

32nd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)

ECO Work Programme 2022

January 17-26, 2022

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A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT		
1.	<p>The Council profoundly appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for virtually hosting the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy preceded by the SOM on 26th May 2021. The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to voluntarily host the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Finance / Economy, made during 5th Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy and reiterated during 32nd RPC. The Council, accordingly, requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to convey the mode of the meeting, date (s), venue, and details of hospitality to the Secretariat at the earliest convenience. The Council also requested the Member States to confirm their participation for this important meeting and convey their 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>	
2.	<p>The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for their offer to host the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) after 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting both of which could not be held. The Council, accordingly requested the Republic of Turkey to announce exact dates, venue, preferred mode and hospitality details of the meeting at the earliest convenience in 2022 once 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting is held. The Council also requested the Member States to confirm their participation in the meeting accordingly.</p>	
3.	<p>The Council recalled that the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) established the Joint Working Group (JWG) to prepare and finalize the draft ECO-Multi Dimensional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region. The Secretariat informed the Council that the Draft of ECO Multi-Dimensional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region; were circulated among the Member States. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Uzbekistan have shared their views/comments.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to hold 1st Meeting of JWG to finalize Trade and</p>	

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	Investment Strategy and to conduct Preliminary Study on the Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area along with provision of comments/views, if any, before the forthcoming 5 th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade.	
4.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that a comprehensive Paper/Strategy titled 'Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy' 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 Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, had provided their views/comments.</p> <p>The Council was further informed that the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy recommended holding the 'Meeting of the Joint Working Group for finalizing the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy'. This meeting has been postponed at least eight times. The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Turkey announced to host the 1st Meeting of the Joint Working Group for Preparation of the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy in 2021. It was further informed that the meeting was announced but postponed, at least six times, due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council deeply appreciated the Republic of Turkey's commitment to this important area. The Council requested the Member States to provide their views/comments on the said strategy within the stipulated time. The Republic of Turkey informed the Council that it will hold this meeting once the views/comments of the Member States will be received.</p>	
5.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that it has drafted a text of ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement (ETFA) under the study titled "Impediments in ECO Trade Agreement and Measures to resolve" and shared it with the Member States for views and comments, However, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has provided their views/comments on ETFA and the comments from the other ECO Member States are awaited on the draft text of ETFA.</p> <p>The Council requested the remaining Member States to provided the same through diplomatic channels. Turkey is in the view that before commencing negotiations on a ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Member States should work on a Trade Facilitation Strategy</p>	

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	Paper, considering insufficient interest from Member States and hardship of negotiating regional agreements.	
6.	The Council appreciated the refreshed offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council meeting and recommended for preparation of a result-oriented meeting providing adequate flexibilities in time for exhausting all practical possibilities concerning implementation of ECOTA with the possibility of coordination for delaying/ resuming informal/formal sessions by the Secretariat, with time schedules agreed upon by the Member States; aimed at acceleration of reaching a consensus based way forward. The Council also requested accelerated negotiation for following up the ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement as the means to assist implementation of ECOTA and further prepare the ground for an ECO Free Trade Agreement.	
7.	<p>The Secretariat recalled that during 8th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting held on 18-19 August 2019, the sectoral approach, prepared by the Secretariat; was presented for views and comments of the Member States. The Member States were also requested to provide their considered views about ways and means for operationalization of ECOTA to be discussed in the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting. The Member States were requested to share their views and comments on the Sectoral approach and the ways and means to implement ECOTA, so that the Secretariat may circulate a Working Paper comprising comments of Contracting Parties. The Secretariat was tasked by the 30th RPC to share outcomes of the study titled “Impediments in Implementation of ECO’s Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve” before the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat further apprised the Council that Member States shared their views and comments for implementation of ECOTA considering sectoral approach and other new ideas. The Secretariat prepared draft agenda and the working paper, accordingly and circulated it soliciting views/comments and nominations for the meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat further stated that the report of the aforesaid research study was also shared with the ECOTA contracting parties for views/comments. Views/comments from Islamic</p>	

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	<p>Republic of Afghanistan, only, were received and has been circulated to the Member States. The Council requested the ECOTA Parties to mull over the scenarios presented by the Secretariat in the aforesaid research study, which was amply appreciated by the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy held on 28th May 2021 and emphasized the ECOTA Parties to consider implementation of these recommendations.</p> <p>The Council requested the Secretariat to follow up and include, as an agenda item, the proposal of granting unilateral GSP Concession by the higher income developing countries of the ECO region, in a position to do so, to the low income member states.</p> <p>The Council also requested all the Member States to share their views/comments on the working paper and agenda of 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting at the earliest. The Council recommended that other ECO Member States, not a party to the ECOTA could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers.</p>	
8.	<p>Recalling the relevant decision of the 24th COM in 2019 & 15th Summit in 2021 the Council reaffirmed the commitment for implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) 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 for each of them. The Council proposed that ECO LDC Member States may receive incentives to encourage their joining to or implementation of ECOTA. The Council recommended that other ECO Member States, not a party to the ECOTA, could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers. The Council reiterated the joint commitment to establish a Free Trade Area in the ECO region to ensure maximum intra-regional trade as instrument of enhanced economic recovery, development, and growth in the region.</p>	
9.	<p>The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the study conducted by the Secretariat on ECOTA</p>	

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	and requested that this study may kindly be considered as an Agenda item during the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting. The Republic of Turkey informed that all the proposals may be discussed in the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council with a view to bring it to the table for discussion and adoption in the Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan agreed to share the schedule of the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting in 2022.	
10.	Noting the importance of completing all legal and procedural requirements for implementation of ECOTA, the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan to complete all pending legal and procedural requirements including submission of all the three Product Lists by the Islamic Republic of Iran and ratification of the Annexes to ECOTA and submission of Pending List by the Republic of Tajikistan, to pave the way towards effective implementation of the Agreement.	
11.	The Council while noting that the 30th RPC & 31st RPC requested the Member States to consider hosting the Second Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum in 2020 and 2021; requested the other interested Member States to consider hosting the meeting in 2022.	
12.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for volunteering to host the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration in 2021 in virtual mode, which could not be held. The Council underlined that the First Meeting of the Experts of Tax Administration held on 26-28 May, 2014 in Tehran had finalized the following three draft documents on ECO Tax Cooperation, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Charter for Establishment of ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX); b) ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters; and, c) Agreement on the Exchange of Information in Tax Matters 	

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	The Secretariat informed the Council that based on the decisions of 31 st RPC the three draft documents were re-circulated among all the Member States in 2021 but only the Islamic Republic of Iran has shared their views/comments. The council requested the remaining Member States to share their views/comments at the earliest.	
13.	The Council appreciated the fresh offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to volunteer hosting the 2 nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration in 2022 preferably in physical mode to consider the aforesaid three draft documents before submitting them to the appropriate ECO forums for approval.	
14.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 9th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) and the 5th Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) in second half of 2022, in virtual mode.</p> <p>The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to convey the mode, date and venue of the meetings in 2022. The Council also requested the Member States to share their nominations 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.</p>	
15.	The ECO Secretariat informed that the draft text of the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters was finalized in the 8 th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) in 2017. 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. 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.	
16.	The Secretariat while recalling the 8 th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA), held in November 2017 in Islamabad, 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	

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	<p>Academy at Karachi. The Council welcomed the willingness and readiness of the Republic of Turkey expressed time and again, to share its experiences on the themes such as Implementation of Common Transit Convention, e-TIR System, Simplified Procedures on Expedited Shipments, Customs Enforcement measures as well as Single Window System. Further, it was also suggested in the previous RPCs that the Member States may share their best practices in different thematic areas, and may communicate the proposed set of trainings to the Secretariat. The Secretariat informed that no proposal has been received in this regard. The Council requested the Member States to provide the set of trainings to inform the Secretariat so as to conduct trainings on need basis.</p>	
17.	<p>The Council was informed that ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank under the Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank 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; were requested to kindly take the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been requested to kindly provide the particulars of their focal points to connect to the data bank, which is awaited. 3. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been requested to kindly deposit the original version of the Instrument of Ratification with the ECO Secretariat; which is awaited. 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>The Council requested the non-signatory Member States, namely the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement at their earliest convenience.</p>	

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18.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the First Experts Group Meeting on Banking and Financial Matters and Forming of ECO Clearing Union in 2021. The meeting recommended formulation of a Working Group comprising the representatives of the Central Banks from ECO Member States to make recommendations for the setting up of ECU. The Council was informed that the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey have shared their nominations for the said Working Group.</p> <p>The Council requested the remaining Member States to provide the nominations in order to hold Working Group Meeting of the Central Banks and present its recommendations to the 2nd Experts Group Meeting on Banking, Finance and ECU in 2022. The Council requested the interested Member States to host the 2nd Meeting of Experts Working Group of Central Banks on ECO Clearing Union (ECU) and 2nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Central Banks in preferred mode in 2022.</p>	
19.	<p>The Council appreciated the project titled “ECO Regional Payment System (ERPS) Feasibility Study Phase-I.” The Council requested the Member States to share their comments on the report of the study with the Secretariat and actively participate in the 2nd Meeting of the Expert Group on Banking, Finance and the ECU.</p>	
20.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that so far two ECO Member States, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have ratified the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) among ECO Member States along with the Amendment Protocol and 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; it was also shared by the delegate from Republic of Turkey that the Republic of Turkey has ratified the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI) among ECO Member States along with the Amendment Protocol; however, formality of depositing the Instrument of Ratification is yet to be completed for the two Member States. The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey will deposit their Instrument of Ratification to the Secretariat at an early date.</p>	

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	The Council called upon the Republic of Azerbaijan to complete the ratification procedures along with its Amendment Protocol at the earliest convenience. The Council urged the non-signatory Member States i.e. Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to consider signing/ratifying the Agreement.	
21.	The Council appreciated the idea of Islamic Republic of Iran proposing Investment Promotion Committee/Working Group in solving issues of Investment and devising MoU for future cooperation after signing of APPI.	
22.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the "ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal" is available on the main ECO Web-Site with the following address: " www.eco.int/trade ". 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 ECO Region. So far the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Kazakhstan have conveyed information to the Secretariat in this regard. The Council requested other Member States to share the information through their National Chambers at the earliest.	
23.	The Secretariat suggested that for the ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal, 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.	
24.	The Council profoundly appreciated the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for virtually holding the 2 nd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of ECO Member States on 2 nd August	

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	2021 and appreciated the project titled 'Study on preparation of the guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones'. The Council requested the interested Member States to convey their willingness to host the 3 rd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of ECO Member States in preferred mode in 2022.	
25.	The Secretariat informed the Council that detailed TORs for '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' were prepared by the Secretariat and the services of a Specialist will be hired as per rules.	
26.	The Council requested the Secretariat to follow-up for conducting the aforesaid 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 st and 2 nd Meetings of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States. Recalling the decisions of the two meetings of Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States, the Council requested the Member States to share their nominations to establish the Permanent Standing Committee on SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States and urged to expedite formation of this committee as soon as possible.	
27.	The Secretariat appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting 2 nd Meeting of SW/NDF preceded by Experts Group Meeting of the ECO Member States. The Secretariat informed the Council that it has received a revised 'Concept Paper' on proposed comprehensive plan for networking amongst SW/NDFs of ECO Member States, from Islamic Republic of Iran. The same will be shared with the Member States once finalized by the Secretariat. The TORs for the project titled 'Study on preparation of the Road-Map for Formulating a Comprehensive Plan among the Sovereign and National Development Funds of the Member States' will be finalized after the work is completed on Concept Paper and the study will be launched in due course of time.	
28.	The Council took note of the postponement of the First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States, which has been scheduled and postponed a	

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	<p>number of times, latest being in 2018 in Iran. The Secretariat informed that the meeting was offered to the Member States for hosting in 2021 but that could not be held. The Secretariat informed the Council that it is seeking nominations from the Member States to host the meeting virtually. During the Mid-Term Review of RPC Islamic Republic of Iran shared the following views/comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The First Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States would be held on virtual basis by the ECO secretariat. 2. 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. <p>The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to host this meeting virtually. The ECO Secretariat conveyed that the exact date of the meeting will be communicated later through diplomatic channels.</p>	
29.	<p>The Council noted with satisfaction the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/324 on UN-ECO Cooperation adopted on 9 September 2021 which appreciated the continuing efforts to strengthen the existing cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), especially in the field of trade capacity-building of Member States. The Council further noted with satisfaction the completion of the implementation of the third phase of their joint programme in 2017, aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States to strengthen their standards, metrology, testing and quality infrastructure; and invited the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies to consider supporting the implementation of the fourth phase of the project appreciated the ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project.</p> <p>The Council further noted that elimination of non-tariff barriers is imperative for increasing intra-regional trade and meet the targets set for expansion of intra-regional trade. Promotion of ECO Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of the Regional Quality Policy is inevitable for expansion of intra-regional trade and contribution to global trade.</p>	

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	<p>The Council requested the Secretariat to follow up with UNIDO and ensure collaboration with ETDB and IDB to provide financial and technical support for implementation of fourth phase of the ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project in 2022. 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 the Project.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed that Member States, including the ECO business community, will assist in identifying the needs and priorities of the target groups and end-users of these trainings programme. Moreover, that UNIDO has suggested that some seed money may be allocated to the project by the ECO Member States so that UNIDO can pursue the funding for the project.</p>	
30.	The Council took note of the medium sized project proposal that will be pursued with UNIDO and the IsDB in 2022. The Council appreciated the proposal of the Secretariat to allocate some seed money through Secretariat funds, as a medium sized project to follow-up the matter with the UNIDO and IsDB for funding.	
31.	The Council appreciated the fresh offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to volunteer hosting of the 4 th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum in 2022 which was postponed in 2021 due to lack of quorum. The Council requested the other Member States to ensure participation of their Trade Promotion Organizations in 2022.	
32.	The Council took note of the project titled ‘Strengthening Cooperation amongst Public and Private Sectors in the ECO Region’ and considered it useful in furtherance of trade and investment in the region and in line with the ECO Vision-2025. Accordingly, the Council requested the Member States to offer their views/comments on the said Project at their earliest convenience.	
33.	The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan volunteered to host the 4 th ECO Trade Fair in 2021. The schedule was finalized by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in August 2021, in collaboration with the Secretariat, but the same was postponed by the host. Accordingly, the Council requested the interested Member States to	

