

**259th Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

Report

*November 21, 2021
ECO Secretariat*

Report

The 259th CPR Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, Ambassador of **Turkmenistan** to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Permanent Representative to ECO on November 21, 2021. The Meeting was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**, Republic of **Azerbaijan**, Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyz Republic**, Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, Republic of **Tajikistan**, Republic of **Turkey**, **Turkmenistan** and Republic of **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and the relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. List of participants is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

2. **H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, the Chairman** while welcoming the participants started the meeting according to agenda.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The **Council** adopted the following Agenda of the 259th CPR Meeting:

- 1) Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 259th CPR Meeting
- 2) Preparation for the 15th ECO Summit, preceded by 25th COM (*continued*):
 - Draft Ashgabat Consensus for Action (*continued*)
 - Follow-up and mid-term review of ECO Vision 2025 (*continued*)
 - Consideration of inclusion to the agenda of 25th COM the issue approval of candidate country to host ECO Clean Energy Centre
 - Participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the 15th ECO Summit, preceded by the 25th COM Meeting
- 3) Administrative matters:
 - Draft Budget proposal of ECO for the financial year 2022 (*continued*)
- 4) Any other business
- 5) Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Preparation for the 15th ECO Summit, preceded by 25th COM (*continued*)

Draft Ashgabat Consensus for Action

4. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** stated that the Secretariat has submitted a new text of "Ashgabat Consensus for Action" provided by Republic of Azerbaijan along containing amendments, few minutes before the commencement of 259th CPR Meeting. He mentioned that CPR is not right place to discuss these changes to finalize such amendments/changes. Therefore, he suggested

that such amendments/changes could be finalized with mutual understanding in the PrepCom Meeting.

5. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** stated that in their Note Verbale circulated during the CPR, have some important substantive changes especially regarding ECO Clean Energy Centre and other changes may be considered as minor changes.

6. The Representative of the Republic of **Turkey** also informed that his capital also suggested some additional paragraph regarding latest developments in Afghanistan and he suggest that his capital intimate that these changes reflect in the latest version of Draft Ashgabat Consensus for Action.

7. The **Chair** suggested that the amendments received from the concerned Member States would be included in the draft text of Ashgabat Consensus for Action and these proposals would be read out by the concerned Member States and the Secretariat add it simultaneously on the draft.

8. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** suggested that new amendments received from the concerned Member States may be included in the draft and after clean this draft, should be discussed at the SOM, due to Representatives participate from the Member States Capitals give some more ideas on the Draft Ashgabat Consensus for Action.

9. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** pointed out that on the proposals made by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the word used for Member States i.e "Interested" or "Not-interested" are against the spirit of the Summit. He mentioned that this Summit becomes turning point in order to remove these distinctions used as "Interested" or "not interested".

10. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** stated that at this stage he is not in a position to eliminate these amendments. He said that this would be discussed at SOM.

11. The Representative of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** supported the idea of the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked the Secretariat to include all the proposals shared by Member States in the draft Ashgabat Consensus for Action and circulate to the Member Stated for onward transmission to their capital and discussed during SOM.

12. The **Chair** instructed the Secretariat that amendments received from the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey may be included in the draft document and share this draft with the Member States and further discussed on these proposals at the SOM.

13. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** suggested that if any country suggested any proposal, it can be separately highlighted. He asked the Member States that the deletion in any para, whom suggested by the other Member

States not a correct way. However, if the Member States may consider it necessary to add such proposal in the draft, they could propose by name incorporation of their proposal in the said draft.

The **Legal Adviser** with the aim of clarifying the suggestion made by Uzbekistan, noted that, based on what has been expressed at the meeting, the paras of the Consensus for Action which have been cleaned or compromised at PrepCom shall remain untouched and new amendments thereto will only be reflected in spate para under the concerned cleaned para which could be addressed in SOM.

