



3rd General Conference of Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO)

Baku - Azerbaijan. May 17, 2022

BAKU DECLARATION

ON COOPERATION IN THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECOVERY

We, the Heads (Speakers/Chairpersons/Presidents) of PAECO Parliaments, participating in the 3rd General Conference of PAECO, hosted by Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on May 16-18, 2022 in Baku:

Bearing in mind the goals and objectives of ECO as set forth in the Treaty of Izmir; Stressing the importance of PAECO for supporting ECO's broad objectives aimed at promoting socio-economic development of Member States;

Reiterating Islamabad Declaration on Enhancing Regional Trade and Connectivity;

Noting also in this regard the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation in realization of the 2030 Global Agenda of Sustainable Development;

Expressing our will to deepen cooperation among the parliaments of ECO member states and reiterating our commitment to the principles and objectives of PAECO Charter;

Encouraging remaining Member States to sign/ratify the PAECO's Charter;

Recognizing the importance of an effective regional cooperation for sustaining energy security and encouraging Member States to sign/ratify the Charter of the ECO Clean Energy Centre to pave the way for its official operationalization;

Underpinning the importance of the sense of ownership and **reiterating** the significance of engagement of all Member States in realizing ECO goals and objectives enshrined in Izmir Treaty;

Recognizing that the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic has represented a global concern and challenge for the international community, including ECO member states;

Mindful that the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet been finally overcome in the world, including the ECO area;

Emphasizing the need for strong, cohesive and targeted joint actions to better recover from the COVID-19;

Underlining the strategic importance of uninterrupted transportation and calling for further steps to be taken towards strengthening the transit potential of the region in post-pandemic period;

Considering the immense importance of cooperation, including inter-parliamentary cooperation on resilient post-pandemic recovery process;

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in drawing global attention to the inequality and injustice in vaccine distribution;

Recalling the initiative put forward by the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish UN High Level Panel on Global Recovery from the COVID-19;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening cooperation in promoting and ensuring minimum living conditions in countries of origin in managing irregular migration and in addressing its root causes;

We do hereby:

1. **Acknowledge** the significant role that parliamentarians can play in ensuring sustainable peace and development;
2. **Welcome**, to that end, newly established inter-parliamentary cooperation mechanisms, including the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network;
3. **Emphasize** the need of further enhanced cooperation within the framework of PAECO for addressing and overcoming major challenges, including those of the post-pandemic period;
4. **Note** with appreciation the significant role that the international organizations, such as WHO and NAM have played in mobilizing global efforts to address the negative consequences of the pandemic through successful initiatives which have received broad international recognition and support;
5. **Welcome** in this regard further initiatives of the Non-Aligned Movement chaired by the Republic of Azerbaijan with regard to the post-pandemic recovery;
6. **Call** for intensified regional cooperation and solidarity to overcome the pandemic and its consequences, as well as for scientific cooperation necessary to combat any risk of reoccurrence of the COVID-19 and other similar pandemics;

7. **Took note** of the proposal by the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran to establish a working group/ad-hoc committee in accordance with PAECO Rules, to provide necessary parliamentary support for rapid post-economic recovery;
8. **Recognize** that the trade is an engine of economic growth and vital for sustainable socioeconomic development, as well as regional economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID19;
9. **Call** for an effective implementation of Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to start a journey towards realization of true trade potential to reap economic benefits for Member States and creating shares prosperity for their populations;
10. **Commend** the efforts and actions of member states to establish new transport, communications and energy links in the region aimed at strengthening regional connectivity and boosting trade through diversification of transit and energy routes in the ECO region;
11. **Emphasize** the importance of the use of existing mechanisms for increasing the connectivity, in particular by promoting multimodal transportation and quality infrastructure projects;
12. **Stress** the necessity of speeding up the process of signing of the Charters of all ECO specialized agencies and regional institutions, including “ECO Research Center” in Baku;
13. **Strongly support and encourage** the opening of new regional transport infrastructure in Zangazur corridor which will be an important part of the East-West and North-South corridors for ECO Member States to benefit from¹;
14. **Explore** the possibility of developing and strengthening cooperation between PAECO and interested parliamentary assemblies, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States (PUIC), Parliamentary Assembly of Organization of Turkic States (TurkPA) and Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network;
15. **Strongly Condemn** terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and in this regard emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in fighting effectively against this scourge;
16. **Reiterate** the importance of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation activities as a crucial element for sustainable peace and development in the region;
17. **Call** on the Member States to support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan in carrying out large-scale reconstruction work and de-mining activities in its liberated territories;

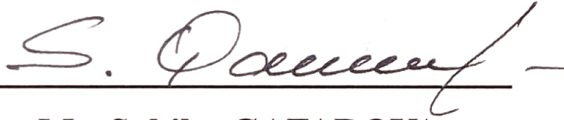
1. The opinion of the parliamentary delegation of Iran in Paragraph 13 is noted to replace it with the following: “Support the opening of new regional transport infrastructure corridors”.

18. **Congratulate** the Government and the People of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the liberation of its territories and restoration of territorial integrity of the country; and believe that development will pave way for sustainable peace and economic prosperity in the Caucasus region through establishment of good-neighboringly relation;

19. **Reject** unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and economic pressures as breach of the “Right to Development of the people”, which hamper the stability and prosperity in ECO region, particularly during the pandemic situation and; Express support to the ECO Member States affected by such measures;

20. **Welcome** the offer of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to host the 4th General Conference of PAECO in Tehran in 2023;

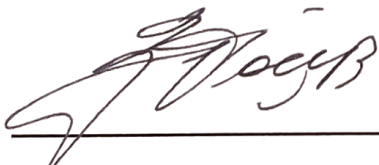
21. **Express** gratitude to Milli Majlis and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for excellent organization and hosting of the 3rd General Conference of PAECO.



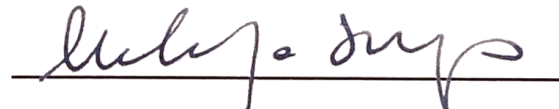
Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA
Speaker of the Milli Majlis
Republic of Azerbaijan



Mr. Raja Pervaiz ASHRAF
Speaker of the National Assembly
Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Mr. Mahmadoir ZOKIRZODA
Chairman of the Majlisi namoyandagon
of the Majlisi Oli Republic of Tajikistan



Mr. Mustafa ŞENTOP
Speaker of the Grand National
Assembly of Turkey



Mr. Nurdinjon ISMOILOV
Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of
the Oliy Majlis Republic of Uzbekistan



Mr. Ali Nikzad
Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative
Assembly Islamic Republic of Iran

(با این مناسبت مربوط، تبریکات) انجمن اسلامی ایران