

The 22nd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 14 June, 1998)

Adopted. CON/CPR-22/98/Rpt(A) Dated: 27-07-1998

1. The Twenty-second Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on 14 June, 1998. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Gizzatov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan. {This was the first meeting of CPR chaired by the Republic of Kazakhstan after taking over the Chairmanship of COM). 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 placed at [Annex-I](#).

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The draft Agenda proposed by the Secretariat was adopted. Agenda is placed at [Annex-II](#).

Agenda Item No. 2

Preparations for the ECO Activities in New York on the sidelines of the 53rd session of the UN General Assembly

3. The CPR agreed that the informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers may be held in New York on 30 September, 1998 and finalized the Agenda of the Meeting as follows:

- 1- Opening Remarks by the Current Chairman of the ECO Council of Ministers.
- 2- Adoption of the Agenda.
- 3- Report of the Secretary General.
- 4- Endorsement of the draft Resolution to be submitted to 53rd UNGA as finalized by the ECO Contact Group.
- 5- Exchange of views on the forthcoming joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in New York.
- 6- Consideration of the possibility of formulating agreed views on some regional economic issues related to the agenda of UNGA
- 7- Any other business.
- 8- Vote of thanks.

4. It was decided that the Report of the Secretary General under Item No.3 of the agenda of the informal Meeting of COM will be submitted to CPR before the meeting.

5. The CPR also agreed on the date of the Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting to be held on 1st October, 1998 in the Permanent Mission of Singapore in New York and decided on the draft agenda of the meeting as follows:

- 1- Opening statement on behalf of ASEAN.
- 2- Opening statement by the current Chairman of ECO, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan on behalf of ECO.

- 3- Status of implementation of the decisions taken in the last ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and exchange of views on ways to further strengthen cooperation among the two organizations.
- 4- Adoption of a Joint Declaration for the Press.

6. Since the Member States were still waiting for instructions from their Capitals, the CPR deferred the consideration of the draft Resolution on Cooperation between ECO and UN to be submitted to 53rd Session of UNGA, to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Administrative and Organizational Matters of the Secretariat.

a) Recruitment for Seven Vacant Posts in Category-II:

7. The Secretary General submitted the recommendations of the Selection Panel regarding the recruitment against seven vacant posts in Category II as follows:

- i) Mr. Bijan Izadi from the Islamic Republic of Iran for the post of Legal Adviser.
- ii) Mr. Murat Khasenov from the Republic of Kazakhstan for the post of Russian Interpreter.
- iii) Mr. Majid Raeisi Nia from the Islamic Republic of Iran for the post of Protocol Assistant.
- iv) Mr. Muhammad Javed and Mr. Mohammad Hamid Reza Malik from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the two posts of Steno-secretaries.
 - For the Third post of Steno-Secretary, the Panel authorized the Secretary General to choose from among Mr. Ali Bashardoust from Iran and Mr. Shir Aga Hamidy from Afghanistan.
- v) For the post of Archivist/Librarian, the Secretary General was authorized to choose one from among the following three nominees proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of Interview:
 - a) Ms. Malek Dokht Pourjam.
 - b) Ms. Farida Ghadcri Nejad.
 - c) Ms. Fatemeh Pirstastami.

8. The Panel recommended the selected Staff to commence their work in the Secretariat on the following dates:

- i) Legal Adviser - 1st October, 1998
- ii) Russian Interpreter - 1st August, 1998
- iii) Protocol Assistant - 1st November, 1998
- iv) 2 Steno-Secretaries - 1st October, 1998

- v) 1 Steno-Secretary - 1st December, 1998
- vi) Archivist/Librarian - 1st July, 1998

9. The CPR approved the recommendations of the Panel contained in para 7 & 8 above.

b) Extension of the Term of Two Seconded Directors

10. The CPR decided to extend the term of the two seconded Directors till 31st December, 1998.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

11 The Council deferred this item to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5

Recent Developments concerning External Relations of ECO

12. The Secretary General briefed the Council on the recent developments in the external relations of the Organization and the international events scheduled to take place in the near future. The gist of discussions on this agenda item is given below:

(a) The Secretary General's visit to FAO Headquarters to Rome (Italy).

The Secretary General informed the Council that he is planning to visit Rome, Italy, on 13-18 July 1998 to meet the Director General and Senior Staff of FAO, Executive Director of World Food Programme and Executive Head of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to discuss future cooperation between ECO and the mentioned organizations.

The CPR welcomed the visit of Secretary General to Rome and pointed out that the visit will be a useful initiative in establishing cooperative relations with the said organizations after the signing of MOU with FAO last December.

(b) Establishment of Cooperative Relationship with Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The Council was informed that the Secretariat had already circulated an informative paper on the subject vide its Note Verbal No. INT/BSEC/8010100 dated 28 January, 1998.

The CPR, after discussing the matter in detail, agreed that the proposed initiative to establish cooperative relationship with SADC was a little premature at the present stage.

