



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**Report
of the First Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General
of the ECO Member States
(Tehran, 30th April – 1st May, 2012)**

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Report
of the First Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General
of the ECO Member States
(Tehran, 30th April – 1st May, 2012)

1. The First Meeting of Attorneys and Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States was held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 30th April – 1st May, 2012, hosted by the Attorney General Office 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 Kyrgyz Republic, 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 Secretariat. The list of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

Agenda Item No. 1
Opening Ceremony

2. **His Excellency Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ezhe’ei, Attorney General of the Islamic Republic of Iran** delivered welcoming remarks. While welcoming the Attorney Generals and heads of delegations in Tehran Mr. Ezhe’ei expressed the hope that the deliberations and decisions made during the meeting would contribute to enhancing judicial cooperation among all the ECO Member States. He mentioned that the spirit of cooperation existed among the Member States and by getting inspiration from the Islamic values, cultural and historical commonalities, this meeting provides an excellent opportunity for discussing effective ways of combating transnational organized crimes. He stated that common threats namely terrorism, drug-trafficking, money laundering and cyber crimes endanger legal safety and security of all countries and nations. He emphasized that effective judicial cooperation among the ECO Member States would contribute to the security, stability and economic uplift of our region. He said that different sort of trans-national organized crimes are all global hazards and there is a strong need for collective and collaborative measures to eradicate these menaces from our societies.

3. **His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General** also made a statement during the opening session. He welcomed the delegates and thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran particularly the Attorney General Office of Iran for hosting this important meeting which would formally establish a new forum of cooperation among the legal entities of the Member States. He dilated that the leadership of the ECO Member States have entrusted the organization with an agenda of accelerating cooperation among its membership to meet multifaceted challenges of transnational organized crimes in all its forms and manifestations. Mentioning the activities of the ECO in recent years, the Secretary General noted that the Economic Cooperation Organization is devoted to the cause of regional economic integration which would simultaneously supplement the efforts that guarantee security and stability in our region. He also emphasized the need for focusing efforts on enhancing awareness, prevention, institutional capacity building, sharing of experiences and strengthening national legal frameworks to tackle the menace of all forms of trans-national organized crimes. A copy of the statement is placed as *Annex-II*.

4. **His Excellency Ayatollah Sadegh Amoli Larejani, Head of Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran** inaugurated the meeting. He emphasized the need for fostering judicial cooperation among the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Mr. Larijani stated that holding of this meeting is a new chapter for cooperation among the legal entities of the ECO Member States. He dilated that multilateral judicial cooperation on trans-national organized crime like drugs, terrorism, money laundering, cyber crimes will play an effective role in redressing the plight of victims of such crimes. He added that Iran had always fought against terrorism, drugs and trans-national organized crimes and reiterated Iran's readiness to cooperate with all the Member States in a constructive manner to fight against these crimes. He suggested for setting up of an institution for regional judicial cooperation, and called for rapid exchange of information about crimes in the ECO Member States for ensuring peace and security worldwide. Mentioning that the Muslim countries are the victims of human rights violation worldwide, Mr. Larejani noted that Iran wants to achieve most appropriate mechanisms to remove obstacles existed towards fulfillment of justice in human societies. The Judiciary Chief observed that such gatherings helped promote sharing of experiences and finding joint solutions to complex issues of regional security.

Agenda Item No. 2
Election of the Chairman

5. In accordance with ECO's Rules of Procedure, His Excellency Mr. Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ezhe'ei, Attorney General of the Islamic Republic of Iran was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his remarks, Mr. Ezhe'ei thanked the participants for reposing confidence in him and expressed the hope that their deliberations would produce a useful and beneficial outcome for the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 3
Adoption of the Agenda

6. The meeting adopted the following agenda for its proceeding:
1. Opening ceremony
 2. Election of Chairman
 3. Adoption of the Agenda
 4. Establishing the Drafting Committee
 5. Country Reports/Statements
 6. Exchange of views on:
 - a) Effective ways and means to fight against act of terrorism, smuggling and money laundering in the ECO Region
 - b) Cyber crimes and their legal challenges
 - c) Regional Cooperation Mechanisms
 - d) Necessary institutional and implementation mechanisms for regional cooperation among ECO member states
 7. Consideration of draft Tehran Declaration
 8. Any other business
 9. Date and venue of the next meeting
 10. Closing remarks

Agenda Item No. 4
Establishing the Drafting Committee

7. An open-ended Drafting Committee for preparation of the draft report and Declaration of the Meeting was established.

Agenda Item No. 5
Country Reports /Statements

8. The Heads of delegation delivered their statements, highlighting best practices applied by their respective Attorneys/Prosecutors General offices to curb trans-national organized crimes in particular drugs, terrorism, money laundering and cyber crimes. The heads of delegations emphasized the need for identifying possible mechanisms for promotion of judicial cooperation among the ECO Member States especially in the shape of multi-lateral agreements for combating serious crimes in accordance with universal human rights criteria. In this regard the necessity of establishing a data-bank on the legal subjects and exchange of information on trans-national crimes and sharing best practices among the ECO Member States on national and international legal affairs was also emphasized. They expressed their commitment to enhance cooperation among the judicial authorities of the member states and encouraged exchange of information. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat, are placed as *Annex-III*.

