

# The 23<sup>rd</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

(Tehran – 27 July, 1998)

Adopted No. CON/CPR-23/98/Rpt(A) Dated. 30-08-1998

1. The Twenty-third Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on 27 July, 1998 in two sessions. The first session of the meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Gizzatov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The second session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nasrullah Kamyab, Director General, ECO Affairs Bureau of the 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 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**

#### Adoption of the Report of the Twenty-Second Meeting of CPR.

3. The Report of the Twenty-Second Meeting of CPR was adopted with some amendments. The final text of the Report will be circulated separately.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

#### Finalization of the draft Resolution on Cooperation between ECO and UN to be submitted to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in New York and any other related matters

4. The draft Resolution on Cooperation between ECO and UN to be submitted to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA in New York was adopted by the Council. The final text of the Draft Resolution will be circulated by the Secretariat separately. The Secretariat will convey the draft Resolution to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UN for the submission of it to UN General Assembly, according to the established procedure.

### **Agenda. Item. No. 4**

#### UNDP Project for Capacity Building of ECO Secretariat.

5. The Council adopted the Summary Record of the Working Group Meeting and the draft letter to be addressed to UN Headquarters with some amendments. The adopted text of the Summary Record will be circulated by the Secretariat separately. The Council authorized the Secretary General to sign the UNDP Project Document.

### **Agenda Item No. 5**

#### Consideration of the draft MOU between ECO and UNCTAD.

6. The Council decided to defer this item to its next meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 6**Consideration of the ECO's application to WTO for gaining observer status.

7. The Council authorized the Secretary General to enter into contact with WTO authorities for granting observer status to ECO. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a draft MOU for the establishment of institutional relationship with WTO.
8. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the meeting that the detailed information on the 2nd Workshop on WTO scheduled to be held in Turkey in late November, 1998 will be sent to the Secretariat in due course.

**Agenda Item No. 7**Kazakhstan's proposal to amend Article 36 of the ECO Rules of Procedure.

9. The Council decided to defer this issue to the next meeting of CPR.

**Agenda Item No. 8**Recent Developments concerning External Relations of ECO:a) ECO Energy Projects to be financed by World Bank.

10. The Secretary General briefed the Council about the terms and conditions outlined by the World Bank to finance in principle ECO energy projects. The Secretary General also expressed his intention to hold talks with World Bank's officials in Washington during the participation of the Secretariat delegation as observer to the Annual Meeting of IMF Board of Governors.
11. The Council asked the Secretariat to prepare a paper on concrete projects and ideas on Energy sector to be raised during the talks with World Bank authorities. The Secretariat was also requested to submit another paper to the next meeting on ECO's observer status with IMF.
12. The Council decided to finalize the request of the Secretary General to hold talks with World Bank's officials in Washington, in its next meeting.

b) Secretary General's Report on his visit to F AO's Headquarters.

13. The said visit has been postponed due to the Director General of F AO's programme of activities. The Secretary General informed the Council that this visit may take place during the first half of September 1998.

c) ECO study Mission to the ASEAN Secretariat.

14. The Secretary General informed the Council that the Director in charge of Trade in the ECO Secretariat has visited ASEAN Headquarters in Jakarta on 13-24 July, 1998 as a first step in the cooperation for training between the two Organizations. He also mentioned that the said Director, inter alia, found the opportunity to study the mechanism of AFTA and related matters for promotion of regional trade. The Council asked the Secretariat to submit a comprehensive report on this visit in the next meeting of CPR.

15. The Council urged the Member States to actively participate in the forthcoming ECO-ASEAN Workshop on International Trade which is going to be held in New York in October, 1998 along with their respective national reports. The Secretary General also informed the Meeting that the Director of Trade of ECO will present a comprehensive paper in this Workshop on the promotion of inter-regional trade between the ECO and ASEAN.

### **Agenda Item No. 9**

#### Any other business

##### (a) Finalization of the Annexures and Protocols of the TTF A.

16. The Secretary General reminded the Council that the Council of Ministers in its 8th Meeting held in Almaty in May 1998 had decided to finalize the annexures and protocols of the TTF A until October, 1998. He also informed that the Secretariat had already approached Uzbek and Azeri authorities to consider hosting this meeting. The Council urged the Secretariat to finalize the date and venue of the next meeting of HLEG on TTF A in consultation with the concerned Member States.

17. The Council decided to include in the Agenda of its next meeting, the date and venue of the Meeting of HLEG to finalize the Annexures of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

##### b) High Level Experts Meeting on Tariffs and Non-tariff Trade Barriers to be held in Tehran on 2-3 August. 1998.

18. The Secretary General informed the meeting that so far only the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan have confirmed their participation in written form in the High Level Experts Meeting on Tariff and Non-Tariff Trade Barriers to be held in Tehran on 2-3 August, 1998. The Council urged the remaining Member States to participate in the said Meeting along with their respective country reports.

##### c) Consideration of the programme and dates of 9th RPC Meeting to be held in Turkey.

19. The Council was informed that upon the request of the Turkish authorities, ECO Secretariat had informed the tentative schedules for preparatory review and 9th RPC meetings. The Secretariat suggested 8-10 February, 1999 for the preparatory review meetings to be held in Tehran and 22-24 February, 1999 for the 9th RPC Meeting to be held in Istanbul. However, the Council expressed the desire that the Government of the Republic of Turkey may hold the Preparatory Meetings also in Istanbul prior to the RPC Meeting. The Council will decide the matter after the necessary consultations to be held by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey with the Turkish authorities.

##### d) Display Materials for the Trade Fairs.

20. The Council urged the Member States to furnish the Secretariat with adequate display materials for participation of the Secretariat in Tehran International Trade Fair and other international fairs to be held in Member States.

##### e) Reply to the letter of President of Tatarstan.

21. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a draft letter to be addressed to the President of the Republic of Tatarstan and circulate it among Member States. The Council decided to finalize the matter in its next meeting.

d) Registration of ECO documents with the United Nations.

22. The Council welcomed the Secretariat's proposal to have a meeting with UN Legal Office to discuss the formal registration procedures of ECO documents during the visit of the Secretary General to UN Headquarters in New York.

e) UNDCP Project on Drug Control.

23. The Secretary General informed the Council that the nominations for the posts of Programme Officer and Trilingual Translator so far received were not appropriate. Therefore, the Secretariat had again circulated the job descriptions for these posts for the Drug Control Coordination Unit to be established under UNDCP Project, for new nominations from Member States. He also pointed out that the new nominees with the required qualifications should be submitted until 15 August, 1998 at the latest to enable the UNDCP Project to become operational.

h) The 2nd High level Experts Task Group Meeting on ECO Oil & Gas Pipeline Routes.

24. The Secretary General informed the Council that the required information/data for the 2nd HLETG Meeting on ECO Oil & Gas Pipeline Routes had not been received from Member States. The Council asked the Secretariat to prepare a format reflecting the main elements of the required data and circulate it among Member States.

i) Preparatory Meeting for CPR Meetings.

25. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan proposed to set up a Working Group consisting of the Deputy Permanent Representatives to discuss the routine issues of the agenda of CPR meetings and determine the issues to be discussed in detail by Permanent Representatives in CPR meetings. The Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to send its proposal in written form to the ECO Secretariat in order to be included in the draft agenda of the next CPR Meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 10**

Date of Next Meeting.

26. The Council decided to hold its 24th Meeting on Tuesday, 25th August, 1998, at 0930 hours at the Secretariat.

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