

## Midterm Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)

### Progress Report on Implementation of Work Programme-2021

July 28, 2021

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
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A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT		
1.	<p>The Council profoundly appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for announcing to host <b>the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy</b> in 2021 to evaluate the economic situation in the region as a whole. The Council accordingly requested the Republic of Tajikistan to convey the mode of the meeting, date (s), venue, and details of hospitality to the Secretariat at the earliest convenience so that the same may be communicated to the esteemed Member States.</p> <p>The RPC also requested the Member States to confirm their participation for this important meeting, and convey the high level composition of delegations to the ECO Secretariat once the meeting is announced. The Council expressed its desire to make it successful with active participation of the Member States.</p>	<p>The 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance / Economy has been held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, preceded by the SOM Meeting. The Meeting was hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan in virtual mode and Seven ECO Member States participate in it. Ministers from Four ECO Member States joined the meeting and gave their statements. The President of ETDB and the Secretary General of ECO-CCI also participated. The ECO Secretary General headed the ECO Secretariat delegation. Republic of Azerbaijan volunteered to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance / Economy in 2022.</p>
2.	<p>The Council appreciated the project titled “<b>ECO Regional Payment System (ERPS) Feasibility Study Phase-I</b>” and recommended to be carried out in 2021 for enhancing monetary cooperation in the ECO region. The Council requested the Secretariat to circulate the outcomes of the study project among the Member States for their views and comments, by the end of first quarter of 2021.</p>	<p>The study has been completed successfully and the report of the Study has been shared with the ECO Member States vide N.V No. T&amp;I/ERPS/354 dated 30-3-2021.</p> <p>The 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance / Economy held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 has in its declaration; appreciated the study report on the project ‘in following words:</p> <p>‘<b>Stress</b> the need to augment trade facilitation by setting up Regional Payment System amongst selected commercial banks and financial institutions in the region’.</p> <p>As a way forward, the Member States will be</p>

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		requested in the 'Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Banking, Finance and ECU'; to nominate selected commercial banks to participate in the RPS.
3.	The Council requested the Member States to announce hosting of the <b>Experts Group Meeting on Banking and Financial Matters and Forming of ECO Clearing Union</b> at an early date. The Council requested that once the meeting is announced, the Member States may actively participate in the meeting to make it a success.	<p>The 'First Expert Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters and Forming ECU' was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021; hosted by the I.R of Iran virtually. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, , the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and ECO TDB. The ECO Secretariat was tasked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate with the esteemed Member States for holding the Meeting of the Expert's Working Group of Central banks on ECU;</li> <li>2. Designing/drafting a Road-Map and Action Plan for setting up the ECU in line with the agreed timelines by the Experts Working Group; and</li> <li>3. Convene the meeting of Banking Associations of the ECO Member States.</li> </ol> <p>The Report of the Meeting has been shared with the Member States vide N.V No. T&amp;I/2021/506 Dated 18-5-2021.</p> <p><u><b>In their comments on mid-term review of RPC, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized to hold the Expert's Working Group of Central banks on ECO Clearing Union (ECU) for drafting a Road-Map for setting up the ECU in line with the agreed timelines by the Experts Working.</b></u></p>

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		The Secretariat has requested Member States to share their nominations from their respective Central Banks to formulate the Working Group and schedule its meeting.
4.	In the wake of developments taken place at the global and regional level in the economic and trade spheres especially due to ongoing severe pandemic, the Council noted that it is imperative to hold <b>5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade</b> . The Council expressed its gratitude for the Republic of Turkey for continuing their commitment to hold this important event in the second half of 2021.	The Republic of Turkey volunteered to host the 5 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade in 2021. The Secretariat has requested the host to share the details of the schedule, mode etc. vide <u>Note Verbale No. T&amp;I/2021/618 dated June 9, 2021</u> .
5.	Recalling the relevant decision of the 24 <sup>th</sup> COM, the Council reaffirmed the commitment for implementation of the <b>ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)</b> for furtherance of the objective of regional integration through Free Trade Area as envisaged in ECO Vision 2025, and called upon the Contracting Parties to accelerate processes for its implementation as well as to devise mechanisms and solutions at the earliest convenience taking into account the concerns and views of the Contracting Parties for the maximal productivity of each of them. The Council recommended that other ECO Member States that are not a party to the ECOTA could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers. ECOTA	The Non-party ECO Members have been invited to join ECOTA after the recommendations of the study on ECOTA which elaborated the potential benefits they can accrue from trade liberalization under ECOTA with different scenarios for tariff reduction.
6.	The ECO Secretariat, during the 8 <sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting presented sectoral approach prepared by the Secretariat for views and comments of the Member States. The Member States were also requested to provide their considered views about ways and means for	The Islamic Republic of Pakistan volunteered to host the 9 <sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting in the second quarter of 2021 in virtual mode. The Secretariat has prepared and circulated draft agenda of the 9 <sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting and requested

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	<p>operationalization of ECOTA to be discussed in the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting. While the comments on sectoral approach proposed by the Secretariat are still awaited, three Member countries namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Republic of Tajikistan have shared their views and comments to operationalize ECOTA. The Council requested the remaining Member States to share their comments so that the Secretariat may circulate a Working Paper comprising comments of Contracting Parties and outcomes of the “Study on Impediments in Implementation of ECO’s Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve” before the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting. The Council agreed that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan may hold 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council virtually in April, 2021 before the Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade and all Contracting Parties should share their views in the first quarter of 2021. The Secretariat proposed to have nominations from the Contracting Parties, non-signatory members as well as observers for the meeting at an early date. The Council requested the Secretariat to follow up with the Member States for early nominations from the Contracting Parties.</p>	<p>I.R of Pakistan for sharing the schedule of the meeting. The Contracting parties and the ECO Member States have been requested to share suitable nominations. The Secretariat NVs <u>No. T&amp;I/2021/616 dated June 9, 2021, No. T&amp;I/9thECOTA-CC/2021/362 dated April 4, 2021 and No. T&amp;I/ECOTA/2020/539 dated November 4, 2020</u> are relevant.</p> <p>It is pertinent to mention that the following are wait from Member States:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Views/Comments from I.R of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey on ways and means to operationalize ECOTA.</li> <li>2. Suitable Nominations for 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting (except I.R of Afghanistan).</li> </ol> <p><b><u>In their comments on mid-term RPC, the Islamic Republic of Iran requested/proposed that:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Exact date and other arrangements of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council be determined and shared with the Member States.</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Also the private sector (ECO CCI) be involved and invited to the event for its comments and views.</u></b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>During the meeting of Mid- term review of RPC, the I.R of Pakistan has informed that the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting will be scheduled in the last quarter of 2021 in hybrid mode. The remaining Member States, except I.R of Afghanistan; have been requested to share their nominations for</u></b></p>

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		<u>the meeting</u>
7.	The Council appreciated the research study project launched by the Secretariat entitled <b>“Study on Impediments in Implementation of ECO’s Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve”</b> to identify scenarios for operationalization of ECOTA. The outcome of the study will be shared with the Member States and ECO-CCI for comments/views. The Secretariat requested the focal points on ECOTA from Member States to cooperate with the Specialist carrying out the Study on ECOTA, as their detail will be shared by the ECO Secretariat. The outcomes of the report will be discussed in the 9 <sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting for final decision.	It is worth mentioning that the report of study on ‘Impediments to the ECO Trade Agreement and Measures to Resolve’ has been shared with the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale <u>No. TI/2021/29 dated April 13, 2021.</u>  <u>During the Mid-term review Meeting of RPC, the Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the “Study on Impediments in Implementation of ECO’s Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve”</u>
8.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the Draft of <b>ECO Multi-Dimensional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region</b> to be revised and circulated among Member States for views/comments. It was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have conveyed their comments. The Council requested the other Member States to send their comments/views, before the forthcoming 5 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade.	The Comments from the Member States (except Afghanistan and Pakistan) are awaited. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan have conveyed their consent to the strategy. The views of the remaining Member States on draft strategy and latest trends in regional and international trade and investment are awaited. The Secretariat has requested the remaining Member States to share the same vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/ 5<sup>th</sup> MMCFT/RTS/745 dated 21-12-2020.</u>
9.	The <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the Joint Working Group for Preparation of the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement (ETFA)</b> was volunteered by the Republic of Turkey in 2020 but could not	The Secretariat has requested the Republic of Turkey to share the details of schedule of the <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the Joint Working Group for Preparation of the draft</b>

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	been held due to Covid-19 pandemic. This meeting has been postponed at least six times. The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey's commitment to this important area, and also welcomed its offer to host it in second quarter of 2021 in virtual mode.	<b>ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement (ETFA) vide</b> Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/2021/624 dated June 10, 2021.</u>
10.	The Secretariat also informed that as per decision of 28 <sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting, a comprehensive Paper/Strategy titled ' <b>Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy</b> ' prepared by the Republic of Turkey in 2017 was circulated amongst the Member States to obtain the respective views of their Trade, Transit and Customs authorities. The Strategy was again circulated in 2020 among the Member States for their comments/views. So far the I.R of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Uzbekistan have provided their views/comments. The Council requested the Member States to provide their views in the first quarter of 2021 so as to discuss it in the 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade</b> in the second half of 2021.	The Views of the Member States are awaited and the Secretariat has requested the Member States to furnish their comments on ' <b>Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy</b> ' vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/2021/198 dated 22-2-2021.</u>  <u>The Secretariat has also shared the draft text of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) with the Member States drafted by the Secretariat, through research study on Impediment in ECO Trade Agreement and Measures to Resolve'. The draft text of TFA has been shared vide Secretariat N.V No T&amp;I/2021/797 dated 28-7-2021 for seeking views/comments of the Member States.</u>
11.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for volunteering to host <b>the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration in April, 2021 in virtual mode</b> , and requested the Secretariat to circulate the three draft documents among Member States, so that the same could be endorsed in the Second meeting in the light of decisions of the First Meeting of the Experts of Tax Administration to be submitted to decision making organs of ECO for approval. The documents include;	Pakistan volunteered to host the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration in April, 2021</b> in the second quarter of 2021 in virtual mode. As requested by the Council the Secretariat has re-circulated the three documents, adopted in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/TA/2021/225 dated March 2, 2021.</u> The Islamic Republic of Iran has conveyed their comments on these documents which have been

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	<p>a) The Charter for Establishment of ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX);</p> <p>b) ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters; and,</p> <p>c) Agreement on the Exchange of Information in Tax Matters among ECO Member States.</p>	<p>shared with Member States vide NV No. T&amp;I/2<sup>nd</sup> META/792. The Secretariat has requested I.R of Pakistan for sharing the schedule of the meeting vide Note Verbale No. T&amp;I/TA/2021/225 dated March 2, 2021.</p> <p>The 5<sup>th</sup> MM E/F encouraged the Member States to sign and implement the three documents on Cooperation in Taxation Matters in the region for transparency and improving ease of doing business in the region.</p>
12.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for volunteering to host the <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in October, 2021</b>. The deliberations and decisions of the meetings will be submitted to the next ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy for decision/approval.</p>	<p>The Secretariat has requested Pakistan for sharing the schedule of the meeting vide Note Verbale No. T&amp;I/1stHCMSA/2021/625 dated June 10, 2021.</p> <p><b><u>The Representative from SECP, (Ministry of Finance) from I.R of Pakistan requested about formation of a Joint Working Group to prepare the agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Capital Market Supervisory Authorities</u></b>. The Secretariat informed that the 'draft agenda and draft annotated agenda has been prepared by the Secretariat, as per ECO Secretariat rules of conduct for the meetings. The drafts of agenda and annotated agenda have been shared with all the membership of the ECO for the views/comments to finalize the draft agenda'. The Secretariat requested the Member States to share their comments/proposals to finalize the agenda of the meeting. The representative of I.R of Pakistan agreed to the secretariat clarification.</p>
13.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that so far two ECO Member States namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran and</p>	<p>The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have ratified the "Agreement" along with</p>



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	<p>the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have ratified the <b><u>Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI )among ECO Member States</u></b> along with the Amendment Protocol and had deposited the Instrument of Ratification. It was shared that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has informed in November 2019 about completion of its ratification process; however, formality of deposit of Instrument of Ratification is yet to be completed. The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will deposit its Original Instrument of ratification to the Secretariat at an early date.</p> <p>Recalling that the APPI has been signed by five ECO Member States (namely, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey) and entry into force requires ratification by four Member States; a ratification of one more Member State will result in coming into force of this vital Agreement. With this in view, the Council called upon the Member States, which have signed the APPI, to complete the ratification procedures along with its Amendment Protocol at the earliest convenience for its early implementation.</p>	<p>the "Amendment Protocol".</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey have signed the "Agreement" along with the "Amendment Protocol".</p> <p>Republic of Azerbaijan has only signed the "Agreement".</p> <p>The APPI shall come into force after it is ratified by four signatory Member States.</p> <p><b><u>Dates on which the Countries signed and ratified:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b> (No.644/8-2656 dated June 6, 2010);</li> <li>2. <b>Islamic Republic of Pakistan</b> (ECO-1/5/2016/51 dated May 8, 2016);</li> <li>3. <b>Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</b> (No.2328-5 dated November 24, 2019).</li> </ol> <p>The Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Turkey as signatory states; have been requested to complete internal ratification procedure. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been requested to deposit the original copy of instrument of ratification with the Secretariat. The non-signatory states have been requested to sign the Agreement.</p> <p>The Secretariat Note Verbale No. <u>T&amp;I/APPI/2021/348 dated 24-3-2021 is relevant.</u></p> <p>During the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy the MS decided to urge the Member States to fulfill their commitments by signing/ratifying Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment</p>

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		(APPI) for early implementation to create conducive environment for trade-related investment and attract local and foreign investors in the region for socioeconomic development;
14.	The Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting the <b><u>Second Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum in 2021</u></b> and inform the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels. Considering the importance of investment promotion by and among the Member States of ECO Region, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to the Secretariat, cooperating with UNCTAD in preparing and publishing "The Investment Policy Review of the Member States of ECO Region". The Council recommended to the Secretariat to update the Investment Policy details from all the Members before initiating work on the proposal. Once the ECO Secretariat compiles the details on investment policies of ECO Region, collaboration with UNCTAD could be initiated /finalized.	The Secretariat has been pursuing with the Member States to volunteer to host the event vide Note Verbale No. T&I/28th RPC/2018/83 dated January 17, 2018. So far no request to volunteer has been received. The Secretariat has requested the Member States to share their Investment Policy Details on a questionnaire, prepared and shared by the Secretariat vide Note Verbale No. T&I/Investment policy/2021/389 dated April 11, 2021. However, response has been received from some Member States, so far.
15.	The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy in Tehran, the Republic of Tajikistan was designated as the coordinating country for ECO initiatives on investment. The Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting of the <b>4<sup>th</sup>ECO Investment Conference</b> and accordingly convey the date, venue and other details at the earliest convenience.	The Secretariat has shared the request to volunteer to host 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Investment Conference, but so far no response has been received. Secretariat's Note Verbale No. T&I/28th RPC/2018/84 dated January 17, 2018 is relevant.
16.	The Council recommended that the <b><u>ECO Special Business Forum</u></b> may be held physically after improvements in the pandemic situation. The Secretariat will communicate with	The situation of the Pandemic has been worsened in first and second quarter with some new travel restrictions imposed by the countries in the region. The

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	the Member States for hosting this Forum through diplomatic channels.	Secretariat will coordinate once the pandemic situation improves.
17.	The Council expressed its gratitude to the ECO-CCI for announcing to hold the <b>4<sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum in 2021 in Turkmenistan</b> , which could not be held in 2020 due to pandemic. The Council requested the Member States to encourage their National Chambers to actively participate, and make it successful, once the event is announced.	The Secretariat has requested Turkmenistan to share the schedule; venue and mode of the '4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum' vide Note Verbale <u>No.CFU/RPC/31<sup>st</sup> Meeting/2021/61 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</u>
18.	The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan volunteered to host <b>the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Fair in 2020</b> but the same could not be held due to pandemic. Accordingly, the Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting this important event in 2021 with participation of their National Chambers of Commerce and Industries. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to provide exact date of the meeting.	The Secretariat has requested I.R of Afghanistan to share the schedule; venue and mode of the '4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Fair' vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/2021/147 dated February 14, 2021.</u> The Afghanistan vide Note Verbale <u>No. 477-5 dated May 23, 2021</u> has informed that the event will be held in 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of August 2021 at Dura-ul-Aman <u>Palace</u> in Kabul.
19.	The Council also appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host <b>ECO Trade Exhibition namely "ECO-RAF" in 2021 in Yazd</b> . The Council also requested the Member States and their National Chambers of Commerce to actively participate in this event for promotion of trade and regional integration. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide exact date of the meeting.	The Secretariat has requested Iran to share the schedule; venue and mode of the 'ECO Trade Exhibition' namely 'ECO-RAF' vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/ETF/IRAN/2020/166 dated March 3, 2020. Response from I.R of Iran is awaited.</u>
20.	The Council appreciated the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to volunteer hosting of the <b>4<sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum in 2021 in virtual</b> mode. The Council requested the other Member States to ensure participation of their Trade Promotion	The Secretariat has requested Pakistan to share the schedule; venue and mode of the '4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Promotion Organization (ECO-TPOs) Forum in 2021' vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/4<sup>th</sup> ECO-TPO/2021/194 dated February 24, 2021.</u>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Organizations once the Forum is announced.	<u>The representative of the I.R of Pakistan informed the RPC's Mid-Term Review Meeting that the I.R of Pakistan will schedule the '4<sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum in 2021' in the last quarter of 2021.'</u>
21.	The Council noted that elimination of non-tariff barriers is imperative for increasing intra regional trade. With regard to this, it was further observed that promoting ECO Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of the Regional Quality Policy is essentially required. Hence, the Council requested the Secretariat to invite UNIDO, ECO Trade and Development Bank and IDB to provide financial and technical support in 2021 for the implementation of the fourth phase of the ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project. The Council also requested all the Member States to give their full support to the Secretariat in its endeavors for the implementation of the fourth phase of Project. The Secretariat informed the Council that the Secretariat is pursuing with UNIDO to implement the fourth phase of the project. However, response from the UNIDO is awaited regarding financial and administrative matters. The Council requested to follow-up the matter with the UNIDO.	The Secretariat is pursuing with UNIDO to support implementation of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Phase of the ECO-UNIDO TCBP. The Secretariat is also pursuing some other institutions like IsDB to get support for implementation of these projects.
22.	The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for holding the ECO CCI Extra Ordinary Meeting virtually on May 5, 2020 and the <b>28<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ECO-CCI</b> along with the six <b>Specialized Committees</b> and the ECO CCI Extra Ordinary Meeting in virtual mode on October 19, 2020. In 2021, upcoming 19 <sup>th</sup>	ECO-CCI Event, to be scheduled by ECO-CCI. The Secretariat will extend cooperation and participate in it. The calendar of event for 2021 has been shared with ECO-CCI to arrange the Meeting.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	General Assembly of the ECO-CCI, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture will take over chair of the ECO CCI Secretariat from the Union of the Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). The Council suggested that the Member Chambers start negotiating to establish the Permanent Secretariat of ECO-CCI. It was highlighted that regular holding of these events will produce conducive impact on trade in the region especially through active participation and vibrant role of national chambers.	
23.	The Council, while highlighting that so far six ECO Member States are the members of the WTO, requested a full ECO support for the remaining four ECO Member States to become members of the WTO through capacity building to align the trade policies and laws for regulatory reforms as per WTO requirements.	The Secretariat has requested the WTO Members to extend full support to non-WTO Members through capacity building to align the trade policies and laws for regulatory reforms as per WTO requirements. Secretariat has requested the Member States to share their request in this regard <u>Note Verbale No.CFU/RPC/31<sup>st</sup> Meeting/2021/61 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</u> <b><u>The representative of the I.R of Pakistan informed the RPC's Mid-Term Review Meeting that the I.R of Pakistan will schedule the 'Trade Policy Review Session' in the last quarter of 2021.</u></b>
24.	The Council requested the non-WTO ECO Member States to inform the ECO Secretariat if they are interested in any training workshop/seminar related to their accession to WTO, to explore possibility of holding it. The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for volunteering to host and organize the 5 <sup>th</sup> Seminar on Trading	The Secretariat has requested the non-WTO Members to share their interest for any training workshop/seminar related to their accession to WTO, to explore possibility of holding it. Vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/29th RPC/2019/81 dated November 24, 2019</u> and Note Verbale <u>No.CFU/RPC/31<sup>st</sup></u>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	patterns in ECO Region and Accession of ECO to WTO in 2021 and requested the ETDB to provide financial assistance for organizing the seminars in 2021. The Secretariat will follow up through diplomatic channels.	<u>Meeting/2021/61 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</u> <b><u>The representative of the I.R of Pakistan informed the RPC's Mid-Term Review Meeting that the I.R of Pakistan will schedule the 'Trade Policy Review Session' in the last quarter of 2021</u></b> The Secretariat has not received any request from the Non-WTO Member States.
25.	The Council appreciated the fresh offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the <b>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) in 2021</b> , and requested the Republic of Turkey to convey the mode, date and venue of the meetings. The Council also requested the Member States to actively participate in these meetings for sustainability of the benefits of previous meetings and realization of the related goals stipulated in the ECO Vision 2025.	The Secretariat has requested the Republic of Turkey to share the details of schedule of the <b>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) in 2021</b> vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/9thCHCA/2020/379 dated July 22, 2020.</u>
26.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for setting up <b>the ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank</b> under the <b>Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</b> . The Council requested the Member States to fully cooperate with the Republic of Turkey for full operationalization of this institutional mechanism aiming to increase the governmental revenues and requested the Member States to provide the details of the focal points to the relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey for early operationalization of the data bank. The Islamic Republic of Iran has informed that it has	The Data Bank has entered into force in December, 2017 to increase governmental revenues of the Member States by preventing pilferages. In order to make it operational, the Member States, signatory to the agreement; have been requested to kindly take the following actions: 1. The current Contracting Parties to the said agreement; namely, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey; have been requested to kindly register with the data bank.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	provided the details of their focal points and will share the same with the Secretariat.	<p>2. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been requested to kindly provide the particulars of their focal points to connect to the data bank.</p> <p>3. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been requested to kindly deposit the original version of the instrument of ratification with the ECO Secretariat.</p> <p>4. The Republic of Tajikistan, being the only remaining signatory of the Agreement awaiting ratification, has been requested to kindly share the instrument of ratification at the earliest.</p> <p>Moreover, the non-signatory Member States namely, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan; have been also requested to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement at their earliest convenience.</p> <p>The Secretariat Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/ESCODB/2020/669 dated December 1, 2020</u> is relevant</p>
27.	The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that so far, four Member States i.e. the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Turkey and lately the Republic of the Azerbaijan have already ratified the <b>Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</b> . <u>On 29th June a copy of Instrument of ratification by Afghanistan was sent to the Secretariat by the Note Verbale No.500-5 dated 29 June 2020.</u> The Council requested the remaining signatories to expedite ratification of the referred Agreement. The Council	<p>On signing and ratification of the <b>Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</b>, the Secretariat has requested:</p> <p>1. <u>Afghanistan to provide the Secretariat with the original copy of the Instrument of ratification.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Tajikistan as the signatory state to complete internal ratification process and deposit the Secretariat with the respective Instrument of ratification.</u></p> <p>3. <u>The non-signatory states, i.e. Kazakhstan,</u></p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	requested the non-signatory Member States to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement for benefitting from this arrangement.	<u>Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are also requested to take the required measures for signing the Agreement.</u>
28.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed that the draft text of the <b>Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters</b> was finalized in the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the <b>ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA)</b>. This adopted final draft text was circulated among the Member States for completion of formalities and internal governmental processes. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have completed their internal procedures.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States for early completion of their formalities and internal governmental processes. The draft Agreement will be submitted to the decision-making organs of the ECO for approval to be opened for signatures.</p>	<p>On signing and ratification of the <b>Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters</b>, the Secretariat has requested</p> <p>The remaining member States (except the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) to complete their internal formalities/ procedures vide Note Verbale <u>No.CFU/RPC/31<sup>st</sup> Meeting/2021/61 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</u></p> <p>The 5th MM F/E recommend the ECO Member States to sign and ratify the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters for greater trade facilitation and transparency.</p>
29.	<p>The Secretariat while recalling the <b>8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA)</b> in Islamabad in November 2017 informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered to support the capacity building activities of the Member States in Customs matters through a set of different trainings at the Customs Training Academy at Karachi. The Council welcomed the willingness and readiness of the Republic of Turkey to share its experiences on the themes such as Implementation of Common Transit Convention, e-TIR System, Simplified Procedures on Expedited Shipments, Customs Enforcement</p>	<p>The Secretariat has requested the Members States to share their training needs scheduling the training workshop/seminar in suitable mode vide Note Verbale <u>No.CFU/RPC/31<sup>st</sup> Meeting/2021/61 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</u></p> <p>The Secretariat has not received any request from the Non-WTO Member States.</p>



