

The 102nd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, Monday, 1st August 2005)

No. CPR/102nd/2005/04

1. The 102nd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on August 01, 2005. The meeting elected H.E. Mr. Abbasali K. Hasanov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as its Chairman as the incumbent Chairman/Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan was out of Tehran. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant ECO Secretariat staff attended the meeting. (List of participants attached as **Annex-I**).

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 101st meeting:
 1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Adoption of the Draft Report of 101st CPR Meeting
 3. Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting
 - a. Confirmation of Participation/Composition of Delegations
 - b. Preparations for 15th COM meeting:
 - i. Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2005
 - ii. Draft ECO Vision 2015
 - iii. Status report on implementation of decisions of the previous Ministerial meetings i.e. Transport & Communication, Commerce & Foreign Trade, Energy, Environment, Agriculture, Industry and Finance/Economy.
 - iv. Follow-up of the implementation of decisions of 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings
 - c. Any Other Issue
 4. Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004
 5. Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects
 6. Grant of Specialized Agency/Regional Institutions Status to ECO-CEC
 7. Consideration of the level of participation of the Member States in the approved events of the Organization and realization of the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events
 8. Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat
 9. Administrative Matters
 - a. Appointments against D-level posts:
 - i. Director (Economic Research & Statistics)
 - ii. Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
 - b. Appointments against P-Level posts
 10. Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute
 11. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:
 - a. 2nd Phase of ECO/ITC Project
 - b. Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)
 - c. FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia

12. Utilization of SSF for 4th Meeting of High Level Experts Group on Trade & Investment to resolve the remaining issues of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and Fast Track Approach (Kabul, 3-5 October 2006)
13. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently.
14. Any Other Business
15. Date of the Next Meeting

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 101st CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the Report of the 101st CPR meeting which was circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1253 dated 14th July 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/1400 dated 02 August 2005.

Item No. 3

Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting

a. Confirmation of Participation/Composition of Delegations

4. The CPR was informed that following eight member states have officially confirmed their participation in the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on August 20, 2005, to be preceded by Senior Officials Meeting on August 18-19, 2005:

1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
2. Republic of Azerbaijan
3. Islamic Republic of Iran
4. Republic of Kazakhstan (being host country)
5. Kyrgyz Republic
6. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
7. Republic of Tajikistan
8. Republic of Turkey

5. During the CPR meeting, the Representatives of Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan verbally confirmed that their delegations will participate in the aforesaid meetings. They will convey their composition of delegations in due time.

6. The CPR requested the member states, which did not yet convey their composition of delegations, may do so at the earliest, enabling the host authorities to make necessary arrangements accordingly.

b. Preparations

i. Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2005

7. The CPR deliberated the Work Programme of the Secretariat for the year 2005 circulated vide Secretariat's note No. PR/WP/2005/1353 dated 26th July 2005. While observing that some parts of the Work Programme needed updating before submitting the document to the 15th COM meeting, it requested the member states to convey their views/comments to the Secretariat, if any, for the early finalization of this document.

ii. Draft ECO Vision 2015

8. The CPR deliberated on the issue and decided that the Working Group may continue its efforts and try to finalize the draft ECO Vision 2015 in its meeting on 3rd August 2005 and submit it to the next CPR meeting for endorsement and subsequent submission to the 15th COM meeting for adoption.

iii. **Status report on implementation of decisions of the previous Ministerial meetings i.e. Transport & Communication, Commerce & Foreign Trade, Energy, Environment, Agriculture, Industry and Finance/Economy.**

9. The CPR took note of the aforesaid follow-up report for submission to the 15th COM meeting.

iv. **Follow-up of the implementation of decisions of 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings**

10. The CPR took note of the aforesaid follow-up report for submission to the 15th COM meeting.

c. **Any Other Issue**

i. **Updated Status Reports**

11. The CPR took note of the following updated status reports for submission to the 15th COM meeting.

S. No.	Status Report	No. and Date
1.	Updated Status Report on Signed Agreements / MoUs among member states	No. SG/15 th COM/2005/1328 Dated 21 July 2005
2.	Updated Status on Implementation of ECOTA as well as Fast Track Approach to ECOTA	No. SG/15 th COM/2005/1329 Dated 21 July 2005
3.	Status Report on TTFA	No. TC/TTFA/2005/1324 Dated 21 July 2005
4.	Unpaid Contributions of the ECO Member States to the Budget of the Secretariat for the last several years upto 2005.	No. SG/15 th COM/2005/1330 Dated 21 July 2005

ii. **Appointment of President of ECO Cultural Institute**

12. While elaborating the proposal regarding the appointment of Dr. Mehdi Sanaie, Vice President of the Organization of Islamic Culture and Communications, as the new President of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), the Iranian Representative informed the CPR that the incumbent President Mr. Mohammad Ali Shoaee was being given an important assignment by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the CPR may recommend to COM the appointment of Dr. Mehdi Sanaie as President of ECI, on behalf of BOT which is scheduled to meet in November 2005, for the remaining period of the tenure of Mr. Shoaee. He added that BOT would, however, deliberate on the appointment of the President of ECI for the new term.

