



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**Report of the
First Meeting of the Chiefs of Police of
Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States
(Tehran, 2 – 3 August, 2010)**

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

**The First Meeting of the Chiefs of Police of
Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States
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Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

1. The First Meeting of the Chiefs of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States was held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 2 – 3 August, 2010 hosted by the Anti Narcotics Police of Iran. The meeting was attended by delegates 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 and Turkmenistan as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant staff of the Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by the UNODC Representatives in Tehran and Afghanistan, Representative of the INTERPOL General Secretariat, France and the Operative Coordinator for the EC-funded Project titled Fight Against Illicit Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with ECO Member States. The list of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

2. His Excellency Brigadier General Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam, Secretary General of the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Commander In-Chief of the Police of Iran inaugurated the meeting. Mr. Moghaddam stated that the Iranian anti-drug campaign has led to reduce trafficking of illicit substances in recent years which indicates Iran's strong determination to fight drug-trafficking. He warned that unless member states rise up and take the appropriate steps to deal with the drugs production, smuggling, and consumption, the issue will turn into an insurmountable crisis within the next decade. He also expressed concern about shifting the addiction from opium originated illicit drugs to medicine and said that Afghanistan is a major target for drug-traffickers. General Moghaddam stressed the need for closer coordination and more assistance of the international community to contain this menace. He observed that ECO was originally established to enhance economic cooperation among the Member States but since the drug and organized crime are affecting the economic stability of the countries, therefore, stepping towards cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of Member States is a vital development.

3. His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General also made a statement during the inaugural session. He welcomed the delegates and thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Anti Narcotics Police of Iran for hosting this important meeting, marking the beginning of a new chapter of cooperation among the ECO Member States. He stated that ECO has taken several steps to institutionalize cooperation among the Police Organizations of the ECO region and efforts are afoot to establish the Economic Cooperation Organization Police (ECOPOL). He emphasized the need for cross-training programmes which develops and enhances synchronized skills and defensive strategies as well as the realization of administrative,

intelligence and operational management. The Secretary General hoped that the deliberations of the meeting would guide us in specifying and defining priorities, strategic and operational decisions for strengthening police cooperation between the Member States. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-II*.

4. His Excellency Brigadier General Hosein Abadi, Chief of Anti Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement. He cautioned about the dire consequences of growing drug production in Afghanistan and underlined the necessity for adoption of strict measures to curb drug production in Afghanistan. He noted that terrorism and narcotics are the two sides of the same coin and fighting one of them separately will not yield results. He also pointed to the consequences of drug addiction, and stated that narcotics and their consequences are extraordinarily important both in terms of security and social health. He dilated that the growing spread of narcotics in the last decade and its harmful consequence on economic, social and political structures of human community have caused many problems and major challenges throughout the world. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-III*.

5. Mr. De Leo, Representative of the UNODC in Tehran thanked the ECO Secretariat and the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing this important meeting. He stated that illicit drug production and its trafficking is particularly targeting the whole ECO region. He said that the ECO region is under attack by transnational crimes, drugs and chemical precursors and the challenge of drug trafficking in the region is extremely serious which cannot be under-estimated any more. Declaring the illicit drug trafficking as a major health menace he requested the Member States to discuss regional police cooperation in a constructive manner and also to follow the decisions of the present and future meetings with a result-oriented approach. He also suggested Member States to benefit from the existing mechanism of Rainbow Strategy, JPC and cooperate with the activities of the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) of the ECO which were also facilitated by the UNODC.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

