

The 20th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 13 April, 1998)

No. CON/CPR-20/98/Rpt Dt. 30-04-1998

1. The Twentieth Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 13 April, 1998. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. H. Kazem-Pour Ardebili, Ambassador, 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 draft Agenda submitted by the Secretariat has been adopted with the addition of two items proposed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The adopted Agenda is placed at Annex-II.

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the CPR.

3. The Council adopted the Report of its Nineteenth Meeting held on 5th April, 1998, as prepared by the Secretariat. The adopted Report has been circulated separately vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CON/CPR/19/98/RPT(A) dated 13 April, 1998.

Agenda Item No.3

Consideration and Finalization of the Documents of ECO Cultural Institute, the Charter of ECO Educational Institute, matters related to ECO Science Foundation,

4. The Council adopted the documents of ECO Cultural Institute, Charter of ECO Educational Institute as submitted by the tripartite group composed of the representatives from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey along with other matters related to mentioned institutes and ECO Science Foundation. These documents shall be submitted to COM for approval.

Agenda Item No.4

Consideration of the Document on the Modalities, Scope and Procedures for granting Observer/Dialogue Partnership Status in ECO.

5. The Council agreed that the said document prepared by the Working Group shall be studied further by the Legal Advisers of the Member States. Moreover, in view of the ongoing process of the re-organization and restructuring of ECO, the Council decided to defer the consideration of the document to one of its next meetings. Therefore, the relevant item will be deleted from the Agenda of COM Meeting to be held in Almaty in May 1998.

6. The Council authorized the Secretary General to reply to the States who applied to the Secretariat for an observer/dialogue partnership status, explaining that the procedural formalities to determine modalities in this regard are still going on.

7. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan submitted the following proposal to be included as sub-para (f) in Chapter II, para 7 in the document:

“The State(s) applying for observer/dialogue partnership status shall not be in violation of the UN Security Council Resolution”.

Agenda Item No.5

Consideration of the Report of the Working Group to determine the ECO Scale of Assessment.

8. The Council considered the report reflecting the outcome of the meetings of the Working Group and since no consensus was reached on the main criteria, decided to request Member States to seek fresh instructions from their respective capitals. Consequently, it was decided to delete the relevant item from the Agenda of the COM Meeting to be held in Almaty, May, 1998.

Agenda Item No.6

Consideration of the UNDP Project Document on the Capacity Building of ECO Secretariat

9. After having heard a brief explanatory statement of the" Secretary General, the Council welcomed in principle the draft UNDP Project Document on Capacity Building of the ECO Secretariat and noted with appreciation the meritorious job done by the UNDP Senior Consultant Mr. Makharita. It was observed that modifications and changes in the Basic Documents of the ECO and its organizational structure being the sole prerogative of its decision-making bodies, such issues may be considered at appropriate time in future. It was further noted that the draft project document needs review with particular reference to the aspects dealing with proposed organizational structure; functioning of the Secretariat and allocation of funds among different components of the project. Therefore, it was decided to appoint a Working Group who would meet on 26 April 1998, to review the document in the light of the observations/comments of the Member Countries. The Working Group will submit its recommendations to the next meeting of the CPR.

10. However, subject to the above observations, the Council observed that the operational part of the project regarding operationalization of the Directorates of Economic Research and Statistics and Project Research and technical assistance and supply of office equipment etc., required for enhancing the efficiency of the Secretariat may be implemented pending the signing of the Project Document.

11. The Council authorized the Secretary General to negotiate with UNDP on the above lines to make necessary arrangements for implementation of the operational part of the project.

Agenda Item No. 7

Consideration of the Report on the activities of the ECO Re-insurance Pool

12. The Council took note of the reports of the Insurance Companies related to ECO Reinsurance Pool expressing concern on the decline of volume of transactions of ECO Reinsurance Pool.

13. The Council invited the relevant authorities in Pakistan to extend their full support to facilitate and enhance the activities of ECO Reinsurance Pool/Company and requested the other Members of the Pool to do the same.

