**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION**



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**Draft Annotated Agenda**

**7th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO)**

**September 20, 2023**

**(*starts at 10 am Tehran time*)**

(Virtual mode)

**Draft Annotated Agenda**

**7th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO)**

**Date: 20th September 2023**

**(Virtual mode)**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. (Tehran time), host: ECO Secretariat**

The **7th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO)** is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. (Tehran time) in virtual mode. The draft Annotated Agenda of the Meeting is as follows:

*Agenda Item No.1*

***Greetings by ECO Secretariat***

Greetings by ECO Deputy Secretary General Amb. J.Asanov, who will propose to elect the Chairperson of the meeting;

*Agenda Item No.2*

***Election of the Chairperson***

Since the meeting is being hosted by ECO Secretariat, according to the ECO Rules of Procedure, the Head of the ECO Chair Country’s Delegation – the Republic of Azerbaijan - shall be elected as the Chairman of the Meeting.

* Opening remarks by the Chairperson;

*Agenda Item No.3*

***Adoption of the Agenda***

The Draft Agenda of **7th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO)** was agreed upon at the 9th meeting of the High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics held on May 16, 2023 (NVs of Secretariat No.748 from June 5, 2023 and No. \_\_\_\_, from July 23, 2023). The Meeting may adopt the Draft Agenda as is and, if any, with amendments.

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| 1. | Greetings by ECO Deputy Secretary General Amb. J.Asanov, who will propose to elect the Chairperson of the meeting |
| 2. | Election of the Chair of Meeting (head of delegation of the ECO Chairing Country chairs the Meeting)   * Opening remarks by the Chairperson; |
| 3. | Adoption of the Agenda |
| 4. | Election of Drafting Committee |
| 5. | Reports/Presentations ***on country statistical developments****.*Deliberations: suggestions of Member States on the themes of cooperation areas, suggestions of ECO Member States in regard of implementing **“ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026”** via sharing their experiences in country statistical developments. The tentative theme: “Green Transition and Interconnectivity (in line with the theme of the ECO Chairmanship 2023 – Republic of Azerbaijan) |
| 6. | Presentation by ECO Secretariat on (i) “ECO Annual Economic Report 2021” (ii) ECO Annual Economic Report 2022 and (iii) Training events |
| 7. | Discussions of ongoing statistical projects:   * “Agricultural statistics and Land Cover statistics from Earth Observations for selected ECO Countries”; * “Trade and economic potential of Kazakhstan within ECO markets in the new geo-economic realities” |
| 8. | Discussion and adoption of the agenda and date of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (8MHNSO) as well as 10th Meeting of the High Level Experts Group Meeting (HLEGM) on Statistics |
| 9. | Any other business |
| 10. | Preparation and adoption of the report of the meeting |
| 11. | Closing remarks |

*Agenda Item No.4*

***Appointment of the Drafting Committee***

Since the **7th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO)** is being held in virtual mode the drafting committee needs to be composed of the staff-members of the ECO Secretariat and this is a usual practice.

The Meeting is to be held following paragraphs 29 and 31, I-Sector of ECO Work Program 2023 endorsed by the 33rd Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (16-19 January 2023), which encouraged the upcoming participation of ECO Member States in the 7th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (MHNSOs) and 9th ECO High Level Expert Group Meeting (HLEGM) in virtual mode during 2023 and, in that regard, favoured the coherence in ECO regional statistical activities in line with the fundamental principles of the Official Statistics (*ECO* *Calendar of Events 2023*).

*Agenda Item No.5*

**Reports/Presentations *on country statistical developments.***

**Deliberations: suggestions of Member States on the themes of cooperation areas, suggestions of ECO Member States in regard of implementing “ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026” via sharing their experiences in country statistical developments. The tentative theme: “Green Transition and Interconnectivity (in line with the theme of the ECO Chairmanship 2023 – Republic of Azerbaijan)**

The Statements/Reports/Presentations may reflect the suggestions/proposals as well as actual developments in ECO Member States in the field of statistics. The statements may acquire the form ofsharing the Member States’ experiences/expertise and knowledge in their national statistical developments.

