



**Third Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General
of the ECO Member States**

FINAL REPORT

30-31 January 2018
Islamabad - Pakistan

The 3rd meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States was hosted by the Attorney General office of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Islamabad, Pakistan on 30-31 January 2018. It was attended by Attorneys/Prosecutors General and high level officials from , Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan(host). The ECO Secretariat delegation headed by ECO Secretary General , also participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex-I**

Agenda No 1:

Opening of the Meeting:

2. The Meeting was jointly opened by Mian Raza Rabbani, the honourable chairman of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mr. Raheel Ahmad Cheema (Officer in-charge, ECO-DOCCU) on behalf of the Secretary General of ECO. Mian Raza Rabbani in opening statement said that this century for Asia marks the region as the centre of conspiracy to destabilize the region on ethnic, cultural and national divides. The major players are trying to create regional conflicting hegemonies to feed the cold war necessities. Destabilization of one regional country would ultimately destabilize the whole region. He emphasized the need of engaging all three pillars of the state namely, legislature, judiciary and executive to make ECO a more successful organization. Copy of his speech is attached as **Annex-II**

3. Mr. Raheel Ahmad Cheema on behalf of the Secretary General of ECO expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for hosting the 3rd Meeting of the Attorneys/ Prosecutor General of ECO Member States. He then explained how since the inception of the organization, ECO has worked towards increasing

regional connectivity and integration. In his statement, he informed the participants that during the 13th ECO Summit in Islamabad, the member states agreed on the ECO vision 2025 which focuses on improving trade, transportation, energy connectivity and tourism and expressed hope for realization of the time-bound outcomes of the vision. Copy of his statement is attached as **Annex-III**

4. In his opening remarks, the Attorney General of Pakistan welcomed the distinguished guests to Islamabad. The Attorney General opened his statement by condemning acts of terrorism occurring all over the world and specially in the ECO Region. He thanked the entire ECO Secretariat for arrangements and coordination. He explained that cybercrime, judicial reforms, measures against corruption, mutual cooperation amongst Attorney/Prosecutors General offices, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and transnational organized crime will be the major topics of discussion during the meeting. He explained that Pakistan attaches great importance to ECO and it was in the same spirit that Pakistan hosted the 13th ECO summit last year.

Agenda No 2:

Election of the Chairman:

5. As per the rules of procedure of ECO, Mr. Ashtar Ausaf Ali, honourable Attorney General of Pakistan was elected as the chairman of the Meeting.

Agenda No 3:

Adoption of the Agenda:

6. The Meeting unanimously adopted the agenda which is as follows:

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Follow up to the decisions of the First and the Second Meetings of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General: Report by the Secretariat
5. Statements/Reports by Heads of Delegations
6. Effective Mechanism for Mutual Legal Assistance/Judicial cooperation amongst Member States in fight against transnational organized crimes.
 - Human trafficking, migrant smuggling and trans-boundary kidnapping for ransom.
 - Drug Trafficking
 - Relationship between transnational organized crimes and terrorism
 - Fight against cybercrime
 - Other priorities
7. Fight against corruption/money laundering-preventive measures
 - Preventive measures against corruption, the need for an urgent judicial reform.
 - Developing scientific and research ties among training centres of Attorneys/Prosecutors General Offices
 - Legal Assistance/Judicial Cooperation
8. Date and Venue of the next Meeting

9. Adoption of final Report and Declaration
10. Closing Remarks

Agenda No 4:

Follow up to the decisions of the First and the Second Meetings of ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General: Report by the Secretariat

7. Mr. Raheel Ahmad Cheema briefed the participants about the outcomes of the previous meetings of Attorney/Prosecutor Generals of ECO. He also gave an overview about the activities being carried out by ECO-DOCCU especially establishment of regional security structures as is envisioned in the “ECO Vision 2015-25” document. Copy of his presentation is attached as **Annex-IV**

Agenda Item No. 5:
Statements/Reports by Heads of Delegations

8. Participating Member States reviewed the security situation of the ECO region with a focus on transnational crimes including human trafficking, cybercrime, money laundering, drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom. The available country reports are **annexed**. The main points as highlighted in statements are as under:

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- The Government of Afghanistan firmly believes it is accountable to its people. The Attorney General office has introduced some initiatives as a result of which, the ranking of Afghanistan on the Corruption Perception Index (2016) has improved.

