



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

## 14<sup>TH</sup> ECO SUMMIT (Virtual)

### Summary Record

**Annexure:**

- Annex-I: List of Participants  
Annex-II: Opening Remarks by the Chairman of Previous (13<sup>th</sup>) Summit  
Annex-III: Statement by the Chairman of 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit  
Annex-IV: Statement by the ECO Secretary General  
Annex-V: Statement by the new Chairman of ECO  
Annex-VI: Statements by the Heads of States/Governments  
Annex-VII: Statements by the Observers  
Annex-VIII: Conclusion of the Chairman

March 04, 2021

## Summary Record

The 14<sup>th</sup> Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held virtually on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 under the theme of “**Regional economic cooperation in the aftermath of COVID-19**”. The Meeting was attended by:

- 1) **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani,**  
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- 2) **H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev,**  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 3) **H.E. Dr. Hassan Rohani,**  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- 4) **H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev,**  
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 5) **H.E. Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov,**  
President of the Kyrgyz Republic
- 6) **H.E. Mr. Imran Khan,**  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 7) **H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon,**  
President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- 8) **H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan,**  
President of the Republic of Turkey
- 9) **H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,**  
President of Turkmenistan
- 10) **H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev,**  
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1. H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), along-with the relevant staff of ECO Secretariat and the Representatives of the ECO Observers also attended the Summit. *The list of participants is attached at Annex-I.*

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

#### Opening Ceremony

- Opening Remarks by the Chairman of the previous (13<sup>th</sup>) ECO Summit

2. H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan called the Meeting in order and made his opening statement. He thanked and

congratulated the Republic of Turkey for organizing the 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. Noting the regional and global health and economic consequences of COVID-19, he highlighted his five-point plan providing fiscal space to developing countries to deal with the adverse socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The Prime Minister of Pakistan also made six specific proposals to enhance the regional economic cooperation in the aftermath of COVID-19 emphasizing that it was essential to reject linking Islam with terrorism.

3. The Prime Minister underscored the need for close collaboration to enhance connectivity, trade linkages and energy flows within ECO region and proposed a mid-term review on progress of implementation of ECO Vision 2025. He stressed that the ECO, as envisaged in the Vision 2025, should engage dialogues with other regional and international organizations. H.E. Mr. Imran Khan noted that the ECO's vision for regional economic integration was an essential component of a strategy to transform the tension of geo-politics into the dividends of geo-economics. He further emphasized that peace in Afghanistan was curtail to the success of such physical integration in the ECO region. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to ECO, to the founding principles of the Izmir Treaty and to full implementation of ECO Vision 2025. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-II.*

- Election of the Chairman

4. As per ECO Rules of Procedure, H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan proposed the election of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey as the Chairman of the 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit.

5. H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, was unanimously elected to chair the 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. The Heads of States/Governments and ECO Observers congratulated H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his election as Chairman of the Summit.

- Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit - H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey

6. H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, in his statement, welcomed all the Heads of States/Governments and delegations of the ECO Observers as well as the ECO Secretary General. While expressing gratitude to H. E. Mr. Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, he extended his best wishes to H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan for Turkmenistan's success as the new ECO Chair. The President Erdogan emphasized the need of strong solidarity, regional and global cooperation for achieving the success against COVID-19. He underscored that the Republic of Turkey, during its Chairmanship, focused on strengthening the Organization and advancing regional cooperation.

7. President Erdogan reaffirming Turkey's commitment attached to the organization, stressed on the need for early implementation of ECOTA to achieve the US \$ 100 billion intra-trade target. Considering the importance of ECOBANK's institutional and financial capacity to meet the increasing needs of the Member States as well as financing the organization's projects, he encouraged the Member States to join the Bank. He also emphasized on an early implementation of ECO Vision 2025 and supported the establishment of ECO Vision Fund to be utilized for financing the relevant projects and programmes. He urged that the termination of the unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran and the return of all Parties to the JCOPA and re-assuming their obligations under the Plan, will contribute to the economic prosperity and stability of our region. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-III.*

- Statement by ECO Secretary General

8. H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, ECO Secretary General felicitated H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of the Republic of Turkey for organizing and chairing the 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit. He appreciated that the ECO turned to be a more project and result oriented Organization under the chairmanship of Turkey. He also expressed his gratitude to H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for country's excellent guidance of ECO since last Summit. The ECO Secretary General congratulated H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan over assuming the organization's Chairmanship for 2021.

