



**33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the  
ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

**Report**

**January 16-19, 2023  
(Hybrid)**

## Event's Report

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) was held on January 16-19, 2023. The event organized in hybrid mode was chaired by the Republic of Azerbaijan as the ECO Chair for 2023. Within the framework of RPC, the relevant sectoral committees met to discuss and consider their specific areas for making appropriate recommendations to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of RPC regarding the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2023.

2. The Delegations of the Member States, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meetings. The Representatives of the Turkish Cypriot State attended the Meeting as an ECO Observer. The concerned staff of the Secretariat headed by ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri also participated in the event. Moreover, the Representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies attended the Meeting. Annexure-I contains the list of participants.

### Plenary Session

#### **Agenda Item No.1**

##### i. Opening remarks

3. The ECO Secretary General welcomed the participants and delivered a comprehensive statement to brief the Council on ECO activities and programs. He highlighted the role of RPC and importance of the meeting that is entrusted to analyze and evaluate the current activities of the Organization as well as mandated to consider and develop some new projects and programs within the cooperative frameworks of the ECO, specifically Vision 2025. He stressed that the preparation of annual ECO Work Programmes and Calendar of Events is the most significant task of RPC as the documents provide roadmap to ECO for continuing its regional activities and engagements.

4. While recalling the year 2023 proclaimed as the year of "Green Transition and Interconnectivity" he re-felicitated the Republic of Azerbaijan for assuming ECO Chairmanship on January 1, 2023. The Secretary General emphasized that despite the post-COVID's inconducive working conditions, the Organization successfully managed the organization of various events in 2022. Within this context referring the in adequate number of participations, he requested the Member States actively participate in all ECO events and activities to support the Organization in maintaining effectiveness, efficiency and progress. Annexure-II contains his complete statement.

##### ii. Election of the Chairman

5. As per ECO's rules and procedures, Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Special Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affair of the Republic of Azerbaijan was elected to inaugurate and chair the Plenary Session of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of RPC.

6. The Chair welcomed the delegations and thanked them for their active participation in the meeting. While announcing the formation of Sectoral Committees and naming their Chairs, he expected that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the RPC would yield productive outcomes to help the Organization for making further advancements.

7. Addressing the Council, the Chair acknowledged the importance of activities carried out for maintaining the regional development process under the Chairmanship of Uzbekistan in 2022, and the country's brilliant proposal that proclaimed the 2022 as the "Year of Strengthening Connectivity" in the region. Furthermore, he recalled the Azerbaijan's theme of Chairmanship that declared the 2023 as the year of "Green Transition and Interconnectivity" based on the targets set forth in the ECO Vision 2025. In this regard, he informed that Azerbaijan's priorities, including green transition and interconnectivity would be considered within comprehensive and coordinated regional context with a view to strengthening synergies among the Member States in line with their national priorities. Annexure-II contains his complete statement.

iii. Adoption of the Agenda

8. As proposed, the Council considered the agenda of its meeting and adopted the same with consensus.

**Agenda Item No. 2**

Statements by the Heads of Delegations on the Implementation of the Decisions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> RPC

i. Heads of Delegations of ECO Member States

9. The Heads of delegation of the ECO Member States delivered their statements in alphabetical order. While outlining their national programs, policies and views in relation to the activities of the Organization, they updated the Council on the current status and progress regarding implementation of the sector-wise recommendations made by 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the RPC. Annexure-II contains their complete statements.

ii. ECO Observers

10. The Head of delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered Statements as ECO Observer. Annexure-II contains their complete statements.

iii. Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies

11. The Heads of delegation of the ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies also made statements. Their presentations featured some important institutional engagements and activities in special relation

to the ECO and particularly based on the conclusions of 32<sup>nd</sup> and earlier RPC Meetings. Annexure-II contains their complete statements.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

Presentation of the National Statistical Reports and Review of the progress of implementation of the ECO approved programmes/projects/events and consideration of new programmes/projects/events for the year 2023 to be proposed in the following Sectoral Committees:

