

**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations  
and  
Ombudsmen of ECO Member States**

**Draft Report**

**June 16-17, 2021**

**Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan**

June 16, 2021

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States was organized by the Anti-Corruption Directorate of the Prosecutor General's Office and Ombudsman of the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 16-17, 2021 in Tashkent. The event was attended by H.E. Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson, Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan. While the Delegations of all ECO Member States participated in the meeting physically/virtually, the ECO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Jandos Asanov and his team attended the meeting virtually. List of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

### **Agenda Item No. 1**

#### **Inauguration of the Meeting**

1. The Meeting was jointly inaugurated by H.E. Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson, Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ambassador Jandos Asanov, the ECO Deputy Secretary General.
2. H.E. Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva warmly welcomed the delegations and underlined Uzbekistan's efforts and work that is aimed at combating corruption and related infringements of law. Copy of her statement is attached as annexure-II.
3. On Behalf of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the ECO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Jandos Asanov appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure their high-level participation and extended his warm gratitude to H.E. Ms. Tanzila Nurayeva for attending this event. He also thanked for the detailed information given by Her Excellency regarding Uzbekistan's devoted anti-corruption endeavours under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He further acknowledged the excellent contribution of Uzbekistan to secure the envisaged aims and objectives set forth within the framework of ECO to eradicate corruption and relevant practices for sustainable socioeconomic growth in the Region. Relevantly, he referred the pertinent contents of the speech of the honourable President of Uzbekistan delivered during the 14th ECO Summit that emphasized, inter alia, on the need to fully exploit the regional potential prevailing in the transit transport sector for making the region more integrated and interconnected. He assured of the Member States' supportiveness in regard to Uzbekistan's efforts to be directed at achieving maximum results for mutual progress and prosperity in the region. Copy of his Statement is attached as annexure-III.

### **Agenda Item No.2**

#### **Election of the Chairman**

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4. As per ECO rules of procedure, the H.E. Mr. Umida Tukhtasheva of the Republic of Uzbekistan was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

5. The Meeting adopted its agenda, which is attached as *Annex -IV*.

### **Agenda Item No. 4**

#### **Statements/Reports by Heads of Delegation**

6. The Heads of the participating delegations made the statements on their national policies and measures regarding judicial and other aspects of fight against transnational crime, reiterating their commitment to boost the level of mutual anti-corruption cooperation. They noted that in order to effectively contribute to regional and global efforts for combating financial crimes including corruption, there was a strong need of exchanging information and sharing best practices among all the stakeholders of the relevant agencies of the ECO Member States. Copies of their statements are attached as *Annex-V*.

### **Agenda Item No. 5**

#### **Speeches/ Presentation by representatives of the ombudsmen of the ECO Member States**

7. The Representatives of Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States made their presentations and briefed the meeting about their experiences, best practices as well as the challenges in fight against corruption within their respective countries. Copies of their presentation are attached as Annex-VI.

### **Agenda Item No. 6**

#### **Functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO).**

8. It may be recalled that the statute of the Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption and Ombudsmen entered into force on September 22, 2020 after deposition of the forth instrument of ratification by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It is further recalled that the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have deposited their instruments of ratification to the ECO Secretariat.

9. ECO Deputy Secretary General informed that after Islamic Republic of Afghanistan ratified the Charter of the RCCACO in 2020, the said document entered into force. He added that since the Islamic Republic of Iran had volunteered to host the Centre,

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the ECO Secretariat was currently pursuing the matter with relevant Iranian authorities for an early setup of the Center.

10. Director of ECO Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Abulqasem Tahmasabi informed the meeting that his country was considering allocation of premises for the Centre which is likely to be finalized by November, 2021.

11. After exchanging views and making deliberative discussions, the Meeting made the following key recommendations:

- i. To expedite national procedures for signing/ratification of the Statute of RCCACO;
- ii. To expedite Operationalization of ECO RCCACO as a useful forum for achieving the maximum desired results in combating corruption as well as other forms of financial crimes;
- iii. To explore the means in obtaining and fulfilling the requirements of Technical Assistance needs for the forum.
- iv. To organize training events in the field of fight against corruption on regular basis;
- v. To create a smart structure for transparency in the fight against corruption in the Region;
- vi. To organize the first Meeting of the General Assembly of the States Parties to RCCACO;
- vii. To strengthen cooperation including exchange of information/experiences and sharing best practices in fighting against corruption amongst the ECO Member States;
- viii. To speed up the establishment of the judicial Legal Assistance Mechanism among the ECO Member States;
- ix. To mandate the ECO Secretariat to prepare the Organizational Chart of the Secretariat of the Regional Center in consultation with the State Parties to the Regional Center and submit the same to the First Meeting of the General Assembly of the Regional Center for approval;
- x. To assist the governments to promote and engage in mutual legal cooperation; and
- xi. To reiterate the key recommendations approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States (Baku, June 6-7, 2017).

#### **Agenda item No.7**

#### **Any other business**

12. No issue was discussed under this Agenda item.

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### **Agenda item No.8**

#### **Date and venue of the next Meeting**

13. The Meeting welcome the offer of the \_\_\_\_\_ for hosting the next Meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_ or

14. The Meeting requested the ECO Secretariat to ascertain convenience of the interested Member State to host the Fifth Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States.

### **Agenda Item 9**

#### **Adoption of final Report and Declaration**

15. The Meeting adopted its Report as well as Tashkent Declaration on Anti-Corruption Cooperation among the ECO Member States. Copies of Report and Declaration are placed as *Annex-VII*.

### **Agenda Item 10**

#### **Closing Remarks**

16. The participants thanked the Chairman for conducting the Meeting in a smooth and professional manner. The delegations also expressed their heartiest gratitude to the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan, for their munificent hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this important meeting.

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