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	volunteer hosting this important event in 2022 with participation of their National Chambers of Commerce and Industries. The Council requested the interested Member State for sharing the schedule for holding the 4 th ECO Trade Fair in 2022.	
34.	The Council recommended ECO-TPOs in coordination with ECO-CCI to push for early organization of the trade fairs and exhibitions as mandated by ECO Vision-2025. The programmes for Media will be crafted and implemented by individual Member States and ECO-CCI to utilize their role for promotion of regional trade and economic activities.	
35.	The Council also appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host ECO Trade Exhibition, namely "ECO-RAF" in 2021 in Yazd which could not be held. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold this Exhibition in 2022. 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 this event.	
36.	Recalling the decisions of the 30 th RPC meeting the ECO-CCI informed that ECO-ASEAN Joint Business Forum and ECO-SAARC Joint Business Forum will be considered in 2022 with the aim to strengthen inter-regional trade. The Council noted that the matter is pending since long and requested the ECO-CCI to provide an update regarding the ECO-ASEAN Joint Business Forum and the ECO-SAARC 'Joint Business Forum.'	
37.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the Second Phase of the Study on Trading Patterns in the ECO Region carried out by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has been completed. The PIDE completed the study and submitted its report which has been shared with the Member States in 2020. However, no comments have been received from the Member States. The Council requested the Member States to give their views/comments on the report of the second Phase of the PIDE study.	
38.	The Council thanked the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for offering to hold the Trade Policy Review Session and appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for volunteering to host and organize the 5 th Seminar on Trading patterns in ECO Region and Accession of ECO to WTO in 2022. However, as the need for the session was not raised by the Member States, it	

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	<p>could not be scheduled in 2021. The Council, taking cognizance of the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for hosting the session in 2022; requested the Secretariat to liaise with the Member States to share their views on the same for organizing it in 2022. The Council requested ETDB to provide financial assistance to the Secretariat for organizing the seminars in 2022. The Secretariat will follow up through diplomatic channels.</p>	
39.	<p>The Council recalled the relevant decision of the 24th COM, the 30th & 31st 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 TORs were 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 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.</p>	
40.	<p>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 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"> 1. The Study Phase 2. The Implementation Phase <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</p>	

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	for comments. The Project Management Section of the Secretariat has been pursuing on the issue.	
41.	The Council encouraged the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) as the regional institution of ECO to continue to support the implementation of regional projects as per the development mandate based on the Agreement of Establishment; the ETDB members to help maintain the operational effectiveness of the Bank, and the ETDB's own decision making bodies to continuously monitor the business generation ability and sustainability of the Bank. The Council took note of the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the RPC Mid-Term Review, highlighting the need to augment the role of ETDB in the ECO Projects financing in the areas of trade and connectivity. The Council encouraged the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB), as the regional institution of ECO to continue to support the implementation of regional projects and support feasibility and research studies like ECO Vision Fund, ECO Clearing Union etc, as per the development mandate based on the Agreement of Establishment. The Council encouraged the ETDB members to help maintain the operational effectiveness of the Bank. The Council requested the remaining Member States who have not joined ECO-TDB to join this important regional financial institution.	
42.	The Council requested ETDB to initiate arranging the first Regional Partnership Forum (RPF) in 2022 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.	
43.	The Secretariat informed that the nominations for the General Assembly of the ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC) were completed. The Republic of Turkey will 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 st meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of ERC, it was imperative that the required ground work and completion of formalities, including release/transfer of paid-in capital of ECO-ERC, to make it more successful and result-oriented. The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has conveyed its	

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	<p>readiness to transfer its contribution in paid-in capital, The other Contracting Parties, i.e. Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey were requested to operationalize the ERC. The Secretariat informed the Council that in November 2021, Islamic Republic of Pakistan has informed that the following are awaited from the Contracting Parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal/ plan for transferring of Iran and Turkey shares; and 2. Nominations for the General Assembly. <p>The above details were forwarded to the Contracting Parties on 16.11.2021. The Council accordingly requested the Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey to expedite sharing views/comments for transfer of paid-in capital contributions.</p>	
44.	<p>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 potential and role in furtherance of businesses and economic activities in the region.</p>	
45.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for volunteering to host the 1st Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in 2021 which could not held due to lack of quorum. The Council welcomed the fresh offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host it in 2022. The Council requested the Member States to convey their nominations, once the meeting is announced. The deliberations and decisions of the meeting will be submitted to the next ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy for decision/approval.</p>	
46.	<p>The Council was informed that considering the importance of investment promotion among the Member States of ECO Region, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed the Secretariat, in 31st RPC, to initiate cooperation 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 as once the ECO Secretariat compiles the details on investment policies of ECO region; collaboration with UNCTAD could be finalized.</p>	

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47.	In this context, the Secretariat informed the Council that it requested the Member States to share their Investment Policy Details on a questionnaire, prepared and shared by the Secretariat. However, response has been received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan. The Council called on the remaining Member States to convey the policy details in this regard at the earliest.	
48.	The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3 rd 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 for hosting of 4th ECO Investment Conference.	
49.	The Council was recalled that during 31 st RPC, it recommended ECO Special Business Forum to be held physically after improvements in the pandemic situation. It was informed that the pandemic situation did not improve, substantially during 2021. The Council again recommended that the ECO Special Business Forum may be held physically in 2022 after improvements in the pandemic situation. The Secretariat will communicate with the Member States for hosting this Forum and will inform accordingly through diplomatic channels.	
50.	<p>The Council expressed its gratitude to the ECO Secretariat, Turkmenistan and ECO-CCI for successful hosting of the 4th ECO Business Forum on 26th November 2021, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Keeping in view the importance of Business Forums, the Council requested the Republic of Uzbekistan to consider hosting the 5th ECO Business Forum in 2022. The Council requested the Member States to encourage their National Chambers to actively participate, and make it successful, once the event is announced.</p> <p>The Council requested the Republic of Turkey to consider hosting the 6th ECO Business Forum.</p>	
51.	The Council thanked the Republic of Turkey for holding the ECO CCI Extraordinary Meeting virtually on May 5, 2020 and the 28 th Executive Committee and 18 th General Assembly of the ECO-CCI along with the six Specialized Committees and the ECO CCI Extra Ordinary Meeting in virtual mode on October 19, 2020. In 2022 the upcoming General Assembly of the	

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	<p>ECO-CCI, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture will take over the ECO CCI Secretariat from the Union of the Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).</p> <p>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.</p>	
52.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for virtually hosting the 2nd Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in November 2021. The Council requested the implementation of decision of the meeting. The Council requested the Member States to finalize the Working Group Meeting of the Experts comprising Technical experts from the Member States. The Secretariat will hold the Working Group Meeting of the Experts to finalize data elements, draft documents and recommendations, etc. The outcome of the Working Group meeting will be then submitted for adoption in 3rd EDI Technical Committee Meeting. The Council requested to provide the details of Focal Points through Diplomatic channels.</p>	
53.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that 'Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States' 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. Based on the recommendations of previous RPCs the Secretariat informed the Council that it has again requested to the signatory Member States to ratify these Agreements and provide their ratification status at their earliest convenience and the Member States which have not signed; have been also encouraged to sign and ratify these Agreements. The Council requested the Member States, which have not signed or ratified these legal texts, to sign/ratify for early implementation of the Agreement for complementing trade facilitation measures in the region.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
54.	<p>The Council appreciated the Study Project titled 'Study to Impediment Issuance of 'ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region' for greater collaboration between the Business communities in the ECO Region'. The Secretariat informed the Council that the experience of the Secretariat in the visa sticker scheme in the past years, has proven that it is will take time to materialize and the Secretariat's consultative meetings with the Visa Consular from the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran; need to address this issue. Hence, the Secretariat proposes to consider effective utilization of the Agreement for Visa simplification for Businessmen and its Additional Protocol for Businessmen. The Secretariat proposed to draft a procedure in this regard, to ensure necessary visa facilitation to the business community. The Secretariat has been pursuing the Member States for their signing, ratifying and then implementing these documents.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the proposal of the Secretariat and the Project titled 'Study on Impediments in Issuance of 'ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region' for greater collaboration among the Business communities in the ECO Region' and encouraged the Member States and ECO-CCI to collaborate for its implementation.</p>	
B. SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
1.	The Council requested the Member States to implement the provisions of the Ashgabat Consensus on Action adopted by the ECO Summit, held on 28 November 2021 in Turkmenistan.	
I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: TTFA Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)		
2.	The Council requested the Member States to fully implement the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) along with all its annexes, and fulfill their commitments as per the provisions of TTFA.	
3.	The Council requested Turkmenistan to deposit its Instruments of Ratification of TTFA at	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	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.	
4.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 11 th Ministerial meeting on Transport preceded by the High Level Experts Group meeting (virtually) in 31 st January and 2 nd February 2022 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the said meetings.	
5.	The Council requested the interested Member States to consider hosting 10 th TTCC Meeting and appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host virtually the 10 th Meeting of Road Committee of TTCC, in first quarter of 2022.	
6.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 7 th Insurance Committee Meeting of the TTCC on 20 th July 2022 (in person) and requested the Member States to actively participate in the said meeting and requested the ECO Secretariat to coordinate the exact date and hospitality details with the host authorities.	
7.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to organize the 9 th Railway Committee and the 15 th Meeting of the Heads of Railways in virtual mode at the ECO Secretariat.	
8.	The Council requested the Member States to provide their updated information on the ECO Railway and Road Maps to the Secretariat. The Council further requested the Secretariat to publish updated ECO Railway and Road Maps at the earliest and in this connection requested the CPR to approve necessary fund for the publication of ECO Maps.	
9.	The Council 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 up-gradation of the current routes.	
10.	The Council requested the Member States to consider acceding to the major international	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	transport facilitation legal instruments\agreements in 2022, such as the e-TIR and e-CMR protocols, Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP) AETR and CEMT and further requested the Member States and the Secretariat to consider organizing workshops on implementation of the said conventions in collaboration with relevant international organizations.	
11.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to assist in operationalization of the “Consultative Group of ECO TIR Issuing and Guaranteeing Associations” and facilitate its participation in the meetings of relevant Committees of TTCC.	
12.	The Council , as per recommendation of the ECO Vision 2025, requested the ECO -TDB to organize a fund-raising Forum in collaboration with ECO Secretariat, as early as feasible and possible, to mobilize funds through national and international financial institutions/banks, particularly for rehabilitation of existing railways and road links as well as construction of new railways and roads.	
13.	The Council requested the CPR and the decision making bodies to mandate the ECO-TDB to explore ways on facilitating the transfer of resources/payments related to regional connectivity projects and ECO transit transport infrastructure and report to the Secretariat within three months.	
II. RAILWAY TRANSPORT		
14.	The Council reiterated its request to the ECO Secretariat to organize the 9 th Railway Committee and the 15 th Meeting of the Heads of Railways in virtual mode in 2022.	
15.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat’s proposal with regards to regional rail pass initiative and requested the Member States to furnish the Secretariat regarding their comments and suggestions about its feasibility in their countries in collaboration with their national railway authorities.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
Area Priority No. 1: Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI Railway)		
16.	The Council appreciated the KTI en route Member States for signing of the “ <i>MoU Among the Railways of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Islamic Republic of Iran on the Implementation of KTI Railway Freight Corridor</i> ” and welcomed the organization of the First Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on KTI railway (PWG-KTI) for coordinated and sustained cooperation on commercialization of the KTI corridor on 27 December 2021 (virtual).	
17.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan for offering to host the 2 nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on KTI (PWG-KTI) and requested the Secretariat to coordinate with the host authorities for the exact date(s) and hospitality details.	
18.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to organize the sub-working group meetings on monthly basis to make the recommendations for the 2 nd PWG meeting.	
19.	The Council took note of the progress with regard to conducting the small sized study project on “Development of economic corridor along ECO KTI Railway Corridor” in 2022 and requested expediting recruitment of a specialist for implementation of the said Study Project in the first half of 2022.	
20.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to consider implementing a study project on electronic data exchange in the regional railway network particularly on KTI railway corridor and in this connection may consider utilizing the study report conducted by the UNESCAP on Iran – Turkmenistan rail route.	
Area priority No. 2: The Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Train		
21.	The Council highly praised the resumption of the ITI train from 21 st December 2021 and	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	appreciated the ECO Secretariat for its continuous\real time follow-up through the social media platform for re-operationalization of the train.	
22.	The Council requested the en-route countries to update the particulars of their freight forwarders as per any development with regard to enlisting\delisting of the forwarders for operation on the ITI train.	
23.	The Council recommended the ITI en-route Member States to utilize the full capacity of the Corridor through arranging multimodal transportation particularly by inclusion of road sector.	
24.	The Council requested the ITI en-route countries to ensure timely sharing of information regarding cargo type, quantity, weight and number of wagons to the other railway authorities.	
25.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 12 th Meeting of HLWG of ITI Train virtually and requested the latter to provide the exact date(s) of the Meeting.	
26.	The Council 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\construction of Quetta-Taftan segment of the railway track, respectively. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed that the construction of standard railway from Quetta to Taftan is under examination and the result will be communicated in due course.	
27.	The Council took note that the Quetta- Taftan railway rehabilitation\reconstruction project will be included in the priority plans for infrastructure development by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.	
28.	The Council took note of the deliberations of the delegations of I.R Iran and I.R Pakistan with regard to the construction of the railway from Zahedan to Mirjaveh and from Taftan to	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Quetta and requested the 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 upon confirmation of the gauge standards of the construction of the said railway and recruit a specialist for implementation of the said Study Project in the first half of 2022.	
Area Priority No. 3: ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty And Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes		
29.	The Council requested the Secretariat to follow up 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.	
30.	The Council requested the Secretariat to coordinate the organization of the 2nd HLWG Meeting on Istanbul-Almaty And Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes in 2022 to discuss the suggestions of the en-route countries and new initiatives for further improvement of the routes. The HLWG is recommended to invite Kyrgyz Republic to its 2 nd Meeting.	
31.	The Council requested the 2 nd HLWG Meeting to consider launching a scheduled train along the Istanbul-Almaty And Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes and the movement of Iranian wagons within the CIS railway network and report to the upcoming RPC meeting.	
Area priority No. 4: Railway Project for the Connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)		
32.	The Council encouraged the en-route countries of the KTAI railway to complete the “missing links” in their relevant segments, in line with recommendation-5 of the Turkmenbashi Declaration (3 May 2018).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
33.	The Council requested the interested KTAI en-route countries to host the 2 nd Ministerial Meeting via hybrid means in 2022. A Senior Officials meeting may also be convened prior to the Ministerial Meeting to finalize the necessary documents.	
34.	The Council requested the en-route countries to consider re-structuring the project design into separate but easily workable segments, and provide the Secretariat with their suggestions in this regard.	
35.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat and the Member States to approach the TDB, IsDB, ADB and AIIB to get finance for the feasibility study and construction of the missing links of the KTAI Corridor.	
Area Priority No. 5: Railway Project on Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) Railway Route		
36.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 6 th HLWG Meeting on Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) in 2022 and provide the Secretariat with the proposed dates and other details.	
37.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to approach the ECO-TDB and IsDB for financing of the missing link of the Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) corridor.	
III. ROAD TRANSPORT Area priority No.1: ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Routes		
38.	The Council requested the en-route countries for implementation of the Action Plan approved by the 4 th and 5 th and 6 ^h HLWGMs on KTAI and ITI road corridors. The Action Plan will serve as a framework for systematic monitoring of the corridors.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
39.	The Council appreciated the ITI and KTAI en-route Member States, the ECO Secretariat and IRU for the successful test run of the loaded truck under TIR, conducted in 2021 and 2020 requested en-route Member States to implement the recommendations of the reports of the ITI and KTAI test runs and also conduct further transport to find out the bottlenecks and impediments.	
40.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to encourage and involve more freight forwarders to accede the TIR system for facilitation of transit on ITI road corridor and in this framework took note of accession of six freight forwarders to the TIR system from Islamic Republic of Pakistan.	
41.	The Council requested the Secretariat to work with IRU to conduct a study project on extending the ITI Corridor to China and requested the CPR to allocate necessary funds for such study.	
42.	The Council requested en-route Member States to join to and implement the digitalization of transport documents (eTIR and eCMR) within their territories And in this connection appreciated the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan to organize workshops on eTIR and eCMR on 7-8 June 2022. The Council further requested expansion of Iran-Turkey eTIR project to Pakistan to make the whole corridor digital (the three countries will introduce focal points for this activity by mid-February 2022);	
43.	The Council urgently requested expansion\restructuring of Bazargan\ Gurbulakh and Taftan -Mirjaveh BCPs and establishment of green lanes to reduce waiting time of trucks particularly for pharmaceuticals \food stuff and perishable goods and transit cargo and in this connection appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the 1 st Working Group Meeting and a field visits of relevant officials of neighboring countries to discuss details of plans and programs with regard to the said BCPs by April 2022.	
44.	The Council stressed on the digitalization of the ITI Corridor and requested the Secretariat to consider establishing a working group jointly with IRU and participation of public and private stake holders to coordinate preparations for conducting digital TIR project in this corridor and requested the Member States to introduce the relevant focal points from	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Customs and road administrations and TIR national associations to participate in the meetings.	
45.	The Council requested the KTAI and ITI en-route Member States to keep the Secretariat abreast of the progress and developments on the construction\development\rehabilitation of the missing links in their territories to be circulated among the Member States.	
46.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for organizing 7 th Meeting of the High Level Working Group on ITI Road Corridor in Karachi and instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the host for date(s) and hospitality details.	
47.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to consider hosting the 5 th HLWGM on KTAI road corridor and instructed the ECO Secretariat to follow up organizing the meeting in 2022.	
48.	The Council requested the en-route countries to organize a special meeting to discuss the establishment of a regional MVTPL insurance (White Card) schemes for the ITI & KTAI Road Corridors.	
49.	The Council also requested the KTAI and ITI en-route Member States to consider establishment of a joint stock/venture company to operate in the corridors.	
Area priority No. 2: Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures		
50.	The Council 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 and in particular urged them to avoid taking uncoordinated actions including closure of borders and instead to take solutions such as best practices and international instruments in particular eTIR, eCMR and other digital tools to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on road transport and	

