

**The ECO Secretary General Mr. Khusrav Noziri's Statement  
at the International Conference “*Peace and Trust Policy –  
Basis of International Security, Stability and Development*”  
Ashgabat, 11 December 2021**

**Honourable President of Turkmenistan  
H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a matter of profound honour and great pleasure for me to attend this distinguished International Conference “Peace and Trust Policy - Basis of International Security, Stability and Development”. Please allow me to begin by thanking the host, the Government of Turkmenistan, for the gracious hospitality and excellent arrangements for this Forum. I am especially indebted and grateful to Your Excellency, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the honourable President of Turkmenistan, for providing your commendable and kind guidance on various issues through your thoughtful and inspirational inaugural speech.

**Excellencies,**

The theme of this Forum “Peace and Trust Policy – Basis for International Security, Stability and Development” represents a crucial factor in achieving a more sustainable future for the contemporary world. The three plenary sessions of the Forum are, indeed, very significant and provide a unique opportunity to discuss and share ideas regarding the solution of the collective problems and achieving sustainable development goals.

**Excellencies,**

Over the years, Turkmenistan shaped its foreign policy through its declared status of “Permanent Neutrality” that has

become part and parcel of the country's broader Peace and Trust Policy as well as foreign relations of Turkmenistan. The principle of Peace and Trust represents the faith of the people of Turkmenistan in peacefulness, harmony, benevolence and development. The inspiration for the policy corresponds to the geographical, historical, and ethno-cultural realities of Turkmenistan and the national character of its people and their desire for good neighbourly relations based on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The policy of Peace and Trust combines the prospects of Turkmenistan's permanent Neutrality, the country's own development as well as national interests with regional and international trends.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The policy of Peace and Trust, having Neutrality of Turkmenistan as an imperative component, has also enhanced the status of Turkmenistan at the global stage as a country that strives to promote mutually beneficial relations between all the countries of the world. As declared rightly by the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov "*Neutrality does not stipulate staying away from the world affairs but it calls for respect of each other's sovereignty, rights and interests in international relations*". In fact, neutrality has proved itself as an important and successful mechanism in resolving the global issues through peaceful means.

### **Excellencies,**

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) attaches utmost respect and significance to Turkmenistan's policy of neutrality. ECO was among the foremost forums to have acknowledged the neutral role of Turkmenistan in the global affairs. At the third ECO Summit held on 15 March 1995 in Islamabad, the Heads of State of the ECO welcomed the idea and philosophy of the late President

Turkmenbashi about the country's neutrality and expressed their readiness to extend maximum support to the confirmation of Turkmenistan's status as a neutral state. Later, in December 1995, the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly adopted a special resolution which confirmed the status of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality at international level. Today, under the visionary leadership of the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan is realizing the dividends of Peace and Trust policy along with its status of positive neutrality in the national development of Turkmenistan as well as effective and significant role of the neutral policy in external relations of the country.

### **Excellencies,**

We have gathered here at the time when our region is confronted with enormous challenges which pose serious threats to the peace, stability, and economic development. Today the world resembles a globalized village, where events in one part directly affect the affairs of the other part. This is why the conflicts and challenges that we face today warrant collective response as they can only be resolved by close interaction and collective effort. Taking into account the recent challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving regional security threats, the importance of promoting Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) has increased many folds. In this context, Peace and Trust is a valuable forum for interaction and dialogue focusing on the challenges of the modern times.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The significance of international security and stability for sustainable development in the present global world is well established. We in the ECO recognize the strong interdependence between peace and development, and reiterate our firm belief that

peace and stability are essential for realizing the genuine goals of economic growth, sustainable development and welfare of our countries and peoples. We cannot overlook these regional developments which are causing challenges to our economies and subsequently affecting the realization of socio-economic development's goals in the region. We believe that a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is not only the key to a prosperous and well integrated ECO Region but also a guarantee for World Peace. In order to fulfill regional potential and promote integration, it is important to strengthen "connectivity" and Afghanistan is indispensable in this regard. ECO supports the ongoing peace process and the Ashgabat Peace and Trust International Conference is one of the most important mechanisms to take stock of our joint efforts, learn from the experience, and work together in charting the future course of action in realizing the collective objective of a peaceful and prosperous region.

### **Excellencies,**

The philosophy of Peace and Trust is of great relevance to the principles of ECO which are purely based on the mutual cooperation of the Member States. At the same time, the economic aspect of Neutrality has tremendous potential for promoting economic cooperation at the regional level. In this regard, the policy of neutrality of Turkmenistan, coupled with the model of cooperation of ECO with no political agenda, provides remarkable opportunity for achieving collective regional socio-economic progress and prosperity.

In this context, I would like to congratulate Turkmenistan on successful organization of the recent 15<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit held on 28 November 2021 in Ashgabat. It reflects the Turkmenistan's urge to perform a leading role for regional cooperation under the umbrella of the ECO for achieving regional economic development and people's prosperity. It demonstrates the

implementation of Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality in the region. The Summit has adopted the "Ashgabat Consensus for Action" that provides a way forward towards regional stability and realization of the principal goal of sustainable socio-economic development and prosperity in the ECO region.

### **Excellencies,**

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government and people of Turkmenistan for their enduring support to the ECO in pursuit of the common agenda of the regional development. I shall particularly present tribute to the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for his commendable support and patronage to the ECO. The Organization will benefit from his visionary leadership in implementation of its mandate, achieving its objectives and promoting regional cooperation among the Member States. I am also confident that through educative and enlightened views and concrete ideas and proposals of distinguished participants and experts gathered here, the Conference will assist us in developing a roadmap for enhanced regional cooperation towards enhanced global and regional stability in the wake of latest challenges of the contemporary world.

Thank you.