9. The ECO Secretary General underlined the important activities of the Organization made during last year, referring steady progress in some priority areas including trade, transport, energy, tourism etc. He noted that during the Chairmanship of Tajikistan, the ECO finalized its reform process, increasing the sense ownership and partnership amongst all Member States. The ECO Secretary General while focusing on the importance of the implementation of ECOTA, he requested the Heads of States/Governments to mandate their Trade Ministers to be more flexible during their interaction in the next Trade Ministerial Meeting this year. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-IV.*

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

### Adoption of the Agenda

10. The 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit Meeting adopted the following agenda of the Summit:

- 1) **Opening Ceremony**
  - Welcome Remarks by the Chairman of the Previous (13<sup>th</sup>) ECO Summit
  - Election of the Chairman
  - Inaugural Statement by the Chairman of the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit
  - Statement by the Secretary General
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda
- 3) Statements by Heads of States/Governments

- 4) Statement by Observers and Special Invitees (if any)
- 5) Announcement of the opening of the Charter of the ECO Research Centre for signature
- 6) Any other business
- 7) Date and venue of the next Summit
- 8) Chairman conclusion and vote of thanks
- 9) Closing of the meeting

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

#### Statements by the Heads of States/Governments

11. H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan expressed his gratitude to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of the Republic of Turkey for organizing the event as well as for successful completion of the ECO's Chairmanship. He expressed Turkmenistan's intent, as new Chairman of ECO, to promote the culture of expanded multilateralism in the region at all level. He further expressed Turkmenistan's willingness to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit meeting at Ashgabat on November 28, 2021. *A copy of his statement is attached as Annex-V*

12. The Heads of State/Government/Delegations in their statements highlighted the key activities carried out in their national and regional level programmes within the ECO frameworks. They underscored the need for expansion of cooperation in various fields in line with ECO Vision 2025 and reaffirmed their support to the objectives and goals of the Organization for economic development, social welfare, peace and stability in the ECO Region. *Copies of their statements are attached Annex-VI.*

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

#### Statement by the Observers and Special Invitees

- Statement by the Observers

13. The President of the Turkish Cypriot State, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States and Secretary General of the Energy Charter Conference delivered their statements. *Copies of their statements are attached as Annex-VII.*

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

#### Announcement of the opening of the Charter of the ECO Research Centre for signature

14. The Summit observed the live signature ceremony of the Charter of ECO Research Centre held in Baku with the participation of relevant representatives of the Member States. As host of the Centre, the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed the charter, together with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Chair announced that the Charter would remain open for signature(s) by other interested Member States at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## **Agenda Item No.6**

### Any other business

15. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

## **Agenda Item No.7**

### Date and venue of the next Summit

16. The Summit welcomed the offer made by the H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan to host the 15<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Turkmenistan on November 28, 2021.

## **Agenda Item No.8**

### Chairman conclusion and vote of thanks

17. The Heads of State/Government expressed their profound gratitude to the President, the Government and the People of the Republic of Turkey for organizing the Summit. They also congratulated ECO Secretary General and ECO Secretariat staff on the efficient and successful preparations/organizations of the Summit. The Chair announced that instead of a joint declaration, the Republic of Turkey will issue a Chairman's conclusion in this regard. *Copy of Chairman's conclusion is attached at Annex-VIII.*

## **Agenda Item No.9**

### Closing of the Meeting

18. H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey thanked all the Heads of State/Governments and observers for attending the Summit and their valuable contributions. He also appreciated the ECO Secretary General and his team for assistance in preparation of relevant documents and coordination with all ECO Member States to successfully organize the event.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chairman's Conclusions**  
**Conclusions of the Turkish Chairmanship on the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit**  
**of Heads of State and Government of ECO countries,**  
**Ankara (Online), 4 March 2021**

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) came together upon my invitation at the 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit on 4 March 2021.

The meeting was attended by;

H.E. Mr. Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

H.E. Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic

H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan

H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan

H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The meeting was also attended by the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, observer state to ECO under the name "Turkish Cypriot State", H.E. Ersin Tatar as well as Secretary-General of the Turkic Council, H.E. Bagdat Amreyev and Secretary-General of the Energy Charter, H.E. Urban Rusnak from observer international organisations.

I thank the delegations for their kind participation and their valuable inputs to our deliberations on our main topic of discussion, "Regional Economic Cooperation in the Aftermath of COVID-19" in line with global priorities.

