



Annexure - III

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

## **ECO Work Programme 2023**

*January 16-19, 2023*

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
<b>A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT</b>		
1.	<p>The Council appreciated the confirmation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy preceded by the SOM in 2023 which could not been held in 2022 due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to initiate preparations for the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>The Council took note of the fact that the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) has not taken place in 2022. The Council profoundly thanked the Republic of Türkiye for their offer to host the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) during 2023.</p> <p>The Council, accordingly requested the Republic of Türkiye to announce exact dates, venue, the preferred mode and hospitality details of the meeting at the earliest convenience in 2023. The Council further observed that the delay in hosting the Ministerial Meeting has contributed to the unsatisfactory level of progress on various ECO initiatives and activities in increase in trade by implementing preferential trade, trade facilitation through customs cooperation, payment systems and trade promotion through private sector cooperation, simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen etc.</p>	
3.	<p>The Council recalled that the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) established two Joint Working Groups (JWGs) for the following:</p> <p>i) Establishment of Joint Working Group to finalize the Multi-Dimensional Regional Trade and Investment Strategy as well as an Action Plan defining the role, responsibilities and timeframe for launching promotional activities by the relevant organizations for the ultimate goal of creating a Free Trade Area in the ECO region.</p> <p>ii) Establishment of a Joint Working Group for preparing a draft ECO Trade Facilitation</p>	

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	<p>Agreement aimed at simplification of Customs Procedures, harmonizing transit trade mechanisms and putting in place transparent customs regulatory regimes.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the draft paper on ECO-MDTIS was circulated by the Secretariat, among Member States. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan have shared their views/comments. The Council requested Member States to expedite sharing their views/comments on the draft paper on Road Map on Multidimensional Regional Trade and Investment Strategy to pave way to realize the goal of Free Trade Area along with an Action Plan on defining role, responsibilities and timeframe for establishment of Free Trade Area in the ECO.</p> <p>The Council further requested the Membership to share their nominations for holding the 1st JWG Meeting to finalize “Trade and Investment Strategy” and to conduct “Preliminary Study on the Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area” along preferably before the forthcoming 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade.</p>	
4.	<p>The Secretariat further informed the Council that a comprehensive paper, titled “Draft ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy” was prepared by the Republic of Türkiye in 2017 and circulated by the Secretariat for soliciting comments. The same was re-circulated among Member States to obtain their views, in 2020. So far the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan have provided their views/comments.</p> <p>The Council was informed that the Secretariat circulated the draft Agenda and other relevant details for holding the 1<sup>st</sup> JWG Meeting to negotiate “Draft Trade Facilitation Strategy” and a ‘Trade Facilitation Agreement’ along with the relevant comments/views. However, it could not be held due to lack of confirmation from Member States. The Republic of Türkiye agreed to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting in April 2023.</p>	
5.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for organizing the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting in May 2023 in physical mode.</p>	

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	<p>After organizing the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting, the Republic of Türkiye proposed to host the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade to be preceded by a Senior Officials Group Meeting.</p> <p>The Council urged Member States to effectuate ECOTA provisions with a view to achieving more liberalized trade in the region through implementing tariff concessions, eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), improving trade facilitation and harmonizing regulations. The Council requested ECOTA Signatory States to share their views/comments on the working paper and agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting already circulated by the Secretariat.</p>	
6.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the report of the research study, titled "<i>Impediments in Implementation of ECO's Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve</i>" was shared with the ECOTA Signatory States for their views/comments.</p> <p>Only the views/comments from Islamic Republic of Afghanistan could be received, and have been circulated to Member States. The Council requested ECOTA Parties to assess the scenarios presented by the Secretariat in the aforesaid research study, which was much appreciated by the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy. The Council reiterated that all proposals may be discussed in the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council with a view to bring it to the table for discussion and adoption in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade.</p>	
7.	<p>The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat for following up and noting the importance of completing all legal and procedural requirements for the implementation of ECOTA.</p> <p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan to complete all pending legal and procedural requirements including the submission of all the three product lists by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the ratification of the Annexes to ECOTA and the submission of pending product list by the Republic of Tajikistan to pave the way towards effective implementation of the Agreement.</p>	

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8.	The Council recommended that other ECO Member States, not a party to the ECOTA and the ECO CCI could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers.	
9.	The Council suggested that the next ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting should deliberate the expansion of the scope of ECOTA to a Free Trade Agreement, as mandated in the ECO Vision 2025.	
10.	The Council requested the volunteer Member States to consider hosting the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum in 2023. The Council further urged Member States to ensure their participation once the schedule of the meeting is announced.	
11.	<p>The Council recalled that the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Experts of Tax Administration, 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"> <li>a) The Charter for Establishment of ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX);</li> <li>b) ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters; and,</li> <li>c) Agreement on the Exchange of Information in Tax Matters.</li> </ul> <p>The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration once it receives feedback on three basic draft documents in 2023, and requested the Member States to provide the required feedbacks promptly enabling the Secretariat to host the meeting</p> <p>The Council requested the Secretariat to organize a preliminary discussion meeting to review the draft agreements by holding a virtual meeting before the main event. Member States have been requested to confirm their participations in both the meetings, which is kindly awaited. Meanwhile, views/comments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have been received. The</p>	

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	Republic of Kazakhstan has not expressed any interest in joining the agreements.	
12.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) in May 2023 and the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) in April 2023.</p> <p>The Council kindly requested the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Türkiye to communicate the mode, date and venue of the meetings. With a view to facilitate the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Türkiye to set the meeting dates, the Council urged Member States to confirm their participation in advance so that the postponed event could finally be organized in 2023.</p>	
13.	<p>The Council took note of the fact that the draft text of “<i>the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters</i>” was finalized in the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) in 2017. This adopted final draft text was circulated among 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.</p> <p>The Council kindly requested Member States for early completion of their formalities and internal governmental processes.</p>	
14.	<p>The Council requested Member States to support each other on customs matters through providing a set of relevant trainings and capacity building activities, and to inform the Secretariat so as to conduct trainings on need basis.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Türkiye for organizing training courses on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), Single Window, Implementation of TIR system, simplified procedures on expedited shipments and implementation of customs enforcement matters in return of any request made by the Member States.</p>	

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	<p>The Council requested the interested Member States to provide their needs on relevant capacity building/training courses with the Secretariat.</p>	
15.	<p>The Council was informed that “<i>ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank</i>” under “<i>the Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</i>” entered into force in December, 2017 to increase governmental revenues of Member States by preventing pilferages. In order to make it operational, Member States, signatory to the Agreement; were requested to kindly take the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> </ol> <p>The Council stressed 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>	
16.	<p>The Council was informed that the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye have shared their nominations for the Working Group recommended by “the 1<sup>st</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Banking and Financial Matters and Forming of ECO Clearing Union”.</p> <p>The Council again requested the remaining Member States to provide their nominations in order to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of <i>Working Group of the Central Banks on ECO Clearing Union (ECU)</i> and present its recommendations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> <i>Experts Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters of ECO and Forming ECO Clearing Union</i> in 2023.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of</p>	

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	<i>Working Group of Central Banks on ECO Clearing Union (ECU) in third quarter of 2023.</i>	
17.	The Council appreciated the project titled “ <i>ECO Regional Payment System (ERPS) Feasibility Study Phase-I</i> ”. The Council requested Member States (except Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran) to share their comments on the report of the study with the Secretariat and actively participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Banking, Finance and the ECU.	
18.	<p>The ECO Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Türkiye has deposited the original copy of the Instrument of “<i>the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI)</i>”. The Agreement has come into force after the deposit of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instrument of Ratification as per Article 12 of APPI. However, the formality regarding the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification is yet to be deposited by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will deposit the <i>original</i> Instrument of Ratification to the Secretariat at the earliest date.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for depositing the Instrument of Ratification and 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.</p>	
19.	The Council appreciated the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to form an Investment Promotion Committee or Working Group in solving issues about investment, and devising an MoU for furthering cooperation after the signature of APPI.	
20.	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: " <a href="http://www.eco.int/trade">www.eco.int/trade</a> ". The Secretariat further informed the Council that upon the request of the Secretariat, the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) had circulated a request among the National Chambers of Commerce of the Member States for providing	



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	<p><b>updated</b> information about importers and exporters in the ECO Region. So far, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Kazakhstan have conveyed updated information to the Secretariat in this regard.</p> <p>The Council requested other Member States also to share their updated company information through their National Chambers at the earliest.</p>	
21.	<p>The Secretariat suggested that the Secretariat may work with Member States and their National Chambers to make <i>“the ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal”</i> more productive and beneficial for economic operators in the region.</p> <p>The Secretariat also proposed regular update of relevant information on focal points to be presented on the web portal. The Council appreciated the suggestion of the Secretariat and called upon Member States to designate and if necessary, update 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.</p>	
22.	<p>The Council appreciated the project titled, <i>“Study on Preparation of the Guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the Establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones”</i>.</p> <p>The Council requested the interested Member States to convey their willingness to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of ECO Member States in preferred mode in 2023.</p>	
23.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that detailed TORs for <i>“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”</i> were prepared by the Secretariat and the services of a specialist will be hired as per rules.</p> <p>The Council requested the Secretariat to follow-up for conducting the aforesaid study and share the outcome of the study with Member States for their views. The Council requested</p>	

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	<p>Member States to implement the decisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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.</p>	
24.	<p>The Secretariat appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SW/NDF preceded by Experts Group Meeting of the ECO Member States in 2023.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the TORs for the project titled “<i>Study on Preparation of the Road-Map for Formulating a Comprehensive Plan among the Sovereign and National Development Funds of Member States</i>” has been finalized, and a specialist has been hired to conduct the study. The report of the study will be communicated once finalized by the specialist.</p>	
25.	<p>The Secretariat informed that the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of the Commodity Exchange of ECO Member States was offered to all Member States for hosting in 2022, however, could not be held.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that it is seeking nominations from Member States to host the meeting. 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>	
26.	<p>The Council took note of the medium-sized project proposal that will be pursued with UNIDO and the IsDB in 2023. The Council appreciated the proposal of the Secretariat to allocate some seed money through the Secretariat funds, as a medium-sized project to follow-up the matter with the UNIDO and IsDB for funding.</p>	
27.	<p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum in the third quarter of 2023. The Islamic Republic of</p>	

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	<p>Pakistan kindly indicated their readiness to consider hosting the said event and informing the Secretariat through diplomatic channel, then the Council requested the Secretariat to host the event in case of no volunteers. The Council requested other Member States to ensure participation of their Trade Promotion Organizations in 2023.</p> <p>The Council stressed urgent actions to be taken towards the implementation of the decisions of the previous meetings particularly on the draft <i>“ECO Agreement on Joint Trade Promotional Activities”</i>.</p>	
28.	<p>The Council took note of the project titled <i>“Trade Promotion and Strengthening Cooperation amongst Public and Private Sectors in the ECO Region”</i>.</p> <p>The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to initiate a 2-year renewable project worth US\$ 50,000/-, to be provided by the Secretariat from its budget (as was done in the past for the project titled <i>“expanding intra-regional trade”</i>). Project Management Group (PMG) meeting in November 2019 decided to make a project for holding Business Forum which could not be held in 2020 as planned on the sideline of the ECO Summit Meeting. However, the 4th Business Forum of the ECO Member States was held in hybrid format on 26th November 2021 in Ashgabat.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council requested Member States to offer their views on the said project at their earliest convenience. The Council acknowledged that these activities will foster private sector cooperation in the region in coordination with ECO-CCI.</p>	
29.	<p>The Council recalled that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Trade Fair could not be organized yet. Accordingly, the Council requested Member States for early hosting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Trade Fair in 2023.</p>	
30.	<p>The Council recommended ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) in coordination with ECO-CCI to push for early organizing the trade fairs and exhibitions as mandated by ECO Vision-2025.</p>	

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	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.	
31.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host ECO Trade Exhibition, namely “ECO-RAF” in Yazd which could not be held. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold this Exhibition in 2023. 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.</p> <p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide exact date of this event.</p>	
32.	Recalling the decisions of the 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> RPC meeting the ECO-CCI informed that ECO-ASEAN Joint Business Forum and ECO-SAARC Joint Business Forum will be considered in 2023 with the aim of strengthening inter-regional trade. The Council noted that the matter is pending for long, and requested the ECO-CCI to provide an update regarding the ECO-ASEAN Joint Business Forum and the ECO-SAARC ‘Joint Business Forum.’	
33.	The Council was informed that the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 submitted its study report, which has been subsequently shared with Member States in 2020. However, no comments have been received from Member States yet. The Council requested Member States to give their views on the report of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase of the PIDE study.	
34.	The Council requested the remaining Member States who have not joined ECO-TDB to join this important regional financial institution. The Council encouraged the ECO-TDB, 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.	
35.	The Council requested ECO-TDB to initiate arranging the 1 <sup>st</sup> Regional Partnership Forum (RPF) in 2023 in coordination with the ECO Secretariat, and requested Member States to volunteer to host this event in 2023.	