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	supply chain.	
51.	The Council highly appreciated the Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank, UNECE and IRU for the implementing the joint project on promotion of eTIR and eCMR in the region and instructed the ECO Secretariat to further cooperate with UNECE, IRU and IDB for conducting further joint projects for promoting digitalization of transit transport in the region particularly through implementing eCMR and eTIR and any other digital technologies.	
52.	The Council requested the Secretariat to hire consultant to conduct a study on performance evaluation of cross border logistics and transportation in ECO region during COVID-19 pandemic and solutions to facilitate cross border trade and transport.	
53.	The Council 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 5-year Action Plan for the modernization of border crossing points of ECO Member States.	
54.	The Council 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. The Council took note of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding designating their two border crossing points for development and modernization namely Bazargan/Gurbulakh , Bilehsavar/ Bilehsavar and GabdBCPs respectively.	
55.	The Council 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 and essential humanitarian and rescue products.	

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56.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to form tourism and transport task force gathering relevant officials including authorities from tourism, civil aviation, maritime, railways and road sectors to coordinate travel and tourism facilitation in the ECO region.	
57.	The Council appraised the increasing cooperation of the Secretariat with the international Road Union and instructed the ECO Secretariat to institutionalize cooperation with the latter (IRU) to further speed up and enhance transit and transport facilitation in the ECO Region.	
58.	The Council 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.	
59.	The Council appreciated the contribution of the private sector transit transport operators to the promotion of transit and trade in the region and requested the Member States to take necessary measures to recognize their crucial role in the development of the economies and welfare of the people.	
Priority area No. 3: “Joint ISDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems-GIS”		
60.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to finalize the negotiations with UNECE and IDB for the commencement of the 2 nd phase of the project which is 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”.	
61.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to request the UNECE and the project team to update the GIS maps with ECO’s recent maps and development plans and instructed the ECO Secretariat to recruit a local GIS Developer for cooperation with the project team and the member states to follow up the GIS project and assist in preparation and implementing	

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	the 2 nd phase of the project on temporary basis to create and run a GIS platform to ECO Secretariat for mapping of regional connectivity networks in the fields of transport (road, rail, air and maritime), ICT and other regional initiatives of the Organization.	
Area priority No.4: “ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers”		
62.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Tajikistan to expedite providing their confirmations/comments on the Visa Pilot Scheme to the Secretariat, latest by the end of March 2022. 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 Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey briefed the Council that the issue will be considered by their relevant authorities and will provide their comments through diplomatic channel by the end of March 2022, and requested the ECO Secretariat to follow-up the issue with the remaining Member States.	
63.	The Council recommended the “Visa Pilot Scheme” for practicing in en-route KTAI and ITI countries during 2022, along with their existing visa procedures. If successful, the scheme will be extended to other ECO interested Member States as well.	
64.	The Council requested the interested Member States other than KTAI and ITI en-route countries to consider joining the Scheme.	
Area priority No.5: ECO Logistics Provider Associations Federation (ECOLPAF)		
65.	The Council requested the interested Member States (<i>except Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey</i>) to expedite submitting necessary documents set for registration in ECOLPAF.	
66.	The Council reiterating its request asked the UTIKAD to prepare and convey to the	

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	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.	
IV. MARITIME COOPERATION Area Priority No. 1: “Establishment of a Common Gateway among ECO Countries – ECO Gate”		
67.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for attracting financial contribution from the IsDB to the ECO Gate project and requested the CPR to expedite in allocation of 65,000 US\$ (50 % of total budget) for implementation of project and hiring a consultant/specialist for preparation of a bankable project document to design ECO Gateways and their 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.	
68.	The Council requested the Member States to intensify their cooperation in the framework of the aforementioned project on maritime cooperation.	
Area priority No. 2: Meeting of Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations		
69.	The Council appreciated Turkmenistan for hosting the 6 th Meeting of Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations of ECO Member States virtually in April 27, 2021 and requested the interested Member States to voluntarily host the 7 th HRMO in person mode.	
70.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for establishment of the “ECO Consultative Maritime Officials Network” using social media\digital platforms to facilitate coordination on maritime issues in the ECO region and requested the Member States (except Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey) to provide the names of their respective representatives/focal points for inclusion in the Network to the Secretariat.	

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71.	The Council noted with appreciation the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing Ro-Ro ship in Caspian Sea and welcomed the interest of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan to join the committee and also appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the meeting on Ro-Ro transport in the Caspian Sea in 2022 and requested the Secretariat to ensure details of arrangements of the meeting.	
72.	The Council taking into account the importance of digitalization of transport industry, supported digitalization of maritime transport and requested the ECO Secretariat to consider organizing workshops in this connection in cooperation with relevant international organizations.	
73.	The Council requested the interested Member States to arrange field visits to their sea\dry ports for onsite exploration of facilities and opportunities by the officials and interested private sector investors. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to arrange field visits to their sea ports and requested the Secretariat to ensure details of arrangements for the visit.	
V. CIVIL AVIATION Area Priority No.1: “Encouragement and Promotion of Combined and Multimodal Transport”		
74.	The Council requested the Member States to provide to the Secretariat with their detailed proposals on cooperation in Civil Aviation as per recommendations of the 1 st meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (WGCA) held on 23 November 2020 virtually.	
75.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2 nd meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (WGCA) on 9-10 May 2022.	
76.	The Council 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 2022	

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	and in this regard appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey for offering to organize training courses on civil aviation.	
77.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the First High Level Meeting of Private airlines of ECO Region in the last week of May 2022 virtually and encouraged the public and private stakeholders of tourism industry of the ECO Region to participate in the meeting and requested the ECO Secretariat to do necessary coordination for organizing the meeting.	
78.	The Council requested the Secretariat to implement a small sized study project on “The ways and means to establish direct flights among tourist destinations within the ECO region with a priority to charter flights” and in this regard the Council requested the ECO Secretariat to recruit a specialist for implementation of the said Study Project in the first half of 2022.	
79.	The Council 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.	
80.	The Council requested the Member States to facilitate travel and tourism through expansion of new air routes, increasing flight frequency and number of connections, access to visitor markets and establishment of preferential air service agreements among the ECO Member States.	
VI. COMMUNICATIONS Area Priority No. 1: “Development of Information Society in the ECO Region”		
81.	The Council requested the Member States (except 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 coordination on for implementation of the "2025 ECO Regional	

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	Strategy for Information Society Development and the Plan of Action.	
82.	The Council 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 in this regard. The Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting of nomination of a senior expert to cooperate with the Secretariat on the aforesaid project.	
83.	The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2 nd Meeting of ECO-ICT Working Group on establishment of a regulatory framework for ECO region in 2022 and requested the ECO Secretariat to finalize the exact dates and other details in consultation with the host authorities.	
84.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Turkey for hosting of the 3 rd Meeting of ECO- ICT Working Group to discuss cooperation on cyber security in ECO region in 2022-3 and requested the ECO Secretariat to finalize the exact dates and other details in consultation with the host authorities.	
85.	The Council recommended organizing the 3 rd Ministerial meeting on ICT and requested the interested Member States to volunteer for hosting the Ministerial Meeting on ICT and in this connection and with a view of necessity of finalization of documents for the third ministerial meeting, the Council recommended organizing second and third ECO- ICT working group meetings as early as possible	
VII. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS		
86.	The Council appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat in promoting cooperation with regional and international organizations, including IsDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU, UIC, OSJD, ITU, IMO, AIIB, 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.	

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87.	The Council also highly appreciated the international partner organizations for their cordial collaboration with the ECO particularly the IsDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU and requested their continued support for development of connectivity in the region.	
88.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to institutionalize cooperation with the interested international organizations\agencies\unions particularly with IRU in order to enhance transit transport and communication cooperation in the region.	
C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
Energy		
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.	
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” and ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation and Action Plan 2030, 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 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	

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	Work Programme for 2022 as follows:	
Priority area 1: Implementation of ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation/Plan of Actions 2030 and the decisions of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting		
4.	The Council recommended to all Member States to complement the ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation and Action Plan 2030 to their national programs/strategies for the development of regional energy cooperation; and asked Member States to submit developments in their interests and needs on regional energy landscape for further assessment of progress in ECO Energy Strategy.	
5.	The Council requested Member States to review ECO Energy Action Plan 2030 and propose projects to the Secretariat with the view of its implementation.	
6.	The Council encouraged Member States to convey ideas/proposals/recommendations for the stocktaking that the Secretariat would prepare project proposals to follow up the decisions of 4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy.	
7.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host 5 th Energy Ministerial Meeting of ECO Member States in the second half of 2022 and requested to provide exact dates and other organizational details of subject event.	
Priority area 2: Sustainable Energy Transition and Establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.		
8.	The Council encouraged Member States to actively participate in the ECO Experts Group Meeting on Renewable Energy Sources (EGRES) to address their regional cooperation agenda for mainstreaming sustainable energy transition to the cleaner sources.	
9.	The Council appreciated the readiness of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host 4 th Meeting of the ECO Experts Group on Renewable Energy Sources in first quarter of 2022 and requested to confirm the date(s) and other details for the organization of said meeting.	
10.	The Council considered that Member States would submit project proposals/conceptualized papers for stocktaking of the Secretariat to follow up the needs and interests of Member	

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	States in regional cooperation on renewables to conduct project-oriented deeds of the Organization.	
11.	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 for launching the First Operational Phase of Project on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center.	
12.	The Council encouraged host country - the Republic of Azerbaijan and other interested Member States to consider signing and soonest ratification of Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center in a view to timely operationalise the functioning of the Center.	
13.	The Council tasked the Secretariat to undertake necessary actions to follow up 25 th COM decisions on establishment of CECECO and request Member States for active cooperation accordingly.	
Priority area 3: Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)		
14.	The Council called on the Member States to enhance their partnership within the Project on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market; and invited them to render all necessary support on implementation of flagship Project.	
15.	The Council requested the Republic of Tajikistan to confirm the dates and other details for the organization of 2 nd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM, to be held preferably in the first half of 2022.	
16.	The Council welcomed finalization of ToR of pilot project titled: "Feasibility Study for Establishment of Electricity Market between Iran and Turkey with potential to expand to the other ECO Member States" and; considered that participating countries would consider to provide in-kind contribution to bear the services of local consultants, while the Secretariat would apply for the allocation of 50000 USD from Feasibility and General Reserve Fund for hiring of international consultant in order to launch the said project.	
17.	The Council welcomed interest of I.R. of Pakistan on possible expansion of ECO-REM to	

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	other Member States after finalization of pilot project between Iran and Turkey.	
18.	The Council acknowledged proposal of Iranian side as a preliminary step toward establishment of ECO-REM to form an expert group consisting of representatives from network operators (grid dispatching operators) of the Member States to discuss the technical considerations of AC/DC interconnections and appreciated idea for hosting the 1st online meeting in the 3rd quarter of 2022 as well as; requested initiating country along with ECO Secretariat to prepare and distribute Concept Note/ToR on the scope of activity of subject framework.	
19.	The Council emphasized significance of holding training courses on electricity market & power industry restructuring to expedite the establishment of ECO-REM and boost the cross-border cooperation and; welcomed proposal of I.R. of Iran (Iran Grid Management Company) to hold “The fundamentals and building blocks of electricity market” in the 2nd quarter of 2022, including other several online short courses regarding different aspects of national electricity market and electricity restructuring.	
Priority Area 4: Development of research work in the field of energy		
20.	The Council invited volunteer Member States to host 2 nd Meeting of the ECO regional network of research institutions/centres and think tanks operating in the field of energy studies aimed at discussing possible regional cooperation in science and research in the field of hydrocarbons for exchange of experience, learning best international practices and to consider application of common ECO standards for petroleum products.	
Priority Area 5: Enhancement of role of private sector in regional energy cooperation and partnerships with international organizations		
21.	The Council requested the relevant authorities of I.R. Iran or other interested Member States providing new dates and other details of hosting the meeting of ECO Public and Private Sector Energy /Petrochemical Consortium/Companies to be held in 2022.	
22.	The Council appreciated the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the combined	

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	meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies, and establishment of ECO Refinery Association (ERA) in the second half of 2022 and requested Member States to ensure high-level participation at the subject meeting and extend their invaluable contribution to its outcome.	
23.	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 the key outcomes of the 1 st Meeting of ECO Public and Private Sector Energy /Petrochemical Consortium/Companies (16-17 August, 2016).	
24.	The Council called for intensified actions by Member States to introduce in regular based their needs and interests in regional energy cooperation in upstream, mid-stream and downstream areas for stocktaking by the Secretariat’s follow up to generate project-oriented activities.	
25.	The Council requested the Secretariat to pursue the cooperation policy and engagements with international organizations and other interested partners in the relevant fields, after consultation with the Member States and setting out further roadmap for proceeding on it.	
26.	The Council recommended the Secretariat mutually to take part in the relevant events with interested partners with a view to enhance cooperation for implementation of ECO Vision 2025 and The ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation/Plan of Action 2030.	
27.	The Council asked the Secretariat to pursue the strong 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.	
28.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to actively interact with UNIDO on the establishment, financing and operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Center.	

