**Statement with suggestions for 1st General Assembly of ECO-RCCACO 21-09-2023**

Thank You Honorable chairman for offering floor to me:

**Mr. Chairman**

In today’s globally advanced technological era, transparency and accountability are critical for the efficient functioning of a modern economy and for fostering balanced social wellbeing of the masses. The phenomenon of corruption has become a global concern which is affecting economies across the world. Admittedly, no country can alone successfully fight against corruption and money laundering. Pakistan is fully aware and cognizant of the need of regional and international cooperation specially in the areas of Mutual Legal Assistance, extradition, Recovery of Stolen Assets, training and research, sharing good practices etc. to cope with menace of corruption.

**Mr. Chairman**

As Mutual Legal Assistance is the cornerstone of International Cooperation, therefore, NAB fully utilizes the MLA regime in addition to avail the informal channels such as different Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARINs), Global Operational Network of Anti-corruption Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) etc. We forward and receive MLA requests since ratification of United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Pakistan has singed MLA treaties on criminal matters with 4 countries namely China, Srilanka, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Pakistan has provided assistance and shared information on MLA requests to foreign jurisdictions pertaining to banking details, verification of Prize bonds, tax and other frauds involving transfer of funds (money laundering), tracing assets of accused etc. NAB alone received 43 MLA requests from different countries out of which information in 28 MLAs has been shared while information gathering on 16 requests is underway. Moreover, Pakistan has concluded Bilateral Extradition Treaties with 28 x countries. NAB has made 31 extradition requests to foreign states on corruption matters, out of which 9 extraditions were successfully granted.

**Mr. Chairman**

Technical Assistance and Capacity-building are the integral components of the objectives of RCCACO. In this regard I would like to submit that Technical assistance should be aimed at enhancing capacities of the States Parties in developing the skills in the areas of money laundering and financial investigations in support of asset recovery with emphasize on smooth repatriation of ill-gotten assets from foreign jurisdictions to the National Governments. NAB has established Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy which is an important venture to pursue the mission of planning, organizing and executing training programs in the field of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering. PACA envisions that it will act as catalyst for the capacity building in the field of financial crimes investigation, anti-money laundering, forensic examination and prosecution for the Law enforcement agencies. We are pleased to share that NAB is going to hold a training session for representatives of ECO member states on 28-November 2023 at PACA on the themes of

* Possibilities of using open information resources in detecting corruption
* Best international practices in the field of prevention of the legalization of criminally obtained property
* Mutual legal assistance in the fight against corruption

**Mr Chairman**

In order to make this forum more beneficial for the member states I would like to suggest that secretariat and Center may initiate efforts to become Member or Observer member of different formal and informal forums of International cooperation and asset recovery networks. It is also proposed that a Web application or secure information exchange platform like GlobE threema, I-24/7 etc may also be developed for security of shared data and all focal persons be given hands on training for its effective use. A dedicated research team for carrying out training need assessment, latest interventions and global trends may be assigned task to prepare regular training calendar. Last but not the least Meeting of representatives and focal persons of RCCACO must be a regular feature to share experiences and best practices in the field.

Thank you