



*224<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)*

*Report*

*23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017  
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

## Report

The 224<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting was held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Iran. It was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The ECO Secretary General along with concerned officials of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as *Annex-I*.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Council adopted the following Agenda of 224<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting for deliberations:

#### Agenda

1. *Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 224<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting*
2. *Adoption of the Draft Report of the 223<sup>rd</sup> CPR Meeting*
3. *Preparations for holding the next (28<sup>th</sup>) RPC Meeting at the Ministerial level on 11-14 December 2017 in Islamabad (Pakistan) – (continued)*
4. *Follow-up to the decisions of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> Summit: “New Scales of Assessment” and “ECO Reforms”. (continued)*
5. *Approval of the Lists of Events/Meetings and Conferences/Workshops/ Seminars/Training courses to be supported/financed from Special Support Fund (SSF)- (continued)*
6. **Administrative matters:**  
*Recommendations of the Selection Panel*
7. *Any other Business*
8. *Date of the next CPR Meeting*

### **Agenda Item No.2**

#### Adoption of the Draft Report of 223<sup>rd</sup> CPR Meeting

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 223<sup>rd</sup> CPR Meeting contained in the document ECO/CPR/223/2 (3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017) which was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat’s Note Verbale No. CFU/CPR/223<sup>rd</sup> Meeting/2017/1204 dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### **Agenda Item No.3**

#### Preparations for holding the next (28<sup>th</sup>) RPC Meeting at the Ministerial level in December in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

4. The 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting is being organized on ***11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Islamabad (Pakistan)***. For maximum participation, the CPR in its meeting (222<sup>nd</sup>) held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, decided that the ECO Secretariat may bear the travel expenses on economy class of ***1+4 delegates*** of each Member State from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF). The Council requested the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for making efforts for issuance of ‘Invitation Letters’ by the Pakistani Minister of Planning to his counterpart Ministers of the Member States as early as possible. The Council further requested the distinguished participants of the meeting for starting the preparations of the upcoming RPC Meeting accordingly.

5. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (host country) sought information on anticipated highest level participation and the expected number of participants from the

Member States at 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting in order to determine the extent of the local hospitality. The Secretariat once again requested the esteemed Member States for confirmation of participation and expedite composition of their delegations enabling the host country and the Secretariat to make necessary logistical arrangements accordingly. To utilize the presence of Ministers of Economy/Planning of the Member States, a Special Conference of Afghanistan is also being organized on the sidelines of 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting. The ECO Secretariat circulated the Draft Agenda of the 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting to the Member States which also included a Ministerial-section on Afghanistan vide its Note Verbale No. CFU/RPC/28<sup>th</sup> Meeting/2017/919 dated 6 August 2017.

6. Deputy Secretary General (TC & PERS) Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi briefed the Council stating that preparations with regard to the 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting are under way. He informed that the ECO Secretariat will provide the facility of translation and, as per the decision of the CPR, ECO Secretariat would be funding the air tickets to the delegates of the Member States (1+4). He hoped that the Invitation Letters from the Minister of Economy/Planning of Pakistan to the concerned counterpart Ministers are being sent very soon.

7. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan taking the floor informed the Council that the work for holding the 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting is progressing in the concerned Ministry in Islamabad and hoped that very soon the things will be firmed up. As regards issuing of Invitation Letters from the Minister of Pakistan to the counterpart Ministers, the ECO Secretariat has been requested to provide an updated list of all the concerned Ministers. He hoped that the requisite information will be received today which will then be forwarded to the capital for further action accordingly.

8. ECO Secretary General informed the Council that he would be visiting Islamabad on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 where he is scheduled to meet the Minister to discuss the arrangements of 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting.

9. The Secretary General proposed to celebrate the “*ECO Day*” in Islamabad (Pakistan) on the sidelines of 28<sup>th</sup> RPC, as all the Ministers of ECO will be in Islamabad besides inviting all the ECO Ambassadors in the capital and other dignitaries in the event. He said that if the Council agrees then the arrangements are coordinated with the authorities in Pakistan otherwise the “*ECO Day*” would be organized in Tehran on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Secretary General also informed the Council that the Secretariat is looking into the possibility of hiring a charter flight – Tehran-Islamabad-Tehran.

