

The 21st CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 30 April, 1998)

Adopted No. CON/CPR-21/98/Rpt(A) Dated. 30-04-1998

1. The Twenty-first Meeting of the ECD Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 30 April, 1998. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Nasrollah Kamyab, Director General (ECO Affaires Bureau), Ministry 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 was adopted with some amendments. adopted Agenda is placed at Annex-II.

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Report of the Twentieth Meeting of the CPR.

3. The Council adopted the Report of its Twentieth Meeting held on 13 April, 1998, as prepared by the Secretariat. The adopted Report has been circulated separately vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CON/CPR/20/98/RPT(A) dated 30 April, 1998.

Agenda Item No.3

Preparation for the next COM and Summit Meeting and the Report of Secretary General to be submitted to the COM.

4. The delegation of Pakistan proposed to add the following paragraph to the Draft Almaty Declaration:

"Welcomed Pakistan's initiative to host a Central Asia-South Asia Economic Summit (CASA) in Islamabad in September 1998 in collaboration with the World Economic Forum;

Agreed that the Summit will provide an invaluable opportunity to ECO political and business leadership to highlight the potentials and promises of their countries to the participants from the international business and financial community;

Urged ECO Member States to participate in the CASA Summit at the highest level."

5. The Council agreed that this can be annexed to the draft Almaty Declaration for consideration of the Meeting of the Senior Officials.

6. It was also agreed that the Report of the Secretary General to be submitted to the Council of Ministers will be circulated to Member States for their information before the Meeting of the COM.

7. The Council revised and agreed on the agendae for the Meetings of the Council of Ministers and Senior Officials. The revised agendae are placed at Annexes III & IV.

8. The Secretary General appealed to the Member States to expedite their information about the composition and flight schedule of their delegations who will participate in the HLEG, the meeting of Senior Officials, COM and Summit meetings in Almaty.

Agenda Item No.4

Consideration of the Draft ECO Calendar of Events and Work Programme for 1998-99.

9. The Council decided to recommend the ECO Calendar of Events for 1998-99 as endorsed by the Eighth Meeting of RPC held on 19-21 April, 1998 to COM for approval.

10. The Council also decided to submit the ECO Work Programme prepared by the Secretariat to the COM for approval.

Agenda Item No.5

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

11. The Council appreciated the work done by the Working Group and the Secretariat on the UNDP Project Document on the Capacity Building of the ECO Secretariat and authorized the Secretary General to negotiate with the UNDP authorities, in the light of the Position Paper (*Annex- V*) already circulated by the Secretariat and agreed to by the CPR, to finalize the Project Document. The finalized document will be submitted to the CPR for approval.

12. The Council further agreed that pending its final approval, the operational part of the Project regarding UNDP technical assistance and supply of equipment for enhancing the efficiency of the Secretariat may be implemented if agreed by UNDP.

Agenda Item No.6

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

13. Since this issue has already been taken up by the 8th RPC Meeting, the Council decided not to consider it again.

Agenda Item No.7

Consideration of the Kazakhstan's proposal to amend Para 36 of the Rules of Procedures.

14. The Council discussed in detail the proposal submitted by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan. Various points of view were expressed by different delegations on this issue. However, no consensus could be reached. Therefore, the Council decided to continue its discussion on the proposal in its future meetings. The Member Countries may submit their fresh views/comments on this issue in consultation with their respective Capitals, for consideration of the Council.

Agenda Item No.8

Any Other Business

15. The Secretary General appealed to Member States to expedite the payment of their budgetary contributions. He informed the Council that the Secretariat may face difficulties even for the payment of salaries of the staff in the coming months if the contributions are not paid by some Member Countries.

16. The Secretary General informed the Council about the letter received from the Republic of Tatarstan requesting for participation in the implementation of ECO multilateral programmes of regional cooperation such as transport, communication, transnational oil and gas pipelines network energy and trade. The Council decided to discuss this matter in its future meeting.

17. The Secretary General informed the Council about the informal meeting held on 21 April, 1998 in Bangkok among the representatives of Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and China on the proposed Silk Road Project. The Secretary circulated the Summary Record of the said meeting vide its Note No. INT/UNDP/98 dated 26th April, 1998. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the meeting on the outcome of the Bangkok Meeting and it was decided that ECO Secretariat may communicate to UNDP its willingness to assume the responsibility for coordination of the Silk Road Project.

18. The Secretary General referring to the proposed ESCAP Seminar on "Trade and Investment Information Networking on the South Western Sub-region of ESCAP", requested Member States (except Turkey) to convey their views expeditiously.

19. The Secretary General informed the Council of his intention to ask COM for authorizing him to take action to recruit against the remaining 5 posts of programme officers during 1999.

20. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan informed the Council that they will host 2 experts from each Member State for the Second Meeting of HLEG to be held on the sidelines of the Senior Officials meeting in Almaty on 5- 7 May, 1998 and invited the Member States to convey and make their confirmation for participation in the said meeting.

21. The Council recommended to the Secretariat to make arrangements for signing of the Charter of ECO Educational Institute in Almaty and appealed to the Member States to participate with necessary authorization if required to sign the Charter.

22. The Council placed on record its deep appreciation of the skill full and sagacious manner in which the Chairman had conducted its meetings since the assumption of the Chairmanship.

Agenda Item No.9

Date of Next Meeting.

23. The Council decided to have its 22nd meeting on Tuesday, 2 June, 1998, at 1000 hours at the Secretariat.

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