

# The 124<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran, 24th June 2007 )

No. CPR/124<sup>th</sup>/2007/03

June, 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**).

2. At the outset, the CPR welcomed the new Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, and wished him success in his new assignment. They expressed hope that with his vast experience, he would be able to contribute positively to ECO's efforts to strengthen cooperation among member states. Ambassador Maroofi reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the Secretary General and the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives. He thanked them for their greetings and good wishes, and said that he looked forward to working with them to promote the common objectives of the ECO member states.

### **Agenda Item No. 1**

#### Adoption of the Agenda

3. While deferring deliberations on the agenda items on "Audit Report of the Secretariat for the year 2006" and "Establishment of Regional Centres" to its next meeting, the CPR adopted the following agenda for its 124th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 123rd CPR Meeting
3. Preparations for the SOM/17<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting:
  - (a) Dates for the Meetings
  - (b) Any other business
4. Unpaid Contributions to the Budget of the Secretariat
5. Establishment of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)

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

7. Recent events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff

8. Administrative Matters

· Appointment of:

Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & HRSD)

Director (EME)

Director (PERS)

Research Officer (Trade)

Persian Translator

9. Any Other Business

10. Date of the Next Meeting

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### **Agenda Item No. 2**

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 123rd CPR Meeting

4. The CPR adopted the Report of its 123rd meeting, circulated vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2007/670 dated 6th May 2007, with some amendments in paras 9 and 18. The adopted Report of 123rd CPR meeting has since been circulated to Member States vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2007/942 dated 25th June 2007.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

Preparations for the SOM/17<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting:

(a) **Dates for the Meeting**

5. The CPR was informed that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan had agreed with the proposal of the CPR to hold the 17th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) on 16-20 October 2007. It was further informed that the venue of the meeting would be **Herat** instead of Kabul.

6. The CPR requested the Member States to formally confirm their participation in the SOM/17th COM meetings on the agreed dates of 16-20 October 2007 in Herat, at the earliest possible, so that necessary arrangements could be made by the host authorities accordingly.

(b) **Any other business**

7. General preparation for the COM was discussed under this agenda item. It was emphasized that since the dates of the 17<sup>th</sup> COM had been finalized, the Working Group, established for discussion on substantial issues, should start its meetings and hold as many meetings as necessary to finalize relevant documents for the next CPR's consideration and endorsement.

**Agenda Item No. 4**

Unpaid Contributions to the Budget of the Secretariat

8. While appreciating Pakistan and Turkey for their timely contributions to the Secretariat's budget and the part payment made by Tajikistan, the CPR urged other member states to expedite their contributions. It was noted that half of the financial year was already over, and eight member states were yet to pay their contributions. Such a delay on the part of so many states might hamper the Secretariat's activities which had to be avoided. The Ambassador of Afghanistan assured the meeting that Afghanistan's contribution would be paid, hopefully, before the next CPR meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 5**

Draft Statute of ECO Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO)

9. The CPR deliberated the issue. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions from their capitals, the issue was deferred to the next CPR meeting.

10. Meanwhile, it was agreed that the concerned authorities in the member states be asked to expedite their comments on the draft (final) Statute circulated vide Secretariat's note verbale No. AIT/02.19/2007/493 dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2007. If another meeting of the Working Group had to be convened on a short notice, member states must ensure participation in it.

## **Agenda Item No. 6**

Nomination of a company for reactivation and supervision of

ECO Trade and Investment Information Network

11. The 120<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting (5 February 2007) had authorized the Secretary General to select one capable company for implementation of the above project at a maximum cost of US\$ 20,000 from the ECO Feasibility Study Fund. Since some member states were interested in their companies bidding for the project, all Member States were asked to nominate technically sound companies for re-activation and supervision of ECO Trade-Net. However, no nomination had been received from any member state. It was, therefore, agreed that the Secretary General go ahead with selecting a suitable local company to implement the project.

## **Agenda Item No. 7**

Recent events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff

12. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff since the last CPR meeting as well as the Secretary General's briefing.

13. The Secretary General informed the CPR that over the past about one month, some sixteen different meetings had been organized by the ECO or attended by ECO officials. The reports of some of those meetings had already been circulated and the reports of the others were under preparation and would be ready for circulation shortly.

