

# Plan of Action on Health Cooperation in ECO Region 2019-2020

(To be submitted to the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health)

Draft: 8

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## 1. Introduction

The first meeting of the ECO Health Ministers, held on 4-5 February 2010 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, underlined the importance and the necessity of a Plan of Action to promote health cooperation among Member States through harmonized policies. The third High level Experts Group Meeting, held 21-22 January 2015 in Tehran, deliberated on a draft outline for Plan of Action as proposed by the host country (the Islamic Republic of Iran) and agreed to submit it to the meeting of ECO Health Ministers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Health Ministerial Meeting on 19 May 2015 on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva discussed the proposed text and adopted the Outline for ECO Plan of Action on Health Cooperation.

On the basis of the ministerial outline, Secretariat in cooperation with the current Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Iran (health authorities) developed the text of the draft plan of action. The text was then circulated among the Member States for their consideration and feedbacks.

The final draft of the plan of action was later submitted to the ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health, convened on 24 May 2016 in Geneva, on the sidelines of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Assembly. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the following Plan of Action on Health Cooperation in the ECO Region to be effective from 2016 to 2025. In order to achievement to real performance of determined activities the Plan of Action adopted form 2019 to 2020.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the Plan of Action is to pursue activities that would enhance joint cooperation among ECO Member States, in accordance with Treaty of Izmir, and in line with their bilateral and international agreements as well as national legislations. The Plan of Action is developed, in letter and spirit, in a way to reflect the emerging regional and global health-related circumstances; the global health agenda as illustrated in the SDGs, particularly Goal 3 and its targets; 2030 global development agenda; WHO agenda; and above all, the immediate needs and requirements of ECO Member States. The specific objectives to be followed in the Plan of Action are guided by major ECO health indicators, such as life expectancy, maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR), as well as socio-economic status of the Member States, which are considerably diverse. Considering the core mission of ECO as an economic development organization, and bearing in mind the importance of health for sustainable economic development, the Plan of Action should concentrate on different health dimensions.

The specific objectives of the Plan of Action are as follows:

- i) Translating SDGs into action as the Cornerstone of Sustainable Health Development,
- ii) Strengthening health system in the ECO Member States to achieve UHC,
- iii) Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the ECO Member States,
- iv) Communicable Diseases of Common Concerns i.e. TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, CCHF, Poli, MERS Disease,
- v) Health related aspects of **disasters and emergency** , preparedness, monitoring and surveillance.

### **3. Actions to be taken**

For realization of the objectives of this Plan of Action, the Member States agreed to give effect to the following actions. The actions, defined in line with nine specific objectives enumerated above, will be implemented in accordance with the arrangements described in the tables as well as in section 4 below. Each action will be supported by implementation modality indicating the envisaged activities, mode of activities, the lead country/body, and the timeframe. The review and monitoring process of each action will be worked out in collaboration between Lead Country, Secretariat and Advisory Group as explained in section 4 below.

### **4. Implementation, Follow-up and Review Mechanism**

- 4.1. In three months following the adoption of this Plan of Action, the ECO Secretariat will convene a high level working group (HLWG) to discuss implementation of the Plan of Action. The Meeting shall, among others, develop timetable for the activities envisaged under each Action, giving precedence to those of priority nature for the Region. The Meeting will also assign the lead country for each Action.
- 4.2. An advisory group of 4 relevant experts/officials will be established by the High Level Working Group referred to above from among the candidates nominated by the interested Member States. The terms of reference of the Advisory Group will be defined by the HLWG. This Advisory Group will, in collaboration with lead countries and the Secretariat, develop indicators/benchmarks for the periodic evaluation of the implementation of the Plan of Action in general and each Action in particular. The inputs from relevant partners, particularly WHO may be sought in this regard.
- 4.3. There should be annual review reports on the status of the implementation of the Plan of Action. The review reports, to be prepared jointly by the Advisory Group and the Secretariat, should be submitted for consideration to the annual meetings of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC).
- 4.4. There should be a mid-term review for the Plan of Action, preferably done by the ECO Ministerial meeting in the fifth year of the implementation of the Plan of Action. The mid-term review is meant to allow necessary adjustments in the Plan of Action in the light of emerging regional and global situations, based on the recommendations made by the Advisory Group and Secretariat.
- 4.5. Secretariat will facilitate work of the advisory group, including its physical and virtual meetings. The CPR will be requested to allocate necessary financial resources from the FGPF and SSF.