Amongst the reforms are the following:

- Ratification of Afghanistan National Corruption Policy

- Ratification of the Afghanistan National Strategy for Combating Corruption
- Developing the Justice Sector Reform Plan
- Strengthen the recruitment mechanisms and the civil service commission
- Establishment of the Anti-Corruption Justice Center
- Establishment of the National Procurement Commission, to avoid interference in contracts
- Establishment of the High Council of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption
- Establishment of the new Deputy Attorney General of Anti-Corruption
- Establishment of special courts for land grabbing
- Beginning of the work of Insider-Assessment Committees second term in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Convention
- Establishing the Biometric and Electronic Banking in the Ministry of Interior Affairs.
- Anti-corruption Justice Centre has been established
- Special courts dealing with illegal land grabbing have been set up all around the country.

The Republic of Azerbaijan

- Stressed the need for the improvement of legal and legislative framework in order to combat transnational crimes.
- Stressed the importance of this conference for interacting and exchanging experience between law enforcing agencies.
- Briefed members about a Decree designed to ensure liberalization of criminal justice system.

The Islamic Republic of Iran

- Stressed that regional cooperation is the only way forward
- No country is immune from the terrorist incidents happening in the neighbourhood because of the spill-over effect
- Due to the geographical location of Iran and Pakistan, drug trafficking in these countries is rampant.
- Both Iran and Pakistan are hosting the world's largest migrant communities
- The ECO should create more sub-committees and workshops to tackle the issues of transnational crimes.

The Republic of Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan has exclusive competence to combat corruption.
- The use of E-government portal has been effective in decreasing crimes and bribery throughout the country.
- Modernization has taken place in over 16 cities
- This year Kazakhstan launched a pilot project: Electronic criminal cases. This comes in 5 regions.

The Kyrgyz Republic

- Kyrgyzstan follows all international requirements for border crime prevention.
- Victims of human trafficking are more vulnerable to being recruited by terrorist organizations.
- Legislation of drug trafficking is very important to establish peace in society.
- Drug trafficking is a source for terror financing.

- Terrorism and extremism is spreading in Kyrgyzstan, but the government is doing its level best to address this area. 20 successful anti-terrorist operations have been conducted with more than 100 nationals being detained.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- Pakistan has been at the front line, fighting the war against terrorism for more than two decades now.
- In order to overcome the numerous challenges of human trafficking, the Government of Pakistan has taken initiatives to increase and improve investigations. They have amended the national strategic framework against trafficking in persons and human smuggling to extend it through 2020 and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict.
- Recognized that economic migrants are often exploited and subjected to inhumane conditions when seeking low-employment jobs in Persian Gulf Countries and Europe.
- Acknowledged that members of banned militant groups are mostly involved in trans-boundary kidnapping for ransom.
- Highlighted that Pakistan is becoming an easy target for drug abuse due to its geo-strategic location, but the Government is trying its best to overcome this by further strengthening the Anti- Narcotics Force (ANF) and Ministry of Narcotics control.
- In the year 2017, Pakistan has witnessed the registration of 1063 drugs related cases, with arrests of 1204 persons involved in drug trafficking under a special campaign launched to curb the menace.

