

15TH ECO SUMMIT

Statements by the Head of States/Governments

November 28, 2021
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Speech by
H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev
The Honorable President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
15th ECO Summit

Mr. Chairman, my dear brother Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Mr. Secretary-General,

I would like to express my gratitude to my brother, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Malikgulyevich Berdimuhamedov, for the hospitality and congratulate Turkmenistan with successful chairmanship in the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Azerbaijan is an active member of ECO. Our relations with the ECO Member States are based on friendship and mutual respect.

We also enjoy fruitful cooperation with the ECO Member States within international platforms, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement.

During the 14th ECO Summit this March, the Charter of the ECO Research Center was signed. I express my gratitude to the Member States for supporting the initiative of the late President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. Azerbaijan will do its utmost for the efficient functioning of the Center based in our country. I invite the remaining Member States to join this important initiative.

Over the past 18 years, the economy of Azerbaijan has developed rapidly, and the gross domestic product increased more than three times.

Azerbaijan has achieved a favorable investment climate as a result of large-scale reforms. Azerbaijan is placed 28th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Doing Business survey. Around \$280 billion has been invested in Azerbaijan's economy, half of which is foreign investment.

Our strategic foreign exchange reserves exceed our external state debt by over six times.

Azerbaijan's external debt accounts for only about 17.3 percent of its gross domestic product. By the end of 2030, we plan to decrease it to 10%.

During the last 18 years, the poverty rate in Azerbaijan has decreased from 49% to 6%. The unemployment rate in the country is around 6%.

Azerbaijan's achievements are highly appreciated by international institutions. The Davos World Economic Forum report ranks Azerbaijan in the 10th place for the long-term government strategy and 5th in the world in terms of the leadership's commitment to reform. Azerbaijan ranks 2nd for electricity supply to the population, 11th for efficiency of railroad services, 12th for efficiency of air transportation services, 25th for efficiency of seaport services, and 27th for quality of road infrastructure.

As to the COVID-19, Azerbaijan has launched an immunization campaign since mid-January this year. Over 60 percent of the adult population in the country has received two shots.

So far, almost \$3 billion of the socio-economic stimulus packages have been released to support COVID-affected people and businesses in the country. For the same purpose, \$ 1.6 billion of financial assistance packages will be allocated from the state budget in 2022.

Azerbaijan is making significant steps to mobilize global efforts against the pandemic. We have been persistently stressed our firm opposition against "vaccine nationalism."

This year, upon Azerbaijan's initiative in its capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, resolutions on ensuring equitable access for all countries to vaccines were adopted at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly, respectively.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan has provided financial and humanitarian assistance to about 80 countries directly and through World Health Organization to support their fight against the coronavirus.

Distinguished colleagues,

In 2020, Azerbaijan put an end to nearly 30 years of occupation of its territories by Armenia. The 44-day-long Patriotic War resulted in Armenia's defeat and being forced to sign an act of capitulation on 10

November 2020. Azerbaijan restored its territorial integrity. Azerbaijan itself ensured the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions of 1993 demanding immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of armed forces of Armenia from occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

All cities and villages, including Azerbaijan's cultural and religious heritage sites, have been totally wiped out by Armenia during the occupation. In total disrespect and hatred to all Muslims, Armenia has destroyed and desecrated our mosques, including using them as stables for pigs and cows. 65 out of 67 mosques situated in the formerly occupied territories have been destroyed, and the two remaining have been seriously damaged. Likewise, the graveyards have been vandalized.

We started large-scale reconstruction work immediately after the liberation, which has already yielded initial results. Azerbaijan is building new cities and towns from scratch, relying solely on its financial resources. To that end, \$1.3 billion has been released from the state budget this year. At least, the exact amount will be allocated for this purpose in 2022.

I announced the liberated Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur as Green Energy Zone. The liberated territories have the proven potential of 7200 megawatts of solar energy and 2000 megawatts of wind energy.

At the last ECO summit, I informed my colleagues about the Zangazur corridor. Today I can say that the Zangazur corridor is becoming a reality. This new transportation infrastructure will be an essential component of the East-West and North-South corridors. I am confident that the ECO Member States will benefit from this corridor.

Thank you for your attention.

(English Translation)
Statement by
H.E. Mr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi
The Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at
15th ECO Summit
Ashgabat- 28 November 2021

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Dear Brother, Your Excellency Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow,
The Honorable President of Turkmenistan,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on your Chairmanship of the 15th ECO Summit. I would also extend my thanks to the Government and honorable people of the friendly and brotherly country of Turkmenistan for hosting the Summit and for their generous hospitality. I would also like to thank the distinguished Secretary General and his colleagues at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran for their preparatory work for this important regional gathering. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Chairman of the 14th Summit, my dear brother H.E. Mr. Erdogan. I avail myself of this opportunity to commemorate the 28th of November, the “ECO Day”, and congratulate the 30th anniversary of the independence of Central Asian and the Caucasian ECO Member States.

Mr. Chairman,
The Honorable Presidents,
The Honorable Prime Ministers,
Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The current era is known as the “Asia era”. Asia is a land of rich civilizations, cultures and values. It's the cradle of the world's greatest monotheistic religions, and the origin of most of globally acceptable principles and rules, including pacifism, justice, mutual respect, wisdom,

good governance, adherence to international commitments and treaties, and good neighborliness. The Islamic Republic of Iran accords top priority to the economic cooperation and partnerships with Asian countries, especially our neighbouring and regional countries in South, West, and Central Asia, and the Caucasus. I have also placed the policy of "maximum engagement" with our neighbours on my government's agenda. This is why we devote great efforts and attention to strengthening the role and status of regional organizations as facilitators of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The Economic cooperation Organization (ECO) represents one of importance examples of such organizations. In addition to possessing the material sources of power such as a population of half a billion people, ownership of a third of the world's energy resources, a unique position as a link between Europe and China and Russia with the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, and a young and powerful workforce; the ECO Region also embraces the distinct identity of Islam. We are not only some capable neighboring states, but we have inherited and are promoting a true identity derived from the Islamic culture, capable of guiding humanity's future in the best possible way and infusing spiritual prosperity into the body of our all-out cooperation. Over the past years, exemplary accomplishments and progress have been achieved in the ECO. However, there is still a significant gap between the successes achieved with the potential capacities and capabilities of the Organization. For example, despite its high trading potential, intra-regional trade continues to be less than 10%.

