



# **231<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

## **Report**

*19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018*  
*ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

## Report

The 231<sup>st</sup> CPR Meeting was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador of the Republic of *Tajikistan* to Iran. It was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States. 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 231<sup>st</sup> CPR Meeting for deliberations:

#### Agenda

1. *Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 231<sup>st</sup> CPR Meeting*
2. *Adoption of the Draft Report of the 230<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting*
3. *Follow-up to the decisions of 23<sup>rd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting: New ECO Scales of Assessment and ECO Reforms etc. (continued)*
4. *Consideration of the Draft Modality of ECO Fund for Afghanistan(continued)*
5. Administrative matters:
  - (a) *Nomination for the post of Programme Officer of Project, Economic Research and Statistics (continued)*
  - (b) *Appointment of new Deputy Secretary General (continued)*
  - (c) *Composition of the Selection Panel*
  - (d) *Recommendations of the Selection Panel*
6. *Any other business*
7. *Date of the next CPR Meeting*

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

#### Adoption of the Draft Report of 230<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

3. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 230<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/CPR/231<sup>st</sup> Meeting/2018/769 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018, along with amendment proposed by the Republic of Turkey in paragraph 23 of the Draft Report.

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

#### Follow-up to the decisions of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting: New Scales of Assessment and Reforms (continued)

4. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting held in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 mandated the CPR to finalize the issues of (i) "*ECO Scales of Assessment*" and (ii) "*ECO Reforms*" as soon as possible preferably by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in order to keep the Organization financially stable and viable.

5. The Council in its 230<sup>th</sup> Meeting decided (i) *Revival of the Working Group* to discuss the issues of "Scales of Assessment" and "ECO Reforms: and (ii) asked the Secretariat to circulate a Note Verbale to the Member States soliciting their fresh views/positions from the respective capitals on the issue and a date will be set for convening of Working Group's Meeting for the purpose.

6. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) Mr. Hadi Soleimanpur informed the Council that a meeting of the Working Group to discuss the issues of Scales of Assessment and Reforms was scheduled to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018. However, due to pre-occupation of some Member State(s), the meeting was postponed. He further informed that until now

the Secretariat has received views/comments from one Member States only. Deputy Secretary General (Admn) requested the Council for fixation of a date for holding the meeting of the Working Group to discuss the issues.

7. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Kazakhstan* said that views/comments on "Scales of Assessment" and "ECO Reforms" have already been communicated to the Secretariat. He opined that as both the issues are very important and for an accelerated process a deadline should be made as without putting any time limit the matter can further be lingered on. By doing so, it will enable implementation of the decision of the 23<sup>rd</sup> COM Meeting held in April 2018 in Dushanbe, wherein it was decided to finalize the issues of Scales of Assessment and Reforms as soon as possible preferably by September 2018.

8. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* said that the both issues of "*Scales of Assessment*" and "*ECO Reform*" are very important and are being discussed more than 2-3 years. However, the Permanent Representative did not support the idea of putting a deadline instead having full participation and contribution by all the Member States in the Working Group Meeting(s) for finalization of these issues.

9. After deliberation, the Council decided to convene the meeting of the Working Group to discuss the issues of Scales of Assessment and Reform on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 10:00 hrs at the ECO Secretariat - Tehran.

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

##### Consideration of the Draft Modality of ECO Fund for Afghanistan (continued)

10. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting held in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 while adopting the "*ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan*" mandated the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to consider finalization of revised Modalities of ECO Fund for Afghanistan to be prepared by the ECO Secretariat. The Revised Draft text of the Modalities of the ECO Fund for Afghanistan, prepared by ECO Secretariat, has been circulated to the Member States vide its Note Verbale No. LA/Modality-Fund-Afghanistan/2018/582 dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Moreover, the Council decided to take up the issue of the Draft "*Modalities for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan*" in the next CPR meeting, once response of the Member States is received.

11. The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that views and comments received from the Republic of Turkey has already been incorporated in the Draft Modalities in paragraphs 9, 10 and 15 respectively and any further comments by other Member States, if received later, will also be incorporated in the Modalities.

12. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Afghanistan* while appreciating the efforts of the ECO Secretariat in preparation of the comprehensive document, stated that the relevant authorities in Kabul are examining the Draft Modalities and views/comments will be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as received from the capital.

13. The Council decided to take-up the issue on receipt of comments from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other member states in the next CPR Meeting.

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

##### Administrative matters

- a. Nomination for the post of Programme Officer of Projects, Economic Research and Statistics

14. To fill this specific post of Programme Officer (PERS) in the ECO Secretariat, the concerned parties i.e. *Iran* and *Pakistan* decided that the Member State(s), which have no representation in the ECO Secretariat especially the Central Asian Republics, may be offered to nominate of a suitable candidate for the post of Programme Officer (PERS). However, none of the Member State(s) nominated any candidate for this post.