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C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
Minerals		
General Provisions		
29.	The Council reaffirmed shared interest of Member States to increase economic benefits and sustainability of mineral sector in the ECO Region, <i>inter alia</i> via consolidation of production, distribution and consumption chain at the regional level. Given the cross-sectoral nature of the minerals, these possibilities will envisage the realisation of efficient cooperation means, bringing commercial and social profits to the ECO region, while addressing SDG goals implicating minerals with particular emphasis to overcome its environmental impact in the region and beyond.	
Priority Area 1: Streamlining the project-oriented cooperation in the field of minerals		
30.	The Council requested all Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat for implementation of outcome decisions of the 7 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM), held on 5-7 August 2018, in Sanandaj, I.R. Iran, particularly on the proposed projects, aiming at enhancement of cooperation and preparation for next MEGM.	
31.	The Council welcomed proposals of I.R.of Pakistan virtually to host in the first quarter of 2022 and I.R.of Iran to host second half of 2022 the 8 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting in 2022 to review latest developments, discuss issues of cooperation, initiate new projects and decide further steps to be taken for the regional cooperation in minerals sector and requested the Secretariat to accommodate both countries' proposals in coordination between them.	
32.	The Council appreciated National Cartographic Center of I.R. of Iran for hosting 3 rd Geomatics Committee Meeting virtually on October 18, 2021 with active participation of I.R. of Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan and called for other Member States to consider intensification of their efforts in implementation of outcomes of said meeting.	
33.	(Secretariat will include this item for 2023).	
34.	The Council appreciated readiness of Geological Survey of I. R. of Iran to organize validation meeting on the ToR of ECO-Environmental Quality Index project aimed at addressing needs	

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	and interests of Member States in the subject project which will increase regional cooperation and ownership of Member States thus facilitating sufficient support to appeal CPR for consideration of allocation of 50000USD from the ECO Feasibility and General Reserve Fund.	
35.	The Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) will provide with comprehensive Concept Papers on its proposals presented at the 7 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, namely, Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) of the ECO Region; and Geochemical Exploration of Precious and Industrial Minerals in Desert Lands in the ECO Region for further consideration of the ECO Member States.	
36.	The Council took note the interest of Iranian side for launching of project on Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia aiming at opening a new way in prediction of earthquakes and mineral exploration and mandated the Secretariat to take necessary steps based on the "ECO Functional Methodology".	
37.	The Member States (except Iran (initiator), Pakistan and Tajikistan) will expedite providing the Secretariat with their views and comments on the Concept Paper of the Project Proposal on Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia. The subject map aims at opening a new way in prediction of earthquakes and mineral exploration. The launching of this project needs for participation and collaboration of a greater number of the Member States in pursuance of the "ECO Functional Methodology", stipulating that the project shall be identified with ECO if at least four Member States participate in it.	
Other activities/capacity-building efforts		
38.	The Council offered the volunteer Member States to (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 and other related areas in accordance with the outcomes of 3 rd ECO Geomatics Committee.	
39.	The Council welcomed National Cartographic Center of I.R. of Iran in expressing readiness to consider hosting the 3 rd Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations	

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	in the fourth quarter of 2022 and encouraged other Member States to actively participate and enrich the agenda of subject meeting by providing project oriented regional cooperation proposals.	
40.	The Council welcomed proposal of Pakistan to host workshop on "Establishment of ECO-SDI to combat the challenges of food security in the Member States and requested all Member States to consider active participation with the view to enhance regional cooperation in subject area.	
41.	The Council appreciated proposal of I.R. of Iran to host virtual Training course on Basics of Synthetic Aperture Radar Remote Sensing in the third quarter of 2022 and requested Member States to actively contribute preparation of and participation in the subject course.	
42.	The Council urged the Member States to present/update the particulars of their National Focal Points (NFPs) regularly 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.	
C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
Environment		
General Provisions		
43.	The Council reiterated the importance of environment cooperation in the ECO Region as a crosscutting issue to all aspects of development in line with "ECO Vision 2025" and UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nation Framework on Climate Change as well as the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, based on national policies and circumstances of each Member State.	
44.	The Council emphasized the significant role of Ministers of Environment of ECO in achieving ECO portfolio in Environmental matters; and welcomed the readiness of Kyrgyz Republic to consider hosting the 6 th Ministerial Meeting on Environment in 2022 in order to review challenges and progress, in particular with considering next steps for more enhanced regional cooperation.	

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45.	The Council appreciated willingness of I.R.of Pakistan to host the 7 th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment to be held back-to-back with the 2 nd Experts Meeting on Climate Change and Biodiversity in 2022 subject to the needs of the Member States and advancement of the environmental agenda of ECO.	
46.	The Council requested the interested Member States to propose holding events/conferences/seminars/workshops on various fields tasked to address the Environmental issues in 2022.	
47.	The Council requested Member States to submit information regularly on their environmental activities and related issues to the Secretariat for exchange of information amongst them, increasing public awareness, as well as exploring cooperation opportunities on environment.	
Priority Area 1: Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming in the ECO Region		
48.	The Council urged Member States (except Afghanistan and Iran) 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 2022.	
49.	The Council requested the Member States to consider for allocation of appropriate contribution (in-kind or/and in-cash) for launching the project profile for preparation of a regional program for implementation of revised “Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States”.	
50.	With the view to achieve the shared interest of Member States in regional environmental cooperation, the Council considered 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.	

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51.	The Council encouraged the Member States, regularly to submit their National Progress Reports regularly on environment preferably during the first quarter of each calendar year.	
52.	The Council requested Member States to provide the Secretariat with their National Adaptation Programmes and; tasked ECO Secretariat to prepare the draft proposal for developing ECO Regional Adaptation Programme.	
53.	The Council appreciated the readiness of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host virtual Workshop for capacity building on mitigation of climate change effects using geo-information technologies for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	
Priority Area 2: Launching and implementation of ECO LandCare Programme		
54.	<p>The Council appreciated Republic of Turkey for hosting Workshop on Development of the project to combat Desertification in ECO Region - the LandCare held on 14-16 December 2021; and requested the Member States as well as the Secretariat to implement the outcomes of the mentioned Workshop as mentioned below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit smaller projects on relevant areas with group of interested ECO Member States. for efficient implementation of ECO LandCare program inter-alia using ECO project financing scheme; (Turkey)Intensify coordination among them and the Secretariat by establishing direct contacts and update their focal points. • Continue in future whereas global pandemics allow gathering physical meetings. 	
55.	The Council mandated the ECO Secretariat to work closely with ECO-IEST to follow up efficient ways of implementation of project on “ECO Landcare Program” and;instructed ECO Secretariat along with ECO-IEST to prepare relevant roadmap and action plan to submit for the consideration of Member States for further possibility applying for the financing, covering from ECO project financing scheme.	
56.	The Council requested the Member States to actively involved (Turkey) in the field of environment, while welcoming Republic of Turkey's suggestion for organizing the event to share experience and consider possible project on land degradation surveying and mapping, in particular with monitoring mechanism	

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57.	The Council acknowledged proposal of I.R.of Iran to organize consultation meeting with Member States in order to discuss and explore viable solutions on launching of ECO Landcare Project.	
Priority Area 3: Addressing serious threats to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems in the ECO Region		
58.	The Council encouraged the Member States for hosting the 4th Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity in 2022 in order to review and discuss the progress and achievements of implementation of the Work Plan on Biodiversity and its Calendar of Events.	
59.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey, as the Coordinating Country 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)”.	
60.	The Council appreciated the initiative of Secretariat to address mitigation of pollution in the ECO region by introducing a relevant concept note and instructed the Secretariat to circulate it between member states and; mandated Secretariat to introduce a Small Size Project to combat soil pollution based on the views/comments/suggestions of Member States aligned with using best phytoremediation practices in the world.	
61.	The Council invited 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 2022 according to the Calendar of Events for 2022.	
62.	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.	
63.	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	

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	Region (2016-2020)". The Member States are also requested to nominate/update the particulars of their NFPs in the relevant fields of environment, including climate change, forests, desertification and others.	
64.	The Council welcomed the readiness of I.R. of Iran to host Expert Level Meeting on Risk and Resilience Management of Dust and Sand Storm in the ECO Region and requested to confirm exact date and organizational matters in regard to the subject event.	
Priority Area 4: Cooperation with the environment-related international organizations/entities/instruments		
65.	The Council acknowledged the importance of support from relevant environmental regional and international organizations for implementation of the Work Programme 2022.	
66.	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.	
67.	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.	
68.	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.	
69.	The Council asked the Secretariat to continue its dialogue and 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".	
70.	The Council called on the Secretariat to continue its efforts for enhancing relations with relevant regional/international organizations and UN bodies, in support for the implementation of the relevant SDGs and various environmental cooperation at the regional	

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	level.	
71.	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.	
D. SECTOR: Agriculture & Industry		
Agriculture		
1.	The Council while welcoming the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), appreciated the host authorities for declaring the date 9 th -10 th March 2022 for holding the meeting. The Council urged the Member States to actively participate in this significant Meeting.	
2.	The Council appreciated the initiation of the project titled “Support for the Transformation of the ECO Regional Coordination Center for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution” in the Economic Cooperation Organization.	
3.	The Council requested the Secretariat with the assistance of ECO-RCCFS to establish a dialogue forum to increase partnerships, through joint programmes with all stakeholders, and promote coordination action to enhance synergy in ECO regional efforts for improving food security through technical cooperation, including institutional capacity development, transfer of technology, and increasing agricultural productivity.	
4.	The Council appreciated ECO-RCCFS and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for updating the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) according to views and comments of the Member States. Likewise, the Council appreciated ECO-RCCFS regarding holding the workshops on Sustainable Food Systems and Food Loss and Waste Reduction in the Region, during the updating of ECO-RPFS.	

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5.	The Council, while welcoming the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCCFS for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) in 2022, requested the host authorities to send exact date and details of the meeting. The Council urged the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting once it is announced.	
6.	The Council appreciated ECO-RCCFS for updating website content at " http://www.eco-rccfs.org/ " and invited Member States to further enrich the website by continuing to provide their studies, inputs, experiences and best practices relating to food security and agricultural issues.	
7.	The Council requested the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) to develop a framework in collaboration with ECO-RCCFS for further cooperation on agricultural machinery and equipment industry and prepare a ground for exchange of best practices and technology in this field.	
8.	The Council appreciated the preparation of ECO Regional Seed Agreement as an outcome of implementation of the ECO/FAO-SEC (FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia) Project on Seed Sector Development in the Region. The Council also requested other Member States to expedite their joining to this important instrument.	
9.	The Council while welcoming the proposal of ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) to host the 8th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and Seed Trade Fair and ECO Expert Meeting on Seed Sector Development, requested the ECOSA to send exact date and details of the meeting. The Council also requested ECOSA to organize training courses on seed industry for ECO Member States in cooperation with FAO-SEC, Turkish Seed Union (TURKTOB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB).	
10.	The Council requested Member States to cooperate in ensuring the regional harmonization on validity of international quality standards, and standardization of the seed certification/registration/recognition systems for promotion of regional seed trade.	

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11.	The Council requested the Member states to consider hosting the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations and to ratify/sign the Statute of the ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO).	
12.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan or other interested Member states to consider hosting the first Technical Committee Meeting for implementation of the Work Plan of ECO-VECO.	
13.	The Council, while appreciating the outcome of the small-sized study project on "Establishment of standardized ECO Network of slaughter houses and reference laboratories", recommended the Member States to implement the outcome of the project in close consultation with the ECO Secretariat with a view to facilitate the smooth trans-boundary movement and trading animal and animal products economically. Likewise, the Council invited ECO-TDB to financially support relevant institutions of Member States to implement the said project's outcome.	
14.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for holding the 3rd Working Group Meeting for the Establishment of ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA), urged the Member States to cooperate in creation of a network among their relevant organizations regarding the establishment of this Center and requested the Member States to nominate national focal points/institutions for expediting the process of Establishment of the Centre.	
15.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in 4 th quarter of 2022.	
16.	The Council expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for updating the Draft Statute for the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) and requested the Secretariat to distribute it among Member states for their views and comments.	
17.	The Council while appreciating the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural	

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	Disasters (ECO-RCRM) for preparing the draft protocol for disaster data and information sharing, recommended the Secretariat and ECO-RCRM to establish a task force committee, in cooperation with the relevant authorities of the Member States as well as the relevant international organizations, to finalize the draft protocol.	
18.	The Council urged ECO-RCRM to coordinate in establishing a task force group for coordination and conduction of country-specific meetings to generate agriculture trade-related risk maps. The Council also requested the Member States to cooperate with the ECO-RCRM to set up a mechanism to access and operationalize raw data for designing & establishing of regional natural disasters database, to undertake a GIS (<i>Geographic Information System</i>) based mapping of natural disasters.	
19.	The Council welcomed the offer of ECO-RCRM for holding the Workshop/Training Course on "Natural Disaster Early Warning and Loss Estimation System" in 2022 and invited all Member States to participate in the meeting actively.	
20.	The Council, while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for their progress on the project proposal titled "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", requested Turkmenistan to continue its cooperation with ECO-RCRM and consider contributing to the project with a view to improve the road weather monitoring.	
21.	The Council took note of project proposal by ECO-RCRM for "Developing Automated Rice Production Agro-Advisory System (ARAAS)" and accordingly requested ECO-RCRM to send the details to the ECO Secretariat.	
22.	The Council requested Iran to convey the exact date and details for holding the 2 nd Expert Group Meeting of the ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network (ECO-ABN) and asked the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
23.	The Council requested the Member States to contribute to ECO-ABN project with sharing	

