

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

## **Preamble**

Emphasizing the importance of enhancing cooperation among the ECO Member States in the area of combating all forms of corruption as an integral part of efforts for actualizing the common goals set forth in Izmir Treaty, Quetta Plan of Action and other ECO basic instruments,

Fully aware of the significance of regional cooperation in the fight against corruption as a coordinated and effective response to all forms of corruption in the ECO region,

Considering the United Nations Convention Against Corruption to which all the ECO Member States are parties, and recommends enhancement of cooperation at international and regional levels through national anti corruption agencies,

Considering also the necessity to promote the concept of ombudsmanship, develop professionalism in the discharge of the functions of an ombudsman and undertake such other matters necessary to promote the objectives of the Centre.

Recalling the declarations of the First Ministerial Meeting of the ECO Member States on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 in Tehran, the Second Meeting on 27 May 2008 in Ashgabat and the Third Meeting on 24 December 2010 in Istanbul which were organized with the presence of the Interior Ministers as well as the Heads of delegations of the ECO Member States,

Recalling the decision made by the First Meeting of the Heads of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States held in Tehran on 21-22 May 2011, calling for enhancing regional cooperation in the fight against corruption and establishing a Regional Centre for cooperation among the Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States,

*Have agreed as follows:*

## **Article 1**

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this Statute:

1. “Statute” means the Statute of the ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.
2. “Assembly” means the General Assembly of the ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.
3. “Council” means the Executive Council of the ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.
4. “Centre” means the ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.
5. “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen.
6. “Member States” means the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization which ratify the Statute.
7. “Observer” means States, Organizations or Institutions which are granted Observer Status by the Centre.

## **Article 2**

### **The Establishment of the Centre**

The ECO Regional Centre for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen, hereinafter referred to as “the Centre” is established as a Regional Centre affiliated to the ECO with legal personality and autonomy in management.

### **Article 3**

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Centre include:

1. To strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively;
2. To encourage anti-corruption and ombudsmanship policies adopted by the Member States;
3. To cooperate with each other within regional or international conferences on combating corruption;
4. To promote, facilitate and support regional and international cooperation and provide technical assistance in ombudsmanship as well as the prevention of and fight against corruption;
5. To upgrade the rank of Member States in global indices against corruption;
6. To encourage, within its means, the active participation of the public sector and governmental and non-governmental organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption as well as to promote ombudsmanship;
7. To coordinate and enhance cooperation among anti-corruption agencies and ombudsmen of the ECO Member States;
8. To organize specialized regional conferences for exchange of information, experiences and knowledge for combating corruption;
9. To conduct studies and researches concerning the challenges arising from corruption and presenting solution as well as exchanging experiences pertaining to the fight against corruption through improvement and encouragement of ombudsmanship;
10. To develop common standards of cooperation for fighting against corruption.

## **Article 4**

### **Membership**

All the ECO Member States may become Member of this Centre. Other States may participate in the activities of the Centre as an observer subject to the approval by the Assembly.

## **Article 5**

### **Organs**

The organs of the Centre are:

- A) The General Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the Assembly,
- B) The Executive Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council,
- C) The Secretariat.

## **Article 6**

### **A) General Assembly**

1. The Assembly shall be the highest policy and decision making organ of the Centre and shall be composed of the Heads of the Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States.
2. The Assembly shall meet at least once a year. Extraordinary meetings of the Assembly may also be held upon the request of any Member State with the approval of two third of Member States.
3. The meetings of the Assembly shall be held in the venue of the Secretariat or in the territories of the Member States. The quorum for all meetings of the Assembly shall be two third of the total membership.
4. The functions of the Assembly shall be:
  - a) To approve policies, strategies and work programs of the Centre;

- b) To elect the Members of the Council according to the provisions of this Statute;
- c) To elect its President and Vice-Presidents;
- d) To appoint the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General on the recommendation of the Council;
- e) To elect the auditors on the recommendation of the Council;
- f) To approve Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of Procedures of the Centre;
- g) To receive and approve the report of auditors and their observations;
- h) To make amendment of the Statute;
- i) To approve annual budget of the Centre;
- j) To monitor the activities and measures taken by the Secretariat;
- k) To approve the membership of new applicants as observer members;
- l) To consider and approve reports on the activities of the Centre;

5. The President shall preside over the Assembly and shall carry out the duties which are entrusted to him.

6. The President shall be responsible to the Assembly.

## Article 7

### **B) Executive Council**

1. The Council is considered to be the executive organ of the Centre. The number of members of the Council shall be decided, in accordance with the Rules of Procedures by the Assembly.

2. The Council shall meet at least twice a year.

3. The Council shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its elected members to serve for a term of one year.

4. The functions of the Council shall be:

a) To take all necessary measures, in consultation with the Secretary-General, for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Assembly and to report thereon to the Assembly;

b) To receive from the Secretary-General reports on the activities of the Centre;

c) To submit proposals to the Assembly;

d) To examine the general programme of work of the Centre as prepared by the Secretary-General, prior to its submission to the Assembly;

e) To submit reports and recommendations on the Centre's accounts and budget estimates to the Assembly;

f) To carry out any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Assembly.