Ladies and gentlemen The Islamic Republic of Iran pursues the policy of promoting cooperation in the ECO and upgrading the Organization's rank and status at regional and international levels. We believe that there are effective ways and means to advance the Organization; and in the light of collective efforts by the Member States, they can ensure the well-being of future generations and the growth and prosperity of the their countries. It is of course obvious that we need to take into account and pay attention to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, where we need joint intervention by our governments to eliminate the destructive effects of the covid-19 pandemic in the Region. We also need to upgrade relations and interactions among ourselves at an appropriate pace, building upon the experiences gained during the pandemic in the fields of health, education and pharmaceutical production.

Here, I want to draw your attention to the following requirements (for successful cooperation in the ECO):

1- Seriousness in trade among ourselves: Many economic breakthroughs in the ECO will happen upon promotion of intraregional trade. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to play a more significant role in trade liberalization in the ECO Region. We would like to see all Member States to participate progressively, in line with their national economic conditions, in efforts for trade liberalization in ECO Region. This can be done either in the framework of the ECOTA or in the context of free trade negotiations. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to contribute to this process by granting appropriate preferential tariffs within the ECO frameworks.

2- Complementary Connectivity Network: Transport and transit networks in the ECO Region are not only serve the intra-regional trade but help Member States, especially the landlocked countries, in their trade with the outside world. We believe that regional and trans-regional trade potential huge enough to, sooner or later, operationalize all potential corridors in the ECO Region. The operationalization of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road corridor after ten years is a testimony to this effect. For the ECO Region; the Khafah-Herat-Mazar-e-Sharif-Hairatan corridor is as important as the Hairatan-Mazar-e-Sharif-Peshawar corridor; the Rasht-Astara-Baku railway corridor is as essential as the Amirabad-Aktau sea corridor; the "Istanbul-Sarakhs-Almaty" corridor is as decisive as the "Bandar Abbas-Sarakhs-Almaty" corridor; the port of Chabahar is as important as the port of Gwadar. The Iranian ports in the north and the south provide required infrastructures for cooperation, prosperity, and brotherhood in the Region.

3- Energy and its commercial and development capacities: Completion of unfinished measures such as the establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market; creating a consortium of ECO energy companies, operationalization of ECO Clean Energy Center; and a mechanism for cooperation among ECO refining industries should be given priority. In addition to serious cooperation in these areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to continue to develop and organize training

courses for ECO Member States in oil and gas sector. We would also like to see projects for water transfer to interested countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the agenda of the ECO.

4- Digital Economy: The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to cooperate in areas such as fiber optic connectivity among ECO Member States; creation of common digital platforms; technological, scientific and academic exchanges; establishment of common ICT regional markets; artificial intelligence and virtual education, including sharing our experience in applying the SHAAD E-Learning platform. The Islamic Republic of Iran is also prepared to serve as focal point for these areas of cooperation in the ECO and assist the Organization in holding annual meetings on cyber security and virtual training with the participation of the professionals from Member States.

5- New financial architecture in the ECO: The commercial capacities of the Region as well as the infrastructural and developmental requirements, and the limited access to financial resources from outside the region necessitate more effective mechanisms be crafted in the form of a new regional financial architecture. The ECO Trade and Development Bank should play a more significant role in financing trade transactions among Member States through regulatory and procedural reforms. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to consider positively the increasing the Bank's capital. We also consider the idea of creating an "ECO Joint Investment Fund", which has been introduced by Iran at the meeting of the ECO National Wealth Funds as a promising step, and here I announce that as soon as the preparatory work is completed and the Fund is established, the National Development Fund of the Islamic Republic of Iran will allocate its share for financing projects covered by the Fund. The Islamic Republic Iran supports the expansion of cultural interactions, as well as inter-university collaborations in the ECO with a view to benefiting from the capacities of academic society for the sake of ECO scientific diplomacy. The Islamic Republic of Iran also supports any proposal that leads to the extension of ECO cooperation arrangements and mechanisms to all ECO Member States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to contribute to acceleration of other complementary efforts, including the establishment of the "ECO Police" (ECOPOL) and the "ECO Judicial Cooperation Mechanism", and early operationalization of the "ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen" (based in Tehran).

Dear brothers;

Fortunately, ECO has taken a practical approach and position towards some international community's issues in recent years. The recent UN General Assembly resolution on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the ECO" indicates the practical cooperation of the two organizations on global issues with regional implications. I would like to refer to one of the global topics of the day; namely climate change. ECO and its Environment subsidiary body (ECO-IEST) have long demonstrated Members' commitments towards this global agenda by developing climate change and global warming related projects; those which need to be implemented with serious attention. Climate change is a global issue with far-reaching consequences that have affected all developed and developing countries. The current situation results from the actions of industrialized and developed countries during the last two centuries, which have seriously endangered human life by increasing global warming through destroying natural resources and endless use of underground resources. Industrialized countries must assume their historical responsibilities and take actions to finance and transfer relevant technologies to and build capacity in developing countries. The ECO Region should be one of the target areas for receiving such assistance. Durable peace, sustainable development and public welfare depend on realizing the two principles of justice and spirituality. Achieving global justice requires redefining the relationship between developed countries and developing countries. Existing relationships are the result of hegemonic policies. Monotheists emphasize on the equality and brotherhood of all God's servants. The divine religions, especially the teachings of Islam, do not accept undue discrimination against any people, race, or nation.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Brothers,