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36.	The Council requested the non-ECO-TDB Members to commence their membership process so that the membership of the Bank could be expanded.	
37.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that fresh nominations for the General Assembly (GA) of the ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC) have been received from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Pakistan had informed that prior to holding the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly of ERC, it was imperative that the required ground work and formalities, including release/transfer of paid-in capital of ECO-ERC, should be completed to make it more successful and result-oriented. The Council was informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has conveyed its readiness to transfer its contribution in paid-in capital.</p> <p>The Council recommended Contracting Parties to share their views for the transfer of paid-in capital contributions to ECO-ERC. The Council noted that with a view to accelerating commercial activities in the region, completion of all such procedures may be expedited to operationalize the ERC in 2023.</p>	
38.	The Council invited 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.	
39.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for virtually hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in 2022.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the confirmation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities on 11-12 June 2023 in physical mode providing accommodation and local hospitality for 2 representatives from each ECO Member State. The Council appreciated that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan notified their focal points, and requested remaining Member States to share their focal point</p>	

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	details as well.	
40.	<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, to initiate cooperation with UNCTAD in preparing and publishing “<i>The Investment Policy Review (IPR) of the Member States of ECO Region</i>”.</p> <p>The Council recommended the Secretariat to complete the investment policy details from all Member States before initiating work on the proposal – recalling that such information has so far been received from 5 Member States, i.e. the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Turkmenistan.</p>	
41.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that UNCTAD has been approached to conduct the IPR of the ECO Region. A draft Project Concept Paper to this effect has been prepared, and is still under consideration, in particular, for the required funding for initiating the IPR project. The council tasked the Secretariat to pursue the project with UNCTAD to complete the IPR of the ECO region.</p>	
42.	<p>The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy in Tehran, the Republic of Tajikistan was designated as the coordinating country for ECO initiatives on investment.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to volunteer for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Investment Conference and tasked the Secretariat to pursue collaboration with IsDB for funding to host the event.</p>	
43.	<p>The Council recommended that “<i>the ECO Special Business Forum</i>” may be held physically in 2023 after significant improvements in the pandemic situation. The Secretariat will communicate with Member States for hosting this Forum and will inform accordingly through diplomatic channels.</p>	
44.	<p>The Council urged Member States to coordinate with their National Chambers / private sector bodies for the timely confirmation of their participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum</p>	

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	scheduled to be held in 2023.	
45.	The Council thanked the ECO-CCI for holding <i>Executive Committee &amp; Specialized Committees Meetings</i> virtually on March 7, 2022. 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.	
46.	<p>The Council appreciated the Secretariat for virtually hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group of Expert on Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) on July 19, 2022. The Secretariat informed the Council that the following are awaited from Member States:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A proforma for input along with the report of the Meeting for provision of information on exchange of data elements in Member States.</li> <li>2. The Republic of Azerbaijan to provide the details about work flow of the existing system for circulation among the Member States to solicit their comments and drafting conclusive recommendations before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting.</li> </ol> <p>The Council requested the Secretariat to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting of the Experts to finalize data elements, draft documents and recommendations, etc. The Council also requested Member States to provide the details of data element on the said proforma, share their Focal Points at their earliest convenience. The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to kindly provide the related information.</p>	
47.	The Council requested Member States, which have not signed or ratified " <i>the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen</i> " and " <i>the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States</i> " to sign and ratify for early implementation of the Agreement.	
48.	The Council took note of the draft project document titled " <i>Study on Impediments in Issuance of ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region for Greater Collaboration between the Business Communities in the ECO Region</i> ".	

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	<p>The Secretariat recalled that the 32<sup>nd</sup> RPC instructed the Secretariat to pursue the matter to initiate the study on <i>“Impediments in Issuance of ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region for Greater Collaboration between the Business Communities in the ECO Region”</i> on the lines of such schemes in other regions like SAARC etc. The study project was circulated among Member States in July 2022 for soliciting their views with special consideration to the demand of business communities in the region, and the need for a legal framework to regulate the scheme.</p> <p>However, the Republic of Azerbaijan has informed that the existing system of visa issuance and facilitation is sufficient to cater the needs of visa facilitation. The Republic of Tajikistan has conveyed that they have visa-free regime for five (5) ECO Member States, and has started simplified procedure for the rest 3 out of total 9 ECO Member States as of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.</p>	
49.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that based on the proposal of 267<sup>th</sup> CPR, the Council tasked the Secretariat may devise <i>“a Questionnaire on Business Visa Sticker Scheme for Businessmen of the ECO Region”</i>, and circulate among Member States to get their input as pursuing the study project will take substantial time. Further, the Secretariat was requested to subsequently host a meeting of the stakeholders, in virtual mode, to discuss the input in the matter.</p> <p>The Secretariat requested the ECO-CCI to prepare a detailed account of the problems and bottlenecks being faced by the business community in visa issuance and facilitation. The Secretariat has prepared and shared the draft questionnaire with Member States, requesting Member States and ECO-CCI to share their views on the questionnaire, status of Agreements and provide nominations for the virtual meeting. The reply of Member States and ECO-CCI is awaited.</p> <p>The Secretariat is coordinating with the Visa Counselors and relevant authorities of the Member States to seek their input/proposals on the proposed project for pursuing the project in 2023, accordingly.</p>	



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<b>B. SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
1.	The <b>Council</b> 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.	
2.	The <b>Council</b> stressed the need for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery in the transport sector following the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent developments and in this connection, reaffirmed the importance of regional and international transport cooperation and underlined the concrete collaborative initiatives on sustainable freight and transport connectivity for ensuring efficient and resilient supply chains.	
3.	The <b>Council</b> reaffirmed its support for development of the regional transport networks and considered it necessary to boost efforts in order to further enhance regional and interregional transport connectivity for the economic growth of the region.	
4.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to enhance collaboration with the relevant international organizations among others in priority areas i.e. urban transport, electronic data exchange, digitalization of customs and transport documents, low emission transport, transport safety, harmonization, commercialization, corridor management mechanism and exchange of best practices to ensure sustainability of transport in the region.	
5.	The Council stressed the importance of joint efforts by the ECO Member States aimed at eliminating bottlenecks and missing transport links as well as supporting the development of new/emerging transport communication in the region.	
<b>I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: TTFA</b> <b>Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)</b>		
6.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to fully implement the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) along with all its annexes, and also fulfill their commitments / proceedings as per the provisions of TTFA.	

