



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**Report
of
the Second Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption
Organizations and Ombudsmen
of ECO Member States
(Dushanbe: 21-22 November, 2012)**

The ECO Secretariat, Tehran

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1. The Second Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States was held in Dushanbe, on 21 – 22 November, 2012. It was hosted by the State Financial Control and Anti Corruption Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan. 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 and the Republic of Turkey, as well as the relevant officials of the ECO Secretariat. The representatives of the country offices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Russian Social Organization Commission of Fight Against Corruption in Tajikistan, also participated in the meeting. 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 started the proceedings of the meeting in his capacity as the Chairman of the previous Meeting. Mr. Pourmohammadi appreciated the host authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan for making excellent arrangements to organize this important meeting. He noted that the presence of the esteemed Member States in this meeting symbolizes the desire and intention of our countries to join hands in combating corruption and to promote ombudsmen activities. He emphasized that the evil of corruption is detested by the entire humanity, regardless of religion, national affiliation, race and ethnic background. This abhorrence is expressed by all means available to us, or at least by our shared language of sentiments and feelings. Detestation of this nefarious evil

is even stronger in political systems that are mostly guided by religious teachings.

3. H.E. Mr. Pourmohammadi stated that the primary goal of our nation is to achieve sustainable development and the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that corruption and its by-products are the enemies of sustainable development. Therefore, prevention of corruption and waging a serious campaign against these menaces should be among the most important priorities today. He further emphasized that establishment of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) would, no doubt, provide opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Member States in domestic and international arena. A copy of the statement is attached as **Annex. II**.

4. His Excellency Major General Fattah Saidov, Director of the State Financial Control and Anti Corruption Agency of Tajikistan delivered welcoming remarks. Mr. Saidov welcomed the participants in Dushanbe 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. Mr. Saidov assured full cooperation by the State Financial Control and Anti Corruption of Tajikistan for effective and successful functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO). He concluded that the primary aim of this Center is to investigate ways to improve the fight against corruption and emphasized the need for regional cooperation between the relevant entities of the Member States. A copy of the statement is attached as **Annex. III**.

5. His Excellency Mr. Saifidinov Khusein, Adviser to the President on Policy of Law and Secretary of Anti Corruption National Council of the Republic of Tajikistan inaugurated the meeting. Appreciating the decision of the Member States to establish the ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen, Mr. Saifidinov noted that corruption is not a problem of only one country but actually a global problem and universal dilemma and only in solidarity the threat of

corruption can be tackled. He stressed that the ECO countries may further establish fruitful and mutual cooperation on studying best practices, information exchange and render technical aid in the framework of the UN Convention Against Corruption. He also reiterated Tajikistan's readiness to support initiatives aimed at strengthening struggle against corruption at the regional and international level. A copy of the statement is attached as **Annex. IV.**

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

6. In accordance with ECO's Rules of Procedure, the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Major General Fattah Saidov, Director of the State Financial Control and Anti Corruption Agency of Tajikistan, was proposed to be elected as the Chairman of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by the Member States and H.E. Mr. Saidov was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his remarks, Mr. Saidov thanked the participants for reposing confidence in him and expressed the hope that the meeting's deliberations would produce useful and beneficial outcomes for the Member States.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

7. 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) Country Reports by the Heads of Delegation

- 6) Approval of the draft Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO)
- 7) Ceremony for signing of the Statute of RCCACO
- 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

8. An open-ended Drafting Committee for preparation of the draft report of the Meeting was established comprising representatives from the Secretariat and the host authorities.

Agenda Item No. 5

Country Reports by the Heads of Delegation

9. Country reports were presented by H.E. Mr. Abdulrazaq Zelali, Deputy Director General for Financial & Administrative Affairs, High Office of Oversight and Anti Corruption of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Mostafa Pourmohammadi, President, General Inspection Organization of Iran and H.E. Major General Fattah Saidov, Director of the State Financial Control and Anti corruption Agency of Tajikistan. The reports were focused on best practices applied by their respective national offices to curb the menace of corruption and considering ways and means to improve the fight against corruption. They emphasized the need for enhancing regional cooperation among the anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the ECO Member States. They also explained their efforts to curb corruption and reduce public grievances against administrative bodies of their respective countries. The heads of delegations expressed their strong commitment to enhance cooperation among the anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the member states and encouraged exchange of information.

10. While presenting the country report, the Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic assured the meeting about his country's readiness to sign the Statute shortly. He stated that due to non-completion of internal national procedures, he is not in a position to sign the Statute right now.

Agenda Item No. 6

Approval of the draft Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO)

11. It was recalled that the First Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States was held in Tehran on 21 – 22 May, 2011. The Meeting decided to establish an ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO). Another important decision of the meeting was to hold an Experts Group Meeting for finalizing the structural issues of this Center. Later on, the General Inspection Organization of Iran hosted the mentioned Experts Group Meeting (EGM) for finalizing the draft Statute of the RCCACO on 30 – 31 January, 2012. This EGM concluded with an agreed version of the draft Statute of RCCACO which is placed before this meeting for endorsement.

12. The participants appreciated the hard work done by the EGM for preparing a very comprehensive Statute of the RCCACO. The meeting approved the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) with slight amendments. The meeting also endorsed the recommendation of the EGM regarding the headquarters of the RCCACO to be based in Tehran. It was agreed that the General Inspection Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran would draft other necessary documents for this Center i.e. the Staff and Financial Regulations and circulate to the Member States for considerations and approval. This would be done by holding of another Experts Group Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7

Ceremony for signing of the Statute of RCCACO

13. In a Special Ceremony, the approved version of the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and

Ombudsmen (RCCACO) was signed by the heads of delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan. A copy of the Statute signed by the three Member States is attached herewith as **Annex. IV**. It was further pointed out by the Chairman of the meeting that other Member States would sign the Statute of RCCACO after completion of their respective national procedures.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

Mr. Hossein Pourkarami, Officer In Charge of the ECO-Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) congratulated the participants for signing the Statute of RCCACO. While welcoming the announcement made by the representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to sign the Statute shortly, he requested other Member States to expedite completing their respective national procedures so that this Center could be fully functional. Mr. Pourkarami also pointed out that upon receipt of readiness to sign the Statute of RCCACO by any Member State, the Secretariat will immediately send the Statute to the concerned authorities. He hoped that the services of this Center would enhance interaction among the anti corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the Member States and promote regular consultations among all the stakeholders in the region.

Agenda Item No. 9

Date and Venue of the next Meeting

14. The meeting welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the Third Meeting of Heads of Anti Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States. 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

15. The meeting unanimously adopted its report.

Agenda Item No. 11

Vote of Thanks.

16. 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 Republic of Tajikistan and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed their warm appreciation to the Chairman, His Excellency Major General Fattah Saidov, Director of the State Financial Control and Anti Corruption Agency of Tajikistan for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

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