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	measures as well as Single Window System. Further, it was also suggested that the Member States may share their best practices in different thematic areas, and may communicate the proposed set of trainings with the ECO Secretariat. The Council requested the Member States, which have not provided yet the set of trainings to inform the Secretariat so as to conduct trainings on need basis.	
30.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for volunteering to host the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)</b> in second quarter of 2021, and hoped to continue its great work for developing the EDI system for the region. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to share the mode, date, venue and other hospitality details of the meeting at the earliest and requested the Member States to actively participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of EDI for development of the system as per its mandate. The Council decided to merge this meeting with the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on E-Trade Cooperation</b> to be held in Islamic Republic of Iran in 2021 largely on the pretext of similar/common agenda.	The Secretariat has requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to share the details of ' <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)</b> ' vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/2ndEDI/CHCA/2019/535 dated June 27, 2019</u> , but the same are awaited. The Secretariat will pursue the authorities in Iran after the presidential elections.
31.	The Council requested ETDB to initiate to arrange the first <b>Regional Partnership Forum (RPF)</b> in 2021 in coordination with ECO Secretariat, and called upon the Member States to encourage their relevant national institutions and organizations to actively participate in the subject Forum, once it is announced.	The Calendar of Events - 2021 has been shared with the ETDB for hosting the event. The Secretariat will assist the Bank.
32.	The Council encouraged the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) as the regional institution of ECO to continue to	The Calendar of Events - 2021 has been shared with the ETDB for hosting the event. The Secretariat will

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	fulfill to support the implementation of <b>regional projects</b> as per the development <b>mandate based on the Agreement of Establishment</b> ; the ETDB members to help maintain the operational effectiveness of the Bank, <b>and the ETDB's own decision making bodies to continuously monitor the business generation ability and sustainability of the Bank.</b>	assist the Bank. <b><u>The I.R of Iran, during the RPC Mid-Term Review, highlighted the need to augment the role of ETDB in the ECO Projects financing in the areas of trade and connectivity.</u></b>
33.	The council recalled the relevant decision of the 24 <sup>th</sup> COM, the 30 <sup>th</sup> RPC assigned the ECO Secretariat the task to develop the Structure and Modalities of the ECO Vision Fund provided under ECO Vision 2025 and, if appropriate, collaborate with ECO Trade and Development Bank, and other relevant institutions. The Secretariat informed that a TOR has been prepared and shared with ETDB to initiate a consultancy to develop the Structure and Modalities of the ECO Vision Fund provided under ECO Vision 2025. The Republic of Turkey has informed that considering the extraordinary conditions created by the pandemic no healthy outcome would be expected from the necessary market survey and accessing and operationalizing the fund seems unlikely due to budgetary restrictions as all Member States are combating the pandemic. Therefore, such a consultancy under the exigencies of Covid-19 is not considered appropriate.	The Secretariat has completed the TORs for the study, got the comments from ETDB and after incorporating the amendments suggested by the Bank sharing the same with the bank. The process for recruitment of the specialist will be initiated to start the study.
34.	The Secretariat, informed that in order to meet the targets set in ECO Vision 2025, it is important to finalize the modalities for ECO Vision Fund through a study. So far the contribution of the ECO Vision Fund, as given in the ECO Vision Fund document is on voluntarily basis, due to which it does not	As above.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>work so far. If the ECO Vision fund is not made operational at an early date, it may become difficult to meet the targets set in the ECO Vision 2025. So the Secretariat proposed a Two-Phased approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Study Phase.</li> <li>2. The Implementation Phase</li> </ol> <p>The Council, taking note of the objection raised by the Republic of Turkey and the recommendations' made by the ECO Secretariat recommended that the Secretariat may follow-up with the study phase and share the outcomes of the study with the Member States for comments.</p>	
35.	<p>The Secretariat informed that the nominations for the General Assembly of the <b>ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC)</b> stands completed. Insurance and Private Pension Regulation and Supervision Agency of Turkey informed the Council that Turkey is going to notify new representatives for the General Assembly and the Board instead of those who were nominated in 2018. The Secretariat further shared that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had informed that prior to holding the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of ERC, it is imperative that the required ground work and completion of formalities, including release/transfer of paid-in capital of ECO-ERC is required, to make it more successful and result-oriented. It was further shared that response from the Contracting Parties regarding release of paid-in capital or decision thereon is awaited. The Council requested the Contracting Parties to decide on release on paid-in capital to proceed on operationalization of the ECO Reinsurance Company. Islamic Republic of Iran was</p>	<p>The Islamic Republic of Iran has informed its readiness to release its share in paid-in capital of the ERC vide Note Verbale <u>No. 531/362/722705 dated March 13, 2021</u>.</p> <p>The Secretariat has shared, the information provided by Iran, with the other two contracting parties i.e. I.R of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey and requested them to take further action to make ERC Operational, without delay vide Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/ECO-ERC/2021/363 dated April 4, 2021</u>.</p> <p>The 5th MM F/E emphasized the Contracting Parties to ECO Re-Insurance Company (ERC) to operationalize ERC to compliment the investment conducive environment by building confidence of the traders and investors on the prospects of secure trade in the region and encourage other Member States to join ERC.</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	further requested by the Council to provide requisite information in this regard, at the earliest. The Islamic of Iran agreed to provide the requisite information, enabling Islamic Republic of Pakistan to hold the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of ERC.	
36.	The Council also invited the remaining Member States to consider joining this important ECO institutional arrangement i.e. the ECO Reinsurance Company in order to utilize its immense potential and role in furtherance of businesses and economic activities in the region.	As above
37.	The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that <b>Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen</b> and the <b>Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States</b> has been signed by three Member States namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, however, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has also ratified the Agreement. The Council requested the Member States, which have not signed or ratified these legal texts, to sign/ratify for early implementation of the Agreement and complementing trade facilitation measures in the region.	<p>So far, 7 Member States have signed the 'Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen' whilst only 5 Member States have ratified it.</p> <p>So far, only 3 Member States signed Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States and only one Member State has ratified it.</p> <p>The 5th MM F/E propounded the Member States to consider signing, ratification and implementation the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the ECO Member for promotion of trade and investment and creating greater collaboration among the business communities of the region.</p>
38.	The <b>First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange</b>	The Secretariat has shared the request to volunteer to

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>of ECO Member States has been scheduled and postponed a number of times, latest being on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 in Tehran. The Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting this meeting in 2021.</p>	<p>host <b>First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States</b>, but so far no response has been received. Secretariat Note Vernal No. T&amp;I/HCE/2018/550 dated April 29, 2018 is relevant.</p> <p><u>The Islamic Republic of Iran has shared the following views/comments during the Mid-Term Review of RPC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>The First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States, would be held on virtual basis by the ECO secretariat.</u></li> <li>2. <u>Inclusion of the issue of the bartering mechanism among the member states on the agenda of the said meeting in order to overcome the banking and money transfer issues in the region.</u></li> </ol> <p>The Secretariat is seeking nominations from the Member States to host the meeting virtually.</p>
39.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the "<b>ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</b>" is available on the main ECO Web-Site with the following address: <u>"<a href="http://www.eco.int/trade">www.eco.int/trade</a>".</u></p> <p>The Secretariat further informed the Council that upon the request of the Secretariat, the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) had circulated among the National Chambers of Commerce of the Member States to provide detailed information about importers and exporters in the</p>	<p>The Secretariat has shared the request to detailed information about importers and exporters in the ECO Region, but so far no response has been received. Secretariat Note Vernal No. T&amp;I/28thRPC/2018/1048 dated September 13, 2018 and the Note Verbale No.CFU/RPC/31<sup>st</sup> Meeting/2021/61 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 are relevant.</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	ECO Region. So far the Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan have conveyed information to the Secretariat in this regard. The Council requested other Member States to share the information through National Chambers at the earliest.	
40.	The Secretariat suggested that for the <b>ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</b> , the Secretariat may work with the Member States and their national chambers to make the portal more productive and beneficial for the Member States. The Secretariat also proposed regular update of the relevant information of focal points on the web portal. The Council appreciated the suggestion of the Secretariat and called upon the Member States to designate their Focal Points in the areas of Trade, Investment, Customs, Trade Facilitation, WTO, Tax, Banking, Capital Markets, E-Trade and Visa, and provide their updated contact details to be placed in section for trade and investment of the ECO-Website.	The Secretariat has shared the request to regularly update of the relevant information of focal points on the web portal, to designate their Focal Points in the areas of Trade, Investment, Customs, Trade Facilitation, WTO, Tax, Banking, Capital Markets, E-Trade and Visa, and provide updated contact details to be placed in section for trade & investment of the ECO-Website. However, no response has been received. Secretariat Note Verbal No. T&I/28thRPC/2018/554 dated April 29, 2018 and Note Verbale No.CFU/RPC/31 <sup>st</sup> Meeting/2021/61 dated 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 are relevant.
41.	The Council appreciated the project titled ' <b>Strengthening Cooperation amongst Public and Private Sectors in the ECO Region</b> ' and considered it useful in furtherance of trade and investment in the region and in line with the ECO Vision-2025.	Under the Project ' <b>Strengthening Cooperation amongst Public and Private Sectors in the ECO Region</b> ' the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum was scheduled on the sidelines of ECO Summit which was held in virtual mode. It is suggested that the project may be deleted from the Work Programme 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions on in-person participation. It may be reconsidered as a new project with wider scope in 2022, as proposed by the Secretariat to Project Monitoring Group.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
42.	The Council appreciated the project titled ' <b>Study on Impediments in Issuance of 'ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region'</b> for greater collaboration between the Business community in the ECO Region' and encouraged the Member States and ECO-CCI to collaborate for its implementation.	The Secretariat has proposed to the Project Monitoring Group to expand the scope of the project and include it in the list of new projects. The scope of the project can be extended to the visa stickers for businessmen.
43.	The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Iran for virtually hosting the <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Development Funds of the ECO Member States</b> on 16 December 2020 and appreciated the project titled ' <b>Study on preparation of the Road Map for Formulating a Comprehensive Plan among the Sovereign and National Development Funds of the Member States'</b> and requested the Secretariat to follow-up for conducting the study and share the outcome of the study with the Member States for their views and comments. The Council requested the Member States to implement the decisions of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Development Funds of the ECO Member States.	The Secretariat has worked in collaboration with the Iranian authorities to prepare a 'Concept Paper' on proposed comprehensive plan for networking amongst SW/NDFs of ECO Member States. The TORs for the project titled ' <b>Study on preparation of the Road Map for Formulating a Comprehensive Plan among the Sovereign and National Development Funds of the Member States'</b> will be prepared after the work is completed <b>on Concept Paper.</b>
44.	The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Iran for virtually hosting <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Economic Zone of the ECO Member States</b> on 7 January, 2021 and appreciated the project titled ' <b>Study on preparation of the guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones (SEZs/FTZs)in the ECO Member States</b> and requested the Secretariat to follow-up for conducting the study and share the outcome of the study with the Member States for their	The detailed TORs for ' <b>Study on preparation of the guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones (SEZs/FTZs)in the ECO Member States'</b> have been prepared and the Project Management Section has been tasked to hire the services of a Specialist as per rules.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	views and comments. The Council requested the Member States to implement the decisions of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States.	
45.	The Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Development Funds of the ECO Member States and Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on NDFs of the ECO Member States in 2021.</b>	The Secretariat has shared the request to volunteer to host <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Development Funds of the ECO Member States and Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on NDFs of the ECO Member States in 2021</b> but so far no response has been received. Secretariat Note Verbale <u>No. T&amp;I/NDF/2021/195 dated February 24, 2021</u> is relevant.
46.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for proposing to host the <b>Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SEZs and the Second Meeting of the Heads of SEZs of the ECO Member States</b> in 2021 and requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to convey the exact dates, venue and mode of the meetings to the Secretariat and asked the Member States to actively participate in these meetings.	The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan volunteered to host the <b>Second Meeting of the Heads of SEZs of the ECO Member States</b> and the <b>Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SEZs</b> in 2021. The Secretariat has requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to share the details of the schedule of these meetings vide Note Verbal <u>No. T&amp;I/2021/447 dated April 29, 2021</u> . The I.R of Afghanistan has scheduled the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of SEZs of the ECO Member States 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021, in virtual mode. The 5th MM F/E called upon to support the initiative of establishing a network among selected SEZs of the ECO Member States to develop and open and enabling environment for free flow of goods and capital aimed at trade diversification and competitiveness leading to creation of Regional Value Chains (RVCs), their connection to Global Value Chains (GVCs) which will foster technology transfer, skill development, job



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
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		creation and poverty alleviation in the region.
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## B. SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

1.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to implement the provisions of the Declaration adopted by the ECO Virtual Transport Ministerial Meeting, held on 15 December 2020.	So far Republic of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyz Republic have submitted focal points in this regard.
2.	Proposal from Iran: In view of importance of the ECO rail and road corridors for the economic growth of the enroute countries and for the ECO intra-regional trade and connectivity, the Mid-term review Council meeting included in its 2021 Work Programme and mandated the Secretariat to develop appropriate model(s) for an “ECO Corridor Management Authority” to be approved and customized for ECO operational ECO corridors (rail, road, sea, multimodal), individually or collectively. The envisioned “Authority” will (with prior consent of the enroute countries) develop, enforce and administer the regulatory frameworks and standard operating procedures across the corridors. The Council also requested CPR/COM to allocate necessary funds in this regard.	

## I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: TTFA

### Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)

3.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to fully implement the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), and fulfill their commitments as per the provisions of TTFA.	
4.	The <b>Council</b> requested Turkmenistan to deposit its	The Secretariat has followed up this issue and

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	“Instruments of Ratification of TTFA” at ECO Secretariat and the Republic of Uzbekistan to consider acceding to the TTFA as soon as possible and periodically inform the Member States about its efforts towards accession to TTFA.	requested the Republic of Uzbekistan for accession to the TTFA vide note verbal no. 75 dated 28.01.2021
5.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to convey to the Secretariat the proposed dates and other particulars of the 10 <sup>th</sup> TTCC virtual Meeting in first quarter of 2021 and before next Transport Ministerial Meeting.	The said meetings are expected to be held in last week of September 2021. The issue has followed up vide note verbale no. 83 dt Feb 01, 2021 and NV no. 640 dt 16 June 2021.
6.	The <b>Council</b> requested interested Member states to consider hosting the 10th Meeting of Road Committee of TTCC and the 7th Meeting of the Customs Transit Committee of TTCC separately in first half of 2021 in virtual mode.	The Secretariat requested the Member States to provide their willingness to organize 10 <sup>th</sup> Road Committee meeting and 7 <sup>th</sup> customs transit committee meetings vide note verbal no. 84 dated Feb 1, 2021. Since no willingness has been received from the MS, the Secretariat is organizing the said meetings virtually on August 10 and 17 2021, respectively and nomination has been sought vide note verbale no. 645 dt 16/6/2021.
7.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to provide their updated information on the ECO Railway and Road Maps to the Secretariat. The <b>Council</b> further requested the Secretariat to publish updated ECO Railway and Road Maps at the earliest.	The information related to updated ECO Railway and Road maps has been received from the I.R. of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran and Kyrgyz Republic. The issues has been followed up with rest member states vide note verbale 570 dt 1/6/2021
8.	The <b>Council</b> requested the TTCC to consider the proposals of the Member States on the expansion of ECO transport Railway and Road routes as well as the proposals for readjusting the current routes and report the results to the next Transport Ministerial Meeting.	This issue shall be discussed in the next TTCC Meeting to be held in September 2021.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
9.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the meeting of the Insurance Committee of TTCC in July 2021 and requested the Secretariat to coordinate the particulars of the meeting with Member States.	The Islamic Republic of Iran has been requested to provide the exact dates and other details of the meetings vide note verbal nos. 83 dt 1/2/2021 and 642 dt 16/6/2021. Response is still awaited.  <b>Proposal from Iran:</b> Regarding Paragraph8, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes one of the dates of October 19 or October 20, 2021 for holding the meeting of the Insurance Committee of TTCC.
10.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Republic of Turkey to provide to the Secretariat with the proposed dates and other details of the Transport Ministerial Meeting in 2021.	This issues have been followed up vide note verbale no. 89 dt 2/2/2021 and NV no. 591 dt 6/6/2021. Response is still awaited.
<b>II. RAILWAY TRANSPORT</b>		
11.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the Secretariat the proposed dates and other particulars of the 15th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities and the preceding 9th Meeting of the Railway Committee of the TTCC in 2021.	The Islamic Republic of Iran has been requested to provide the exact dates and other details of the meetings vide note verbal nos. 83 dt 1/2/2021 and 642 dt 16/6/2021. Response is still awaited. However, Iran has proposed the Secretariat to organize the Meeting virtually. The meeting will be organized probably in August or early September 2021.
<b>Area Priority No. 1: Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI Railway)</b>		
12.	The <b>Council</b> recommended that MoU, Common Corridor Management Mechanism (CMM) and Marketing and Implementation Plan, prepared under the project for commercialization of KTI Railway, be executed and requested	The said MoU has been finalized in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> KTI virtual meeting held on 20 April 2021. The MoU will be signed in a Signing Ceremony scheduled to be held on July/August 2021 in Ashgabat. The matter has been

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	the en-route KTI Member States to expedite signing the MoU to facilitate the establishment of the permanent working group on KTI railway (PWG-KTI) for coordinated and sustained cooperation on the commercialization of KTI corridor and to convene its 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting in 2021.	followed up vide note verbale no. 612 dt 9/6/2021. Turkmenistan has proposed some amendments to the MoU despite finalization of the negotiations on 20 Apr 2021. The amendments are circulated to Iran and Kazakhstan for their view.
13.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to conduct a small sized study project on “Development of economic corridor along ECO KTI Railway Corridor” in 2021 and recruit a specialist for implementation of the said Study Project in the first half of 2021.	The ToR for this project proposal is prepared and posted on ECO website for procurement of consultant to conduct the project.
<b>Area priority No. 2: The Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Train</b>		
14.	The <b>Council</b> while noting the proposal of the Republic of Turkey on the naming of the Train, decided that it will hereafter be referred to as the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) Cargo Train.	
15.	The <b>Council</b> noted the Secretariat’s updates on the decisions of the 11th High Level Working Group Meeting on the ITI Cargo Train, held virtually on 27 October 2020, requested the en-route Member States to commit themselves to the resumption of the Train’s regular operations in January 2021 and publicize the regular operation of the Train among the business community.	So far Pakistan has appointed two forwarders to operate on the route. (Harun Brothers and Maxtelz)
16.	The <b>Council</b> requested the ITI en-route countries (except for the Republic of Turkey) to provide the Secretariat with the particulars of their focal points, (one operations and one on freight) for necessary coordination for operationalization of the	The Secretariat has created a social media group to coordinate with the focal points.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Train.	
17.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to secure the provision of necessary wagons at Zahedan on time provided that cargo type, quantity, weight and wagon information be provided to the Pakistan Ministry of Railways one week ahead.	
18.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 12 <sup>th</sup> ITI HLWG meeting and instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate the relevant particulars of the Meeting with the host country and other en-route Member States.	The Secretariat is following up the operationalization of the Corridor through the focal points.
19.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Republic of Pakistan to provide the Secretariat, with periodically progress reports on the construction of the Zahedan - Mirjaveh standard railway track and the rehabilitation of Quetta-Taftan segment of the railway track, respectively.	Iran and the Pakistan has been requested to provide the progress reports vide note verbal no. 108 dt 4/2/2021 and followed up the matter vide note verbale no. 613 dt 9/6/2021.
20.	The <b>Council</b> mandated the ECO Secretariat to initiate a small sized study project on “Needs-based financial and technical assessment for installing the transshipment facilities, instruments and tools in Taftan railway station”, and recruit a specialist for implementation of the said Study Project in the first half of 2021.	The ToR for this project proposal is prepared and posted on ECO website for procurement of consultant to conduct the project.
21.	The <b>Council</b> requested the ITI en-route countries to consider inviting other interested ECO Member States to join the ITI Road and Railway corridor. The <b>Council</b> further encouraged the interested Member States to convey their willingness for	The other Member States were requested to provide their willingness to join the ITI road and railway corridor vide note verbal no. 112 dt 4/2/2021 and follow up note verbale no. 614 dt 9/6/2021

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	joining the Corridors to the ECO Secretariat through official channels.	
<b>Area Priority No. 3: ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty And Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes</b>		
22.	The <b>Council</b> considered the project titled: “ECO Container Train operationalization on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty” as completed. However, the Routes still will remain as the ECO's main railway routes as stipulated in the ECO Railway Network Development Plan.	
23.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to finalize the necessary arrangements for the new joint ECO-UNECE-IsDB project on the “Application of Unified Railway Law in the Routes” and circulate the formal project proposal among the Member States.	The project proposal is in final stages of preparation and will be circulated soon to the Member States.
24.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to coordinate the organization of the 2nd HLWG Meeting in 2021 to discuss the suggestions of the en-route countries and new initiatives for further improvement of the routes.	The en-route Member States were requested to consider hosting of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> HLWG meeting vide note no. 90 dt 2/2/2021. The matter has been followed up vide note verbale no. 604 dt 8/6/2021.
25.	The <b>Council</b> noted the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to launch a scheduled train along the Routes and requested the 2 <sup>nd</sup> HLWG Meeting to consider the Proposal and the movement of Iranian wagons within the CIS railway network and report to the upcoming RPC meeting.	The Republic of Kazakhstan provide their position regarding the said railway route and the information was circulated among the en-route member states vide note verbale no. 350 dt 28/3/2021.
<b>Area priority No. 4: Railway Project for the Connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)</b>		
26.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the efforts and contributions of the Islamic Republic of Iran for completion of the construction of	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	the Khaf (Iran) - Shamtiq - Rozanak (Afghanistan) railway segment of KTAI Railway in December 2020, requested en-route Member States to complete construction of the remaining missing portions within their territories. The en-route Member States confirmed their commitment to construct the KTAI railway align with the 1435mm standard gauge size, based on the Protocol agreed and signed among the en-route KTAI Member States, in 2015 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.	
27.	The Council requested the KTAI en-route member states to regularly provide the Secretariat with the updated information regarding the progress on the construction of the KTAI Railway missing links within their territories.	The Islamic Republic of Iran and Kyrgyz Republic provided the updated information regarding missing links, in response to secretariat's note verbal no. 27 dt 3/2/2021. The remaining en-route member states were again requested to provide the progress report on the construction of the railway missing links via note verbal no. 608 dt 8/6/2021.
28.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the Ministerial Meeting and the preceding High Level Expert Group Meeting on KTAI Railway route via virtual means in 2021 and provide the Secretariat with the proposed dates and other details.	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held on September 1, 2021 preceded by the High Level Expert Group meeting. The matter is followed by the note verbale nos. 101 dt 3/2/2021, NV 423 dt 22/4/2021 and NV 648/16/6/2021. The HLEG is proposed to be held one week ahead of the Ministerial Meeting by Afghanistan. However, The Secretariat has not received any feedback from Afghanistan as of 27 June 2021.
29.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to consider convening the International Fund Raising Conference for attraction of possible investors for the construction of the KTAI railway missing links within the territory of the Islamic	The matter was followed up with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan vide note verbal no. 98 dt 3/2/2021. The issue has been referred to be followed up under the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan in the JPC

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Republic of Afghanistan.	and EAPA Section.
30.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to consider re-structuring the KTAI Railway project into separate but easily workable segments, and provide the Secretariat with their suggestions in this regard.	This issue has been taken up with the en-route member states and was requested to provide their suggestions vide note verbal no. 105 dt 4/2/2021.
31.	The <b>Council</b> requested the TTCC to consider the possibilities of adjusting the KTAI Railway route and report to the upcoming Transport Ministerial Meeting.	The issue will be placed as Agenda of the next TTCC (railway Committee)
32.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to re-approach the Peoples Republic of China for further involvement in and development of the KTAI Railway Corridor.	The issue will be raised in the next KTAI Ministerial Meeting on 1 September 2021. China may be invited to the Meeting.
<b>Area Priority No. 5: Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Railway Route</b>		
33.	The <b>Council</b> , while expressing its appreciation for progress on the construction of different segments of Qazvin - Rasht - Astara (Iran) - Astara (Azerbaijan) railway in 2019 and 2020, requested the Secretariat to negotiate with ECO international partners, including inter alia, UNESCAP, and IsDB the possibilities to commence a new study project for commercialization of the Route.	The issue is under process of preparation of Project Proposal in the ECO Secretariat.
34.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 6 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) in 2021 and provide the Secretariat with the proposed dates and other details.	The subject meeting has been postponed on the request of Republic of Azerbaijan. The concerned authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan will communicate dates and other details of the meeting. The matter has been followed up.