10. After deliberations, the Council asked the ECO Secretariat to take necessary measures for organizing the “*ECO Day*” on the sidelines of 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting in Islamabad (11-14 December 2017) in coordination with the concerned authorities of Pakistan.

11. Deputy Secretary General (T&I, AIT & IR) Mr. Kanan Nazarov informed the Council that the ECO Secretariat has received a Note Verbale No. TRNC/2017/60825 of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 conveying that a delegation from the Turkish Cypriot State would like to participate in the 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting to be held on 11-14 December 2017 in Islamabad in its capacity as ECO Observer. He requested the Council for consideration of the issue.

12. The Council considered and approved, in accordance with the ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at ECO, the participation of Turkish Cypriot State, in its capacity as “Observer” without right to vote in augural and

closing ceremonies of 28<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting scheduled to be held on 11-14 December, 2017 in Islamabad (Pakistan).

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

#### **Follow-up to the decisions of 22<sup>nd</sup> COM Meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> Summit: "ECO Reforms" and "Scales of Assessment"**

13. The Council in its 223<sup>rd</sup> Meeting decided to report to the Informal COM Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in New York and for getting fresh instructions for further deliberations/discussions by the CPR on the issues of Scales of Assessment and ECO Reforms. The Council also agreed on the following language for seeking COM's approval:

*"In compliance with the decision of the 22nd COM Meeting in Islamabad to resolve the issues of (i) Scale of Assessments and (ii) ECO Reforms, the CPR formed a Working Group to deliberate and finalize these issues. Meetings were held and except for three Member States, the Secretariat has received the stated positions of seven Member States. Therefore, approval of COM is sought to authorize the CPR to continue deliberations on these issues for finalization at the earliest."*

14. The Informal COM Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in New York on the sidelines of 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UNGA once again supported the issues of Scales of Assessment and Reforms. However some Member States reiterated their views/positions already communicated to the ECO Secretariat and circulated among the Member States.

15. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi briefed the Council that both the issues of Scale of Assessments and Reforms were discussed in Informal COM Meeting in New York where the Republic of Kazakhstan reiterated its old position. He said that since last CPR, the Secretariat has received positions from Member States i.e. Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan which were circulated to all Member States. He said that two days before the Secretariat has also received the official position from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

16. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan/Chairman of the Working Group established to discuss both the issues of 'Scales of Assessment' and 'ECO Reforms', informed that in one of the CPR meetings it was decided that the Working Group meeting will be suspended till formal inputs on both the issues from all the Member States are received.

17. Upon the position stated by the Chairman of Working Group, the Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) informed that the Secretariat has not received formal positions on 'ECO Reforms' from all the Member States but it has received formal positions on 'Scales of Assessment' from all Member States. He proposed that the CPR may discuss the official positions of all the countries on 'Scales of Assessments'.

18. The Chairman CPR proposed to hold an Informal Informal meeting of Permanent Representatives to decide about the issue of Scales of Assessment as well as ECO Reforms before the next CPR meeting so that a position on the issues is submitted. The Council agreed with the proposal of the Chairman.

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

#### **Approval of the Lists of Events/Meetings and Workshops/Seminars/Training courses to be supported/financed from Special Support Fund (SSF)**

19. The Council in its Meeting (223<sup>rd</sup>) held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 asked the ECO Secretariat to updated two Lists of Events/Meetings and Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and Training courses to be supported/financed from Special Support Fund (SSF). In compliance the ECO Secretariat circulated the updated two Lists of Events among the Member States vide Secretariats' Note Verbale No. CFU/CoE 2017/2017/**1214** dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

20. The Council considered and approved the two Lists of Events/Meetings/Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and Training Courses to be supported/financed from Special Support Fund (SSF), as circulated by the ECO Secretariat on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

21. Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) briefed the Council stating that based on the last CPR (223<sup>rd</sup>) decision, the Secretariat has circulated the updated list to the Member States and hoped for its approval. He further mentioned that the Calendar of Events has already been approved in the COM Meeting held in Islamabad where some events are to be supported from SSF and some are not. However, all events are mentioned in the Calendar of Events.

