

274th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

April 4, 2023
ECO Secretariat

Report

The 274th CPR Meeting, held on April 4, 2023, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan was attended by Permanent Representatives/Representatives of Republic of **Azerbaijan**, Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyz Republic**, Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, Republic of **Tajikistan**, Republic of **Türkiye**, **Turkmenistan** and Republic of **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and the relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

2. The delegations of the Member States joined the **Chairman** and the **ECO Secretary General** to welcome and felicitate Dr. Hicabi Kirlangiç who recently assumed his responsibilities as the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Iran and the Country's Permanent Representative to ECO.

3. Ambassador Hicabi Kirlangiç thanked the distinguished members of the Council and reciprocated the sentiments expressed by them.

4. Reiterating his earlier position, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** discouraged the virtual chairing of CPR, PrepCom and other meetings of the ECO. According to him, if regular Chair continues to be physically absent, such meetings may be presided over by an interim chair, preferably by former chairman of the CPR which is in line with the previous practice, he emphasized.

5. The Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan invited the Iranian delegation to stick to the proposed agenda, while the issue raised by the Iranian side can be discussed under the agenda item "Any other business".

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The **Council** adopted the following Agenda of the 274th CPR Meeting for deliberation:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 274th CPR Meeting
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 273rd CPR Meeting
3. Preparation for the 16th ECO Summit and 27th Meeting of the COM
4. Approval of the List of Events to be covered out of Special Support Fund (SSF)
5. Communication with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
6. Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
7. Any other business
8. Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 273rd CPR Meeting

7. The Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** requested for incorporation of their amendments in the report proposed vide Note Verbale No. 3-20-32/2-5-13256/2023 dated March 15, 2023.

8. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** did not agree with the idea to either reflect such views or attach them as annexure to the report. He supported that the original text of the report as circulated by Secretariat may be kept intact. However, he agreed for adding a sentence in the report to mention that “verbatim of the report is available in record of the Secretariat for any further reference”.

9. In response the Azerbaijan representative mentioned that key elements of the statement by the Republic of Azerbaijan should be incorporated and reflected properly in the report and expressed readiness to work on the text for modifications and additions.

10. Finding no consensus in the matter, the **Council** deferred the adoption of report of the 273rd Meeting for discussion and decision by its next Session.

Agenda Item No.3

Preparation for the 16th ECO Summit and 27th Meeting of the COM

11. Based on the discussions and recommendations made by 1st Meeting of the PrepCom, the **Council** reviewed the status of preparations in regard to the holding of 27th COM and 16th Summit Meetings this year in Baku and Tashkent respectively.

12. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** recalled that the 16th ECO Summit is scheduled for November 9-10, 2023, adding that an official information to this end has already been made. He requested the Member States to ascertain confirmations of their Heads of State/Government for participation in the event, emphasizing that a prompt response in the matter would enable the host authorities to make necessary arrangements for facilitating this significant event in Tashkent.

13. The Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, while referring to their position as maintained by country’s delegation during the 1st Meeting of the PrepCom, reiterated that the informal COM and the ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (s), to be organized on the sidelines of upcoming UNGA Session, may be included in the agenda of PrepCom for discussion. He proposed the sequence of such events in the following order: (i) Informal COM Meeting (ii) ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (iii) 34th RPC Meeting (iv) 27th COM Meeting and (v) 16th ECO Summit.

14. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** did not concur with the idea to include ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (s) in the agenda of the PrepCom maintaining that this would overburden the actual tasks of the PrepCom. However, he proposed that it would be quite better if ECO and ASEAN Secretariats could mutually coordinate in connection with organizing their ministerial meeting on

the sidelines of the next UNGA Session. Regarding nature and format of the outcome documents of COM and Summit events, he said that different approaches were needed for the development of these documents. While an action-oriented approach could be regarded suitable for working out the communiqué/declaration of 27th COM, the Policy-oriented approach might be adopted for the outcome document of the Summit meeting which could be short and concise. As regards sequencing of the RPC, COM and Summit meeting (s), he opined that there was no obligation in holding COM Meeting prior to Summit with an interval in between. He drew the attention of the meeting to the legal status of COM as the highest decision-making body of the Organization as set out under Article VI of the Treaty of Izmir. He proposed that COM event might be held in December 2023 after the organization of Summit and RPC, in order to provide enough time for the required preparation needed for RPC given the fact that RPC in this year may be required to review ECO Vision 2025.

15. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** stated that PrepCom should focus only on main ECO events i.e. the next meetings of the COM and Summit.