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
<b>III. ROAD TRANSPORT</b> <b>Area priority No.1: ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Routes</b>		
35.	The <b>Council</b> acknowledged the Secretariat's update on the completion of the Study project on ITI and KTAI road corridors in 2020 and requested the en-route Member States to consider expediting the implementation of the Action Plan approved by the 4th and 5th HLWGMs on KTAI and ITI road corridors.	
36.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to further cooperate with IRU and UNECE for promoting and implementing e-TIR transport operations in ECO Region.	Cooperation with IRU and UNECE is underway.
37.	The <b>Council</b> requested en-route Member States to consider joining and implementing the digitization of transport documents (eTIR and eCMR) within their territories and further requested the Secretariat to coordinate with UNECE, IRU and IsDB for organizing virtually the regional workshops for the Member States on e-TIR and e-CMR in 2021.	The eCMR and eTIR workshops were organized successfully on April 6, 2021 and April 14, 2021. The second session of eCMR workshop is expected to be held in July/ August 2021.
38.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey for organizing e-TIR training courses for the interested ECO Member States and requested the Country to provide the Secretariat with additional details of the Proposal.	The Republic of Turkey was requested to organize the eTIR training courses for the interested MS vide note verbal no. 99 dt 3/2/2021. In response, the Republic of Turkey agreed to organize the field visit within the context of eTIR training program. The proposal was circulated among the member states vide note verbal no. 437 dt 27/4/2021. In response Republic of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyz Republic requested for the field visit and training program. The issue is

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		followed up with Republic of Turkey vide note verbal no. 630 dt 13/6/2021
39.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the en-route KTAI Member States, the ECO Secretariat and IRU for the successful test run of the loaded truck under TIR, conducted in July-August 2020 and requested en-route Member States to implement the recommendations of the report of the KTAI Test Run.	
40.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for completing the necessary procedures for accession to CMR in October 2020 and requested the Country to periodically provide the Secretariat with progress reports on the construction of the missing links, particularly road segments of Herat-Andkhoy and the Armalik-Laman segment of the Route.	
41.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Tajikistan to provide the Secretariat with the proposed dates and other particulars of the 6th HLWGM on ITI road corridor and 5th HLWGM on KTAI road corridor to be held virtually in 2021.	The Republic of Turkey and Tajikistan were requested to organize the 6 <sup>th</sup> HLWG meeting on ITI road corridor and 5 <sup>th</sup> HLWG meeting on KTAI road corridor virtually vide note no. 100 dt 3/2/2021. The matter was followed up vide note verbal no. 629 dt 13/6/2021. Response is still awaited.
42.	The <b>Council</b> requested TTCC Road Committee to consider the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the inclusion of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Turkey in the KTAI Road Corridor, and to report to the next RPC meeting.	The issue will be discussed in the next TTCC (Road Committee)

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
43.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States for involvement of the ECO Chamber of Commerce in the future TIR operations of the loaded trucks along the KTAI road corridor.	The relevant professional private sector will be invited to the Meetings.
<b>Area priority No. 2: Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures</b>		
44.	The <b>Council</b> requested Member States to implement the provisions of the ECO Guidelines on Cross Border Facilitation Measures under conditions of COVID-19 in a bid to secure the unhindered passage of goods and essential services throughout the region.	So far Republic of Azerbaijan, IR Iran and Kyrgyz Republic have submitted focal points in this regard.
45.	The <b>Council</b> noted the Secretariat's update on the implementation of the 5-year Action Plan for the modernization of border crossing points of ECO Member States and requested the Member States to keep the Secretariat informed of the progress made at their relevant border crossing points (BCPs) as per the provisions of the Action Plan.	The Member States were requested to provide updated information related to the progress made at their BCPs in line with the provision of relevant 5-years plan of action for modernization of BCPs of ECO Member States. Further the Member States were also requested to provide the two names of their BCPs that requires modernization measures, vide note verbal no. 109 dt 4/2/2021. Response is still awaited.
46.	The <b>Council</b> reiterated on the importance of the modernization of border crossing points (BCPs) in the region and once more requested interested Member States to convey a short list of at least two BCPs of regional significance and having potential for the transit of goods, for modernization to the Secretariat. for attracting investments of interested private companies.	
47.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to consider establishing 'TIR-EPD Green lanes' in their border crossing points along the main ECO transport routes to facilitate the movement of general cargo particularly food stuff, medicines	The proposed issue will be developed for implementation in 2022 due to limited resources.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	and essential humanitarian and rescue products. The Council mandated the Secretariat to initiate a Small Sized Project on “Establishing TIR Green Lanes for main ECO Crossing Points” and recruit a specialist for implementation of the Project in the first half of 2021.	
48.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with any rehabilitation needs of the areas between the border crossing points of any two neighboring Member States for consideration and implementation of a rehabilitation project by the ECO Secretariat.	The Secretariat vide its note verbal no. 120 dt 4/2/2021 requested the Member States to provide with any rehabilitation needs of the areas between the border crossing points of any two neighboring ECO member states along major ECO transport corridors, for consideration and implementation of a rehabilitation project by the ECO Secretariat. Response has not been received from any of the Member States.
49.	The <b>Council</b> encouraged the Member States to unanimously support the candidature of the ECO Member States namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Uzbekistan, in the upcoming TIR Executive Board (TIR-ExB) election at TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) scheduled for 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.	The Member States were requested to support the candidature of the ECO Member countries in the in the TIR-ExB election vide note verbal no. 96 dt 3/2/2021. Rep. Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey and Uzbekistan were elected as members of the TIRExB.
<b>Priority area No. 3: “Joint ISDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems-GIS”</b>		
50.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the efforts of the Member States for completion of the 1st phase of the joint ECO/UNECE/IsDB project titled “Benchmarking Study for Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs” in the ECO Member States using GIS and requested the Secretariat to finalize the negotiations with UNECE and IsDB for the commencement of	The Secretariat is in consultation with IDB and UNECE to start the 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	the 2nd phase of the project on the “Creation of a comprehensive GIS database and related maps, including the maps of ECO Region, for displaying regional and sub-regional transport networks and geo-mapping of infrastructure projects along these networks”.	
<b>Area priority No.4: “ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers”</b>		
51.	The <b>Council</b> requested the ITI and KTAI en-route Member States, to expedite providing their confirmations/comments (except for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey) on the Visa Pilot Scheme to the Secretariat, latest by the end of February 2021. The Council announced that in the absence of any views/comments within the stipulated time, the proposed Scheme will be considered as approved/accepted by the Member States.	The ECO Secretariat vide its Note Verbal no. 110 dt 4/2/2021 requested the ITI & KTAI en-route Member States to provide views/comments on the implementation of the proposed Visa Pilot Scheme. The response has not been received yet. The Kyrgyz Republic have provided their view regarding high cost of visa of Afghanistan and requested to reduce the cost and extend the duration of multiple visa. No feedback from Afghanistan has been received from Afghanistan in this connection.
52.	The <b>Council</b> recommended the “Visa Pilot Scheme” for practicing in en-route KTAI and ITI countries during 2021, along with their existing visa procedures. If successful, the scheme will be extended to other ECO interested Member States as well.	The Kyrgyz Republic have provided their view regarding high cost of visa of Afghanistan and requested to reduce the cost and extend the duration of multiple visa. No feedback from Afghanistan has been received from Afghanistan in this connection.
53.	The <b>Council</b> requested the interested Member States other than KTAI and ITI en-route countries to consider joining the Scheme.	The Republic of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan were requested to consider joining the Visa Pilot scheme, vide Note Verbal no. 110 dt 4/2/2021 The required response is still awaited.
<b>Area priority No.5:</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
<b>ECO Logistics Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)</b>		
54.	The <b>Council</b> requested interested Member States to expedite conveying requisite ECOLPAF registration documents to UTIKAD and ECO Secretariat, at the earliest possible.	
55.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Republic of Turkey, as the agreed headquarters of the ECO Logistics Provider Associations Federation (Third ECOLPAF Preparatory Meeting, 2011), to provide an update on the current status of the ECOLPAF.	The Republic of Turkey provided updated status along with application form for Foreign Legal Entities to operate in Turkey, which has been circulated among the Member States vide Note Verbal No. 607 dt 8/6/2021.
56.	The <b>Council</b> requested the interested Member States (except for Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey) to expedite submitting necessary documents set for registration in ECOLPAF.	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan have submitted the requisite ECOLPAF registration documents to the UTIKAD. The remaining interested Member States (except Republic of Azerbaijan) were requested to submit requisite registration documents to UTIKAD vide note verbal no. 121 DT 4/2/2021.
57.	The <b>Council</b> requested UTIKAD to prepare and convey to the Secretariat the basic documents of the Federation (i.e. financial regulations, staff regulations, TORs and Rules of Procedures) for circulation among the ECO Member States, upon the establishment of ECOLPAF.	
<b>IV. MARITIME COOPERATION</b>		
<b>Area Priority No. 1: "Establishment of a Common Gateway among ECO Countries - ECO Gate"</b>		
58.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to hire a consultant/specialist for preparation of a bankable project proposal document to design ECO Gateways and their	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	application to the existing main ports in the ECO region as well as to explore the possible ways and means to link the existing regional sea ports in the ECO region with the landlocked and transit countries' dry ports, based on the "ECO Gate" concept proposal.	
59.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to approach IsDB, UNESCAP, IRU and International Maritime Organization (IMO), for possible financial and technical support to implement the ECO Gate Project.	
60.	The <b>Council</b> requested Turkmenistan to provide the Secretariat with the proposed dates and other particulars of the 6th Meeting of Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations of ECO Member States, to be held virtually in 2021.	The 6 <sup>th</sup> HRMO meeting was organized by the Turkmenistan on April 27, 2021. The final report was circulated among the Member States vide note verbale no. 632 dt 13/6/2021.
61.	The <b>Council</b> noted with appreciation the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing Ro-Ro ship in Caspian Sea and encouraged the Member States to consider utilizing the service in order to enhance connectivity and intra regional trade within the region.	
<b>V. CIVIL AVIATION</b> <b>Area Priority No.1:"Encouragement and Promotion of Combined and Multimodal Transport"</b>		
62.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat their detailed proposals on cooperation in Civil Aviation, provided during the 1st meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (WGCA) held on 23 November 2020 virtually.	The Member States were requested to provide their proposals on cooperation in civil aviation vide note verbal no. 117 dt 4/2/2021. In response Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Uzbekistan provided the proposals and training programmes for the interested Member States. The said proposals and

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		<p>training programs were circulated among the Member States for their considerations vide note verbal no. 382 dt 8/4/2021 and 577 dt 3/6/2021 respectively.</p> <p>Proposal from Iran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exchange students for the purpose of educational cooperation in aviation technical field.</li> <li>- Extending cooperation for increasing schedule flights.</li> <li>- Implementation for open sky policy in the field of cargo flights, especially in the free trade zone.</li> <li>- Announcement of readiness for airport cooperation.</li> </ul>
63.	The <b>Council</b> requested Member States to provide the Secretariat with their proposals and needs with regards to capacity building programs on civil aviation to be organized in 2021.	The ECO Member States were requested vide note verbal no. 118 dt 4/2/2021 to provide their proposals and needs in relation or Capacity Building Programs. Sought response is still awaited.
64.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to consider hosting the 2nd meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (WGCA) as well as High Level Meeting of Private airlines of ECO Region in 2021 virtually.	The interested Member States were requested to consider hosting of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> HLWG meeting on civil aviation vide note no. 116 dt 4/2/2021. The matter has been followed up vide note verbale no. 567dt 3/6/2021. During the 31 <sup>st</sup> RPC meeting, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan agreed to host the 1 <sup>st</sup> High Level Meeting of Private Airlines of ECO Region. The matter is followed up vide not verbal no. 119 dt 4/2/2021 and no. 582 dt



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		6/6/2021. Required response is still awaited.
65.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to implement a small sized study project on “The ways and means to establish direct flights among capital cities and the major tourist destinations within the ECO region with a priority to charter flights” and in this regard the Council may call the Secretariat for recruitment of a specialist for implementation of the said Study Project in 2021.	
66.	The <b>council</b> requested the interested Member States to provide the Secretariat with an informative and justification report for initiating an ECO Air Hub in the eastern ECO region especially in Central Asia.	
67.	The <b>Council</b> welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for preparation of the draft Action Plan for ECO Civil Aviation Cooperation and requested the Country to provide the Secretariat with the Draft Action Plan for circulation among the Member States.	The I.R of Iran was requested to provide the suggested draft Action Plan vide note verbal no. 114 dt 4/2/2021. The issue is followed up vide note verbal no. 574 dated 2/6/2021.
<b>VI. COMMUNICATIONS</b> <b>Area Priority No. 1: “Development of Information Society in the ECO Region”</b>		
68.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to consider hosting the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on ICT in 2021. The Council further requested the Member States (except for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan) to expedite providing the Secretariat with the contact details of their contact persons for necessary	The Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered its readiness to host the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on ICT and the matter is followed up vide note verbal 119 dated 4/2/2021 as well as note verbal no. 620 dated 9/6/2021. Further the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were also

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	coordination on the Meeting.	requested to provide contact details of their contact person. The required response is still awaited.
69.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to enhance cooperation with ITU to seek institutional guidance for any new possible project to be implemented in 2021.	
70.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to implement, in consultation with ITU, a small sized study project on “The ways and means to establish and develop ECO regional fiber optic network” and to recruit a specialist for implementation of the Study Project in 2021.	A SSP is being prepared by the Secretariat and will be communicated to the MS.
71.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to exchange information and the best practices on digital governance transformation. The Council further requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with their updated information and progresses in the area of different modes of Transport and communication to be uploaded on the website of the ECO Secretariat.	
72.	Proposal from Iran: The Council emphasized on the digital cooperation in the ECO Region as has been the case in other regional and global organizations. The Council included in its 2021 Work Programme capacity building and capacity development programmes to enhance digitalization in different sectors of economies of the Member States. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his country to contribute to these programmes. The Council also requested for implementation of the Plan of Action proposed in the "2025 ECO Regional Strategy for Information Society Development".	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
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## VII. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

73.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Secretariat in promoting cooperation with regional and international organizations, including IsDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU, UIC, OSJD, ITU, IMO, AIIF, OTIF, CAREC/ADB and others, and requested the Secretariat to seek financial and technical assistance from such organizations in order to facilitate the advancement of region's mandated projects	Good Cooperation is ongoing with the International Organizations particularly with IDB, UNECE and ESCAP.
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## C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT

### General Provisions

1.	The Council reiterated that strengthening energy cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels is critical to address unique challenges, promote energy innovation, investment and connectivity, as well as enhance capacity building, south-south cooperation and synergetic actions to advance energy, climate change, environment and others simultaneously.	Most of relevant proposed activities on Energy, have been highlighted during the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy (24 June 2021) and reflected at Baku Declaration to be considered by MSs.
2.	The Council recognized and appreciated the steady efforts for mainstreaming the sustainable energy and regional electricity market in the overall energy agenda of ECO in pursuance of "ECO Vision 2025", as well as the recent global and regional energy trends and developments. This regional focus was manifested in development of two flagship energy projects of ECO, namely the Establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market and Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre. The Council also emphasized the importance of streamlining the environmental agenda of ECO to the needs and aspirations of	All relevant issues, instructed by RPC are under development. During holding 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy (24 June), Regional Electricity Market and establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center were highlighted to be concluded hopefully by the end of 2021.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	the ECO Member States via multiple nexus approach and enhanced international outreach.	
3.	The Council called upon the ECO Secretariat and the Member States to jointly implement the Work Programme for 2021 as follows:	
<b>Energy</b>		
<b><i>Priority Area 1: ECO Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation</i></b>		
4.	The Council appreciated the initiative of the Secretariat to undergo development of ECO Strategy for Energy through implementation of Small Size bankable Project and recruit a specialist for its drafting. The Council may request all Member States to share their views to be merged in the final version of Document.	3 consultants were chosen from Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan to develop strategy document and action plan. During 4 <sup>th</sup> High Level Expert Group Meeting the strategy document were finalized and 4 <sup>th</sup> Energy Ministerial Meeting has endorsed new strategy to implement for coming decade
5.	<p>The Council appreciated the readiness of Azerbaijan to host 4<sup>th</sup> Energy Ministerial Meeting in the first half of 2021 back to back with 4<sup>th</sup> HLEG Meeting serving as a Senior Officials Meeting for the Ministerial Meeting. At the same time the Council requested the Secretariat to communicate proposed agenda for the meetings, as well as expected outcomes. In this regard, the Council encouraged all Member States to submit their invaluable suggestions to the Secretariat to enrich the agenda of the subject meeting and actively take part in the said events.</p> <p>The Meetings, <i>inter alia</i> will address discussion and endorsement of ECO Energy Strategy 2030. In this regard, The Council called for all Member States to actively participate at the subject events within highest possible level.</p>	22-23 June 2021 HLEG and 24 June 2021 Ministerial Meetings have successfully held (virtually hosted by Azerbaijan).

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
6.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to confirm the date(s) and other details for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Virtual Meeting of the ECO regional network of research institutions/centers and think tanks operating in the field of energy studies, to be organized preferably in the first half of 2021. The Meeting may also <i>inter-alia</i> discuss Energy Strategy document and advise efficient implementation of its relevant deliverables.	27 April 2021, the Secretariat organized the event and participants discussed Energy Strategy of ECO. Also participants contributed with some ideas how to develop relations in the framework of research institutions/centers and think tanks operating in the field of energy studies.
<b><i>Priority Area 2: Sustainable Energy Transition and particular focus on Clean Energy Sources</i></b>		
7.	The Council encouraged to actively participating in ECO Experts Group on Renewable Energy Sources (EGRES) in view of mainstreaming sustainable energy in ECO agenda and ongoing development of the Project on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center.	
8.	The Council appreciated the offer of a volunteer Member State to host 4 <sup>th</sup> EGRES Meeting expected to be held in 2021.	There were no Member State is ready to host it. The Secretariat is working with Member States and international partners to enrich the agenda of prospective meeting. There is a possibility that Uzbekistan will host it virtually.
9.	The Council appreciated the initiative of the Secretariat to conduct as Small Size Project on Manufacturing and Marketing Opportunities for Promotion of the Sustainable and Advanced Phase Change Material-based Renewable Energy Technologies and invite Member States to closely cooperate with the Secretariat and selected specialist.	The Secretariat prepared ToR and included it in the list of Small Size Projects. The ToR will be sought to be validated at the 4 <sup>th</sup> EGRES meeting.
10.	The Council called for the Islamic Republic of Iran to confirm hosting the 1 <sup>st</sup> ECO Working Group Meeting on Joint Investment in Construction of Renewable Energy Power	The volunteer host country has not yet responded to introduce the date of organizing the event.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Plants/Projects to be organized in 2021, and convey its date(s), and other details. The Member States are encouraged sharing their views with the Secretariat to enrich the agenda of the Meeting.	
11.	The Council took note proposal of Pakistan to include the issues such as generation of electricity from waste material and lean energy from geothermal resources in the agenda of clean energy projects. In this regard, the Council encouraged interested Member States to submit project proposals for further discussions and collaboration.	None of MS has introduced project. It is planned to insert it to the agenda of EGRES meeting. Also the issue is included in the ECO Energy Strategy 2030.
<b>Priority Area 3: Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center</b>		
12.	The Council requested Member States actively collaborate with the Secretariat, the project partners and other potential international partners with a view to move forward successfully to finalize the implementation of Preparatory Phase and support for launching of First Operational Phase of the Project.	Good and positive feedback received from some MSs recently.
13.	The Council requested the Member States to share their views and comments with the Secretariat to finalize the legal and administrative document on the establishment of the Centre.	The Charter on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center has been developed by the Secretariat and 4 <sup>th</sup> High Level Expert Group Meeting concluded it. 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting has endorsed the Charter.
14.	The Council referred the issue of selection regarding host country and approval of related legal and administrative document to the High Level Expert Group and recommended convening the meeting in first half of 2021 virtually. The Council requested the Secretariat to evaluate the potentials of	The process has been started in the late April/early May of 2021. It is included to the agenda of HLEG and Ministerial Meeting. The said meeting considered to finalize nomination and assessment of candidates till the end of August 2021. The Islamic Republic of Iran

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	candidates for hosting the Center and provide CPR meeting with its recommendation for final decision.	proposed the Secretariat should work more with those countries which are not hosting ECO subsidiary and affiliated bodies in order to host this center.
15.	The Council took note the proposal of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Clean Energy Center (CECECO) and allocation of necessary budget indicated in the Feasibility Study Report of Preparatory Phase of the Project. The Council invited all interested Member States to take active part once host country selection process will start.	Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey have presented their candidate status to host the Center. Other Member States are also encouraged to join to the bid.
16.	The Council welcomed the Republic of Azerbaijan's full support to the initiative of establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center and requested the ECO Secretariat to continue consultations with the Member States, concerned stakeholders, including donors and development agencies for provision of financial support and early staged development of the Center.	The issue is under constant follow up.
17.	The Council requested Member States to host EGRES (Expert Group Meeting on Renewable Energy Sources) Meeting on updating developments and possible follow up of first operational phase before submitting necessary undertakings to the HLEG and Energy Ministerial meetings.	EGRES meeting may discuss pertinent issues, in collaboration of UNIDO and Member States.
<b>Priority Area 4: Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)</b>		
18.	The Council called on the Member States to enhance their partnership within the Project on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market and invite them to render all necessary support on implementation of flagship Project.	4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting has adopted roadmap towards realization of the project. Member States will render all possible assistance to implement the provisions of roadmap.
19.	The Council requested the Republic of Tajikistan to confirm the dates and other details of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Experts Group Meeting	Tajikistan proposed to host a meeting in October 2021. Member States along with Secretariat may propose

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	virtually on establishment of ECO-REM, suggested to be organized in the first half of 2021. The Meeting should evaluate and adopt the ToR for the project that involving all Member States for recruiting an international consultant to conduct necessary undertakings of the project and allocate necessary fund from FGPF.	formulating agenda of the meeting.
20.	The Council invited the Republic of Turkey and Iran to convene the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Iran-Turkey Bilateral Meeting in 2021 to implement pilot project in the framework of ECO Regional Electricity Market. The last meeting was hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.	On May 31, 2021, the meeting was hosted by Turkey and it's decided to update the ToR for reviewing. As a possible contributor to the project Azerbaijan has also been invited to the event and is expected to consider its prospective partnership. Iran expressed its thanks to current partners of ECO Regional Electricity Market (Azerbaijan, Iran &Turkey) and suggested to extent this cooperation to all ECO member States.
21.	The Council recommended that if the format of Iran-Turkey Bilateral Meetings continues not to be able to accomplish its mandate, expected goals and outcomes, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM may propose and consider alternative mechanisms for speeding up the launching of ECO-REM Project in line with the "ECO Vision 2025", and the project's future roadmap.	The 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy (24 June 2021) adopted the proposed "Roadmap on ECO Regional Electricity Market" while mandated the Secretariat to follow it up.
<b><i>Priority Area 5: Enhancement of role of private sector in regional energy cooperation</i></b>		
22.	The Council requested Member States (except I.R. Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic) to provide their views and comments on the draft "Roadmap for Establishment of the ECO Energy Consortium" with a view to following up implementation of	None of remained MSs conveyed views. It will be sought to discuss the matter within 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of ECO Public and Private Sector Energy /Petrochemical Consortium/Companies.