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the regional countries themselves should handle the region's management. The end of hostilities in the Caucasus region promises stability and the beginning of a new chapter of development and convergence in this region. Now, it is our shared responsibility to work in this direction. The partnership and cooperation of the ECO Member States with the Caucasus can help deepen and enhance the role of the Organization. Given the new conditions in the Caucasus region, we believe that the revival of traditional routes and the facilitation of the movement of goods and passengers in the region after three decades will contribute to the growth and development of the ECO Region. We also believe that any change in the Caucasus region's political geography would not contribute to the region's stability and security, rather to potential tensions in the future. Cooperation between the countries of the Caucasus based on mutual respect and the preservation of the territorial integrity of the countries and international rules will guarantee peace and stability and pave the way for the progress and development of the countries in the region. Stability in the Caucasus region has also paved the way for trans-regional cooperation such as establishing the Persian Gulf-Black Sea International Corridor which will facilitate trade and economic relations between ECO Member States with other countries. In recent decades, the ECO has established appropriate mechanisms to support Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development. The ECO Summit message to the world should be the continued support for Afghanistan and its noble people in their efforts for economic reconstruction and development. On the eve of winter and more than ever, the people of Afghanistan are in dire need for essential goods and fuel. But more painful than the cold weather is the fact that the financial resources of the Afghan people have been seized by the ex-American occupiers. As always, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate and assist the people of Afghanistan, including in supporting the education of its talented women and girls.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for ECO and its activities is unconditional. The cruel US sanctions against Iran are too small to disrupt the Islamic Republic of Iran's will to pursue a policy of maximum engagement with its neighbors and the Region. The United States showed that its interests are at odds with the collective interests of our region when it illegally withdrew from the JCPOA and re-imposed unilateral illegal sanctions pursuing the policy of "maximum Cruelty." The interest of our region lies in the advantageous cooperation and brotherhood of our nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to do its utmost to achieve this humane and Islamic goal.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to thank our dear colleagues in the meetings of Senior Officials, the Council of Ministers, and the Council of Permanent Representatives for preparing the documents of the Summit. I thank you once again, and I wish the Government and the distinguished people of Turkmenistan an ever-increasing happiness.

Speech by
H.E. Mr. Askar Mamin
The Honorable Prime-Minister of the Republic Kazakhstan
15th ECO Summit

ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ

**Премьер-Министра Республики Казахстан Мамина А.У.
на 15-м саммите Организации экономического сотрудничества**

Уважаемые главы государств!

Уважаемые участники саммита!

1. Прежде всего, хотел бы выразить глубокую благодарность Президенту Туркменистана, уважаемому **Гурбангулы Мяликгулыевичу Бердымухамедову** за теплый прием, гостеприимство и высокий уровень организации сегодняшнего мероприятия.

В течение года наша Организация эффективно работает под **председательством братского Туркменистана**, за что выражаю отдельную признательность.

Отдельно хотел бы поздравить **Генерального секретаря ОЭС уважаемого господина Нозири** с назначением на высокий пост и пожелать больших успехов в работе.

Уважаемые участники саммита!

2. Рад отметить, что наше мероприятие сегодня проходит на фоне последовательного и уверенного **восстановления наших экономик**.

Однако, на фоне последних новостей касательно **усиления рисков, связанных с пандемией, в частности возникновения нового, более агрессивного штамма COVID-19**, перед нашими странами стоит задача **усилить совместную работу по адаптации наших экономик** к возможным повторным вспышкам пандемии и **формированию новых драйверов для роста** в постпандемический период.

2.1. **Во-первых**, нами должны быть приложены все усилия по наращиванию **объемов торговли** между нашими странами.

Как было отмечено в последнем отчете ВТО по мировой торговле (*World Trade Report 2021*, 26.11.2021), на сегодня наблюдается **как никогда высокий уровень подверженности современной мировой торговой системы макрошокам.**

Важнейшим приоритетом в борьбе с такими шоками является **недопущение деглобализационных процессов и усиление межстрановой координации** с целью проактивного поиска возможностей для наращивания **устойчивых производственных и торговых процессов.**

Это **особенно актуально** в контексте ОЭС.

С удовлетворением отмечаю, что несмотря на пандемию казахстанской стороной ведется **работа по наращиванию торговли со всеми странами нашей Организации.**

За 9 месяцев т.г. **совокупный товарооборот** Казахстана со странами ОЭС увеличился на **31%** (\$8,2 млрд).

Показатели по объему товарооборота между Казахстаном и странами ОЭС в т.г. также **превысили показатели 2019 допандемийного года** на **21,4%** (\$6,7 млрд.).

На сегодня у Казахстана, как и у других стран ОЭС, имеются **возможности существенного увеличения взаимного наращивания обмена поставками** продукции металлургической, пищевой, машиностроительной, химической, фармацевтической и других отраслей.

В условиях рисков, связанных с пандемией, нам необходимо **совместно принять активные меры по наращиванию торгового потенциала.**

В этой связи предлагаю поручить Секретариату ОЭС разработать **Дорожную карту по наращиванию торговых потоков** в рамках Организации с учетом **конкурентных преимуществ и конкретных возможностей** каждой страны для практической реализации **потенциала взаимной торговли наших стран в полной мере.**

Необходимо провести серьезный системный анализ **возможностей для наращивания взаимного объема торговли и диверсификации её структуры.**

2.2. Во-вторых, мы должны в разы нарастить сотрудничество в **продовольственной сфере.**

Ключевым фактором **продовольственной безопасности** и социально-экономической стабильности в обществе является **обеспечение бесперебойного потока продукции агропромышленного комплекса.**

Отмечу, что несмотря на пандемию, экспорт Казахстаном продовольственных товаров в страны ОЭС в 2020 г. увеличился на **26,6%.**

Вместе с тем, потенциал сотрудничества между нашими странами в этой сфере на сегодня далеко не реализован в полной мере.

