* Brief the meeting about the Steps So Far taken for Establishment of RCCACO

1. The “First Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States” (May 21-22, 2011, Tehran, Iran) decided to establish a Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO). The Meeting further decided to organize an Experts Group Meeting (EGM) in this regard.
2. The proposed EGM was hosted by the General Inspection Organization of Iran (January 30-31, 2012, Tehran, Iran) finalized the draft Statute of the RCCACO. Iran offered to host an ad-hoc Secretariat of the proposed Center in Tehran with the requisite financial expenditure.
3. The Second Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States was hosted by Republic of Tajikistan on November 21-22, 2012. Adoption of the draft Statute of the Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen was the major outcome of the meeting. The Statute of the Center was signed by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan. The Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic assured the 2nd Meeting about his country’s readiness to sign the Statute shortly. Later, in 2015 Pakistan conveyed its consent to join the Center. In 2016 the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the ECO Secretariat that the Statute of RCCACO has ratified.
4. The Third Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organization Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States was hosted by the Anti-Corruption Directorate of the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan in July 2017, during which Pakistan signed the Statute of the Center and deposited the instrument of ratification in May 2018 to the Secretariat.
5. During the 233rd Meeting of the ECO Council Permanent Representatives (September 11, 2018) Azerbaijan signed the statute of the Center. Azerbaijan deposited the instrument of ratification on 14August, 2019 to the ECO Secretariat. It’s to be noted that as per provisions of the Statute, the operationalization of the Center is required that four Member States deposit the instrument of ratification. Afghanistan deposited the instrument of ratification of the Center on 16August, 2020 to the ECO Secretariat. The ECO Secretariat Via a Note dated 29 September, 2020 informed the Member States that the Statute of RCCACO entered into force by deposition of fourth instrument of ratification by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
6. The 4th Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States was hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 2021.
7. During the Meeting, the Member States agreed to: (i) expedite national procedures for signing/ratification of the Statute of RCCACO and its early Operationalization as an effective and useful forum to achieve desired results against corruption as well as other forms of financial crimes; (ii) organize training events concerning fight against corruption on regular basis; (iii) create a smart regional structure for transparency in the fight against corruption; (iv) organize the first Meeting of the General Assembly of the States Parties to RCCACO.
8. This meeting is crucial as it presents an exclusive chance to put RCCACO into action at an early stage. In addition, the fifth summit of anti-corruption organizations of ECO member countries has not been held since 2021 due to the lack of a host country. I would like to request member states to consider hosting this important event.

Thank you