6. The working session was coordinated by Amb. Hassan Taherian, Deputy Secretary General of the ECO. In accordance with the ECO's Rules of Procedure, His Excellency Brigadier General Hosein Abadi, Chief of Anti Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his remarks, Brigadier General Hosein Abadi, thanked the participants for reposing confidence in him and expressed the hope that their deliberations would produce useful and beneficial outcomes for the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The meeting adopted the following agenda for its proceeding:
 - 1) Inauguration of the Meeting:
 - i) Statement by a high Dignitary of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - ii) Statement by the ECO Secretary General
 - iii) Statement by Brigadier General Hosein Abadi, Chief of Anti Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - 2) Election of the Chairman.
 - 3) Adoption of the Agenda.
 - 4) Appointment of the Drafting Committee.
 - 5) Country Reports (Statements/Presentations about status of narcotics) by the Heads of Delegation.
 - 6) Reviewing the status of cultivation, production and transformation of narcotics in Afghanistan by UNODC Representative.
 - 7) Discussion about the routes for smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances in the ECO region
 - 8) Discussion about the main sources and routes for smuggling and entry of chemical precursors in the ECO region.
 - 9) Discussion to identify best cooperation and coordination among the Anti Narcotics Forces of ECO Member States for exchange of information (intelligence and joint operation).
 - 10) DOCCU Report of the latest coordination on the Anti Narcotics cooperation
 - 11) Any other business.
 - 12) Adoption of the Tehran Declaration
 - 13) Date and Venue of the next Meeting
 - 14) Adoption of the Report.
 - 15) Vote of Thanks.

Agenda Item No. 4

Appointment of the Drafting Committee

8. An open-ended Drafting Committee for preparation of the draft report of the Meeting was established comprising officials of the Secretariat and the representatives from the host country.

Agenda Item No. 5

Country reports (Statements/Presentations about status of narcotics) by the Heads of Delegation

9. The heads of the participating delegations made statements/presentations on drug control matters mentioning the policies, challenges and potentials existing in their respective countries. They also expressed their commitment to enhance security cooperation within the regional context. The statements also highlighted that in order to contribute effectively to regional and global efforts for combating drugs, there was a strong need for exchange of information and sharing best practices among all the stakeholders of the law enforcements agencies of the ECO Member States. Statements/presentations made available to the Secretariat have been placed in the attached C.D.

Agenda Item No. 6

Reviewing the status of cultivation, production and transformation of narcotics in Afghanistan by UNODC Representative

10. Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, UNODC Representative in Afghanistan gave a detailed presentation about the situation of cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotics in Afghanistan. He informed the meeting that recently there has been 34% reduction in opium cultivation in Afghanistan. However, still 86% of Opium cultivation is concentrated in a few southern provinces of Afghanistan. He informed the meeting that under the Triangular Initiative Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan have identified locations of the Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) at their respective borders and joint assessment missions are being completed. He also explained about the Joint Planning Cell (JPC), established in Tehran in 2008 which is going to be fully functional after the deployment of Afghan and Pakistani BLOs. He invited other ECO Member States to join the Rainbow Strategy so that intelligence exchange could be possible among all the ECO Member States. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-IV*.

11. The meeting appreciated the presentations given by the Representative of the UNODC in Afghanistan. The meeting supported the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries which is expected to bring added resources

towards an expanded Rainbow Strategy, including essential elements for regional cooperation such as the Triangular Initiative, Operation TARCET and intelligence cooperation (CARICC, JPC).

Agenda Item No. 7

Discussion about the routes for smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances in the ECO region

12. Mr. Berthhold Back, Criminal Investigation Officer from the General Secretariat of INTERPOL delivered a presentation. While explaining the INTERPOL's priority crime areas, he elaborated global situation concerning the production/distribution methamphetamine. Informing about the objectives of the Operation Ice Trail he stated that its main objective is to exchange operational case related data regarding possible source, transit and final destination countries. With this INTERPOL also inform and update Member States about this trend and discuss possible proposals for future activities. He stated that methamphetamine is illicitly manufactured worldwide and shipped without regard to region/continents and borders. Therefore, there is an urgent need for more indepth strategic and operative information in order to be able to act and react. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-V*.

13. After the presentation, the meeting discussed about the new routes for smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances in the ECO region and emphasized the need for more cooperation with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States including Customs and Border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond.

Agenda Item No. 8

Discussion about the main sources and routes for smuggling and entry of chemical precursors in the ECO region

14. The meeting was briefed that for producing 700 tons heroin per year in Afghanistan Drug Mafia need at least 13000 tons of different types of chemical precursors. Whereas the statistics show that during last year all the countries around Afghanistan could seize only 50 tons of these types of precursors which is nothing according to the total amount of used precursors for production of heroin. The participating delegates noted that precursors and chemicals are frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

15. The meeting, therefore, suggested the international donors to help Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries to provide latest type of x-ray equipments so that goods transited to Afghanistan could be checked well in time before its delivery to Drug Mafia. It was agreed that it is difficult to check all the goods being transited inside of Afghanistan according to law and regulations. The meeting noted with appreciation start of third phase of TARCET operation from 2nd August, 2010.