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	information and introducing their focal points and providing the country's reports on biotechnology and related information.	
24.	The Council requested the ECO-ABN to update its website and expand its activities and communicate with the Member States and relevant International Networks and organizations.	
25.	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 in 2022, encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the said meeting.	
26.	The Secretariat informed the Council that it has maintained regular interactions with the international organizations on the basis of mutual interest, most notably with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN World Food Programme, UN Food System Summits and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) with a view to identify/develop possible strategic partnership frameworks, to get their financial/technical support to ECO projects and initiatives, as well as to expand ECO's outreach and visibility.	
27.	The Council requested the Secretariat to continue pursuing the cooperation and policy engagements with above-mentioned organizations and other interested partners in the relevant fields. The Council recommended the Secretariat to invite representatives of above-mentioned organizations and other interested partners to the relevant ECO events with a view to enhance cooperation for implementation of ECO Vision 2025.	
Industry		
28.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran or any other interested Member State to host the 4th Ministerial Meeting and the 3rd High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry and inform the Secretariat the exact date and details at the earliest.	
29.	The Council recommended the Member States to take into consideration the ECO Vision	

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	2025 in their decisions and devise necessary measures and projects to contribute to the expected objectives of the Vision. The Council also proposed to consider enhanced implementation of new projects in Industry sector.	
30.	The Council recommended the ECO Member States to 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.	
31.	The Council invited the Member States to consider supporting the idea of Herat Industrial Zone, once it is officially requested and the outlines of the idea is shared with the Member States.	
32.	The council requested the Member States to sign and ratify (except Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan) the Statute of ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) to pave 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. The representative from the Republic of Turkey has indicated that the country has finished the ratification process of the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of ECO- RISCAM and will be conveyed to the Secretariat through formal channels.	
33.	The Council requested the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite establishment of Technical Management Boards (TMBs) of Standardization and Accreditation and Technical Management Board of Metrology of ECO-RISCAM, respectively, and convey the exact date and details for the first meetings of subject TMBs at the earliest convenience. Likewise, the Council urged the Member states to nominate their representatives for each TMB in order to facilitate operationalization of the ECO-RISCAM General Council.	
34.	The Council urged the Member States (except Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan) to	

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	reflect their views and comments on the roadmap and work programme for the ECO-RISCAM at the earliest convenience.	
35.	The Council requested the Member States to provide ECO-RISCAM with their national methods of the conformity assessment of their exported and imported goods.	
36.	The Council requested the Member States to provide the ECO-RISCAM the list of imported and exported goods and the titles of their national standards and references according to template form.	
37.	The Council requested the interested Member States to nominate qualified candidates for ECO-RISCAM President in accordance with the Statute of the Institute.	
38.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the virtual meeting of 8th High-Level Working Group (HLWG) on Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology on 26 October 2021 and requested the Member States to convey their readiness to host the 9 th HLWG on ECO-RISCAM.	
39.	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).	
40.	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 contribute to the new growth paradigm in the region.	
41.	The Council requested Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to consider holding workshops in the fields of Standardization, Accreditation, Conformity Assessment, and Metrology.	
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	

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	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.	
43.	The Council appreciated the joint cooperation between ECO-RISCAM and the <i>Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)</i> on Halal Certification to facilitate trading of Halal productions.	
44.	The Council, while appreciating the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting on ECO Nanotechnology Network and the Joint workshop on Nanotechnology, requested the related authorities of the host country to submit the exact date and details of the meeting. The Council also encouraged the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.	
45.	The Council encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to update the study project on the situation of Nano-technology in the ECO region.	
46.	The Council requested the Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkey) to designate/update and convey their Focal Points on Establishing ECO Nano-Technology Network.	
47.	The Council requested the Member States to convey their national policies toward this area of cooperation to the Secretariat and to ensure a more active involvement of their Nano-technology related institutions in the ECO Nano-Technology Network.	
48.	The Council encouraged the Member States to submit their Project Proposals on Nano-technology issues and invited the Member States to increase their cooperation in the field of new Nano-technology projects.	
49.	The Council requested the interested Member States to host the First High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Textile & Garments Industry for using Nano-technology	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	opportunities.	
50.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting of the 4 th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2022, encouraging the ECO Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
51.	The Council requested the interested Member States for hosting the 5th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on Entrepreneurship and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development Meeting and SME Workshop back to back in 2022. The Council appreciated the re-offer of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the workshop on “Sharing Best Practices on SME Support and Evaluation Mechanisms” in the 4th Quarter of 2022.	
52.	The Council requested the ECO secretariat to encourage Member States to host expert level meetings on exploring possibilities of developing a financial mechanism aimed at supporting start-ups, SME’s and entrepreneurs inter alia through establishment of special fund which may be managed with the help of ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) and funded through Member States, ECO-TDB and other international funding agencies.	
53.	The Council requested the Secretariat to convene 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.	
54.	The Council requested the Member States to take into account the leaders approval in the Ashgabat Consensus for Action and with the aim of enhancing the role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the economic growth of the Member states and the region as a whole. The Council requested the Member States to undertake necessary measures to strengthen the MSMEs and promote joint cooperation, including those that enhance women entrepreneurship, innovation-driven and knowledge-based enterprises.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
E. SECTOR: TOURISM		
1.	The Council while welcoming the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 4 th Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers and the 6 th HLEG Meeting on Tourism in 2022 in Bukhara, requested Republic of Uzbekistan to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information regarding the event (including exact dates, hospitality details, focal point and other relevant information) for circulation amongst the Member States to enable timely coordination.	
2.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for developing the “Draft Plan of Action on Elimination of "Covid-19" Pandemic Consequences in the Tourism Sector for Facilitating Recovery in the ECO Region” and requested the proposals, active collaboration and cooperation of the Member States for finalization of the document for recovery of the sector before the 6 th HLEG Meeting on Tourism to be adopted by the 4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism scheduled in Bukhara, Uzbekistan in 2022. The Council further requested Member States to participate in the HLWG meeting to be organized virtually by the Secretariat to elaborate and finalize the above Draft Plan of Action for further submission to the Ministerial Meeting.	
3.	The Council further requested the active contribution of the Member States in implementation of the Draft Plan of Action which will be planned through a High Level Experts Group Meeting on Tourism for coordination of the Tourism Plan of Action on Elimination Of "Covid-19" Pandemic Consequences in the Tourism Sector for Facilitating Recovery in the ECO Region”.	
4.	The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare and circulate a draft ECO Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development as a zero draft for comments and proposals of the Member States for further enrichment through a consultancy project to develop a more comprehensive plan of Action with the contributions and inputs of the Member States based on the zero draft proposed by the Secretariat.	
5.	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.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	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.	
6.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting International Forum on Agro-Tourism Development back to back with the International Festival of "Dushanbe - ECO Tourism Capital" on 29-30 August 2021 in Tajikistan in hybrid format. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the details of ECO Nowruz Festival in 2022 as well as the launching ceremony of proclaiming Sari as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2022.	
7.	The Council requested the Member States to form an ECO Silk Road Task Force to increase cooperation and coordination to publicize Silk Road Tourism initiative with the cooperation of the Member States, international community and relevant organizations and requested the Member States to appoint their focal points to the ECO Silk Road Task Force.	
8.	The Council raised its appeal for the interested Member States to convene a regional meeting of the ECO Silk Road Task Force to create an effective Silk Road brand strategy, enhance collaboration between Silk Road destinations and increase consumer awareness.	
9.	The Council requested the Member States to hold in collaboration with the Secretariat international workshops, meetings, seminars, forums, fairs, exhibitions on gastronomy tourism and any other events to promote ECO-wide Silk Road cultural heritage. The Council welcomed the proposal of Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Sixth ECO - Silk Road Food Festival in Zanjan-Iran with the workshop on Culinary Tourism.	
10.	The Council requested the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) to cooperate with the Secretariat and include this ECO Silk Road initiative in their program in 2022 to enhance the visibility of the ECO Silk Road destinations in their publications, exhibitions and events.	
11.	The Council requested the Member States to share with the Secretariat an informative report on their tourist visa regimes and procedures to ECO Member States and non-ECO Member States to prepare a report on the issue before the 4 th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and requested the Member States to consider hosting the ECO High Level Expert Meeting on Visa Facilitation in 2022.	
12.	The Council requested the Secretariat to form Tourism and Transport Task Force gathering	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	related officials including authorities from aviation, railway, and land transport sectors to coordinate travel and tourism facilitation in the ECO Region.	
13.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat’s proposal with regards to ECO Regional Rail PASS initiative and requested the Member States to furnish the Secretariat regarding their comments and suggestions about its feasibility in their countries in collaboration with their National Railway Authorities	
14.	The Council requested the Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan) to introduce at least five cities as tourist destinations based on the “criteria of Tourism Destination Choice” which was circulated to MSs via 30th RPC Working Paper. The Council further requested all the Member States (Pakistan may kindly send photos) to send informative data including tourism activities in the destination choice along with high resolution photos to be designed as ECO tourism databank in word and pdf format for easy compilation by the Secretariat.	
15.	The Council requested all Member States (except Kazakhstan) to fill up and furnish the ECO Secretariat with the questionnaire on ecotourism that was kindly prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to establish the relevant database as early as possible.	
16.	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.	
17.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Turkey and Turkish Cypriot State renewing their offer to co-host the 4th EGM on Ecotourism in Nicosia in the 3 rd quarter of 2022 and requested the active participation of the Member States.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
18.	The Council appreciated Republic of Tajikistan for holding the International Forum on Agro-Tourism Development on 29-30 August 2021 in Tajikistan in hybrid format. Considering that with its high capacity for job creation and income generation, holding such events facilitate promotion of rural and agro tourism in the ECO region, the Council requested the Member States to consider organizing similar workshops and seminars and also requested the Secretariat to consider seeking technical assistance from relevant international organizations i.e. UNWTO, UNIDO, UNESCO, and UNEP.	
19.	The Council requested the Member States to send data on other specialized tourism segments and destinations in their countries (health tourism, sports tourism, mountain climbing, cycling, culinary tourism, urban tourism, religious tourism, heritage tourism, agro tourism, etc. to be compiled by the Secretariat to establish an ECO Region Databank /Catalogue of Specialized Tourism Products and Services based on the information received from Member States. To facilitate compilation of the data in each segment the Council requested the volunteer Member States in each segment to prepare a table of requested data along with the required visual materials in each segment. The Council requested the support of ECO-CCI in the compilation of the databank.	
20.	The Council requested the need to prepare a framework document for investigating and identifying the potential and opportunities for diversification of intra-regional tourism to broaden the regional tourism offer by joining efforts to bring out lesser-known or niche destinations and identifying all available and potentially available tourism resources and facilities in various tourism segments to the 4 th Meeting of the ECO Tourism Ministers for consideration. To this end, the Council requested the establishment of an ad-hoc specialized working group among the Member States to prepare the document before the Ministerial Meeting.	
21.	Considering that health tourism still kept operating during the pandemic, the Council requested the Member States to offer joint programmes/ proposals of public or private sector in field of Health/Medical Tourism in the ECO Region for further promotion of this field of industry.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
