

***Statement by Chairman of Mid-term RPC Meeting
H.E. Mr. Toyli Malikov, Deputy Minister of Finance and
Economy of Turkmenistan***

***Honourable Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation
Organization, H. E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour!
Distinguished Heads of delegations of ECO member states!
Dear ladies and gentlemen!***

First and foremost, allow me to welcome You all and to express my deep appreciation for the confidence that ECO member states have placed in me to preside over the Midterm meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC). It is an honour and a responsibility for me. I will try to serve Your high trust. THANK YOU.

I would like to stress out that activities within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has been developed intensively in recent years and has a positive impact on regional cooperation. Nevertheless, we have considerable potential, especially in economics, trade, transport, energy and investments areas that must be strengthened to accomplish the goals set out in ECO Vision 2025.

The ECO's consolidated role as a form of economic interaction among states, united geographically, historically, by traditional customs and values, provides a solid foundation for joint projects' implementation. This constitutes one of the tasks initiated by the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. **Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov**, while assuming the Presidency of ECO, simultaneously in the Council of Ministers, the Council of Permanent Representatives and the Regional Planning Council in early of March of this year. Sustaining high regional economic growth will enable the regional economy to recover from post COVID-19 pandemic consequences at the earliest possible time.

In this connection, we believe it is important to increase cooperation within the ECO in various sectors.

I would like to say a few words about the progress made in implementing the Work Programme and Calendar of Events 2021 of the

Economic Cooperation Organization. Turkmenistan has intensified its engagement in financial, transport and energy sectors' activities. The Transit Traffic Framework Agreement has been ratified. Preparations for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the railways of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran are under way.

Increasing cooperation level between ECO and authoritative international organizations, including with the United Nations, as well as promoting the consolidation of the efforts of the ECO member States and international organizations in resolving the pressing issues of multilateral cooperation plays undoubtedly the important role.

We consider the elaborating the ECO Energy Strategy for 2020-2030 as one of the key areas.

In general, we would like to note the systematic implementation of the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events 2021. I would particularly like to express my gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for its hard work in preparing the working papers, as well as for the organization of videoconferences.

Thanks for attention!
