

Joint Regional Strategy to Combat Drugs, Terrorism and Transnational

Organized Crime

Approved by the 3rd IMM

***Revised Joint Regional Strategy to Combat Drugs, Terrorism
and Trans-national Organized Crime***

Background:

1) In pursuance of the decisions of the 1st and 2nd ECO Interior Ministers' Meetings held in Tehran and Ashgabat respectively, the 2nd High Level Experts Group Meeting (HLEG) was tasked to prepare a comprehensive cooperation plan to launch a coordinated and organized campaign against drugs, terrorism and other trans-national organized crimes.

2) The 2nd High Level Experts Group Meeting (HLEG) on Combating Drugs, Terrorism and Organized Crime was held on 1-2 November, 2010 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the meeting, the Heads of Delegates of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Tajikistan and the ECO Secretariat revised this Joint Regional Strategy to Combat Drugs, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crimes, earlier approved by the 2nd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting (Ashgabat, 2008), in accordance with the desire of the ECO member countries to enhance intra-regional cooperation, coordination and consolidation of the policy framework provided by the 1st and 2nd ECO Interior Ministers Meetings held in Tehran and Ashgabat respectively and for approval of this Strategy in the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting scheduled for 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Current status:

3) Since the approval of this Strategy by the 2nd ECO Interior Ministers Meeting held in Ashgabat in 2008, some of the activities had already been held. Therefore, the HLEG considered to revise the existing Strategy. It was further decided that the reports/declaration of the already held meetings be attached as annexures to the Strategy for submission to the upcoming Third Interior Ministers' Meeting (Istanbul, 23-24 December, 2010).

4) This Strategy has been devised keeping in view the following:-

- i) The principal objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir, Quetta Plan of Action and other basic documents of the Organization;
- ii) Decisions of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM);
- iii) The international Conventions and Protocols against Trans-national Organized Crimes (TOC);
- iv) Tehran Declaration adopted by the 1st ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting on the 1st of November, 2006.

Ensuring Drug Control:

5) The ECO Member States will fight the menace of drugs through the following concerted strategy:

- i) Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) shall be further strengthened and made more effective in the ECO Secretariat. This institutional mechanism shall be provided financial and professional expertise through further international assistance.
- ii) International assistance to combat the menace of drugs through financial and technical support to ECO member countries is necessary and therefore professional interaction with EU/EC, UN and other international organizations shall be enhanced.
- iii) Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Drug Control Matters held in Tehran on 14-16 April, 2008 has come up with a useful Plan of Action which will be further examined by the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting

(SOM) before March 2009. Possibility of preparation of a Legal Document for Regional Cooperation on Drug Control will also be examined.

- iv) Member States, through focal points, should exchange information on formats/software to be developed by the ECO-DOCCU.
- v) All Member States will make an effort to appoint Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) in their respective Embassies/Missions as far as practicable.
- vi) ECO Secretariat may sign separate MoU/Agreement with Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on the issues of drug control and associated organized crimes.
- vii) Controlled Delivery Operations and mutual cooperation for drug control measures should be enhanced within national legal framework of Member States.
- viii) All Member States should enhance cooperation on demand reduction initiatives and best practices in their respective countries.

Combating Terrorism:

6) The following strategic framework is proposed to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations:

- i) The Member States may exchange information and experiences regarding techniques, facilities and effective ways of combating terrorism on their territories in accordance with domestic laws and regulations. The Secretariat may work out further modalities for enhancing cooperation with the relevant international organizations like UNODC on these issues.
- ii) Member States should share best practices and their experiences along with techniques for combating terrorism for dissemination to all Member States through the Secretariat, with particular emphasis on the modus operandi of the terrorists.