Agenda Item No.8

Consideration of the Establishment of the Audit Board.

14. The Council agreed to extend the tenure for three years of the existing Audit Board comprising the Senior Audit Officials of the governments of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. Since the final appointment of the Audit Board is prerogative of the COM, the concerned Member States are requested to communicate to the Secretariat the names and titles of their representatives expeditiously.

Agenda Item No.9

The Consideration of the results of HLEG Meeting on Transit Trade Framework Agreement (TTFA) Held on 5-7 April, 1998 in Islamabad.

15. The Council took note of the observations made by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan about the draft Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) and a brief verbal report submitted by the Deputy Secretary General ECO on the outcome of the recent meeting of the ECO High-level Experts Group (HLEG) on TTFA held in Islamabad on 2-5 April 1998. The Council decided to refer the matter to the 8th RPC Meeting for further consideration.

Agenda Item No. 10

Consideration of Kazakhstan's Proposal to amend the para 36 of the Rules of Procedure

16. The Council agreed to defer this matter to its next meeting and requested the Secretariat to circulate an informative memo before the CPR Meeting. .

Agenda Item No. 11

Recent Developments Concerning External Relations of ECO.

17. The Secretary General briefed the Council on his last activities to promote the external relations of the Organization and on the international events scheduled to take place in the near future. In this regard, he submitted the following information:

- a- During his visit to Vienna (2-7 March 1998) he had meetings with the Executive Heads of UNIDO, OPEC Fund, OPEC and UNDCP. He has signed with UNDCP's Executive Director the Project Document on the establishment of Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) in the ECO Secretariat. He also attended an International Conference on Development of Oil and Gas Resources in the Caspian Basin and Central Asia.
- b- He attended the 25th ICFM meeting held in Doha on 15-17 March, 1998.
- c- An ECO Secretariat Delegation has attended the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology in Bangkok on 19-24 February, 1998.
- d- The ECO Secretariat as well as ECO Member States have been invited to attend 2nd Congress of SWAPU which is going to be held in Tehran on 8-12 June, 1998.
- e- The Chairman of Asian Clearing Union has invited the Secretary General to attend the 27th meeting of the Board of Directors of ACU to be held in Karachi on 21-22 May, 1998.
- f- The UNFPA/ECO Conference on the Male Involvement in the Reproductive Health will be held in Baku on 21-24 September, 1998.

- g- The Secretariat will attend the Fourth Sub-regional Consultative Meeting to be held in Kathmandu in October 1998.
- h- The Secretariat could not attend the First Silk Road Conference to be held on 15-17 April, 1998 in Ashgabat. This Meeting is jointly organized by international Road Federation and the Government of Turkmenistan.
- i- The UNDP Silk Road Project involving Xinjiang province of China and ECO Member Countries could be carried out under the umbrella of ECO if the CPR agrees that the Secretariat applies to UNDP for such a purpose.

18. The Council expressed its appreciation for the Secretary General's efforts to intensify relations with regional/international organizations and also its wish that a quarterly activity report containing information on external relations may be issued by the Secretariat. .

19. The Council welcomed the suggestion to be associated to Silk Road Project being prepared by UNDP and requested the Secretariat to provide more details to be able to consider it.

Agenda Item No. 12

Any Other Business

20. The Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan informed that the Government of Uzbekistan decided to host a Workshop on International Transportation which was already included in the Calendar of Events for the current year. He added that hospitality will be provided for four participants from each Member State and two participants from the relevant International Organizations as well as from the ECO Secretariat.

21. Upon the recommendations made by the Panel, the Council appointed Mr. Mohammad Javad Tarokh from the Islamic Republic of Iran in replacement of Mr. Mohammad Ali Kabir, for the post of Research Officer and Mr. Mir Aamir Ghani from Pakistan in replacement of Mr. Saeed Ahmad Khan for the post of Database Officer.

Agenda Item No.13

Date of Next Meeting

22. The Council decided to have its 21st meeting on 29 April, 1998, afternoon at 1500 hours at the Secretariat.

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