14. In reply to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan suggestion, the **Secretary General** suggested that in the initial versions of the draft, there is consensus between the countries and the said "para" was agreed. He further suggested that if any country proposed some new proposals the new proposal will be reflected in a separate paragraph with the name of concerned country.

15. The **Chair** asked the Secretariat that proposals received from the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey may be included in the draft document as described, i.e. separate para including new proposal under the concerned cleaned para at PrepCOM in red colours with the name of concerned Member State.. The Chair concluded with remarks that the "Draft Ashgabat Consensus for Action" may be shared with the Member States for further deliberations at the level of SOM Meeting.

16. The Representative of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** inquired about the Note Verbale No. 1251 issued by the ECO Secretariat on November 15, 2021, in which Kazakhstan made a proposal regarding abandonment of the practice of dividing ECO Member States into "founders" and "non founders". He asked the Secretariat that this issue may be included for further considerations in the upcoming SOM and the 25th COM Meetings to be held on 26 and 27 November 2021.

17. In reply to the Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan query, the **Secretary General** stated that Kazakhstan's proposal has already been included in the draft agenda of SOM and the 25th COM Meeting. He, also as to the proposal on the inclusion of a para in the Consensus for Action, noted that that as per recommendations of the High Level Committee as mentioned at para-9, the "ECO should further expand its outreach and partnership with the relevant regional and international organizations and partners, especially in the UN System".

18. The Representative of the Republic of **Turkey** inquired from Turkmenistan that there is a specific recommendation from counter requesting for this paragraph, as mentioned in the Note Verbale received from Turkmenistan with reference to UN and ECO cooperation. He stated that there is any specific wording/proposal by Turkmenistan or it would be work at SOM. He further asked that if the wording could be provided before SOM, it would save the time and also seen by us before sending it to SOM agenda.

19. The Representative of the Republic of **Turkey** made its observation on the agenda item No. 6, as proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan i.e “Abandonment of practice dividing ECO Member States into “Founders” and “Non-Founders”, and requested the Secretariat to write an appropriate word for further deliberations by SOM as well as approval by the COM. He also suggested redrafting of the current agenda item as follows: Consideration of the request on the abandonment of the practice of founders and non-founders.

Follow-up and mid-term review of ECO Vision 2025 (continued)

20. Referring the previous discussions in the matter, the Chair **recalled** that in the previous CPR meeting the Council agreed on the Draft Report of Midterm review prepared by the High Level Committee (HLC), except issue, mentioned in the page 23 of the Draft Report.

21. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** stated that at HLC report (page 23) is the proposals from the Islamic Republic of Iran and suggestions made by the Republic of Azerbaijan on the mid term review of ECO Vision 2025 is on Part Two (Page 56). He said that their proposals consist of several corridors which took from their previous working documents. The Representative stated that in the last meeting, it was mentioned that if Zangazur Corridor, would be reflected in the said document then other corridors also included. He stressed that there is only seven newly proposed corridors and his country want inclusion of all corridors, including initiators from other Member States. He further stated that at the page 23, it is proposals by the Islamic Republic of Iran that not to mention the names of the Corridors, but their position is that to reflect all the names of the newly proposed corridors in the draft document as well to formulate on the midterm review report (page 56).

22. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan stated that during previous discussions, it was agreed not to mention the names of the corridors in the document, as these corridors were suggested by the Heads of State. However, Republic of Kazakhstan would give its concurrence for inclusion names of corridors, if the other Member States support the proposal as submitted by representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

23. The Representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, **Pakistan & Turkey** supported the proposal, as submitted by the Republic of Azerbaijan, to include the name of corridors into the “Draft Report of “Mid-term Review of ECO Vision 2025”, on consensus basis.

24. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** stated that during the last meetings the projects’ titling was avoided in the document was based on that principle which has not gone through right channel. He further mentioned that these projects have not been studied and not discussed with the relevant Ministries of the Member States and it is a bit premature to have such projects inserted in the documents. He mentioned that these projects have great value for them, but these projects should have

gone through technical channels. He said that there are some other projects which are worth mentioning here. In the end the Iranian Representative stated that technicality is important to them and they don't want to break any consensus.

25. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** stated that his country explained their position, all details including right channels including timings on these discussions. He said that they place this suggestion almost half years ago and there is enough time to discuss on this proposal since their first proposals, they not received no objection from any Member States and at this stage, his country is not in a position to withdraw from their proposals and ready to discuss in further stage.

26. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran (as Co-Chair)** said that the Member States subjected their agreement on the proposal of Azerbaijan on existence of consensus which should be reached. He further stated that in principle this proposal remains open for further discussions between two delegations, and if there is no chance for consensus then focus should be made on the original text.

27. The Representative of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** mentioned that the original text is not agreed by the Azerbaijan side. He further elaborates that Iranian proposal, which we discussed, is still pending.

28. The Council decided that the draft report of the midterm Review along with the amendments provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan may be finalized with the mutual understanding of the member states during the SOM.

Consideration of inclusion to the agenda of 25th COM the issue of candidate country to host ECO Clean Energy Centre

29. The Chair informed the Council that the issue of selection of host country for ECO Clean Energy Center was discussed during the 258th CPR meeting and referring to the UNIDO's technical assessment report submitted to Member States by Secretariat's Note Verbale EME/2021/1260 dated November 16, 2021, the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran vide its Note Verbale dated 26 November 2021 to request 259th CPR including to the draft of 25th COM to approve host country for ECO Clean Energy Center.

30. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that in principle the agenda item of COM should not be approval of host country, but the adoption of the Charter of the Center in which the host country has been named.. He further requested the Secretariat to explain about the misunderstanding on Executive Board and Executive Committee while referring document of Charter of ECO Clean Energy mentioning at page no. 3.

31. Director (EME) supported the idea of that in the COM Agenda should be adoption of Charter and host country will be indicated in the in the Charter. In regard

to Executive Board-Committee, the Secretariat will check and make the text consistent, in case there is technical mistake.

32. He further informed that the text of subject Charter was endorsed during the last 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting held in June, 2021 and the report with all documents were circulated among the Member States.

33. The Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan mentioned that as a result of Technical Assessment prepared by the UNIDO, the Republic of Turkey supported the result of assessment, which has given highest point to the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran has abstained and informed that the matter was under consideration by the relevant Ministry. He asked the Iranian delegation whether they may kindly approve the Technical Assessments, prepared by UNIDO.

34. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that the matter is under consideration by the relevant Ministry. Therefore, he stated that candidacy for hosting the ECO Clean Energy Center could be finalized by the Senior Officials Meeting scheduled in Ashgabat.

35. H.E. Secretary General enquired about the appropriate language should be included in Draft Agenda of SOM/COM for adoption of Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center or inclusion of selection of host country to establish ECO Clean Energy Center.

36. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that agenda item of Charter could be adopted after consideration in SOM meeting, in case the Member States reached the consensus for selecting host country of CECECO. Therefore, the agenda item will be incorporated into COM Agenda, based on the recommendations of SOM. If there is agreement between the Member States, we may put approval/adoption of Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center. However, the approval/decision on the selecting the host country for ECO Clean Energy Center will be incorporated into the agenda of COM. Therefore, he requested that matter for host country may be finalized by CPR.

37. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey expressed its readiness to accept the technical assessments report as prepared by the UNIDO mentioning that as per assessment of UNIDO, the Republic of Azerbaijan is more eligible as compared to the other. Therefore, Turkey accepts the assessment report and will not challenge the outcome of the UNIDO and Turkey is ready to adopt the selection of host country for ECO Clean Energy Center at CPR or COM level.

38. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan briefed that ECO Secretariat informed the all Member States about the establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center to submit their candidacy for hosting the Clean Energy Center. Only three Member State, namely, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey submitted their candidacy for hosting the center. According to the applications

submitted by the above three countries as well as assessment prepared by the UNIDO, the Azerbaijan secured high points as compared to others. He inquired whether the Islamic Republic of Iran was agreed with the technical assessment of UNIDO or what other procedure would be adopted to select the host country for ECO Clean Energy Center. Therefore, he requested the Council that selection of host country for ECO Clean Energy Center should be included into agenda of SOM as well as COM.

39. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that Iran is ready to include this issue into the agenda of SOM as they proposed; however, they need some time to work out upon it. Further, he mentioned that draft Charter could not be submitted to Council of Ministers unless the headquarter place agreed upon. He proposed that Iran & Azerbaijan may discuss with UNIDO and or without UNIDO if agreed upon either side. Then the assessment report will be addressed to the Minister of Energy and COM for its adoption. He stated the relevant Ministry is not convinced with the technical assessment report submitted by UNIDO. He mentioned that Iran is ready to discuss it at SOM and would include into the Agenda of COM upon the consensus by the Member States.

40. The Permanent Representative of Iran suggested that this matter may be further considered in the SOM meeting for finalization of selection of host country and adoption of Charter for ECO Clean Energy Center. The Council agreed to include this matter in the agenda of SOM for further appropriate consideration.

Participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the 15th ECO Summit, preceded by the 25th COM Meeting

41. The Chair informed the Council that the request of Turkish Cypriot State was discussed during the previous CPR Meeting. The Chair cleared the position that the host country (Turkmenistan) sent a Note Verbale that Summit/COM will be held without inviting the Observers due to pandemic of COVID-19.

42. On the inquiry of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in change title/name of Turkic Council, the representative of the Republic of Turkey clarified that during the last Summit Meeting, the Turkic Council had decided to change its official name from Turkic Council to the Organization of Turkic States and the clarification may be sought from the respective Secretariat.

43. He further stated that the Turkey is pursuing the request of the Turkish Cypriot State to attend the Summit/COM Meetings as well as other relevant sessions of the meetings. If there is any positive consideration of the Council, the Turkic Council may be informed well in advance to attend the Summit/COM.

44. The Chair of the Meeting informed as representative of Turkmenistan that host country (Turkmenistan) have already informed the Member States through its Note Verbale that due to situation of COVID-19, which affected all over the world, the Turkmenistan has decreased the number of participants of Member States. The

Turkmenistan has also reduced the composition of level of participation from Member States in other relevant meetings.

45. The representative of the Republic of Turkey informed that there is constant practice to invite the observers to the ECO activities from RPC to higher level and Turkic Cypriot State is consistently joining the ECO activities and contributing to the work of ECO. He requested the Council to respond to the Turkic Council on basis of restrictions of host country as well as outcome of the 259th CPR Meeting. He further mentioned that such developments have surprised them that the host authorities of Turkmenistan is not extending the invitation to the Turkish Cypriot State and it would not give a good message to observer upon restrictions from host authorities inviting the observer.

46. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that we have been enjoying the participation of the observers in the previous Summit/COM meetings. Therefore, Republic of Turkey may not observe that only Turkmenistan has objection on the participation of Turkish Cypriot State, as it would not give good message to the observers. There are three observers with the ECO Secretariat and the Council respects them in an appropriate manner. However, the Secretariat may inform the Turkish Cypriot State that the host country has extended invitations to the limited number of staffs of Head of Member States participating in the COM/Summit.

47. The Chair informed as representative of Turkmenistan and stated that a Note Verbale from Turkmenistan, which was already shared with the Member States through the Secretariat. If needed, the Secretariat may circulate it again or Republic of Turkey may share with the Turkish Cypriot State conveying the position of Turkmenistan on participation by Observers.

48. The representative of Uzbekistan informed that Iranian and Turkish side have already mentioned the facts, therefore, the Secretariat on behalf of the Council may respond to the Observer taking into account the pandemic conditions. The host authorities of Turkmenistan are not in a position to extend invitation to the Observers. He stated that everyone should keep in mind that every country has sovereign rights to take decision on any issues.