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	the key outcomes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting ECO Public and Private Sector Energy /Petrochemical Consortium/Companies (16-17 August, 2016).	
23.	The Council invited the relevant authorities of I.R. Iran or Pakistan to consider proposing, in consultation with the Secretariat, the new dates for the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies.	<p>Iran Chamber of Commerce expressed readiness to host the event on 21 September 2021. The issue is circulated among member states but no feedback yet except Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.</p> <p>Comments by I. R. Iran (Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines &amp; Agriculture):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting all the interested companies, unions and associations, chambers of commerce and other organizations and entities to 2nd ECO Public &amp; Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies Meeting will be held in virtual mode on September 21-22, 2021. The ECO CCI Secretariat will be conducting due coordination and collaborations</li> </ul>
24.	The Council invited the Islamic Republic of Iran or any other volunteer Member State to consider and resolve on the possibility of hosting the combined meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies, and establishment of ECO Refinery Association (ERA) from 2021 onwards. This combined meeting would encompass <i>inter-alia</i> both petrochemical and refinery agendas with participation of all relevant stakeholders. The Member States will ensure high-level participation at the subject meeting and extend their invaluable contribution to its outcome.	See Para 23.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
25.	The Council requested the Secretariat to pursue the cooperation policy and engagements with international and regional organizations and other interested partners in the field of energy mix, after consultation with the Member States and setting out further roadmap for proceeding on it.	Energy Strategy 2030 prepared and it was included in the strategy.
26.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to invite representatives of international and regional organizations, and other interested partners to the relevant ECO events with a view to enhance cooperation for implementation of ECO Vision 2025.	Islamic Development Bank, OPEC, IRENA, EU, International Energy Agency, UNIDO and Energy Charter are regular dialogue partners.
27.	The Council asked the Secretariat to pursue the existing cooperation with the Energy Charter on the basis of reciprocal observer status and follow-up the aforementioned streamlined proposals with a view to developing joint comprehensive partnership framework, particularly in the context of the ECO-REM Project.	Observer-ship status has expired and included to the 254 <sup>th</sup> CPR agenda for consideration. Meantime Energy Charter has participated 14 <sup>th</sup> ECO Summit and 4 <sup>th</sup> Energy Ministerial Meeting. It is intended to follow up partnership further on ECO-REM project. As per decision taken by 255 <sup>th</sup> CPR, the council considered the three years' extension/renewal of observer status of International Energy Charter through adoption of prescribed silence procedure to secure the COM's approval.
<b>Minerals</b>		
<b><i>Priority Area 1: Streamlining the project-oriented cooperation in the field of minerals</i></b>		
28.	The Member States will consider the possibilities for increasing the economic competitiveness and sustainability of mineral sector in the ECO Region, <i>inter alia</i> via consolidation of production and distribution chain at the regional level. Given the cross-sectoral nature of the minerals, these possibilities will	Not any proposal of initiatives/projects sent to Secretariat.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	envisage the establishment of solid connectivity and transportation networks for minerals trade among the ECO Member States and beyond.	
29.	The Council requested all Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat for implementation of outcome decisions of the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM), held on 5-7 August 2018, in Sanandaj, I.R. Iran, aiming at enhancement of cooperation and preparation for next MEGM.	No feedback is received from Member States mostly because of current situation of Covid-19 pandemic.
30.	The Council requested the Secretariat with the initiator Member State to appeal one of the next CPR meetings for consideration of allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the subject Project, according to the resolution of the Member states during the 30 <sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting to start the procedures for launching the Project on Preparation of ECO-Environmental Quality Index (ECO-EQI) Map (1:5M). In this vein, all Member States will render their utmost support to launching and efficient implementation of the subject project, which targets on evaluation of ecological qualities of environment across the ECO Region through collaborative efforts of the Member States.	In order to gain more support of MS, the Secretariat proposed to discuss and validate ToR of the project through expert group meeting. The initiator side has not yet responded.
31.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 8 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM) in the third quarter of 2021 and requested to convey the exact date and format of hospitality to the Secretariat. In this regard, the Council encouraged all Member States to submit their valuable proposals to the Secretariat to enrich the agenda of the meeting and actively participate in the 8 <sup>th</sup> MEGM.	The issue is under follow up of EME. It is planned to send reminder to the host.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
<i>Other activities/capacity-building efforts</i>		
32.	The Council requested the National Cartographic Center (NCC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran to communicate/propose the new dates for the Virtual Training Course on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) under the title “Reference Frames and GNSS Data Processing”, as well as other capacity building activities.	On 24-26 May 2021 training course was organized. The participants received certificates upon completion. Unfortunately, the participation number was very low. Apart from organizers, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan took part.
33.	The Council urged all Member States to cooperate with the Secretary of the ECO Geomatics Committee and the ECO Secretariat for implementation of the decisions of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations, and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Geomatics Committee (27-28 August 2018, Tehran, Iran) Meeting.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
34.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Geomatics Committee virtually in 2021 and requested to convey the exact date and format of hospitality to the Secretariat. In this regard, the Council encouraged all Member States to submit their valuable proposals to the Secretariat to enriching the agenda of the meeting and actively take part in the said event.	The Secretariat expects information from host and follows up the issue. Iran National Cartographic Center informs its readiness to hold 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Geomatics Committee.
35.	The Council encouraged the Member States to provide the Secretariat with the requisite information on the ECO Economic Atlas, ECO Geomatics Journal, ECO Geomatics Committee, national focal points and working groups agreed upon at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Geomatics Committee Meeting.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
36.	The Council recommended the Member States to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations in 2021.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
37.	The Council took note the proposal of National Cartographic Center of Iran regarding a bilateral project between Iran-Azerbaijan and Iran-Turkmenistan on "Height Network Connection" in line with unification of Height Datum to resolve datum inconsistencies in Caspian area based on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Geomatics Committee and CAPSCOM 24 <sup>th</sup> meeting resolution. The Council further requested National Cartographic Center of Iran to submit necessary information for clarification with proposed countries to cooperate	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
38.	The Council offered the volunteer Member States to hosting/co-hosting the training courses for capacity building and sharing best practices in the ECO Region on various pertinent topics, such as Spatial Data Infrastructure; Scientific GNSS Data Processing; Local Geodetic Datum; Regional Deformation Study of the Earth; Orthophoto Generation; Cadastral, and Cartographic Maps and Atlas Production.	
39.	The Council appealed the Member States will regularly to present/update the particulars of their National Focal Points (NFPs) in minerals, ECO Geomatics Committee and ECO Economic Atlas with a view to enhance coordination as well as effective dialogue and feedback mechanism between the Secretariat and the national stakeholders.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
40.	The Council reminded the Islamic Republic of Pakistan or any other interested Member State to consider their decision by conveying response to the secretariat by the end of first quarter of 2021, to organize the capacity building training course on geomatics, which is approved by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee.	Pakistan expressed readiness to host training course. It is planned to organize it in early autumn.
<b>Environment</b>		
<i>Priority Area 1: Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming in the ECO Region</i>		
41.	The Council reiterated the importance of the decision of the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (December 2014, Istanbul) on designation of environment and impacts of climate change as a cross-sectoral priority of ECO, to be considered by all ECO activities and events on different issues and levels.	
42.	The Council urged the Member States to express their views and comments to the Secretariat regarding the revision of the "Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States"; for updated/revised regional program for implementation of the subject PoA by the end of the first quarter of 2021.	Only Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran delivered their respective comments. The comments/views have shared with Member States.
43.	The Council requested the Member States to consider allocation of appropriate contribution for launching the project profile for preparation of a regional program for implementation of the "Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States".	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
44.	With the view to achieve the shared interest of Member States	The Secretariat conducts discussions with ECO-IEST

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	in regional environmental cooperation, the Council proposed to take necessary actions by the Secretariat and relevant partners on launching project of regional program for implementation of the "Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States" through step by step approach within 50000USD budget allocated through FGPF during the relevant meeting of CPR.	and other international partners for co-operation. It is also planned to include this matter in the Biodiversity Expert Group Meeting.
45.	The Council encouraged the Member States, which have not submitted their NPRs on environment to expedite providing them (the annual NPRs are requested to be submitted to ECO Secretariat during the first quarter of each calendar year).	The Secretariat has not received any updated information
46.	The Council asked the Member States (except Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Turkey) to provide the Secretariat with their National Adaptation Programmes; ECO Secretariat will then be set to prepare the draft proposal for developing ERAP.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
<b><i>Priority Area 2: Launching and implementation of ECO LandCare Programme</i></b>		
47.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to submit their decision by the fourth quarter of 2021 to organize the Workshop on Development of the Regional Project to Combat Desertification with a Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storms.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
48.	The Council invited the ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the relevant partners to take further steps for launching of the 1 <sup>st</sup> phase of the ECO LandCare Programme. In this regard, ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the relevant partners will explore the best possibilities for approaching the relevant	The Republic of Turkey has raised some concerns about this project which is described as a duplication of measures. The Secretariat has arranged a virtual meeting on 17 August in order to discuss issue and find a solution to enhance 1 <sup>st</sup> phase of landcare project.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	international organizations and financial institutions/instruments, particularly UN System for their engagements as potential project partners as well as for subsequent financial and technical support.	
49.	The Council took note the proposal of the establishment of Coordination Mechanism as a key factor on implementation of the 1 <sup>st</sup> phase of the ECO LandCare Programme to appeal one of the next CPR meetings by the Secretariat for allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF.	The Republic of Turkey has reservation on this issue, reasoned by duplication of the project with other International and national initiatives.
50.	The Council requested the Member States to be actively involved in this flagship collaborative Program of ECO in the field of environment.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
<b><i>Priority Area 3: Addressing serious threats to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems in the ECO Region</i></b>		
51.	The Council encouraged the Member States for hosting the 4th Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity in 2021 in order to review and discuss the progress and achievements of implementation of the Work Plan on Biodiversity and its Calendar of Events. These Meetings may wish to propose the extension of the Work Plan on Biodiversity to a new multi-year term or elaboration of a new Work Plan. Instead of the aforementioned extension/ elaboration, the Secretariat proposes to develop the strong biodiversity component, to be incorporated to the new/revised Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States for the next multi-year period. This incorporation will consequently streamline ECO environmental activities within one framework document in a	The Secretariat invited MS volunteer to host the event. If none of MS will accept hosting, the Secretariat will take over to organize it during 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021.



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	coherent and cohesive manner addressing the nexus approach among multiple cross-cutting components of environmental cooperation.	
52.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey, as the Coordinating Country of this Work Plan to inform the Secretariat and Member States on their arrangements for the follow up and implementation of the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)”.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
53.	The Council appreciated the initiative of Secretariat to address mitigation of pollution in the ECO region by introducing and following up Small Size bankable Projects to combat soil pollution by using best phytoremediation practices in the world.	The concept paper has been prepared and after internal validation it will be sent to MS.
54.	The Council invited Iran, Turkey and Turkish Cypriot State as the co-host to communicate the dates, venues and formats of hospitality of the biodiversity-related events planned for 2021 according to the Calendar of Events for 2021.	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter had been proposed by Turkish side. Turkey announce formally vide NV. Z-2021/99530379/33047379 dated 15 Temmuz 2021 that the proposed events will not be held due to current situation in the Covid-19 pandemic.
55.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat in cooperation with the Member States to continue its efforts and activities towards ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, access to genetic resources, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization across the ECO Region; as well as promoting technology transfer, capacity building and enhanced cooperation in conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity at the national and regional levels.	The best international practices based on the needs and interests of MS are being studied and MS are welcome to propose their ideas.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
56.	The Council requested the Member States to nominate/update the particulars of their National Focal Points (NFPs) on Biodiversity for enhanced communication and proper implementation of the activities envisaged within the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)”. The Member States will also nominate/update the particulars of their NFPs in the relevant fields of environment, including climate change, forests, desertification and others.	The Secretariat has not received any updated information.
<b><i>Priority Area 4: Cooperation with the environment-related international organizations/entities/instruments</i></b>		
57.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to explore the need for reviewing the existing ECO-UNEP MoU for wider cooperation and requested the Secretariat to continue substantive consultations with UNEP officials to follow up agenda for bilateral cooperation, in particular the preparation of SoE Report for the ECO Region.	UNEP does not respond to the inquiries of Secretariat.
58.	The Council called upon the Secretariat to continue its efforts to further enhancing cooperation with UNFF and other forest-related regional, sub-regional organizations and processes for soliciting technical and financial support and enhancing its visibility in forest-related issues.	The Secretariat regularly contributes to the events of UNFF to promote ECO.
59.	The Council invited the Secretariat to continue interactions with UNCCD to benefit from its capacities and experiences to address desertification challenges in the Region, particularly in the context of UNCCD’s technical support to the launching and implementation of the ECO LandCare Programme.	The observer-ship status of ECO should be renewed.
60.	The Council asked the Secretariat to continue its dialogue and	The Secretariat is following up the issue but not any

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	communication with UNCBD for enhancement of mutual partnership, specifically in the context of implementation of the “Work Plan on Biodiversity in the ECO Region 2016-2020”.	feedback yet.
61.	The Council requested the Secretariat to establish working relationship with leading universities and environmental research centers within and outside of the ECO region to fulfill the task given by the ECO Vision 2025 on environmental issues.	The Secretariat follows up the issue and is ready to assess MSs initiatives.

D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY		
Agriculture		
1.	The Council, while appreciating the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in 2021, encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the planned event.	The draft agenda of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture is ready. The invitation letter for the Meeting has been provided and sent to the Uzbekistan authorities. The Secretariat is waiting for the exact date of the meeting from the host. The working paper is on the verge of preparing.
2.	The Council requested to the Secretariat to establish a dialogue forum in assistance of ECO-RCC for increasing partnerships through joint programmes with all stakeholders, and promoting coordinated action to enhance synergy in ECO regional efforts for improving food security by means of technical cooperation, including institutional capacity development, transfer of technology, and boosting agricultural productivity.	The issue of establishing a dialogue forum to enhance synergy for improving food security will be done through the cooperation with ECO-RCC. The preparations of the issue are underway.
3.	The Council appreciated the joint initiative of the ECO-RCC, FAO and the ECO Secretariat concerning the project titled	The project will be finished before 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in August.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	"Support for the Transformation of the ECO-RCC for RPFS" from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution of the ECO.	
4.	The Council appreciated the ECO-RCC for inception workshop to consider the national requirements of the countries and best practices for the ECO region during the update of the ECO-RPFS. It also requested the Member States to expedite the provision of their views and feedbacks for the update of the ECO-RPFS.	The subject workshop has been held last year. The ECO Secretariat has circulated the report of 1 <sup>st</sup> Consultation Meeting on Updating the ECO Regional Program for Food Security (RPFS) received from ECO Regional Coordination Center for Food Security (ECO-RCC), through the NV No. AI/2021/200 dated 25/2/2021. Likewise, the ECO Secretariat has sent another NV to MSs and requested for their views and comments on the updating of ECO-RPFS.
5.	The Council while appreciating ECO-RCC for updating website " <a href="http://www.eco-rccfs.org/">http://www.eco-rccfs.org/</a> ", invited Member States to contribute to it.	The ECO Secretariat has circulated the NV No. A&I/Agriculture/ECO-RCC /2021/578 dated 3/6/2021, regarding the contribution of the Member States for updating the website of the ECO-RCC.
6.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCC for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) in 2021 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the said meeting.	The relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey have been requested to organize the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCC for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS), through the NV No. A&I/Agriculture/ECO-RCC/2021/579 dated 3/6/2021.
7.	The Council requested the ECO-CCI to develop a framework in collaboration with ECO-RCC for further cooperation on agricultural machinery and equipment industry and prepare a ground for exchange of best practices and technology in this field.	The ECO Secretariat has communicated the ECO-CCI to develop a framework in collaboration with ECO-RCC for further cooperation on agricultural machinery through a NV.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
8.	The Council encouraged the Member States to join in the campaign for 'Save Your Food' initiated by the Republic of Turkey and invited the other Regional partners to minimize food waste and loss in all levels of the agri-food value chains. The Council also appreciated Turkey for proposing a Workshop on Food Loss and Waste.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey, through the NV No. A&I/Agriculture/ECO-RCC /2021/579 dated 3/6/ 2021, to ascertain the exact date(s) as well as technical arrangements to hold/host the Workshop on Food Loss and Waste, at the earliest convenience, to secure the required quorum of the meeting.
9.	The Council decided to establish a taskforce for contributing to the process of organizing regional conferences, buyers/sellers meetings and trade forums as well as supporting such regional initiatives for the growth and development of the Regional Agricultural Trade in close collaboration with ECO-CCI.	The ECO Secretariat has provided the consultations with ECO-CCI to establish a taskforce for contributing to the process of organizing regional conferences and trade forums for development of the Regional Agricultural Trade. The response has been awaited.
10.	The Council requested the Member States to host/organize a Regional Agricultural Trade Forums in their countries. The Council also requested the Member States to volunteer for organizing buyers/sellers meetings/forums (jointly with FAO and WTO/ITC) on wheat, cotton, bean and other agricultural commodities.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the Member States to host Regional Agricultural Trade Forums, in collaboration with international organizations (such as FAO and WTO/ ITC), through a NV.
11.	The Council requested the Member States to establish Cross Border Green Lane for smooth passage of spoilable food stuff based on ECO Practical Guidelines on Cross Border Facilitation Measures under conditions of COVID-19.	The A&I Directorate in cooperation with TC directorate in the ECO Secretariat will continue their efforts on establishing Cross Border Green Lane for smooth passage of spoilable food stuff under the conditions of COVID-19. The implementation action is on the process.
12.	The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture to evaluate and design policies to mobilize public and private investment in	The issue of preparation a Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture to evaluate and design policies to mobilize public and private investment in

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	agriculture for steady economic growth and sustainable development. The Council also suggested through these policies to conduct an analysis to specifically identify and boost R&D initiatives and increase inflow of FDI in agriculture for seeds, machinery and food processing to optimize agricultural production.	agriculture is underway. In this vein, the Secretariat is looking for the technical assistance of the international organizations such as, UNIDO & FAO.
13.	The Council sought the cooperation of the Member States to ensure regional harmonization on validity of international quality standards, and standardization of the seed certification/registration/recognition systems for promotion of regional seed trade.	The Secretariat is looking for the cooperation of ECO-RISCAM and ECOSA for preparation of a study on standardization of the seed certification/registration/recognition systems for promotion of regional seed trade. Following the consultations with the aforementioned organizations, the study will start soon.
14.	The Council appreciated the ECOSA for proposals to host the 8th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and Seed Trade Fair and ECO Expert Meeting on Seed Sector Development in 2021. It also requested the ECOSA for organizing training courses on seed industry for ECO Member States in cooperation with FAO- SEC, Turkish Seed Union (TURKTOB)), IDB and ECO-TDB.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) to communicate the exact date and details of the 8th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and Seed Trade Fair, ECO Expert Meeting on Seed Sector Development and training courses on seed industry at the earliest convenience, through the NV No. A&I/Agriculture/ECOSA/2021/598 dated 7/6/2021. The early communication will enable the ECO Secretariat to start coordination of preparation process for efficient organization of said events.
15.	The Council, while appreciating the preparation of ECO Regional Seed Agreement as an outcome of the implementation of the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the Region, requested the remaining Member States to expedite their joining to this important instrument.	This issue will be discussed during the ECO Expert Meeting on Seed Sector Development, which will be held by ECOSA in 2021. The ECO Secretariat has requested ECOSA to communicate the exact date of the subject meeting, through the NV No.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		A&I/ Agriculture/ECOSA/2021/598 dated 7/6/2021.
16.	The Council appreciated the outcome of the small-sized project of "Establishment of standardized ECO Network of slaughter houses and reference laboratories." and strongly desired the Member States to implement the outcome of the project with close consultation of the ECO Secretariat to facilitate the smooth trans-boundary movement and trading animal and animal products economically. The Council invited the ECO-TDB to financially support relevant institutions of Member States to implement said project's outcome.	The small-sized project of "Establishment of standardized ECO Network of slaughter houses and reference laboratories" has already been finished and the result of the project along with its summary has been distributed among Member States.
17.	The Council sought consideration of the Member States to host the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations and to ratify/sign the Statute of the ECO-VECO.	The ECO Secretariat sought to organize a meeting with Iran Agricultural Ministry to enhance cooperation and have consultations with Iran veterinarian Organization and other MSs to prepare the roadmap of ECO-VECO, then providing the preparations of hosting the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations and to ratify/sign the Statute of the ECO-VECO.
18.	The Council urged the Member States to create a network among their relevant organizations regarding the establishment of the ECO Center for Efficient Utilization of Water, requesting them to nominate their national focal points/institutions for expediting the intended process. It also requested the Member States to expedite their confirmations for participation in the 3rd Working Group Meeting on the Establishment of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture (ECO-CEEUWA), ensuring the accomplishment of the required quorum. The Council requested Pakistan to inform the Secretariat about the	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting for the Establishment of ECO Center for Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEUWA) has been held virtually on February 9, 2021 under the chairmanship of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The report of the said event has been circulated among MSs for their views and comments through the NV No. AI/2021/153 dated 16/2/2021. Since no views/comments have been received from any MSs, the draft report is considered as final (according to the NV No. AI/2021/241 dated 7/3/2021). Following the