16. The **ECO Secretary General** proposed that there should be an appropriate space between RPC and COM meetings in order to provide sufficient time for ensuring effective organization of all such events. He looked forward to PrepCom and Member States to mutually ascertain exact dates for holding these events.

17. Reviewing all aspects of discussion and the views of the participating delegations, the Council concluded the following:

- Scheduled ECO events may be organized in the following order (i) 34th RPC (ii) 27th COM and (iii) 16th Summit;
- PrepCom to ensure the preparations for COM and Summit events as well as make overall coordination with regard to the holding of Informal COM and ECO-ASEAN Meetings.

Agenda No.4

Approval of the List of Events to be covered out of Special Support Fund (SSF)

18. The Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of **Azerbaijan** requested the inclusion of 8th Meeting of Customs Transit Committee (TTCCI) and 9th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) in the revised list of events to be covered out of Special Support Fund (SSF).

19. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** requested the inclusion of 5th High Level Experts Group Meeting preceding the 5th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting in the revised list of Events to be covered out of SSF.

20. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran**, while quoting his previous position, reiterated that all meetings which bear ministerial nature or to be participated by heads of organizations may be excluded from the SSF list.

He noted that such events do not fall within the scope of SSF, looking for a general authorization to be given to the ECO Secretary General, enabling him to exercise some discretion in this regard.

21. The **Council** considered the views expressed by Member States and concluded that the events proposed by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan may be included in the revised list of events. The **Council** tasked the Secretariat for circulation of an approved list of events to be sponsored under SSF.

Agenda Item No.5

Communication with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

22. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tehran vide self-explanatory Note Verbale No. 2733 dated February 24, 2023 conveyed inability to continue its activities. However, the esteemed Embassy vide another Note Verbale No. 3770 dated March 12, 2023 requested that its earlier communication dated February 24, 2023 may be ignored.

23. The Council after deliberation over the communicated notes and exchange of views on the matter concurred on the need to hold an informal meeting for consideration of the issue which is related to the ECO representation of Afghanistan.

Agenda Item No. 6

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- Recommendations of the Selection Panel

24. The Selection Panel met on April 3, 2023 (1300 hrs). The Meeting was coordinated by Amb. Dr. Huseyin Avni Bicakli, ECO Deputy Secretary General for (Admn, EME, IR & IT) and chaired (*virtually*) by Mr. Farid Valiyev, Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of **Azerbaijan**. The Meeting was attended by the Representatives of the Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, Republic of **Tajikistan**, Republic of **Türkiye** and Republic of **Uzbekistan**.

25. The Selection Panel made the following recommendation (s) for consideration by the CPR:

Director for Energy, Minerals & Environment (EME) (Category-I, D2)

Mr. Fuad Farzalibayov (**Azerbaijan National**) may be appointed for a full term of three (03) years to be effective from the date of joining the Secretariat against the vacant post of Director for Energy, Minerals & Environment (EME) (**Category-I, D2**).

26. The **Council** considered and approved the recommendation of the Selection Panel.

Agenda Item No.7

Any other business

27. The **ECO Secretary General**, while recalling budgetary position of the Secretariat, underlined that the current year's budgetary shares of some Member States, as well as balance of their previous years' budgetary contributions were still awaited. To meet the monetary requirements of the Organization, including the unhindered implementation of ECO projects and activities as well as smooth functioning of the Secretariat, the timely receipt of contributions is necessary. He requested the Member States for expediting their current and previous payments of contributions to ECO.

28. The Representative of Republic of **Türkiye** expressed his displeasure over the referral of disputed matters to CPR, noting that prolongation of arguments and discussion on such issues unnecessarily oblige the Permanent Representatives to be present in the meeting that impede smooth completion of their other important official tasks and assignments. He recommended the Secretariat to separately settle such issues through a pre-consultation process before bringing them for consideration of the CPR.

Agenda Item No.8

Date of the next CPR Meeting

29. The Council decided to convene its next (275th) Meeting on May 3, 2023 in ECO Secretariat, Tehran.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizade, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Special Envoy, MFA
- Mr. Farid Valiyev, Head of Division, MFA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- H.E. Mr. Askhat Orazbay, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Sydykov Turdakun, **Permanent Representative**

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Ahmad Shami, Counselor

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Maruf Abdurahmonov, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- H.E. Dr. Hicabi Kirlangiç, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Ulvi Darendeli, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- Mr. Kemal Atayev, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullaev, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Amb. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General
- Amb. Mohsen Esper, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Huseyin Avni Bicakli, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Sukhrob Mirzoaliev, Head of CFU
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Mr. Shahid Hussain, Desk Officer