15. The issue was thoroughly deliberated and the Council in its 230<sup>th</sup> Meeting considered that in order to adopt temporary arrangements for filling the above said post of Programme Officer (PERS) then the ECO Secretariat may provide all the necessary background information along with financial details to the Member States and the issue will again be discussed/considered in the next CPR Meeting.

16. Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kanan Nazarov said that the matter is prolonging for the last two years and still no nomination has yet been made either by Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan. Furthermore, the Secretariat has issued a Background Information to the Member States vide its Note Verbale No. Admn/SP/2018/722 dated 18th June, 2018. He further said the Secretariat prefers to solve this issue on permanent basis and requested both the concerned parties (*Pakistan and Iran*) for its early solution.

17. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* said that a final call may be made to our colleagues from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and if no nomination is received from them then *Iran* and *Pakistan* would be constraints to divide this post for four years term each between them.

18. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of *Iran* agreed to the proposal of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

19. The Ambassador of the Republic of *Uzbekistan*, *however*, while agreeing to the proposal of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stated that hopefully by the next CPR they would be in a position to nominate a candidate for the said post.

**b. Appointment of the New Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME, HRSD & DOCCU)**

20. The nomination made by the Republic of *Turkey* for appointment of H.E. Ambassador Huseyin Avni Bicakli, (**Turkish National**) as Deputy Secretary General (ADMN, EME, HRSD & DOCCU) was formally submitted for approval of 23<sup>rd</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting held in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018. However, Turkmen delegation made reservations on the appointment by stating that since the nomination was received recently, therefore, it requires more time for a decision.

21. In the 230<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting, the CPR Chairman urged the Representative to approach the authorities in Turkmenistan to convey whatever decision with regard to the nomination for appointment of new Deputy Secretary General of Turkey in the ECO Secretariat before the next CPR Meeting.

22. Representative of **Turkmenistan** informed the Council that the matter regarding appointment of Turkish Deputy Secretary in the ECO Secretariat is still under consideration and a response in this regard will be communicated as soon as received.

23. The Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** after summarizing the background of the ongoing delay in the appointment of the new Deputy Secretary General, said that it is very unfortunate and disappointing to see that after repeated postponements, the Council is still not able to make a decision today on this post, which will be vacant in August 2018 due to repeated requests of a Member State. He further reiterated that it was stressed upon in the last CPR (230<sup>th</sup>) that the Representative of Turkmenistan would

come-up with final decision in the next CPR. The Ambassador again urged the distinguished authorities of Turkmenistan for finalization of their decision in respect of the appointment of new Deputy Secretary General, nominated by the Republic of Turkey.

24. The CPR Chairman again urged the Representative for approaching the authorities in Turkmenistan to convey a decision regarding nomination for appointment of new Deputy Secretary General (Admin.) in the ECO Secretariat soonest possible.

**c. Composition of the Selection Panel**

25. Article 6.7 of the Staff Regulations provides that "for recruitment and appointment to categories I and II, the Secretary General shall be assisted by a panel comprising of five members of the Council of Permanent Representatives to be elected by the CPR for a fixed tenure". The CPR in its (117<sup>th</sup>) meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 selected **Azerbaijan** (*incoming Chair of COM*) and **Kazakhstan** (*fourth highest contribution Member State*) as the fourth and fifth Member of the Selection Panel.

26. However, consequent upon holding of 23<sup>rd</sup> COM meeting in April 2018 in Dushanbe, Pakistan passed the Chairmanship of COM to Tajikistan. Therefore, as per the formula set out above, Tajikistan was considered as the fourth member of the Selection Panel. But since the ex-Chair was a founding Member State, the Council may select the fifth member of the Selection Panel.

27. The Council after deliberations decided to make the composition of the Selection Panel which is: "*Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey*".

**d. Recommendations of the Selection Panel**

28. The Selection Panel's meeting co-chaired by the *Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (ex-Chair)* and the *Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan (current Chair)* was held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The Council considered the recommendations of the Selection Panel and approved the following:

**(i) Assistant Director (Coordination and Follow-up Unit) (Category-I, D1)**

- (a) Appointment of Mr. Salohiddin Kiromov (**Tajikistan National**) as Assistant Director (CFU) (*Category-I, D1*) for a term of three years effective from the date of his joining the ECO Secretariat replacing Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, who will complete his tenure on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.
- (b) Moreover, as recommended by the Selection Panel, Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, present incumbent Assistant Director (CFU) will be relieved of his duties upon joining the ECO Secretariat by his selected successor.