По результатам 2020 года **доля торговли продукцией АПК в общем объеме взаимного товарооборота стран ОЭС составила всего 20,2% (\$5,5 млрд.)**.

Необходимость реализации потенциала наших стран в этой сфере особенно актуальна с учётом **продолжающегося роста цен на продовольственные товары** – по данным **ФАО ООН**, за 12 месяцев рост цен на основные продовольственные товары в мире составил **более 31,3%**.

С учетом возобновления пандемических рисков, связанных с новыми штаммами вируса, **вероятность дальнейшего роста цен на продовольствие также высока**.

В этой связи считаю необходимым разработать **Программу продовольственной безопасности Организации экономического сотрудничества**.

В рамках Программы предлагаю предусмотреть меры по **снижению рисков возникновения дефицита и дисбалансов на продовольственных рынках** путем, в том числе, формирования совместных производственных процессов в сфере АПК и повышения координации потоков продукции между нашими странами.

В этом контексте также считаю целесообразным проработку возможности расширения применения **механизмов оффтейк контрактов во взаимной торговле продовольственными товарами**.

Считаю, что сотрудничество наших стран в сельскохозяйственной сфере должно стать **более масштабным** и развиваться на основе **взаимодополняемости и эффективной кооперации**.

2.3 В-третьих, в рамках развития **транспортных коридоров** и обеспечения транспортной связанности нам **необходимо продолжить работу по формированию выгодных и взаимодополняющих маршрутов** для наших стран.

За 10 месяцев т.г. через территорию Казахстана по направлениям Центральной Азии, стран Персидского залива, Европы, Дальнего Востока, а также по Транскаспийскому маршруту перевезено порядка **883,2 тыс. контейнеров**, что **на 25%** больше аналогичного периода прошлого года.

Это **на 66,3% больше показателя 2019 г. (531 тыс. ДФЭ)**.

Текущий тренд на **усиление значимости трансконтинентальных транспортных маршрутов** создает для наших стран большие возможности, реализация которых приведет к **мультипликативному эффекту** практически на все отрасли экономики нашего Союза.

Поэтому формирование на пространстве Организации экономического сотрудничества **взаимодополняемых, а не конкурирующих между собой** экономических транспортных транзитных коридоров становится одним из **ключевых условий повышения устойчивости** и развития экономик наших стран в будущем.

Это особенно важно, учитывая тот факт, что 7 из 10 стран ОЭС не имеют выхода к открытому морю.

Совместное эффективное управление сетью транспортных-логистических коридоров значительно повысит **экономическую, инфраструктурную и культурную связанность** стран Организации экономического сотрудничества.

Экономики стран ОЭС благодаря **уникальной возможности доставлять людей и грузы**, как в Европу, так и до Юго-Восточной Азии за короткое время, получают **колоссальный драйвер развития**.

Величие наших стран эпохи расцвета Великого Шелкового Пути, может быть возвращено только лишь с **восстановлением былых экономических и транспортных коридоров** между Европой и Азией пролежавших по территории стран ОЭС.

Поэтому, считаю, что для дальнейшего развития транспортно-транзитного потенциала нашей Организации нам необходимо провести работу по **упрощению административных барьеров и углублению дальнейшей интеграции** транспортно-логистических систем.

Учитывая важность транспортно-логистического сотрудничества, считаем необходимым создать **Специальный совет стран ОЭС по транспортно-транзитной политике** высокого уровня, решения такого совета станут основной для выработки согласованной политики по ключевым вопросам данной сферы.

Уважаемые участники саммита!

Вопрос повышения **эффективности деятельности ОЭС** всегда оставался нашим общим приоритетом.

Современные вызовы подчеркнули важность принятия **скоординированных и совместных мер** по их преодолению.

Указанная работа особенно актуальна в контексте новостей по поводу усиления рисков для мировой экономики, связанных с новыми штаммами COVID-19, в частности **Omicron**.

В этой связи, я предлагаю разработать **Стратегию кооперационного развития экономик ОЭС с учётом вызовов COVID-19 и стратегических задач постпандемического периода**, с включением в нее озвучиваемых сегодня

инициатив глав делегаций.

Убежден, что дальнейшая деятельность нашей Организации на принципах равенства всех государств-членов будет лишь во **благо всего региона ОЭС**.

Казахстан остается приверженным принципам ОЭС и принятым на себя обязательствам, а также готов прилагать все усилия для повышения эффективности Организации.

Уверен, что традиционные исторические узы добрососедства будут способствовать дальнейшему **плодотворному и конструктивному сотрудничеству в целях обеспечения устойчивого развития региона ОЭС**.

Желаю нам всем плодотворной работы.

Спасибо за внимание!

Speech by
H.E. Mr. Sadyr Japarov
The Honorable President of the Kyrgyz Republic
15th ECO Summit

Dear Chairman!

Dear Heads of delegations!

Dear Secretary General!

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

Allow me to congratulate all participants of today's meeting and thank President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the excellent organization of the event and hospitality in accordance with the national traditions.

The 28th of November is an important day for all of us. Today we celebrate the anniversary of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the participants of the 15th Summit on this event and to wish you health, peace and prosperity.

Dear Chairman !

Distinguished heads of delegations!

Today's Summit creates a favorable environment for a broad exchange of views on topical issues on the agenda of our Organization, discussion of new proposals and ideas for the development of our countries, exchange of views on immediate responses to the coronavirus pandemic and climate change.

Our nations have all the potential necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the Organization, including economic opportunities, human and scientific resources, and vast natural resources.

Looking back at the work of the ECO over the past period and determining its future, we see that over the past few years, our countries have reached new heights, new levels of development, and are capable of meeting complex challenges.

At the same time, the consequences of the recent global economic crisis, which our countries are experiencing, as well as current challenges and threats in the international arena pose new issues to our Organization.

Distinguished participants of the Summit!