49. The representative of the Republic of Turkey requested that the Council may inform the Turkish Cypriot State about the outcome of this meeting. While referring to paragraph 10, he stated that CPR would take a necessary decision to invite ECO Observer. The Council may communicate with the Turkish Cypriot State regarding any decision taken by today's meeting.

50. The representative of the Republic of Iran mentioned that as per modalities, the observers may be invited to the meetings. Therefore, the Secretariat may be requested to respond to the Turkish Cypriot State about the situation of pandemic as conveyed by

the host authorities (Turkmenistan). Therefore, the Council may not specify the position of every single Member States, in this regard.

51. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mentioned that as per modalities, the Secretariat will extend the invitation to the Observers; however the host country is not obliged to extend any invitation to the Observer. The Secretariat does not do anything by itself; however, the Council authorizes the Secretariat. Therefore, the Council may authorize the Secretariat to respond to the Turkish Cypriot State accordingly.

52. While concluding the remarks on the invitation to the Observers, the Chair stated that the Secretariat may respond to the Turkish Cypriot State with reference to the position of host authorities (Turkmenistan) as earlier communicated with the Secretariat through its Note Verbale.

Agenda Item No. 3

Administration matters

Draft Budget proposal of ECO for the financial year 2022 (continued)

53. The Chair reminded that the proposed budget for the financial year 2022 was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ACC/Budget-2022/2021/1178 dated October 31, 2021. After discussion in previous CPR, the matter was referred to the next CPR session and the revised version of the Budget was circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat Note Verbale No. ACC/Budget-2022/2021/1265 dated November 16, 2021. He requested the Council to approve the draft budget proposal for the financial year 2022, which would be submitted to the 25th COM for its approval.

54. The Republic of Uzbekistan mentioned that with regard to draft budget, Uzbekistan Embassy has not received anything from its capital. However, Uzbekistan approves the draft budget proposal submitted by Secretariat for the financial year 2022.

55. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran mentioned that revised budget proposal is acceptable to the delegation of Iran and there is no objection from Iranian side on the revised version.

56. The representative of the Republic of Turkey while referring the deliberation in the previous meeting, he stated that Turkey has strong position using that GRF fund to cover the amount for the increase of budget for financial year 2022. Turkey supports ideas for utilizing the GRF fund to cover amount to be increased during the financial year 2022. Further he stated that in original proposal, the utilization amount was around 300,000 USD. However, revised version of budget proposal amount has declined to 185,000 USD. The Republic of Turkey supports to utilize the difference of amount from GRF fund as it may not affect contribution of any Member States.

57. The Chief Accountant while taking the floor thanked the participants and explained about using the General Reserve Fund (GRF). She mentioned that during the last session, there were different views for using GRF fund to cover the salaries and allowances. Some Member States were in agreement to utilize the GRF fund and the Republic of Turkey and some other Member States had some objections to utilize GRF Fund for the increase of salaries and allowances. After the meeting, the Secretariat in order to have combination with different ideas and views, with regard to find a best solution to reach the appropriate result, it was decided to allocate 185,000 USD from GRF fund for the increase of salaries and allowances, which was acceptable to all Member States. She added that under revised version of budget, the payable contribution of the Member States will be slightly increased in comparison with the draft budget which was already proposed.

58. The representative of the Republic of Turkey enquired reasoning the increase in contribution of Member States since the huge amount has accumulated in GRF Fund. The Secretariat would be quite generous to use this amount from GFR Fund. He mentioned that this is not recommendable also by the audit committee. The Republic of Turkey added that the proposed total amount (300,000USD) under the previous version of the draft budget may be utilized from GRF Fund and the Secretariat may not put the burden on the shoulders of Member States, given the fact that there exist enough fund in GRF.

