

**“3rd Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and
Ombudsmen of ECO Member States”**

**7 June 2017
Baku- Republic of Azerbaijan**

**BAKU DECLARATION
On Anti-corruption Cooperation among ECO Member
States**

The Heads/High level Officials of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Member States gathered in their 3rd Meeting in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan from 6 to 7 June;

Recognizing the significance of regional cooperation in combating corruption as an effective response to all forms of corruption in the ECO Region;

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to which all the ECO Member States are parties, on enhancement of cooperation at regional and international levels through national anti-corruption authorities;

Underlying the importance of strengthening of cooperation in combating all forms of corruption among the ECO Member States in achieving common goals envisaged in the Treaty of Izmir other ECO documents;

Stressing the necessity to promote the concept of ombudsmanship and implementation of relevant measures for improvement of professionalism in execution of the functions of an ombudsman;

Acknowledging the importance of mutual cooperation in regional and international events on combating corruption, as well as promotion, facilitation and supporting of regional and international cooperation and provision of technical assistance to prevention and combating corruption and to ombudsmanship;

1. **Reiterated** their strong interests to enhance regional cooperation against corruption in the ECO Region. To this end, **urged** Member States to coordinate activities and strengthen cooperation among their Anti-Corruption Authorities and Ombudsmen.
2. **Called upon** the ECO Member States to exchange experiences on improving efforts in combating corruption through conducting researches and studies concerning challenges caused by corruption and on possible solutions to them, as well as supporting and developing ombudsmanship.
3. **Recognized** the necessity of developing common standards of cooperation in combating corruption.
4. **Reiterated** the need of a regional platform to strengthen cooperation among anti-corruption agencies and ombudsmen, and in this respect **called upon** the Member States, who have not done so, to sign/ratify the Statute of ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.

5. **Recalled** that anti-corruption measures are the hallmark of rule of law and that academic research, specialized trainings and technical assistance should be perceived as core aspects of an effective and efficient crime prevention and criminal justice system.
6. **Welcomed** organization of specialized regional conferences for exchange of information, experiences and best practices in combating corruption.
7. **Encouraged** Member States to guarantee active participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society in prevention and combating corruption, and improvement of indexes of Member States in global anti-corruption indices.
8. **Expressed** its sincere gratitude to Republic of Azerbaijan for generously hosting the third meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States, and for offering diverse possibilities for getting acquainted with recent initiatives undertaken by Republic of Azerbaijan in its fight against corruption. The Meeting also extended its gratitude to its Chairman, H.E. Mr. Zakir Garalov, the General Prosecutor of Republic of Azerbaijan for his effective leadership of the discussions, and to the ECO Secretariat for its excellent preparatory work for this Meeting.