I consider it important to note about climate change, because this issue is a very serious global problem, and its solution requires immediate efforts of the world community.

We must intensify and strengthen cooperation on the reduction of carbon emissions and the orderly development of a cyclical economy. This will help restore the "green economy" after the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as mitigate the effects of climate change in the ECO space.

Kyrgyzstan will strive to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Renewable energy sources are, first of all, hydropower - the engine of carbon-free development policy.

The utilization of the hydropower potential of Kyrgyzstan and other countries in the region through the introduction of energy-efficient and energy-saving technologies, including the promotion of certain UN Sustainable Development Goals under the CASA-1000 project, would help provide the entire Central Asian region with environmentally clean electricity.

In this regard, I propose to establish mutually beneficial investment cooperation in the field of hydropower within the Economic Cooperation Organization based on public-private partnership principles, and I call for joint measures to adapt to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Dear participants of the Summit!

In order to achieve the goals outlined in the Economic Cooperation Vision 2025, ECOs must be prepared for the global challenges to expand activities on economic projects, develop and strengthen their institutions and promote their core principles through flexibility.

In order to adapt to modern conditions, it is necessary to reach a new level of quality through necessary and suitable solutions to optimize the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

I believe that for the implementation of regional cooperation in the trade and economic sphere, the time has come for large-scale reforms aimed at creating a realistic system of project financing in all ECO states.

Unfortunately, many projects within the Organization remain unimplemented. This has been repeatedly stated by heads of state at previous summits.

In our view, the ECO reforms should also be aimed at improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the Organization's Secretariat.

In the future, the Secretariat of the Organization should focus on the economic direction of its activities and implement projects that are a priority for all member states.

Dear participants of the Summit!

Increasing the efficiency of our Organization is more relevant today than ever, and this issue has been on the agenda of the conferences for many years.

We must be determined to develop and implement appropriate strategies in areas such as transport and communications, industry, energy, trade and investment, tourism and the environment, which are priorities for our economies in enhanced regional cooperation, economic growth and development in our region .

Significant attention should also be paid to the continuation of cooperation in agriculture, customs and health.

Dear participants of the Summit

The most important task of the Organization for the successful resolution of economic challenges is the creation and development of regional infrastructure. This should include a unified transport network, telecommunications, pipelines and the energy system. This is a prerequisite for effective intra- and inter-regional cooperation.

Kyrgyzstan, together with other ECO states, actively participates in the development of East-West and North-South transport corridors. This will allow Central Asian countries to access the Persian Gulf through Turkmenistan and Iran.

We also attach great importance to the promotion of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railroad project, which is included in the ECO Transport and Communications Development Action Plan for the ECO region.

The Kyrgyz Republic is actively working to increase the transit capacity of the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran transport corridor through the use of the Shahid Rajai port.

Cooperation between our countries in the field of tourism is also intensifying. Our region has great tourism and recreational potential and many opportunities for the development of international tourism. Therefore, I suggest we take into consideration this area of cooperation as well.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We all understand that successful economic cooperation is impossible without peace and stability in our region.

As far as regional security is concerned, I would like to say a few words about the situation in Afghanistan, which has a direct impact on the ECO states.

The socio-economic situation in Afghanistan on the eve of winter is of great concern to us.

Based on such humanitarian principles, we have delivered humanitarian aid by air to Kabul and by trucks for people in the distant Little and Great Pamirs.

We also decided to continue issuing student visas to citizens of Afghanistan studying in the Kyrgyz Republic.

We all believe that we must make every effort to keep Afghanistan from plunging into the abyss of civil war.

In this regard, Kyrgyzstan calls on the ECO member states to continue rendering humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people in order to prevent further aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan.

Dear participants of the summit!

In conclusion, I would like to note that our Organization's member states have great potential for economic development, but it is not used in full yet.

I believe that in order to reduce the gap between the levels of economic development of member states, we must take appropriate joint measures which will ultimately bring everyone closer together.

The Kyrgyz Republic is ready to make every effort to further strengthen multilateral relations.

The "Ashgabat Declaration" that we are adopting today meets the interests of all members of our Organization. I hope that this meeting demonstrates our common desire for concrete steps in mutually beneficial cooperation.

Only by working together can we achieve our goals!

Thank you for your attention

**Speech by
H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi,
The Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
15th ECO Summit**

**His Excellency Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,
President of Turkmenistan,
Distinguished Heads of State,
Secretary-General ECO, His Excellency Ambassador Khusrav Noziri,
Excellencies, and Gentlemen,**

Assalam-o-Alaikum!

Let me begin by congratulating my friend, President Berdimuhamedov, for assuming Chairmanship of the 15th ECO Summit. I am sure that under his wise guidance, we will be able to successfully realize the objectives of this ECO Summit.

I also thank my brother, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Secretary-General Noziri for successfully organizing all events of the 14th Summit during challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chairman,

Throughout history, trade and economic exchanges and interaction have propelled production, growth and prosperity. This historical process of economic integration will continue to accelerate, especially with the advent of the digital age. To stay competitive, national and regional economies will have to move towards greater physical and virtual integration.

Such integration is an imperative for the ECO region. The theme you have chosen for this Summit -- “Into the Future Together” -- is thus most apt and timely.

The ECO region has all the elements needed for economic integration and rapid economic growth: rich resources, enterprising people, geographical contiguity, and a common culture and heritage. Yet, for historical reasons,

the ECO is among the least integrated regions in terms of trade, investment, finance, infrastructure, regional value chains, labour mobility and social integration. The intra-regional trade among ECO members is only 8 percent of their total trade. Unlocking the potential for regional integration will provide significant impetus to growth and development in all ECO Member States.

We must ensure implementation of the objectives agreed in the ECO Vision 2025, and the Islamabad Declaration, adopted at our 13th Summit including: a free or preferential trade arrangement; strengthening of regional institutions such as the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) and operationalization of the ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC).

