



Second Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States

FINAL REPORT

3-4 November 2015
Antalya- Turkey

1. The 2nd meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States was co-hosted by the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the Court of Cassation and the Ministry of Justice of Republic of Turkey on 3-4 November in Antalya, Turkey. It was attended by Attorneys/Prosecutors General and high level officials from Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey (host country). A delegation from Turkish Cypriot State also attended the Meeting as observer. The ECO Secretariat delegation, headed by ECO Deputy Secretary General, also participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

Agenda Item No.1
Inauguration of the Meeting

2. Mr. Mustafa Erol, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice of Republic of Turkey made the first opening statement and conveyed his deep condolences to the Governments and peoples of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over the loss of precious lives during the recent earthquake which hit both countries. He welcomed the participants in the beautiful city of Antalya. He referred to the results of the first meeting and expressed hope that the outcomes of this meeting would be result-oriented. He stated that international cooperation is vital to combat transnational and cybercrimes where national borders do not make real distinction in the criminal activities. He further informed that Turkey ratified the Council of Europe Convention on fight against cybercrimes in 2011. Copy of his speech is attached as **Annex-II**.

3. In his opening remarks Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, ECO Deputy Secretary General thanked the Government of Republic of Turkey for hosting this important meeting in the beautiful city of Antalya. He also gave an overview about the state of play in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) where 10 countries have developed cooperation in different areas of economic development. He further mentioned that as mandated by ECO Interior Ministers, Organization has been active in some non-economic areas such as security and law enforcement. He highlighted the need for support to economic cooperation through legislative and judicial assistance and added that the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO) has already been established. He expressed hope that this meeting would generate momentum for possible judicial contribution for enabling environment for regional economic cooperation within ECO Region. Copy of his statement is attached as **Annex-III**.

4. The Meeting was formally inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Mehmet Akarca, Chief Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation of Turkey. While welcoming the participants to the 2nd Attorneys General meeting he said that our concern is to improve our cooperation in judicial matters against transnational crimes. He said that due to internet revolution the world is now a "click" away. People are travelling different countries without requirement of visa. A single country alone cannot fight against transnational crimes. The criminals are using network and communication technology making it difficult to catch them. Terrorism is destroying humanity and we are making excuses to confront the menace of terrorism. We have to come up with efficient standards to eliminate the terrorism. Copy of statement is attached at **Annex-IV**.

Agenda Item No.2
Election of the Chairman

5. As per ECO rules of procedure, the Head of the host country's delegation, H.E. Mr. Mehmet Akarca, Chief Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation of Turkey was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No.3
Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Meeting unanimously adopted its agenda as contained in the document No. ECO/DOCCU/2nd Attorneys General/1 dated 28 September, 2015 (**Annex-V**).

Agenda Item No.4
Establishment of Drafting Committee

7. An open-ended drafting Committee with the participation of the interested Member States and the representatives of the ECO Secretariat was established to prepare the Draft Report of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 5
Follow-up to the decisions of the First Meeting of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General: Report by the ECO Secretariat

8. Mr. Raheel Ahmad Cheema, Programme Officer of ECO-Drugs and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (ECO-DOCCU) briefed the participants on the progress made in the implementation of the decision of the first meeting of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General. He briefed on the activities of the DOCCU

including drug control, combating cybercrime, terrorism, illegal migration and human trafficking in the Region. Copy of his presentation is attached as **Annex-VI**.

Agenda Item 6

Statements/Reports by Heads of Delegation

9. While thanking the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Meeting, the Heads of Delegation delivered their national statements elaborating their national policies and measures as regard judicial aspects of fight against transnational organized crime. They also highlighted the need for establishing mechanisms for promoting judicial cooperation among ECO Member States, including in combating cybercrimes. Copies of statements are attached in **Annex-VII**.

Agenda Item 7

Fight against cross-border crimes:

10. Under this agenda item, the Meeting discussed the possible ways and means to enhance regional cooperation in fight against cross-border crimes. Some Member States shared the latest developments in their national laws and policies, particularly in addressing the issues of cybercrimes and human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The Meeting also reviewed the recommendations made at the first meeting of Attorney/Prosecutors General in 2012, and agreed that the future cooperation may be built on those recommendations. They also agreed that any multilateral mechanism within ECO Region should be developed, among others, on following policy directions:

- a) Transnational organized crime groups have the ability to threaten peace and security of the ECO Region by disrupting the normal economic activities. The activities of the transnational criminal groups in the Region are recognized as one of the major obstacle to the objectives enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir. Hence, the Attorneys/Prosecutors General considered establishment of a comprehensive regional “Cooperation Mechanism” for mutual legal assistance as a prerequisite for combating Transnational Organized Crime.
- b) The “Mechanism” may be established, without prejudice to the bilateral or multilateral security agreements of ECO Member States, in order to target, disrupt and defeat Transnational Organized Crimes which pose major threat to the safety and security of the Region.
- c) The establishment of “Mechanism” on mutual legal assistance is to be centered on Investigation, Prosecution and Judicial Proceedings. It is to complete the work in progress with regard to the establishment of a

mechanism on preventive measures and law enforcement. Under the mutual legal assistance the Member States afford one another the widest measures of judicial cooperation/legal assistance. Considering the forms and patterns of the Transnational Organized Crime in the Region as well as the main concerns of the Member States, some Priority Areas may be recognized for mutual cooperation.

- d) The main objective of the establishment of “Mechanism” is to facilitate taking of evidence, effecting service of judicial documents, executing searches and seizures, freezing of the assets, examining sites and objects, providing information, identifying and tracing proceeds of the crime and property, facilitating voluntary appearances of person in the requesting state.
 - e) The judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism aims to promote conditions for sustainable economic development and to raise standards of living and quality of life in the Member States. The Meeting considers, inter alia, the trafficking of vulnerable persons (in particular women and children) and smuggling of migrants as priority areas for mutual legal assistance. In this context, the Member States are encouraged to establish the required mechanisms for the protection of victims.
 - f) Considering the relationship between transnational organized crime and terrorism, the Meeting strongly recommended combating organized groups directly involved in financial supporting of terrorism through the mechanism of mutual legal assistance.
 - g) Considering cybercrime as a crime without border which is widely used by criminal groups, the Meeting encouraged establishment of the required cooperation mechanism based on, among others, possible regional conventions. In this context the existing regional convention (Council of Europe Convention on Cyber Crime) may be used as a guideline.
 - h) The meeting encouraged the establishment of an effective mechanism on judicial cooperation/legal assistance among Member States. The ECO Secretariat is requested to acquire, by 31st December 2015, the particulars of the contact persons/ representatives of the Member States in this regard.
11. The Meeting also decided that expert group meeting(s) should be organized to work out concrete measures to realize the above policies. The outcomes of the expert group meetings, to be organized by the ECO Secretariat and the interested Member States, will be submitted to the 3rd Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General for consideration and final decisions.

Agenda Item 8

Date and venue of the next Meeting

12. The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 3rd Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States.

Agenda Item 9

Adoption of final Report and Declaration

13. The Meeting adopted its Report as well as "Antalya Declaration". A copy of Declaration is placed as **Annex-VIII**.

Agenda Item 10

Closing Remarks

14. The Participants thanked the Chairman for conducting the Meeting in a smooth and professional manner. The delegations also expressed their heartiest gratitude to the Government of Republic of Turkey, particularly the Chief Public Prosecutors Office of the Court of Cassation and the Ministry of Justice for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this important meeting.

15. The Chairman and Member States also expressed their gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents and other valuable services to facilitate the work of the Meeting.