**Action 1. Translating SDGs into action as the Cornerstone of Sustainable Health Development**

| No. | Project/Activity/Intervention   | Modes of Activity   | Suggested Lead Country           | Time Table | Priority/ Notes |
|-----|---|---|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1   | Strengthening Leadership and Accountability for Health                              | 1) Inter-country meeting  | - Pakistan<br>- Kazakhstan       | TBD        |                 |
|     |   | 2) Executive courses for Leadership Education through collaboration with Member States  | - Iran<br>- Turkey               | Q4 2019    |                 |
| 2   | South- south collaboration within ECO member state to Ensure Achieving SDGs by 2030 | - Inter-country meeting for sharing experience and best practices<br>- Facilitate exchange of experience through establishment of a website accessibility for member states | - Pakistan<br>- Iran<br>- Turkey | TBD        |                 |

**Action 2. Strengthening health system in the ECO Member States to achieve UHC**

| No. | Project/Activity/Intervention  | Modes of Activity  | Suggested Lead Country                            | Time Table | Priority/Notes |
|-----|--|--|---|------------|----------------|
| 1   | Facilitating collaboration in <b>UHC</b> research  | 1) Joint Research & Publication  | - Turkey<br>- Kazakhstan                          | TBD        |                |
|     |  | 2) Establishment of platform for networking  | Iran  | Q3 2019    |                |
| 2   | Sharing best practices and collaboration in building resilient <b>Health Systems Strategy</b> in ECO Member States   | -Inter-country Meeting<br>-Short-term consultancy  | - Pakistan<br>- Kazakhstan<br>- Afghanistan       | TBD        |                |
| 3   | Sharing best practices and collaboration in <b>Health Insurance System</b> , in service training of health professionals based on self-assessed needs of ECO Member States | -Short Training Course<br>-Inter-country Meeting   | - Iran<br>- Turkey                                | Q1 2020    |                |
| 4   | Sharing experiences and best practices among ECO Member States to improve <b>Health Information Systems</b> in accordance with the international standards                 | - Short Training Course<br>- Inter-country meeting for sharing experience and best practices<br>- Group-based Problem Solving and Decision | - Turkey<br>- Iran<br>-Tajikistan<br>- Kyrgyzstan | TBD        |                |

### Action 3. Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the ECO Member States

| No. | Project/Activity/Intervention  | Modes of Activity  | Suggested Lead Country              | Time Table         | Priority/Notes |
|-----|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1   | Supporting ECO Member States in operation of Framework Action for <b>Prevention and Control of NCDs</b>  | -Workshop<br>-Short-term consultancy                     | -Iran<br>-Turkey                    | Q4 2019            |                |
| 2   | Supporting ECO Member States in preparation of national roadmaps and action plans for adoption and implementation of global frameworks, including indicators and set of voluntary global targets and actions to prevent and control NDCs (Health sectors and health related sectors) and health sector activities integration into UHC | -Inter-country Meeting<br>-Short-term Consultancy        | - Iran<br>- Turkey<br>- Azerbaijan  | TBD                |                |
| 3   | Supporting ECO Member States in collaboration for <b>Mental Health and FCTC</b>  | - Inter-country Meeting<br>- Inter-parliamentary meeting | - Afghanistan (MNTH)<br>Iran (FCTC) | Q2 2020<br>Q4 2019 |                |

**Action 4. Communicable Diseases of Common Concerns i.e. TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, CCHF, Poli, MERS Disease**

| No. | Project/Activity/Intervention   | Modes of Activity  | Suggested Lead Country                                | Time Table | Priority/ Notes |
|-----|---|--|---|------------|-----------------|
| 1   | Facilitating inter-country collaboration in prevention, surveillance, control, and management of communicable diseases according to <b>IHR: TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, CCHF, Polio, MERS, Hepatitis, waterborne and other communicable Diseases</b> | - Inter-country meeting (with a focus on Cross-border meeting)<br>-Short-term Consultancy  | - Azerbaijan<br>- Iran<br>- Pakistan<br>- Afghanistan | Q4 2019    |                 |
| 2   | ECO Member States' Collaboration on improvement of AMR surveillance system  | - Inter-country meeting on integrated people-centred health services to stop epidemics by 2025<br>- Developing and sharing guidelines for community engagement and empowerment | - Kyrgyzstan<br>- Iran<br>- Uzbekistan                | Q2 2020    |                 |

**Action 5. Health related aspects of disasters and emergency, preparedness, monitoring and surveillance**

| No. | Project/Activity/Intervention   | Modes of Activity  | Suggested Lead Country  | Time Table   | Priority/Notes |
|-----|---|--|---|--------------|----------------|
| 1   | Exploring options for collaboration and experience sharing among ECO Member States for development of standards, tools, indicators and best practices in health services in emergencies and disasters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inter-country meeting for sharing experience and best practices</li> <li>- Group-based problem solving meeting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Iran</li> <li>- Pakistan</li> <li>-Turkey</li> </ul> | TBD          |                |
| 2   | WHO-ECO Regional Meeting on Health in Emergencies and Disasters   | -Regional Meeting  | -Iran   | 18 June 2019 |                |