- In order to fulfil our international obligations, the Ministry of Narcotics Control is actively fighting within its mandate to overcome the growing abuse of narcotics in the country.
- Drug trafficking through Pakistan has been exploited by terrorist groups within Pakistan and Afghanistan in order to generate funds for their terrorist activities and contributing to volatility within the region.
- Improvement in judicial and legal ties between ECO member states can usher in sub-regional and eventually regional integration, growth, prosperity, and development which is the ultimate goal envisaged by the representatives of Pakistan.
- The Fight against cybercrimes in Pakistan as had been highlighted in Antalya still remains an issue for concern. The National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes, is the latest introduction to the mandate of the Federal Investigation Agency (“FIA”), which deals with technology centred crimes in Pakistan.
- The Cyber Crime law suggests sentences ranging from 7 to 14 years for those using internet as a medium for promoting violence and extremism through hate speech.
- In order to combat illicit money laundering, states can adopt following measures;
 - Due diligence be always carried out of customers and corporations.
 - Tracing of transactions
 - Should make customer information available to investigating authorities of different countries at their request in order to prevent money laundering.
 - Obtaining information on proposed transactions

- Preservation of customer information
- Suspicious transactions are brought to the attention of local and international authorities
- With commitment, dedication and mutual collaboration, we can attain our cherished goal of a safe, secure and prosperous future for the Member States.

The Republic of Tajikistan:

Whilst recognising that all the agenda items are extremely important, the delegation of Tajikistan focused its report on Human Trafficking, which they believe is the most dangerous transnational phenomena.

- This heinous act has greatly undermined economic social security. The Government of Tajikistan has taken legal measures to combat this menace: new laws have been introduced which incorporate assistance to the victims of human trafficking. The government has adopted resolution 327 for establishing framework for redressal/assistance of victims which also includes granting special protection status.
- We have differentiated between victims on the basis of gender and age, in order to facilitate them with different rehabilitation programmes.
- A separate Prosecutors office ensures implementation of laws in these areas.
- The Government is developing a rehabilitation programme to facilitate victims of trafficking on a day to day basis. The programme requires trained professionals.
- The medium of social media is being used to spread awareness in order to effectively overcome trafficking.

Proposals given by the Delegation:

- Establish closer legal co-operation between authorised legal bodies
- Harmonization of legislation for prevention of crimes related to human trafficking
- Joint efforts must be taken to enhance the investigation process

The Republic of Turkey:

- The Turkish Delegation expressed heartfelt condolence for the recent Kabul terrorist attack.
 - The Delegation of Turkey commenced their Report by addressing the issue of forced Migration, which has become a critical issue in their country because of Turkey's geographical location.
 - Currently Turkey is facing the largest movement of Migration since WW2.
 - Directorate General of Migration Management has been established in order to help the refugees seeking shelter in Turkey.
 - The state of Turkey has become a transit for migrants wanting to enter Europe, thus smuggling migrants has become a lucrative business.
 - Irrespective of the Government policy to counter this migration crisis, it still remains a huge obstacle.
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- Criminalisation of migrant smuggling within domestic law be promoted and the smugglers be punished with the most severe penalty.
 - In addition to the punishment, the Member States must eliminate the circumstances which force the migrants to flee from their own country.
 - Being an international issue, it is of utmost importance that the United Nations should assume a more active role in the refugee issue. He said

that 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees needs to be reviewed so as to be made more functional and comprehensive.

- The Delegation also highlighted the activities of The Fettulah Terrorist Organisation.

The Republic of Uzbekistan:

- The Delegation of Uzbekistan stated that the agenda was very much relevant to the problems faced by the world community.
- Issues can only be combatted by exchanging experience.
- Effective solution requires both prevention and combating.
- Uzbekistan has witnessed a drop in crimes by 16% in one year, since introduction of major changes in judicial and legal systems.
- Highlighted that drug trafficking is a modern challenge and that the State Drug Control Commission is being improved to counter this.
- Also drew attention to the increasing threat of synthetic drugs turnover and their cross-border movement.

