



**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)**

**Report of the  
Second High Level Experts Group Meeting on Combating Drugs,  
Terrorism and Organized Crimes  
(Tehran, 1 – 2 November, 2010)**

**The ECO Secretariat, Tehran**

**Report of the  
Second High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting  
on Combating Drugs, Terrorism and Organized Crimes**

(Tehran: November 1 – 2, 2010)

\*\*\*\*\*

1. The Second High Level Experts Group Meeting on Combating Drugs, Terrorism and Organized Crimes was held in Tehran on 1 – 2 November, 2010 hosted by the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting was attended by delegates of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Turkey, as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by the INTERPOL Executive Committee Delegate for Asia and the Operative Coordinator for the EU-funded Project titled Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with ECO Member States. The list of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

**Inauguration of the Meeting**

2. His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdollahi, Deputy Interior Minister for Security and Law Enforcement of the Islamic Republic of Iran inaugurated the meeting. Mr. Abdollahi stated that inauspicious phenomena of terrorism, production of narcotic substances, drug-trafficking, human trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering, arms smuggling, cyber crimes and other transnational organized crimes, all are of global nature and there was a strong need for collective measures to eradicate these menaces. He, therefore, emphasized the need for developing cohesive regional strategies aimed at preventing, controlling and neutralizing transnational organized crimes and terrorism. Mr. Abdollahi reiterated Iran's readiness to cooperate with all the Member States to tackle the menaces of drugs, terrorism and trans-national organized crimes. A copy of his statement is attached as *Annex-II*.

3. His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General also made a statement during the inaugural session. He welcomed the delegates and thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this important meeting. He stated that the Economic Cooperation Organization aims at serving as an instrument for promoting the economic and social development of its membership and these objectives can only be achieved through the secured and peaceful atmosphere which has been negatively affected by rampant drug-trafficking and allied crimes in the region. Referring to several steps taken by ECO, Mr. Maroofi stated that efforts are afoot to establish the Economic Cooperation Organization Police (ECOPOL). He expressed the hope that the establishment of ECOPOL would be an important step forward to enable the ECO Member States to effectively combat the menace of drugs, terrorism and trans-national organized crimes. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-III*.

4. Mr. Ali Azimlou, General Director for International Affairs of the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran also delivered a statement. While welcoming the

delegates, he expressed the hope that the deliberations and decisions made during the meeting would contribute to enhancing regional cooperation among the Member States. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-IV*.

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

### *Election of the Chairman*

5. The working session was coordinated by Amb. Hassan Taherian, Deputy Secretary General of the ECO. In accordance with the ECO's Rules of Procedure, His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdollahi, Deputy Interior Minister for Security and Law Enforcement of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his remarks, Mr. Abdollahi thanked the participants for reposing confidence in him and expressed the hope that their deliberations would produce useful and beneficial outcomes for the Member States.

## **Agenda Item No. 3**

### *Adoption of the Agenda*

6. The meeting adopted the following agenda for its proceeding:

1- Inauguration of the Meeting

- i. Inaugural Statement of a high dignitary of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- ii. Statement by the Representative of the ECO Secretariat

2- Election of the Chairman.

3- Adoption of the Agenda.

4- Appointment of the Drafting Committee.

5- Police Cooperation and considering the establishment of ECOPOL

6- Revision of the Joint Regional Strategy to combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crime

7- Data-Bank on drugs, terrorism, organized crime, human-trafficking and money-laundering

8- Reports by the Member States on implementation of the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting:

A) Report of the First Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for preparation of a Plan of Action on Combating Trans-national Organized Crime (Ankara, 6 – 7 May, 2010).

B) Report of the First Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States (Tehran, 29-30 June, 2010)

- C) Report of the First Meeting of the Chiefs of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States (Tehran, 2 – 3 August, 2010).
- D) Report of the First Meeting of Border Commanders of ECO Member States (Tehran, 19-20 October, 2010)

9- Preparations for the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting (Istanbul, 2010)

10- Date and venue of the Third HLEG Meeting.

11- Any other business

12- Adoption of the report

13- Vote of Thanks and conclusion of the meeting.

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

##### *Appointment of the Drafting Committee*

7. An open-ended Drafting Committee for preparation of the draft report of the Meeting was established comprising officials of the Secretariat and the representatives of the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

##### *Police Cooperation and considering the establishment of ECOPOL*

8. The meeting welcomed the idea for the establishment of Economic Cooperation Organization Police (ECOPOL) which will serve as an institutional mechanism for enhancing regional police cooperation. It further appreciated excellent work done by the National Central Bureau (NCBs) of INTERPOL, Tehran and the ECO Secretariat for jointly preparing the draft Statute of ECOPOL. It was agreed that the ECOPOL should have an Executive Council as the highest organ composed of the Heads of National Central Bureaus (NCBs) of INTERPOL of the ECO Member States. The Secretariat of ECOPOL would be headed by a Director General. It was also agreed that the revised draft Statute of ECOPOL will be submitted to the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting, scheduled to be held on 23-24 December, 2010, in Istanbul.

