



**Outline for Implementation of the Recommendations
by
3rd ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG)**

**Preparatory Working Group on the finalization of the
Proposed Outline**

**First Package of the proposed Decisions
(to be considered by the 202nd CPR meeting)**

II.1 Implementation of the decisions/follow-up

1. "The Working Group recommended that the existing practice of biennial Summit and annual Council of Minister meetings may be maintained. On informal segment of the Summit, the Working Group acknowledged that the current practice includes the Retreat Session by Heads of State/Government. As recommended by EPG, the Retreat Session may focus on critical pending/pressing ECO related issues such as implementation of flagship agreements." (The Calendar of ECO Principal Meetings is attached as annex I)
2. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretary General may submit a report to the COM meetings highlighting the difficulties facing the Organization. The Working Group proposed that first such report may be submitted to the 22nd COM meeting."
3. "The Working Group recommended that a mid-term Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), at the level of Director General, may be convened between two COM annual meetings at the ECO Secretariat. The Secretariat will provide air ticket and boarding and lodging for one senior official from each Member State. The first envisaged SOM may be convened well advance of 22nd COM meeting to prepare for the COM meeting, including to address difficulties facing by the Organization."
4. "The Working Group agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat. Accordingly, the RPC annual meetings may be convened for five working days. Each Review Committee may consist of two sessions for deliberations and finalization of the report. The Working Group further decided that the ECO Secretariat would provide hospitality to 1+3 delegates from each Member State from Special Support Fund (SSF). The SSF Modalities may be revised accordingly."
5. "The Working Group emphasized the imperative of high level participation in the RPC, as envisaged in Article VIII of the Izmir Treaty."
6. "The Working Group recommended that the final report of RPC meetings may include specific part containing critical evaluation of ECO

programme/projects already discussed in a meeting of Heads of delegation."

7. "The Working Group agreed with the proposed outline. It is recommended that on the basis of discussions of the Review Committees, each annual RPC meeting will decide on the need for sectoral Ministerial meetings and SOMs in the annual work programme. The Secretariat shall propose the calendar of Ministerial events based on the merit of the issues as well as the possible ministerial ECO meetings on the sidelines of the relevant international conferences."
8. "The Working Group recommended that follow-up reports prepared by the Secretariat in addition to those referred in decisions [numbers will be added] would adequately address this recommendation."

II.2 Decision-making process

9. "The Working Group recommended that the current decision making processes as reflected in the Izmir Treaty and ECO Rules of Procedure may be maintained. The Secretariat is requested to make supplementary clarification as regards to application of the rules."

III.3 Active participation by the Member States in Organization's activities

10. "The Working Group while acknowledging the need for increase in the SSF budget recommended that the final decision for gradual increase, including its utilization, will be made in the light of overall decisions on budgetary issues. The SSF modalities should be amended accordingly."

II.4 Financial/Budgetary Matters

II.4.1 Scale of Assessment for mandatory contributions by the Member States:

11. "The Working Group discussed the issue of scale of assessments and considered that in the future, the following observations may be taken into account:
- a) As is the practice in the UN system, the scale of assessments for ECO Member States should be reviewed every three years;
 - b) There should be a minimum assessment rate of 2%(or 3%) and a maximum assessment rate of 20% (or 22%);
 - c) There should be different groups of Member States as regards the apportionment of the scale of assessments:
 - Group A: Founding Members with maximum assessment rate of 20% (or 22%),
 - Group B: Member States with minimum assessment rate of 2% (or 3%), and
 - Group C: Member States who are not falling in other two Groups.

The Secretariat may be requested to prepare a document presenting different scenarios to implement the above arrangement."

II.4.3. Arrears

12. "In line with the mandates given by 19th & 21st COM meetings, the Working Group recommended that a Secretariat-Membership delegation composed of ECO Secretary General and Permanent Representatives of previous, current and incoming COM Chairmen, namely, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan may visit Uzbekistan and discuss the state of play of its outstanding arrears to the Organization. The Report of the visit along with any recommendations/agreed arrangements should be submitted to the upcoming COM for any decision/action. The Secretariat should also be mandated to prepare a document indicating all budgetary implications of the outstanding arrears on the Organization and its membership."

