

# The 103<sup>rd</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( *Tehran, Wednesday, 10 August 2005* )

No. CPR/103<sup>rd</sup>/2005/04

1. The 103<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on August 10, 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, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan 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 103<sup>rd</sup> meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of 102<sup>nd</sup> CPR Meeting
3. Preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting
  - a. Confirmation of Participation/Composition of Delegations
  - b. Preparations for 15<sup>th</sup> COM meeting:
    - i. Draft ECO Vision 2015
  - c. Any Other Issue
4. Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat
5. 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
6. Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute
7. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
8. Utilization of SSF for 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High Level Experts Group on Trade & Investment to resolve the remaining issues of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and Fast Track Approach (Kabul, 9-10 November 2005)
9. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently.
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of the Next Meeting

### **Item No. 2**

#### **Adoption of the Draft Report of 102<sup>nd</sup> CPR Meeting**

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 102<sup>nd</sup> CPR meeting which was circulated among member states vide Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/1406 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005, with some minor amendments proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The adopted report has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1463 dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

### **Item No. 3**

#### **Preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting**

##### **a. Confirmation of Participation/Composition of Delegations**

4. The CPR was informed that the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has decided to postpone the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM), which was earlier scheduled to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2005 in Astana, to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005. Senior Officials Meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

5. The CPR requested the member states to reconfirm their participation in the aforesaid meetings on the new dates as well as composition of delegations with flight schedule etc.

##### **b. Preparations for 15<sup>th</sup> COM meeting:**

###### **i. Draft ECO Vision 2015**

6. The CPR deliberated on the issue and considered the observations made by the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Since there was no consensus, therefore, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting. Some member states observed that if the Secretariat received the views/comments in writing from the above-mentioned member states showing some flexibility, then the Secretariat may call a meeting of the Working Group on the issue before the next CPR meeting. However, some other member states wanted the Working Group to meet once again before the next CPR meeting.

##### **c. Any Other Issue**

7. CPR did not discuss any issue under this agenda item.

### **Item No. 4**

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

8. The CPR deliberated on the issue and decided to defer it to its next meeting. However, it was decided to hold an informal meeting of the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives to review recommendations on the issues, prepared by a working group on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005. The time and venue of the informal meeting will be decided by the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan/Chairman CPR, in consultation with other Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives.

### **Item No. 5**

#### **Administrative Matters**

##### **a. Appointments against D-Level Posts**

###### **i. Director (Economic Research & Statistics)**

9. With regard to the appointment of Mr. Kubat Umurzakov as Director Economic Research and Statistics at the ECO Secretariat for the remaining period of Mr. Ermak Ibraimov, the CPR instructed the Secretariat to continue with the past practice and take necessary action in this regard.

###### **ii. Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet**

10. The CPR was informed that the Secretariat vide its note No. ADM/PER/2004/2029 dated October 27, 2004, informed the member states that a post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet will fall vacant on January 10, 2005, in the ECO Secretariat and invited nominations from the member states till 30 November 2004. Later, the

CPR on request of the some of the member states extended the deadline for receipt of nominations until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and also extended the tenure of Mr. Afzal Mirshakarov (National of the Republic of Tajikistan), Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet for three months with effect from January 10, 2005. At the expiry of his extended tenure, Mr. Mirshakarov relinquished the charge of the post on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

11. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey have submitted their nominations for the aforesaid post.

12. Selection Panel had met several times before CPR meetings but could not reach consensus to recommend a candidate for the aforesaid post. Therefore, the CPR has continuously deferred the decision on the issue. 103<sup>rd</sup> CPR meeting also considered the issue but as there was no consensus, the issue was deferred to its next meeting.

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

13. With regard to the appointments against P-Level posts, the CPR agreed to the following:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

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

To extend the tenure of Mr. Mohammad Mirzaei 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 for a period of four-year term with effect from October 17, 2005

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

Permanent Representative of Pakistan indicated that in a spirit of cooperation and as exceptional case he withdrew the nomination of Pakistan in favour of Kazakh candidate. Therefore, the CPR agreed to appoint Ms. Gulmira Urazova, present incumbent as an Assistant Accountant (Category-II, P-2) who is Kazakh national, for another term of four years with effect from September 20, 2005. The CPR called upon all member states to scrupulously adhere to the rules and regulations governing the appointment of officials to the ECO Secretariat and in particular to ensure that they make their nominations to vacant posts within the set deadlines.

6. **Steno-Secretaries (Category II, P1/P2)**

i) To appoint Mr. Zahid Hussain as Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-2) who is Pakistan national, in place of present incumbent Mr. Muhammad Akbar, Pakistani national, for a period of four-year term with effect from September 29, 2005.

Mr. Ali Ahmad Chaudhry, presently working as Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-1) at the Secretariat, who was earlier approved for appointment against the post of Steno-Secretary (P-2) by the 96<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, will continue to work against the post of Steno-Secretary (P-1).

- 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, for a four-year term with effect from September 29, 2005

7. **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, for a four-year term with effect from September 29, 2005.

8. **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, for a four-year term.

