

The 116th CPR Meeting

Report

(*Tehran, Wednesday, 30 August 2006*)

No. CPR/116th/2006/05

1. The 116th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 30th August 2006, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Abbasali Hassanov, Permanent Representative/Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 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 Secretariat's staff attended the meeting. (List of participants is attached as **Annex-I**).

2. After opening the meeting, the Chairman CPR welcomed His Excellency Ambassador Khurshid Anwar as the new Secretary General of ECO and extended warm felicitations upon his assumption of office. He expressed confidence that during the tenure of Mr. Khurshid Anwar the ECO will become more effective Organization and will contribute more to regional cooperation. He assured Mr. Anwar of full support and cooperation in achieving the objectives of the Organization, and wished him success in his new assignment.

3. The other distinguished members of the CPR also welcomed Mr. Anwar and congratulated him on becoming the Secretary General of ECO. They expressed hope that with his diplomatic experience of the region, Mr. Anwar would be able to strengthen relations among the ECO member states and help carry forward sustainable development of the region. They assured the new Secretary General of their full cooperation in the discharge of his duties.

4. The CPR also welcomed and congratulated Deputy Secretaries General Mr. Serik Alybaev and Mr. Mustafa Demirezen and other members of the staff and expressed hope that the new team will spare no effort to make the Organization a greater success.

5. In his statement, the new Secretary General thanked the Council for the kind words of welcome and support which, he said, were a source of strength and inspiration for him. He also thanked the member states for the unanimous support to his candidature, enabling his appointment to be realized in a smooth and friction-free manner. He said it was reflective of the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation which was one of ECO's strengths. This would be maintained and indeed carried forward in the months and years ahead. A copy of his statement is attached as **Annex-II**.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The CPR adopted the following agenda, with proposed amendments, for its 116th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 115th CPR Meeting
3. Preparations for the Informal COM meeting to be held in New York:
 - a. Date and Venue of the Meeting
 - b. Draft Resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and the ECO"
4. Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan
5. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund:
 - a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors
 - b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre
6. Status of Unpaid Contribution to the Secretariat's Budget
7. Administrative Matters:
 - a. Appointments of:
 - i. Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment)
 - ii. Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development)

- iii. Assistant Director (Administration/General Affairs)
- iv. Computer Operator
- b. DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
 - c. Creation of a temporary post (Equivalent to Category I, D-1) for a period of 8 months
- 8. Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
- 9. Designation of M/s TAVANIR as coordinating company for Feasibility Study of Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States
- 10. Nomination of a company for reactivation and supervision of ECO Trade and Investment Information Network
- 11. Statute of ECO College of Insurance & Management
- 12. Any Other Business
- 13. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 115th CPR Meeting

7. The CPR adopted the Report of its 115th meeting, which was circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1224 dated 18 July 2006, with some proposed amendments. The adopted report has since been circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/1466 dated 31 August 2006.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparations for the Informal COM meeting to be held in New York:

a. Date and Venue of the Meeting

8. The Chairman/Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the CPR that the tentative date of the Informal COM meeting will be 25/26 September 2006. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be conveyed soon.

9. The CPR observed that the date and venue of the ECO/ASEAN Joint Ministerial, which is also expected to be held in New York, may also be fixed.

10. The Secretary General informed the meeting that he had been in contact with the Pakistani Mission in New York, in his personal capacity, and also with the Azeri Embassy in Tehran. The key element in making arrangements for the COM and the ECO-ASEAN meeting was the date which the current Chairman of COM, Azerbaijan, had now indicated. However, it remained subject to confirmation. As soon as the Secretariat received the exact date, it would be immediately conveyed to all member states.

b. Draft Resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and the ECO"

11. The CPR appreciated the efforts of the Working Group with regard to the finalization of the draft Resolution and endorsed the text. The Islamic Republic of Iran observed that, if CPR agreed, it would convey minor editorial changes to the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 4

Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan

12. The CPR approved the following recommendations of the Quadrilateral Selection Committee which had met on 27 August 2006 to discuss the project:

- i) Having considered the technical and professional capacities of the three short-listed companies, the Selection Committee agreed to recommend that the **Afghan Construction Company** (state company) be selected as the implementing agency and awarded Contract for this tender.