However, the key to economic integration is connectivity, both virtual and physical. We should strongly advance the transport corridors the ECO has planned under the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). I welcome the operationalization of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) road corridor.

The key to connectivity is peace in Afghanistan which we have all mentioned today. Today, after 40 years, war has ended in Afghanistan. But a humanitarian crisis and the specter of economic collapse loom large over its people. The increasingly deepening liquidity crisis threatens a financial and banking collapse, with serious social and security implications. We must all join in preventing such a disaster, which could revive chaos and conflict and the threat from terrorism in Afghanistan. This could also lead to exodus of refugees from Afghanistan. For four decades, Pakistan has hosted nearly 4 million Afghan refugees. Besides urgent humanitarian assistance, we must render help to the Afghan people in the key sectors of health and education. Frozen assets must be released to help alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan people. We must together promote economic stability and sustainability of Afghanistan as well as its early integration into the ECO and the international community.

We have all witnessed the negative impact of unilateral coercive sanctions in our region. Freezing of assets and banking restrictions worsen the

human suffering and entail serious implications for regional peace, security and prosperity.

The restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan will also enable the early implementation of our agreed infrastructure and integration projects: the TAPI gas pipeline; the CASA 1000 electricity grid from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Afghanistan and Pakistan; and construction of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway line. In the absence of peace, there is a real danger of mass exodus of refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

All ECO economies have suffered severely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The developing countries, including some ECO Members, have suffered disproportionately, with double-digit economic contraction. Pakistan has been, by Allah's Grace, relatively fortunate. Our strategy of 'smart lockdowns', strategy of compassion, generous social protection, and strategic economic stimulus have saved lives and livelihoods and restricted the damage to our economy.

The COVID-related breakdown of supply chains has disrupted international trade and has triggered the global rise in commodity prices and inflation, upto 40 percent in some countries. Our consumers have had to face higher prices. The government is providing a massive package of targeted support to cushion the impact of inflation on the vulnerable sections of our population.

In part, the global inflation in prices has been generated by the \$ 27 trillion fiscal stimulus injected by the rich countries to revive their economies. Unfortunately, the developing countries have not been able to secure even a small fraction of the \$4.3 trillion they need to recover from the COVID crisis.

The ECO should join other developing countries in promoting a common development agenda to return to the path of sustained and sustainable growth. As the next Chair of the Group of 77 and China, Pakistan will propose such a development agenda, including debt restructuring,

redistribution of the 650 billion new SDRs to developing countries, larger concessional financing, mobilization of the \$100 billion in annual climate finance by the developed countries, ending the billions in illicit financial flows from the developing countries and the return of their stolen assets, and the creation of an equitable and open trading system and a fair international tax regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The ECO Member States are all Islamic countries and members of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). We look forward to your participation in the next OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in Islamabad on 23 March next year - when Pakistan will celebrate 75 years of its independence.

The ECO must also contribute to realizing our critical objectives. We must all work to reverse the rising tide of Islamophobia which is rising and anti-Muslim hate in Europe, North America and South Asia.

I would like to take this opportunity to again congratulate President Aliyev on the recovery of Azerbaijan's territories from foreign occupation. Pakistan continues to rely on fraternal ECO and Islamic countries to support the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of Jammu & Kashmir, they are in misery reeling under India's illegal occupation and facing unspeakable oppression.

I wish all success to Turkmenistan's Chairmanship of the ECO this year. Pakistan looks forward equally to Uzbekistan as the next ECO Chair. We are confident that under Uzbekistan's stewardship, ECO will continue its progress and emerge as a vital economic and political entity in the heart of Asia.

I thank you.

Speech by
H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon
The Honorable President of the Republic of Tajikistan
15th ECO Summit

Honorable Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the onset, I would like to congratulate brotherly Turkmenistan on the successful presidency over the Economic Cooperation Organization.

May I convey my deep gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Gurbanguly Myalikhgulyevich Berdimuhamedov for the invitation and for arranging the Summit at such a high level in the beautiful city of Ashgabat.

I wish to also extend my deep appreciation to the previous Chairman of the Organization - His Excellency Rejep Tayyib Erdogan for valuable contribution to strengthening our interaction within the Economic Cooperation Organization.

I am confident that this meeting, which is coinciding with the Day of the Economic Cooperation Organization, will serve as an important step towards further development and strengthening of multifaceted interaction between our countries.

Tajikistan attaches great importance to cooperation in the framework of the ECO.

The Organization's member states have enormous labor and natural resources, and possess abundant potential in energy, transport and connectivity.

Joint effective use of this potential can contribute to the improved well-being and prosperity, as well as strengthening peace and security in our region.

There are favorable conditions created for mutual trade, free movement of people and transit and transport connectivity, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between our countries has gained further development.

Indeed, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the socio-economic development of all countries and regions of the world.

The efforts made to overcome the consequences of the pandemic at the regional and global levels have clearly demonstrated the need for close interaction of the international community during the emergence of global crises.

Dear colleagues,

Trade and investment cooperation is among the priorities of the Organization.

Today, the share of ECO member states in the foreign trade of the Republic of Tajikistan accounts for nearly 40 percent of its total volume.

At the same time, mutual trade within the Organization accounts for only 8 percent of the total foreign trade of its members.

This indicator certainly does not correspond to the existing opportunities and potential.

To increase our trade cooperation, we propose to promote measures removing the quarantine transport and transit restrictions introduced due to the pandemic, as well as tariff and non-tariff trade barriers.

The ECOTA, which has been promoted for many years with a view to increasing trade within the Organization, unfortunately, has yet to be

operationalized.

In this regard, we invite the member states to develop a joint plan for the effective implementation of the trade potential of the ECO region.

There is no doubt that the transport connectivity would increase the mutual trade.

In this regard, it is of particular importance to expand the network of transport corridors and ensure the free movement of goods and services between member states.