Agenda Item No. 9

Discussion to identify best cooperation and coordination among the Anti Narcotics Forces of ECO Member States for exchange of information (intelligence and joint operation).

16. At the outset, Colonel Rezvani from the Anti Narcotics Police of Iran made a presentation regarding the Tehran Regional Intelligence Exchange Center (Joint Planning Cell). He elaborated that based on the tripartite agreement by the heads of anti-narcotics officials of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, as well as the UNODC as a partner, a Joint Planning Cell was established in the Intelligence Exchange Centre of Anti-Narcotics Police of the I.R.Iran. He also explained about the current and proposed activities being undertaken among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan under JPC. A copy of the presentation is attached as *Annex-VI*.

17. The meeting further discussed ways and means to identify best cooperation and coordination among the Anti Narcotics Forces of the ECO Member States. These included better exchange of information as also intelligence and joint operational cooperation. The meeting noted that since the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) is already working for exchange of intelligence information among Anti Narcotics Forces of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan other Member States may also consider utilizing the existed capacity of this Center and benefit by more cooperation with this Centre. The representative of Tajikistan expressed its readiness to join this Cell. The meeting welcomed Tajikistan's initiative to join JPC.

18. The meeting appreciated holding of training programmes/workshops being conducted by the Anti Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Anti Narcotics Force of Pakistan and Turkish National Police especially the Turkish International Academy against Drug and Organized Crime (TADOC). It requested all Member States to benefit from the courses being provided at these Centers.

Agenda Item No. 10

DOCCU Report of the latest coordination on the Anti Narcotics Cooperation

19. Mr. Hossein Pourkarami, Officer in-charge of the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) briefly informed the participants about the background of the establishment of DOCCU. Since the ECO has signed an MOU with the European Commission for implementation of the Project titled "Fight Against Illicit Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with the ECO Member States", he requested the Operative Coordinator for the project to brief the meeting about the latest activities undertaken so far.

20. Mr. Hans Detlef Nollenburg, the Operative Coordinator for the EC-funded project briefed the meeting about the current status of activities of the project. While explaining

the background of the Project he informed the meeting that in line with the Instrument for Stability, ECO and the European Commission signed an MOU on 3rd February, 2009 on implementation of EC-financed project. He stated that the overall objective of this project is to strengthen the stability of the region and the security and health of populations living in the countries along the heroine routes by supporting trans-regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking from/to Afghanistan. This project would provide capacity development to the DOCCU to act as a regional facilitator and a regional focal point for international coordination for fighting drug trafficking. In the long run this project would enable ECO-DOCCU to fulfill the role of a regional coordination facilitator and technical cooperation platform and forum. A copy of the presentation is placed as *Annex – VII*.

21. The meeting appreciated cooperation between the ECO Secretariat and the European Commission on implementation of the project titled “Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan” with the ECO Member States and emphasized the need for fuller support to the ECO-DOCCU and the Project Management Team for the implementation of this project.

Agenda Item No. 11

Any other business

22. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 12

Adoption of the Tehran Declaration

23. The meeting unanimously adopted the Tehran Declaration. The declaration illustrates the issues deliberated upon and agreements reached during the meeting. The text of the Declaration is placed at *Annex-VIII*.

Agenda Item No. 13

Date and Venue of the next Meeting

24. The meeting welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the 2nd Meeting of the Chiefs of Anti Narcotics Police of the ECO Member States in Kabul. The Secretariat, in consultation with the concerned authorities, will decide the exact date and venue of the next meeting and inform the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 14

Adoption of the report

25. The meeting unanimously adopted its report which will be submitted to the Second HLEG Meeting on Combating Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-National Organized Crime, scheduled to be held in Tehran.

Agenda Item No. 15

Vote of Thanks.

26. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the participating delegations, expressing deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed their warm appreciation to the Chairman, His Excellency General Hossein Abadi, for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

27. The participants of the meeting also expressed gratitude and appreciation to the ECO Secretary General and other members of the ECO Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents and other valuable services to facilitate the work of the meeting.