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	new dates for hosting this event most preferably in February 2021 at Islamabad, in which the Draft Plan of Action and Draft Statute for establishment of the ECO-CEEUWA, amended and circulated amongst Member States for their views/comments will be finalized. The Council also thanked Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for submitting their views/comments on the Draft Statute for establishment of the ECO-CEEUWA and requested other Member States for their response in this regard.	consultations on the statute of ECO-CEEWUA in the abovementioned event, the draft statute will present in the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and will take the approval of MSs.
19.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations and the Workshop/Training Course on Drought Monitoring and Seasonal Forecast in the ECO Region in November 2019 at Tehran.	The 3rd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations and the Workshop/Training Course on Drought Monitoring and Seasonal Forecast has been hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in November 2019 in Tehran. Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing the final ECO-RCRM statute which was approved by all Member States in 3rd Meeting of ECO Heads of Meteorological Services in Tehran, Iran and subsequently, was approved by 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural in Baku, Azerbaijan</li> </ul>
20.	The Council, while appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in 2021, encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the said meeting.	The draft agenda of the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations is ready. The ECO Secretariat in collaboration with Afghan relevant authorities and ECO-RCRM will provide the preparations of the subject meeting.
21.	The Council appreciated the ECO-RCRM for preparing the draft protocol for disaster data and information sharing and recommended that ECO-RCRM, in collaboration with the ECO	The ECO Secretariat has requested the ECO-RCRM (through the NV No. A&I/ECO-RCRM/2021/592 dated 6/6/2021) to establish a task force committee in



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Secretariat, may establish a task force committee, in cooperation of the relevant authorities of the Member States as well as the relevant international organizations, to finalize the draft protocol.	cooperation with the relevant authorities of the MSs and international organizations, in order to finalize the subject draft protocol. Islamic Republic of Iran Requested the Member States to nominate focal points to ECO-RCRM for the Task Force Group for Trade-Related Risk Maps.
22.	The Council requested the Member States to introduce national focal points to prepare the project proposal titled "Planning Mechanism for Delivering Data and Products" for implementing the protocol of "Data Sharing between ECO Member States."	The ECO Secretariat has requested the MSs thorough a NV to send the details of their national focal points for implementing the protocol of "Data Sharing between ECO Member States."
23.	The Council appreciated the ECO-RCRM for hosting the WMO-IRIMO-RCRM training course on seasonal prediction and short-term job training course on operational seasonal prediction in August 2020.	The short-term job training course on operational seasonal prediction was held by ECO-RCRM in August 2020.
24.	The Council urged the ECO-RCRM to coordinate the establishment of a task force group for coordination and conduction of country-specific meetings to develop agriculture trade-related risk maps. It further requested the Member States to cooperate with the ECO-RCRM for setting up a mechanism to access and operationalize raw data for designing & establishing of regional natural disasters database, to undertake a GIS based mapping of natural disasters, disaster risk indices developed and assessed for countries and for the ECO region and to develop a data database on disaster impacts and GIS based mapping of disaster indices and analysis of disaster risk indices.	The ECO Secretariat in collaboration with the ECO-RCRM is trying to establish the task force group for coordination and conduction of country-specific meetings to develop agriculture trade-related risk maps.
25.	The Council decided that IRIMO, INCC and ECO-RCRM in	The initiating of a bankable project in collaboration of

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	collaboration with ECO-RCC and with coordination of interested meteorological organizations may lead a bankable project with the financial support of potential donors and the task force committee.	interested meteorological organizations will be discussed in the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in 2021.
26.	The Council appreciated the ECO-RCRM for hosting the Workshop/Training Course on "Natural Disaster Early warning and Loss Estimation System" offered by ECO-RCRM, in September 2021, in Mashhad, Iran and invited all the Member States to participate in actively.	The ECO-RCRM has communicated the ECO Secretariat to hold the Workshop/Training Course on "Natural Disaster Early warning and Loss Estimation System" on September 20-21, 2021. The draft program has been communicated as well. Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lending Support to the "Distance Training Course on Natural Disasters Early Warning and Loss Estimation" to be held on 20-21 September 2021 by ECO-RCRM. The required budget is decided to be allocated by ECO Secretariat.</li> </ul>
27.	The Council took note of project proposal for "Climate Change Risk Atlas over ECO Countries" by ECO-RCRM and requested from ECO-RCRM to send the details to the Secretariat.	The ECO Secretariat has conveyed a NV to ECO-RCRM, requesting for the details of the project proposal for "Climate Change Risk Atlas over ECO Countries". Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approving to proposal "Climate Change Risk Atlas for ECO Region" decided to be carried out under the leadership of ECO-RCRM.</li> </ul>
28.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to update the Draft Statute for the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) and requested the Member States to send their views/comments on the said document, for finalization.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the Republic of Turkey (through the NV No. A&I/ECO-MCC /2021/593 dated 6/6/2021) to update the Draft Statute for the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) at the earliest

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		convenience, in order to circulating among Member states for their views/comments on the said document, for finalization.
29.	The Council requested the Member states to actively participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting of the ECO-ABN and asked Iran to propose a new date for the meeting. The member states were requested to contribute to this project with sharing information and introducing their focal points and providing the country reports on biotechnology and related information to be uploaded to the ECO-ABN website. The Council requested the ECO-ABN to enhance and expand its activities and communicate with the Member States and the relevant International Networks and organizations.	The ECO Secretariat has communicated a NV to relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran (ECO-ABN) to convey the fresh date and details for hosting the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting of the ECO-ABN, at the earliest convenience.
30.	The Council, while appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Biotechnology Workshop on application of Nano technology in Agriculture and Agricultural Biotechnology on June 15, 2021, encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the said meeting. The ECO-ABN also invited the Member States the two significant scientific congresses including the 4th International and 12th National Biotechnology Congress of Iran, and the 3rd International and 17th National Crop Science Congress of Iran will be held from 22nd to 24th of August 2021 in Tehran, and 7th to 9th of September 2021 in the University of Kerman, respectively.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran (through a NV) to expedite the communication of the details of the Biotechnology Workshop on application of Nano technology in Agriculture and Agricultural Biotechnology.
<b>Industry</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
31.	The Council requested the interested Member States to host the Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd HLEG Meeting, informing the Secretariat regarding the date (s) and hospitality arrangements of the event (s) at their earliest convenience.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the Islamic Republic of Iran (through a NV) to expedite the communication of the date and details for hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd HLEG Meeting on Industry, virtually in 2021.
32.	The Council invited the Member States to provide the Secretariat with the list of industrial priority sections for establishing regional production value chain to enhance regional investment and industrial cooperation.	Following to provision the list of industrial priority sections for establishing regional production value chain, the ECO secretariat has circulated a NV among MSs, requesting for the subject information.
33.	The Council recommended the Ministers of Industry to take into consideration the ECO Vision 2025 in their decisions and make necessary measures and projects to contribute to the expected objectives of the Vision. The Council also requested the Ministers of Industry to consider more cooperation to implement the new projects in Industry sector.	The issue will be discussed in the next Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd HLEG Meeting on Industry.
34.	The Council invited Member States to support the ECO Industrial Zone in Afghanistan and requested the Secretariat the develop idea in close collaboration with Afghan authorities. The Council requested the Government of Afghanistan to provide a feasibility study report as well as a detailed report on the facilities and advantages provided to the investors on this park. The Council appreciated the offer of The Ministry of Industry and Technology of Republic of Turkey's readiness to share its knowledge and experience in the area of Industrial Zones/Parks with the management of ECO Industrial Zone.	The ECO Secretariat has communicated a NV to relevant authorities of Afghanistan to provide a feasibility study report as well as a detailed report on the facilities and advantages on ECO Industrial Zone in Afghanistan.
35.	The Council recommended the ECO Member States to	The ECO Secretariat has requested the MSs to organize

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	organize the meetings to initiate the process of the development of the Green industrial development strategy at regional level to contribute to 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.	the meetings to initiate the process of the development of the Green industrial development strategy at regional level.
36.	The Council requested the Member States to sign and ratify (except Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan) the Statute of ECO-RISCAM for paving the way for early functioning of the Institute. The Council also requested the signatory States of the Statute of ECO-RISCAM to ratify (except Pakistan) the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of ECO-RISCAM. It also appreciated Afghanistan for ratifying the Statute of the ECO-RISCAM.	The ECO Secretariat has circulated a NV among MSs and requested for ratifying the Statute of ECO-RISCAM, as well as the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the subject Statute.
37.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite establishment of Technical Management Board of Standardization and Accreditation and Technical Management Board of Metrology of ECO-RISCAM, respectively, having the completion of ratification process by four Member States. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan appreciated the idea of the Establishment of Technical Management Board on Metrology and shared their willingness regarding necessary resources, technical power, and physical assistance in this regard.	<p>The 1<sup>st</sup> joint virtual meeting on establishment of Technical Management Board of ECO-RISCAM, has been held on 10 March 2021 among Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. The Minutes of the subject meeting has been circulated through the NV No. A&amp;I/2021/367 dated 5/4/2021. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Management Board of ECO-RISCAM will be held before the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in 2021.</p> <p>Comments of the Islamic Republic of Iran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Holding a virtual meeting of Conformity Assessment (Technical Management Boards of ECO-RISCAM) on August 10, 2021 and inviting ECO Member States to participate actively in this meeting.</li> <li>● Holding a meeting of the RISCAM Council (the exact date will be announced soon) and requesting the</li> </ul>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		Member States to nominate their representatives in each of the Technical Management Boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request from Member States to convey the conformity assessment method of exported and imported goods</li> </ul>
38.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Virtual Meeting 7th HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in December 2020, requested Member States to actively participate in the Virtual 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in September 2021.	The ECO Secretariat is in close cooperation with ECO-RISCAM to provide the draft agenda and preparations of the Virtual 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in September 2021.
39.	The Council welcomed the offer of the ECO-RISCAM to hold a joint virtual meeting by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for discussion and decision about activation of Technical Management Boards in the March 2021.	The 1 <sup>st</sup> joint virtual meeting on establishment of Technical Management Board of ECO-RISCAM, has been held on 10 March 2021 among Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. The Minutes of the subject meeting has been circulated through the NV No. A&I/2021/367 dated 5/4/2021.
40.	The Council requested the Member States to introduce the national competent authority in charge of RISCAM and nominate the representatives of the national competent authority with a high-level position in their organization in the ECO-RISCAM. The Council urged the Member States to reflect their views on the basic documents of the Institute (i.e. Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Regulations).	The MSs have conveyed their relevant national authorities and representatives in charge of RISCAM to the ECO Secretariat.
41.	The Council requested the ECO-RISCAM to develop and implement measures and projects toward promoting green industrial development in line with ECO-Vision 2025 and	The issue of implementing measures and projects toward promoting green industrial development in line with ECO-Vision 2025, will be discussed during the 8 <sup>th</sup>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	contribute to the new growth paradigm in the region.	Virtual Meeting of HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in September 2021.
42.	The Council appreciated the Central Secretariat of ECO-RISCAM for proposing two new projects namely; (i) Establishment of the Regional ECO/Green Labeling Systems and Preparation of Technical Requirements and Data Base for Finished Textile Products (ii) Risk Management of Conformity Assessment Systems in International Trade by ECO Region Countries Food Products for First Step and Building Materials for Second Step.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the Secretariat of ECO-RISCAM to provide the details of the two aforementioned projects.
43.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey to hold workshops in the fields of Standardization, Accreditation, Conformity Assessment, and Metrology. The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its readiness in holding meeting/workshops on Accreditation, Conformity Assessment and Metrology.	The ECO secretariat has requested the aforementioned MSs to consider hosting the workshops in the fields of Standardization, Accreditation, Conformity Assessment, and Metrology and communicate the date and details of the said workshops.
44.	The Council requested the Member States (except Islamic Republic of Iran) to reflect their views and comments on the roadmap and work programme for the ECO-RISCAM.	The issue will be discussed during the 8 <sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in September 2021.
45.	The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for offering suggestion experience sharing of Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) with various international organizations and provides all the necessary support within the scope of its field of activity, with the foresight that no restrictive, obstructive or recurring situation will occur within the scope of the organizations'	The experience sharing of Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) will be provided during the 8 <sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of HLWG on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology in September 2021.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	fields of activity.	
46.	The Council appreciated the joint cooperation between ECO-RISCAM and SMIIC on Halal Certification to facilitate trading of Halal productions.	The ECO-RISCAM will provide the ECO Secretariat with the experiences on joint cooperation with SMIIC on Halal Certification.
47.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee and the Joint workshop on Nanotechnology and encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the events.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the related authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the date and details of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee and the Joint workshop on Nanotechnology, at the earliest convenience.
48.	The Council encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran for updating the study project on the situation of Nanotechnology in the ECO region.	The ECO Secretariat has required the Islamic Republic of Iran through a NV to update the study project on the situation of Nanotechnology in the ECO region.
49.	The Council requested the Member States (except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) to designate and convey their relevant Focal Points for Establishing ECO Nanotechnology Network.	The ECO secretariat has requested the remained MSs to convey their relevant Focal Points for Establishing ECO Nanotechnology Network.
50.	The Council requested the Member States to convey their national policies towards this area of cooperation to the Secretariat and to ensure a more active involvement of their Nanotechnology related institutions in the ECO Nanotechnology Network.	The national policies on Nanotechnology and enhancement of Nanotechnology institutions of MSs for the ECO Nanotechnology Network will be discussed during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee and the Joint workshop on Nanotechnology.
51.	The Council requested the Member States to take necessary actions to facilitate approval of the Project Proposal and	The process of approval and operationalizing of the Project Proposal on Nanotechnology will be discussed



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	allocate the requested amount in due time for its operationalization. In this regard, the Council requested the Member States to increase their cooperation in the field of new Nanotechnology projects in Energy sector.	during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee and the Joint workshop on Nanotechnology.
52.	The Council requested the Secretariat to establish a network among the leading scientists and institutions to prepare ground of exchanging views for using nanotechnology to control and combat Covid-19 disease pandemic.	The issue of establishing a network for using nanotechnology to control and combat Covid-19 disease pandemic has been coordinated with HRSD directorate in ECO Secretariat.
53.	The Council requested the interested Member States to host First High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Textile & Garments Industry for inter alia using Nanotechnology opportunities.	The draft agenda and concept paper of the First High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Textile & Garments Industry for using Nanotechnology opportunities is ready. The process of communicating a host country for holding the meeting is underway.
54.	The Council appreciated the IPC of Iran, WIPO and ECO for holding a Regional Seminar on Geographical Indications' (GIs) productions on 18 November, 2020.	The Regional Seminar on Geographical Indications' (GIs) productions has been held on 18 November, 2020.
55.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting of the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2021, encouraging the ECO Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the MSs to consider hosting the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2021, through the NV No. A&I/Industry/ Industrial Property Rights/ 2021/631 dated 13/6/2021.
56.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic Afghanistan to host the 5th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on Entrepreneurship and SME Development Meeting and requested the ECO Member States to actively participate once the meeting is announced.	The related authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan have been required to host the 5th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on Entrepreneurship and SME Development Meeting (through the NV No. A&I/Industry/SME/2021/634 dated 13/6/2021) and communicated the date and

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		details of the meeting at the earliest convenience.
57.	The Council also appreciated the Republic of Turkey to volunteer sharing best practice examples in terms of SME Support Mechanisms.	The ECO Secretariat has requested the Republic of Turkey (through the NV No. A&I/Industry/SME/2021/633 dated 13/6/2021) to communicate the date and details of the event titled “sharing best practice examples in terms of SME Support Mechanisms”, at the earliest convenience.
58.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to convene expert level meetings in cooperation of Member States to develop a financial mechanism to support start-ups, SME’s and entrepreneurs, consisting establishment of special fund which may be managed with the help of ECO-TDB and funded through Member States, ECO-TDB and other International funding agencies.	The initiative of convening expert level meetings to develop a financial mechanism to support start-ups, SME’s and entrepreneurs has been coordinated with the T&I directorate in the ECO Secretariat.
59.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat in collaboration with UNIDO and other donor institutions to develop start up projects in different sectors of industry focusing on SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Region.	The issue of developing starts up projects in different sectors of industry is coordinated with UNIDO and is underway.
60.	The Council requested the Secretariat to convene the meetings of the experts and women entrepreneurs of the Member states to develop an implementation of action plan to promote and encourage women entrepreneurship in the region.	The issue of developing action plan to promote women entrepreneurship in the region will be discussed during the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
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E. SECTOR: TOURISM		
1.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers and the 5th HLEG Meeting on Tourism in 2019.	
2.	The Council requested the Secretariat to allocate an appropriate amount to the Fund for the implementation decisions of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism supported by the 24th COM.	
3.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 4th Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers and the 6th HLEG Meeting on Tourism in 2021 in Bukhara.	Republic of Uzbekistan has not yet conveyed the exact date and details of the event, however, Follow-ups are underway in this regard.
4.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to take necessary action for conducting and finalizing a project for drafting tourism core documents including ECO Tourism Charter, ECO Tourism Strategy and ECO Tourism Action Plan based on the prepared Terms of Reference by recruiting specialist to be submitted to the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft ToR of the Project has been prepared by the Tourism Directorate of the Secretariat.</li> <li>• The Secretariat has initiated preparation of the Draft ECO Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development for convenience and it is in progress.</li> <li>• After completion of the document, the consultancy will be initiated depending on the comments and views of the Member States to improve the document and its objectives and requirements.</li> <li>• The proposed list of specialists is being completed in the mean time and a group of consultants from volunteer Member States will be selected to complete the study in coordination to enhance its efficiency</li> </ul>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
5.	The Council appreciated the contribution of MSs on drafting a strategy and plan of action on sustainable tourism and requested the remaining Member States to convey their views, plans and priorities in the relevant areas of tourism with special consideration of the circumstances developed in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic as soon as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A NV was sent to the MSs requesting their views, plans and priorities in the relevant areas of tourism and 6 out 10 of MSs have sent their replies by now.</li> <li>• Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkmenistan are yet expected to share their views and comments.</li> </ul>
6.	The Council requested the MS to participate on the HLWG organize virtually by the Secretariat and in presence of the specialist to elaborate and finalize Tourism Core Documents for further presentation to the Ministerial Meeting.	After completion of the documents mentioned in Para 4, the HLWG meeting will be held.
7.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat to consider seeking technical assistance from relevant international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO in preparation of ECO regional action plan and ECO Tourism Strategy. The council also requested the Secretariat to convene a meeting with the said international organizations to seek their support for devising the above mentioned action plan and strategy.	A meeting will be organized with the international organizations once the Draft Eco Regional Action Plan For Sustainable Tourism Development is finalized to seek their views and support.
8.	The Council welcomed the tourism projects in line with ECO Vision 2025 proposed by ECO Secretariat with the aim of implementation of the expected strategic objectives of the Vision and establishing nature based tourism destinations which were considered by the 24th Meeting of Council of Ministers on November 2019 in Antalya namely; (i) ECO Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development, (ii) ECO Tourism Routes and Packages, (iii) Tour operators chain and connectivity. The Council requested the CPR to allocate necessary funds	During the mid-term review Meetings of ECO Vision 2025, Member States were requested to have high contribution for reactivating the ECO Tourism Fund in order to facilitate implementation of proposed projects.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	from the ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund for implementation of the Projects. The Council requested the Member States to make voluntary contributions to facilitate implementation of proposed projects.	
9.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to participate in Silk Road related meetings, conferences and events and coordinate participation of Member States in such events within and outside the ECO Region.	This issue will be followed up in coming months after improving the Pandemic situation.
10.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Fifth International ECO – Silk Road Food Festival in 2019 and welcomed the offer of latter to host the sixth ECO - Silk Road Food Festival, in case if the situation improves in second half of the 2021. The Council also requested further engagement of the private sector of the host in organizing the said festival. The Council noted the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Member States to dispatch professional and well known chefs to the festival.	Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not yet possible for Iranian side to hold this event.
11.	The Council advised the Member States to form a contact group on the sidelines of Silk Road related meetings, conferences and events to effectively pursue the collective interests of ECO Region and enhance the role of ECO in such arenas and appoint their focal points to the ECO-Silk Road Contact Groups.	It will be happened during the related meetings, conferences and events in future.
12.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the workshop on culinary tourism on the sidelines of the ECO-Silk Road Food Festival in 2021.	Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not yet possible for Iranian side to hold this event.
13.	The Council requested the Secretariat to conduct a project on	Since the Council requested the CPR to allocate

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	'Silk Road Tourism Pathway in ECO Region' and invite Member States to provide the Secretariat with relevant information in this regard.	necessary funds from the ECO Feasibility and General Purposes Fund for implementation of the Projects and due to Financial constraints of the organization, the new project may be started after allocation and full implementation of the 3 previous projects which were mentioned in the Para 8.
14.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting tourism and handicrafts related exhibitions for the purpose of enhancing tourism cooperation in the Region.	The 14th Tehran International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition, was held in person and online on February 23-26, 2021. The rest of MSs have not yet informed ECO Secretariat in this regard.
15.	The Council requested the Member States to offer their programs/proposals in field of Health/Medical Tourism in the ECO Region for promotion of this field of industry.	No programs/proposals have been received from Member States by now.
16.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iranian Chamber of Commerce) for hosting the 2nd ECO Confobition on ECO Health Tourism in Ardabil, Iran on 18-20 June, 2019.	
17.	The Council requested Iran to consider holding the 3rd Conference on Health Tourism in 2021. The Council also requested Iran to convene the First Meeting of Major Hospitals Authorities in the region active in health tourism.	ECO Secretariat has sent two NVs to Iranian side (No: T /3rd ECO Conference /2021/ 325 dated March 14, 2021 and No: T /3rd ECO Conference 2021/433 dated April 27, 2021), requesting exact date and details of the event; however, no reply has been received in this regard.
18.	The Council requested the Member States to offer their views/ proposals in order to contribute the Agenda of the 3rd ECO Conference on ECO Health Tourism.	After clarification of the exact date and program of the event by Iranian side, the proposed Draft Agenda will be circulated among the MSs for their views.
19.	The Republic of Turkey and Turkish Cypriot State renewed	The event will be followed up in coming months.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	their offer to co-host the 4th EGM on Ecotourism in Nicosia on 4th quarter of 2021.	
20.	The Council reiterated its request to the Member States (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to provide all the necessary information (with high resolution photographs) for the "Ecotourism Catalogue for the ECO Region" to be prepared by the Republic of Turkey.	A NV No:T/Ecotourism /2021/162 dated February 18, 2021, was sent to MSs requesting necessary information, however ECO Secretariat has not yet received any reply.
21.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for preparation of the questionnaire on ecotourism and requested all Member States (except Kazakhstan and Pakistan) to fill it up and furnish the ECO Secretariat with the results, in order to establish the relevant database as early as possible.	The required information is still awaited from all Member States (except Kazakhstan and Pakistan)
22.	The Council requested the Republic of Tajikistan to consider hosting ECO Nowruz Festival in 2021 in Tajikistan as well as the launching ceremony of proclaiming Dushanbe as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2020-2021.	After 31th RPC Meeting, ECO Secretariat has been following up the events from Tajikistan side seriously. Two NVs (No: T/ECO Tourism Capital & Agro-Tourism /2021/296 dated 11 March 2021 and T/ECO Tourism Capital & Agro-Tourism /2021/435 dated 27 April 2021) were sent and in the response Republic of Tajikistan expressed its readiness to hold the <b>"International Festival of Dushanbe - ECO Tourism Capital"</b> and <b>"International Forum on Agro-Tourism Development in Tajikistan"</b> , on May 29-30, 2021, however due to technical reasons, the Embassy of Tajikistan via Notes No. 479 dated May 25, 2021, Announced the postponement of the said events. The new date and Tentative Program of the said events are still awaited.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
23.	<p>Taking into consideration the high capacity for job creation and income generation, the Council requested the Member States to consider organizing workshops on rural tourism and also requested the Secretariat to consider seeking technical assistance from relevant international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO, and UNEP.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the workshops on rural tourism on sideline of the ECO Nowruz Festival in one week period beginning of Nowruz, 2021 in Dushanbe on the occasion of proclamation 2019-2021 as the years of Rural Development, Tourism and Folk Crafts.</p>	<p>The event was postponed at the request on the host country.</p>
24.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to convey their views/ comments on “criteria of Tourism Destination Choice” which was circulated to MSs via 30th RPC Working Paper last year, as well as introducing at least five cities as tourist destinations according to the said criteria. The Council also request the Secretariat to establish a databank on selected ECO tourism destinations based on the information received from Member States.</p>	<p>A NV No: T/ Tourism Destination/2021/238 dated March 4, 2021, was sent to MSs for following up the issue, however no reply has yet been received.</p>
25.	<p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider hosting the First Forum of ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders virtually or in person in 2022 with the Opening Ceremony of Sari as ECO Tourism Capital. This Forum will provide the good opportunity to connect the tourism agencies, tour operators, airlines, Hoteliers and all the Tourism related industries of the ECO region. The Council also requested the latter to convene</p>	<p>The events were organized for 2022 and will be followed up in future.</p>