Therefore, we must attach priority attention to enhancing the transport and transit potential of the Organization's operation area.

It is important to promote the development of projects for landline transport and connectivity corridors within the ECO.

In this context, we believe the transportation of goods by road along the corridor "Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan – Afghanistan – Iran" (KTAI) tested last year was a significant step.

Dear colleagues,

Energy cooperation is essential for economic growth and sustainable development in the ECO region.

We are eager to be proactively engaged in the implementation of the projects under development to connect and form regional energy networks, in particular, to create a Regional Energy Market.

We emphasize the importance of the timely and full implementation of the CASA-1000 project of a high-voltage power transmission line. Tajikistan is known for its vast resources of clean renewable energy.

Hydropower plants generate about 98 percent of Tajikistan's electricity. Tajikistan is in the group of six leading countries in the world in terms of the "green" energy share.

We propose to the Secretariat to initiate the development of the ECO Region Energy Sustainability Strategy.

This strategy could facilitate an implementation of projects that focus on the increased use of renewable energy and the development of a "green" economy.

Tajikistan is interested in developing industrial cooperation with the ECO member states.

We in this regard do believe it is important to pay attention to expanding investment cooperation, as well as developing mechanisms for financing small and medium enterprises.

Ensuring food security as an urgent task requires active cooperation between the Organization's member states.

The need for such cooperation becomes even more urgent due to the need to overcome the socio-economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We invite the Secretariat to study the issue of developing an appropriate document aimed at coordinating the efforts of member states to ensure food security.

In this regard, in our view, it is important to develop a long-term plan for the development of cooperation in the field of agriculture within the Organization at the earliest.

Our countries remain vulnerable to the climate change risks.

The persistent drought in recent years has had tangible impacts on agriculture.

Due to the accelerated melting, the total volume of glaciers in Tajikistan has decreased by almost a third.

Mudflows, floods, landslides and other natural disasters have become more frequent, which annually cause significant damage to the economy.

With these factors in mind, we believe it is important within our Organization to give priority attention to climate change issues and, in this context, to reduce the risk of natural disasters.

I hope that the proposals previously voiced by Tajikistan to declare 2025 the International Year for Preservation of Glaciers and determine a specific date for the World Glacier Day, as well as to establish an International Glacier Protection Fund, will gain the support of our ECO partners.

Dear colleagues,

Tourism is an area of regional cooperation hardly hit by the pandemic.

Elimination of the negative consequences of the pandemic and the restoration of international and domestic tourism in our region necessitates strengthening cooperation between member states in this area.

With a view to contributing to the solution of this issue within the framework of our Organization, Tajikistan hosted the International Festival "Dushanbe - the Tourism Capital of ECO" and the International Agri-tourism Forum in August this year.

We invite the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of measures aimed at the full use of the region's tourism opportunities for the benefit of the sustainable development of our countries.

At the same time, the focus should be on the issues of enrichment and strengthening of cultural and humanitarian ties between our peoples.

We are pleased that the organization's project activities are consistently expanding and, in this regard, we emphasize the need to revitalize the activities of its specialized institutions.

Along with this, in our view, it is important to establish a broad dialogue with other international and regional organizations, as well as financial institutions in order to mobilize technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of programs and projects in the ECO region.

In this context, I would like to note the significance of the UN General Assembly Resolution on cooperation between the UN and ECO adopted on September 9 this year.

Tajikistan intends to further take an active part in the activities of the Organization in all six priority areas set out in the fundamental document "ECO Vision - 2025".

Dear colleagues,

We recognize the importance of Afghanistan as an integral player in the implementation of our joint trade and economic, and transit and connectivity projects and programs in the framework of the Organization.

The further promotion of all outlined plans in this area mainly depends on the normalization of the politico-military situation and ensuring security in this country.

In our view, the solution of the problems that have arisen in Afghanistan dictates the need for the earliest possible creation of an inclusive government in this country with the engagement of all ethnopolitical groups.

Afghanistan is currently on the brink of a humanitarian disaster.

With the onset of cold weather, the situation may worsen even more, which will lead to famine.

In this regard, we believe it is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan through the UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations.

I am convinced that the relevant activities on further strengthening of interaction within the Organization will continue in a constructive manner in the upcoming period of the presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

I congratulate His Excellency President Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev on resuming the Organization's presidency by the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Gurbanguly Myalikgulyevich Berdimuhamedov for the warm welcome and cordial hospitality.

I thank you for your attention.

Speech by
H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev
The Honorable President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
15th ECO Summit

Выступление Президента Республики Узбекистан
Е.П. г-на Шавката Мирзиёева на
15-м саммите Организации экономического сотрудничества

Уважаемый Гурбангулы Мяликгулыевич! Уважаемые главы делегаций!

Искренне рад встретиться с вами в прекрасном городе Ашхабаде в день, когда была создана наша Организация экономического сотрудничества.

Присоединяюсь к словам признательности Гурбангулы Мяликгулыевичу Бердымухамедову за высокий уровень организации сегодняшней встречи и душевное гостеприимство, оказанное всем её участникам.

Хотел бы особо подчеркнуть успешное председательство Туркменистана в Организации и весомый вклад в расширение многостороннего практического взаимодействия.

В частности, принятая в сентябре этого года Резолюция Генеральной Ассамблеи Организации Объединённых Наций о сотрудничестве между ООН и ОЭС стала важным шагом в данном направлении.

Уважаемые участники саммита!

Наши братские народы, которые объединяют общие история и религия, схожие обычаи и традиции, издревле были тесно связаны торговыми и культурными отношениями.

Организация экономического сотрудничества за период со времени создания превратилась в крупную региональную структуру с огромным экономическим потенциалом, представляющую общие интересы наших стран.

Все высказанные сегодня мнения и оценки моих уважаемых коллег подтверждают растущую роль и значение Организации на международной арене, наше общее стремление к укреплению взаимной дружбы, сотрудничества и обеспечению стабильности.