22. Protracted discussion took place where the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* stressed upon that the two events which are to be held in *Nicosia* and proposed to be financed by hosts should be deleted from the list of SS Fund. However, the Representative of the Republic of Turkey insisted that though the two events are to be financed by the organizers but keeping the contribution of Turkish Cypriot State towards ECO, they should be retained in the list for symbolic reasons.

23. After discussion, the Chairman CPR proposed that as decided in case of Agenda Item No. 4, the issue of '*Approval of List of Events to be supported from SS Fund*' will also be discussed in the Informal Informal meeting of Permanent Representatives. While other events rather than those two events will continue as per practice.

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

#### **Administrative Matters**

24. The Council was informed that the Selection Panel meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Imran Haider, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Council, on the recommendations of the Selection Panel, approved the following:

(a) **Assistant Director for Administration (Category-I, D1)**

Extension in tenure of Mr. Hamid Reza ANOUSHEH (*Iranian national*) as Assistant Director (Admn) (Category-I D-1) from **23<sup>rd</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**. As per Article 6.4 of Staff Regulations, the CPR also considered, absent Council of Ministers meeting, and as per practice, COM approval through circulation.

(b) **Chief Accountant (Category II, P3)**

Appointment of Ms. Mojgan GOLCHIN (*Iranian national*) as Chief Accountant (Category-II, P3) for a term of four years effective from the date of her joining the Secretariat replacing Mr. Farhad Najafzadeh Khoei.

**Agenda Item No.7**

Any Other Business

25. Under this sub-agenda item, the ECO Secretary General informed the Council that the Secretariat has prepared the Budget proposal for the year 2018 and circulated to the Member States on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017 for consideration. He requested and hoped that the Budget for 2018 would be considered and approved by the Council in its next CPR (225<sup>th</sup>) Meeting.

26. The Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Council that "2017 has been declared as the Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan" and in this regard the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran with ECO Cultural Institute is organizing an exhibition. The official opening ceremony for the diplomatic corps and dignitaries/officials will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 4 P.M. He invited all the delegates for participation in the exhibition.

**Words of Thanks**

27. The Chairman CPR invited the attention of the Council about a Note Verbale of the ECO Secretariat mentioning that Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General (TC, PERS & CFU) wishes to leave ECO Secretariat due to the illness of his mother. The Council wished sympathies and prayed for the early recovery of health of the mother of Mr. Mangi. It also paid rich tributes to Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi on performance of brilliant and professional job in the Secretariat in order to promote ECO's objectives. The Council wished him every success in his future assignments.

**Agenda Item No.8**

Date of the next CPR Meeting

28. The Council decided to convene its next (225<sup>th</sup>) Meeting on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 at 1000 hrs at the ECO Secretariat – Tehran.

29. The Council on the proposal of Chairman CPR also decided holding of an Informal Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Residence of the Chairman CPR and Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Iran to discuss the Agenda Items regarding (i) '*Scales of Assessments*', (ii) '*ECO Reforms*' and (iii) '*List of Events to the supported from SSF*'

30. While concluding the meeting, the Chairman CPR expressed his sincere thanks to the distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States for their participation and valuable contribution in the Meeting.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:**

- Mr. Javid Musayev, Counsellor

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:**

- H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General
- Mr. Ahmad Reza Asghari, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

**The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:**

- Mr. Yerbol Akhmetov, Minister-Counsellor

**The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- H.E. Mr. Avazbek Abdurazakov, Ambassador
- Mr. Aziz Kurumbaev, Counsellor,

**The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:**

- H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador
- Mr. Imran Haider, Deputy Head of Mission
- Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Second Secretary

**Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:**

- Mr. Firdavs Yusupov, Second Secretary
- Mr. Saidali Shosaidov, Embassy officer

**The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:**

- Mr. Murat Muhaciroglu, Deputy Head of Mission
- Ms. Sinem Gokce, Third Secretary

**The ECO Secretariat:**

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Seyed Jaleedin Alavi Sabzevari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Ghulam Nabi, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Nurgul Duissenova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, English-Persian Interpreter/Translator

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