

The 123rd CPR Meeting

Tehran, 2nd May, 2007

No. CPR/123rd/CPR/04

1. The 123rd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 2nd May, 2007, 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, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the concerned staff of the Secretariat attended the meeting. (List of participants is attached as **Annex-I**).

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 123rd CPR Meeting:-

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 122nd CPR Meeting
3. Preparations for the SOM/17th COM Meetings:
 - (a) Dates for the Meetings
 - (b) Agendas of the SOM/17th COM
 - (c) Any other business
4. Appointment of the Audit Board
5. Unpaid Contribution to the Budget of the Secretariat
6. Kazakhstan's proposal for its contribution to the ECO Secretariat's budget
7. MOU between ECO and UN-ISDR
8. Modalities for the Establishment of Regional Centres
9. Recent events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff
10. Administrative Matters
 - Appointment of:

- i. Director (PERS)
 - ii. Assistant Director (Int'l Relations)
 - iii. Program Officer
11. Implementation of Visa Simplification Agreement and the Expert Group Meeting on simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the ECO Member States.
 12. Any Other Business
 13. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 122nd CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the Report of its 122nd meeting, earlier circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. SG/CPR/2007/557 dated 15th April, 2007, with some amendments in paragraph 5 and 22 of the said Report. The adopted Report of 122nd CPR meeting has since been circulated to Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. SG/CPR/2007/665 dated 6th May 2007.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparations for the SOM/17th COM Meetings:

(a) Dates for the Meetings

4. The CPR favoured holding of the forthcoming SOM/17th COM meetings in the month of October. However, some member states indicated that 20-24 October 2007 might not be suitable for them. Therefore, the CPR proposed that 16-20 October, 2007 may be considered by the host authorities or some other date in the later part of October. The CPR requested the esteemed Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to communicate to his capital the views expressed by the CPR. The CPR also requested representatives of the Member States to consult their Governments in order to secure full participation in the meetings. The ECO Secretary General informed the meeting that he is expected to have a meeting with the Afghan Foreign Minister in Islamabad in mid-May and he would discuss the issue on that occasion.

(b) Agendas of the SOM/17th COM

5. The 122nd CPR was informed that the Secretariat had circulated the draft Agendas for SOM/17th COM vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/17th COM/2007/363 dated 15th March 2007, and amendments received from the Islamic Republic of Iran had also been circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. SG/17th COM/2007/485 dated 4th April, 2007.

6. The CPR provisionally approved the draft agenda along with amendments proposed by Iran for consideration by the COM (Annex. II).

(c) **Any other business**

7. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 4

Appointment of the Audit Board

8. The 123rd CPR meeting was informed that the term of the existing Audit Board would be expiring in September, 2007. After deliberations, the CPR decided to recommend to the 17th COM reappointment of the present Audit Board comprising Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for another three year's term. (Article 18 of the Financial Regulations).

Agenda Item No. 5

Unpaid Contributions to the Budget of the Secretariat

9. The CPR appreciated timely receipt of budgetary contribution from Pakistan and called for timely remittance of budgetary contribution from other Member States. The Secretary General briefed the meeting that he was pursuing the matter with Member States who were in arrears and requested the support of the Ambassadors of the member states in expediting budgetary contribution by their Governments. He expressed appreciation for the timely action by Pakistan in remitting its contribution. The CPR requested the Secretariat to continue following up the decision of the Council of Minister (COM) regarding status of arrears and measures taken in that respect and inform the CPR of the results.

Agenda Item No. 6

Kazakhstan's proposal for its contribution to the ECO Secretariat's budget

10. The CPR discussed the matter at length and since there was no consensus, the issue was deferred to future CPR meetings. In this regard, the CPR also heard the views of the Legal Adviser of the Secretariat. The Legal Adviser was of the view that in this specific case, it was advisable to seek instructions/permission of the COM before detailed discussions on the issue. Therefore, the proposal of Kazakhstan be included in the agenda of the SOM/17th COM for necessary instructions. Meanwhile, the CPR requested the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to provide his country's proposal officially along with necessary justification.

Agenda Item No. 7

MOU between ECO and UN-ISDR

11. The CPR, in principle, authorized the ECO Secretary General to sign the MOU between ECO and UN-ISDR during the visit of Mr. Briceno, Director of ISDR, Geneva, scheduled to visit Tehran on 9-14 May 2007. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan said that they would send their views, if any, before the said date.

Agenda Item No. 8

Modalities for the Establishment of Regional Centres

12. The CPR decided to hold a meeting of the Working Group on the subject to finalize Modalities for the Establishment of Regional Centres because some of the Member States were still considering the report of the Working Group circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ECO(CU)/RC/2007/080 dated 16th January, 2007. It also agreed that the report of the Working Group meeting would be considered by the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Recent events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff

13. The Secretary General briefed the CPR with regard to his participation in the 4th World Mayors' Summit held in Istanbul on April 12-13, 2007. The CPR appreciated the information provided by the Secretariat on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff since the last CPR meeting and requested the Secretariat to follow up implementation of the decisions taken in those meetings.

Agenda Item No. 10

Administrative Matters

14. The CPR considered the recommendations of the Selection Panel and decided as follows:-

i. Director (Project & Economic Research and Statistics – PERS) (D-2)

15. The CPR took note of the nominations received from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. However, at the request of some Member States, it decided to extend the deadline for submission of nominations against the post of Director (PERS) till 31st May, 2007.

ii. **Assistant Director (International Relations) (D-1)**

16. The CPR approved the appointment of Syed Mustafa Rabbani (Pakistani National) against the post of Assistant Director (International Relations) w.e.f. 12th June, 2007.

iii. **Program Officer (P-3)**

17. The CPR approved the appointment of Mrs. Aysegul Yorulmazlar (Turkish National) against the post of Program Officer (P-3) for a temporary period of six months w.e.f. 15th May, 2007.

Agenda Item No. 11

Implementation of Visa Simplification Agreement and the Expert Group Meeting on simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the ECO Member States

18. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the meeting on the importance of this issue and requested the Secretariat to consult the Member States for views/comments on the revised action plan as well as draft protocol prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat, preferably before the next CPR meeting. As the coordinating country for this Agreement, he further requested the Secretariat to find out if any Member State would like to host the Second Expert Group Meeting on simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the ECO Member States by the next month. Otherwise, the meeting could be held at the ECO Secretariat on non-hospitality basis. (The CPR has already approved holding of the meeting with the assistance of ECO Special Support Fund).

Agenda Item No. 12

Any Other Business

19. No issue was raised under this agenda item. However, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic informed the meeting that he was completing his tenure in Tehran and thanked the Permanent Representatives/Ambassadors for their cooperation during his stay in Tehran. The Chairman of the CPR and the ECO Secretary General also thanked the Kyrgyz Ambassador for his constructive contributions to enhance cooperation amongst Member States and wished him success in his future assignments.

Agenda Item No. 12

Date of the Next Meeting

20. The CPR decided to hold its next (124th) meeting on Wednesday, 20th June, 2007 at 10.00 hours.

[\[Home\]](#) - [\[Back\]](#)