**(ii) Assistant Director (International Relations) (Category-I, D1)**

Appointment of Mr. Muhammad Farooq (**Pakistan National**) as Assistant Director (IR) (*Category-I, D1*) for a term of three years effective from the date of his joining the ECO Secretariat replacing Mr. Muhammad Muqheet Asim Shah, who will complete his tenure on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**(iii) Russian Translator (Category-II, P2)**

Appointment of Ms. Muminova Dilbar (**Tajik National**) as Russian Translator (*Category-II, P2*) for a full term of 04 years effective from the date of her joining the ECO Secretariat replacing Mr. Boboev Amriyo, who will complete his tenure on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**Agenda Item No.7**

Any Other Business

29. Under this agenda item, Chief Accountant of the Secretariat brought to the notice of the Council that Halk Bank in Istanbul, where the Organization is keeping its dollars account, is being closed due to administrative/technical reasons. Therefore, the budgetary contributions by the Member States would not be possible for transferring through this bank anymore. She further said that the Secretariat is exploring the possibility of opening a substitute account in any other Bank in Turkey and in this regard the matter will be discussed with the authorities of ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB) in Istanbul. The Chief Accountant requested the Council for deliberations and taking a decision in the matter for smooth functioning of the Organization.

30. The Council deliberated the issue on some proposals such as exploring the possibility of shifting the system of transactions from US dollars to EURO which further require clarity as there would also be pressure from European countries. However, in that case the basic document "Treaty of Izmir" would require to be amended.

31. After deliberation, the CPR Chairman desired/decided/suggested that the Secretariat may further examine the issue and suggest viable proposals to the Member States in order to overcome the situation.

**Words of Appreciation**

32. Knowing that H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan after completion of his assignment is scheduled to leave Tehran for goods, the Council expressed its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Durrani and stated that it was a wonderful performance as the Chairman of CPR and as a distinguished member of the Council. The Council said that Mr. Durrani was man of tolerance, who chaired the CPR meetings in an excellent manner and will be remembered a great diplomat and Ambassador.

33. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan appreciated the words of thanks by the Council and reciprocated the same.

34. While appreciating the services of H.E. Mr. Asif Khan Durrani as a CPR Chairman, the ECO Secretary General said during his tenure the Organization achieved many important milestones in Summit, 22nd and 23rd COM Meeting as well as RPC Meetings. The Secretary General said that he is very grateful for his contribution. Moreover, he welcome the idea of having a farewell Lunch/Dinner in honour of H.E. Ambassador Durrani, the Secretariat will finalize the same and communicate the distinguished Ambassadors of the Member States accordingly.

35. The Council also expressed its appreciation for the excellent services rendered by Mr. Bahodur Rahmanov, Assistant Director (CFU), Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary and Mr. Amrio Boboev, Russian Translation to the Organization.

**Agenda Item No.7**

Date of the next CPR Meeting

36. The Council decided to convene its next (232<sup>nd</sup>) Meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 1000 hrs at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran.

37. While adjourning the meeting, the CPR Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of all ECO Member States for their participation and valuable contributions in the proceedings of CPR.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:**

- H.E. Dr. Nasser Ahmad Noor, Ambassador
- Mr. Sayed Nader Pajohesh, Second Secretary
- Ms. Zahra Badaghi, Administrative Assistant

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

- H.E. Mr. Huseynov Bunyad Samad Oghly, Ambassador
- Mr. Nariman Orudjaliyev, First Secretary

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

- H.E. Mr. Majid Bizmark, Permanent Representative/Director General
- Mr. Shahrokh Edrisabadi, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

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

- H.E. Mr. Baghdad Amreyev, Ambassador
- Mr. Ertas Biguzhanov, Second Secretary

**The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- Mr. Aziz Kurumbaev, Counsellor,

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

- H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Khan Durrani, Ambassador
- Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Second Secretary

**Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:**

- H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda, Ambassador
- Mr. Firdavs Yusupov, Second Secretary
- Mr. Mirzosharif Kabirov, Third Secretary

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

- H.E. Mr. Riza Hakan TEKİN, Ambassador
- Ms. Hatice ÖZDİL, Third Secretary

**The Embassy of Turkmenistan:**

- Mr. Islam Sakhatov, Third Secretary

**The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:**

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullaev, Ambassador
- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

**The ECO Secretariat:**

- H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akça, Secretary General
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Hadi Soleimanpur, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Bahodur Rahmonov, Assistant Director (CFU)
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Chaudhry Hadees Muhammad, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Ms. Nurgul Duissenova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, English-Persian Interpreter/Translator

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