- ii) The Committee noted that the estimated expenditure quoted by the Afghan Construction Company was higher than the other two companies. Therefore, it decided to recommend to CPR that budget for this project be raised to a maximum of US\$ 1.3 million. Meanwhile, since the Afghan Construction Company had already offered to reduce the price by 6-10 %, the relevant Afghan authorities should be requested to negotiate with the Company to bring down the expenditure to within US\$ 1.3 million.
- iii) The CPR may authorize the Secretary General to sign the Contract between the Secretariat, the Afghanistan government and the implementing agency. Within the contract, if there be any sub-contractor(s), its (their) name(s) shall be mentioned in the Contract, and the Municipality of Kabul shall act as the Consultant for the Secretariat in monitoring and reporting the progress of implementation of the project.
- iv) The Secretariat will make payment out of the ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan to the implementing agency in accordance with the proposed Contract upon receiving bills from the implementing agency confirmed by the Afghan government.
- v) At the end of the implementation of the project, satisfactory completion and formal termination of the project should be done together by the Secretariat and the Afghan government. The Secretariat will submit a final report to the CPR on the implementation of the project.
- vi) The ECO Audit Board shall be authorized to audit the expenses with regard to this project while auditing the annual budget of the Secretariat.
- vii) In case the Afghan Construction Company refuses to execute the project within the abovementioned budget and conditions, the Afghan authorities shall re-advertise the tender after prior consultation with the Secretariat.
- viii) In order to secure the financial requirements of the project, the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey informed the Committee that the concerned authorities in their respective capitals had initiated the process of transferring a portion of their pledged amount to the Account specified as the Fund for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan. The representative of Pakistan also informed that an amount of US\$ one million will be transferred to the relevant account within the next few weeks.

13. While appreciating the decision, the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan registered some concern with regard to the state company, Afghan Construction Company.

Agenda Item No. 5

Utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund:

a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors

14. The CPR was informed that the observations made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with regard to the Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors had been forwarded to the relevant company as well as the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

15. The CPR requested the Secretariat that, in consultation with the relevant company/Iranian authorities, a response be sent to Pakistan and enquiries made to ascertain whether that company was still interested in the project on the same conditions. The CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting.

16. The Islamic Republic of Iran observed that the Regional Planning Council and the Secretariat should be involved more in the selection of such technical projects and the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for the purpose. They proposed that the Functional Methodology be revised accordingly.

b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre

17. The Republic of Turkey informed that Turkey was still awaiting the experts' report on the proposed project and a decision by the Industries Ministers' meeting was necessary in this regard. The CPR decided that the matter be referred to the Steering Committee Meeting on Industry (16-18 September 2006 at the Secretariat) to elaborate the issue.

Agenda Item No. 6

Status of Unpaid Contribution to the Secretariat's Budget

18. The CPR noted with concern the question of unpaid budgetary contributions for the year 2006 as well for previous years by some members and requested those who had not yet paid their contributions to do so at the earliest, enabling the Secretariat to continue its smooth functioning.

19. The Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan informed that the matter was under consideration of the Uzbek authorities and expressed hope that this issue would be resolved in a positive manner. The Secretary General welcomed the comment of the Uzbek Ambassador and expressed appreciation for Uzbekistan's increased interest in ECO affairs as reflected by its readiness to receive NESPAK delegation undertaking feasibility study on power transmission lines, as also to hold a conference on environment.

20. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that due to some administrative formalities, the payment of its share for 2006 has been delayed. He further stated that Iran would pay its contribution, hopefully, by the end of September.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative Matters

a. Appointments of Directors, Assistant Director & Computer Operator

21. The CPR took note of the recommendations of the Selection Panel which are reproduced below:

1. Director (Energy, Mineral and Environment), Category I, D-2

Upon the request of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, the Selection Panel postponed the selection of Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment) to the next Selection Panel/CPR.

2. Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development), Category I, D-2

Mr. Muzaffer Alacaogullari (National of Turkey) may be re-appointed as Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development), for a term of three years, effective 18 August 2006.

The Selection Panel observed that there was a need to strengthen the professional capacity of the Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development with new staff.

3. Assistant Director (Admin/General Affairs), Category I, D-1

Mr. Mohammad Hasan Sheikholeslami (National of Iran) may be appointed as Assistant Director (Administration/General Affairs), for a three-year term, effective 1st October 2006, in place of Mr. Abulghasem Tahmasebi (National of Iran), who completes his tenure on that date.

The Selection Panel also observed that the present distribution of the Directing Staff should be reviewed so that each member state got one post of Directing Staff by the year 2015.

4. Computer Operator, Category II, P-1

Mr. Mohammad Reza Malekooti (National of Iran) may be appointed as Computer Operator (Category II, P-1), in place of Mr. Ahmad Tafaghodi (National of Iran), for a term of four years, effective 7th November 2006.

The tenure of Mr. Ahmad Tafaghodi, the present incumbent Computer Operator may be extended for two months i.e. from 7th September 2006 to 6th November 2006.

The Selection Panel also observed that member states should be encouraged to send more than one nomination against every vacant post so that the Selection Panel should have a choice to select the best one.

22. The CPR agreed that, in view of the reservation expressed by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan about the post of Assistant Director (Administration/General Affairs), if Afghanistan concurred with the Panel's recommendations before the next CPR meeting those would be considered as finally approved. However, if Afghanistan did not withdraw its reservation, the whole matter will be reviewed by the 117th CPR meeting.

23. The CPR decided that in case of non-approval of the above-mentioned recommendations, the Secretary General will be authorized to extend the tenure of the outgoing staff for a maximum period of two months.

24. The CPR requested the Secretary General to make a thorough study of the distribution of posts with a view to creating a better balance in the distribution of the Secretariat's positions and present his recommendations to a future CPR.

25. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan proposed that in case of a negative response from the Afghan authorities, a meeting of a select group of Permanent Representatives may be called to sort out the issue.

b. **DCCU Officer/Information Analyst**

26. While reiterating its earlier decision made during 111th and 113th CPR meetings, the CPR requested the new Secretary General to look into the issue of appointment against the above post, consider the candidatures of Mr. Mohammad Reza Nabovati (National of Iran) and Mr. Ozgur Sefa Sezer (National of Turkey) and submit his recommendations to the next CPR meeting.

c. **Creation of a temporary post (Equivalent to Category I, D-1) for a period of 8 months**

27. The CPR approved the creation of a temporary post (equivalent to Category I, D-1) for a period of eight months, effective 15th September 2006, to assist the Secretary General. It also authorized the Secretary General to make appointment against that post in accordance with the rules and regulations of ECO. On the expiry of that period, a post of Assistant Director (Category I, D-1) will be available and the temporary incumbent will be adjusted against it. Expenditures on the temporary post will be met in part from savings in the Budget of 2006 and in part from the budget of 2007.

Agenda Item No. 8

Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently

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

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Agenda Item No. 11

Designation of M/s TAVANIR as coordinating company for Feasibility Study of Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States

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

Agenda Item No. 12

Nomination of a company for reactivation and supervision of ECO Trade and Investment Information Network

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

Agenda Item No. 13

Statute of ECO College of Insurance & Management

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31. The CPR considered the issue and decided that member states should send their comments, if any, with regard to the Statute of ECO College of Insurance and Management till 25th of November 2006. After that date, the Working Group may meet to finalize the issue before submitting it to the CPR for consideration and, later, to COM for final approval.

Agenda Item No. 15

Any Other Business

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32. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 16

Date of the Next Meeting

33. The CPR decided to hold its next (117th) meeting on Monday, 9th October 2006 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

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