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	workshop on Tourism Business Development back to back with the said Forum.	
26.	The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the issue of Joint Introduction of Public Private Partnership (PPP) System in ECO Member States to develop and introduce tourism destinations and register tour operators in a proper system. The said report will be submitted to the forum of the ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders.	After receiving MSs replies about the Tourism Destinations, ECO Secretariat will prepare a databank as well as the related report based on the received information.
27.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the ECO High Level Expert Meeting on Visa Facilitation virtually in 2021.</p> <p>The Council also suggested the Secretariat to work in coordination with the Member States to implement the project on ECO Tourism Visa.</p>	<p>Tourism Directorate has been following up the visa issue in close cooperation with Transport Directorate. Signing and ratification of any ECO Agreement on Simplification and Harmonization of Visa Procedure for businessmen and drivers, can pave the way for following up the General ECO Visa.</p> <p>As per Article 13 of the Consular Officials Meeting of Embassies of ITI and KTAI en-route Member States, which was held on 9 February 2020 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, the Senior Consular Officials from the Embassies</p> <p>Suggested that “if this Visa Pilot Scheme be successful among the en-route Member States, the ECO Secretariat would closely work with all the Member States to establish a uniform visa scheme as “ECO Visa” for citizens of all Member States traveling within the ECO region. Further it could be extended for non-ECO citizens/tourists entering the ECO region.”</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
28.	The Council requested the Member States to join and contribute to the ECO Tourism Fund and participate in its activities.	During the mid-term review Meetings of ECO Vision 2025, Member States were requested to have high contribution in order to reactivate the ECO Tourism Fund.
29.	The Council appreciated the ECO CCI for convening of the ECO CCI Tourism Committee Meeting on 6 July 2020.	
30.	The Council reiterated its request to the Member States to encourage the private sector involvement in the regional tourism activities through organization of and participation in the relevant meetings, events and initiatives. And in this connection, the ECO CCI was requested to explore the possibility of setting up regional cooperation modality on tourism to strengthen cooperation among the national private sector associations/forums/federations with the purpose of sustainable tourism promotion and propose its study to the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.	
31.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran convening of the 13th International Exhibition of Tourism & Related Industry 12-15 February 2020 in Tehran and welcomed the latter for convening 14th Tehran International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition in 2021. The Council requested all the Member States to actively participate in the Event.	The 14th Tehran International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition, was held in person and online on February 23-26, 2021 and ECO Secretariat participated on that event.
32.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for convening of the World Tourism Day-2020 under the theme of 'Tourism and Rural Development' on 27 September 2020 in Tehran.	
33.	The Council requested the Member States and the Secretariat	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	to actively participate in the international conferences and meetings with the aim of introducing the tourism potentials of the ECO Region and also to increase the role of ECO in the international policy making trends.	
34.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts for institutionalizing relations with UNWTO through an MOU.	
35.	The Council also appreciated the Secretariat for establishing working cooperation with UNIDO and UNESCO for promotion of tourism in the Region and requested the latter to expand its relations with other international organizations and agencies as well.	
36.	The Council urged the Member States to expedite the appointment of their National Focal Points (NPFs) for prompt and smooth communication.	

F. SECTOR: HUMAN RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
1.	The Council stressed the importance of human development issues in the ECO region, including disaster risk reduction, health, education as well as attainment of sustainable development goals, and emphasized that the Member States and the ECO Secretariat need to work further to achieve human development objectives set by ECO Vision 2025.	
2.	The Council acknowledged the significance of collaborative engagements among Member States on human development issues in the ECO region, noting that strong and effective cooperation is essentially required to meet the relevant	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	objectives of ECO Vision 2025, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.	
3.	The Council underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation and assistance of the relevant regional and international organizations for an effective and smooth implementation of the ECO Work Programs for sustainable human development in the ECO region.	
<b>PRIORITY AREA I: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION</b>		
4.	The Council commended the Secretariat for its efforts regarding draft ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-RFDRR) and appreciated the Member States' support in this regard. Recalling that the ECO-RFDRR was supposed to be approved by the 8th Ministerial Meeting on DRR in Turkey, the Council noted that this event could not take place in 2020 due to the ongoing COVID crunch and the pandemic-related restrictions. The Council further appreciated the Republic of Turkey's readiness for virtually hosting this event in March 2021 to secure the Ministers' approval of ECO-RFDRR. In the given context, the Council requested the Republic of Turkey to formally convey the decision soon, including the event's proposed date, to enable the ECO Secretariat to achieve the meeting's required quorum.	The Republic of Turkey hosted the 8 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on DRR on March 17, 2021. ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-RFDRR) and its roadmap were approved during the Conference. The report and other relevant documents adopted/discussed during the Conference were circulated amongst the Member States vide note verble no. 345. Dated 23.3.2021.
5.	The Council encouraged the Member States to sign the Protocol on "Real-Time Seismological Data Exchange" prepared by Turkey, which is expected to be discussed in the 8th Ministerial Meeting on DRR.	The 8 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference considered the Protocol and encouraged the Member States to share real time seismological data. A copy of the Protocol was provided to the Member States along with the report of

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		<p>the Ministerial Conference.</p> <p>The Secretariat re-circulated the Protocol vide note verble no. 564 dated 31.5.2021, requesting the Member States for provision of their views/comments on the protocol.</p>
6.	The Council also encouraged the ECO Secretariat to continue its effective interaction with relevant regional and international organizations and development partners, including UN organizations and international/regional development banks to seek their technical and financial support, develop joint projects, organize events for implementation of the relevant frameworks and programs in line with the ECO Vision 2025.	The adopted ECORFDRR is shared with UNDRR, APDIM and ADPC to seek their cooperation and support for enhancing ECO Framework. The issue should be followed-up.
7.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat:</p> <p>a) Updated list of their relevant stakeholders, including local communities, non-governmental organizations, and private enterprises to facilitate and enhance regional cooperation on DRR</p> <p>b) Updated list of their national focal points to accelerate timely communication on DRR issues</p> <p>c) Information about their activities on DRR and related regulations for further circulation among the Member States to increase public awareness on the importance of DRR.</p>	<p>The Member States have been requested to provide updated particulars of their national focal points on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for more coordination and cooperation within the region vide note verble no. 545 dated 26.5.2021.</p> <p>The Secretariat has requested the Member States to provide information about their activities and good practices as well as provision of relevant regulations on DRR vide note verble no. 546 dated 26/5/2021.</p>
8.	The Council considered that after the ECO-RFDRR is approved, the Secretariat should conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of the regional disaster information system in collaboration of Member States as well as the office of Asia and Pacific Disaster Information Management in Tehran.	A relevant proposed project which is received from Iranian Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology is prepared and sent to PMG meeting on June 14, 2021 to be considered.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
9.	The Council requested the Secretariat and Member States to organize the "1st Senior Officials/Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities" and the training workshop on "Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance" to strengthen capacity of relevant stakeholders of the Member States. The Council noted that this meeting would help strengthen the capacities, boost skills, and increase knowledge of all stakeholders in the relevant field.	The Secretariat requested The Member States to convey their willingness for hosting "1st Senior Officials/Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities" and the training workshop on "Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance" and propose convenient dates along with provision of technical arrangements and particulars of their focal point vide note verble no. 358 dated 30/3/2021. The Secretariat has followed the issue and requested the Member States to expedite the requested response, vide note verble no. 563 dated 31.5.2021.
10.	The Council encouraged the Member States to: a) Ensure their participation in the training events of the UNDRR on Sendai Framework Monitoring System b) Organize virtual or physical events/conferences/seminars/workshops in 2021 as per relevant provisions contained in the ECO Vision 2025 c) Propose feasible regional projects for further evaluation and discussion by the relevant ECO organs.	No feedback is received from MSs.  Iran National Insurance Company held a meeting with HRSD Directorate for discussion of organizing a training workshop in Risk of Disasters and Insurance in close future.
<b>PRIORITY AREA II: HEALTH</b>		
11.	The Council appreciated the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Virtual High Level Expert Group Meeting on Health on November 2, 2020.	The Virtual High Level Expert Group Meeting on Health was convened on November 2, 2020, and the report of the Meeting along with other relevant documents was circulated amongst the Member States.
12.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Health in the second quarter of 2021 for adoption of the Declaration finalized by the	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Health was scheduled to be held on May 19, 2021. However, due to lack of quorum the meeting re-scheduled and convened

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	High-Level Expert Group.	successfully on June 2, 2021. The report of the Meeting and all other relevant documents were circulated amongst the Member States vide note verble no. 606 dated 8/6/2021.
13.	The Council encouraged the Member States to boost their cooperative activities aimed at defeating the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing the actions set-forth in the said Declaration.	The Tehran Declaration, finalized by HLEG, was circulated amongst the Member States for their consideration. The declaration was adopted during the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Health.
14.	The Council requested the Member States to support the initiative concerning the establishment of a regional consultation mechanism for technical cooperation on communicable diseases, specifically COVID-19, consisting of senior officials of Member States and WHO to elaborate on coordinated complementary actions for Country Preparedness and Response Plans, including operational mechanisms to secure critical supplies, prevent depletion of stocks as well as mitigate market disruptions and hoarding for all ECO Member States that need further support.	This issue was reflected at 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Health and a task force group of Interested MSs should be established to materialize the proposals.
15.	The Council requested the Member States to assist the most vulnerable countries to COVID-19 and develop a special medical project for enhancing the capacities of the existing hospitals in Herat city of Afghanistan.	The issue has been referred to be followed up under the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan in the JPC and EAPA Section.
16.	Recognizing the importance of international cooperation to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat and ECO-TDB to continue interaction with the relevant regional and international organizations as well as development partners, to seek their technical and financial support, develop joint projects, organize events for	The running of ECO Action Plan on health will accelerate the proposed measures.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	establishment of a regional consultation mechanism for technical cooperation on communicable diseases, specifically COVID-19.	
17.	The Council welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran for fourth revision of the draft ECO Plan of Action (PoA) on Health, and the regional cooperation issues on communicable (including COVID-19) and non-communicable diseases as well as Universal Health Coverage and the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to share the draft Plan of Action with the ECO Secretariat for getting views/comments of the Member States for approval by the next 4th Ministerial meeting.	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Version of Plan of Action on Health received from Iran and circulated amongst the Member States vide note verble no. 122 dated 4/2/2021. The said Plan of Action was adopted during the 4th Ministerial Meeting held on June 2, 2021.
18.	The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to follow up on the outcomes of the ongoing small sized pharmaceutical project and to propose and develop more feasible projects.	The contract of the small sized project named “Regional Capacity of Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals”, which costs US\$ 8,500/-, was signed on December 3, 2020 and completed on March 3, 2021.
19.	The Council re-emphasized the importance of the ECO Secretariat’s continued interaction with international organizations, including WHO and other stakeholders to maintain the existing support and accelerate their further technical and financial backings in joint projects.	The measures are very sluggish due to the Pandemic
20.	Emphasizing on the effective communication between the Secretariat and relevant focal points of the Member states on the implementation of relevant programs and activities, the Council requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat updated lists of their national focal points for accelerating the pace of progress on health issues.	The Secretariat requested the concerned authorities of the Member States to provide the Secretariat with an updated list of their national focal point for effective coordination and cooperation on the implementation of relevant health programme and activities vide note verble no. 560 dated 30/5/2021.



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
21.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey on sharing experiences regarding Covid-19 through Covid-19 E-Learning Program for Healthcare Workers which will include specialized professors' lectures on different topics and the Council recommended Member States to participate in the Covid-19 E- Learning Program for Healthcare Workers.	The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey has designed a website named 'Distance learning System (DILES)' an online training platform with the aim of sharing Turkey's experience gained during its combat against COVID-19 as well as information exchange with health workers from Other Member States. The platform is accessible through <a href="https://diles.saglik.gov.tr/">https://diles.saglik.gov.tr/</a> . The above-mentioned information was communicated with the Member States through 346 dated 23/3/2021.
<b>PRIORITY AREA III: EDUCATION</b>		
22.	The Council praised the scientific and educational activities of the ECOEI for enhancing cooperation on educational matters in the ECO region. The Council also acknowledged and commended the cooperative activities of the Secretariat and the ECOEI regarding the development of Plan of Action on Education, aimed at promoting the regional collaborative engagements for acceleration of activities on education and related trainings.	
23.	The Council requested the Member States (except those who have already provided inputs) for expediting the provision of their views/inputs to identify the need and necessity of developing a Plan of Action on Education in line with the ECO Vision 2025, along with particulars of their nominations for ECOEI Academic Council and relevant focal points.	
24.	The Council requested the ECOEI and the ECO Secretariat to engage with the international organizations, including	The Secretariat has followed up this issue and requested the ECO Educational Institute to convey its

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	UNESCO and initiate collaboration in the areas of technical as well as vocational education and training.	views/comments in regard to the initiation of collaboration with international organizations in the areas of technical as well as vocational education and training vide note verble no. 571 dated 1/6/2021.
25.	The Council expressed its gratitude to the ECOEI with collaboration of ECO Secretariat to organize a “High Level University Representatives Forum” to be scheduled in 2021 and encouraged all Member States to participate in this event.	The Secretariat has also requested the ECOEI to propose appropriate date(s) along with other technical details for holding the “High Level University Representatives Forum” vide note verble no. 571 dated 1/6/2021.
26.	The Council requested the Member States (except those who have already signed/ratified) to speed up signing/ratifying the ECOI’s Charter.	
<b>PRIORITY AREA IV: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>		
27.	The Council noted that all United Nations Member States, including the ECO Countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which provides a detailed plan for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. In this regard, the Council stressed the importance of attainment of SDGs and the important role that the ECO plays and can further play. Relevantly, it welcomed the ECO Secretariat’s initiative on the mapping study for alignment of ECO activities with SDGs, which will guide the ECO to progress in line with global development agenda.	The Secretariat has requested the Member States for provision of their respective data/document(s) developed to achieve sustainable development goals along with their updated implementation status. The Secretariat will use the data/documents for aligning ECO’s activities with SDGs and prepare a consolidated regional report with as well as es developing of Sustainable Development Performance Index.
28.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat for working on international good practices to set up some cooperation and integration qualities for the ECO, noting that the resilience, <b>well-governed, green, inclusive, resilient, integrated, and</b>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<b>prosperous can be considered, inter alia, as such qualities, to help ECO enhance its activities.</b>	
29.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to conduct a study on developing and establishing an ECO Sustainable Development Performance Index, considering that this index may help Member States and ECO Secretariat to follow up the developments on SDGs in Member States.	

#### G. SECTOR: JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND ECO ADVOCACY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN

1.	Acknowledging the importance of core objectives as per ECO Vision 2025 that require a multi-faceted and supportive policy environment, the 31st RPC considered the necessity of a well-thought and maintained judicial and law enforcement coordination. It emphasized on the need to accelerate the collaborative regional activities to address the common concerns of the Member States. In this regard, the Council realized the significance of the effective regional institutional arrangements on police and law enforcement, judicial and anti-corruption cooperation and fight against menace of drugs as well as capacity building and training programs amongst the Member States.	
2.	The Council requested the Member States to continue cooperation in judicial, law enforcement, anti-corruption, anti-	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	drug and other cross-border crimes, parliamentary and Afghanistan related issues. The Council further mandated the Secretariat to ensure smooth cooperation in these areas.	
3.	Realizing the perceived aims and objectives envisaged in the ECO Vision 2025, the Council emphasized that cooperation on fight against illicit drugs remains as an area of interest. The Council mandated the Secretariat to continue performing all activates in Drugs and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) by JPC and EAPA Section under the new structure of the organization. The Council requested the Secretariat to keep pursuing the matter of improving effective technical cooperation with the relevant regional and international organizations to counter-act illicit drugs activities.	In order to operationalize the activities related to EAPA, some robust procedural guidelines are proposed to be developed
4.	<p>The Council acknowledged the proceedings of earlier meetings of the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General, emphasizing on the necessity of an early establishment of the effective mechanism for judicial cooperation/legal assistance. While encouraging the continuity and maintenance of such interactions to secure the intended aims and objectives, the Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to convey the draft framework agreement for judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism for the ECO Region and invited the Member States to share their views and comments on the draft framework agreement to be provided by Pakistan;</li> </ul>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interested Member States may convey their willingness for hosting the “1st Experts Group Meeting to establish judicial/legal cooperation mechanism”;</li> <li>• The interested Member States may express their willingness for hosting of the “4th Meeting of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General”; and</li> <li>• The Member States should convey updated particulars of their focal points in this regard.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p>Taking into account the required and enhanced regional cooperation against corruption, the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested the State Parties to the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) to take necessary steps for its early operationalization.</li> <li>• Encouraged the Member States, who have not signed the Statute of the Center as yet, to sign and ratify the statute of RCCACO;</li> <li>• Appreciated the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the “4th Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States” and requested the relevant authorities of Uzbekistan to inform the Secretariat about the required arrangements;</li> <li>• Requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider necessary arrangements for the establishment of the headquarters of RCCACO in close consultation with the Secretariat and provide the Member Parties with relevant information;</li> <li>• Appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for signing the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States was hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 16 – 17, 2021. The event, organized in Tashkent, was attended by delegations of all Member States. The ECO delegation participated in the meeting virtually.</li> <li>• During the Meeting, the Member States agreed to: (i) expedite national procedures for signing/ratification of the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) and its early Operationalization as an effective and useful forum to achieve desired results against corruption as well as other forms of financial crimes; (ii) organize training events concerning fight against corruption on regular basis; (iii) create a smart regional structure for transparency in the fight against corruption; (iv) organize the first Meeting of the General Assembly of the States Parties to RCCACO.</li> </ul>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Statute of RCCACO and requested the country for its early ratification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Member States that his country is considering allocation of premises for the Centre and it is likely that the Centre will be unveiled in November, 2021.</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Reiterating the importance of ECOPOL, the Council recalled that the relevant Working Group was expected to consider and finalize the draft Statute of ECOPOL, followed by approval of the Statute by 2nd Chiefs of Police Meeting and adoption by 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting. It requested the Secretariat to make necessary preparations and the interested Member States to designate liaison officers for the required coordination. The Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Member States may share their final views with the Secretariat on the draft Statute of ECOPOL;</li> <li>The Secretariat will host a Virtual Working Group Meeting in the first half of 2021. for consideration and finalization of the draft Statute of ECOPOL; and</li> <li>The interested Member States may offer to host the “2nd Meeting of Chiefs of Police and the Heads of INTERPOL of the ECO Member States to approve the draft Statute of ECOPOL to be submitted to the 4th Meeting of the ECO Ministers of Interior for adoption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ECO Secretariat is in contact with the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and they informed the Secretariat that the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its readiness for hosting of the Meeting of the Heads of INTERPOL of the ECO Member States on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in Virtual format. This meeting will provide unique opportunity for the Member States to finalize the Draft Statute of ECOPOL.</li> <li>The Islamic Republic of Iran is requested to kindly convey the necessary information regarding the offered events during the 31<sup>st</sup> RPC Meeting.</li> </ul>
7.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for completing the ratification process of PAECO’s Charter, noting that at least four Member States were required to ratify the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) was hosted by the National Assembly of</li> </ul>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>Charter to make it operational. In this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While commending Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Tajikistan and Turkey for signing the PAECO's Charter, the Council requested the signatories of the Charter (except Pakistan) to convey to the Secretariat about their latest status concerning ratification of the Charter;</li> <li>• The Council requested the non-signatory Member States of Charter of PAECO to consider signing of the Charter;</li> <li>• While appreciating the offer of Pakistan to host the 2nd Meeting of PAECO in 4-7 April, 2021, the Council invited the Member States to actively participate in the event.</li> </ul>	<p>the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from June 1 - 2, 2021. It was attended by the Speakers/Heads of the Parliaments of ECO Member States. The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour virtually participated in the Conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Republic of Azerbaijan via Note Verbale on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, informed the Member States that the Charter of PAECO has ratified by their Parliament. And the ECO Secretariat via Note Verbale No. PAECO/20121/597 of June 7, 2021 informed the Member States about the latest status of the Charter of PAECO.</li> <li>• The Secretariat also requested the Signatory Countries to the Charter of PAECO to consider ratification of the said document.</li> </ul>
8.	<p>The Council encouraged the Member States to make adequate contributions to the ECO Fund for Afghanistan to support the efforts of the ECO and the Government of Afghanistan for reconstruction and sustainable development as well as economic growth in Afghanistan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECO Secretariat prepared a comprehensive report on implementation of the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan and circulated to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan via Note Verbale No. JPC&amp;EAPA/ Report/2021/398 dated April, 14, 2021. Via the said Note Verbale the Secretariat requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to share their views about the said report to be circulated amongst the ECO Member States.</li> </ul>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
9.	The Council requested the interested Member States to consider hosting “First Meeting of the Donors for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan (1st MDECOFA)” that could not be held in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECO Secretariat Via Note Verbale No. JPC&amp;EAPA/1st MDECOFA/2021/374 of April 6, 2021, requested the ECO Member States to host the “First Meeting of the Donors for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan.</li> <li>• The “First Meeting of the Donors for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan (1st MDECOFA)” may take place on the sideline of Summit in Turkmenistan in November 2021.</li> </ul>
10.	The Council requested the Secretariat to keep following the issue as regards opening of a bank account for ECO Fund for Afghanistan in Kabul as well as transfer of the balance of money from the existing bank account in Habib Bank, London to the relevant bank account proposed to be opened in Afghanistan in collaboration/assistance with Afghanistan and Pakistan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECO Secretariat is in contact with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan to expedite the process of opening of new bank account in respect of ECO Fund for Afghanistan. And circulated some Note verbale to follow-up the issue.</li> <li>• The information related to closure of account was also conveyed to the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran. The Secretariat requested to expedite the response of their relevant authorities to speed up the process of opening of a new bank account at Bank-e-Millie Afghan as well as smooth transfer of the fund from HBL, London to the proposed bank in Kabul (Reference Notes Verbale No. 2020/590, No. 2021/30 and No. 2021/129 dated November 2, 2020, January 11, 2021, February 8, 2021 and April 8, 2021,</li> </ul>



