

# FOURTH MEETING OF HEADS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION ORGANIZATIONS AND OMBUDSMEN OF THE ECO MEMBER STATES

## TASHKENT DECLARATION

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We, the Heads/High level Officials of the Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States, gathering in Tashkent on June 17, 2021 to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States hosted and chaired by the Republic of Uzbekistan, and while:

**Attaching** high significance to deliberative discussions among the relevant Representatives of the ECO Member States, exploring possible ways and means of supporting anti-corruption partnership amongst the Member Countries;

**Realizing** the essentiality and need of more meaningful dialogues, engagements and activities amongst the concerned authorities of the Member States for expanding mutual collaboration to address the targeted areas;

**Underscoring** the scale, diversity and interconnectedness of the common challenges and opportunities at regional and global levels;

**Highlighting** the corruption and any sort of corrupt practices as general obstacle in the effective and efficient mobilization of the available means and resources that hampers smooth and sustainable socioeconomic development in the region;

**Recognizing** the utility and significance of broader regional cooperation to jointly address the problems emerging due to any forms of corruption to pose serious threat to the community's progress, prosperity and development;

**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;

**Taking into consideration** the recommendations made at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States;

Have agreed to:

- i. **Welcome** the entering into force of the statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO);
- ii. **Request** the Secretariat to draw-up the draft of the basic documents of the center in consultation with the State Parties to the Center;
- iii. **Encourage** the State Parties to Statute of RCCACO to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly's Meeting;
- iv. **Encourage** the non-signatory ECO Member States to sign and ratify the Statute of ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO);
- v. **Encourage** the Member States to share with each other their experiences and best practices in the fight against corruption as well as the required measures taken to prevent such issues of corruption;
- vi. **Persuade** the Member States to continue enhancing international cooperation, particularly through the regional efforts to prevent and combat corruption by utilizing the most needed technical assistance from all available sources
- vii. **Mandate** the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) to prepare anti-corruption standards for the ECO Region;
- viii. **Appreciate** the Islamic Republic of Iran for all its efforts made in regard to operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen, seeking early operationalization of the Center.
- ix. **Underscore** the importance of cooperation among the relevant research institutions of the ECO Member States and establishment of anti-corruption Academy to facilitate the fight against corruption as well as

ascertain means and ways to counter such issues through their established/relevant setups;

- x. **Task** 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.
  
- xi. **Extend** our deep gratitude to the Republic of Uzbekistan for arranging and hosting this important event, as well as thank the ECO Secretariat for preparation of the material related to the meeting.

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