22.	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. The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd ECO Confobition on ECO Health Tourism in 2022 and requested information with regards to exact date and hospitality of the event may be conveyed to the Secretariat for smooth coordination.	
23.	Keeping in view that integration of advanced commonly preferred digital technologies into the regional tourism activities and portals has the potential to facilitate competitiveness and global reach of the ECO region and promotion of its diverse tourism offerings, the Council requested the Secretariat to design a user-friendly, specialized ECO Tourism Website as a regional tool for sharing and consolidating tourism-related information and generating business and investment opportunities for the private sector in ECO Member States for easy access to information on tourism offerings, programmes and events in ECO Member States and promotion of the region to be designed for use by the tourists and the tourism professionals and agencies to complement the national tourism websites by allowing a more systematic process for users to collect and view the information they are looking for. The Council requested the Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat and provide technical and financial support in preparation of the website.	
24.	The Council requested the Member States to send data regarding their specialized tourism attractions to be compiled as a digital catalogue of all the tourism destinations of ECO Member States to be hosted in the ECO Tourism Website.	
25.	Considering the need to develop a well-trained, customer and service-oriented tourism workforce in the ECO region, the Council asking Member States to share their training needs and proposals to ascertain HRD and skills requirements in their tourism sector in ECO Region.	
26.	The Council further requested that the Member States may consider cooperation in HRD activities (tourism education and training), by sharing resources, skills and training facilities, such as networking of tourism training centres/institutes, provision of technical assistance and experts, emphasis on new job skills and new technologies, training of trainers, etc.	
27.	To promote ECO region as a brand with uniform tourism standards, the Council requested	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>the Secretariat to set up a working group from the representatives of the public and private tourism sector to adopt and implement international tourism standards and certification programmes with measurable standards and indicators for each of the tourism areas while addressing and monitoring the essential requirements of facilities and services for visitors, the industry infrastructure, the environment and local communities and make them transparent to the tourists to help with their choices. The Council requested the working group to develop a regional inspection mechanism to ensure standards compliance.</p>	
28.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to hold regional trainings and workshops on the quality standards and requested the Secretariat to increase collaboration with international tourism organizations such as UNWTO and UNIDO to harmonize and institutionalize “Regional Standardization and Accreditation bodies’ and ‘sustainable and green tourism’ monitoring mechanisms’.</p>	
29.	<p>The Council iterated the need for more intense collaboration among the public and private stakeholders in regional tourism sector and joint involvement in the regional tourism activities through organization of and participation in the relevant meetings, events, exhibitions, fairs and initiatives. And in this connection, the Council requested the ECO CCI to hold the meetings of Tourism Committee of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry regularly and tasked the ECO CCI Secretariat to work out a report to strengthen means of cooperation among the public and private sector associations/forums/federations with the purpose of sustainable tourism promotion and propose its report to the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.</p>	
30.	<p>The Council urged the ECO CCI Secretariat and the Secretariat to upload regional tourism events in the ECO CCI and ECO Tourism website to share information about conferences, seminars or summits on tourism that take place in ECO Member Countries in order to promote regional tourism sector and generate participation from the ECO countries.</p>	
31.	<p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to consider holding the Forum of ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders in 2022 for developing cooperation between the tour operators, hoteling associations and other stakeholders for benefiting the opportunities of tourism activities between ECO member countries and as a good platform for considering and discussing on Tourism Destination</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>Chain and Connectivity among ECO Countries. The Council also requested the volunteer Member States to convene workshop on Tourism Business Development back to back with the said Forum. The Council requested the Member States to convey their Focal Points in this regard.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to hold the Forum of ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders in 2023 on the sidelines of Ardabil-ECO Tourism Capital events.</p>	
32.	<p>The Council welcomed Republic of Azerbaijan for volunteering to host the ECO Tour operators Forum in the last quarter of 2022 to discuss facilitation of forming a “Tour Operators’ Network in ECO Region” for development of joint tour packages for tourists from the ECO region with low prices and airfares by each and every ECO Member State. The Council requested ECO-CCI to support the organization of the meeting by reaching the interested regional tour operators. The Council also urged the Member States to nominate at least one relevant institution from each country to expedite the establishment of the network and requested the Secretariat to work with the volunteer tour operators to develop ECO regional tour packages for 2022.</p>	
33.	<p>The Council urged the regional public and private tourism stakeholders to inform ECO-CCI and the ECO Secretariat with regards to their national and international tourism fairs and exhibitions and requested the Member States and the Secretariat 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.</p>	
34.	<p>Considering the significance of the Tourism Promotion Fund that was established to finance tourism projects and initiatives, the Council requested the Secretariat to raise in one of the CPR Meetings the reactivation of Tourism Fund for reconsideration of the member states. The Council called upon the Member States to consider contributing to the said Fund to provide financial support for the projects and initiatives to reach the tourism mandates of the ECO Vision 2025. The Council requested the Member States to nominate their Representatives to Board of Trustee of the Fund. The Council requested the Secretariat to look for means including financial support for tourism projects and initiatives,</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
35.	Emphasizing the significance of mobilization of investment to regional tourism by promoting ways to increase the regional tourism appeal and facilitate development of the regional tourism sector as envisioned in the ECO Vision 2025, the Council requested the Member States to consider organizing a Tourism Investment and Business Conference/Forum in coordination with the ECO-CCI in 2022 to raise awareness of the ECO region's investment potential and marketing regional tourism investment opportunities.	
36.	The Council requested the Member States to consider developing initiatives to facilitate investment into regional tourism projects including a possible ECO regional tourism investment promotion framework.	
37.	The Council requested the Secretariat to develop a regional Tourism Investment Guide to provide a compendium of policies, laws, incentives and opportunities in the ECO tourism sector. In that regard, the Council requested the Member States to furnish the Secretariat with country information, investment climate, economic indicators and policies, financial framework, statutory requirements, relevant agencies along with all the tourism projects, investment opportunities and incentives to be compiled for identification and promotion of investment initiatives in regional tourism sector as a guide.	
38.	The Council while appreciating the Secretariat's efforts for enhancing bilateral cooperation between UNWTO and institutionalizing relations with the two organizations through an MOU, recommended the Secretariat to expand its cooperation with the other relevant international organizations in tourism sector.	
39.	The Council requested the ECO Member States that are in UNESCO Executive Board (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Turkey) to assist involvement of ECO heritage sites in its annual events and programmes to promote and enhance the image of the region globally.	
40.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for convening of the 14 th International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition on 23-26 February 2021 in Tehran and welcomed the latter for convening Tehran International Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition from January 29 to February 1, 2022. The Council requested all the Member States to actively participate in the Event.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
41.	The Council requested the Member States and the Secretariat 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.	
42.	The Council urged the Member States to expedite the appointment of their National Focal Points (NPFs) in tourism sector for prompt and smooth communication.	
SECTOR F: HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
Priority Area I: Disaster Risk Reduction		
1.	The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the 9 th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction within their territories or in virtual mode in 2022 and instructed the ECO to coordinate the exact date and hospitality details with the Volunteer Member States.	
2.	The Council requested the Member States to consider volunteer hosting the ECO Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Implementation of the ECO Regional Framework for DRR in 2022.	
3.	The Council requested Member States to provide the Secretariat with the implementation status of the "ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction" and the Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR in 2022	
4.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the volunteer Member States for hosting the 2 nd Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities in 2022.	
5.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for provision of the feedback and comments on the Protocol on Real-time Seismological Data and requested the remaining Member States to expedite the provision of feedbacks and comments on the said Protocol.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
6.	The Council requested Member States to regularly submit information on their activities on disaster risk management and related regulations to the ECO Secretariat for further circulation to the Member States in order to increase public awareness on the importance of the Natural Disaster Management.	
7.	The Council appreciated the Kyrgyz Republic for nomination of their focal points and requested the remaining Member States to expedite nominating their focal points on Disaster Risk Management, giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tel, and E-mail addresses at the earliest and regularly update the information regarding their focal points.	
8.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate all the matters/activities related to Disaster Risk Management and the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters in Mashhad.	
9.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to continue collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) on the “Strategic Action Plan for managing cascading risks from natural and biological hazards and guideline for implementation” in 2022.	
Priority Area II: Health		
10.	The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the 5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health within their territories or in virtual mode in 2022 and instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the interested Member States for organizing the said event in 2022.	
11.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for agreeing for hosting the High Level Working Group (HLWG) on the implementation of the Plan of Action on Health, and instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate the organization of the event in virtual mode in 2022.	
12.	The Council requested Member States (except for the Republic of Azerbaijan) to provide their	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	views and feedbacks to the Secretariat on the report of the small sized project of “Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals” and (except for the Republic of Azerbaijan) to provide their nominations for the establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinizing the report and developing a Plan of Action on the trade of pharmaceuticals within the ECO region.	
13.	The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the First meeting of the Task Force on Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals within their territories or in virtual mode in 2022 as per the outcome/decision of the 5 th HLEG meeting.	
14.	The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage within their territories or in virtual mode in 2022.	
15.	The Council requested Member States to provide the Secretariat with the implementation status of the “Tehran Declaration on Health” and the ECO Action Plan on Health.	
16.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to report on the implementation of the “Tehran Declaration on Health” and the ECO Action Plan on Health by the end of 2022.	
17.	The Council requested Member States (except for Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan) to provide their updated list of national focal points for effective coordination and cooperation on the implementation of relevant health programs and activities.	
18.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to approach the IDB and relevant UN Agencies including UNDRR, UNESCAP and WHO for their support in preparing and implementing regional project proposals.	
Priority Area III: Education		
19.	The Council requested Member States to propose and host workshops on the main priority areas of Disaster Risk Reduction, Health and Sustainable Development in 2022.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
20.	The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the 2 nd Workshop on Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance in the ECO region in 2022.	
21.	The Council requested Member States to extend scholarships to other Member States in health related topics. The relevant information may be sent to the Secretariat including the objective(s) of the courses; terms and conditions for admission; detailed curriculum of the courses; and any other necessary information.	
22.	The Council requested the ECO-EI to coordinate with the ECO Secretariat and announce the scholarship programs/training courses for the students of the ECO Member States in health related topics.	
23.	The Council appreciated the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran on provision of scholarship/training courses on hazards and natural disaster risk reduction to the teachers of the ECO Member States, and requested the Member State to provide the particulars the relevant information including the objective(s) of the courses; terms and conditions for admission; detailed curriculum of the courses; and any other necessary information to the Secretariat for circulation amongst the Member States.	
Priority Area IV: Sustainable Development		
24.	The Council requested the Member States to introduce/regularly update the information of their focal points on SDGs.	
25.	The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare ECO Sustainable Development Performance Index upon receiving the requested information from Member States and in collaboration with The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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G. SECTOR: JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND ECO ADVOCACY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN

1.	<p>Acknowledging the importance of core objectives of the ECO Vision 2025, the Council considered the necessity of a well-planned judicial and law enforcement coordination network in the region. It also emphasized the need to accelerate the collaborative regional activities aimed at addressing common concerns of the Member States. In this regard, the Council emphasized the significance of the effective regional institutional arrangements on police and law enforcement, judicial and anti-corruption cooperation and fight against illicit drugs, as well as the organization of relevant capacity building and training programs by the Member States.</p>	
2.	<p>The Council requested the Member States to continue cooperation in judicial, law enforcement, anti-corruption, anti-drug and other cross-border crimes, parliamentary and Afghanistan related issues. The Council tasked the Secretariat to ensure necessary actions required for the continuity of pertinent cooperative activities in these areas.</p>	
3.	<p>Recalling the 31st RPC's emphasis on cooperation for fight against illicit drugs, the Council supported the Secretariat for continuation of its relevant activities under the new structure of the organization. The Council also encouraged the Secretariat to continue and keep close liaison with the relevant regional and international organizations for seeking their regular support to counter any illicit drugs activities in the region.</p>	
4.	<p>The Council while acknowledging the decisions of the last three Meetings of Attorney/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States on the establishment of an effective mechanism for judicial cooperation/legal assistance among Member States noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is anticipated to convey a draft framework agreement for judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism for the ECO Region and the Member States are to convey their views and comments on the draft framework agreement to be provided by Pakistan. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the council that the said draft will be conveyed to the ECO Secretariat within one month. • The Member States to convey willingness for hosting the "1st Experts Group Meeting 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>to discuss and finalize the draft framework of the envisioned judicial/legal cooperation mechanism” or in the absence of any host the ECO Secretariat may organize the said meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Member States are to express their willingness for hosting the “4th Meeting of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General”; • The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey have already conveyed particulars of their focal points on matters regarding judicial cooperation; and • The Member States are to convey/ update particulars of their relevant focal points 	
5.	<p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan for organizing the 4th Meeting of Heads of Anti-corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States on June 16-17, 2021 in Tashkent. The Council encouraged the Member States to expedite their follow-up actions on the Report of the meeting to ensure smooth implementation of the relevant decisions. In this regard, the Council requested the Member States :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To expedite national procedures for signing/ratification of the Statute of ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO); • To expedite operationalization of ECO- RCCACO as a useful forum for achieving the maximum desired results in combating corruption as well as other forms of financial crimes; • To express their readiness and volunteer regular organization of related training programs on fight against corruption; • To consider creating a smart structure for transparency in the fight against corruption in the Region; • To mandate the ECO Secretariat and State Parties to RCCACO to prepare the Organizational Chart of the Secretariat of the Regional Center and submit the same to the First Meeting of the General Assembly of the Regional Center for approval; and requested: 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Parties to the Regional Center to organize the first Meeting of the General Assembly of the States Parties to RCCACO; • The Kyrgyz Republic to sign the Statute of the Center based on their interest expressed in 2017 to join the Regional Center. 	
6.	<p>Reiterating the importance of ECOPOL, the Council recalled that the Statute was expected to be finalized during 2nd Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police and the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of INTERPOL of the Member States to be followed by its adoption in the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting. It requested the Secretariat to make necessary preparations and the interested Member States to designate liaison officers for coordination. The Council requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information as regards hosting of the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police and the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of INTERPOL of the Member States, including the exact date, format of the meetings and particulars of relevant focal points; • The Member States to actively participate in the above mentioned meetings for finalization of the remaining issues, including the location of the Secretariat and the number of Member States required for the said Statute's entry into force; • The Council recalled that during the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting in 2010 in Istanbul, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey expressed their readiness for hosting of the Secretariat of ECOPOL. 	
7.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for holding the 2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Countries (PAECO) in Islamabad on May 31 - June 3, 2021 and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 3rd PAECO Conference in Baku on May 16-18, 2022. In this regard, the Council requested/encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Member States which have yet to sign the Charter of the PAECO to sign it; • The concerned authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan to share the necessary information for organizing the 3rd PAECO Conference; • The Member States to nominate relevant focal points for Parliamentary Cooperation (except Uzbekistan and Tajikistan); 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council also requested the Member States and the Secretariat to actively follow-up the decisions of the 2nd General Conference of PAECO. 	
8.	Considering that some barriers to fostering cooperation among the ECO Member States may be related to legislative areas, the Council requested the ECO Secretariat and Member States to support any project and initiative for identifying and removing these barriers.	
9.	<p>The Council noted that the Organization’s activities to be made under ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA) were temporary on hold due to the recent developments in Afghanistan and requested the Member States to come up with some feasible ideas/proposals to help ensure the implementation of EAPA in special consideration of the prevailing conditions in the country. The Council also tasked the ECO Secretariat to collaborate with the Member States for exploring maximum possibilities with a view to ensuring the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of the “First conference of the Donors for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan; Opening of a bank account in respect of 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 account proposed to be opened in Bank-e-Millie Afghan; All the future activities of ECO relating to Afghanistan subject to onward development in Afghanistan. 	
10.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to accelerate implementation of the activities under the ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA). It further requested the Secretariat to host the First Meeting of the Donors for the ECO Fund for Afghanistan (First MDECOFA), in collaboration with the relevant regional and international organizations.	
11.	The Council encouraged the Member States to consider making adequate contributions to the ECO Fund for Afghanistan to support the efforts for development and reconstruction in Afghanistan.	
12.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Islamic Republic of Iran to host the “ECO Workshop on Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigation The Republic of Turkey for hosting of Workshop on Training programme to foster 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>cooperation on trends and opportunities in combating narcotic drugs and related crimes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Training Course on Awareness of Drugs and Precursors. • The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the First General Assembly of the State Parties of RCCACO in Islamabad in May 2022 (subject to the approval of the cabinet). • The Council requested the Member States to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information as regards the above mentioned events. 	
13.	The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the Third Virtual Training Course on primary prevention of Drugs Addiction in Tehran in 2022. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the secretariat the necessary information as regards to the above mentioned Training Course.	
14.	The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey expressed their readiness to organize the Virtual Training Courses regarding the fight against corruption in 2022. The Council requested the IR of Iran and the Republic of Turkey to convey to the Secretariat the details information in this regard.	
SECTOR H: ECO'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/AFFILIATED BODIES		
PROGRAMMES /ACTIVITIES		
a) <u>INTER-REGIONAL ECO ACTIVITIES</u>		
(i) ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies		
1.	The Council, in order to provide greater momentum to the objectives of the ECO, encouraged the ECO Specialized Agencies to synergize their activities to promote regional cooperation in the relevant fields.	
2.	The Council, while appreciating the ECO Secretariat and the Specialized Agencies for organizing their 3 rd consultation meeting in 2021, urged the Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies to develop a mechanism of regular consultation on annual basis for enhanced	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	coordination in order to boost their cooperation and sharing information about upcoming events with the relevant regional and international organizations in the fields of science and technology, culture and education.	
3.	The Council stressed on the ECO Specialized Agencies to identify innovative and pragmatic joint activities in the relevant fields to further contribute towards regional socio-economic development.	
4.	Taking note of the successful holding of the First Joint Symposium of the Rectors of ECO Member States' Universities organized jointly by the ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Science Foundation, ECO Educational Institute and ECO College of Insurance in 2021, the Council encouraged the relevant Specialized Agencies to follow-up the recommendations of the Symposium especially the proposal of establishment of a network of universities of the region for conducting joint academic and research projects. The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host 2 nd Symposium of the Rectors of the ECO Member States of Universities in 2022.	
5.	The Council recommended that the newly proposed regional centers and institutions deserve appropriate attention of the Member States for completing required procedural formalities with the aim of early operationalization of these regional centers/institutions.	
ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)		
6.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) in promoting the cultural ties amongst the Member States. The Council further acknowledged the activities and the events organized by the ECI in 2021 despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.	
7.	The Council called on the Cultural Institute to broaden its current scope of activities to make meaningful progress in achieving all the goals outlined in its Charter; especially in the fields of culture, literature and arts including promotion of people-to-people contacts, research in common cultural heritage of the Member States and promotion of languages of the region.	
8.	The Council, while welcoming the recent ratification of ECI's Charter made by Republic of Turkey, congratulated the Institute and its Member States on this landmark development towards enhanced cooperation in the field of art and culture for realizing the objectives of ECI.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
9.	The Council requested the ECO Member States, which have not ratified the Charter yet, to ratify the ECI's Charter and support its initiatives for promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Region.	
10.	The Council renewed its call for the relevant Member States that are in arrears to pay their annual budgetary contributions to ECI's budget to clear their outstanding dues at the earliest.	
11.	The Council expressed its satisfaction on successful holding of the 5 th meeting of ECO Heads of National Libraries organized by the ECI on 15 June, 2021. Keeping in view the significance of libraries in research activities, the Council encouraged the Member States to formulate a plan of action for establishing enhanced and comprehensive collaboration of National Libraries of the region.	
12.	Recalling the inauguration of the ECO Park in November 2013 in Tehran, the Council appreciated the ECO Cultural Institute for signing the recent MoU with the authorities in charge of the ECO Park to make the necessary arrangements for holding cultural programs and national events by the ECO Member States. The Council further called on the ECI to follow-up the matter with relevant authorities so that the required arrangements could be made at the earliest.	
13.	The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 7 th meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECI in Hybrid Mode in October 2022.	
14.	The Council encouraged the ECI to revive the organization of ECO Cultural Week in order to enhance visibility of ECO among people of the region. Considering the fact that the year 2022 coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of expansion of the ECO, the Council recommended that a Special Cultural Week should also be organized on the occasion of the ECO Day in November 2022.	
15.	The Council considered the proposal of the ECO Cultural Institute to organize the First ECO Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of Youth and Sports. Taking into account the comprehensiveness and usefulness of this meeting as a soft and effective tool of regional integration, the Council recommended organizing the meeting of Ministers of Youth and Sports in 2022 instead of previously proposed meeting of Heads of ECO Football Federations.	
ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
16.	The Council expressed its deep satisfaction on the recent activities and initiatives of the ECO Science Foundation for promoting research, technological advancement and development of human resource capacity in science, technology and innovation in the ECO region.	
17.	The Council took note of the efforts of the Foundation for establishing scientific, technological and research collaboration and cooperation among its member states and the vibrant STI ecosystem in the world. The Council encouraged the ECOSF to enhance such collaborations for strengthening institutional capacity in scientific research and technological development among its Member States.	
18.	Recalling the recommendation of the last RPC meeting concerning the Host Country Agreement between Pakistan and ECO Science Foundation, the Council appreciated the Government of Pakistan for completing the requisite procedure and signing the Host Country Agreement with ECOSF in December 2021.	
19.	Reiterating the significance of ratification of the ECOSF' Charter and its Additional Protocol by the non-ratifying Member States namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkey and Uzbekistan, the Council requested the concerned countries to complete their respective ratification procedures at the earliest.	
20.	In line with the recent communications received from Pakistan, the Council requested the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make necessary arrangement to facilitate the joining of the new President-Designate of the ECOSF, Prof. Tayebi.	
21.	The Council took serious note of the financial problems being faced by the ECOSF due to non-payment of the annual contributions by the Member States and requested the concerned Member States to pay their Mandatory Annual Budgetary Contributions to the Foundation at the earliest.	
22.	The Council appreciated the ECO Science Foundation for successful organizing the 6 th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Foundation in April 2021. The Council stressed upon the ECOSF to follow-up actively the decisions of the Executive Committee.	
23.	The Council requested the Member States, who have not done so, to nominate their focal points in order to facilitate coordination between the Foundation and the Member States. The Council also asked the concerned Member States to nominate their eminent scientists for the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Executive Committee of the ECOSF.	
ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)		
24.	The Council appreciated ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) for carrying out various important activities in 2021 for developing and promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of education.	
25.	The Council requested the Member States that have not yet ratified the ECOEI's Charter to do so as soon as possible, so as to make the Institute stronger to achieve its objectives.	
26.	The Council requested the Member States to pay their annual budgetary contributions to the Institute in a regular and timely manner.	
27.	The Council called on the concerned Member States to expedite nomination of their respective focal persons at the earliest in order to ensure effective coordination between the ECOEI and the Member States.	
28.	The Council appreciated the ECOEI for organizing a First High Level University Representatives Forum with participation of Heads/Vice Chancellors/Deans of top ECO Universities held on September 30, 2021 to discuss the opportunities and challenges regarding the regional cooperation in higher education.	
29.	The Council urged the Educational Institute to make efforts towards establishing a networking of universities as well as research and other institutions of higher studies to provide an adequate and conducive environment to our students and researchers in order to meet the requirements of the modern world of Knowledge Economy.	
30.	The council endorsed the current ECOEI's Work Program as draft Plan of Action on Education until all member states convey their needs.	
31.	The Council welcomed the cooperation initiative of Republic of Turkey and ECO Educational Institute on vocational education and skills development and encouraged member states to join this initiative.	
Other ECO Institutions/Affiliated Bodies		
32.	The Council emphasized on expanding the collaboration between the Secretariat and the ECO College of Insurance to make more academic connections among the universities in the ECO region. The Council asked the College of Insurance to hold the Board of Trustees	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Meeting of ECO College of Insurance in 2022. The Council also requested the Member States to actively take part in the activities of the College.	
33.	The Council urged the ECO Engineering and Consultancy Company (ECOCEC) to share its updated activities and latest report highlighting its core competencies in the field of engineering for creating detailed awareness about the Company so that the Member States could get benefit from the expertise and services offered by ECOCEC in the engineering sector.	
New Proposals/ECO's External Relations		
34.	Expressing its satisfaction over the progress made in consolidating and deepening external relations of ECO, the Council appreciated Secretariat's commitment to take concrete steps to further expand long-term mutually beneficial cooperative relations with the United Nations system, International Organizations and relevant non-ECO states.	
35.	The Council, while noting that the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes are ECO's main partners, expressed its satisfaction over the adoption of the fresh resolution on UN-ECO Cooperation by the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2021 in New York. In this regard, the Council appreciated the contributions of the ECO Secretariat and the Member States especially Turkmenistan, the then Chairman of the ECO.	
36.	The Council commended the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing a comprehensive status report on implementation of the recent resolution on UN-ECO Cooperation adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2021. The Council called on the Secretariat to further follow-up the implementation of the resolution and update the status report before the next RPC.	
37.	The Council took note with appreciation of signing the new MoU between ECO and UNESCAP during the 15 th ECO Summit held in November 2021 in Ashgabat. The Council noted that the MoU would further institutionalize the existing cooperative relations between the two organizations.	
38.	The Council appreciated the ongoing cooperation between the ECO Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank in various fields and among their common Member Countries from the ECO region. The council further stressed the need to enhance the existing	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	cooperation and partnership between the two institutions for strengthening regional integration for economic growth and development and requested the Secretariat to develop an joint ECO/IsDB programme spanning over an agreed time-frame of 3-5 years, for implementation of the initiatives in line with the ECO Vision 2025 as well as IsDB's Regional Cooperation (RCI) Policy in the ECO Region.	
39.	With a view to deepening and expanding cooperation with the European Commission/EU, the Council took note of the Secretariat's recent steps to maintain and promote meaningful contacts with local presidency of the EU in Tehran to explore the possibility of EU's support for ECO projects/programmes.	
40.	In view of the significance of training of officers dealing with external relations/foreign affairs, the Council welcomed the fresh offer of I.R of Pakistan to arrange a training workshop in 2022 at Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan for foreign services officers from ECO Member States subject to the improvement in the ongoing COVID-19 situation.	
41.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat, in coordination with the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), to consider the application(s) of the relevant international organizations and non-ECO states to grant observer status in the ECO aimed at developing meaningful cooperative relations in line with the Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status at the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).	
42.	The Council endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to organize the brainstorming session/meeting to initiate the next phase of ongoing reform process in the second quarter of this year at the level of relevant Deputy Ministers that are in-charge of the ECO Affairs.	
43.	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 2022 in Tehran. The Meeting could not be held in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic.	
44.	The Council appreciated the Culture Institute for considering the proposal of the ECO Secretariat to organize the First Meeting of Heads of Broadcasting Organizations (Radio and Television) of ECO Member States in 2022. The Council further requested the Member States to actively participate in the Meeting.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
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I. SECTOR: ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

