

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> RPC Meeting

Opening statement of H.E. Mr. Akhtar Hassan Khan,  
Leader of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

( Tehran, 27-28 January, 1992 )

*Annex-III*

It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride for me to lead my country's delegation to this meeting of the ECO Planning Council. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my deep gratitude as well that of the members of my delegation, to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm welcome extended to us and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

In the recent months, the leadership of the three countries at the highest level has evinced keen desire to accelerate the pace of trilateral interaction under the auspices of Economic Cooperation Organization and to build a sound base for future collaboration, not only in the economic field but also in all areas of scientific, social and cultural activities. To this end ECO Summit Meeting is being held at Tehran from 16-17 February, 1992. This had added the importance of this meeting. Our Governments and the people of three ECO countries have great expectations from us in carrying forward aims and objectives of ECO stipulated in the amended Treaty of Izmir, 1990.

It is a source of satisfaction that ECO has intensified its activities. Last year 19 out of 22 meetings of experts groups materialized. They have finalized draft agreements on ECO Investment and Development Bank, ECO Shipping Company, Maritime Cooperation and Microwave link to telecast programme of ECO countries. Draft agreements on these areas are under consideration. It is also to be noted with satisfaction that Iran has joined Turk-Pak consultancy.

The decisions of the First Meeting of the Council of Ministers at Tehran in May 1991, have given an impetus to the activities of ECO. Keeping in view high expectations, it is incumbent upon us to take concrete decisions and make viable proposals to carry forward the on-going projects under the auspices of ECO. The Technical Committees are required to complete their task entrusted to them. Pakistan has already notified focal points in the various Ministries to take necessary further action pertaining to their areas.

It is noted with regret that the meeting of Governors of the Central Banks of ECO countries could not materialize on one or the other reasons. The holding of this meeting carried immense significance as it has to take decision on the establishment of ECO Bank already agreed in the meeting of Council of Ministers in May, 1991. Availing myself of this opportunity I would request to ask the Governors of Central Banks to hold meeting before the Summit Meeting. The establishment of ECO Bank would provide a potent base for launching of joint ventures among the ECO countries. The ECO countries may look into the Pakistan's proposal on forming an experts group on exploitation of underground water and improvement of raw hides.

Two Central Asian Republics Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have made formal applications for joining ECO. There is possibility that other Central Asian Muslim States might follow suit. Their requests will be examined by the Ministerial Council.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the firm commitments of the Government of Pakistan for the revitalization of ECO and giving it greater substance.

Thanking you.