13. In view of the above, the CPR recommended that the issue of appointment of Dr. Mehdi Sanaie as President of ECI, for the remaining period of the tenure of Mr. Shoaee, may be submitted to the 15th COM for approval. The agendas of SOM and 15th COM Meeting may be revised accordingly.

iii. **Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions**

14. Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the delegates from Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions for the 15th COM Meeting as well as for future COM meetings may be treated at par with delegations of ECO Secretariat with regard to the provision of hospitality, etc. CPR requested the Representative of Iran to submit written proposal in this regard for its consideration.

15. Regarding the participation of the Heads of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions in the forthcoming Meeting of the Council of Ministers, Iran requested that its proposal to be conveyed for consideration of the host authorities.

Item No. 4Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004

16. The CPR reviewed the Audit Report for the year 2004 and while thanking the Audit Board and the ECO Secretariat instructed the Secretariat to strictly abide by the Financial and staff regulations. Wherever the Secretariat feels that the regulations are not clear, it should seek guidelines from the CPR prior to making any commitments in payments in future.

17. The CPR approved the Audit Report for 2004 and its submission to the 15th COM meeting for final approval with the following observations:

i. With regard to the medical treatment for maternity service in the USA by officer spouse (item 4(c) of the Audit Report) the CPR approved the payment in this case. The CPR decided that it would take a decision for similar cases after through review of the issue and based on the Secretariat proposals.

ii. With regard to the reimbursement of the expenses for eye glasses (item 4(c) of the Audit Report), the CPR asked the Secretariat to have the amounts reimbursed from all staff for the years 2004 and 2005. In future no reimbursement should be made on this count.

iii. Regarding the advanced rent payments for the residence and expenses for furniture and consumable (items 4(a) and 4(d) of the Audit Report), CPR was informed that there were similar precedents in the past and the accommodation situation in Tehran had dictated that the rent for two years be paid in advance for acquiring suitable accommodation for the Secretary General. The CPR while noting these considerations underlined the need for strict compliance with existing rules and regulations. It clearly directed that in future the advance rent should not be paid for more than one year.

Item No. 5Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects

18. The CPR deliberated on the issue. The Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic informed the meeting that Kyrgyz Republic regretted its inability to be coordinator for Interconnection of Power Systems of the ECO member states. The CPR was informed that a status report on the issue will be submitted to the 15th COM Meeting, and if there will be any new development with regard to the issue, the CPR will consider it in its future meetings.

Item No. 6Grant of Specialized Agency/Regional Institutions Status to ECO-CEC

19. The CPR endorsed the recommendations of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) to accord the status of Regional Institution to ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (Pvt) Limited (ECO-CEC) for submission to the 15th COM meeting for approval.

20. Furthermore, the CPR requested the Secretariat to submit an updated Chart of Organizational Structure of ECO, with the proposed addition of ECO-CEC as Regional Institution and deletion of ECO Shipping Company and ECO Air as these two institutions are not existed any more.

Item No. 7Consideration of the level of participation of the Member States in the approved events of the Organization and realization of the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events:

21. The CPR reviewed the issue and approved the following recommendations with the purpose of ensuring greater level of participation in the events/meetings approved by the RPC and its submission to the 15th COM Meeting for consideration/approval:

- i. **National Focal Points (NFPs)**: The member states requested to provide necessary updated information with regard to their National Focal Points (NFPs) on regular basis to the Secretariat so that the Secretariat can prepare the updated information on its website which could be accessed by all member states. The Secretariat shall designate one of its officers to be in-charge of preparing and updating the Directory and take all necessary measures to fulfill this mandate within a maximum of one year. The Directory should contain all the focal points in different sectors and be updated on regular basis and printed frequently. The Secretariat while informing Embassies in Tehran can also informally contact directly with the relevant NFPs whenever it is necessary so that the required documents with regard to the events/meetings could reach to the relevant authorities of the member states in time.
- ii. **Future Calendar of Events/Meetings**: In order to make possible for the member states to focus on limited and possible implementation of important activities, the RPC and the CPR were requested to observe that the Secretariat prepare annual events/meetings with the main focus on the priority areas with reasonable number of activities which may reduce the chance of cancellation of scheduled events/meetings.
- iii. **Utilization of SSF by all member states**: While taking note that utilization of SSF was an important mechanism to encourage an increased level of participation in the relevant meetings, the CPR was authorized to look into the issue and if find it appropriate they may increase the present budget of SSF from US\$ 25000 to the required level to allow the use of the fund by all ten member states with the increased number of events.
- iv. **Establishment of Field Offices**: Considering the financial burden on the budget of the ECO Secretariat which will ultimately be contributed by the member states to establish the field offices, the issue needs thorough and careful consideration. Therefore, it was recommended that member states, at the first stage, the Staff in-charge of ECO affairs at the relevant Embassies in Tehran as well as relevant Directorates in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ECO Member States may be strengthened. In the meantime, the Secretariat should make necessary study on this idea taking into account the experiences of other organizations, views of the member states and the feasibility of the issue.