13. "The Working Group recommended that in settling the arrears of member states to the budget of the Organization, there can be multi-year payment plans, as is the practice in the UN system, where Member States in arrears submit multi-year payment plans to the Secretary-General for the information of other Member States. The envisaged plans should provide for annual payment of current-year assessed contributions and a part of the arrears, generally provide for the elimination of arrears within a period of up to six years."

II.5 Efficient communication between the Secretariat and the Member States

14. "The Working Group recommended that the Secretariat should expeditiously streamline the current three channels of communication with the Embassies of Member States in Tehran putting in place the optimal communication system."
15. "The Working Group highlighted the validity of this recommendation and underscored the nomination of officer by all the member states in their Embassies in Tehran to specifically handle the ECO affairs."

II.8 Status of implementation of ECO Vision 2015 and a new Vision for post-2015

16. "The Working Group requested the ECO Secretariat to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the ECO Vision 2015 taking into consideration the comments/feedbacks, if any, from the Member States. This report, submitted to the Member States by the end of March 2015, will contribute to the process of developing an ECO 2016-2025 Vision."
17. "The Working Group recommended that 25th Meeting of Regional Planning Council may be utilized as a first step to develop a new vision for 2016-2025. Accordingly, the Secretary General in his meeting with Heads of delegation may present a report taking stock of

the implementation of Vision 2015. The Heads of delegation may share their views on the elements and directions of the new vision as well as decide on the proper mechanism for its development. The RPC Review Committees will also address the issues from sectoral perspective."

II.9 ECO's External Relations

18. "The Working Group recommended that the Secretariat should review all existing MoUs with the partner organizations with a view to proposing possible time-bound work programme based on the Organization's priorities. The proposed work programme will be shared with the partner organizations and reported back to the Member States. The Working Group also recommended that for the new partnership with international organizations, the Secretariat while taking into account the ECO *"Modalities for Signing Agreements with Regional and International Organizations, States and Institutions"*, should explore the best institutional arrangements for cooperation."
19. "The Working Group recommended that participation of the Secretariat in the non-ECO events should be target-oriented and the Member States may be briefed about the outcomes of the events."
20. "The Working Group recommended that biennial ECO-UN Resolution should be in line with the priorities of the Organization. In drafting the Resolution, Secretariat should take into account the priority areas of the Organization in the coming two years. Following the adoption of the Resolution by the UN General Assembly, the Secretariat should convene a specific working group to discuss with the Member States a two year practical work programme for implementation of the Resolution."
21. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretariat should constantly explore the possibility of new observers/dialogue partners from within and outside the Region. Any new institutional relations on this basis shall be in line with the priorities of the Organization with a view to bringing added values to the ECO Region. The existing modalities may be reviewed, if needed."

22. "In line with the priorities of the Organization, the Working Group encouraged the Contact Groups at various places to continue to play an active role in gathering support for the ECO programmes/activities and in promoting ECO interest and enhancing its image in international arena. CPR may regularly consider the need for establishing the additional contact groups."
23. "The Working Group recommended that ECO should expand its cooperation with IDB in line with the Organization's priorities including those reflected in the ECO Vision 2016-2025. ECO may also seek IDB's assistance on capacity building projects designed to shore up the attractiveness of the Region as a market for FDI."
24. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretariat may explore the possibility of granting accredited status to relevant UN agencies as well as regional and international organizations. The Secretariat will further develop necessary regulatory frameworks."
25. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretariat may explore the possibilities to mobilize funding and assistance for its projects from private international resources from within and outside the Region."