Узбекистан в свою очередь выступает за дальнейшее развитие всеобъемлющих отношений в рамках Организации. Мы настроены на эффективное осуществление нашего предстоящего председательства.

Уважаемые главы государств и правительств!

Сегодня мы являемся свидетелями все большего осложнения международной и региональной ситуации.

До сих пор нет однозначного ответа на вопросы: каковы тенденции развития мировой экономики под влиянием продолжающейся пандемии, а также с какими новыми угрозами и вызовами столкнётся мировое сообщество?

В этих быстро меняющихся условиях мы считаем необходимым объединить наши усилия в следующих приоритетных направлениях.

Первое. Нам необходимо более полно использовать значительный потенциал наших стран, имеющих огромный рынок с населением 500 миллионов человек, в сферах торговли и инвестиций.

На основе принятой программы «Перспективы Организации экономического сотрудничества - 2025» целесообразно дальнейшее расширение торгово-экономических и инвестиционных связей между нашими странами и, самое главное, достижение за счёт этого более значимых практических результатов.

В этой связи считаем, что пришло время для разработки и принятия обновлённого и всеобъемлющего Торгового соглашения в рамках нашей Организации.

В данный документ должны быть включены вопросы снятия торговых барьеров, цифровизации таможенных процедур, а также внедрения электронной торговли, приобретающей в настоящее время все более важное значение.

Кроме того, требованием сегодняшнего дня является принятие Плана совместных действий, направленного на увеличение потока взаимных инвестиций и усиление их надёжной защиты, углубление производственной кооперации между нашими странами.

В то же время нам необходимо расширять взаимную торговлю, развивать проекты регионального значения и повышать нашу общую конкурентоспособность на мировом рынке.

С этой целью предлагаем создать Центр торговли, инвестиций и инноваций в рамках нашей Организации в сотрудничестве с Организацией ООН по промышленному развитию (ЮНИДО) и Специальной программой ООН для экономик стран Центральной Азии (СПЕКА) и разместить штаб-квартиру этого Центра в городе Ташкенте.

Второе. Более эффективное использование имеющихся и создание новых транспортных коридоров в нашем регионе.

В данном контексте представляется важным найти конкретные решения по ряду насущных вопросов. Прежде всего это – создание межрегиональных транзитных узлов, развитие современной транспортной и дорожной инфраструктуры, оптимизация транспортных и транзитных тарифов и предоставление дополнительных скидок, упрощение условий для международных грузовых и пассажирских перевозок, внедрение цифровизации в транспортную отрасль.

Для реализации этих планов целесообразно разработать региональную стратегию, направленную на развитие транспортно-коммуникационных связей и расширение транзитного потенциала наших государств.

Третье. Мы должны мобилизовать и направить наши практические усилия на обеспечение «зеленого развития».

В настоящее время усиливаются проблемы экологии и изменения климата, что требует решения таких наиболее актуальных задач нашей повестки, как эффективное использование передового опыта, накопленного в наших странах и за рубежом, активное совместное развитие «зеленой экономики», широкое внедрение ресурсосберегающих технологий в промышленных отраслях, достижение углеродной нейтральности.

С этой целью мы предлагаем создать постоянно действующий Совет по диалогу на высоком уровне с участием зарубежных учёных и международных экспертов в области окружающей среды.

Четвертое. Восстановление туристического обмена.

На следующей встрече министров туризма в городе Бухаре в 2022 году планируем выступить с инициативой о принятии региональной программы по развитию безопасного туризма в постпандемический период.

Исходя из этого серьёзное внимание будет уделено развитию «паломнического туризма» и других совместных туристических продуктов, расширению географии авиаперевозок, развитию туристической инфраструктуры.

Уважаемые участники саммита!

Хотел бы отдельно остановиться на сложной ситуации в Афганистане, который является членом нашей Организации.

Эта страна день ото дня приближается к тяжелому гуманитарному кризису.

В одиночку, без помощи международного сообщества, в том числе ближайших соседей, афганский народ не сможет выдержать эти трудные испытания.

Поэтому мы должны объединить усилия для выработки общих подходов и оказания необходимой помощи афганскому народу.

Мы также поддерживаем последовательное продолжение реализации совместно с Афганистаном крупных торговых, транспортных и энергетических проектов регионального значения.

Уважаемые главы государств и правительств!

Хотел бы затронуть ещё одну важную тему.

На сегодняшний день востребованы дальнейшее повышение международного авторитета нашей Организации, установление собственной повестки дня, отличающейся от повесток других региональных организаций, укрепление взаимодействия с ведущими международными структурами, развитие институциональных механизмов нашего сотрудничества.

Мы продвигаем инициативу создания Экспертной группы высокого уровня для подготовки конкретных предложений и рекомендаций по дальнейшему совершенствованию деятельности Организации.

В то же время, исходя из приоритетов и текущих задач нашего сотрудничества, считаем целесообразным установить традицию объявления каждого года годом развития какой-либо сферы.

Предлагаем в период председательства Узбекистана в Организации объявить в наших странах Год укрепления взаимосвязанности.

Уважаемые коллеги!

Мы также поддерживаем принятие заключительного документа нашего сегодняшнего саммита – Ашхабадского консенсуса для действий.

Пользуясь возможностью, искренне поздравляем нового Генерального секретаря нашей Организации Хусрава Нозири с началом ответственной деятельности на этом посту, желаем ему успехов.

Благодарю всех вас за искренние пожелания в связи с передачей Узбекистану – впервые в истории ОЭС – председательства в Организации.

В завершение своего выступления хочу выразить уверенность в том, что в результате общих устремлений и усилий мы уже в ближайшем будущем выйдем на качественно новый уровень многостороннего и взаимовыгодного сотрудничества в рамках нашей Организации.

С большим удовольствием приглашаю всех вас в Узбекистан принять участие в нашем следующем саммите.

Благодарю за внимание.