



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**Report
of
the First Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption
Organizations and Ombudsmen
of ECO Member States
(Tehran, 21-22 May, 2011)**

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

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1. The First Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States was held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 21 – 22 May, 2011. The meeting was attended by delegates of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant staff of the Secretariat. The delegation of Lebanon also attended the meeting as special guests. The meeting was also attended by the representative office of the UNODC Tehran. The list of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

Inauguration of the Meeting

2. His Excellency Mr. Mostafa Pourmohammadi, President of the General Inspection Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran delivered welcoming remarks. He welcomed the participants in Tehran and expressed the hope that the deliberations and decisions made during the meeting would contribute to enhancing regional cooperation of anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the ECO Member States. He said that corruption, money laundering and various types of other crimes are all of global nature and there is a strong need for collective and collaborative measures to eradicate these menaces. A copy of the statement is attached as *Annex. II*.

3. Statements were also made by His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Hasan Abou Torabifard, First Vice Speaker of the Islamic Constituent Assembly of Iran, His Excellency Dr. Abdul Reza Rehmani Fazli, Head of Supreme Audit Board of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Shamsuddin Hosseini, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yahya Maroofi, the ECO Secretary General and Mr. Antoneno De Leo, Representative of UNODC in Tehran. All the statements were aimed at

investigating ways to improve the fight against corruption and emphasizing the need for enhancing regional cooperation between the anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the participating ECO Member States. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are attached as *Annex. III*.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

4. In accordance with ECO's Rules of Procedure, the Head of Delegation of Iran H.E. Mr. Mostafa Pourmohammadi, President of the General Inspection Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was proposed to be elected as the Chairman of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by the Member States and H.E. Mr. Pourmohammadi was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his remarks, Mr. Pourmohammadi thanked the participants for reposing confidence in him and expressed the hope that their deliberations would produce a useful and beneficial outcome for the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The meeting adopted the following agenda for its proceeding:

- 1) Inauguration of the Meeting:
- 2) Election of the Chairman.
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda.
- 4) Appointment of the Drafting Committee.
- 5) Statements by the Heads of Delegation
- 6) Regional cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies of ECO Member States on commitment arising from United Nations Convention Against Corruption
- 7) Role of Ombudsmen and defense of human rights
- 8) Any other business.
- 9) Date and Venue of the next Meeting

- 10) Adoption of the Report.
- 11) Vote of Thanks.

Agenda Item No. 4

Appointment of the Drafting Committee

6. An open-ended Drafting Committee for preparation of the draft report of the Meeting was established comprising representatives from the Secretariat and the representatives of Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkey.

Agenda Item No. 5

Statements by the Heads of Delegation

7. The Heads of delegation delivered their statements, highlighting best practices applied by various anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen offices to curb corruption and reduce public grievances against administrative bodies of their respective countries. They expressed their commitment to enhance cooperate among the anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the member states and encouraged exchange of information. Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat, are placed as *Annex-IV*.

8. After statements by the heads of delegations, the meeting proceeded further with the establishment of a two separate working groups. One working group considered matters related to cooperation among the anti corruption agencies of the Member States whereas the second working group deliberated matters related to cooperation among the ombudsmen of the Member States. A brief description of each of the working group's discussions is summarized below:

Agenda Item No. 6

Regional cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies of ECO Member States on commitment arising from United Nations Convention Against Corruption

9. The working group under this agenda item deliberated in detail regional cooperation of anti corruption agencies of the ECO Member States in the light of commitment arising from the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). While emphasizing the need for promoting both regional and international cooperation, the meeting considered ways and means of further coordination in this regard and came up with the following conclusions:

- i) Noted that all the ECO Member States are members of the UNCAC and now is the right time to consider implementing this convention in a more promising, constructive and practical way.
- ii) Chapter IV of the said Convention calls for States Parties to promote both international and regional cooperation in different fields in this regard.
- iii) Agreed the necessity for establishing a center or association within the ECO in accordance with the modalities for establishment of Regional Centers.
- iv) Necessary documents related to the proposed center or association, i.e. Statute, headquarter, Board of Directors and all other necessary formalities would be considered by an Experts Group Meeting. The date of this Experts Group Meeting will be decided subsequently and conveyed to the Member States in due course.
- v) The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the said Experts Group Meeting by the 4th quarter of 2011.
- vi) The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the ad-hoc secretariat of the proposed center or association, in Tehran, with the requisite financial expenditure.

Agenda Item No. 7

Role of Ombudsmen and defense of human rights

10. The working group under this agenda item deliberated in detail the role of Ombudsmen as the human rights bodies in the observance and respect for the rights of citizens. While referring to chapter II of the UNCAC, which called for the Member States to adopt preventive measures, the group came up with the following conclusions:

- i) Benefitting from the experiences of ECO Member States for the purpose of promoting capacities of the ombudsmen.
- ii) Analyzing public complaints handling mechanisms of Member States and the exchange of experiences in this regard such as

internet system of receiving complaints in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

- iii) Agreed to establish a center or association within the ECO in accordance with the modalities for establishment of Regional Centers.
- iv) Structure, organization, name, duties and jurisdiction of such body shall be discussed by an Experts Group Meeting which would be organized by one of the Member State.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

11. The Secretariat proposed that one of the Member States may volunteer to draft the Statute of the proposed center or association. The Anti Corruption Organization of Iran offered to work on the draft Statute in consultation with the ECO Secretariat which would be circulated to the Member States prior to the holding of the mentioned Experts Group Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Date and Venue of the next Meeting

12. The meeting welcomed the offer of the Republic of Tajikistan to host the Second Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States. The Anti Corruption Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Secretariat offered to provide technical assistance for holding of the next meeting in Tajikistan. The Secretariat, in consultation with the concerned authorities, will decide the exact date and venue of the next meeting and inform to the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 10

Adoption of the report

13. The meeting unanimously adopted its report.

Agenda Item No. 11

Vote of Thanks.

14. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the participating delegations, expressing deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed their warm appreciation to the Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Mostafa Pourmohammadi, for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

15. The meeting also expressed thanks and appreciation to the ECO Secretary General and other members of the ECO Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents and other valuable services to facilitate the work of the meeting.