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7.	In line with implementation of TTFA, the Council agreed to conclude an MOU “On Multimodal Transport”. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran will provide the draft of the same MOU and the ECO Secretariat will put this MOU in the agenda of the TTCC.	
8.	The Council repeated its request to Turkmenistan to deposit its “Instruments of Ratification of TTFA” at the ECO Secretariat to become its party as early as possible.	
9.	The Council reiterated its request to the Republic of Uzbekistan to expedite domestic procedures for accession to the TTFA and periodically inform the Member States about its efforts.	
10.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the TTCC and the 8 <sup>th</sup> Customs Committee of the TTCC back to back with ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administrations in 2023.	
11.	The Council welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Railway Committee/ 15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of Railway by the second half of 2023 and also requested the Member State/Secretariat to organize the 7 <sup>th</sup> Insurance Committee of the TTCC.	
12.	The Council requested the Member States to consider acceding to major international transport facilitation mechanisms and legal instruments, such as the e-TIR and e-CMR, Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP) and participate in the ongoing negotiations for development of new international legal frameworks on transport cooperation in line with the arrangements to be reached by ECO Secretariat in collaboration with relevant international bodies including IRU and IsDB and UNECE.	
13.	The Council requested the Member States to send their updated maps and information on Rail & Road to the Secretariat for enabling publication of the new Maps by 2023.	
<b>II. RAILWAY TRANSPORT</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
14.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the 9 <sup>th</sup> Railway Committee\the 15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Railways in second half of 2023 and requested the latter to provide exact date and details of hospitality for the meeting.	
15.	The Council commended obtaining “Standing Observer Status at the Ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation Committee of Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) buy the Secretariat and requested the Council of Permanent Representative to support participation of the Secretariat in the relevant Meetings.	
16.	The Council encouraged the Member States to cooperate in establishing a data exchange system for railway services to facilitate transit and reduce customs formalities and in this connection the Council also requested the Secretariat to consider organizing technical workshops.	
17.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide the Secretariat with their Statistical Annual Report on the bilateral and transit operations of the railway sector to enable monitoring the transport operations.	
18.	The Council requested the Secretariat to organize Training Courses/Workshops on Safety and Security Aspects of Transportation particularly in Maritime Road and Railway Sectors and requested the Member States to support Secretariat’s initiative in this regard.	
<b>Area Priority No. 1:</b> <b>ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty routes</b>		
19.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for organizing the 2 <sup>nd</sup> HLWG on Istanbul – Almaty and Bandar-Abbas – Almaty Corridors and while endorsing the report of the Meeting, requested the en-route countries to implement decisions of the Plan of Action endorsed during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> HLWG held on November 07, 2022 and furnish their progress report to the ECO Secretariat timely.	
20.	The Council requested, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to expedite sharing their tariff rates and operational costs of rail transport along the corridor with the secretariat.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
21.	The <b>Council</b> requested that one of the en-route countries\the secretariat to organize the 3rd HLWG on the Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Corridors in person by 2023, so that the required measures could be taken timely.	
22.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to follow up the new project proposal in connection with joint ECO-UNECE-IsDB project on: “Quantifying the benefits of application of Unified Railway Law in the Route” (proposed by UNECE).	
23.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to provide regularly their Statistical Annual Report on the bilateral and transit operations concerning the corridor to enable monitoring the performance of the train services.	
24.	The <b>Council</b> welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat on the establishment of the ECO-UNECE Coordination Committee (under the auspices of WP.5) for the operationalization of the Trans Caspian and Istanbul–Tehran-Almaty Railway Corridor to further extend the Corridors to Europe and Far East in order to achieve mutual benefits and also requested the Council of Permanent Representative to support participation of the Secretariat in the relevant Meetings. The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed a multimodal corridor from Kazakhstan (Aktau port) through Amirabad/Caspian Ports of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Türkiye and requested inclusion of the proposal in the agenda of the ECO-UNECE Coordination Committee.	
25.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to implement “Electronic Data Interchange” (EDI) among each other and recommended that the Secretariat may organize meetings and workshops in this regard in cooperation with relevant regional and international partners.	
26.	The Council welcomed the offer of the OTIF to further enhance the existing relations and also conduct workshop on CIM-SMGS common consignment note for international railway transport and requested the Secretariat to approach relevant partners for mobilizing funds for such workshop.	
<b>Area priority No. 2:</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
<b>ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) route</b>		
27.	The <b>Council</b> highly appreciated valued efforts of the ECO Secretariat for follow-up of resumption of the ITI Train services in real time from 21December 2021.	
28.	The Council requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of financing of the up-gradation of Quetta-Taftan section of ITI Rail link by ECO-TDB, IsDB, ADB, World Bank or any other international financing institution. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan will provide the report of the feasibility study of the said segment to the Secretariat for onward circulation to the potential investors and financiers in timely manner.	
29.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for conducting the 12 <sup>th</sup> HLWG and while endorsing the report of the Meeting, welcomed the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 13 <sup>th</sup> HLWGM in person in 2023 ensuring participation of all public and private stake holders. Further, the Council requested the Secretariat to finalize the exact dates and other details in consultation with the host authorities.	
30.	The <b>Council</b> requested the enroute countries to implement the decisions of the 12 <sup>th</sup> HLWG on ITI Train on 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 and inform the Secretariat accordingly.	
31.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite rehabilitation of the Taftan - Quetta segment of the ITI Railway Corridor and convey their periodically progress report to the Secretariat. The Council also requested Pakistan to include Taftan - Quetta Railway reconstruction in the CPEC priority plans for development as well as to consider construction of the Railway with Standard (European) Gauge to avoid extra trans-shipment cost at Taftan Border and facilitate easy access of international commercial wagons to Quetta. The Council also was informed by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the ongoing construction of the new Railway (standard line) in Zahedan-Mirjavehsegment.	
32.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States (subject to Pakistan decision on gauge of Railway of Taftan- Quetta) to conduct voluntarily the small-sized study project on “Needs-based financial and technical assessment for installing the transshipment facilities, instruments and tools in Taftan railway station”, and in this regard the <b>Council</b> may call the Secretariat for recruitment of a specialist for implementation of the Study Project in the first	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	half of 2023.	
33.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to provide regularly their Statistical Annual Report of the bilateral and transit operations on the corridor to enable monitoring the performance of the train services well in time.	
34.	While reiterating, the <b>Council</b> requested the on route Member States to nominate multiple freight forwarders to ensure fair competition and also extend the public facilities to more businessmen in order to enhance the trade volume in the corridor.	
35.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to conduct multi-modal transportation on the corridor (road\rail) and also requested the Secretariat for further cooperation with the relevant international organizations\banks in this connection.	
36.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route countries to publicize the regular ITI Train services among the business communities.	
37.	The <b>Council</b> underscored the decision of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting regarding expansion the ITI Train services to other regional and international destinations and in this framework welcomed the interest of Bulgaria to join the corridor.	
38.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route countries to implement electronic data exchange to reduce the travel time and facilitate customs formalities and transshipment at the relevant stations.	
<b>Area Priority No. 3:</b> <b>Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI Railway)</b>		
39.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for conducting the 1st Meeting of the “Permanent Working Group of KTI Railway Corridor (PWG- KTI)” and the 1st Meeting of the “ Sub-Group for Commercialization of the KTI Corridor” and while endorsing the report of the Meetings requested the enroute countries\the Secretariat to host\organize the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the (PWG- KTI)”in the first half of 2023 for consideration of the recommendations of the “Sub-Working Group for Commercialization of the KTI Corridor” and implementation of	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	the relevant Road Map of the Corridor.	
40.	The Council may recommend converting the Small-sized Project into Big-sized Project on “Development of Economic Corridors along the KTI Railway” and also requested the ECO Secretariat to approach the relevant financing institutions\agencies\banks to attract partnership and financial and technical assistance to the project.	
41.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat, UNESCAP and ISDB to continue their secretarial, technical and financial support for further commercialization, digitization, harmonization and simplification of customs procedures along the KTI Corridor.	
42.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to implement the Action Plan of the First Sub-Working Group for commercialization of the KTI Corridor including, among others, establishment of relevant website and circulation of tariffs.	
43.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide the Secretariat with their Statistical Annual Report on the bilateral and transit operations of the corridor to enable monitoring the performance of the train services.	
<b>Area priority No. 4:</b> <b>Railway Project for the connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)</b>		
44.	The <b>Council</b> encouraged the en-route countries of KTAI Railway to complete the “missing links” remaining on their part, in line with recommendation-5 of the Turkmenbashi Declaration (3 May 2018).	
45.	The Council welcomed the “Agreement” between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan signed on 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 on construction of the railway along JaloliddinBalhi – Jaihun – PanjiPoyon (Tajikistan) – Sherkhan Bandar (Afghanistan). The Republic of Tajikistan also informed that it is working closely to attract funding for the said project.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
46.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for construction of the Khaaf- Heart (Rozanak Station) and requested the latter to construct the remaining segment to connect to Heart.	
47.	The <b>Council</b> recommended the KTAI en-route countries or the Secretariat to organize the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting in 2023, and the High Level Expert Group Meeting in 2023.	
48.	The <b>Council</b> requested the en-route countries to consider re-structuring the project design into separate but easily workable segments, and provide their suggestions to the Secretariat in this regard. The Council also highlighted the outcome of quadrilateral meeting of the en-route countries of the KTAI Corridor in Bishkek on 14-15 October 2015 to construct the railway using European Standard Gauge (1435) and encouraged other interested countries in the region to join to the project.	
49.	The <b>Council</b> requested ECO TDB, IsDB, ADB (CAREC Program) and AIIB to consider assistance/financing the feasibility study and construction of the missing links of the KTAI Corridor.	
50.	The <b>Council</b> recommended the Member States and Secretariat for involvement and development of the KTAI Corridor within the framework of BRI mega project.	
<b>Area Priority No. 5:</b> <b>Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran) route</b>		
51.	The Council requested the Secretariat to initiate negotiations with ECO international partners, including inter alia, UNESCAP, and IsDB for conducting a study project for commercialization of the Route.	
52.	The <b>Council</b> welcomed the readiness of the Republic of Azerbaijan to convene the 6 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) in person in first half of 2023.	
53.	The <b>Council</b> requested the ECO-TDB and IsDB to consider financing for the missing link of the afore-mentioned corridor (Rash - Astara) and requested the ECO-TDB to provide	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	progress report to the en-route Member State through ECO Secretariat.	
<b>III. ROAD TRANSPORT</b>		
54.	The Council highlighted the significance of road transport and requested the en-route Member States to further facilitate the transportation of transit vehicles in their territory through digitalization of documents, harmonization of practices, provision of sufficient fuel, transferring loading/unloading and clearance of goods from the borders to inland customs offices, removal of traffic permits, visa facilitation, establishment of TIR Green Lanes, application of TIR Convention in multimodal transport, banking cooperation and so on.	
55.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide the Secretariat with their Statistical Annual Report on the bilateral and transit operations of the road sector to enable monitoring the transport operations. The Secretariat may provide a template for accumulation the information/data and circulate among Member States. Moreover, based on information/data received from the Member States as well as other resources, the Secretariat will prepare a report of developmental transit in the ECO region every six months.	
56.	The Council welcomed implementation of eTIR between Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Azerbaijan and in this connection encouraged the rest of the Member States to expedite eTIR application in their customs.	
57.	Underlining the importance of harmonization of payments and reduction of transport costs, the Council requested the Member States to avoid undocumented charges and prevent unofficial payments in their territories.	
58.	The Council requested the Member States to establish safe TIR Parks and also exchange the list of safe TIR Parks in their territories and requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of safe TIR Parks for circulation to the relevant stakeholders. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Türkiye informed the Council regarding provision of the relevant information of their TIR Parks and on-road service areas on the IRU Website, and other Member States are also encouraged to do so.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
<b>Area priority No.1: Development of ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan- Afghanistan- Iran (KTAI) and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) routes</b>		
59.	The Council highly commended the operationalization and regularization of transit along the ITI Corridor under TIR system and requested the enroute countries to further facilitate the seamless movement of trucks to encourage the business community to use the Corridor	
60.	The Council requested the en-route countries to implement of the Action Plans and decisions approved by 6th Meetings of HLWG on ITI and 4th Meeting of KTI road corridors. The Action Plan will serve as a framework for systematic monitoring.	
61.	The Council reiterated its request to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for organizing the 7th Meeting of the High Level Working Group on ITI Road Corridor in Karachi and instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate for date(s), hospitality and other details. A special meeting of en-route Member States may also be organized (back to back) enabling to discuss the establishment of a regional MVTPL insurance (White Card) scheme for the ITI road corridor in virtual means.	
62.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to further cooperate with IRU, IDB and UNECE for promoting digitalization of transit transport in the region particularly through implementing e-TIR, eCMR and Digital TIR and in this regard the Council may also request ITI and KTAI en-route Member States to consider implementing the e-TIR, eCMR and Digital TIR projects for further facilitation of transport and transit in the corridor.	
63.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with IRU and IDB and UNECE for organizing virtually the regional workshops and the necessary studies for implementation of e-TIR and e-CMR in the region by 2023.	
64.	The Council requested ITI and KTAI en-route Member States to implement the recommendations of the reports of the ITI and KTAI Test Run.	
65.	The Council requested the KTAI and ITI en-route countries to keep the Secretariat abreast about their progress and developments on the construction\development\rehabilitation of the missing links in their territories and the concise report may please be circulated among	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	the Member States.	
66.	The Council also requested the enroute countries of KTAI + Uzbekistan to conduct further Truck Test Runs along the Corridor and fulfill necessary requirements to regularize the transit movements.	
67.	The Council requested the en-route countries of ITI and KTAI to expand the corridor to international destinations and markets within Europe and China.	
68.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide their Statistical Annual Report of the bilateral and transit operations in the corridor to enable monitoring the performance of the road transit traffic.	
69.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the First Technical Working Group Meeting on the expansion\restructuring of ITI + KTAI BCPs and establishment of TIR green lanes to reduce waiting time of trucks. The en-route countries of the Corridors were requested to inform their confirmation of participation and particulars of their delegation in the said meeting.	
70.	The Council requested the en-route countries to resolve issue of fuel provision, additional charges, ensure the smooth banking transactions and payments, remove traffic permits, reduce or remove physical checks for TIR transports at BCPs and transfer loading/unloading and clearance of goods from the borders to inland customs offices and requested the IRU and IsDB to support the Secretariat and the Member States in the said areas.	
<b>Area priority No. 2:</b> <u><b>Development of ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran (KUTI) and Tajikistan- Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran -Türkiye (TUTIT)</b></u>		
71.	The <b>Council</b> decided to establish High Level Working Groups for policy making and implementing the project of development of the Kyrgyz Republic-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran (KUTI) and Tajikistan- Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran -Türkiye (TUTIT)road and multimodal corridors and also requested the en-route	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	countries\Secretariat to organize the relevant meetings in 2023. The Council also approved the accession of the Republic of Türkiye to the KUTI Corridor.	
72.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan to organize the first HLWG on the Tajikistan- Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran -Türkiye (TUTIT) multimodal corridor in September 2023 in Dushanbe.	
73.	The Council took note of the Republic of Tajikistan that KULYAB-QALAIKHUMD highway is being completed and KULYAB-QALAIKHUMD-highway has been started in 2022. This highway is part of Kulyab-QULMA highway. The container yard in Kulyab was established in 2022. This route will contribute to the connection of ECO region to China.	
74.	The Council also requested the en-route Member States to consider conducting a Test Run of trucks along the said Corridors to find out advantages, bottlenecks and solutions for enhanced connectivity and requested the Secretariat and IRU to follow up conducting such Test Run.	
75.	The Council stressed importance of facilitation of transit along the corridors and requested the en-route countries to reduce or remove physical checks for TIR transports, establish TIR green lanes at related borders, ensure governments transferring loading/unloading and clearance of goods from the borders to inland customs offices and also requested the Secretariat and IRU to cooperate in conducting digital TIR pilot in this corridor.	
76.	The Council welcomed the initiative of Customs of Turkmenistan to establish "Green lanes" at the border crossing points for cargo carriers who use TIR Carnets and requested all the Member States to implement Green lanes at their BCPs.	
77.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide their Statistical Annual Report on the bilateral and transit operations in the corridors to enable monitoring the performance of the road transit traffic.	
<b>Area priority No. 3:</b> <b>Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
78.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for organizing the 7th Meeting of Customs (Transit Trade) Committee of TTCC and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the said Committee in May 2023, and requested the latter to inform exact date and details of hospitality.	
79.	The Council welcomed the establishment of the ECO TIR Associations Consultative Group (ECO- TIRACG) and appreciated the Secretariat and IRU for their constructive and leading role in this regard and requested the relevant Associations to organize its first meeting in the first half of 2023.	
80.	Due to vaccination of the transit drivers and containment of Covid pandemic, the Council requested the Member States to abolish extra-ordinary PCR Test and disinfection of the cargo and trucks at the BCPs and avoid charging the relevant costs on the transit transport.	
81.	The Council requested the Member States to facilitate smooth border crossing through prohibiting clearance and loading/unloading of goods at borders and transfer it to inland customs offices to avoid border congestion and long queues. The Secretariat was requested to introduce best practices in this regard to the Member States.	
82.	The Council requested the Member States to avoid multiple screening and control of the cargo and passengers through establishing\installing Single Window Customs at their BCPs or joint monitoring mechanism to speed up transit formalities and facilitate smooth border crossing.	
83.	The Council requested the Member States to enhance the capacity of s border Crossing Points (BCPs) to accommodate more transiting trucks and enhance transit facilitation through installing X-Ray equipment.	
84.	Underlining the equal treatment of the transiting cargo at the BCPs, the Council requested the Member States to enhance their control over truck queuing systems\mechanisms to avoid illegal and arbitrary practices.	
85.	The Council requested the Member States to avoid systematic physical checks of the transports under TIR system as envisaged in the TIR Convention.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
86.	The <b>Council</b> welcoming the initiative of Customs of Turkmenistan to establish "Green lanes" at the border customs posts, requested all the Member States to implement Green lanes at their BCPs. The Secretariat and IRU were requested to conduct necessary workshops to familiarize the Member States with best practices on TIR green lanes.	
87.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Secretariat to approach UNECE, IRU and IsDB or any other relevant international organization for their assistance technical and financial in digitalizing the transit documents and in particular TIR and CMR, as well as holding Workshops and Training Courses by the aforesaid international organization	
88.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to accede to eTIR and eCMR protocols to speed up digitalization of transit in the region and in this connection commended	
89.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the ongoing activities of the Secretariat to institutionalize cooperation with the International Road Union to speed up and enhance transit and transport facilitation further in the ECO Region.	
<b>Priority area No. 4:</b> <b>“Joint ISDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems-GIS”</b>		
90.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat, UNECE and IsDB for operationalization of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and requested the CPR to allocate necessary funds for sustainable functioning of the Project.	
91.	The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Secretariat for negotiations with UNECE and IDB for the commencement of the 2nd 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”.	
92.	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.	
93.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to recruit technical staffs on temporary basis for	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	cooperation with the project team and the Member States to follow up the GIS project and assist in devising and implementing the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase of the project on temporary basis.	
94.	The Council requested the Member States (except Rep. Azerbaijan and Türkiye and Uzbekistan) to update\nominate their focal points to use the ITIO GIs platform to update their national data.	
95.	The Council requested the Secretariat to consider establishing a Geographic Information System (GIS) section under Transport & Communication Directorate (T&C) for mapping of regional connectivity networks in the fields of transport (road, rail, air and maritime) and other regional connectivity initiatives of the Organization.	
<b>Area priority No.5:</b> <b>Visa for drivers and persons involved in transport</b>		
96.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to facilitate and speed up Visa procedures, provide multiple entry Visa, reduce Visa fee, extend stay duration and abolish unnecessary pre-requirements such as invitations to further facilitate transit operations in the Region.	
97.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States, to expedite providing their confirmations/comments (except for Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Türkiye) on the Visa Pilot Scheme to the ECO Secretariat, at the earliest possible.	
98.	The <b>Council</b> recommended the “Visa Pilot Scheme” for practicing in en-route KTAI and ITI countries during 2023, along with their existing visa procedures. If successful, the scheme will be extended to other ECO interested Member States as well.	
99.	The <b>Council</b> requested the interested Member States other than KTAI and ITI en-route countries to consider joining the ECO Visa Scheme for Drivers.	
100.	The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to further facilitate the Visa formalities and enable the road transport for recovery from the consequences of the Covid Pandemic.	
<b>IV. MARITIME COOPERATION</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
101.	The <b>Council</b> welcomed the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 7 <sup>th</sup> HRMO in person mode and requested the latter to inform exact date and details of hospitality for the Meeting.	
102.	Taking into account the importance of digitalization of transport industry, the <b>Council</b> supported the digitalization of maritime transport and requested the Member states to share their experiences in this connection.	
103.	<p>The Council took note of the following proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran:  Emphasis on trade exchange through maritime transportation and developing the operational cooperation through the ports among ECO coastal and landlocked countries;  The need to promote the management of supply chains across transit corridors among ECO Member States and establishment of joint transportation companies/consortiums among forwarders;</p> <p>The need to cooperate jointly to develop multimodal logistic centers/hinterlands in order to increase the efficiency of sea-borne trade among ECO Member States.</p>	
104.	The Meeting appreciated the Secretariat in establishing ECO Consultative Maritime Officials Network using social media\digital platforms for facilitation of coordination on maritime issues in the ECO region.	
105.	The Council requested the interested Member States to offer capacity building programs/training workshops on Global Maritime Distress and safety System (GMDSS) and International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code to ensure a safe and sound transport chain.	
<b>Area Priority No. 1: “Establishment of a RO- RO Cooperation in the Caspian Sea”</b>		
106.	The Council welcomed the proposal of establishment a committee for enhanced cooperation on promotion of Ro-Ro services in the Caspian Sea by the coastal states and requested the Member States to participate in this arrangement.	
107.	The Council requested the Member States to consider organizing business meeting\forum of transport\ shipping operators of Caspian Sea.	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
<b>Area Priority No. 2:</b> <b>“Establishment of a Common Gateway among ECO Countries - ECO Gate”</b>		
108.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank to implement the ECO Gate project and requested the Member States to designate national consultant to cooperate with the international consultant for implementation of the ECO Gate project.	
109.	The Secretariat was also requested to recruit a project officer to follow up implementation of the project as early as possible and provide necessary office facilities for this purpose.	
<b>V. CIVIL AVIATION</b>		
110.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat for organizing the Second Meeting of the ECO High Level Working Group (HLWG) on Civil Aviation (virtually on May 10, 2022) and while endorsing the report of the Meeting, requested the Member States to implement the decisions of the Meeting.	
111.	The Council also requested the Member States to volunteer for organizing the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the HLWG on Civil aviation in 2023 and inform the details of hospitality through the Secretariat	
112.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to organize the High Level Meeting of Private Airlines of the ECO Region by first half of 2023 and requested the Secretariat to follow up exact date and arrangements for the Meeting.	
<b>Area Priority No.1:“ Training and capacity building”</b>		
113.	The Council appreciated the preparation of ECO Roster of Civil Aviation Experts and requested to secretariat to maintain updating the data and circulate it to the Member States.	
114.	The Council requested the Member States to provide their detailed proposals on cooperation in Civil Aviation to the Secretariat.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
115.	The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with their proposals and requirements with regards to capacity building programs on civil aviation by 2023.	
116.	The Council requested the interested Member States to conduct training of specialists in the field of certification of aircraft operators and airfields (heliports), licensing of civil aviation personnel and organizations of air transportation and further recommended Member States to exchange lists of educational institutions (training centers) and specialized centers for advanced training in civil aviation. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to organize training courses on Civil Aviation in the areas of management, air operations, ground operations, aviation security, initial airworthiness, dangerous goods, and oversight investigation as well as USOP. The Secretariat was requested to circulate the relevant information provided by I. R. Iran to the Member States.	
117.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist the ECO Member States in the areas of auditing, setting-up of organizations for maintenance, production, design, aerodromes and etc.	
<b>Area Priority No.2: "Establishment of ECO Air Hub"</b>		
118.	The Council appreciated the secretariat for preparing the Concept Note on Establishment of ECO Air Hub in the eastern ECO region especially in Central Asia and requested the Member States to provide their views/comments on the "Concept Note by June 2023.	
<b>VI. ESTABLISHING OF ECO TRANSPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD</b>		
119.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for preparation of the Draft Modalities for the ECO Transport Excellence Award and requested the Member States to expedite sending their feedback on the Draft by March 2023 to enable the Secretariat and ECO-CCI to make necessary arrangements.	
120.	The Council proposed the ECO - CCI and the Secretariat to organize the Award Ceremony on the sidelines of the Transport Ministerial Meetings and requested the Member States to nominate their candidates for the Award ceremony.	