II.10 Visibility and image of ECO

26. "The Working Group underlined that to enhance the visibility of the Organization, the ECO Secretariat as well as ECO Regional Centers, Regional Institutions, Specialized Agencies and Affiliated Bodies should contribute further to the visibility of the Organization through more focused, need based and result oriented activities. The Working Group recommended that adequate resources need to be available for activities aiming at upgrading the visibility of the Organization within and outside Region."
27. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretariat should share with the Member States on the way to celebrate the ECO Day annually. The Secretariat may prepare a unified printing material/short documentary about the ECO activities on the occasion of the ECO Day for the possible publishing/broadcasting through media of

Member States. The Secretariat may also propose unified design for ECO Day stamps to the Member States.

28. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretariat in cooperation with ECO Educational Institute may prepare informative materials for the purpose of awareness raising/education about ECO and its role in the Region. Following decision by the ECO decision making bodies, the text will be shared with the Member States. The interested Member States may wish to consider inclusion of the text in their national syllabi of the schools.

The Working Group also recommended the interested Member States may develop ECO-related courses/programs in their universities.

29. "The Working Group recommended that the ECO Secretariat may continue its efforts to produce a documentary film on ECO and its profile for enhancing the image and visibility of the Organisation. The Member States may share with the Secretariat the requested materials to be used for the final version of the documentary.

The Working Group acknowledged the important role of ECO Economic Reports for the level of visibility of the Organization within and outside the Region. The Working Group recommended that the Annual Economic Reports should be supported by relevant statistic/data by the Member States and should include Secretariat's analysis as regard the trends and successful and failed areas of cooperation.

30. "The Working Group recommended that ECI, ECOSF and ECOEI may give more emphasis to the visibility aspect of the Organization while organizing activities/programs within their mandates."

31. "The Working Group appreciated the work done for reviving the internship programme in the ECO Secretariat, including the new draft Modalities. The Member States may facilitate participation of their Masters/PhD students in the ECO internship programme. The Working Group also underlined the need for financial resources to cover internship programmes developed for specific programme/projects. The ECO Secretariat may define annually the areas/directorates in need of internees.

32. "The Working Group recommended the need for revising the existing modalities for ECO Awards. The resources available to ECO awards may be allocated in a way to both upgrading the visibility of the Organization and to addressing the challenges of the regional economic cooperation. The awards may be granted to academic contributions to the objectives of the Organization. It is also recommended that areas

other than economy and sustainable development can be covered by regional centers/institutions.

II.11 ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions & Affiliated Bodies

33. "The Working Group after thorough deliberations observed that there are ambiguities and inconsistencies with regard to legal status and membership of the existing ECO bodies and requested the Secretariat to address them in line with the Treaty of Izmir and other relevant documents. This issue shall be incorporated in the evaluation report regarding the performance of these institutions as mandated by 25th RPC . The report, prepared in consultation with Member States/ECO bodies, along with recommendations to rectify the problems will be submitted to CPR for its consideration and decision on the next step.
34. "The Working Group recalled the recent decision by 25th RPC meeting on devising a regular consultation mechanism with ECO Resident Ambassadors and requested the ECO Secretariat to assist both ECOSF and ECOEI in establishing such a mechanism in the host countries, including possible CPR arrangements".
35. "The Working Group acknowledged the importance of legislative support by national parliaments of the Member States for the success of ECO regional programmes and in this regard underscored the role PAECO can play. The Working Group, therefore, recommended that regular contacts between the ECO Secretariat and Secretariat of PAECO be established. The Working Group also recommended that PAECO may utilize opportunities of regular IPU/APU/PUIC gatherings for holding its meetings".

**"Five-year Calendar of ECO Principal Meetings"
(alphabetical rotation)**

Meeting	Date	Host
26 th RPC	November 2015	Secretariat
22 nd COM/ 13 th Summit	December 2015	Pakistan
27 th RPC	November 2016	Secretariat
23 rd COM	December 2016	Tajikistan
28 th RPC	November 2017	Secretariat
24 th COM/ 14 th Summit	December 2017	Turkey
29 th RPC	November 2018	Secretariat
25 th COM	December 2018	Turkmenistan
30 th RPC	November 2019	Secretariat
26 th COM/ 15 th Summit	December 2019	Uzbekistan
31 st RPC	November 2020	Secretariat
27 th COM	December 2020	Afghanistan