12. The Meetings of the Sectoral Committees were chaired by delegates of the Member States as per following details:

S#	Sectoral Committee	Name of the Chair and Designation	Department	Country
1.	Trade & Investment	Dr. Muhammad Adnan, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Commerce	Pakistan
2.	Transport and Communications	Mr. Nurullo Bulbulov, Special Envoy	Ministry of Transport	Tajikistan
3.	Energy, Minerals and Environment	Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Special Envoy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Azerbaijan
4.	Agriculture & Industry	Mr. Ali Kiyani Rad, Head of the Research Institute for Planning Agricultural Economics and Rural Development	Ministry of Agriculture Jihad	Iran
5.	Tourism	Mr. Mahammad Muradov, Head	Tourism Policy and Strategy Department	Azerbaijan
6.	Human Resources & Sustainable Development	Mr. Erhan SIRT, Head Multilateral Development Cooperation Department	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye
7.	Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and EAPA	Dr. Hamidreza Raeapour Tehrani, Director	International Law Department, Drug Control Headquarters	Iran
8.	ECO Regional Institutions/ Specialized Agencies/ Affiliated Bodies International Relations	Mr. Erhan SIRT, Head Multilateral Development Cooperation Department	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye
9.	Economic Research and Statistics	Mr. Erhan SIRT, Head Multilateral Development Cooperation Department	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye

13. While making deliberations on the ECO Work Program and Calendar of Events 2023, the Representatives of the Member States briefed about their national activities and statistics within the scope and framework of ECO. The Sectoral Committees also reviewed the status and progress of ECO activities, as well as finalized their respective Work Programs and Calendar of Events for 2023.

**Agenda Item No. 4**  
Endorsement of the Draft Outcomes

i. Annual Work Programme- 2023

14. The Council mulled over the recommendations of Sectoral Committees on ECO Work Programme – 2023 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). Annexure-III of the report contains the ECO Work Program 2023.

ii. Calendar of Events- 2023

15. The Council reviewed the recommendations of Sectoral Committees on ECO Calendar of Events – 2023 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). Annexure-III of the report contains the ECO Calendar of Events – 2023.

16. As per rule 32 of the ECO Rules of Procedure which specifies that all ECO Meetings shall be held in the ECO Secretariat, the Council requested the CPR to develop funding mechanism to help Secretariat host all the meetings included in the Calendar of Events 2023 in the absence of any host.

**Agenda Item No. 5**  
Any other business

17. The Council requested the CPR to consider the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for setting up the ‘Permanent Standing Committees’ based on the Concept Note to be prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and feedbacks from the Member States thereupon.

**Agenda Item No. 6**  
Date and venue of the next Meeting

18. The Council decided that the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RPC will be held in September/October 2023 before the next COM Meeting. It was concluded that the next RPC Meeting will be held at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, if no Member State appear to volunteer the hosting of the event.

**Agenda Item No. 7**  
Adoption of the Report of 33<sup>rd</sup> RPC Meeting

19. The Council unanimously adopted its report along with the outcomes of the event.

**Agenda Item No. 8**  
Closing

20. In conclusive moments of the Meeting, the Council extended gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan for chairing the event in an efficient and effective way.

Moreover, the Council felicitated all the Sectoral Committees and their respective Chairs for successful accomplishment of their tasks and targets.

21. Besides, the Council commended the efforts and valuable contribution of the ECO Secretary General and the members of his staff for the preparation of required working papers, provision of assistance to facilitate the working of the Sectoral Committees as well as making arrangements to ensure successful organization of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of RPC.

22. The ECO Secretary General also thanked all the Heads and Members of Delegations for their dedication and support to successfully finalize the ECO Work Program and Calendar of Events - 2023. Noting the emerging challenges that appear to impede national, regional and global progress, he stated that the ECO will look after the collective interest of the region with continued support and patronage of the Member States.

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