Agenda Item No. 6 (a)
Exchange of views on effective ways and means to fight against act of terrorism, smuggling, money laundering in the ECO Region

9. The participants shared with other member states their own perception of crimes such as act of terrorism, smuggling and money laundering. They also addressed possible oversight mechanisms as well as ways and means to combat these crimes at the regional and international levels. The participants deliberated in detail mentioning ways and means to curb these menace and called for promoting international and regional cooperation in different legal affairs. They emphasized the need for promoting regional coordination, exchange of best practices and information by disseminating knowledge about the prevention of trans-national crimes.

10. Establishing coordination and promoting cooperation among the stakeholders and pillars of National Judicial Systems are crucial in this regard. The participants noted that developing effective mechanisms for regionally recognized warrant of arrest and extradition of criminals is of utmost importance for any ECO judicial cooperation scheme. These mechanisms, through direct judicial contacts and interactions, would eliminate some of the time-consuming administrative stages making rendition of criminals faster. The relevant judicial agencies of the Member States must work hand in hand for the purpose of fulfilling the crucial task of eradicating all types of serious crimes.

Agenda Item No. 6 (b)

Exchange of views on Cyber crimes and their legal challenges

11. The participants noted that information technologies have made almost all sorts of personal information accessible through cyberspace. Given the wide spread of cyberspace and huge volume of web activities, there has been an unexpected eruption in the cybercrimes, including identity theft, money laundering through internet-based operations as well as cyber-terrorism. They emphasized the strong need for the Member States to enter into possible judicial cooperation to fight against cyber crimes and threats. Without using the experts and computer professionally it is not possible to identify the cyber crimes and to track and trace them. Therefore, Member States are in need of providing specialized trainings to judges about computer crime so that they can make decisions accordingly. The representative of Iran informed that they have a special programme for training the judges for cyber crimes. They also have special police for tracing and tracking cyber crimes and therefore, expressed readiness of Iran to share their experiences with other Member States.

12. It was further emphasized that effective fight against cyber crime is not only dependent to the availability of sufficient legislation, relationship between law enforcement agencies and private business such as Internet Service Provider (ISP) is another essential element. Within the scope of investigation related to cybercrimes, new tools should be used like the expeditious preservation of stored computer data, expeditious disclosure of preserved computer data, mutual assistance regarding accessing, stored computer data and trans-border access to stored data. In order to fulfill this, creation of a network of contact points may also be considered while benefiting the already available I-24/7 communication system of

INTERPOL as a basis to facilitate rapid cooperation among the Member States.

13. The meeting agreed that there is a need to hold more meetings and workshops on regular basis on these subjects to have professional experts in each Member State. It was also agreed that before holding the next meeting, Member States should interact with each other by discussing practical problems and finding possible solution to all those. By holding of these meetings, they can also discuss their different systems and educate each other with the good points in their respective systems which would eventually lead to a system which is universal in nature. The main reason for this aspect is that all the countries have now reduced into a global village. This would also facilitate understanding each other before the next meeting. The Secretariat was entrusted to hold some more workshops and working groups on challenges and problems being faced by the Member States and the outcomes be submitted to the next meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General.

Agenda Item No. 6 (c)

Exchange of views on Regional Cooperation Mechanisms

14. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Fawaidi, Assistant Attorney General of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a presentation about a Communication and Judicial Cooperation Management System for the ECO Member States. It was briefed that the main objective of this system includes, (a) promotion and optimization of judicial cooperation in combating organized crimes, (b) exchange of scientific and practical experiences in different judicial fields, (c) publication of judicial knowledge and the best judicial procedures at national and international levels by the member states, and (d) establishment and immediate promotion of the relationships between prosecutors general offices of the member states. The proposed system would comprise three level of access. One level would be among Prosecutors General and the second among the Representatives of the Prosecutors General Offices in every state and the third would be of ordinary level. The meeting was further informed that this system will be established in three languages i.e. English, Russian and Persian. Member States were requested to send their views and comments for the improvement of this system to the relevant Iranian authorities before the next meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General. A copy of the presentation is attached as *Annex – IV*.

15. The meeting agreed with the necessity of creation of a comprehensive data bank on legal matters and best national and international judicial practices as well as collecting information on international and professional criminals. The participants while welcoming the idea for establishment of the above system requested the Secretariat to forward the soft and hard copy of the proposal to the Member States for consideration by the relevant experts.

Agenda Item No. 6 (d)

Exchange of views on Necessary institutional and implementation mechanisms for regional cooperation among ECO Member States

16. The participants agreed that cooperation and collective measures against transnational organized crimes by the ECO Member States require some institutional and implementation mechanisms. They also agreed to establish a coordination and judicial facilitation office in Attorneys/Prosecutors General offices or other competent judicial authorities in their respective countries through an online network in consultation with the relevant entities. A person shall be designated and introduced to ECO Secretariat as in charge of the Office for International Cooperation among Attorneys/Prosecutors General offices or other competent judicial authorities of the ECO Member States at the earliest and in consultation with the relevant entities to be entrusted with the responsibility to hold joint expert group meeting and accordingly submit the outcome of discussions to the next meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2013.

Agenda Item No. 7

Consideration of draft Tehran Declaration

17. The meeting unanimously adopted the Tehran Declaration. The declaration illustrates the main issues and agreements reached during the meeting. The text of the Declaration is placed at *Annex-V*.

Agenda Item No. 8
Any other business

18. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 9
Date and Venue of the next Meeting

19. The meeting welcomed the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Meeting of Attorneys / Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States. The Secretariat, in consultation with the concerned authorities, will decide the exact date and venue of the next meeting and inform to the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 10
Closing Remarks.

20. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the participating delegations, expressing deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Attorney General Office 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. Azhe'ei, for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

21. The meeting also expressed thanks 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.