9. The ECO Secretariat was requested to consider and examine the Statute by the legal Wing of the Secretariat and thereafter circulated to the Member States for views. Thereafter, it would be submitted to the third Interior Ministers Meeting. The representatives of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey expressed their readiness to host the Headquarters of the ECOPOL to be in their respective capitals. Since there was no consensus, the matter regarding the headquarters of ECOPOL was deferred to be considered by the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 6**

*Revision of the Joint Regional Strategy to combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crime*

10. The meeting deliberated upon the Joint Regional Strategy to combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crimes which was approved by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting held in Ashgabat in 2008. It was noted that since the approval of this Strategy, some of the activities have already been held. Therefore, there was a need to revise the existing Strategy. The meeting also agreed that the reports/declaration of the already held meetings may be attached as annexures to the Strategy for submission to the upcoming Interior Ministers Meeting. The meeting welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the following two events and decided to include them in the revised Joint Regional Strategy:

- i) The First Meeting of Attorney Generals of the ECO Member States
- ii) A Workshop on Terrorism

11. The meeting requested the remaining Member States who had offered to host some of the meetings stipulated in the Strategy, to expedite convening proposed meetings at the earliest.

**Agenda Item No. 7**

*Data-Bank on drugs, terrorism, organized crime, human-trafficking and money-laundering*

12. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a presentation about the establishment of a Data-Bank on drugs, terrorism, organized crime, human-trafficking and money-laundering. The proposed title for this data-bank is "ECO-Organized Crimes & Terrorism Prevention International System". It was briefed that the main objective of this data-base is to coordinate the prevention of Organized crimes & Terrorism and to exchange the information & experience among the Member States. The meeting was further informed that this data-base will be in three languages i.e. English, Russian and Persian. A copy of the presentation is attached as *Annex – V*.

13. The meeting welcomed the idea for establishment of data-bank titled "ECO-Organized Crimes & Terrorism Prevention International System". However, the Secretariat was requested to forward the proposal to the Member States for consideration by the relevant experts.

## **Agenda Item No. 8**

### Reports by the Member States on implementation of the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting:

- A) Report of the First Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for preparation of a Plan of Action on Combating Trans-national Organized Crime (Ankara, 6 – 7 May, 2010).

14. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey briefed the meeting about the outcomes of the First Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for preparation of a Plan of Action on Combating Trans-national Organized Crime which was held in Ankara on 6 – 7 May, 2010. The meeting appreciated the Republic of Turkey for hosting the EGM which came up with a very pragmatic Plan of Action (POA) and endorsed the report/POA of this EGM for submission to the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting.

- B) Report of the First Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States (Tehran, 29-30 June, 2010)

15. The Representative of the ECO Secretariat briefed about the outcomes of the First Meeting of Heads of INTERPOL of ECO Member States which was held in Tehran on 29-30 June, 2010. The meeting appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this meeting and endorsed its report for submission to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting.

- C) Report of the First Meeting of Chiefs of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States (Tehran, 2 – 3 August, 2010).

16. The Representative of the ECO Secretariat briefed about the outcomes of the First Meeting of Chiefs of Police of Anti Narcotics of ECO Member States which was held in Tehran on 2-3 August, 2010. The meeting appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this meeting and endorsed its report for submission to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting. Keeping in view the relevance of the subject, Mr. Hans Detlef Nollenburg, the Operative Coordinator for the EU-funded Project titled “Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with the ECO Member States” was requested to brief the meeting about the project. Mr. Nollenburg briefed the meeting that ECO and the European Commission signed an MOU on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009 on implementation of EC-financed project under the Instrument for Stability. While explaining the four components of the project Mr. Nollenburg informed the meeting that under this project, the EC is contributing 9.5 Million Euros to strengthen the stability of the region and the security and health of people living in the countries along the heroin routes by supporting trans-regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking from/to Afghanistan. He elaborated that this project would enable ECO-DOCCU to fulfill the role of a regional coordination facilitator and technical cooperation platform and forum.

D) Report of the First Meeting of Border Commanders of ECO Member States (Tehran, 19-20 October, 2010)

17. The Representative of the ECO Secretariat briefed about the outcomes of the First Meeting of Border Commanders of ECO Member States which was held in Tehran on 19-20 October, 2010. The meeting appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this meeting and endorsed its report for submission to the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 9**

Preparation for the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting (Istanbul, 2010).

18. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the meeting that they are planning to host the Third ECO Interior Ministers Meeting in Istanbul on 23-24 December, 2010. Brief information about their preliminary preparations along with the details of hospitality and venue for the Ministerial Meeting was also provided. Member States were requested to actively participate in the meeting. The Secretariat requested the concerned Turkish authorities to convey these details through diplomatic channels so that the same could be circulated among the Member States with a request to confirm their participation.

**Agenda Item No. 10**

Date and Venue of the 3<sup>rd</sup> HLEG Meeting

19. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Member States, will decide the exact date and venue of the next meeting and inform the Member States.

**Agenda Item No. 11**

Any other business

20. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

**Agenda Item No. 12**

Adoption of the report

21. The participants unanimously adopted this report.

### **Agenda Item No. 13**

#### *Vote of Thanks*

22. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the participating delegations, expressing deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed their warm appreciation to the Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdollahi, Deputy Interior Minister for Security and Law Enforcement of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

23. The participants of the meeting also expressed gratitude and appreciation to the ECO Secretary General and other members of the ECO Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents and other valuable services to facilitate the work of the meeting.