However, the Secretary General requested for extension in the tenure of the present incumbent Mr. Talib Hussain, Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P-2), for a period of at least one month, i.e. up to 31 October 2005, due to the postponement of the forthcoming SOM/15<sup>th</sup> COM meetings to September 29-30, 2005 and October 1, 2005 respectively, which are coinciding with the departure of Mr. Talib Hussain. Pakistan agreed to consult its authorities in Islamabad and to convey its response at the earliest possible. Mr. Rafique Ahmed may join the Secretariat with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005.

9. **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, for a four-year term with effect from October 24, 2005.

**Item No. 6**

**Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute**

14. The CPR reviewed the Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute for the year 2004 and approved the report, with the following observations:

**Para 4(a) of the Audit Report – Meals/entertainment to staff members:** No payment should be made on meals/entertainment to the staff members of ECI and any amount paid in 2004 shall be recovered.

**Para 4 (b) of the Audit Report – Insurance/transport/overtime for the employees:** All payments should be stopped except insurance charges for which the amount has already been paid by the ECI. The meeting decided that ECI should submit a case to the CPR/BOT of ECI for provision of such payments from 2006 and an amount in the budget for the year 2006 may be allocated.

**Para 4(c) of the Audit Report – Non-deduction/maintenance of Provident Fund Account:** Deductions of the Provident Fund contributions as required in Article 21.1 of the ECI Staff Regulations should be made from now onwards.

**Para 4(d) of the Audit Report – Re-imburement of meals/taxi etc in addition to room rent and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA):** The meeting endorsed the auditors comments and decided that the ECI should submit a case to BOT to replace Article 24.3 and 24.4 with the regulation approved for the ECO Secretariat to bring parity in this regard.

**Para 4(e) of the Audit Report – Use of signatures stamp:** The meeting requested that the President of the ECI should sign the vouchers etc.

**Para 4(f) of the Audit Report – Double employment contract to the ECI employees:** The Ambassador/Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that payment to the Assistant Director of the Institute for his duties is being made by the budget allocated by the Iranian Government. The meeting took note of the case and recommended that it may be regulated later by BOT.

The meeting decided that outgoing President of the ECI should be paid salary from ECI budget up to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. However, considering the decision taken in the 102<sup>nd</sup> CPR meeting on the appointment of the new ECI President and recommending it for the endorsement of COM, if such appointment will be officially confirmed by the member states of ECI in written before the COM meeting, Mr. M. Sanaei could immediately assume his responsibility as the new President of ECI.

**Para 4(g) of the Audit Report – Contribution not paid:** The meeting decided that the member states may be requested to pay their contributions to the ECI budget and this matter may be included in the draft agenda of the BOT Meeting.

15. Following the endorsement of the report by the CPR, it may be forwarded to the forthcoming BOT for final approval, as per rules and regulations of the ECI.

#### **Item No. 7**

##### **Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:**

- a. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

16. The CPR approved, in principle, the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for aforesaid projects, pending the final approval from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as proposed by the Secretariat as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>ECO Feasibility Fund to be utilized</b>
a.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase of ECO/ITC Project	US\$ 50,000
b.	Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)	US\$ 50,000
c.	FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia	US\$ 35,000-40,000

17. However, the CPR observed that upon receipt of the positive response from Pakistan, the Secretariat may approach the donor agencies accordingly for implementation of the projects.

#### **Item No. 8**

##### **Utilization of SSF for 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High Level Experts Group on Trade & Investment to resolve the remaining issues of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and Fast Track Approach (Kabul, 9-10 November 2005)**

18. The CPR approved the utilization of SSF for 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High Level Experts Group on Trade and Investment to resolve the remaining issues of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and Fast Track Approach to be held in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 9-10 November 2005.

#### **Item No. 9**

##### **Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently.**

19. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat with regard to the meetings/events attended by the ECO Secretariat Staff recently.

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**Item No. 10**  
**Any Other Business**

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a. **Ratification of Treaty of Izmir**

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20. It was pointed out that some member states have not yet ratified the Treaty of Izmir which was signed in Izmir on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1996 by all member states. The CPR requested the member states, who did not ratify yet the Treaty of Izmir, to do so soonest possible. Furthermore, it requested the Secretariat's Legal Adviser to clarify the position with regard to this issue, looking into the experiences of other regional and international organizations.

b. **Coincidence of Different Meetings**

21. It was observed that the following meetings are coinciding with the forthcoming SOM/15<sup>th</sup> COM meetings which have been rescheduled for September 29-30 and October 1, 2005, respectively:

1. First Meeting of HLEG on Privatization and Private Sector Development and Second Meeting of Heads of Privatization Administration of Member States to be held in Islamabad from 30 September to 3 October 2005.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Reference Marine Organizations of ECO Member States to be held in Istanbul on September 29-30, 2005.

22. The Secretary General assured the Council that there would be no problem at the part of the Secretariat to coordinate and organize the aforesaid meetings. CPR observed that the concerned host member states may look into the possibility of rescheduling the aforesaid meetings in case there would be any difficulty.

**Item No. 11**  
**Date of the Next Meeting**

23. The next (104<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the CPR will be held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 10:00 hours.

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