Agenda No 7:

Fight against corruption/ money laundering and preventive measures in fight against trans-national crimes:

The participants were briefed by the Secretariat about the 3rd Meeting of Heads of Anti-corruption Authorities of ECO Member States that took place in

Baku, Azerbaijan in 2017. The recommendations of the Meeting were shared with the participants. The Member States contributed as follows:

The Republic of Turkey:

- Offence of Money laundering was introduced to the Turkish Judicial system in 1960s but it became a crime in 2006.
- Turkey has devised financial intelligence units to combat money laundering.
- Suggested that the country reports be shared and technical delegations may further devise mechanisms for regional cooperation.
- There is need for taking solid steps for achievement of goals as were set in previous AG/PG Meetings of ECO. With mutual cooperation and strong determination these issues can be solved.
- Member States should not get used to terrorist attacks rather show our reaction like the western world does.
- The chair proposed that there is a need for formal condemnation against those players who indulge in proxy wars.

The Republic of Uzbekistan:

- In addition to signing UN conventions against corruption Uzbekistan has internal institutions for combating corruption, tax and currency crimes. Different legislations have also been adopted on the subject.
- With time specific measures are being developed to eliminate factors contributing to corruption for example the state has launched a development strategy which aims at improving public sector construction, increasing prestige and effectiveness of public service and a radical reform system of state bodies.

- Uzbekistan is focusing on rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking at the same time; punishment for the offence has been increased. The country is also launching awareness program for the population especially for students and is also ensuring greater employment opportunities.

The Republic of Tajikistan:

- According to the Constitutional law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On the General Prosecutor bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan" the Prosecutor General coordinates activities with law enforcement of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- The delegate said that it is time to show how we can cooperate with each other.
- There is a need to prepare a brief regarding laws and strategies relating to mutual areas of concern which also highlights successes and outlines areas where ECO Members would be willing to cooperate and assist each other. Before the next meeting we need a binding commitment on the decision taken today. We can also benefit from different legal systems and legislations of ECO members.

The Kyrgyz Republic:

- Kyrgyzstan adopted a UN convention on combating corruption in addition to agreements between ECO Members.
- The Chair commented that illegal human and goods trafficking are a grave concern.

The Republic of Kazakhstan:

- There is a huge potential for development of cooperation between judicial learning centres/academies.
- Kazakhstan has a good experience regarding exchange of information and gathering scientific research material.
- We are also thinking on the lines of Prosecutor Generals of Member States for collaboration and providing assistance for formation of academies to fight corruption. Our academy is visited by prosecutors from neighbouring countries like Tajikistan and we are inviting collaboration from other countries also.
- The chair commented that it would be a good opportunity to visit national academies of Member States on behalf of Attorney General Office I can offer visits to Punjab Forensic lab to the Prosecutor and Attorney Generals of Member states at their convenience. The reports of our labs are admissible world over.

The Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Appreciated constructive suggestions from delegates and highlighted the need for both, establishing a technical mechanism for further connection

between Attorneys General/ Prosecutors General offices and the need for expert group meetings on judicial cooperation.

- Iran is taking strict measures to combat corruption. It has also amended the national Islamic Penal Code that includes countering money laundering.

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- The Republic of Azerbaijan commented that it agrees with the comments made by the chairman senate that we have to look to ourselves for taking decisions and not other countries. There is a need to establish mechanism for sharing national legislations and utilizing our mutual resources to combat corruption.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- The delegate thanked the chair and welcomed the suggestions and appreciated the fellow members for expressing solidarity on the condemnable attack on Kabul. He expressed his agreement with the expert group mechanism.

Agenda Item 8

Date and venue of the next Meeting:

The exact dates and venue of the 4th Meeting of the Prosecutors General / Attorneys General will be agreed upon after consultations amongst ECO Member States through ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item 9

Adoption of Final Report and Islamabad Declaration:

The Meeting adopted its Report as well as Islamabad Declaration. A copy of declaration is placed at **Annex-v**

Agenda Item 10:

Closing Remarks

The participants thanked the Chairman and the ECO Secretary General for conducting the Meeting in a smooth and professional manner. The delegations also expressed their heartiest gratitude to the Government of Pakistan, particularly the Attorney General office for extending warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. They also expressed concern over the security situation and condemned the acts of terrorism taking place in the regional countries. They 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.

The Chairman and the ECO Secretary General expressed their gratitude to the Member States for their strong ownership and valuable contribution to and outputs of the meeting.