Economic Research

1.	The Council re-iterated the provision in “ ECO Vision 2025 ” which envisaged that: “the core mandate of the Economic Cooperation Organization is economic development and regional integration”. To that end, “ECO Vision 2025” particularly emphasized “ Economic Growth and Productivity ” as one of core cooperation areas of ECO (Section 3, “Co-operation Areas”, sub-section “E”, “ <i>Implementation Framework of the ECO Vision 2025</i> ”, p.2).	
2.	The Council appreciated that the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) held its 6 th Meeting on December 7, 2021 along with the 5 th Meeting of the Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ), as planned. In this view, the Council encouraged the Member States for participation, accordingly, in the subsequent 7 th Meeting of EPSCER/6 th EBEEJ scheduled to be held during 2022. The Council instructed that the Secretariat draft the provisional Agendas of aforementioned events basing on the Member States’ proposals and, circulate those to all Member States at the earliest (<i>ECO Calendar 2022</i>).	
3.	The Council recommended that the development of the “ ECO Economic Cooperation Strategy ” be fulfilled in 2022. In that regard, the Council stressed that the aforementioned strategy should analyze and define clear targets in each of ECO’s six economic sectors for 2025-2030; further noting that the expected results be in the form of the quantified, target-specific, ECO sectors-centered analyses via ECO’s integration-styled regional macroeconomic development modeling (<i>6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings’ Report, paragraph-23</i>).	
4.	To ensure digital interaction amongst Members of ECO Permanent Steering Committee (EPSCER), the Council suggested that the Secretariat facilitate creation of a digital ‘science lab platform’ for the EPSCER’s Members – to enable their regular work interactions within ECO’s digital interface on Economic Research (<i>31st RPC Work Programme 2021, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraphs 39 and 45</i>).	
5.	On the mode of the 7th Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) to be organized during 2022, the Council suggested that the event could	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	be held jointly or, alternatively, may also be held independent of the 5 th Meeting of Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ) and, in that regard, instructed the Secretariat to draft the provisional Agendas of said Meetings basing on the proposals/suggestions of the Member States (<i>Calendar of Events 2022</i>).	
6.	The Council noted with satisfaction the assuming by the 6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ of the EPSCER's key responsibilities i.e. to develop and periodically review ECO Plan of Action on Economic Research basing on the following four pillars: Pillar 1: Development of “ <i>ECO Economic Development Strategy</i> ”; Pillar 2: Integration of ECO Member States via economic research and the brainwave; Pillar 3: Implementing <i>ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP)</i> , and Pillar 4: Provision of accurate analytical economic publications to ECO's high level decision making bodies (<i>6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-9</i>).	
7.	The Council acknowledged that the “ <i>Comprehensive Medium and Long Term Strategic Plan of the ECO Economic Journal</i> ” 2016-2020 has been supported by substantive proposals of Member States, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and, based on such positive feedbacks, the Council recommended extending the coverage of aforementioned Strategic Plan for period 2022-2025 (<i>NV Inc. No. 2019/258 dated 2019/03/31; NV Inc. No. 2019/168 dated 2019/02/28; NV No. PERS/EEJ/2019/135 dated 2019/02/12, and also, proposals embedded in 29th and 31st RPC recommendations</i>).	
8.	Added to the above, the Council appreciated that the “ <i>ECO Economic Research Policy</i> ” has been considered and approved at the 6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ Meetings held on 7 th December 2021 (virtual mode, ECO Secretariat) and that the document is currently available on ECO web for use and guideline in the area of economic research (<i>6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-48</i>).	
ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP)		
9.	The Council noted the completion of economic research projects in the framework of ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) during period of 2010-2019, following decisions of the 6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ and, thereupon recommended that new project proposals and initiatives be accordingly included in the EERP's framework for period of 2022-2025 (31 st RPC, “I” Sector: ERS, Work Programme 2021, paragraph-48 and <i>6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ</i>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<i>Meetings' Report, paragraph-15).</i>	
10.	The Council recommended that for the three economic research projects that were completed in 2019, the summary abstracts of obtained results be published in the ECO Economic Journal for disseminating the best economic research projects' practices across the ECO region (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-38).	
11.	The Council welcomed the five priorities as defined by the 6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ in the area of Economic Research, including: Priority I: E-commerce and Digital Economy; Post covid-19 pandemic extensive distance learning, remote work, and increased e-Commerce; Priority II: Increasing the human capital and employment; Priority III: Sustainable food and agriculture, Priority IV: Climate change as a contributing factor in the ECO region's macroeconomic model, and Priority V: Green and innovation economy-modelled growth of the ECO region. The Council further suggested that ECO's Economic Research be focused on ECO regional macroeconomic modeling studies in various sectors. (6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-9). In this regard, the delegation of the I.R. Iran suggested that applied research should be carried out to address the needs of the ECO Member States like in the Development of Trade, Investment, Financial System Reform and Feasibility of Investment in stock markets of Member States.	
12.	In the above view, the Council welcomed a new economic research project proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan highlighting a need for economic research analyses and macroeconomic economic policy support for all-sector climate change as envisaged in strategies of world's major international organizations. It also welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding a need for ECO's macroeconomic modeling of de-carbonization processes via analyses of economic interlinkages amongst ECO's six core activity areas toward greater economic integration as envisaged in "ECO Vision 2025" (6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraphs-16, 20).	
13.	The Council particularly emphasized that while ECO's study projects in the core activity areas of ECO focus on action-driven demonstration effects from the implementation of sector relevant plans/roadmaps/policies/strategies, the ECO's Economic Research's projects will focus on macroeconomic modeling of the ECO's macroeconomic regional	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	economy via integration of each of ECO's six sectors under a single "ECO Economic Cooperation Strategy". In regard of the overall organizational macroeconomic policy work and sectors strategies' alignment, the Council recommended that the ECO's Economic Research should follow the internationally recognized pattern which is being practiced in world's other regions (<i>6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-25</i>).	
14.	The Council instructed that ECO Secretariat finalize the development of the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) for period of 2022-2027 in line with provisions of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ECO and SESRIC on 16 January 2018. In that regard, the Council has particularly sought a closer partnering cooperation from SESRIC (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-46).	
15.	The Council suggested that the Secretariat may also (wherever relevant) approach other international economic research entities like UNCTAD with experiences of issuing "Investment Policy Reviews", and prepare similar reviews in regard of the ECO region. It was further suggested that ECO Secretariat may cooperate with Centers/Institutes/Organizations under Ministries dealing with economic issues having analytical and strategizing span for the purposes of active development of the area of Economic Research (31 st RPC Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-47).	
ECO Annual Economic Report		
16.	The Council appreciated that the Secretariat published ECO Annual Economic Report during 2021 in the observance of ECO's previous practices by following provisions of the Treaty of Izmir. The Council further instructed the Secretariat to prepare the 2021/22 issues of the ECO Annual Economic Report basing on input economic data and country reports of ECO Member States (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, paragraph-33 and <i>6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-39</i>).	
17.	In practical terms, the Council requested the Member States for their relevant inputs and country reports for period 2021/22 for the purposes of compilation of ECO Annual Report 2021/22 and, in that regard, also suggested that the Secretariat avails of accessible official data sources and/or online official publications of relevant authorities/Ministries dealing with Economy, Budget and Planning of ECO Member States as regards the economic	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	research and country strategy development (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, paragraph-35).	
ECO Editorial Board		
18.	The Council appreciated that new Membership of the Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal was approved by the 6 th EPCSER/5 th EBEEJ and, in that regard, requested the Editor-in-Chief of ECO Economic Journal to provide the Secretariat an initial listing of articles designed for the 2022' issue of the Journal (6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-52).	
19.	In the above regard, the Council requested new Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal to relate to the Secretariat the Board's Terms of reference with the indication of mandates and responsibilities of the Board Members (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-40).	
20.	The Council appreciated that the ECO Editorial Policy was adopted at 6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ Meetings and acknowledged that the document is currently available on ECO web for use and guideline for the Members of Editorial Board (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-40).	
21.	Along the similar path, the Council appreciated that the Secretariat publicized the Call-for-Papers inviting public submissions of scholarly articles, essays, manuscripts and analytical papers for publishing in the 2022' issue of ECO Economic Journal (6 th EPSCER/5 th EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-56).	
22.	In addition to the above, the Council requested that the Member States may kindly relate to the Secretariat their relevant manuscripts for consideration by the ECO Editorial Board so that the latter submissions be published in the 2022' issue of the "ECO Economic Journal", as planned (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, paragraph-43).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
23.	<p>In the above view, the Council favored the earliest release by the EBEEJ, jointly with ECO Secretariat, of the 2022' issue of ECO Economic Journal (29th RPC, Work Programme 2019, "E" Sector: PERS, paragraph-29 and 31st RPC, Work Programme 2021, paragraph-48). The delegation of the Republic of Turkey suggested that a certain fee may be introduced to encourage high quality scholarly contributions to the Journal as well as that the issues of scientific referencing and indexation would need to be addressed. Further, the need for setting up a proper management to handle technical matters relating to the publication of the Journal has been stated – where Asian Development Review can be considered as a good example in this regard. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggested that the contest among young economists for the best scholarly article submissions should be organized to ensure inclusive participation in the Journal. The possibility of granting a prize may be sought, in this regard, as per the said suggestion.</p>	
ECO Research Center		
24.	<p>The Council appreciated that the Charter of ECO Research Center (ECR) was signed by the two ECO Member States, notably by the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Turkey, on the sidelines of the 14th ECO Summit Meeting of the Heads of State/Government (March 4th, 2021) and encouraged the remaining ECO Member States to sign the document (Report of 14th ECO Summit Meeting, available at: www.eco.int). The Council expressed the hope that ECO Research Center will start functioning soon. It has been further informed by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan that the signing procedure of the ECR is ongoing and the third country should sign the Charter.</p>	
25.	<p>The Council appreciated that the first and subsequent ECO Economic Forums were held in Baku (Republic of Azerbaijan) and, in that regard, requested the host country to relate to the Secretariat: (i) the scenario of conducting ECO Economic Forum 2022/23, (i) provisional contents of Forum, (ii) sketch outline of provisional proceedings, (iii) organizational details of Forum focusing on results-based fruition of planned proceedings (31st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-44).</p>	
26.	<p>Further to the above, the Council invited the host country to consider organizing the third</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	ECO Economic Think Tank Forum during 2022/23, following the pertinent recommendation of the 29th RPC (17-20 December 2019) Work Programme 2019, "E" Sector: PERS, paragraph-10). It is suggested to consider inclusion of the ECO Economic Think Tank Forum in the programme of the ECO Economic Forum 2022/23.	
27.	In practical terms, the Council instructed that the Secretariat, jointly with the host country, develop: (i) Sample online Format of Forum; (ii) Set of requirements for online selection of Forum's papers; (iii) Set of unified requirements for IT-moderated conferencing tools to meet the economic fora auditorium's expectations (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-44).	
28.	The Council also recommended that the Secretariat, jointly with the host country, arrange the 3rd Preparatory Meeting, which precedes the 3 rd ECO Economic Forum scheduled for 2022/23 (29th RPC, Work Programme 2019, "E" Sector: PERS, paragraph-10).	
29.	The Council while noting that the "Roster of ECO Lead Analytical Centers/Consultancies and Regional Research Institutions" was last circulated to Member States in February 2020 instructed the Secretariat to update the said Roster and, circulate it to all Member States at the earliest (Secretariat's NV No. PM/2020/84 dated 5/2/2020).	
30.	The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Council that Dr. Arzu Hüseynova, Deputy Director of the Institute of Scientific Research on Economic Reforms of Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be the Editor-in-Chief of the ECO Economic Journal. Further, the delegation suggested that the details relating to management of the ECO Economic Journal may be clarified. In regard of the events, such as the ECO Economic Think Tank Forum 2022, the latter event has been welcomed by the Republic of Azerbaijan and, the proposal for organizing the event was submitted to the Republic of Azerbaijan for concurrence from the Government.	
Statistics		
31.	The Council re-iterated the provision in ECO Vision 2025, which envisaged: "to make the Organization better equipped to face challenges and advance the fundamental principles of the Organization to expand project based economic activities and develop and strengthen the ECO institutions" (" <i>Implementation Framework of ECO Vision 2025</i> " p.1).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
32.	The Council encouraged the upcoming participation of ECO Member States in the 6th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (MHNSOs) and 8th ECO High Level Expert Group Meeting (HLEGM) in virtual mode during 2022 and, in that regard, favored the coherence in ECO regional statistical activities in line with the fundamental principles of the Official Statistics (<i>ECO Calendar of Events 2022</i>).	
33.	The Council recommended that the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of ECO Member States may forward to the Secretariat their relevant proposals/suggestions in regard of the provisional Agenda items to be discussed at the 6th MHNSOs and 8th HLEGM on Statistics scheduled to be held in 2022 (<i>ECO Calendar of Events 2022</i>).	
34.	The Council also recommended that the “ <i>Five Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026</i> ” be realised, as planned, during its scheduled period and, in that regard, requested the Secretariat to inform Member States at the upcoming 6th Meeting of MHNSOs/8th HLEGM on Statistics about progress to have been attained in 2022. In so doing, the Council favored that the components of aforementioned Plan, particularly ones relating to “ <i>knowledge sharing and exchange of expertise and experiences among ECO NSOs</i> ” should be in focus (31st RPC, Work Programme 2021, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-18 and Report of 5th MHNSOs/7th HLEGM on Statistics, paragraph-4).	
35.	The Council requested the Secretariat to provide the Member States with the “draft mechanism for sharing good practices/experiences/expertise among ECO NSOs” relating to their pertinent capacity building statistical activities/programmes, especially ones on: “ <i>Current Status of Statistical Operations under the covid19 pandemic and best practices</i> ” (31st RPC, Work Programme 2021, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-3).	
36.	The Council further requested that the Secretariat incorporate in the “draft mechanism” to be designed “for sharing good practices/experiences/expertise among ECO NSOs” all substantive proposals of the Member States as stated during the 5th MHNSOs/7th HLEGM (29th June 2021) on Statistics, notably, that: (a) the Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey have strong knowledge and on-hand capacity of Business Register’s Development for which Pakistan’s Bureau of Statistics (PBS) team may be facilitated to practically observe systems for updating the Business Register; (b) Compilation of FISIM is very complex covering 85% of total GVA of Finance and Insurance Sector and, for that matter, the National	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>Accounts Teams of Member States require to have frequent face-to-face interactions with each other; (c) Tourism has emerged as important industry for economies and, for that matter, the Republic of Turkey can help Member States in compilation of Tourism Satellite Accounts; (d) Compilation of Price Statistics is an essential area of Official Statistics, for which Member States need to share best practices for harmonization of Methodology (<i>Report of 5th MHNSOs/7th HLEGM on Statistics, paragraph-27</i>).</p>	
37.	<p>Along the similar lines, the Council encouraged substantive proposals/suggestions/initiatives of ECO National Statistical Offices toward effective execution of Work Programme 2022 and Calendar of Events 2022 (Statistics).</p>	
38.	<p>In practical terms, particularly in the part which relates to the organizing and holding among the Member States of interactive webinar sessions, online seminars, training courses and workshops under ECO's framework with specific emphasis on "<i>sharing knowledge, experiences, and expertise among ECO NSOs during the post covid-19 pandemic period</i>", the Council encouraged Member States to offer such statistical events that primarily focus on ECO countries' statistical capacity building needs (<i>31st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-17</i>).</p>	
39.	<p>The Council re-iterated that, during the 29th Regional Planning Council Meeting (17-20 December 2019, Tehran) the proposal of the Republic of Tajikistan to include a Training Course titled: "<i>Innovations in methodology through new technology in conducting population census</i>" in ECO Calendar of Events 2019 was noted. The event was to be conducted in one of the Member States. Since then, throughout 2020 and also 2021, travel restrictions have spread prolific thereby making physical participation inadequate. To that end, the Council recommended that the aforementioned event be realized during 2022 and, encouraged any of ECO Member States to volunteer conducting the aforementioned Training (<i>31st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-21</i>).</p> <p>In this regard, the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has invaluable experiences on the implementation of the web-based population and housing census and, in to that effect, it was stated that the SCI is ready to share its knowledge, experiences and expertise with other ECO Member States.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
ECO Statistical Capacity Building Programme		
40.	The Council further instructed that the Secretariat while building further on the proposals of the Member States develop the all inclusive ECO Statistical Capacity Building Programme covering period of 2022-2026 in line with the Five Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026 (<i>Report of 5th MHNSOs/7th HLEGM on Statistics, paragraph-23</i>).	
41.	In regard of concrete project proposals that are dedicated to knowledge sharing among ECO NSOs on statistics, the Council welcomed the continuity in processing the joint ECO-FAO project proposal titled " <i>Promote advanced technologies for establishing a data-and-knowledge sharing network to strengthen natural resource and agriculture management in ECO region</i> ". In specific terms, the Council requested that the Secretariat, in line with decisions of the 5 th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices of ECO Member States (MHNSO)/7 th High Level Expert Group Meeting (HLEGM) on Statistics, in regard of aforementioned project proposal, ensure that the project document be prepared and circulated to ECO Member States. In this regard, the Council recommended that the Secretariat make sure that the processing of the latter document be finalized in 2022 (<i>Report of 5th MHNSO/7th HLEGM on Statistics, paragraph-25</i>).	
42.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to advance the Project titled "Promote advanced technologies for establishing a data-and-knowledge sharing network to strengthen natural resources and agriculture management in ECO Region (distributed amongst Member States vide Note Verbale No. ERS/Project/2021/39 dated December 12, 2021), in close coordination with FAO.	
43.	The Council instructed that the Secretariat to develop the training needs, assessment questionnaires including capacity and related needs and circulate those amongst ECO NSOs to receive their feedback.	
ECO Statistical Publications		
44.	The Council noted that, in the implementation of paragraph-14, "I" Sector: Economic Research & Statistics of Work Programme 2021, which was endorsed by the 31st Regional Planning Council Meeting on 12-21 January 2021 (virtual mode, ECO Secretariat), the ECO	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Statistical Bulletin and sector-specific Statistical Report, were prepared in 2021 as planned (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-15 and 18).	
45.	The Council, following the pattern reflected in paragraph-15 of the 29th Regional Planning Council (17-20 December 2018, ECO Secretariat) for the Member States to provide the Secretariat with relevant input data for publication of ECO Statistical Report, requested the Member States to follow the similar pattern and provide their relevant data inputs covering the time period of 2021/22.	
46.	In addition to the above, the Council instructed the Secretariat to also use available national data sources in compiling ECO regional statistics, following the UN "Recommended Practices on the Use of Non-Official Sources in International Statistics" (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-16).	
ECO Data Bank		
47.	The Council while appreciating that the ECO Data Bank which has been developed and uploaded on ECO web, has further recommended that the Secretariat take necessary actions to annually update <i>ECO Data Bank</i> in line with time schedules. In this regard, the Council instructed that the Secretariat circulate pertinent Notes Verbale with questionnaires announcing collection of input data and information for period of 2021-2022 (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraphs 12 and 18).	
48.	Along the similar lines, the Council requested the Secretariat to update and circulate to all Member States the time schedules of regular data collection activities (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-12).	
ECOKSIs		
49.	The Council acknowledged that the ECO key statistical indicators (ECOKSIs) have so been designed to suit the Organization-specific data & information needs in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and, that those have been developed, validated and uploaded on ECO web (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraphs 12 and 18).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
50.	The Member States suggested that the Secretariat may also use, for the purposes of ECO Regional Statistics, the relevant online country statistical yearbooks and other publications reflecting statistical indicators of ECO Member States. In so doing, the Council emphasized that ECO's core activity areas, which include: (i) Trade & Investments, (ii) Transport & Communications, (iii) Energy, Minerals & Environment, (iv) Agriculture & Industry, and (v) Tourism should be in central focus (31 st RPC, Work Programme 2021, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-13).	
51.	The Council encouraged international cooperation on statistics with ECO's long term partners like the SESRIC, FAOSTAT, UNSD, UNESCAP/UNSIAP, EUROSTAT and UNFPA. In that regard, the Council instructed that the Secretariat actively collaborate with its traditional partners in pursuit of implementing the proposals of the Member States in regard of the ECO regional trainings, workshops/seminars/courses/webinars. The Council suggested that the latter events and activities could be frameworked under "ECO Statistical Capacity Building Programme" of which the implementation may start in 2022 and onwards.	
52.	As with support of ECO's international partners, the Council suggested the following thematic themes for regional trainings: (i) "COVID-19 Statistics", (ii) "Vital Statistics and Civil Registration", (iii) "Innovations in methodology through new technology in conducting population census", (iv) "Unemployment and Informal Sector Statistics", and (v) "Digitization and Big Data".	
53.	Further to international cooperation on statistics, the Council re-iterated provisions of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ECO and Statistical, Economic & Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in 2016. Following such legal instrument, the Council requested that joint activities in the framework of MoU-envisaged joint ECO-SESRIC technical capacity activities should deploy during 2022 and onwards (<i>Text of MoU is available on ECO web at: http://eco.int/Memoranda-of-Understanding</i>).	
54.	The Council emphasized that Statistics is universally recognized as core basis for comprehensive decision and policy making. To that impact, the Council instructed that the Secretariat prepare a policy paper on the central coordinating role of ECO Regional Statistics focusing on the development and exchange of regional data and information among ECO Member States.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
55.	The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the Secretariat to include some of background information as updated in the working paper of RPC.	