- iii) The Secretariat will identify suitable training facilities for capacity building and enhancement of professionalism of law enforcement officials involved in combating terrorism.
- iv) An Expert Group comprising professionals and experienced officials dealing with terrorism should be constituted to evolve a Plan of Action to implement the policies given by Interior Ministers on the 1st November, 2006. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered to host this Experts Group Meeting (EGM).
- v) A Workshop on Terrorism will be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Combating Trans-national Organized Crime:

7) The Member States shall evolve a joint regional strategy to combat transnational organized crimes on the following lines:-

- i) The Republic of Turkey offered to host an Experts Group Meeting (EGM) to evolve a Plan of Action before the 31st December, 2008 for endorsement by the 2nd HLEG Meeting in 2009 and approval by the 3rd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting in 2009. **(Annex. I)**
- ii) The Secretariat may sign an MoU/Agreement **(Annex-II)** with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for further cooperation against human trafficking and illegal migration and also organize a meeting of experts from the Member States to prepare a regional strategy and a plan of cooperation on these issues.
- iii) Experiences of Quadrilateral Working Group comprising Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece (with Afghanistan also added) shall be studied and disseminated by the IOM for sharing of best practices among the ECO Member States.
- iv) The Member States who have not signed the "Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air", supplementary to Palermo Convention 2000 and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Person especially women and children supplementing the UN Convention against Trans-national Organized

Crimes are encouraged to sign the Protocols and also enact domestic legislation against illegal migration/human trafficking, if not legislated already.

- v) The Republic of Turkey offered to host an Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for an agreement on cooperation against money laundering by sharing domestic legislation already enacted by some member countries and for preparing a joint strategy that encourages Member States to create independent monitoring mechanism along with establishment of financial intelligence units.
- vi) In order to curb violence in Member States, weapons/ammunition smuggling shall be strictly discouraged by sharing of information through focal points dealing with trans-national organized crime.
- vii) Member States will cooperate in sharing information on Cyber Crimes and also share best practices regarding legislation and regulations made in their respective countries.
- viii) Member States will cooperate in curbing smuggling of rare species of animals/plants as well as historical relics/architects.

Further Aspects of Cooperation:

8) In accordance with policy directions of Interior Ministers in their Meeting on the 1st November, 2006, the following measures shall further be undertaken for a meaningful and effective cooperation at the regional level:

- i) The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the First meeting of Border Commanders of Member States in August, 2008 (**Annex-III**) in order to work out a Plan of Action as part of this Joint Regional Strategy and has also convened a Regional Workshop on the use of Border Control Equipments in collaboration with the IOM.
- ii) The HLEG acknowledges the proposal put forth by Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Secretariat for establishment of ECOPOL. The Member States agree on a step by step approach and development of concept of ECOPOL as an eventual institutional mechanism for cooperation in long-term perspective.

- iii) Member States propose that regular annual meetings of Chiefs of Police of ECO Member States should be held to develop common understanding in furtherance of objectives set forth in the Tehran Declaration. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan offered to host the First meeting of the Police Chiefs.
- iv) In order to focus on capacity building as well as sharing of best practices, police training programmes pertaining to drugs terrorism and trans-national organized crimes shall be planned and implemented by the Member States.
- v) The HLEG endorses the need for joint regional cooperation for prevention/relief in natural disasters and supports the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to set up a Regional Center for Natural Disaster Management in Iran. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the 3rd International Conference on Natural Disaster Management in the ECO which may consider strengthening cooperation with IOM and UN organizations such as OCHA and ISDR. ECO Secretariat will also follow-up proposed Working Plan prepared in May 2007 by UN/ISDR.
- vi) The Islamic Republic of Iran will host the First Meeting of Attorney Generals of the ECO Member States in 2011.

Implementation Mechanism:

- 9) The HLEG proposes the following implementation mechanism for the joint regional strategy to promote cooperation among the Member States:
 - i) Experts Group Meetings (EGMs) on Drug Control, Terrorism and Trans-national Organized Crimes will prepare Plans of Action on the basis of this Joint Strategy which would be endorsed by the 2nd High Level Experts Group Meeting to be held in Iran in 2010.
 - ii) This Joint Regional Strategy as proposed by the High Level Experts Group (HLEG) shall be placed before the 2nd ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting on the 27th May, 2008 in Turkmenistan after obtaining immediate feedback and observations of the Member States by the ECO Secretariat.
 - iii) This Joint Regional Strategy as proposed by the 2nd High Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting was placed before the 3rd ECO Interior

Ministers Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, on 24th December, 2010 and approved.