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<b>VII. COMMUNICATIONS</b> <b>Area Priority No. 1: “Development of Information Society in the ECO Region” (Strategic Objective I, ECO Vision 2025)</b>		
121.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat for organizing the Second Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and requested the Member States to implement the decisions of the Meeting.	
122.	The Council welcomed the offer of Türkiye to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECO- ICT Working Group to discuss cooperation on Cyber Security in the ECO region by June 2023 and the Council also requested the Secretariat to finalize the exact dates and other details in consultation with the host authorities.	
123.	The Council requested the Member States to share their national strategies of ICT development through the ECO Secretariat and exchange experiences and best practices in the sector.	
124.	The Council welcomed the finalization of the “Terms of Reference (ToR) for the ECO High Level Working Group ICT Regulatory Authorities”, and requested the Secretariat to follow up organizing the relevant meetings and further enhancing cooperation in the regulatory areas.	
125.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on ICT preceded by the High Level Experts Group Meeting in person in July 2023 to finalize the necessary documents for the Ministerial Meeting. The Council requested the latter to provide exact date and details of hospitality to the Secretariat for appropriate arrangements.	
126.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to enhance and continue the cooperation with ITU to seek institutional guidance and any new possible project to be implemented in 2023.	
127.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to implement, in consultation with ITU, a study project on the “ ways and means to establish and develop ECO regional fiber optic network” and in this regard the Council may call the Secretariat for recruitment of a specialist for	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	implementation of the said Study Project in first half of 2023.	
<b>VIII. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>		
128.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in strengthening cooperation with Regional/International Organizations, including IsDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU, UIC, OSJD, ITU, AIIB, OTIF, CAREC/ADB and others, to seek expertise and financial/technical assistance for advancing ECO's mandated projects and, in that regard, the Council encouraged the Secretariat to keep continue such efforts.	
129.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to institutionalize cooperation with the interested international organizations\agencies\unions in order to enhance transit transport and communication cooperation in the region.	
<b>C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>Energy</b>		
<b>General Provisions</b>		
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	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	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 Work Programme for 2023 as follows:	
<b><i>Priority area 1: Implementation of ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation/Plan of Actions 2030 and the decisions of 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting</i></b>		
4.	The Council recommended to all Member States to take into consideration the ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation and Action Plan 2030, while preparing their national programs/strategies for the development of regional energy cooperation and to ask Member States to submit developments in their interests and needs in 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 pertinent projects to the Secretariat with the view of its implementation.	
6.	The Council welcomes the idea of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host 5th Energy Ministerial Meeting and may encourage Member States to convey ideas/proposals/recommendations for the stocktaking to contribute to the preparation of subject meeting.	
<b><i>Priority area 2: Sustainable Energy Transition and Establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre</i></b>		
7.	The Council welcomes the kind offer of Turkmenistan to host the 5th Meeting of ECO Experts Group on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources in Ashgabat, in March 2023 and encouraged Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
8.	The Council called for active engagement of the Member States during realization of the project on setting up and implementing energy efficiency targets in the ECO region.	
9.	The Council requested Member States to collaborate with the Secretariat, the project partners and other potential donors/international partners with a view to move forward successfully for launching of First Operational Phase of Project on Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
10.	The Council appreciated the readiness of the host country – the Republic of Azerbaijan to sign the Charter of the ECO Clean Energy Center and encouraged other Member States to consider signing and ratification of subject Charter..	
11.	The Council tasked the Secretariat to undertake necessary actions to follow up 25 <sup>th</sup> COM decisions on establishment of ECO Clean Energy Center and request Member States for active cooperation accordingly.	
12.	The Council welcomed the kind proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 6 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres.	
13.	The Council considered that ECO would be able to contribute to the seed funding of the first operational phase of ECO Clean Energy Center.	
<b><i>Priority area 3: Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)</i></b>		
14.	The Council called on the Member States to enhance their partnership within the Project on establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market and invite them to render all necessary support for its successful follow up.	
15.	The Council welcomed the suggestion of the Republic of Tajikistan to host the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM in Dushanbe in first half of 2023. The Council also welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the expert meeting of power system operators of the Member States back-to-back with the above event with idea to consider establishment of ECO Power System Operators Working Group	
16.	The Council welcomed the consent of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Türkiye on TOR of bilateral dimension of the project and the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the next bilateral meeting on this matter in Tehran in February/March 2023.	
17.	The Council acknowledged necessity of seed funding from relevant ECO project financing scheme and tasked Secretariat to continue exploring best international practices towards establishment of regional electricity market through cooperation engagements with other international partners.	