(c) ECO's participation in the 27th Meeting of the Asian Clearing Union held in Karachi on 21-22 May, 1998.

The Secretary General apprised the Council of his participation in the 27th Meeting of Asian Clearing Union (ACU) held in Karachi on 21-22 May, 1998. He also informed that the Chairman of the Meeting and the Secretary General of ACU approached him to risk for assistance of ECO Secretariat in inviting the Member States of ECO (except Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan who

were already ACU Members) to join the Organization. In this respect, the ECO Secretariat will circulate late the relevant documentation to Member States for their consideration.

(d) Miscellaneous Meetings/Events.

Other meetings/events on which the CPR was briefed are summarized below:

(i) ECO's participation in the Meeting of SWAPU in Tehran on 8-10 June, 1998

The Deputy Secretary General ECO, Dr. Sohrab Shahabi attended the Second Congress of the South & West Asia Postal Union (SWAPU) held in Tehran on 8-10 June, 1998 on behalf of the Secretary General.

(ii) Mr. Nay Htun's visit to ECO Secretariat

Mr. Nay Htun, Secretary General UN and UNDP Assistant Administrator/ Regional Director for Asia and Pacific paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Secretary General-in-charge of the Secretariat on 11 June, 1998.

(iii) Mr. Gabriele Accascina, Regional Coordinator for UNDP/APDIP's visit to ECO Secretariat

Mr. Gabriele Accascina, Regional Coordinator for UNDP/APDIP (Asia Pacific Development Information Programme) visited the ECO Secretariat on 1-3 June, 1998. His report, when available, will be circulated to Member States. Mr. Accascina's mission was part of the UNDP Project on Capacity Building of ECO Secretariat.

(iv) Visit of Two Senior experts of SESRTCIC to ECO Secretariat

Two Senior Experts from the arc Centre for Statistics and Research, Ankara were expected to arrive in Tehran on 14th June, 1998 to study the establishment of Statistical Unit and Data Base in the ECO Secretariat. The travel expenses and per diem of these two experts would be covered by Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

(v) ASEAN's Proposal to hold a Workshop on International Trade in New York.

ASEAN's proposal to hold a Workshop on International Trade will be circulated to Member States shortly. In this regard, Member States were requested to include relevant experts in their delegations to 53rd UNGA or assign commercial or economic advisers/attaches in their Missions in New York to participate in the said Workshop.

Agenda Item No. 6

Any other business

(a) ECO Workshop on Tariffs and Non-tariff Barriers to be held in Tehran on 2-3 August, 1998

13. The CPR authorized the Secretariat to invite the following international/regional organizations to attend the subject Workshop:

IDB, ESCAP, Asian Clearing Union (ACU), WTO, UNCTAD, ASEAN and ECO-CCI

(b) The Third ECO Trade Fair to be held on 8-18 July, 1998 at Bandar Anzali

14. The Council was informed that the Third ECO Trade Fair will be held on 8-18 July, 1998 in Bandar Anzali and ECO-CCI Meetings were also scheduled to be held on the same occasion on 8-9 July, 1998. The Permanent Representatives of the concerned Member States were requested to forward this information to their respective Chambers to ensure full participation both in the ECO Trade Fair and ECO-CCI Meetings.

(c) UNDP Project on Capacity Building of the Secretariat.

15. The CPR decided to form an Experts Group to work on the reply received from UNDP on the Project on Capacity Building of ECO Secretariat and submit its report to the next meeting of the Council. The Group will meet on 30 June, 1998 at 1000 hours in the Secretariat.

(d) Energy Projects of ECO.

16. The Secretary General underlined the need to undertake a study on the reply of World Bank with regard to financing the ECO Energy Projects. However, since the Member States needed time to examine the World Bank views, the matter was deferred.

(e) ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)

17. The CPR called upon the Secretariat to arrange the next meeting of the High- Level Experts Group (HLEG) without delay to finalize the Annexures of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) and appealed to the Member States to come forward to host the event.

(f) Letter of the President of Tatarstan

18. Having considered the application of the Republic of Tatarstan for observer status with ECO, the Council agreed to study the matter and asked the Secretariat to circulate the letter of the President of Tatarstan among the Member States for further consideration.

(g) ECO Regional Workshop on Land Transport and Transit Conventions.

19. The Secretary General apprised the Council of the successful organization of the ECO Regional Workshop on Land Transport and Transit Conventions in Tashkent on 9-10 June, 1998. The Council appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Workshop.

(e) Official Presentation of the new Capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan

20. The Secretary General who attended the ceremonies for the official presentation of Astana as the new Capital of Kazakhstan expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and the kind reference made to ECO during the inaugural address of the President, H.E.

Nursultan Nazarbaev.

Agenda Item No. 7

Date of Next Meeting

21. The Council decided to have its 23rd meeting on Monday, 27th July 1998, at 1000 hours at the Secretariat.

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