During the course of our deliberations:

We reaffirmed our commitment to the objectives the Organization was founded upon;

We referred to the strong cultural and historical ties among the ECO Member States and the geographical importance of the region in the world; we reiterated the key significance of ECO as one of the oldest cooperation organizations of the region;

We underscored our strong and shared will to further deepen our economic cooperation;

We reiterated our support to the principles and strategic objectives in sectoral cooperation areas in line with the ECO Vision-2025;

We referred to the role the ECO Trade and Development Bank could play in transforming ECO into a result and project-oriented Organization, and the key role of the implementation of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) in the economic integration of the region;

We assessed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of the region, recognizing the importance of cooperation, solidarity and multilateralism in alleviating the adverse socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, we called for a more coordinated response and concerted joint efforts;

In addition to the steps we have taken to strengthen and invigorate our Organization, we exchanged views on how to strengthen our preparedness and existing tools and modalities for a more resilient Organization;

Recognizing the cooperation in the field of health among the countries of the region in items such as personal protective equipment and medicines, we emphasized that everyone should have affordable and equal access to vaccines as a global public good;

We expressed our determination to redouble our efforts to reach the level of economic cooperation we have been desiring since the establishment of the Organization;

We emphasized that increasing intra-regional trade and ensuring the uninterrupted and regular functioning of the transportation corridors in the east-west and north-south directions, especially railway lines, will also accelerate emergence from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

In light of the rich natural and cultural assets of the ECO region and the friendly relations between our peoples, we noted our will to develop mutual tourism as a component of sustainable development and the driving force of recovery efforts;

We highlighted the importance of ECO projects in the fields of environment, energy, industry, communication, agriculture and food security for sustainable development in the region;

We highlighted that ECO should continue to embrace peace and stability as essential conduit for sustainable development;

In this respect, we agreed that ECO countries should also work together to promote their common objectives in the United Nations and other international organizations and that they should be adequately represented in all international bodies, including in a reformed and enlarged United Nations Security Council.

In my capacity as the Chairman;

I thanked the Member States for their active participation and contributions to our joint work in line with the Turkish Chairmanship priorities.

Within the context of issues related to international peace and stability we discussed, I invited all our Members to develop their relations with their Turkish Cypriot brothers in every field and to help them overcome this unjust isolation they are subjected to;

On this occasion, I congratulated Azerbaijan's just struggle and victory, and expressed my conviction, as did some of my colleagues, that as ECO we will stand in full solidarity with Azerbaijan in order to assist the establishment of security and stability in Karabakh and to remedy the damage caused by the 30-year occupation, and expressed my hope that Armenia will be a part of regional stability through the peaceful steps it will take;



I stated that the lifting of all unilateral sanctions against Iran and the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by all its parties will have positive effects on the security, stability and prosperity of our region.

I pointed to the fact that a historical turn has been taken in ending the yearslong conflict and the establishment of peace.

I stated that the fight against terrorism and international cooperation on this issue maintain their importance under pandemic conditions; I noted our resolve to continue our fight against terrorist organizations such as DAESH, PKK / PYD / YPG and FETÖ in this period, as before the pandemic;

At the Summit, lastly;

We held the signing ceremony of the founding agreement of the ECO Research Center that will operate in Baku,

We expressed our appreciation to the ECO Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their contributions to the coordination of cooperation among the Member States,

We wished Turkmenistan success in its Chairmanship, effective as of 4 March 2021, and pledged our strongest support in the carrying out of this important responsibility,

We thanked Pakistan for its contributions during its 13th Summit Chairmanship,

We welcomed Turkmenistan's proposal to host the 15th ECO Summit in Ashgabat on 28 November 2021, and agreed to continue our consultations at the level of Leaders at the said Summit.

## Participants of 14<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit



**H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani**  
Honourable President of the Islamic  
Republic of Afghanistan



**H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev**  
Honourable President of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan



**H.E. Dr. Hassan Rohani**  
Honourable President of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran



**H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**  
Honourable President of the  
Republic of Kazakhstan



**H.E. Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov**  
Honourable President of the  
Kyrgyz Republic



**H.E. Mr. Imran Khan**  
Honourable Prime Minister of the  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan



**H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon**  
Honourable President of the  
Republic of Tajikistan



**H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan**  
Honourable President of the  
Republic of Turkey



**H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**  
Honourable President of  
Turkmenistan



**H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev**  
Honourable President of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan



**H.E. Mr. Ersin Tatar,**  
Honourable President of the Turkish  
Republic of Northern Cyprus  
(Observer)



**H.E. Mr. Baghdad Amreev**  
Honourable Secretary General of the  
Cooperation Council of Turkic  
Speaking States (Observer)



**H.E. Urban Rusnak**  
Honourable Secretary General of the  
Energy Charter Secretariat (Observer)



**H.E. Dr. Hadi Soliemanpour,**  
Honourable Secretary General of the  
Economic Cooperation Organization