14. He gave a brief account of his deliberations with the Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister in Islamabad who led the Uzbek delegation to the ICFM. He also briefed the CPR about the outcome of his meetings in Almaty on 19-23 May 2007. A resume of his briefing is attached as **Annex-II**.

15. While appreciating improved implementation of the ECO Calendar of Events, the Representative of Iran emphasized that the pace of implementation of ECO Calendar of Events should be sustained. He also appreciated the member states for their participation and expressed hope that by continuing the positive and encouraging trends, it should be possible to achieve our aims and objectives in various sectors.

## **Agenda Item No. 8**

Administrative Matters

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

i. **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & HRSD)\_(D-3)**

Iran informed that nominations against the post of Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & HRSD) were in process and would soon be conveyed to the Secretariat.

The CPR, acknowledging the dedicated performance of Dr. Sohrab Shahabi, recommended that it would be appropriate if Iran could consider the possibility of extending his tenure for more than six months. The Representative of Iran noted the recommendation and said that he would consult the concerned authorities whose decision would be conveyed before the next CPR meeting.

ii. **Director (EME)\_(D-2)**

The CPR decided to extend the term of Mr. Ali Khanbutayev (Azeri National), who was appointed as Director (EME) for a probation period of three months with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007 to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2007, for another two months i.e. till 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007 as proposed by the Secretariat. The next Selection Panel/CPR would finalize the issue.

iii. **Director (PERS)\_(D-2)**

The CPR decided to extend the deadline for nominations against the post of Director (PERS) for another month i.e. till 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and asked the member states to submit their nominations by that time.

The CPR also decided to extend the term of Mr. Kubat Umurzakov (Kyrgyz National), Director (PERS), for three months (i.e. from 24<sup>th</sup> July to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007).

iv. **Research Officer (P-3)**

On Pakistan's proposal, the CPR decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Bakht Baidar (Pakistani National), Research Officer, for six months from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. It was further decided that in case Mr. Baidar would be re-appointed for another term, his tenure would be counted from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 including the extended period.

v. **Persian Translator (P-1)**

Iran presented two nominations (Mr. Samad Arefi Rod and Mr. Morteza Akhshid) for the post of Persian Translator, for the remaining term of Ms. Marjaneh Soltani (Iranian National) till 20.11.2010. The CPR considered the issue and

authorized the Secretary General to review their qualifications for the job and appoint one of them as Persian Translator and inform the member states accordingly.

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

#### **Any Other Business**

17. Under this agenda item, the following issues came under discussion:

#### **a. Iran Transit Forum 2007**

18. The Representative of Iran informed that Iran is hosting an international conference titled "Iran Transit Forum 2007" on 16-17 July 2007 in Tehran and the official invitations have already been extended to all ECO Member States for their active and high level participation in this meeting. Since there was great potential for cooperation especially among the neighbouring states, including ECO Member States, Iran looked forward with particular interest to their high level participation.

#### **b. Workshop "Legal Framework on Humanitarian Assistance":**

19. The Secretary General informed that a Workshop titled "Legal Framework on Humanitarian Assistance" was proposed to be held in Tehran on 14-16 May 2007, in collaboration with UNOCHA. Despite the obvious importance of the Workshop, the significant benefits it would yield for Member States, and also much correspondence by the Secretariat, Secretary General and by the UNOCHA, only three Member States - the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran – could confirm participation by 7 May, 2007. He further informed that the event was fully paid for by UNOCHA (air ticket, accommodation and DSA). A group of eminent Professors from Harvard University (HCRP), Tehran University and UNOCHA experts from Geneva, were to deliver lectures at the Workshop. Regrettably, the inadequate response of the Member States left the Secretariat no choice but to postpone the workshop. This obviously caused embarrassment to both the Secretariat and the UN Agency.

20. The Secretariat did not yet give up the idea of holding this workshop and maintained contact with the UNOCHA which has again shown its readiness to hold the workshop in October this year, provided Member States could confirm their participation. The Secretary General urged Member States to expedite confirming their participation in the proposed workshop and let the Secretariat have their nominations by 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, enabling it to arrange visas, air tickets and accommodation. As soon as the Secretariat received confirmation of participation from Member

States, the exact date for the said workshop in October would be worked out in collaboration with UNOCHA and the Member states informed accordingly.

### **Agenda Item No. 12**

#### Date of the Next Meeting

21. The CPR decided to hold its next (125<sup>th</sup>) meeting on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007 at 10:30 hours.

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