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		<p>respectively).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has nominated its focal point for this purpose, accordingly ECO Secretariat has inform the nominated focal point , manager of Bank-e-Milie Afghan in Kabul as well as the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tehran.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
11.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to introduce relevant projects based on EAPA for consideration of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECO Secretariat Via Note verbale No. JPC&amp;EAPA/Report/ 2021/398 of February 2, 202, requested the Embassy of Afghanistan to share the latest developments related to internal arrangements for establishment of the said unit in the Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan.</li> </ul>
12.	The Council called upon those Member States already pledged contributions to fulfill their commitments as soon as possible and also requested the Member States to boost the existing level of their assistance and monetary contributions to the ECO Fund for Afghanistan.	
13.	The Council requested the Secretariat to organize a meeting of the ECO Member/non-Member countries, International and Regional Organizations as well as NGOs, to find their support for facilitating the process of reconstruction and development in Afghanistan. The Council further encouraged the Member	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	States to actively participate in such activities.	
14.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to provide with a detailed information as regards the implementation of the project titled "Reconstruction of Dr. Rafiqi Kamil Urga Sanatorium Hospital of Kabul Medical University. The Republic of Turkey informed the Council that the tender document for the Dr. Rıfki Kamil Urga Maternity Hospital Project has been prepared and an agreement has been reached between TİKA and the Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan on the protocol text. The Republic of Turkey also informed the Council that Tender will be made for the project once the protocol has been signed and Turkey will provide detailed information to the ECO Secretariat and relevant authorities of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.	
15.	The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the "Second Virtual Workshop on Primary Prevention on Addiction" in 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on "Primary Prevention of Addiction" was virtually hosted by Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran on May 25, 2021. The event was attended by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan. A representative from the University of Tehran also joined the event as co-host.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
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H. SECTOR: ECO'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/AFFILIATED BODIES		
1.	The Council underscored the importance of promoting the broad objectives of the ECO Specialized Agencies and encouraged these key ECO bodies to synergize their activities to promote regional cooperation in the relevant fields.	In accordance with the recommendations of the RPC, the specialized agencies of ECO are developing closer cooperation in the relevant fields. In this regard, the 1 <sup>st</sup> Joint Symposium of the Rectors of ECO Member States Universities was held on March 04, 2021 which was successfully organized by ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in collaboration with Allameh Tabatabaee University, Tehran.
2.	The Council encouraged the Member States to join, where applicable, the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies and Centres and support their activities in different areas for the shared goals.	In 2021, a steady progress has been observed in the process of joining the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies and Centres by the Member States. In the first half of 2021, Republic of Azerbaijan has joined Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Countries (PAECO) by ratifying its charter, while charter of ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) has been signed by Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Turkey.
3.	The Council appreciated the ECO for establishing Ad-hoc Committee to look into the modalities and the efficacy/performance of the specialized agencies, regional institutions and affiliated bodies. The Council encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the ongoing activities of the Ad-hoc Committee.	The Ad-hoc Committee was established to look into the modalities and the efficacy/performance of the specialized agencies, regional institutions and affiliated bodies. So far the Committee has organized three meetings with active participation of the member states.
4.	The Council, while recalling its earlier recommendation to enhance coordination among the ECO Specialized Agencies,	As per the recommendations of the Council, the three ECO specialized agencies have identified several

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	appreciated the ECO Secretariat and the Specialized Agencies for organizing their 3 <sup>rd</sup> consultation meeting in order to develop a coordination mechanism and sharing information about their activities of mutual interest. The Council encouraged the ECO Specialized Agencies to identify innovative and pragmatic joint activities in the relevant fields to further contribute towards socio-economic development of the ECO region.	activities in their respective programs and established more formal mechanism of mutual consultations to implement their programs. The recent illustration is organizing the 1 <sup>st</sup> Joint Symposium of the Rectors of ECO Member States Universities which was in March 2021 by the three specialized agencies.
5.	The Council requested the concerned Member States to expedite the process of Host Country Agreement pertaining to ECO Science Foundation, ECO Cultural Institute and ECO Educational Institute.	The Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of the ECO Culture Institute (ECI) has recently authorized the Institute to initiate the process for Host Country Agreement in consultation with Islamic Republic of Iran. Similarly, Pakistan has informed that the process of Host Country Agreement pertaining to ECO Science Foundation is in the final stage.
6.	The Council while considering the impact of COVID-19 especially for holding cultural events appreciated the activities undertaken by the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) during 2020. The Council encouraged the Institute to broaden its current scope of activities in order to make meaningful progress in achieving the goals outlined in its Charter.	The Institute has broadened its current scope of activities in order to make meaningful progress in achieving the goals as per the recommendations of the RPC. In June 2021, the ECI has organized a special ceremony to restoration of Tehran based ECO Park and in this regard MoU was also signed between the Abbas Azad Land Renovation Organization and the ECI for revival of the ECO Park.
7.	The Council emphasized its earlier recommendation that the non-signatory Member States might consider signing the Charter of ECO Cultural Institute and requested the signatory Member States to ratify the Charter at the earliest.	So far in 2021, no additional Member State ratified/signed the Charter of the ECI.
8.	The Council requested the concerned Member States to take	The 31 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	necessary steps to ensure timely transfer of mandatory annual budgetary contributions to the ECI's budget. Timely payment of annual contributions would facilitate the Institute carry on its activities for realizing its aims and objectives.	Representatives (CPR) of the ECO Culture Institute (ECI) has deliberated the issue at length and made several relevant proposals and decision.
9.	The Council acknowledged the ECI's proposal to include Cultural Weeks in its calendar of events for 2021 in order to promote regional culture. The Council also requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to share their proposals for organizing such events with the ECI.	The concerned Member States have welcomed the proposal and ECI is coordinating with the Member States for organizing the Cultural Weeks.
10.	The Council asked the Institute to work out a strategy for regular follow-up on all relevant matters with the concerned Member States. The Council also requested the Member States to nominate their Focal Points to the Institute for effective coordination.	The institute, in coordination with the CPR of ECI, is working to materialize the proposal.
11.	The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECI's Board of Trustees (BoT) to be held virtually in 2021 and requested the IR Iran to convey the exact dates of the meeting at the earliest convenience.	The 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECI's Board of Trustees (BoT) is expected to be held in the second half of 2021.
12.	The Council appreciated ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) for carrying out various important activities in 2020 for developing and promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of science and technology.	The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) has planned/organized similar activities in 2021 for developing and promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of science and technology.
13.	The Council acknowledged the recent efforts of the ECOSF for arranging several capacity building events for ECO Member States in collaboration with other regional and international organizations. The Council also encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the activities of the Foundation.	The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) has extended its activities for capacity building of ECO Member States in collaboration with other regional and international organizations.
14.	The Council took note of the postponement of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECOSF Executive Committee in 2020 due to lack of quorum.	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) was successfully

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	The Council asked the ECOSF to announce new dates of the Meeting in the first half of 2021 and requested the concerned Member States to attend this important meeting once rescheduled.	held on April 21, 2021. The Meeting was chaired by President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and attended by the Representatives of the Member States of the ECO namely; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan as well as ECO Secretariat.
15.	The Council urged the concerned Member States to expedite the process of ratification of the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol at the earliest to benefit from its activities.	No additional Member State ratified/signed the Charter of the ECOSF.
16.	The Council considered the financial problems being faced by ECOSF due to non-payment/late payment of the annual contributions by some of the member states and requested the concerned Member States to pay their mandatory contributions in a regular and timely manner.	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) held on April 21, 2021, deliberated the issue and made appropriate decisions.
17.	The Council expressed its satisfaction on the recent developments made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan pertaining to the process of signing the Host Country Agreement with the ECOSF and requested the country to expedite the required process for signing/ratification of this agreement.	The relevant authorities of Pakistan briefed the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) on the progress. It was informed by Pakistan that the required process is in a final stage.
18.	In order to ensure effective coordination between the ECOSF and the Member States, the Council requested the relevant authorities of the Member States to designate their focal points for the ECOSF at their earliest.	The issue was raised in the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and appropriate decision was made by the Committee.
19.	The Council took note with appreciation of activities organized by the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in 2020 in the relevant areas and called upon the Member States to actively participate in the activities of the Institute to take full benefit of its potential.	The ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) has formulated a comprehensive program for 2021 for developing and promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of education.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
20.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for successfully organizing the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECOEI Board of Trustees (BoT) and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) of the ECOEI held virtually in August 2020. The Council appreciated the ECOEI Work Programme 2020-2022 adopted at the Third Meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees and invites Member States to peruse the document and participate actively in the planned activities.	The ECOEI is following the program in collaboration with Member States as well as other regional and international organizations in the relevant fields.
21.	The Council warmly congratulated Prof. M. Akif Kirecci on his re-appointment as the President of ECOEI for a term of 3 years by the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting and subsequent approval of the COM.	ECOEI under the leadership of Prof. M. Akif Kirecci is further pursuing the objectives of the Institute in the field of education.
22.	The Council took note of the delay in completion of ratification by the non-ratifying member states and requested the concerned Member States to ratify the ECOEI Charter at the earliest. The Council also requested concerned Member States to pay their mandatory contributions to ECOEI for smooth functioning of the Institute.	So far no additional country has signed the charter of the Institute in 2021.
23.	The Council requested the Member States to nominate their fresh National Focal Points to the Institute, as this would help in ensuring effective coordination between the ECOEI and ECO Member States in the relevant matters.	Most of the relevant countries have nominated their respective focal points after the strong follow-up made by the ECO Educational Institute.
24.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey and the ECOEI's President for signing the Host Country Agreement Between the Government of Turkey and the ECOEI in July 2020 and requested the Republic of Turkey to expedite the ratification process.	The other specialized agencies are also following the ECOEI and making progress for concluding their respective Host Country Agreements.
25.	While reiterating its earlier recommendations, the Council	The relevant report is awaited by the ECO Engineering

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	urged the ECO Engineering and Consultancy Company (ECOCEC) to prepare a detailed report highlighting its core competencies in the field of engineering which would be shared with the relevant agencies and authorities of the Member States for enhanced understanding of the ECO-CEC.	and Consultancy Company.
26.	The Council recalled the commitment made by the ECO College of Insurance during the 30 <sup>th</sup> RPC and requested the College to share its updated activities and latest academic offers for the Member States. The Council also called upon the relevant authorities of the Member States to convey their proposals for enhancing cooperation in the fields of insurance and regional studies.	The updated program from the ECO College of Insurance is expected in the beginning of the educational year.
27.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Secretariat to organizing special events in 2021 as a part of celebrations of the 30 <sup>th</sup> independence anniversary of the six Central Asian ECO States. The Council, while taking into account the ongoing situation of COVID-19 pandemic, encouraged the Secretariat to seek further recommendations of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on the subject proposal.	The special events may be organized on the occasion of ECO Day in November 2021, subject to improvement in the ongoing situation of COVID-19.
28.	Considering the significance of scientific innovations, the Council appreciated the I.R. of Iran for its fresh offer to host the First Meeting of ECO Heads of Scientific Innovation Bodies/Funds in 2021 in Tehran.	The event is expected to be organized in the second half of 2021.
29.	While recalling the offer of the I.R. of Iran to host the First Meeting of Heads of Broadcasting Organizations (Radio and Television) of ECO Member States, the Council acknowledged the willingness of Iran to organize the meeting in 2021. The Council further requested the Member States to actively participate in meeting.	First Meeting of Heads of Broadcasting Organizations (Radio and Television) of ECO Member States may be held in third quarter of the current year.



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
30.	The Council appreciated the I.R. of Iran for considering the proposal of the ECO Secretariat to involve sports activities as a soft and effective tool of regional integration and in this regard welcomed the offer of Iran to host the First Meeting of Heads of ECO Football Federations in Kish Island in 2021.	In the light of COIVD-19 situation and travel restrictions, the meeting could not be scheduled yet.
31.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to promote its cooperative relations with international and regional organizations and UN bodies as well as relevant non-ECO States. The Council also requested the Member States to support the Secretariat in this regard and share substantive proposals for promoting ECO's cooperative relationship with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes.	In continuation of the past efforts for strengthening and expanding ECO's cooperative relations with the UN system, steady endeavor has also been made in a range of collaborative activities. ECO's relations with the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes.
32.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat to take further steps in accordance with the Treaty of Izmir and the relevant decisions reached at different fora to strengthen the existing cooperation with the regional and international partners.	The Secretariat intends to enhance its cooperative relations with major international and regional organizations in line with the Izmir Treaty, the basic document of the organization. During the period under review, ECO maintained its relations with important Regional and International Organizations and the Secretariat was represented by the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary Generals of ECO in the relevant meetings of those organizations in order to strengthen mutual cooperation.
33.	The Council appreciated the recent approach of the Secretariat to revise the existing MoUs signed between ECO and international/regional organizations in accordance with latest global developments and relevant objectives of the concerned organizations.	As per the recommendation of the RPC, the Secretariat has continued its approach for revising the existing MoUs wherever applicable. In this regard, MoU with ESCAP has been revised in first half of 2021 and it is expected that the signing ceremony one of the revised

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		MoU may held in third quarter of 2021 after getting approval from the relevant forums.
34.	The Council urged the Secretariat to give special focus to establish contacts and expanding relationship with funding agencies/institutions like the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in order to enlist their support for ECO projects/programmes.	Owing to recent project oriented approach of the ECO, the Secretariat enhanced its collaboration with the several international and regional organizations for acquiring technical and financial support for ECO's ongoing and proposed project in the all priory areas.
35.	The Council took note with appreciation that in accordance with recommendation of the 30 <sup>th</sup> RPC the I.R. of Pakistan had scheduled the Training Workshop/Course for foreign services officers from ECO Member States at Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan in November 2020. Since the scheduled Training Course could not be held due to ongoing COVID-19 situation and travel restrictions, the Council further appreciated the fresh offer of Pakistan to organize the said Training Workshop in 2021 either virtually or in person.	On the proposal of the RPC, I.R. of Pakistan has offered to reschedule the training workshop in 2021 at Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan. However, due to ongoing COVID situation, the course could not be held. The Course may be scheduled by the host country in the second half of 2021, subject to ongoing condition of the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions.

## I. SECTOR: ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

### Statistics

1.	The Council recommended that the Secretariat take necessary actions for strengthening: (i) ECO Data Bank, (ii) "ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics" (previous title has been adjusted upon the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran) and, (iii) project implementation capacities in the ECO Member States to create an enabling environment for and facilitate	The Draft Agenda of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Statistical Offices (HNSO) of ECO Member States has been circulated to Member States via Note Verbal (NV) 544 dated 26/5/2021. Background materials in support of agenda item (7) of Draft Agenda on "ECO Five-Year Strategic Plan on Statistics) were prepared and
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Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>economic growth in the ECO region. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan requested that the “ECO Five Year Strategic Plan on Statistics” should be shared with the I. R. of Afghanistan. It also stated that the I.R. of Afghanistan is ready to share the related data with ECO Data Bank for strengthening of the latter.</p>	<p>currently await for clearance within Secretariat.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran requested the ECO Secretariat to revise the ECO Five-Year Strategic Plan on Statistics by considering the changing realities of today’s regional conditions and, the “ECO Framework of Cooperation in Statistics” based on the New Plan and, circulate it to the Member States via the formal channel directly to the respective Focal Point. After approval of the Plan, an Action Plan based on the Five-year Plan should be developed.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran informed of its support to the strengthening of the ECO Data Bank via adopting modern IT based-tools and methods and considering the changing realities of today’s regional statistics by the Secretariat.</p>
2.	<p>The Council encouraged constructive involvement of the ECO National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Economic Research Institutes/Centers of Ministries of Economy and relevant authorities of Member States to essentially contribute to the implementation of the 2021 Work Programme on Economic Research and Statistics.</p>	<p>The National Focal Points (NFPs) have been nominated by Member States for Statistics, based on nomination letters (Incoming NN. 239, 478, 651, 217, 283, 298, 343, 441, 330 and 236 responding to ECO Secretariat’s NV No. 197 dated 15/3/2021) and, in parallel, on Economic Research. The Lists for both: NFPs on Economic Research and NFPs for Statistics were circulated to Member States via NV No.ERS/2021/534 dated 25/5/2021.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran suggested that the Secretariat provide/draft a mechanism for sharing</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		good practices/experiences/expertise and the information of the ECO NSOs on their Capacity Building Statistical Programme especially related to the “Current Status of Statistical Operations under the covid19 pandemic and best practices” during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Statistical Research and Training Centre of the SCI may provide its best practices via the established mechanism.
3.	In regard of the Work Programme 2021, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed interactive webinar sessions, online seminars, training courses and workshops focusing on sharing experiences and expertise among the ECO NSOs during COVID-19 pandemic. The above suggested online events were asked to be organized by the Secretariat (Economic Research and Statistics Section). It particularly suggested holding the 5th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSOs) and 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO High Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting as virtual/online events to be arranged by the Secretariat (Economic Research and Statistics Section). The following themes have been suggested for statistical trainings as: "Current Status of Statistical Operations under COVID-19 pandemic-inflicted Challenges and Best Practices". Likewise, the development of online questionnaires with realistic deadlines for feedbacks was suggested to be set - for time & cost efficiency.	<p>1. As recommended in para-3 of Work Programme 2021 (I. Sector: ERS): “<i>Current Status of Statistical Operations under COVID-19 pandemic-inflicted Challenges and Best Practices</i>” has been included as the key topic for discussion during the 5<sup>th</sup> MHNSO scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in online mode.</p> <p>2. Development of online questionnaires with clearly indicated realistic deadlines for data inputs were circulated to the Member States via NV. No. ECO-KSI/2021/222 dated 1/3/2021.</p>
4.	The Council invited interested Member States to hold the 5th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSO) and 7th ECO High Level Expert Group (HLEG)	As recommended in the said paragraph-4 (Work Programme 2021, I. Sector: ERS) virtual arrangement accounting for a skip of concurrent HLEGM of the 5 <sup>th</sup>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Meeting on Statistics in 2021 in virtual mode.	<p>MHNSOs has been scheduled as recommended in paragraph-4, <i>I. Sector: Economic Research and Statistics, Work Programme 2021</i>).</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran suggested that, if the 7th ECO High Level Expert Group had been held separately, the results would have been better. By joining of both event: the 5th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSO) and the 7th ECO High Level Expert Group (HLEG), no contribution was made by high level experts. In this regard, the Statistical Center of Iran suggested that future these two meetings be held separately.</p>
5.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to draft the agenda of the aforementioned Meetings, in close consultations with Member States, to include, in addition to the discussion of the “ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics”, acute statistical issues such as: (i) defining of methodologies for documenting and publishing ECO concepts, definitions, classifications and metadata used by the Organization in international statistical activities, (ii) dissemination of the ECO regional statistics outputs to original source and using agreed quotation standards when reusing statistics, originally collected by partner international statistical organizations, (iii) distinction, in statistical publications, between statistical and analytical comments versus policy-prescriptive and advocacy comments.	<p>The recommended issues including:</p> <p>(i) defining of methodologies for documenting and publishing ECO concepts, definitions, classifications and metadata used by the Organization in international statistical activities,</p> <p>(ii) dissemination of the ECO regional statistics outputs to original source and using agreed quotation standards when reusing statistics, originally collected by partner international statistical organizations,</p> <p>(iii) distinction, in statistical publications, between statistical and analytical comments versus policy-prescriptive and advocacy comments have found their suggested reflection in the Draft Agenda of the planned 5<sup>th</sup> MHNSOs (scheduled for June '21).</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran agreed on the</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		recommendation. It also wished to know the details of the drafting of the methodologies for documenting and publishing ECO concepts, definitions, classifications and metadata used by the Organization in international statistical activities. The Statistical Center of Iran requested that the methodologies should be circulated to the Member States for views and comments allowing sufficient time frame for feedback.
6.	<p>The Council recommended that all Member States, except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, provide, by latest 15 April 2021, their relevant official statistics data inputs designated for "ECO Data Bank" via questionnaires that were reformatted under a qualitatively new framework. To meet such a request, the Member States asked the Secretariat to re-circulate all pertinent questionnaires in regard of: (i) ECO Data Bank, (ii) Statistics and (iii) Economic research.</p> <p>In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan proposed that the justification should be given for excluding Afghanistan since it already provided inputs and, although, it avails of rich dataset of different socio-economic indicators, unluckily, it did not receive any corresponding feedbacks from the Secretariat on its data or other relevant documents.</p>	<p>The questionnaires have been developed and circulated to Member States via Note Verbal No. ECO-KSI/2021/222 dated 1/3/2021.</p> <p>The National Focal Point of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for Statistics in ECO has been contacted by Secretariat to have him informed about timely provision to the Secretariat of the Statistical Year Book by I.R. Afghanistan.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran informed that it has completed the questionnaires and returned them to the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels on 26 June 2021 (Response to Note Verbal No:531/823395).</p>
7.	The Council requested interested Member States to forward to the Secretariat their concrete project proposals targeting the following prerequisite items: (a) selective focus areas of CountryStat Development that may require further	Cross-sector consultations are being held among concerned Directorate of Secretariat liaising with FAO in order to develop a single window approach toward collecting the proposals from ECO Member States on

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>improvements; (b) pilot country or a group of countries for project implementation; (c) an estimated amount of technical assistance for proposed improvements to formulate a request to project's partnerships subject for consideration by the 7<sup>th</sup> HLEGM on Statistics.</p> <p>In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Secretariat develop a soft questionnaire (in an excel/word format) instead of an on-paper questionnaire and circulated it amongst the Member States. Further on this matter, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan noted that the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) of Afghanistan wishes to measure Informal Economy, which is one of the burning research issues of today. Besides, full technical and financial support of the ECO member countries was said to be needed for this purpose.</p>	<p>Country Stat, which, in the past, had been assisted from FAOSTAT with specific focus on I.R. of Afghanistan as pilot country.</p>
8.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with nominations of their assigned National Focal Points (NFPs) on Statistics. In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan informed the Member States that the process of appointing the NFP is different in Afghanistan, and therefore asked the Secretariat to send an official email to the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) of I.R. of Afghanistan for appointing the relevant person.</p>	<p>The official email notification, as recommended in paragraph-8 of the Work Programme 2021 (ibid) has been sent to the Head of NSO of I.R. Afghanistan, accordingly on 6/4/2020.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran revised its Focal Point on Statistics – Ms. Sara Samadi, In-charge, Office of the Head, Public Relations and International Cooperation.</p>
9.	<p>To facilitate Official Statistics' processes, the Council requested the Contact Points in the Member States to be prepared for compiling required data on ECOKSIs. It also noted that the Contact Points in NSOs of Member States had previously been assigned for the following operations: (i) to key in the primary</p>	<p>As with comprehensive digitization undergoing in the documentation center of the Secretariat, the allocation of digital space for statistics is being awaited. As soon as the technical parameters of entry pass and verification code will be obtained by the relevant</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>input data items of ECOKSIs onto ECOSTAT from their designated data access/entry points of the system and (ii) to monitor the ECOKSIs for accuracy, fairness and quality of data.</p> <p>In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan suggested that the Contact Person can be assigned after sending an official email to the NSIA of I.R. Afghanistan and that, till date, no specific email regarding this issue has been received by the NSIA. Therefore, the I.R. of Afghanistan requested the Secretariat to fully update it regarding ECOKSIs, and its relevant issues.</p>	<p>Directorate/Section, the formal request for the ECOSTAT-Focal Points' nominations will follow.</p>
10.	<p>In view of the above suggestions, the Council invited the interested Member States to attach a formal groundwork for data collection process on ECOKSIs and, in that regard, suggested that the Secretariat may circulate online questionnaires to the designated Contact Points in Member States for ECOKSIs. Such circulars will then require to be expeditiously filled-in within the time frame of one month (60 days) from the date of the 31<sup>st</sup> RPC Meeting.</p>	<p>The online questionnaires were circulated and filled in digital format. The Secretariat circulated the online questionnaires via electronic tools to ECO-NSOs.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran revised its Focal Point on Statistics – Ms. Sara Samadi, In-charge, Office of the Head, Public Relations and International Cooperation.</p>
11.	<p>The Council recommended that the Secretariat, in its turn, take up steps by inputting primary datasets by using displayed data &amp; information on official portals of ECO NSOs as a common point of reference, based on the concept that NSOs do publish their country statistical data therefore the latter is accurate and is for public view. In that regard, the Council noted that aggregated ECO regional statistical data is subject for verification by Member States, prior to display and dissemination of data across the region.</p>	<p>Relevant statistical publications are in wait for clearance within Secretariat.</p>