Suggestions of ECO Member States in regard of implementing **“ECO Five - Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026”** via sharing their experiences in country statistical developments. The tentative theme: “Green Transition and Interconnectivity (in line with the theme of the ECO Chairmanship 2023 – Republic of Azerbaijan)

*Agenda Item No.6*

**Presentation by ECO Secretariat on (i) “ECO Annual Economic Report 2021” (ii) ECO Annual Economic Report 2022 and (iii) Training events**

***(i) “ECO Annual Economic Report 2021: Overall Economic Situation and Trade in ECO Area”***

In line with Paragraphs 11 and 12, Sector-I of ECO Work Program 2022 adopted by 33rd ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting (16-19 January 2023), the Secretariat has circulated with its Note Verbal №: ERS/EAER/ 243, from Feb 19, 2023 ***“ECO Annual Economic Report 2021: Overall Economic Situation and Trade in ECO Area”***.

The ECO Secretariat expresses its deep gratitude to all the partner government agencies of the Member States and their contact persons for their contribution to the ECO Annual Economic Report 2021. The Report tries to reflect overall economic situation in the ECO area and also concentrates on the current state of trade among the Member States.

The Meeting may take note of the Report and also the fact that the Report is always open to amendments and adjustments by the Member States.

The ECO Annual Economic Report 2021 was amended after receiving inputs from Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan and was redistributed among the Member States (NVs of Secretariat No. 910, from July 2, 2023 and No.1346 from September 7, 2023).

***(ii) “ECO Annual Economic Report 2022: Overall Economic Situation and Agriculture in ECO Area”***

The Report is developed in special consideration of the expressive views and inspirations of the ECO Heads of State/Government that they put forward during 14th and 15th Summits in March and November 2021, respectively. The document also reviews the progress made while moving forward to gain on the objectives and expected outcomes as envisaged in the ECO Vision 2025.

At the 14th and 15th Summits, Heads of State and Government and 26th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ECO countries food security has been discussed extensively. Therefore, while highlighting the developments in agriculture in the region the Report aims to draw relevant state agencies and members of expert community to discussions to identify areas where cooperation and interaction among the member-states in agriculture can be constructive and fruitful.

This report was distributed among the Member States with note verbale No.1316 from September 4, 2023. It was redistributed again with NV No. 1447 from September 18.

***(ii) “Training events”***

During the 33rd ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting held on 16-19 January 2023 at the ECO Secretariat premises in virtual mode, the ECO Member States commended on a series of workshops/seminars in the field of statistics (paragraphs 32, 34, 35, 48, 49, I-Sector, ECO Work Programme 2023).

In the month of June 2023 two events were organized and they are as follows:

1. The Secretariat with its note verbale No. ERS/ Ankara workshop on stat /2023/452, dated April 6,

2023 informed that the ECO Secretariat in close cooperation with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (SIAP) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) is planning to hold a **Regional Training Workshop on Transition to Register-based approaches for Population and Housing Censuses in Ankara, Türkiye on 12-15 June 2023** (draft concept note and provisions agenda were attached to the note verbale). UN SIAP covers travel and hotel expenses of one representatives from each ECO Member State.

The workshop took place as planned and representatives of all ECO Member States attended the event.

1. The Secretariat with its note verbale No: ERS/ SESRIC-DOSM-ECO workshop on stat /2023/451,

dated April 6, 2023 informed that the ECO Secretariat in close cooperation with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM) in line with the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme is planning to hold an Online Training Course titled ‘**International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments**’ on 20-22 June 2023 in a virtual mode (tentative agenda was enclosed to the note verbale).

Participants from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as approximately 40-50 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 16 OIC countries attended the the training course. The ECO Secretariat distributed the Report of the event (NV No.912, from July 2, 2023 )

1. The Secretariat with its note verbale No: ERS/ SIAP, UNIDO: SDG9 online courses /2023/453, dated

April 6, 2023 informed about UN SIAP’s e-Learning course Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9): Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure between 24 April and 26 May.

1. The Secretariat with its note verbale No: UN SIAP webinars/ 2023/487, dated April 12, 2023

informed about UN SIAP’s webinars on Indicators on business performance related to well-being and sustainability on 26 April, 31 May and 28 June.

1. The meeting may request the Secretariat to work on preparing other events reflected at the ECO Calendar of Events-2023.

