

The 17th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 19 January, 1998)

Adopted No. CON/CPR-17/Rpt Dated: 24-02-1998

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the IPIS Building on 19 January, 1998. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. H. Kazempour Ardebili, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretary General of ECO attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex-I.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Adopted Agenda of the Meeting is placed as Annex-II.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the CPR

3. The Council adopted the Report of its Sixteenth Meeting held on 22 December, 1997, with some amendments. The adopted Report has been circulated separately vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CON/CPR-16/97-RPT(A), dated 24 January, 1998.

Agenda Item No. 3

Consideration and adoption of the draft Budget of ECO Secretariat for the financial year 1998

4. The Council approved the ECO Secretariat's Budget for Financial Year 1998 with the following amendments/observations:

i) It was agreed to allocate for the Head of Account No. 11 (Furniture and Office Equipment) an amount of \$8000/-.

ii) The Secretary General will submit a technical report to the CPR on the possible extension of the existing electronic equipment and on its possible buy-back by the supplier as a part payment for the new equipment, if necessary. The said report will be discussed to find out whether the new Conference Hall required additional equipment. If the Council finds it necessary, a supplementary budget will be submitted to the CPR.

iii) Discussions on the report prepared by the Expert from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran entitled "Designing the Computer System of the ECO Secretariat" could not be finalized. Therefore, the Council agreed to allocate an amount of US\$20,000/- for the procurement of computers for the urgent use of Secretariat. The Secretary General in line with the said report will submit a plan of purchase in order to use the allocated amount.

6. The Council also urged the Member States to expedite the payment of their contributions for the Budget of 1998.

Agenda Item No. 4

Consideration of the UNDCP Project Document for ECO Drug Control Programme and Authorization of the Secretary General to sign the said document

7. Secretary General informed the Council that detailed information about UNOPS, the third party to the Project Document has been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No. CONM/CPR/97 dated 03 January 1998.

8. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read out their comments on the Project Document.

9. The Council asked the Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to furnish the comments to the Secretariat in writing and agreed to finalize the matter in its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5

Consideration and approval for the recruitment of ECO Staff in Category-I

10. The Secretary General informed the Council about the recommendations made by the Panel for selection of two Directors, as follows:

i) Dr. Nurbek Elebayev from Kyrgyz Republic for the post of Director for Economic Research and Statistics.

ii) Mr. Amandurdyev Nurberdyevich from Turkmenistan for the post of Director for Project Research.

iii) The Panel also recommended that if the esteemed Embassy of Azerbaijan Republic agrees, Dr. Achraf Chikhaliev, may be nominated for one of the posts of Programme Officers or Research Officer.

11. The Council approved the recommendations of the Panel as mentioned at para (i) and (ii) above, and agreed that the Director for Economic Research and Statistics, Dr. Nurbek Elebayev may commence his work with effect from 1st February 1998 and the Director for Project Research, Mr. Amandurdyev Nurberdyevich may do so with effect from 1 June 1998.

12. On the request of the Representative of Azerbaijan Republic, the Secretary General explained the rationale of the Panel's recommendations with regard to the selection of the two directors.

Agenda Item No. 6

Consideration and Finalization of the Documents of ECO Cultural Institute

13. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan submitted to the Council their comments with regard to the documents of the Institute.

14. The Council decided to establish a Committee consisting of Representatives from Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey to work on and finalize the subject documents and submit its recommendations to the CPR for approval.

Agenda Item No. 7

Any Other Business

Draft Agenda of the 2nd Transport Ministerial Meeting

15. The Council requested the Secretary General to submit to its next Meeting background paper on the Draft Transit Transport Framework Agreement.

16. In light of the said paper, the CPR will reconsider the inclusion of Item No. 8 (Consideration of Draft Transit Transport Framework Agreement prepared with UNCTAD Technical Assistance) in the draft Agenda of the Second Meeting of the Transport Ministers to be held in March 1998.

ECO Guide Book

17. Secretary General briefed the Council about UNDP Project for preparation of ECO Guide Book and stated that the draft document to be prepared within the framework of this project will be submitted to the CPR for approval. The Council endorsed the UNDP Project for ECO Guide Book and called upon the Member states to support the project.

UNFPA Seminar

18. After having heard the explanations of the Secretary General, the Council welcomed the Azerbaijan's contribution by hosting the Fourth UNFPA Seminar to be held on 28-30 April, 1998 and called upon all the Member States to participate in the seminar.

Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of Member States

19. The Council noted that the Agreement will enter into force on 6 March, 1998 and called upon the Member States who did not ratify the agreement yet to expedite their legal formalities and deposit the Instruments of Ratification with the Secretariat. The Council also urged the Member States having ratified the agreement to take necessary measures for its implementation.

Secretary General's Visit to Vienna

20. The Council welcomed the proposed visit of the Secretary General to Vienna to meet top officials of UNIDO, UNDCP and OPEC to discuss future cooperation. The Council requested the Secretary General to also contact OPEC Fund in Vienna and try to secure some funds for small development projects of some ECO Member States.

MOU with UNCTAD

21. The Council took note of the information provided by the Secretary General to sign an MOU with UNCTAD in order to institutionalize the relations between the two organizations and requested the Secretary General to circulate informative memo indicating the main purpose of the said MOU.

Relations with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

22. With regard to initiating relations with GCC, the Council requested an informative memo from the Secretariat so that this matter be considered in the next meeting of CPR.

Agenda Item No. 8

Date of Next Meeting

23. The Council decided to hold its next meeting on 24th February, 1998 at 0930 hours at the IPIS building.

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