

**AGREEMENT ON SIMPLIFICATION OF VISA PROCEDURES
FOR THE BUSINESSMEN OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION**

The Governments signatory hereto (hereinafter referred to as "The Contracting Parties"), being Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ECO");

Being convinced that trade and economic relations accelerate the mutual development of nations;

Recalling that' Paragraph 19 of the Quetta Plan of Action called upon the Member States to take the necessary measures to facilitate the travel of businessmen within ECO region without delay and visas, where required, to be issued expeditiously;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

All the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of ECO Member Countries will issue visas to businessmen of the other ECO member countries upon presentation of an introductory letter from the relevant competent national authorities in commercial affairs endorsed by the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States.

Article II

All the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of ECO Member Countries will issue, within 72 hours or otherwise reply to the application for, entry visas including multiple valid upto a maximum period of one year with a maximum stay of 30 days to businessmen of the other Contracting Parties upon presentation of an introductory letter from the relevant competent national authorities in commercial affairs endorsed by the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States.

Article III

The competent authorities shall extend, on the basis of applicable regulations, visas or resident permits issued to the businessmen who are engaged in export, import or investment activities till the expiry of the contracts signed between the relevant parties provided that the visa holder shall not involve himself/ herself in any activity in the host country inconsistent with his/her status

Article IV

None of the provisions of this Agreement shall prejudice the implementation of the applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements between any two or more ECO Member Countries or national regulations and laws on issuance of entry visa, resident permits, or expulsion of foreign nationals in each of the respective countries.

Article V

Any amendment to this Agreement may be proposed by any Contracting Party which will be subject to the approval of the ECO Council of Ministers.

Article VI

A. Any Contracting Party may, for reasons of national security, public order or public health, delay the entry into force or suspend temporarily the application of this Agreement as a whole or in part in respect of all or some of the other Contracting Parties. Imposition and lifting of such a measure shall be communicated immediately to the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels, which shall, in turn, notify all Contracting Parties.

B. A Contracting Party which chooses to exercise any of the measures listed in Paragraph VI/A, may not claim the continued application of this Agreement to its own nationals by the Contracting Party against the nationals of which the measures are taken.

Article VII

A. This Agreement shall be open to the signature of the Member States of the ECO which may become Parties to the Agreement by:

- (i) signature without reservation in respect of ratification;
- (ii) signature with reservation in respect of ratification, followed by ratification.

B. The Member States which become Party to this Agreement as outlined in the Subparagraph VII/A/i shall deposit an instrument of accession with the ECO Secretariat. Similarly, those Member States which become Party to this Agreement as outlined in the Subparagraph VII/A/ii shall deposit an instrument of ratification with the said Secretariat.

Article VIII

A. This Agreement shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after the date on which more than three Member States of the ECO shall, in accordance with Article VII:

- (i) have signed the Agreement without reservation in respect of ratification and deposited the instrument of accession with the ECO Secretariat. or,
- (ii) have signed and ratified and deposited the instrument of ratification with the ECO Secretariat.

B. In the case of any Member State which accedes to this Agreement after its entry into force, this Agreement shall enter into force with respect to the subsequently acceding Party on the sixtieth day following the deposit of its instrument of accession or ratification.

Article IX

The ECO Secretariat shall notify the Member States of the ECO;

- (a) of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and the names of Member States of **ECO** which have signed without reservation in respect of ratification or which have signed and ratified it;
- (b) of any notification received in accordance with the Articles VI or X and its effective date.

Article X

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period. Any Contracting Party may withdraw from this Agreement by giving sixty days' notice to that effect to the ECO Secretariat.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Islamabad, this 15th day of March 1995, in English, in two original copies to remain deposited with the ECO Secretariat which shall transmit a certified copy to each Contracting Party.

ON BEHALF OF THE
ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN -----

ON BEHALF OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN -----

ON BEHALF OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN -----

ON BEHALF OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN -----

ON BEHALF OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN-----

ON BEHALF OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY -----

ON BEHALF OF TURKMENISTAN -----