## **Article 8**

### **C) Secretariat**

1. The Secretariat shall comprise of a Secretary General and such staff as the Centre may require. The venue of the Secretariat is in Tehran.

2. The Secretary General shall be elected by the General Assembly for a non-renewable term of 3 years from among the candidates nominated by the Member States for a period of three years on the basis of qualifications, experience and merit as laid down in the Staff Regulations of the Secretariat.

3. Deputy Secretary General shall be appointed by the General Assembly.

4. The Secretary General shall carry out his duties on the direction of the Assembly and the Council and shall be held responsible to them. The Secretary General shall submit to the Council administrative and financial reports of the Centre.

5. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- a) To implement general policies and decisions adopted by the Assembly and adopting appropriate measure for implementation of approved programs of the Centre;
- b) To provide administrative and technical support and any other necessary arrangement for organizing conferences and conducting activities of the Centre and assistance for preparing reports and related documents;
- c) To prepare and submit annual report to the Assembly regarding the performance of the Centre through the Council.
- d) To promote relation, cooperation and interaction with relevant international and regional organizations;
- e) To facilitate funding agreed projects through international financial organizations, investors and donors;
- f) Preparing report concerning annual budget of Secretariat for consideration and approval of the Assembly;
- g) Serve as depository of all documents and archive of the Centre;
- h) Any other duty identified by the Assembly.

## **Article 9**

### **Immunities and Privileges**

1. The Centre shall enjoy the privileges and immunities required for exercise of its functions and fulfillment of its objectives. Such privileges and immunities may be defined by agreement concluded by the Centre with the Host Country.
2. The privileges and immunities of the Staff of the Secretariat and representatives of the Member States participating in the meetings of the Centre may be defined by agreement between Member States.



## **Article 10**

### **Financial Regulations**

1. Financial resources of the Centre shall include:
  - a) Contributions of the Member States in line with the current ECO regulations by taking into account their capacity to pay and prevailing scale of assessment of contributions of the United Nations;
  - b) Voluntary contributions;
  - c) Other possible resources with the approval of the Assembly;
2. The budget prepared by the Secretary-General shall be submitted by the Council to the Assembly for examination and approval;
3. The accounts of the Centre shall be examined by two auditors elected by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Council for a period of two years;
4. The auditors, in addition to examining the accounts, may make such observations, to the Assembly, as they deem necessary with respect to the efficiency of the financial procedures and management, the accounting system, the internal financial controls and, in general, the financial consequences of administrative practices.
5. Fiscal year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December of calendar year.

## **Article 11**

### **Decision- Making**

1. All the vital decisions of the Assembly pertaining to the admission of non member states of ECO and observers, budgetary arrangements, matters with financial implications, appointment of the President, the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, amendments to the Statute and, shall be taken on the vote of two third of members.

2. Decisions on other matters shall be taken on the basis of simple majority of the total membership of the Centre.

## **Article 12**

### **International Cooperation**

The Centre may establish cooperative relationship with other relevant regional and international institutes and organizations. The nature and extent of such cooperation shall be determined by the Assembly.

## **Article 13**

### **Flag and Emblem**

Flag and emblem of the Centre shall be in consistence with ECO indicating objectives and purposes thereof. Flag and emblem approved by Centre shall be applicable in administrative affairs and issues related to the Centre

## **Article 14**

### **Settlement of disputes**

1. Member States shall endeavor to settle disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Statute through negotiation.
2. Any dispute between two or more Member States concerning the interpretation or application of this Statute that cannot be settled through

negotiation within a reasonable time shall, at the request of one of those States Parties, be submitted to the Assembly.

### **Article 15**

#### **Entry into force**

1. The present Statute shall be ratified in accordance with the respective constitutional rules and practices of Member States.
2. The present Statute shall enter into force after four Member States deposit their instrument of ratification with the ECO Secretariat which shall transmit a certified copy to other Member States.

### **Article 16**

#### **Withdrawal**

1. Any Member State may withdraw from the Statute by prior notification addressed to the Secretariat and inform other Member States through the Secretary General in this regard.
2. The outgoing Member State is obliged to perform its obligations until the end of the current fiscal year.

### **Article 17**

#### **Amendment**

1. Any Member State may submit through the Secretariat to the Assembly proposals for revision or amendments of the present Statute.
2. Upon approval by the two third majority of the Executive Council, the proposed revision or amendments shall be submitted to the meeting of the

Assembly for final approval. The entry into force of any amendment is subject to the approval of the Assembly.

**Article 18**

**Dissolution**

The Centre shall be dissolved by unanimity at the Assembly in an extraordinary meeting held for this purpose. Such decision shall enter into force after its adoption by the meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers.

**Article 19**

**Language**

The official language of the Centre is English and Russian.

Signed at Dushanbe, the Republic of Tajikistan  
on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012 by:

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan \_\_\_\_\_

The Republic of Azerbaijan \_\_\_\_\_

The Islamic Republic of Iran \_\_\_\_\_

The Republic of Kazakhstan

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The Kyrgyz Republic

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The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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The Republic of Tajikistan

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The Republic of Turkey

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Turkmenistan

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The Republic of Uzbekistan

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