59. The Chief Accountant briefed that in the last session, estimation of existing GRF was around 1 million US dollars. However, the GRF could be calculated at the end of the financial year to know the exact amount of GRF. While explaining for not-utilizing whole amount from GRF, she mentioned that there is some commitments of the Secretariat to accommodate unpaid contribution from Kazakhstan, which was decided in the last COM, will be covered from GRF Fund. Therefore, the Secretariat decided not to utilize all amount from GRF Fund for the increase of the budget for the year 2022.

60. The representative of Turkmenistan inquired whether the increase of the budget will affect the contribution of Iran, Pakistan & Turkey or all the Member States and requested the Secretariat to explain factual position on it.

61. The Chief Accountant mentioned that Iran, Pakistan & Turkey are paying more contributions to the Secretariat as compared to other Member States. Therefore, the Iran, Pakistan & Turkey will have to pay around 20,000 USD more under the revised version of budget which is right now before your in comparison with the draft budget considered in last CPR Meeting however the increase will be shown in the payable contribution of others proportionate to the percentage of their rate of contribution as set in Scale of Assessments.

62. The representative of the Republic of Turkey mentioned that last week GRF had enough capacity to utilize 300,000 USD for the increase of the salaries/allowances for financial year 2022. However, the revised budget has significant change as compared to

previous one. In the last CPR, the Secretariat had enough budget to cover all expenses of salaries and allowances from GRF fund whereas the Secretariat is asking Member States to pay more contributions i.e. 120,000 USD, that will be divided among all Member States according to their contribution share, which would be difficult for Member States to pay more contributions for the year 2022.

63. He further clarified that during the last CPR, the Secretariat proposed to utilize 300,000 USD from GRF Fund and would not put burden on the shoulders of Member States. The representative of Turkey while clarifying his position mentioning that in case, the previous proposal is not acceptable as submitted by the Secretariat that all amount will be covered from GRF Fund, the Republic of Turkey would not support to approve the budget and the matter may be referred to the COM for further deliberations on it.

The Legal Advisor made drew the attention of the Council on the fact that there exist other commitments which shall be met by utilization of GRF such as Small Size projects, end of service payments of staff, he added that exhaustion of GRF may result in high percentage increase in the budget of coming years.

64. The representative of the Islamic republic of Iran requested the Council that whole amount should not be covered from GRF Fund. However, the Iran is ready to accept the budget whether the whole amount is covered from GRF Fund for the increase salaries/allowances or otherwise. He mentioned that if there is no legal restrictions/binding, the Secretariat may utilize the GRF Fund for the said purpose.

65. The Republic of Turkey appreciated the views of the representative of Iran and mentioned that Turkey prefers that whole amount i.e. USD 300,000 should be covered from GRF Fund for the increase of salaries/allowances during the year 2022.

66. The representative of Turkmenistan inquired whether any change in salaries/allowances could affect the original contribution share of Member States as per new scale of assessment. He mentioned that the calculation should be taken into account before approval of budget. If there is any change in contribution share of Member States, it would create challenges for the Member States.

67. The Chief Accountant clarified that there is fixed percentage for each country as per scale of assessment, however the amount of share could be changed in case the budget is increased. The contribution amount of Member States could be increased or decreased based on the size of the budget. However, the scale of assessment for budget contribution is fixed. In case, if there is consensus with the proposal of Turkey on the draft budget which was distributed among the Member on November 16, 2021, the share of all Member States will be less, because the amount of budget for the Financial Year 2022 is less as compared to 2021.

68. The representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan stated that ECO region as well as the world are also facing pandemic situation. Almost all countries have limited/reduced their budgets, as they are spending huge amount on health sector. Their Embassies of the Republic of Uzbekistan's budget have also been decreased by its capital since the pandemic of Covid-19. He supported the ideas of the Republic of Turkey and requested that the budget may not be increased unless; the amount is covered from GRF Fund, as proposed earlier.

69. The representative of Republic of Turkey apprised that based on the deliberations, Turkey is of the view to approve the revised budget only using the GRF Fund with the original proposal, which would not affect the total amount of contribution of Member States. Furthermore, he requested the Secretariat to circulate the accumulated amount of GRF Fund at the end of year 2021.

70. While concluding the discussion on budget, the Council conveyed its concurrence on the use of 300,000 USD from GRF for the budget of the Financial year of 2022. . The Council requested the Secretariat to share draft budget proposal as per discussion of 259th CPR Meeting for its approval by SOM/COM.

Agenda Item No. 4 *Any other business*

71. Mr. Mirzayev, Director (EME) briefed the Council that according to the Calendar of Events 2021, the meeting to discuss the future of ECO LandCare Project is planned to be hosted by the Republic of Turkey on 14-16 December 2021. The host will cover accommodation and meals. Taking into account that the subject project is clearly supported by previous COM meetings and indicated in Vision 2025, EME asks Council for allocating budget from Special Support Fund to reimburse air ticket expense of one person for each member state and ECO-IEST Director.

72. On the query from the representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the number of participants, cost of their tickets and other expenses, as there is only 7,500 USD available in the SSF Fund. The Secretariat clarified that around 5,000 USD would be required to make the necessary arrangements for their air tickets of participants.

73. The Council approved the Secretariat's proposal to spend the amount from SSF Fund to meet the international flight expenses of the subject event.

74. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed that process for selection of ECO Award is underway and final nomination from Pakistan side will be submitted to the SOM Meeting.

75. The representative of the Republic of Turkey requested the Council for minor change in the agenda of 25th COM upon the agreement of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan conveyed its accord to change the title of agenda of 25th COM "Abandonment of practice of dividing ECO Member States into

"founders and "non-founders". The representative of the Republic of Turkey requested the Secretariat to write appropriate wording instead of "abandonment of practice" as per mutual consensus between Kazakhstan and Turkey.

76. The representative of Kyrgyz Republic inquired about the outcome of the ECO Awards, as the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic would share the information with its capital for making necessary arrangements well in advance.

77. The Chair clarified that Turkmenistan circulated information through its Note Verbale and suggested that the ECO Award will be provided to the Foreign Ministers or representative of the country. The Chair requested whether the Secretariat could provide the final list of nominees of the Member States.

78. The representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan also requested the Secretariat for provision of updated list and level of participants in the Summit as well as COM Meetings by today or tomorrow.

79. H.E. Secretary General briefed the Council that last Thursday, Secretariat had a bilateral virtual meeting with Deputy Chair of the Cabinet Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, it was discussed to consider the status of the Summit, COM and SOM. It was also considered to discuss the level of participation of the Member States. All Member States (except Afghanistan) have conveyed their confirmation for participation at the highest level. H.E. Secretary General expected that the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan might be participating in the august meeting. However, the level of participation from the Islamabad will be conveyed shortly.

80. H.E. Secretary General also briefed the Council that Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic Turkey have confirmed their participation at the Summit level. Further, he clarified that the Secretariat have received formal confirmation from the Republic of Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic and rest Member States have conveyed informal/verbal confirmations to the Secretariat for participation in the COM/SOM Meetings.

Agenda Item No. 5

Date of the next CPR Meeting

81. The next (260th) CPR Meeting will be held on November 21, 2021 at 1030 hours.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Abdul Ghani Farahi, Second Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Mr. Abbas Jabbarov, Consul
- Mr. Subhi Ismailzade, Third Secretary

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Sayed J. Alavi, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Senior Expert
- Ms. Shokoofeh Shadi, Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Turdakun Sydykov, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Akilbek Kilichev, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Mian Azmat Farooq, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Salohiddin Ismoilov, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- Mr. Mehmet Zahit Uzun, Counsellor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Kemal Atayev, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullayev, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General
- Mr. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Dr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, Director EME
- Ms. Golchin Mozghan, Chief Accountant
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Shahzado Lund Baloch, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Chaudhry Hadees Muhammad, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Saida Armina, Programme Officer (T&C)