

Third Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General
Of the ECO Member States
Islamabad Declaration
30-31 January 2018

We, the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States, convening our third meeting on 30-31 January 2018 Islamabad, Pakistan to explore proactive areas for collaboration for optimal judicial cooperation/legal *assistance mechanisms* to address all forms of *transnational* organized crimes while retaining our deep commitment to the shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

We held in-depth and useful discussions to explore ways of supporting a partnership in judicial cooperation and assistance among member countries.

We recognized the need for more engagement and dialogue between our judicial and legal entities.

We also deliberated on the diversity and interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities at the regional and global levels.

Taking into consideration recommendations made at the Second Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States. *WE*:

- Acknowledge the shared bonds of history, culture and values between the peoples of our countries;
- Note with concern the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism;
- Recognize the need for strengthening bilateral and regional judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanisms for security, stability and development of the Member States.
- Emphasize the need for dynamic and operational collaboration to fight against human trafficking, migrant smuggling and cybercrime which requires increased rapid and well functioning cooperation.
- Express desire to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and consultations, providing impetus for deepening of ties between the countries;
- Stress that cooperation between us contributes to the strengthening of peace, prosperity and stability for our peoples and the region;

- Agree to further strengthen collaboration within the framework of the UN, the ECO, and other regional and international organizations;

The delegates highlighted the importance of having a strong legal framework as the foundation for economic and social development and further stressed that the ECO Attorneys General / Prosecutors General should continue to cooperate in developing regional legal frameworks to facilitate ECO member countries.

The delegates stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation on judicial assistance and hold seminars, workshops for greater integration of legal practices.

The delegates agreed to explore the option of establishing Joint Working Groups and nominate focal persons for each of the transnational crimes for harmonizing, improving and adoption of national and international instruments.

The delegates additionally agreed that there is a need to increase concerted cooperation between each of the ECO Member States' Offices of the Attorneys-General/Prosecutors-General, as well as emphasize dialogue, meetings of the relevant experts, and the institutionalization of synergy between the departments.

The delegates reiterated the need of establishment of a judicial cooperation/legal assistance mechanism for the ECO Region. The idea of sharing a draft framework agreement to this effect was proposed for circulation by the host country.

It was agreed that Member States will share information about the judicial and legal achievements made in their respective countries in countering the drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crimes and terrorism.

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.

The delegates appreciated the host country for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.
