

The 26th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 20 October, 1998)

Adopted. No. CON/CPR-26/98/Rpt(A) Dated. 21-12-1998

1. The Twenty-sixth Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on 20 October, 1998. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. 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, 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 with some amendments. The adopted Agenda is placed at [Annex-II](#).

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Report of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of CPR.

3. The Report of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of CPR prepared by the Secretariat was adopted with addition of para No.8 proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the Report has been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No. CON/CPR- 25/98(A) dated 20 October 1998.

Agenda Item No. 3

Consideration of the draft MOU between ECO and UNCTAD.

4. The open-ended Working Group as formed by the decision of the 25th Meeting of CPR will meet again to finalize the draft MOU and submit its report to the next CPR meeting for approval.

Agenda Item No. 4

Kazakhstan's proposal to amend Article 18 of the ECO Rules of Procedure.

5. While a number of Permanent Representatives supported the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to amend Article 18 of the ECO Rules of Procedure, no consensus could be reached. Therefore, it was agreed to defer the discussion on the proposal to the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5

Administrative Matters:

- Consideration of the draft Budget of the Secretariat for the year 1999.

6. The Council decided to form a Working Group to meet on 18 November, 1998 in the Secretariat to work on the draft Budget and submit its report to the next CPR meeting for approval. Several proposals and suggestions made by different Permanent Representatives regarding the next year's budget would be discussed in the meeting of the Working Group.

7. The CPR also took note of the fact that in accordance with the MOU signed among the Member States at Ashgabat on 14 May 1996, the founding Member States shall equally contribute 75% of the budget and the remaining 25% will be paid by the other seven Member States on the basis of the interim arrangement.

- The request of the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to replace Mr. A. Adurrazakoy, Conference Services and Public Relations Assistant by another nominee from Kyrgyzstan.

8. The CPR decided to appoint Mr. Talentbek Kasymbekov from Kyrgyz Republic to the post of Conference Services and Public Relations Assistant to replace Mr. Avazbek Abdurazakov. Mr. Talentbek Kasymbekov will assume his duty in the Secretariat w.e.f. 1st November 1998 to complete the remaining period of the tenure of his predecessor.

- Consideration of the need-assessment report for computerization of the Secretariat.

9. The CPR expressed its appreciation for the Report on computerization prepared by the Secretariat and authorized the Secretary General to utilize from the Current Budget the existing allocation of US\$ 20,000 to purchase Hardware (US\$ 14000), Software (US\$ 4000) and Internet and E-mail connection (OS\$1530). The remaining hardware and software required for the computerization programme will be financed from the Budget of 1999.

Agenda. Item No. 6

Kazakhstan Permanent Representative's proposal to form a Working Group to assist the CPR.

10. The CPR agreed to establish a Permanent Working Group to assist the CPR in the fulfillment of its task. However, the Terms of Reference will be defined by the Group itself and be submitted to CPR for approval.

Agenda Item No. 7

Consideration of the list of Projects and (feasibility) studies with possible sources of finance.

11. The CPR expressed its appreciation to the Secretary General and the Staff of the Secretariat for having prepared a comprehensive list of projects and studies covering almost all ongoing and future projects/programmes of the organization. It was however, agreed to defer the discussion on this issue to the next meeting of the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 8

Proposal of ECO-CCI regarding the issuance of multiple entry visas to Executives/National Committee and Staff Members of ECO.

12. It was agreed to defer the consideration of this issue to the next meeting of the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 9

Recent Developments concerning External Relations of ECO.

13. The Secretary General briefed the CPR on the salient activities during his recent mission to New York and Washington. He also informed the CPR that the Press Releases issued on the occasion of the Informal COM Meeting, Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, ECO-ASEAN Workshop on International Trade and signing of UNDP Project Document on Capacity Building of ECO Secretariat were already circulated to the Member States on 2nd and 3rd October, 1998.

14. The report of the Secretary General on the activities of the ECO delegation in New York and Washington will be circulated separately.
15. The Secretary General further informed the CPR that the Report of Secretary General on his activities during the visit to F AO Headquarters in Rome and on the ECO-UNFPA Conference held on 20-24 September, 1998 in Baku had already been circulated.
16. The CPR expressed its profound that thanks to the Secretary General and his staff for their activities in New York and Washington to further enhance the ECO's image in the international community and their efforts to obtain as much assistance as possible from international agencies such as World Bank, UNFPA, UNICEF, etc., for ECO project.
17. The Secretary General also informed the CPR that he and DSG Mr. Altaf Hussain Agral will participate in the Fourth Consultative Meeting of the Executive Heads of Sub-regional Organizations and ESCAP to be held in Kathmandu on 26-27 October, 1998.

Agenda Item No. 10

Any other business

a) Third HLEG Meeting to finalize the Annexures of TTFA.

18. The CPR was informed that the Third HLEG Meeting on TTF A which was going to be held at the Secretariat on 26-28 October 1998 is being postponed for the second time due to lack of quorum and new dates will be communicated by the Secretariat in due course. The Permanent Representatives were urged to request their authorities back home to send experts to participate in this meeting. Otherwise it would not be possible for the delegates from the Embassies in Tehran alone to perform this highly technical job.

b)

i) The Meeting of the Chairman/Senior Executives of Agricultural Banking and Credit Institutions to be held in Tehran on 1-2 November, 1998 and

ii) ECO Railway Authorities Meeting to be held in Istanbul on 3-5 November, 1998.

19. It was pointed out that in spite of very short time left for holding the above two meeting, the necessary quorum for the participation in these two meetings has not yet been obtained.

20. The CPR agreed that if by next Saturday, the required quorum is not achieved, the above mentioned two events may be postponed.

c) Commemoration of ECO Day.

21. The Secretary General informed the Council that on the occasion of the commemoration of ECO Day (28 November), the Secretariat will arrange the following activities:

- i) Reception by the Secretary General on 29th November, 1998 at the premises of the Secretariat.
- ii) A courtesy call by the Secretary General on H.E. Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- iii) Secretary General's interview to the local and foreign Press based in Tehran.

22. The CPR called upon the Member States to celebrate the ECO Day on 28th November in a befitting manner.

Agenda Item No. 11

Date of Next Meeting.

23. The Council decided to hold its 27th Meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 1998 at 0930 hours at the Secretariat.

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