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
12.	<p>The Council also requested all Member States, except the Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to provide their relevant updates of ECOKSIs for purposes of compilation of ECO's uniform Compendium. To that effect, the Secretariat was instructed to circulate: data collection plans, data release calendars and, simplify the questionnaires as well as review statistical procedures to optimize the burden on data providers.</p> <p>In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan stated its readiness to assist fully in the provision of ECOKSIs, if the Secretariat provides all the relevant documents and the procedure.</p>	<p>The data collection plans, data release calendars as well as review statistical procedures, to optimize the burden on data providers, are under process of preparations.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran revised its Focal Point on Statistics – Ms. Sara Samadi, In-charge, Office of the Head, Public Relations and International Cooperation.</p>
13.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with their relevant country statistical yearbooks or other yearly online publications like statistical bulletins, consolidated thematic reports reflecting their annual statistical indicators. To that effect, the Council indicated that a special emphasis in such statistical reporting may be on publications that focus (if possible) on the following ECO's core activity areas: (i) Trade &amp; Investments, (ii) Transport &amp; Communications, (iii) Energy, Minerals and Environment, (iv) Agriculture &amp; Industry and (v) Tourism.</p> <p>In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan stated that, if the ECO Member States have some specific format, "we can share the data according to that format otherwise we can share the different statistical books according to the NSIA format". In regard of the above-stated format, the I.R. of Afghanistan shared the reference link to the NSIA's website (for more those can be retrieved from <a href="http://www.nsia.gov.af">www.nsia.gov.af</a>).</p>	<p>Statistical Year Books have been provided by all Member States, except Republic of Uzbekistan.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran informed about the soft Statistical Yearbook, which is available/accessible at: <a href="https://www.amar.org.ir/english/Iran-Statistical-Yearbook">https://www.amar.org.ir/english/Iran-Statistical-Yearbook</a></p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
14.	The Council instructed that the Secretariat work on systematic improvements to minimize the time lag between the reference period and the publication date of its international statistical publications such as ECO Statistical Report, sector-specific statistical reports and statistical bulletins.	The ECO Statistical Bulletin has been prepared and, presently is in wait of clearance within Secretariat.
15.	The Council also instructed that the Secretariat, in its part of responsibilities for regional statistical reporting, has to: (i) compile, (ii) consolidate and (iii) circulate the draft ECO Statistical Report, subject for verification by the Member States, availing of the principles governing international statistical activities. The Member States requested that, along with circulation of Notes Verbale regarding the statistical issues to the Member States via diplomatic channels, the same Notes and all kind of statistical data requests should also be circulated to the National Focal Points (NFPs), Contact Points on Statistics by e-mail.	ECO Statistical Report 2021 has been prepared, based on ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale to Member States, requesting for data for the time serried 2015-2017, and currently is in wait for clearance within Secretariat. It is to be noted that the preceding Statistical Report covered the period up to 2015.
16.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to use the best national data sources in compiling international statistics, and in that, follow the UN "Recommended Practices on the Use of Non-Official Sources in International Statistics".	The relevant Section closely follows the UN "Recommended Practices on the Use of Non-Official Sources in International Statistics" and also deploys the international data sharing mechanism embedded in MoUs and other arrangements.
17.	The Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted the importance for ECO of reviving the work of its core activity area such as Economic Research and Statistics. To that impact, statistics was noted as the axis area which draws in other economic sectors' interdependencies. As such it was said to be universally recognized as the core basis for comprehensive decision-and-policy making. In recognition of revitalizing the area of	The Secretariat is currently exerting required effort to revive the fields of Economic Research and Statistics, which present one of the core activity areas as envisaged in ECO Vision 2025 under "Economic Growth and Productivity".

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Economic Research and Statistics and as a good omen, the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) informed the Meeting about its readiness to continue its collaboration with international organizations including the ECO within the national statistical regulatory frameworks.	
18.	The Council has recommended the following developments on statistics in 2021: (i) Implementing the “ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics” in the ECO-NSOs; (ii) Updating ECO Statistical Network with ECOKSIs under new framework of ECO Data Bank and ensure international statistical reporting through ECO Statistical Report, and (iii) Ensuring adequate capacity building among the ECO-NSOs of Member States. In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan suggested supplementing the contents of the “ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics” by such components as: knowledge sharing and statistical capacity building.	<p><u>On policy support for statistics</u>, the ECO “Five-Year Strategic Plan on Statistics” was developed in 2019-2020 and is agenda to be considered by the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> MHNSO. The Secretariat circulated the Draft Annotated Agenda to Member States via NV. No ERS/5<sup>th</sup> MHNSO/2021/588 dated 6/6/2021.</p> <p><u>On the ECO Key Statistical Indicators (KSIs)</u>, these have been developed, sent feedbacks of Member States, processed with primary input data based on the Member States’ feedbacks to Note Verbal. No 222 dated 1/3/2021 and, finally circulated back to all ECO Member States via NV. ECO-KSIs/2021/444 dated 24/4/2021.</p>
19.	In regard of the capacity building statistical programme, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan stated a need for full support from ECO Member States, especially in the field of Applied Statistics, Demography, Applied Research, GIS and System Development by providing exposure visits, specialized trainings and workshops.	Capacity building needs of the I.R. of Afghanistan have been accounted for in formulating the ECO Capacity Building Programme for Statistics. The stated needs have also been negotiated for through a verbal communication with SESRIC following Secretariat’s NV No. ERS/2021/213 dated 25/2/2021.
20.	The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan further noted the importance of the statistical capacity building programme for the regional statistics and, in that regard, suggested that a	The ECO Secretariat has not received an extensive Concept Note from the I.R. of Afghanistan as indicated in paragraph-20 of Work Programme 2021, I. Sector:

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	special programme be designed such as offering fully funded master and PhD degree program to the ECO NSOs staff. Further on statistical capacity building, the NSIA of the I. R. of Afghanistan stated that it will prepare an extensive Concept Note, which will be officially shared with the Secretariat.	Economic Research and Statistics.
21.	In regard of statistical trainings, the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) informed the Member States that all interactive web-based training courses and workshops are regularly held by the Statistical Research and Trainings Centre, which is the training and research facility of the Statistical Centre of Iran. The SCI informed the Member States that it hosted 9 training course/ workshops and meetings for ECO Member States, including the 1st Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSOs) and 1st ECO High Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting.	The information shared by SCI of Iran has been acknowledged for considering in near future.
22.	The Council noted the turbulent times that the ECO NSOs are experiencing, at present, in their statistical activities. In this regard, the Member States acknowledged the update provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran about the developments under pandemic necessitating the collection of COVID-19 relating statistical data. In this regard, the Member States appreciated a series of virtual workshops/seminars on COVID-19 Statistics that has recently been conducted by the SCI. Further on this matter, the use of such digital data collection tools as mobile handsets, smart outlets, online questionnaires, given social distancing requirements, have been suggested for further study in terms of use of their related high-tech applications for surveys.	The information shared by SCI of Iran has been acknowledged for taking it into account in prospective activities relating to ECO regional statistics.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
23.	<p>The Secretariat re-iterated the working papers provided for the 31<sup>st</sup> Regional Planning Council Meeting (12-21 January 2021) highlighting the impressive capacity building potentials of regional statistical centers of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, among others, that are capable of initiating comprehensive statistical studies of pandemic and post-pandemic statistical survey tools, methodologies, and techniques.</p> <p>In the above regard, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan stated a need to learn more from the aforementioned Member States' professional statistical staff in order to advance the trainees' skills in the above-listed areas.</p>	<p>The information has been acknowledged for taking it into account in prospective activities.</p>
24.	<p>The Member States acknowledged that the ECO Statistical Network - ECOSTAT - was established in 2011 based on the decision of the 149<sup>th</sup> Council of Permanent Meeting of ECO. The network was to offer an integrated and comprehensive system for recording and retrieving statistical data of the ECO Member States.</p>	<p>The information has been reflected in the statistics-related documents to all Member States, via Secretariat's Note Verbale No. PERS/ECOSTAT/2019/767 dated 15/9/2019.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran additionally informed that Member States acknowledged that the ECOSTAT was established in 2011 based on the decision of the 149<sup>th</sup> Council of Permanent Meeting of ECO. Since then it successfully functioned as regional statistical and information sharing hub effectively bridging the ECO Member States in their search of a firm groundwork for informed decision making at national as well as ECO regional levels. In recent years however the updating of ECOSTAT has gone thin therefore the system had to halt.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran reminded that, regarding</p>

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
		the reactivation of the ECOSTAT, the Secretariat should post a request to the esteemed Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) via diplomatic channels if it would be willing to re-activate the ECOSTAT.
25.	The Council appreciated that the Statistical Center of Iran significantly contributed to the establishment of the uniform statistical system of ECOSTAT. Since then, ECOSTAT successfully functioned as a regional statistical information sharing hub effectively bridging the ECO Member States in their search of a firm groundwork for informed decision-making at the national as well as ECO regional levels. In recent years however the updating of ECOSTAT has gone thin therefore the system had to temporarily halt.	The information has been acknowledged for taking it into account in prospective activities.
26.	In the above regard, the Council recalled that, at the onset, the ECOSTAT's main goal was to function as a common mechanism for the implementation and development of the "ECO Plan of Action on Statistics". As per the 28th RPC-endorsed Work Programme (paragraph-40, Sector E: Projects, Economic Research and Statistics), the ECOSTAT was recorded as being activated in February 2011 by the Statistical Centre of Iran as Host. The ECOSTAT has been serving as the main source of statistics for all users inside and outside the region.	The information has been acknowledged for taking it into account in prospective activities.
27.	The Secretariat affirmed that it will make every effort to provide the updated input data for ECOSTAT given that four ECO Member States have already succeeded in fully responding to input data questionnaires and the remaining six	The required data has been collected. The details are as above-stated.

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	will be approached with data collection requests soon after the 31 <sup>st</sup> Regional Planning Council finalizes. As with the incoming data updates, the Secretariat posted the request to the esteemed Statistical Center of Iran if the latter would be willing to re-activate the ECOSTAT.	
28.	The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Secretariat forward the formal request to the Statistical Center of Islamic Republic of Iran to consider reactivating the functioning of the ECOSTAT whereas the Secretariat should appoint an IT statistician to upload the updated statistical datasets onto the system.	<p>The matter, which is under the mandate of ADM of Secretariat, is under current consideration.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran informed that till present, the SCI has not received any formal request.</p> <p>In this regard, the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) proposes that the Secretariat forward a formal request to the SCI to consider reactivating the functioning of the ECOSTAT whereas the Secretariat should appoint a statistician to provide updates/inputs of data sets for the system thereby enabling it a re-start and the ECO NOSs should update their related data continuously and regularly</p>
29.	The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shared its expectation that, after it previously provided all requested input data for ECOSTAT, it has yet received no corresponding notification from the Secretariat. In this regard, Afghanistan has asked the Secretariat to provide the Member States with shared information & data and, to also provide the draft version of the “ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics” at no delay.	<p>“ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics” was prepared during 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>The information has been acknowledged for taking it into account in prospective activities.</p>
30.	In line with the observation of the Council in regard of the currently prevailing developments under pandemic, the	The information describing the activities at the SCI of Iran, which were shared by SCI of Iran during 31 <sup>st</sup> RPC

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	<p>Islamic Republic of Iran noted the still persisting unprecedented outbreak of Covid-19 that hugely challenged the routine of many the organizations and businesses including (NSOs). In this context, the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI), like other NSOs of Member States, has been adequately adjusting its activities to develop resistance against coronavirus-inflicted irregularities as follows:</p> <p>(i) Conducting of planned surveys has not been halted due to COVID-19 rather the use of telecommuting (work-from-home) modalities by the SCI staff has elsewhere been encouraged;</p> <p>(ii) By applying alternative methods such as filling-in web-generated questionnaires, telephonic interviews and, in some instances, re-scheduling of delivery deadlines of surveys, the SCI has succeeded in mitigating adverse impacts of the pandemic to the extent possible while, at the same time, minimizing the adverse effects on people; the SCI also considered it as its duty to inform the planners, decision-makers and the public- at- large about measures undertaken, in the above regard. The full report about the SCI's resiliency actions to COVID-19 inflicted challenges is available on UNSD Website (<a href="https://unstats.un.org/">https://unstats.un.org/</a>).</p> <p>In regard of sharing experiences on surveys, the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) informed the Member States about its intention to conduct the Register-Based Census in 2026 and, in to that effect, the SCI posted its request to the Secretariat to approach the ECO Member States like Turkey to share the latters' relevant experiences and knowledge on surveys with the SCI.</p>	<p>with the Member States, has been acknowledged.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran suggested that the Secretariat provide/draft a mechanism for sharing good practices/experiences/expertise and the information of the ECO NSOs on their Capacity Building Statistical Programme especially related to the "Current Status of Statistical Operations under the covid19 pandemic and best practices" during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, the Statistical Research and Training Centre of the SCI may provide its best practices via the established mechanism.</p>
<b>Economic Research</b>		



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
31.	The Council appreciated the recent developments in finalizing the preparation of the ECO Economic Research Center's (ECR) Charter and initiation of signing procedures and, in that regard, recommended that the ECR start functioning at the earliest.	The ECO Research Center's Charter has been signed at the official ceremony by the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey in the framework of the 14 <sup>th</sup> ECO Summit on 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 (Turkey).
32.	The Council requested interested Member States to deliver on the aforementioned matter and, considering the esteemed view of the Republic of Azerbaijan, recommend that the Member States identify next steps along the path of establishing the Centre, at the earliest.	As the next steps, the Secretariat informed the Member States via its NV. No. ECO-ERC/2021/443 dated 28/4/2021 that the signing process is open for the remaining Member States at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan as depository of the said Charter.
33.	The Council requested the Member States (except for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan) to forward to the Secretariat, by 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021, their respective country economic reports or other economic analyses for the period of January–November 2020, for further consolidation of collected inputs and preparing ECO Annual Economic Report 2019/2020.	Country Reports have been received from the Republic of Turkey and the I.R. of Pakistan, in addition to those provided to the ECO Secretariat in the previous year.
34.	The Republic of Turkey proposed that the data & information template for the reports follow the uniform format as in previous years thereby containing economic indicators on: growth, inflation, employment, trade (international trade, trade in services), fiscal balance, FDI inflows, external debt, international reserves etc. The Council requested that the Secretariat provide a format for collecting inputs and preparing ECO Annual Economic Report 2019/2020.	Economic data template has been adjusted, according to the proposals of the Member States.  In addition, the information about countries' economic performances has been circulated to Member States via NV. No. 335 dated 17/3/2021.
35.	The Council recommended that the Secretariat avail of already accessible official data sources and/or online official publications of relevant authorities (mainly, Ministries of	The Secretariat has compiled the economic data and information and, will present the economic data compilation to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Permanent

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Economy and Planning) of the Member States in areas of economic research and country strategy development.	Steering Committee for Economic Research scheduled to be held in August 2021. The detailed information about the Meeting was circulated to Member States via NV. No. ESR/3 <sup>rd</sup> PSCER/2021/534 dated 25/5/2021.
36.	With reference to the 29 <sup>th</sup> RPC (17-20 December 2019, Tehran) requesting the Member States to nominate their relevant Focal Points (FPs), the Council recommended that the FPs to be appointed by Member States will be in lieu of the previous two years-termed Members of the ECO PSCER. In that regard, the Council requested the Member States to forward to the Secretariat their respective nominations of Focal Points for the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER).	In view of the distinctively outstanding academic profiles of former Members of ECO Editorial Board they have been contacted individually through telephonic communication and informed about the said Board's new terms of work.
37.	The Council recommended that the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER) be organized during 2021 and, in that regard, instructed the Secretariat to compile and provide the Member States with the List of Focal Points on Economic Research based on respective nominations of the Member States along with the tentative draft agenda of the aforementioned Meeting.	As recommended in paragraph-37 of I. Sector: Economic Research and Statistics of Work Programme 2021, the List of National Focal Points on Economic Research has been circulated to the Member States via Note Verbale No. ERS/2021/534 dated 25/5/2021.
38.	The Council recommended that the ECO Editorial Board meet during 2021 to consider the abstracts of the three projects completed under the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) and share key findings of aforementioned study projects for the purposes of publishing and disseminating them at broad ECO regional level.	The Meeting of the ECO Editorial Board has been scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> ECO PSCER Meeting in coming August 2021. The Draft Agenda has been circulated to Member States via NV No. ERS//2021/534 dated 25/5/2021.
39.	The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to establish a useful platform for sharing among the Member States the knowledge	Review of platform-based activity of the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) has been

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	and expertise particularly on the tangible outcomes/results of ECO's economic research projects. Such platform could also be used for hands-on approbation of new and innovative analyses methodologies as well as economic modeling. It was also noted that the suggested platform should be embedded within the framework of the ECO Economic Research Programme following the pattern practiced in the UN.	discussed with SESRIC (Director for Training and Capacity Building) whence it was suggested that proposals in regard of their inclusion into the said Programme may be discussed and embedded in the subsequent year's budget as one for the current year had already been approved in quarter-IV of 2020.
40.	The Council also recommended reinvigorating the process through the active involvement of the Editor-in-Chief and deputies and Members of the ECO Editorial Board by fulfilling concrete assignments/tasks in pursuit of objectives to obtain the ISSN index for the journal; develop editorial policy highlighting requirements for manuscripts/papers/articles in line with Terms of reference of the Editorial Board.	The nominations of the Members for Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal have been received from Member States and, to that effect, the Secretariat will prepare and share draft ECO Editorial Policy for the counseling by the Members of the Editorial Board.
41.	The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that economic research projects be more topic-specific and concentrate on pressing issues of economic research and policy support, including on preferential tariffs, regional post-pandemic investment flows, distributive trade, digital currency, economic diplomacy i.e. the issues that represent mutual and thus commonly beneficial, core interests of all ECO Member States.	The formulation of project proposals under the ECO Economic Research Programme is ongoing.  The Statistical Centre of Iran supported the topic "Pandemic and post-pandemic statistical survey tools in the ECO Member States" suggested by the Secretariat. It also suggested that the Secretariat provide a mechanism for sharing good practices/experiences/expertise and the information of the ECO NSOs on the activities to tackle the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as on other activities such as register-based censuses/ surveys.
42.	The Council similarly recommended that the ECO Economic Journal via its ECO Editorial Board continue its previously	Work on this important matter of obtaining the ISSN code for the EEJ journal and ensuring high quality

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	started work on obtaining the ISSN code for the journal and ensure high quality editorials.	editorials. is work-in-progress.
43.	The Council, in the above regard, requested the Member States to nominate their respective representatives to the ECO Editorial Board (one from each Member State) and instructed the Secretariat to revive the Terms of reference (ToR) of functioning of ECO Editorial Board in order to ensure coherence and continuation in editorial/publishing activities as stipulated in the Board's ToR.	The Members of Editorial Board have been nominated by Member States.
44.	The Council also instructed the Secretariat to develop: (i) a sample online Format of Forum; (ii) a set of requirements for online selection of papers of Forum; (iii) a set of unified requirements for IT-moderated conferencing tools to fit the needs of auditorium expectations provided that the ECO Economic Think Tanks Forum holds in virtual mode.	Work on the developing of a sample set of online requests for submission of papers and relevant sets of unified requirements for IT-moderated conferencing tools to service the target audience of the ECO Economic Think Tanks Forum is currently underway.
45.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to explore in greater detail the usefulness of a prerequisite tool of economic forums such as science laboratories (labs) to see whether it could be deployed in its prospective application at the ECO regional level.	<p>The way of interaction amongst academia in economic research being, among others, a science lab, has been explored and put in practice by Economic Research Institute (ERI) under Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p> <p>The ECO Secretariat is considering an appropriate timing given that organizational structure of ERI has seen restructure in order to approach it with the proposal that the ERI share with ECO Member States its extensive positive experience on science labs and propose options to bring ECO economic research academia under the roof of regional science lab.</p>
46.	The Council also recommended that the ECO Secretariat	ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) has been

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	develop jointly with SESRIC the ECO Economic Research Programme in line with provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ECO and SESRIC on 16 January 2018.	discussed with SESRIC (Director for Training and Capacity Building) following the provisions of the MoU signed between ECO and SESRIC in 2016; whence it was suggested that proposals in regard of the said Programme may be embedded in the subsequent year's budget.
47.	The Council recommended that the Secretariat may as well approach other interested international economic research Centers/Institutions/Organizations, having esteemed analytical and strategizing span—for broad cooperation in the area of economic research.	The Secretariat has compiled the listing of ECO Lead Economic Research Institutions (ERI), think tanks, analytical and strategy centers and engineering consultancy firms and in February 2021, circulated such information to the ECO Member States. The above-indicated research power houses have been globally rated for year 2018.
48.	The Council has foreseen the following key developments in 2021 on economic research: (i) Disseminating good study projects' examples at ECO regional level based on the successful completion of the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP); (ii) Developing, jointly with SESRIC, a new content of the ECO Programme on Economic Research (as envisaged in the MoU between ECO and SESRIC in 2018); (iii) Ensuring full-fledged functioning of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (PSCER); (iv) Organizing the 3 <sup>rd</sup> preparatory Meeting of the ECO Economic Think Tanks Forum (virtual mode); (v) Re-activating the functioning of ECO Editorial Board in line with its Terms of reference, and (vi) Ensuring yearly release of the ECO Annual Economic Report (AER) as envisaged in the Treaty of Izmir.	All research studies under the ECO Economic Research Programme are now available on ECO information portal for information and reference of researchers, academia, analytical and strategy centers and think tank institutions in the ECO region.
49.	During the concluding remarks of the Midterm Meeting of the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Progress made
	Regional Planning Council, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while referring to the strong knowledge and the on-hand capacity in the Republic of Turkey and in the Islamic Republic of Iran on Business Register's Development, noted that Business Register currently covers industrial sector, only. In this regard, the suggestion has been put forward that Turkey and Iran may consider the possibility of providing a Regional Workshop on ways of updating Business Registers in the ECO Member States to cover more economic activity areas.	
50.	In the same respect, the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was put forward in regard of the Tourism Statistics, which has emerged as an important industry in the ECO economies however, in many countries true share of tourism is unknown. In this regard, the proposal has been that the Republic of Turkey may help the I.R. of Pakistan and other ECO Member States in the compilation of the Tourism Satellite Accounts.	