Item No. 8

Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat

22. As the working group was scheduled to meet on 3rd August 2005 to review/formulate fresh recommendations on the subject, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 9

Administrative Matters

- a. **Appointments against D-Level Posts**
- b. **Appointments against P-Level Posts**

23. The Selection Panel held its meeting on 1st August 2005 at 08:00 hours and submitted the following recommendations to the CPR:

1. **Assistant Director -Chef de Cabinet (Category-I, D-1)**

The Selection Panel requested the CPR to make a decision with regard to the appointment of Assistant Director so that the Secretariat may be able to continue its work and discharge its duties appropriately.

2. **Director, Economic Research & Statistics (Category-I, D-2)**

The Members of the Selection Panel discussed the nomination of Director, Economic Research and Statistics (ERS) which was sent by the Kyrgyz Republic. The Selection Panel strongly recommended to appoint Mr. Kubat Urmuzakov as Director with immediate effect for the remaining period of Mr. Ermek Ibraimov because the Secretariat is in need of that Directorate to become functional.

3. **Accountant (Category-II, P-3)**

To extend the tenure of the present incumbent of the post of Accountant Category-II, P-3, Mr. Assadolleh Hooshmand, Iranian national, for one year with effect from September 1, 2005.

4. **Russian Interpreter (Category-II, P-3)**

To extend the tenure for another term in respect of Mr. Elmar Bahgirzade, Azeri National, and present incumbent of the post of Russian Interpreter (Category-II, P-3) for a period of four years with effect from September 1, 2005.

5. **Russian Translator (Category-II, P-2)**

To extend the tenure of the present incumbent of the post of Russian Translator (Category-II, P-2), Mr. Ishankuli Ishankuliev, Turkmen national, for a period of three months with effect from September 6, 2005.

The Selection Panel requested the Secretariat to consult with the concerned Turkmen authorities in this regard. After that, the post may be re-advertised among the Member States.

6. **Research Officer (Category-II, P-3)**

To extend the tenure of Mr. Mohammad Mirzai Kahagh, Research Officer and an Iranian national, for a period of one month with effect from September 17, 2005. Mr. Farivar Parviz Farzam, an Iranian national, is recommended for appointment as Research Officer with effect from October 17, 2005

7. **Assistant Accountant (Category-II, P-2)**

To appoint Mr. Hamid Rashid as an Assistant Accountant (Category-II, P-2) who is Pakistani national, in place of present incumbent Ms. Gulmiran Urazova, Kazakh national, with effect from September 20, 2005

8. **Steno-Secretaries (Category-II, P-1) Two posts**

i) To appoint Mr. Zahid Hussain as a Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-1) who is Pakistan national, in place of present incumbent Mr. Ali Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistani national, with effect from September 29, 2005

ii) To appoint Mr. Ghulam Mohammad as a Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-1) who is Pakistani national, in place of present incumbent Mr. Manzoor Hussain, Pakistan national, with effect from September 29, 2005

9. **Administrative Assistant (Category-II, P-2)**

To appoint Mr. Qazi Hafeez ur Rehman as an Administrative Assistant (Category-II, P-2) who is a Pakistani national, in place of Mr. Mateen Ahmed Farooqi, Pakistani national, with effect from September 29, 2005.

10. **Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-2)**

To appoint Mr. Rafique Ahmed as a Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-2) who is Pakistan national, in place of Mr. Talib Hussain, Pakistani national, with effect from October 1, 2005.

11. **Program Officer (Category-II, P-3)**

To appoint Mr. Esmail Afshari as a Program Officer (Category-II, P-3) who is Iranian national, in place of Mr. Mozaffar Torabi, Iranian national, with effect from October 24, 2005.

24. CPR deliberated on the issue. Since there was a need for further consultations, therefore, the CPR decided to defer its decision to its next meeting.

Item No. 10Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute

25. The CPR deliberated on the issue and decided that an informal meeting of the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of the interested states will be held at 09:00 hours on Wednesday, 10th August 2005, prior to the 103rd CPR meeting, to review the Audit Report of ECO Cultural Institute.

Item No. 11Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:

- a. 2nd Phase of ECO/ITC Project
- b. Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)
- c. FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia

26. The CPR deferred the aforesaid issues to its next meeting.

Item No. 12Utilization of SSF for 4th Meeting of High Level Experts Group on Trade & Investment to resolve the remaining issues of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and Fast Track Approach (Kabul, 3-5 October 2005)

27. CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 13Briefing on the events/meetings attended by ECO staff recently

28. The CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 13Any Other Business

29. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Item No. 14Date of the Next Meeting

30. The CPR decided to hold its next (103rd) meeting on Wednesday, 10th August 2005 at 10:00 hours at the Secretariat. The CPR also decided to hold an informal meeting at 09:00 hours on the same day to review the Audit Report of ECO Cultural Institute.

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