*Agenda Item No.7*

**Discussions of ongoing statistical projects***:*

***“Agricultural statistics and Land Cover statistics from Earth Observations for selected ECO Countries*”**

Following Paragraph-51, I-Sector of ECO Program 2022, the Secretariat, upon finalizing the discussion within Secretariat (December 19, 2021) approached FAOSTAT for the possibility of a new joint statistical project. On March 28, 2022 a video conferencing discussion was held between ECO and FAO to discuss the matters relating to a new project-based cooperation. As the outcome of the discussion, the joint ECO-FAO draft project proposal was shared with ECO Member States for feedback. The draft proposal, along with the agricultural statistics, looks after the Compilation of Price Statistics within the project framework design.

During the 6th Meeting of ECO Heads of National Statistics Offices/ 8th High Level Experts’ Group Meeting the delegation of Tajikistan as pilot country for the project stated its full support for the project proposal.

The 33rd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 16-19 January 2023 (paragraph 40, I-Sector, ECO Work Programme 2023) requested to take initial steps on the implementation of the project.

On August 1, 2023 ECO Secretariat (DSG J.Asanov, HoS PMS/ERS M.Zhagiparov, Desk Officer M.Malik) held online talks with **Lorenzo De Simone**, **PhD.** Technical Adviser Geospatial, Office of the Chief Statistician, FAO and **Valérie Bizier**,Senior Statistician, Statistics Governance and Quality Assurance, Office of Chief Statistician, Food and Agriculture Organization. As the result of discussions the parties agreed that FAOSTAT will deliberate as regards the further steps in advancing this project and forward a written letter to ECO Secretariat.

***“Kazakhstan’s trade and economic potential in the markets of the ECO countries in the new geo-economic realities”***

Although this project is mainly related to the Economic Research it also has relation to statistics, since there will be figures as regards the possible benefit of Kazakhstan from close interaction with other ECO Member States.

The Project proposal was received from the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and it was circulated among the Member States with Note Verbale No: ERS/2022/1637, dated 30.11.2022. The 33rd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 16-19 January 2023 (paragraph 8, I-Sector, ECO Work Programme 2023) welcomed a new economic research project proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan titled “Kazakhstan’s trade and economic potential in the markets of the ECO countries in the new geo-economic realities” as a pilot project in a vision to be exemplary to other member states highlighting a need for economic research analyses and macroeconomic economic policy support.

In order to ensure greater transparency it was proposed to finance the project from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) and seek for this the consent of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The matter was discussed at CPR’s 275th meeting (May 3, 2023), 276th Meeting (June 7, 2023) and 278th Meeting (July 31, 2023).

After comprehensive deliberations 278th meeting of CPR agreed to the financing of the project from FGPF and put the issue into a two week silence procedure.

At the end of the said two week period no Member State objected the decision of CPR and it was decided as approved (reference: ECO Secretariat’s NV No.1191 from 14.08.2023).

Additional information from Secretariat: Launch of ECO Economic Journal as part of ECO Research Centre in Baku.

The Tashkent Communique adopted at the 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) held on January 24, 2023 expressed support to “the continuation of activities aimed at transforming the ECO Economic Journal borne by the Chief Editor’s office into an internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication” and called on the Secretariat “to **accelerate the procedure for financing** of the project proposal for the new concept of the journal”.

After the talks of the ECO Secretariat with the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) the board of the latter decided to allocate USD 20000 to the launch of the Journal (reference: note verbale of ETDB from August 29, 2023, NO: PO-018-2023-253).

*Agenda Item No.8*

**Discussion and adoption of the agenda and date of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO)**

The meeting may discuss and adopt the agenda and date of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (8MHNSO) as well as 10th Meeting of the High Level Experts Group Meeting (HLEGM) on Statistics.

*Agenda Item No.9*

**Any Other Business**

The Heads of Delegations may wish to take up any other issue under this agenda item.

*Agenda Item No.10*

**Preparation and adoption of the report of the meeting**

The draft Report of the 7th of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (7MHNSO), prepared by the Drafting Committee of the Meeting is expected to be disseminated among participating Member States for views/comments to be related to the Secretariat via electronic channels of communication on one week’s time and after two weeks, if there are no comments or suggestions, the report will be considered as adopted.

*Agenda Item No.11*

**Closing remarks**

The Heads of the Delegations may wish to give a vote of thanks to each other for finding time to participate in the meeting and express hope for constructive cooperation.