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18.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to conduct the capacity building exercises to enhance knowledge in electricity market. The first online course will be held in April 2023.	
<b><i>Priority Area 4: Enhancement of role of private sector in regional energy cooperation and partnerships with international organizations</i></b>		
19.	The Council called for intensified actions by the Member States to introduce in regular basis their needs and interests in regional energy cooperation along the whole value chain for stocktaking by the Secretariat's project-oriented actions.	
20.	The Council appreciated readiness of I.R. Iran to host the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Public and Private Sector Energy /Petrochemical Consortium/Companies, as well as the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of ECO Refinery Association in Tehran in the third quarter of 2023.	
21.	The Council took note of the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the interest of ECO Member States to work closely to address energy needs for Post-Covid economic development, as well as energy crisis by considering possibility to establish dialogue and partnership between energy producing, consuming and transit countries in the region.	
22.	The Council requested the Secretariat to pursue the cooperation policy and engagements with the UN bodies, EU, Energy Charter, IRENA,, and other regional and international organizations, as well as International financial institutions.	
23.	The Council recommended the Secretariat mutually to take part in the relevant events with abovementioned organizations and other interested partners with a view to enhance cooperation for implementation of ECO Vision 2025 and The ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation/Plan of Actions 2030.	
24.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the training courses on oil and gas, based on the needs of the other Member States by the International Oil and Gas Training Center for ECO (OGITC).	
<b>C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>Minerals</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
<b>General Provisions</b>		
25.	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.	
<b><i>Priority Area 1: Streamlining the project-oriented cooperation in the field of minerals</i></b>		
26.	The Council welcomed readiness of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host 9 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting in Islamabad, in the second half of 2023.	
27.	The Council urged Member States to follow up the outcomes of 8th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting through proposing concrete measures and tasked Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the decisions as a next step to prepare appropriate ground for the next meeting of MEGM.	
28.	The Council welcomed invitation of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the Member States made in the 8th MEGM to take part in International Forum on Geology and Mining to be held in 2023 in Baku.	
<b><i>Other activities/capacity-building efforts</i></b>		
29.	The Council welcomed the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host 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, in accordance with the outcomes of 3 <sup>rd</sup> ECO Geomatics Committee.	
30.	The Council encouraged the Member States to consider volunteering to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organization back to back with the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	of ECO Geomatics Committee. In the absence of interest of Member States in hosting the above meetings, the Islamic Republic of Iran would express its readiness to host subject events. The Council requested the Member States to ensure active participation at the abovementioned meetings.	
<b>C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>Environment</b>		
<b>General Provisions</b>		
31.	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”, Ashgabat Consensus for Action, and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nation Framework on Climate Change based on national policies and circumstances of each Member State.	
32.	The Council underlined the significance of integrating and mainstreaming the environment by all Member States, into different aspects of their policies, strategies, plans, programs, budgets, and regional cooperation.	
33.	The Council requested the interested Member States to propose holding events/conferences/seminars/workshops on various fields tasked to address the Environmental issues in 2023.	
34.	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.	
<b><i>Priority Area 1: Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming in the ECO Region</i></b>		
35.	The Council considered inviting volunteer Member State to host the formerly pledged ECO meetings on environment with a view to promote ongoing ECO activities/projects in environment, addressing the regional and global environmental challenges, and streamlining ECO environmental agenda in conformity with “ECO Vision 2025”, Ashgabat Consensus for	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Action, and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	
36.	The Council encouraged the Member States to express their views and comments to the Secretariat regarding the revised version of the “Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States” (for 2023-2030).	
37.	The Council encouraged the Member States, which have not submitted their NPRs to expedite providing them (the annual NPRs are requested to be submitted to ECO Secretariat during the first quarter of each calendar year).	
38.	The Council welcomed the readiness of Kyrgyz Republic to host 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in June/September 2023.	
39.	The Council proposed the Member States to voluntarily host 2 <sup>nd</sup> Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Biodiversity. The Secretariat will consider organizing this meeting in case of absence of the volunteer Member States to host it.	
40.	The Council proposed the Member States to voluntarily host 7 <sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Environment in 2023. The Secretariat will consider organizing this meeting in case of absence of the volunteer Member States to host it.	
41.	The Council welcomed the initiative of the Honorable President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon to declare 2025 as the “International Year of “Glaciers’ Preservation “by proclaiming March 21 <sup>st</sup> of each year as the “World Day for Glaciers”” to be observed from 2025 and establishment of an “International Fund for Glaciers’ Preservation” and convening High-Level International Conference dedicated to Glaciers’ Preservation in Tajikistan in 2025, as per UN General Assembly Resolution No. 77/158 to facilitate access to accurate and timely information on the cryosphere.	
<b><i>Priority Area 2: Combating main causes of Land Degradation in the Region</i></b>		
42.	The Council requested the Member States to volunteer hosting a meeting with the aim of consensus building on the ways and means of moving forward in this flagship collaborative program of ECO on land degradation, including particularly sand and dust storms, landslides.	

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43.	The Council welcomed as per the recommendation of the Antalya Workshop on the development of the project to combat desertification-ECO LandCare in the ECO Region held in December 2021 on project proposal of the Republic of Türkiye namely, Capacity Building on Desertification Land Degradation and Erosion Monitoring System in the ECO Region for the consideration of the CPR.	
44.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the Experts Consultation Meeting on Risk Resilience Management of Sand and Dust Storms in Tehran, in third quarter of 2023.	
<b><i>Priority Area 3: Addressing serious threats to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems in the ECO Region</i></b>		
45.	The Council requested the Member States for hosting the 4th Experts Group Meeting on Biodiversity in 2023 in order to review and discuss the progress and achievements of implementation of the Work Plan on Biodiversity and its Calendar of Events. These Meetings may wish to validate the revised Work Plan on Biodiversity (2022-2030).	
46.	The Council took note of the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran recommending the Secretariat to establish biodiversity clearing house mechanism for information exchange in ECO region.	
<b><i>Priority Area 4: Cooperation with the environment-related international organizations/entities/instruments</i></b>		
47.	The Council acknowledged the importance of support from relevant environmental regional and international organizations for implementation of the work programme 2023.	
48.	The Council welcomed the readiness of ECO Educational Institute to work with ECO Member States to organize Workshops on Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation, including Dust and Sand Storms to enhance awareness raising in ECO region.	
49.	The Council mandated the Secretariat to continue its interactions with the aim of strengthening collaboration with UN Environment Program and exploring the need for reviewing the existing ECO-UNEP MOU for wider cooperation considering the recent official communication of the Secretary General with UNEP Executive Director.	
50.	The Council mandated the Secretariat to continue substantive consultations with UNFCCC	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	officials to find ways for potential partnership framework. In this context, the Council tasked the Secretariat to explore the need for having a bilateral framework with UNFCCC for wider cooperation.	
51.	The Council called upon the Secretariat to continue its efforts to further enhance cooperation with UNFF and other forest-related regional and sub-regional organizations and processes for soliciting technical and financial support and enhancing its visibility in forest-related issues	
52.	The Council invited the Secretariat to continue interactions with UNCCD to benefit from its capacities and experiences to address desertification challenges in the Region.	
53.	The Council asked the Secretariat to continue its dialogue and communication with UNCBD for enhancement of mutual partnership, specifically in the context of preparation and implementation of the revised “Work Plan on Biodiversity in the ECO Region.	
<b>D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE &amp; INDUSTRY</b>		
<b>Agriculture</b>		
<b>Priority Area-1: Food Security and Implementation of the ECO-RPFS</b>		
1.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting preceded by 6th High Level Experts Meeting (HLEM) on Agriculture on July 5-6, 2022 in Tashkent.	
2.	The Council, while welcoming the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, preceded by 7 <sup>th</sup> High Level Experts Meeting, requested the host authorities to send date and details of the event. The Council urged the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.	
3.	The Council recalled the declaration by the ECO Ministers of Agriculture regarding the transformation of the ECO Regional Coordination Center for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution of ECO and mandated the ECO Secretariat to coordinate and follow up this initiative with RCCFS and report back to the 8 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture. .	

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4.	The Council requested the Secretariat with the assistance of ECO-RCCFS to produce concrete project proposals for the implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) to promote coordination and increase synergy in ECO regional efforts and enhance food security through technical cooperation, including institutional capacity development, transfer of technology and increasing agricultural productivity.	
5.	The Council appreciated ECO-RCCFS and FAO for updating the ECO-RPFS according to views and comments of the Member States. Likewise, the Council appreciated Member States for approval of the updated RPFS during the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and requested Member States to cooperate on the implementation of the subject RPFS.	
6.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for holding the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCCFS for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) in 2022. Further, the Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the 5 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCCFS.	
7.	The Council appreciated ECO-RCCFS for updating its website content at "www.ecorccfs.org" and invited Member States to further enrich the subject website by continuing to provide their studies, inputs, experiences and best practices relating to food security and agricultural issues.	
8.	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.	
9.	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.	
<b>Priority Area-2: Strengthening Seed Supply in the ECO Region</b>		
10.	The Council appreciated the preparation of ECO Regional Seed Agreement as an outcome of the 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 Member States	

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	(except Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan) for expedite their views on the subject document.	
11.	The Council while welcoming the ECOSA for proposals to host the 8th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and Seed Trade Fair and ECO Expert Meeting on Seed Sector Development, requested the host authorities to send exact date and details of meeting. The Council also requested ECOSA to organize training courses on seed industry for ECO Member States in cooperation with FAO-SEC, Turkish Plant Breeding Union (BISAB), IDB and ECO-TDB.	
12.	The Council, while appreciating ECOSA regarding updating their Statute and formation of the Advisory Board of ECOSA, requested Member States (except Azerbaijan) to convey their nominations for the subject Advisory Board.	
<b>Priority Area-3: Cooperation on Animal Trade and Veterinary Services</b>		
13.	The Council requested the Member states to consider hosting the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations and to sign/ratify the Statute of the ECO Permanent Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO).	
14.	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 discuss the outcome of the project in 2nd Technical Committee Meeting for Implementation of the Work Plan of ECO-VECO. Accordingly the Technical Committee will decide on establishment of other relevant ad-hoc committees for further deliberation of the subject matter. Likewise, the Council invited ECO-TDB (ECO Trade and development Bank) to consider supporting Member States towards the implementation of the said project's outcome.	
15.	The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the First Technical Committee Meeting for implementation of the Work Plan of the priority activities of the ECO-VECO, requested the Member States to consider hosting the 2nd Technical Committee Meeting and cooperate on implementation of the subject Work Plan.	
<b>Priority Area-4: Water Management</b>		
16.	The Council requested the Member States (except Azerbaijan and Türkiye) to nominate national focal points/institutions and then create a network among their relevant	

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	organizations in order to expedite the process of Establishment of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA).	
<b>Priority Area 5: Cooperation on Meteorological Issues</b>		
17.	The Council, while welcoming the Republic of Türkiye to host the 4th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in 2023, requested the host authorities to send date and details of the meeting. The Council urged the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
18.	The Council, while expressing its appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for submitting the Draft Statute for the establishment of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC), requested the Member States to send their views/comments on the said document, for finalization.	
<b>Priority Area-6: Agricultural Bio-technology Network</b>		
19.	The Council took note of proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding a Symposium on Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Detection and Regulation preceded by the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Expert Group Meeting of the ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network (ECO-ABN) in September 2023 with financial support of the ECO Secretariat under consideration of the CPR.	
20.	The Council, while appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Biotechnology Workshop on application of Nanotechnology in Agriculture and Agricultural Biotechnology in 2023, encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the said meeting.	
21.	The Council requested the Member States to contribute to ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network with sharing information and introducing their focal points and providing the country reports on biotechnology and related information.	
22.	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.	
23.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for initiating a new project “ECO Bio-Safety Capacity Building” (ECO-BCB) in ECO Member States and	

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	requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Secretariat with concept paper of the project.	
<b>Priority Area-7: Relations with Regional and International Organizations</b>		
24.	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, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) 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. The Council also asked the Secretariat to continue pursuing the cooperation policy and engagements with abovementioned organizations and other interested partners in the relevant fields, after consultation with the Member States and setting out further roadmap for proceeding on it and also to invite representatives of abovementioned organizations and other interested partners to the relevant ECO events with a view to enhance cooperation for implementation of ECO Vision 2025.	
25.	The Council appreciated the initiative of the Secretariat to prepare a Draft Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and IOFS and requested Member States to support and cooperate on the issue.	
<b>Industry</b>		
<b>Priority Area-1: Policy Makers Cooperation on Industry</b>		
26.	The Council highly appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 3rd HLEG Meeting on Industry back to back with the 5 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting (SCM) on Entrepreneurship and SME Development in 2023 and requested the Member States to actively participate in the meetings.	
27.	The Council requested the interested Member States to host the 4th Ministerial Meeting on Industry and inform the Secretariat the exact date and details at the earliest.	
28.	The Council recommended the Member States to take into consideration the ECO Vision 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.	



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29.	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.	
<b>Priority Area-2: Cooperation on Quality Infrastructure</b>		
30.	The Council requested the Member States to sign and ratify (except Afghanistan, Iran, Türkiye 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 appreciated Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye for ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 of the Statute of ECO- RISCAM.	
31.	The Council requested the Republic of Türkiye 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.	
32.	The Council while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 9 <sup>th</sup> High Level Working Group (HLWG) in May 2023 requested the host authorities to send the exact dates and details of the meeting. The council further urged the Member States to actively participate in this meeting.	
33.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM in May 2023, requested the host authorities to send exact date(s) and details of the meeting. The Council urged the Member States to actively participate in this meeting. 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 and Türkiye) to reflect their views and comments on the roadmap, work programme and basic documents of the Institute (i.e. Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Regulations).	
35.	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	

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	to the new growth paradigm in the region.	
36.	The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the workshop in the field of ECO-RISCAM activities and requested the host authorities to send the exact dates and details of the meeting and requested the Member States to actively participate in the said Workshop.	
37.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Türkiye to hold workshops in the fields of Standardization, Accreditation, Conformity Assessment, and Metrology.	
38.	The Council asked the ECO Secretariat to submit the project proposals suggested by the Central Secretariat of ECO-RISCAM; (i) Establishment of the Regional ECO/Green Labeling Systems and 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, for consideration of the Member States. The Council also requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to send its proposals along with the budget implications of the projects for consideration of the CPR.	
39.	The Council appreciated the joint cooperation between ECO-RISCAM and SMIIC on Halal Certification to facilitate trading of Halal productions and encouraged two institutions for further collaboration.	
<b>Priority Area-3: Cooperation on Nanotechnology Network</b>		
40.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to submit the exact date and details for hosting the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting on ECO Nanotechnology Network and the joint workshop on Nanotechnology and urged the Member States to actively participate in this Meeting.	
41.	The Council encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to update the study project on the situation of Nanotechnology in the ECO region.	
42.	The Council requested the Member States to designate/update and convey their Focal Points on Establishing ECO Nanotechnology Network.	
43.	The Council requested the Member States to convey their national policies toward this area of	

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	cooperation to the Secretariat and to ensure a more active involvement of their Nanotechnology related institutions in the ECO Nanotechnology Network.	
44.	The Council encouraged the Member States to submit their Project Proposals on Nanotechnology issues and invited the Member States to increase their cooperation in the field of new Nanotechnology projects.	
45.	The Council requested the interested Member States to host the First High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Textile & Garments Industry for using Nanotechnology opportunities.	
<b>Priority Area-4: Industrial Property Rights</b>		
46.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2023, encouraging the ECO Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
<b>Priority Area-5: Development of SMEs &amp; Entrepreneurships</b>		
47.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the online workshop on “Sharing Best Practices on SME Support and Evaluation Mechanisms” on November 23, 2022.	
48.	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; also welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the First Expert Level Meeting on exploring possibilities of developing a financial mechanism aimed at supporting start-ups, SME’s and entrepreneurs in 2023.	
49.	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	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	entrepreneurship, innovation-driven and knowledge-based enterprises.	
50.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the First ECO International Innovation and Technological Exhibition in May2023 and requested the esteemed Member States to actively participate in the said event.	
<b>Priority Area-6: Relations with Regional/ International Organizations/Agencies</b>		
51.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for active follow-up of MoU between ECO & WIPO and requested the Member States to cooperate actively on this issue.	
52.	The Council requested the Secretariat to initiating/intensifying cooperation with international and regional organizations, such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to get their financial/technical support.	
<b>E. SECTOR: TOURISM</b>		
1.	The Council profoundly appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism preceded by the 6 <sup>th</sup> High Level Experts Group Meeting on Tourism on 12-13 December 2022 in virtual mode. The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the 7 <sup>th</sup> HLEG Meeting on Tourism in October 2023 in Ardabil and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information regarding the event ( <i>including exact dates, hospitality details, focal point and other relevant information</i> ) for circulation amongst the Member States to enable timely coordination.	
2.	The Council stressed the importance and timeliness of Samarkand Declaration adopted as an outcome of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and emphasized that it will serve to enhance cooperation and create synergies among the tourism authorities of the Member States, as well as renew their commitment on tourism objectives envisaged in the ECO Vision 2025. The Council requested the Member States to actively contribute in the implementation of the objectives indicated in the Samarkand Declaration.	
3.	The Council welcomed the adoption of the “Road Map on Facilitating Accelerated Recovery, Safe and Sustainable Development of Tourism after COVID-19 in the ECO region” and further requested active contribution of the Member States in its implementation as well as participating in the High Level Experts Group Meeting on Tourism for coordinating the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	implementation of the Road Map.	
4.	The Council congratulated the city of Shakhrisabz in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the city of Erzurum in the Republic of Türkiye for being selected as the ECO Tourism Capitals for the years 2024 and 2025 respectively and kindly requested Uzbekistan and Türkiye to propose their programs for holding various tourism events related to ECO Tourism Capitals and share it with the ECO Secretariat for timely coordination.	
5.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for launching the ceremony of proclaiming Sari as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2022 as well as the launching ceremony of proclaiming Ardabil as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2023.	
6.	The Council welcomed the proposal of ECI to hold a joint Nowruz Festival in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat in ECI Headquarters in Tehran.	
7.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for releasing a Special edition of the ECO Chronicle titled “Tourism in ECO Region” which highlights tourism potential of the ECO Member States and showcases popular tourism destinations, attractions and other tourism related information and requested the Secretariat to consider the possibility of releasing ECO Chronicle dedicated to the ECO Tourism Capitals.	
8.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for preparing and circulating the “ECO Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development” as a zero draft for comments and proposals of the Member States and requested Member States to expedite sending their views for further action.	
9.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for holding the Forum of ECO Heads of Tourism Associations, Unions and other tourism stakeholders in 2022 virtually and also establishment of the “ECO Tour Operators’ Network” among the ECO Member States nominated from Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan ( <i>in total more than 240 tour operators</i> ) which will discuss facilitation of joint tour packages for tourists from each and every ECO Member State. The Council also welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Tour Operators Forum in Baku.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
10.	The Council welcomed the Secretariat's cooperation with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) for advancement of sustainable tourism in the region and development of the quality of tourism services and the work force and requested the Secretariat to consider signing MoU with the GSTC for further collaboration and holding a joint regional workshop for raising awareness on development of sustainable tourism.	
11.	The Council appreciated establishment of a working group from the representatives of the public and private tourism sector to adopt and implement international tourism standards and certification programmes and requested the Member States that have not nominated their representatives (except Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to the working group may kindly convey it at the soonest.	
12.	The Council welcomed allocation by the Republic of Uzbekistan educational grants for nationals of the Member States to pursue one of the graduate programmes at the Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage located in Samarkand and encouraged other Member States to offer scholarships to the nationals of the ECO Member States.	
13.	Considering the need to develop a well-trained, customer and service-oriented tourism workforce in the ECO region, the Council requested the Member States to inform the Secretariat if they are in need of the trainings offered by Türkiye to coordinate training activities in the region which was circulated through Note Verbale of the ECO Secretariat No: T/HRD/2022/1308 dated 21/9/2022.	
14.	The Council appreciated the establishment of the 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 (except Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic and Türkiye) to appoint their focal points to the ECO Silk Road Task Force. The Council requested active participation of the Member States to the first 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.	
15.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the Sixth ECO - Silk Road Food Festival in Zanjan-Iran with the workshop on Culinary Tourism in 2023 and	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	requested the Islamic Republic of Iran 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.	
16.	The Council requested the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) to cooperate with the Secretariat and include this ECO Silk Road initiative in their program in 2023 to enhance the visibility of the ECO Silk Road destinations in their publications, exhibitions and events.	
17.	The Council requested the Secretariat and the Member States to consider the possibility of organizing workshops in cooperation with ECI and UNESCO on preservation of the ancient Silk Road monuments and cultural heritages.	
18.	The Council requested the Member States to participate in the ECO High Level Expert Meeting on Visa Facilitation in 2023 to move towards a visa free regime in the region.	
19.	The Council appreciated the establishment of the Tourism and Transport Task Force to coordinate travel and tourism facilitation in the ECO Region and requested the Member States to participate in the upcoming Meeting of the ECO Tourism and Transport Task Force and share their proposals and recommendations to be followed up for advancement of travel and tourism in the region.	
20.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's proposal with regards to the ECO Regional Rail PASS initiative and requested the Member States to send their nominations for the Working Group to discuss the initiative in detail with the relevant National Railway Authorities.	
21.	The Council requested the Member States (except Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Türkiye 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 the ECO Tourism Databank in word and pdf format for easy compilation by the Secretariat.	
22.	The Council requested all Member States (except Kazakhstan and Pakistan) 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	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	possible.	
23.	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 Türkiye.	
24.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye and Turkish Cypriot State renewing their offer to co-host the 4 <sup>th</sup> EGM on Ecotourism in Nicosia in 2023 and requested the active participation of the Member States.	
25.	The Council appreciated the establishment of an ad-hoc specialized working group among the Member States to prepare a 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 and requested the Member States (except Iran, Pakistan and Uzbekistan) to send their nominations for the ad-hoc specialized working group.	
26.	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 the 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.	
27.	The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd ECO Confobition on ECO Health Tourism in 2023 and requested information with regards to exact date and hospitality details of the event may be conveyed to the Secretariat for smooth coordination.	
28.	The Council welcomed the launching of the Tourism Section of the ECO Website and	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	requested the Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat and provide inputs as well as technical and financial support in preparation of the separate website dedicated to tourism in the ECO region.	
29.	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.	
30.	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 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.	
31.	Considering the significance of the Tourism Promotion Fund that was established to finance tourism projects and initiatives, 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.	
32.	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 2023 to raise awareness of the ECO region's investment potential and marketing regional tourism investment opportunities.	
33.	The 32 <sup>nd</sup> Council requested the Secretariat to develop a regional Tourism Investment Guide	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	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. Incomplete information was received from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic and Türkiye. The Council requested all the Member States to provide and update the inputs.	
34.	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.	
35.	The Council urged the Member States to expedite the appointment of their National Focal Points (NPFs) in tourism sector for prompt and smooth communication.	
<b>SECTOR F: HUMAN RESOURCES &amp; SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Priority Area I: Sustainable Development</b>		
1.	The Council recommended for establishment of a High Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG)/ad-hoc Coordinating Group to prepare an Action Plan for enhancing Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in the region.	
2.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to increase the mutual supportiveness as stipulated in the ECO Vision 2025 relating to projects with a view to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for broader recognition and attracting at most possible international recourses such as UNDP, IFRC, UNFPA, UNESCAP.	
3.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to prepare a Draft Regional Roadmap in collaboration with the international organizations for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECO Region, which can support and complement the effectiveness of national mechanisms.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
4.	The Council requested the Member States to voluntarily organize the First Meeting of the High Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG) to discuss the policy for preparation of an Action Plan in order to enhance Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in the ECO region in 2023.	
5.	The Council requested the Member States to provide necessary data/documents to the Secretariat for preparing ECO Sustainable Development Performance Index.	
<b>Priority Area II: Disaster Risk Reduction</b>		
6.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 9 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in-person or virtual mode in 2023 and instructed the Secretariat to coordinate with host country for ascertaining the exact dates and hospitality details.	
7.	The Council requested the Member States to organize voluntarily the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials Meeting/Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities in 2023, and instructed the Secretariat to coordinate for exact dates and hospitality details.	
8.	The Council welcomed the finalization of the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disaster and requested the Member States to sign it during the forthcoming COM Meeting in Tashkent.	
9.	The Council requested the Member States to consider voluntarily hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Implementation of the ECO Regional Framework for DRR in 2023.	
10.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to enhance cooperation with the international organizations, especially ESCAP (based on the MoU between ESCAP) and, IFRC regarding the HRSD mandates.	
11.	The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat an implementation status of the “ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction” and the “Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR” in 2023.	
12.	The Council requested the Member States to voluntarily organize the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Experts Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities in 2023, and instructed the Secretariat to coordinate for exact dates and hospitality details.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
13.	The Council called attention of the ECO Secretariat to engage the Member States in establishment of funds to compensate the developing countries for the “loss and damage” occurred in natural disaster, in order to achieve regional goals in future.	
14.	The Council urged the ECO-RCRM to coordinate with the relevant stakeholders in order to establishment of a task force for conduction of country-specific meetings on disaster risk management issues in the region.	
15.	The Council requested the Member States to nominate national Focal Points for the above mentioned task force group.	
16.	The Council requested Turkmenistan to continue its cooperation with ECO-RCRM regarding the Project “Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat, in order to consider contributing to the Project with a view to improve the road weather monitoring.	
17.	The Council welcomed the offer of the I.R. of Iran Metrological Organization (IRIMO) and ECO-RCRM to co-organize a training course/workshops entitled as “Natural Disaster Early warnings and loss Estimation System” in 2023 in Mashhad.	
18.	The Council welcomed the project proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran (Organization of Geology and Mineral Exploration) on the Landside Hazard zonation (LHZ) that had been supported by the Member Countries in the validation meeting held in 2022 and encouraged the initiator country along with the Secretariat to work on the co-financing and launching the project in 2023. The council also invited other interested Member States to extend every possible support for the success launching and implementation of the project.	
<b>Priority Area III: Health</b>		
19.	The <b>Council</b> welcomed offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to organize the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health on the sidelines of the 76 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of World Health Assembly in Geneva in 2023, under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan.	
20.	The <b>Council</b> proposed the Republic of Azerbaijan to consider hosting and chair the High Level Working Group (HLWG) on implementation of Plan of Action on Health back to back	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting.	
21.	The Council requested Member States to revise regional project proposals taking into consideration the priority areas, which were recommended by the "Tehran Declaration on Health" and the "ECO Action Plan on Health".	
22.	The Council requested the interested Member States to consider hosting of the First Meeting of the Task Force on Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals in 2023, in order to make arrangements and outcomes for the 5 <sup>th</sup> HLEG Meeting.	
23.	The Council requested the Member States (except the Republic of Azerbaijan) to provide their views and feedbacks to the Secretariat on the report of the Small-sized Project "Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals" and provide their nominations for establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinize the report and developing a Plan of Action on the trade of pharmaceuticals within the ECO region.	
24.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage in 2023 in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
25.	The Council emphasized the importance of continued interaction with the international organizations, including WHO and other stakeholders including Multilateral Development Bank to maintain the existing support to accelerate their technical and financial assistance in joint projects.	
26.	While considering the "Strategic Plan" by WHO, the Council requested the Member States to review the 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2017-2022 with the assistance of WHO and active participation of the Member States towards preparation process of next five-year Strategic Plan.	
<b>Priority Area IV: Education</b>		
27.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance in the ECO region in 2023.	
28.	The Council requested the ECO-EI to coordinate with the ECO Secretariat and announce the scholarship programs/training courses on Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Health for the ECO Member States.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
29.	The Council requested the Member States to offer health related scholarships among each other and convey relevant information to the Secretariat including the objective/s of the courses; terms and conditions for admission; and detailed curriculum of the courses etc. in cooperation with ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI).	
30.	The Council requested interested Member States to offer for holding the “2 <sup>nd</sup> High Level University Representatives Forum in the ECO Region” in collaboration with the ECO- EI in 2023.	
31.	The Council requested Member States to propose and host workshops on the main priority areas of Disaster Risk Reduction, Health and Sustainable Development in 2023.	
32.	The Council encouraged Member States to work with ECO Educational Institute to organize a workshop and prepare a report on the state, challenges, and good practices of medical education in volunteering countries.	
33.	The Council requested the Member States to consider extending their project proposals for the inclusion in the next “ECO-EI Work Program” to be discussed at the next ECO-EI Board of Trustees Meeting in first half of 2023. The proposals shall include the objectives of the activities, time, venue and participants, cost-sharing if any, and other necessary information.”	
<b>G. SECTOR: JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND ECO ADVOCACY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN</b>		
1.	The Council reiterated the objectives of ECO Vision 2025 regarding the continued importance of the regional cooperation in the area of fight against drugs and organized crime in the ECO Region as critical contribution into the economic growth and sustainable development of the Member States and the Region as a whole. Accordingly, it requested the JPC&EAPA and the Member States to continue efforts to enhance cooperation in this regard. The Council further emphasized that the regional institutional arrangements in the areas of police and law enforcement, judicial and anti-corruption cooperation in the ECO Region, as well as capacity building and training programmes will be of great impacts for the success of collective efforts in fight against drugs and organized crime in the ECO Region. The Council also requested the Secretariat to continue and keep close liaison with the relevant regional and international organizations for seeking their regular support to counter illicit	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	drugs and organized crime activities in the region.	
2.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran for continuously organizing the training courses on primary prevention of drugs addiction for the experts of the ECO Member States in last three years. The Council desired to continue for organizing the training courses in future as well.	
3.	<p>To make more effective coordination and timely exchange of information between the Member States and the Secretariat, the Council requested the Member States to nominate their focal points for cooperation in the fields of (i) Drugs, (ii) Organized Crime, (iii) Judicial Cooperation, (iv) parliamentary coordination (except Uzbekistan and Tajikistan); and (v) Afghanistan`s related programs, Giving all relevant particulars, including Name, Position, Tele, Fax, and E-mail addresses.</p> <p>The Council noted that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Türkiye have already conveyed particulars of their focal points for the judicial cooperation.</p>	
4.	<p>Recalling that the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in their second meeting in Antalya on 2015 decided to establish a platform for judicial cooperation to streamline the mutual legal assistance arrangements between the Member States and at their 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Islamabad in 2018, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered to share a draft framework agreement for judicial cooperation. The Council while acknowledging the decisions of the Attorney/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States in their last meetings, has encouraged the ECO Member States to expedite the process of the establishment of the desired network. Accordingly the Council requested:</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the interested Member States to share the draft framework agreement for judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism for the ECO Region.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>The Member States to convey their willingness for hosting the “1<sup>st</sup> Experts Group Meeting to discuss and finalize the draft framework of the envisioned judicial/legal cooperation mechanism” or in the absence of any host the ECO Secretariat will host the said meeting;</p>	
5.	<p>The First Meeting of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States scheduled for December 28-29, 2022 in Pakistan (virtual mode) has been postponed due to insufficient confirmation of participation from the Member States. The host country proposed to organize the meeting in February/March 2023.</p> <p>In this regard the Council:</p> <p>Proposed the Islamic Republic of Iran as the host country of RCCACO to draft the necessary documents for operationalization of RCCACO to be considered during the first General Assembly Meeting. The council further requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to inform the Secretariat and the Member States about the estimated time for preparation of necessary documents. Accordingly the first General Assembly Meeting of RCCACO to be hosted by Pakistan will be more effective and result oriented. The Council requested the ECO Member States and the Secretariat to organize the relevant working group(s) to consider and finalize the necessary documents to be prepared by Islamic Republic of Iran and any interested Member State to be finalized/ adopted by the first meeting of the General Assembly of the State Parties to RCCACO. Requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to kindly convey the exact dates for the meeting. The Republic of Tajikistan to expedite ratification process of the Statute of the Center. To expedite national procedures for signing of the Statute of ECO Regional Center; The Kyrgyz Republic to sign the Statute of the Center based on their interest expressed in 2017 to join the Regional Center.</p>	
6.	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the First Virtual Training Course on New Techniques for inspection and Supervision to Fight against Corruption in October 2023. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to share the details of the training course.</p>	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
7.	The Council also appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host virtual training courses on fight against corruption in July 2023 subject to providing need assessment for the host country.	
8.	<p>The Council took note of progress made towards the finalization of the draft Statute of ECOPOL (agreed ad referendum) in the 2nd Experts Group Meeting which will be submitted to the upcoming “2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Chiefs of Police or “2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of the ECO Member States” for its consideration and adoption. It requested the Secretariat to make necessary preparations and the interested Member States to designate liaison officers for coordination. The Council requested:</p> <p>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 dates, format of the meetings and particulars of relevant focal points;</p> <p>The Member States to share their views with the Secretariat on the draft statute of ECOPOL, 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 Statue’s entry into force;</p> <p>The Council recalled that during the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting in 2010 in Istanbul, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye expressed their readiness for hosting of the Secretariat of ECOPOL.</p>	
9.	<p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan for holding 3<sup>rd</sup> General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Countries (PAECO) in Baku on May 16-18, 2022, and appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4<sup>th</sup> PAECO Conference in Tehran in September 2023. In this regard, the Council requested/encouraged:</p> <p>The concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey the exact dates, hospitality details, contact details of the focal point for the event and other necessary</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>information to the Secretariat, The Member States which have yet to sign/ratify the Charter of the PAECO to sign/ratify it.</p>	
10.	<p>Recalling that all Organization's activities to be made under ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA) including 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 the 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, establishment of a special unit in the Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan were temporary on hold due to the recent developments in Afghanistan. In this regard, the Council 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 Afghanistan.</p>	
11.	<p>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.</p>	
12.	<p>To implement training/capacity building programmes in 2023 in different areas of the drugs and organized crime, the Council requested:</p> <p>The Member States, who are ready to organize training courses and workshops for the experts/officials of the Member States, may inform the JPC&amp;EAPA, indicating the necessary information as regards time, venue, format, syllabus/hospitality details, etc; The Islamic Republic of Iran to convey the preliminary information as regards the "ECO Workshop on Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigation;</p> <p>The Republic of Türkiye to share the necessary information concerning the Training programme to foster cooperation on trends and opportunities in combating narcotic drugs and related crimes;</p>	
13.	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host Training Course on Awareness of Drugs and Precursors in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023. The Council requested the</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Islamic Republic of Pakistan to share details of the training course in due course.	
14.	The Council recalled that due to absence of interested host countries, some important meetings such as 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States have not organized. In this regard, the Council requested the interested Member States to seriously consider for hosting the above meeting. The Council mandated the Secretariat to host the meetings in the absence of any volunteer member state.	
15.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Attorneys Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in 2023. The Council requested the host country to convey to the Secretariat the preliminary information about the event.	
16.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host 4 <sup>th</sup> Virtual Training Course on Drug Addition, focusing on Treatment and Harm Reduction Associated with Addiction in September 2023.	
<b>SECTOR H: ECO'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/AFFILIATED BODIES</b>		
<b>PROGRAMMES/ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Action to be taken</b>
a) <u><b>INTER-REGIONAL ECO ACTIVITIES</b></u>		
(i) <b>ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies</b>		
1.	The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat for coordinating the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Consultation Meetings among the Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies on October 2, 2022 and October 17, 2022 respectively.	
2.	The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Specialized Agencies to augment the frequency of contacts among them to boost cooperation and exchange information about activities in the mandated areas.	
3.	The Council urged the ECO Specialized Agencies to expand spheres of international relations by developing institutionalized ties with regional and international organizations.	
<b>ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
4.	The Council welcomed the ratification of the ECI Charter by the Republic of Türkiye.	
5.	The Council requested the Member States to take necessary steps to ensure timely transfer of annual budgetary contributions to the ECI budget; timely payment of annual contributions would facilitate the Institute carry out its activities for realizing its aims and objectives.	
6.	The Council emphasized its earlier recommendation that the non-signatory Member States might consider signing the ECI Charter and requested the signatory Member States to ratify the Charter at the earliest.	
7.	The Council welcomed hosting 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECI Board of Trustees (BoT) in Tehran in 2023 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey the exact dates of the meeting at the earliest convenience. The Council also encouraged the Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
<b>ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)</b>		
8.	The Council appreciated the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for signing the Host Country Agreement with the ECOSF in December 2021.	
9.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Türkiye, and the Republic of Uzbekistan to expedite ratification process with regard to the ECOSF Charter.	
10.	The Council appreciated the appointment of new President of the ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Tayebi	
11.	The Council took serious note of the financial Problems faced by the ECOSF due to non-payment of the annual contributions by Member States and encouraged urgent payment of mandatory annual budgetary contributions to the foundation along with arrears. The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to devise mechanisms to facilitate the transfer of arrears.	
12.	The Council took note of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of ECO Science Foundation on 14 February, 2023 in Esfahan, Iran. The Council also encouraged the Member States to participate actively in the meeting.	
<b>ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)</b>		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
13.	The Council appreciated the ECO Educational Institute for effective outreach to the social media platforms with a view to making mass promotion of activities of the Institute.	
14.	The Council requested the non-signatory and non-ratifying ECO Member States to sign and ratify the ECOEI Charter	
15.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye to accord legal status to the ECO Educational Institute by signing Host Country Agreement and requested the Republic of Türkiye and the ECO Educational Institute to expedite working on the use of the rights and privileges granted under the Host Country Agreement.	
16.	The Council requested the Member States to pay annual budgetary contributions to the Institute in a regular and timely manner.	
17.	The Council requested the non-ECOEI Member States to join and support the Institute in its working and activities.	
18.	The Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to expedite ratification process with regard to Charter of the ECOEI.	
19.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran on activating Olympiad Diplomacy through exchange programs among Member States to enhance their capacities on international Olympiad. The Islamic Republic of Iran can facilitate in coordination with the ECOEI based on its rich experience and hosting special workshops for the students of the Member States.	
20.	The Council requested the Member States to consider extending their project proposals for inclusion in the future “ <b>ECOEI Work Program</b> ” to be discussed at the next ECOEI Board of Trustees Meeting. The relevant information may be sent to the ECOEI including the objective/s of the activities, time, venue and participants, cost-sharing if any, and other necessary information.	
<b>Regional and Affiliated Bodies</b>		
21.	The Council acknowledged the support of the Republic of Türkiye to transform the ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food security (ECO-RCCFS) from a programme-based organization into a self-sustainable institution.	
22.	The Council urged the ECO Secretariat to resume working on draft 'Modalities for the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Establishment of Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and the Establishment of Specialized Agencies', which was temporarily halted on account of outbreak of the Pandemic.	
<b>(ii) ECO's External Relations</b>		
23.	The Council appreciated ECO Secretariat's commitment to expand mutually beneficial relations with the United Nations System, International Organizations and non-ECO countries.	
24.	The Council expressed deep satisfaction over the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to deepen its ties with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and supported the ECO initiative for obtaining Observer Status in the SCO on reciprocal basis.	
25.	The Council took note of the under-process draft Joint Action Plan for Implementation of MoU between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.	
26.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to revive the forum of Joint ASEAN-ECO Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of UNGA Session in New York.	
27.	The Council took note of the under-process Draft Framework of Cooperation between the ASEAN and the ECO.	
28.	The Council noted with appreciation the under-consideration Joint ECO-ASEAN Ambassadorial Meeting (s) in Tehran and Jakarta, encouraging for early organization of the event to ensure ECO cooperation.	
29.	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.	
30.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's initiative to organize the brainstorming session/meeting to launch new round of reforms, at the level of Deputies Foreign Ministers in 2022.	
31.	The Council welcomed the initiative of the ECO Secretariat to have a renewed MoU with the World Customs Organizations (WCO).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
32.	The Council mulled over the status of relations between Developing-8 Organization of Economic Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Organization, and expressed support for the application of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the membership in D-8 and acceleration of the relevant procedures related to the mentioned upcoming membership in line with the D-8 Charter.	
33.	The Council welcomed the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to invite the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to be partnered in the ECO Clean Energy Center hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Clean Energy Corridor, and the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO REM).	
34.	The Council commended the ECO for its efforts on Joint Programme with the Islamic Development Bank.	
<b>I. SECTOR: ECONOMIC RESEARCH &amp; STATISTICS</b>		
<b>Economic Research</b>		
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”, “Implementation Framework of the ECO Vision 2025”, p.2).	
2.	Since 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) to be held on December 7, 2022 was postponed due to lack of quorum ( <i>reference: Secretariat’s NV ERS/7th EPSCER Meeting/2022/2022/1617, dated November 24, 2022</i> ) the Council tasked the Secretariat to inform about the new dates of the event after due consultations with the Meeting Chairpersonship – the Institute of Economic Research of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.	
3.	The Council recommended to identify during the 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of EPSCER directions of research stemming from the economic priorities of the Member States expressed at the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> Summits of Heads of State and Government held in 2021. Here the Council recommended to be guided by the Plan of Work on the proposals and initiatives of the 15 <sup>th</sup>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	ECO Summit held in Ashgabat on November 28, 2021, adopted by the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of the Organization in April 2022.	
4.	The Council acknowledged that the “Comprehensive Medium and Long Term Strategic Plan of the ECO Economic Journal” 2016-2020 has been supported by substantive proposals of Member States, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Türkiye, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and, based on such positive feedbacks, the Council recommended extending the coverage of aforementioned Strategic Plan for period 2022-2025 (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).	
5.	The Council also requested to follow the provisions of “ECO Economic Research Policy” which was approved at the 6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings held on 7th December 2021 (virtual mode, ECO Secretariat) (6th EPSCER/5th EBEEJ Meetings’ Report, paragraph-48). The document is currently available on ECO web for use and guidance in the area of economic research.	
<b>ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP)</b>		
6.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to draft an ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) in line with the immediate priorities of the Member-States expressed at the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> Summits of the ECO Heads of State and Government, making emphasis in the following areas - transit and transport, energy, water, food security, diversification of economy, green economy, climate change.	



Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
7.	<p>The Council welcomed the five priorities as defined by the 6<sup>th</sup> EPSCER/5<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> EPSCER/5<sup>th</sup> 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.</p>	
8.	<p>In the above view, the Council welcomed a new economic research project proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan titled "Kazakhstan's trade and economic potential in the markets of the ECO countries in the new geo-economic realities" as a pilot project in a vision to be exemplary to other member states highlighting a need for economic research analyses and macroeconomic economic policy support. It also welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding a need for ECO's macroeconomic modeling of de-carbonization processes via analysis of economic inter-linkages amongst ECO's six core activity areas toward greater economic integration as envisaged in "ECO Vision 2025" (6<sup>th</sup> EPSCER/5<sup>th</sup> EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraphs-16, 20).</p>	
9.	<p>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 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 (6<sup>th</sup> EPSCER/5<sup>th</sup> EBEEJ Meetings' Report, paragraph-25).</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
10.	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 (32nd RPC Work Programme 2022, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-15).	
11.	The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare ECO Annual Economic Reports for the years 2021 and 2022 not later than the 1st half of 2023. In this regards the Council requested to provide the Secretariat with relevant data.	
12.	In practical terms, the Council requested the Member States for their relevant inputs and country reports for period 2021/2022 for the purposes of compilation of ECO Annual Report 2021/2022 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 research and country strategy development (32nd RPC, Work Programme 2022, paragraph-17).	
<b>ECO Economic Journal (EEJ)</b>		
13.	The Council noted the Report of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ) held on 31 August, 2022 (distributed with Secretariat’s Note Verbal No.ERS/EBEEJ/ 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting/2022/ 1238, dated September 8, 2022) and recommended to institutionalize the Journal by obtaining ISSN code as well as widen interaction with the expert community of the Member-States.	
14.	The Council noted, referring to the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ) held on 31 August, 2022, that compilation of the volume of the ECO Economic Journal for the year 2022 have been fulfilled as planned and recommended that it to be released within the framework of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting on economy and finances to be held in Baku (32 <sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-18)	
15.	The Council appreciated 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ) held on August 31, 2022.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	The Council positively assessed the fulfillment of the tasks relating to the preparation of the 2022 volume of the Journal.	
16.	The Council requested to regularly hold the meetings of the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ) and tasked the Editorial Board and the ECO Secretariat to jointly draft the provisional Agendas of such meetings based on the Member States' proposals and, circulate those to all Member States at the earliest ( <i>ECO Calendar 2023</i> ).	
17.	Referring to the report of the 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal (agenda item 5, paragraph 23, distributed with ECO Secretariat's NV: ERS/EBEEJ/ 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting/ 2022/1238, dated September 8, 2022) the Council requested the Secretariat to consider the financing of the ECO Economic Journal, which needs USD50000 (fifty thousand US dollars), aimed at transforming it into internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication among academic, scientific and policy oriented publications.	
18.	The Council requested new Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal in its regular work to relate to the Secretariat the Board's Terms of reference with the indication of mandates and responsibilities of the Board Members ( <i>32<sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-19</i> ).	
19.	The Council appreciated that the ECO Editorial Policy was adopted at 6 <sup>th</sup> EPSCER/5 <sup>th</sup> EBEEJ Meetings and acknowledged that the document is currently available on ECO web for use and guideline for the Members of Editorial Board ( <i>32<sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-20</i> ).	
20.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to timely publicize the Call for Papers requesting for articles, analytical papers and other relevant materials in line with the current priorities of the Member-States.	
21.	The Council requested to publish online incoming articles relating to the issues of economic development of the ECO area without delay after due consideration by the Editorial Board.	
<b>ECO Research Center</b>		
22.	The Council appreciated that the Charter of ECO Research Center (ERC) 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	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	4th, 2021) and encouraged the remaining ECO Member States to sign the document (Report of 14 <sup>th</sup> ECO Summit Meeting, available at: www.eco.int). The Council expressed the hope that ECO Research Center will start functioning soon.	
23.	The Council noted with satisfaction the willingness of the relevant government agencies of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the oral notice of the Islamic Republic of Iran to accede to the Charter of ECO Research Center (ERC) and therefore tasked the ECO Secretariat to ensure timely signing of the said document in line with relevant established procedures and protocol.	
24.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Third ECO Think Tank Forum during the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023.	
25.	<u>Since the ECO Economic Journal is affiliated with the ECO Research Centre</u> the Council requested the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat to compile a <i>List of ECO Lead Analytical Centers/Consultancies and Regional Research Institutions</i> .	
26.	The Council requested the Editorial Board of the ECO Economic Journal in cooperation with the ECO Secretariat to establish links with the leading strategic research centres and institutions of the Member-states, well-known economists and experts to enable free flow of latest data and information that enable the Organization to be kept abreast with the ongoing developments in the world.	
<b>Statistics</b>		
27.	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).	
28.	The Council took note of the Report of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices of the ECO Member States/8th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics was held on June 29, 2022 ( <i>reference: Secretariat’s NV ERS/929, dated July 3, 2022</i> ).	
29.	The Council recommended that the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of ECO Member States may forward to the Secretariat their relevant proposals/suggestions regarding the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	provisional Agenda items to be discussed at the 7th MHNSOs and 9th HLEGM on Statistics as well as the venue of the meetings scheduled to be held in 2023 ( <i>ECO Calendar of Events 2023</i> ).	
30.	The Council expressed satisfaction with the pace of the realization of the “ <i>Five Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026</i> ” and, in this regard 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of MHNSOs/8 <sup>th</sup> HLEGM held on June 29, 2022 have proven constructive: representatives of the Member-States that took part in the gatherings put forward a wide-range of proposals on intensifying cooperation in this area ( <i>32<sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-34</i> ).	
31.	The Council mandated the member states to host the 9th ECO High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Statistics and 7th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNS), separately.	
32.	<p>The Council tasked the ECO Secretariat to get a financial and technical support from the Economic/Research International and Regional Organizations/Institutions on the following workshops proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ECO Workshop introducing quality management frameworks, establishing, and implementing the framework, assessment of statistics quality in statistical surveys and registers, and</li> <li>➤ ECO workshop introducing the process of implementing statistical survey based on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model(GSBPM)</li> </ul>	
33.	The Council requested the Member-States for wider exchange with good practices/ experiences/expertise among the National Statistical Agencies in order to build up a shared potential in the field of statistics. The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to share its good practices/experiences/expertise with other NSOs and is also interested in benefiting from the good practices/ experiences/ expertise of other NSOs.	
34.	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</i> ”, the Council encouraged Member States to offer such	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	statistical events that primarily focus on ECO countries' statistical capacity building needs.	
35.	The Council expressed satisfaction with the joint international and regional events held in cooperation with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (SIAP), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM), the Statistical Centre of Iran and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) in line with the paragraphs 14, 51, 52, 53, I-Sector: Economic Research & Statistics Work Programme, approved by the 32 <sup>nd</sup> ECO Regional Planning Council (17-26 January 2022) and encouraged widening of such constructive interactions.	
36.	The Council appreciated the holding of Joint DOSM-SESRIC-ECO Online Training Course on Big Data Applications for Price Intelligence on 14-16 June 2022 on online format and highly valued the importance of the training in improving the national statistics of the Member States.	
37.	The Council appreciated the holding of ECO-SIAP Training on "Moving Toward Register Based Population and Housing Census" held on 25-27 October 2022 on online format and highly valued the importance of the training in improving the national statistics of the Member States.	
38.	The Council appreciated the holding of "ECO-SESRIC-DOSM Training Course on SDG-9 (Industry, Infrastructure, and Innovation)" held on 1-3 November 2022 and highly valued the importance of the training in improving the national statistics of the Member States.	
39.	The Council appreciated the holding of ECO-TurkStat Training Course for Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in the Member States on 9-10 November, 2022 and highly valued the importance of the training in improving the national statistics of the Member States.	
40.	The Council, referring to the Report of the Report of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices of the ECO Member States/8th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics was held on June 29, 2022 ( <i>reference: Secretariat's NV ERS/929, dated July 3, 2022</i> ), requested to take initial steps on the implementation of the project proposal titled " <i>Agricultural statistics and Land Cover statistics from Earth Observations for selected ECO Countries</i> " in coordination with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Republic of Tajikistan as pilot country for the project.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
41.	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.	
<b>ECO Statistical Publications</b>		
42.	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 a similar pattern and provide their relevant data inputs covering the time period of 2021/22.	
43.	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 <i>“Recommended Practices on the Use of Non-Official Sources in International Statistics”</i> (32 <sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, <i>“I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-46</i> ).	
44.	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 2022-2023 (32 <sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, <i>“I” Sector: ERS, paragraph 47</i> ).	
45.	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 (32 <sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, <i>“I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-48</i> ).	
<b>ECOKSIs</b>		
46.	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 (32 <sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, <i>“I” Sector: ERS, paragraph 49</i> ).	
47.	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	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	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 (32 <sup>nd</sup> RPC, Work Programme 2022, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-50).	
48.	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 concerning 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".	
49.	As with support of ECO's international partners, the Council suggested the following thematic themes for regional trainings: _____	
50.	The Council noted the constructive cooperation that ECO Secretariat has established with the Statistical, Economic & Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), stemming from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ECO and Statistical, Economic & Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in 2016 and encouraged further collaboration with SESRIC ( <i>Text of MoU is available on ECO web at: <a href="http://eco.int/Memoranda-of-Understanding">http://eco.int/Memoranda-of-Understanding</a></i> ).	

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