



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

**272nd Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

Report

January 11, 2023
ECO Secretariat

Report

The 272nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of 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 **Türkiye**, **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. In his opening remarks, the **ECO Secretary General** thanked the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullayev for his excellent chairmanship and management of CPR during 2022, commending the Uzbekistan's luminous initiatives to support the agenda of the Organization, including the declaration of 2022 as the "Year of Strengthening Connectivity" in the region. He also expressed his pleasure to welcome the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Iran H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada as the new Chairman of CPR, congratulating Azerbaijan to assume ECO Chairmanship for 2023 under the inspiring concept that declares 2023 as the "Year of Green Transition and Interconnectivity". Recalling that this is last CPR event before the 26th Meeting of the COM, he requested and encouraged all Member States to ensure their minister-level participation in the event with a view to ensuring some tangible decision-making for supporting the future activities of the Organization.

3. Taking over the Chairmanship of the Council, Ambassador Alizada initiated the formal proceeding of the meeting and welcomed the distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Member States. He noted that it was an honour and privilege for Azerbaijan to assume this important responsibility and lead the Organization. He extended sincere gratitude to all ECO Member States for supporting the concept of their chairmanship, declaring 2023 as the "Year of Green Transition and Interconnectivity". The Republic of Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the ECO from the very beginning of its independence and joining the Organization, the Chair conveyed. He reiterated Azerbaijan's ambition and desire for nourishing the ECO through their all-inclusive cooperation aimed at facilitating the continued progress and betterment of the region. He commended his predecessor, particularly for his significant role to strengthen ECO efforts for expanded cooperation amongst the Member States. He also acknowledged the contribution of ECO Secretary General and his staff for their relentless support to the Member States.

4. The ECO Permanent Representatives and Representatives also congratulated the Republic of Azerbaijan for assuming the Chairmanship and welcomed Ambassador Alizada as new Chairman of the CPR.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The **Council** adopted the following Agenda of the 272nd CPR Meeting for deliberation:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 272nd CPR Meeting

2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 271st CPR Meeting
3. Preparation for the 26th COM Meeting (*continued*)
 - Finalization of the Draft Agenda of 26th COM Meeting
 - Report of the Preparatory Committee
4. Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
5. Any other business.
6. Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 271st CPR Meeting

6. The **Council** adopted the draft Report of the 271st CPR Meeting circulated to the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/CPR/271st Meeting/2022/1755 dated December 22, 2022.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparation for the 26th COM Meeting(continued)

- Finalization of the Draft Agenda of 26th COM Meeting

- Report of Preparatory Committee

7. The Council revisited the status of preparation of 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), reviewing the Drafts Agenda Communiqué of the next COM.

8. The Chairman of the PrepCOM briefed on the progress and developments made during their 9th interaction held on January 9, 2023. Referring the proposal of the Republic of Türkiye to arrange the next Meeting of the COM on January 23-24, 2023 instead of previously agreed dates i.e. January 24-25, 2023, he conveyed concurrence of the host side in this regard subject to the consensus of other Member States. He reiterated the position of Uzbekistan regarding participation of ECO Observers in the COM Meeting without the right of statements. In this regard, he referred Article 5 of the relevant ECO Modalities that, he interpreted, authorizes the host/Chair to grant such a right to ECO Observers or otherwise. Based on the discussions of the 9th PrepCOM and the firm stance of Uzbekistan, he insisted on omission of "Statements by ECO Observers" from the Agenda of the COM's Meeting.

9. The Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** further stated that based on his informal information, Uzbekistan side would offer hospitality to the participating delegations as per following format:

- SOM - 1+2 - 3 nights for Member States
- COM - 1+1 - 2 nights for Member States
- SOM/COM - 1 - 2 nights for ECO Specialized Agencies/ Affiliated Bodies

10. While conveying that some Member States have confirmed their participations, the Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** requested the remaining Member States to also expedite confirmations of their participation in the next COM Meeting along with particulars of their delegations.

11. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** emphasized on early finalization of the COM dates to avoid any further ambiguity and seeking repeated convenience of the honourable Ministers. Regarding Article 5 of the relevant ECO Modalities, he clarified that there was no such provision in the Modalities that prohibits delivery of statements by ECO Observers. However, he mentioned that the interpretation made by Uzbek side on the said Modalities was related to only sectoral ministerial meetings. In addition, he proposed the inauguration of the COM Meeting by the highest leadership of the host country. Moreover, he sought the number of confirmed minister-level participations in the event as per new as well as previous dates.

12. The **ECO Secretary General**, responding to the query raised by Iranian side, informed that the number of minister-level participation stands at 5 for previously agreed dates of the COM Meeting, while the number of confirmed ministerial level participation as per newly proposed dates of the event is 6, including Türkiye.

13. The Representative of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** stated that the new dates of the COM Meeting proposed by Türkiye were already conveyed to the relevant authorities in Astana, adding that their response will be shared soon on receipt.

14. The Permanent Representative of the **Kyrgyz Republic** apprised that the confirmation from their side was awaited on the new dates of the COM event. Moreover, he said that his country's proposals on draft Tashkent Communiqué were also expected that would be shared in due course.

15. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, while referring that the relevant authorities in Pakistan are engaged in issues of climate change and the relevant UN Conference, conveyed that their authorities' confirmation on the new dates of the COM Meeting was still awaited. She said that the same would be shared as soon as received.

16. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of **Tajikistan** expressed concurrence over the new dates of the COM event. However, he discouraged sudden changes in the already scheduled events with a view to avoiding any added financial repercussions.

17. The Permanent Representative of **Turkmenistan** also expressed no objection to the new dates of the COM Meeting, stating that a formal confirmation was required from their capital in this regard.

18. The Representative of the Republic of **Türkiye** expressed appreciation over the acceptance of new dates of COM Meeting by majority of the Member States. Regarding participation of ECO Observers, he stood firm on their position regarding right of statements by ECO Observers based on the past practice and relevant ECO Modalities.

He requested the host side to re-consider their decision to this end in special consideration of ECO approach that is aimed at enhancing the Organization's visibility.

19. The **ECO Secretary General** informed that during his telephonic conversation with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, it was established that the Uzbek side had no objection on the new dates of the meeting. However, their telecommunication noted the financial implications for the Member States due to the rescheduling of the event, he said.

20. The **Legal Advisor** recalled that based on the ECO Rules of Procedure, the draft Agenda of the Meeting is required to be issued at least six weeks before the event, noting that due to the non-finalization of the dates the same is yet to be circulated.

21. Given the consensus established amongst the majority of the Member States, the **Council** agreed with the new dates for organizing the 26th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM) in Tashkent on **January 23-24, 2023** instead of previously agreed dates i.e. January 24-25, 2023, encouraging the Member States to expedite confirmations of their ministerial level participation in the meeting.

22. The **Council** also considered the nomination of Ambassador Jandos Asanov received from the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding his re-appointment as Deputy Secretary General for Tourism, Project Management, JPC & EAPA (Category-I, D3) for another full term of three years. The Council approved the received nomination for inclusion in the agenda of the 26th COM Meeting.

23. Moreover, the **Council** mulled over the proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding amendment in Article-IX of the Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center. Looking into the views of the Permanent Representative of **Iran** regarding the amendment proposed by Azerbaijan in Article-IX of the Charter of ECO Clean Energy Center and the response of the **Legal Advisor** made thereon, the **Council** agreed on the amendment proposed by Azerbaijan to be included as a separate item in the Draft Agenda of the 26th COM Meeting.

24. On query raised by **Kazakhstan side** regarding circulation of documents to be considered for signatures under the Treaty Events, the **Legal Advisor** conveyed that the said documents were already circulated amongst the Member States. He, however, assured that the same would be re-circulated at an early date for convenience of the Member States.

25. Having gone through the Draft Agenda and Draft Tashkent Communiqué of the COM, along with the proposals of the Member States thereon, as well as making some amendments in the document (s) based on the changes proposed by Member States, the **Council** concluded that the revised versions of the Draft Agenda and Draft Tashkent Communiqué (**track-change and clean**) of the 26th COM Meeting as agreed upon during the meeting may be circulated for further consideration of the Member States during Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

Agenda Item No.4

Administrative and budgetary matters

26. As per conclusion reached at the 271st CPR, the ECO Secretary General, while referring his formal letter addressed to the Honourable Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, encouraged the Kazakhstan side to join the consensus during the upcoming SOM/COM as to the minimum use of GRF to cover part of contributions of the Member States for ECO budget 2023.

Recommendations of the Selection Panel

27. The Selection Panel met on January 11, 2023. The Meeting was coordinated by Ambassador Seyed Mohsen Esperi, ECO Deputy Secretary General for TI and AI and chaired by Mr. Subhi Ismailzadeh, the Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Türkiye and Republic of Uzbekistan.

28. The Selection Panel made the following recommendation(s) for consideration by the CPR:

Desk Officer (Category-II, P1)

29. Mr. Naimatullah (**Pakistan National**) may be appointed for a full term of four (04) years to be effective from the date of joining at the Secretariat in place of Mr. Farman Ali, who would complete his existing term of service on June 29, 2023.

30. The Selection Panel also recommended that Mr. Farman Ali, the incumbent Desk Officer may also be allowed to continue his services till the arrival of his successor from Pakistan to properly handing/taking over the record of the concerned division, enabling his successor to follow up the future tasks in an appropriate manner.

31. The **Council** agreed and approved the above recommendations of the Selection Panel.

Agenda Item No.5

Any other Business

32. The Chair and the ECO Secretary General as well as the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the Member States to convey expeditious response with regard to the participation of their Honourable Foreign Ministers in the upcoming Meeting of the COM.

Agenda Item No.6

Date of the next CPR Meeting

33. It was decided that the next (273rd) CPR will be held on February 27, 2023.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Abdul Ghani Farahi, Second Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizade, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Subhilsamayizada, Third Secretary

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

- H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Sydykov Turdakun, **Permanent Representative.**

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mrs. Zaib Tayab Abbasi, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmad Shami, Counselor

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, **Permanent Representative**

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- Mr. Emirhan Yorulmazlar, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kemal Atayev, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Amb. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General
- Amb. Seyed Mohsen Esperi, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser.