilateral shipping arrangements were sufficient and no new trilateral agreement, at this stage, was necessary.

vi) COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

12. The Council examined and adopted the report of the Committee for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation which was held on 9-11 September, 1991 in Tehran and endorsed it with the following recommendations:

a) The Turkish side explained that in Turkey acceptance of post-Graduate courses depends upon various factors such as curricula and duration of the courses taken by students. The Turkish side explained that they could not give blanket recognition to the equivalence of diplomas, degrees.

b) The Council did not support the recommendations of the Committee to change its name.

c) The Council did not support the transfer of the ECO College of Insurance to the Committee for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation

d) The Iranian side agreed to establish Turkish Language Department in Tehran University, Provided that professors, books and other publications are made available by the Turkish side. The Turkish side took note of this decision with pleasure and stated that it will be conveyed to the relevant authorities with regard to providing the necessary support.

e) The Council did not endorse the proposal to create an ECO consolidated fund to finance ECO programs.

vii) **COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS**

13. The Council examined and adopted the report of the Committee on Infrastructure and Public Works held from 23-25 July 1991 in Tehran with the following recommendations:

a) The Council recommended that the committee on Infrastructure and Public Works should examine the possibility of transferring the subject of "Sharing Experience in the field of Economic Restructuring" to the Committee for Economic and commercial Cooperation its next meeting.

b) The Council further recommended that the Committee should also examine the possibility of transferring the subject of "Provision of Basic Amenities and Infrastructure in the Rural Areas and Development of Model Villages" to the Committee for Agricultural Cooperation.

7. CONSOLIDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE YEAR 1992

14. The Council recommended a Consolidated Calendar of Events for ECO Activities for the year 1992, which is placed at Annex-VIII.

8. ANY OTHER MATTER

a) Pakistan side reiterated their proposal to establish a Committee on Narcotics Abuse Control. The Iranian side reiterated their support to the proposal. The Turkish side promised to furnish their comments on the matter preferably before the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

b) The Iranian side offered to establish a Training Centre on Soil and Water Conservation for providing training faculties in the member countries. It was recommended that this proposal should be considered by the Experts Group already proposed for Agricultural Cooperation. A copy of the Iranian proposal is enclosed at Annex.IX

The Iranian proposal to prepare guidelines and a time frame for the meetings of Experts Group, Committee and Regional Planning Council was discussed. It was recommended that the ECO Secretariat should prepare a proposal after receipt of comments from Pakistan and Turkey for submission to the next meeting of the Regional Planning Council.

9. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

15. The Council proposed to hold its next meeting in Tehran in January 1993.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Honourable Leaders of the three Delegations made their concluding statements and unanimously adopted the report of the Second Meeting of the Regional Planning Council.

11. VOTE OF THANKS

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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