

**Speech of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. A.Atakhanov at the meeting
of the Council of foreign ministers of the member states
of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
(Shusha, October 10, 2023)**

Time limit up to 7minutes

**Dear Heads of Delegations,
Dear Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me welcome all participants of the 27th meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization member states in the beautiful city of Shusha that is one of the important centers of historical and cultural life of fraternal Azerbaijan. I express gratitude to His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Jeyhun Aziz oglu Bayramov for warm hospitality, excellent organization of our meeting and the created conditions.

First of all, I would like to inform you that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Jeenbek Kulubaev couldn't take part in today's meeting due to a number of major international events these days in Bishkek and instructed me to convey to you his heartfelt words of greetings and best wishes.

Dear Colleagues,

The ECO has significant resource capabilities to truly become an effective instrument of regional integration in modern

conditions. Our countries are united by common historical and cultural roots that go back centuries to the times of flourishing trade cooperation along the entire Great Silk Road.

Kyrgyz Republic welcomes the Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the ECO, adopted by the UN on August 25, 2023. We appreciate the proposals of the UN to develop strategies in the areas of trade liberalization and attracting foreign direct investment in order to promote their global and regional economic integration with the assistance of UNCTAD (ЮНКТАД - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), WTO (World Trade Organization) and the International Trade Center ECO member states.

In this regard, we consider it necessary for the ECO to maintain a consolidated position with the UN on promoting regional interconnection and implementation of common tasks on the agenda of our regional cooperation.

At the same time, the establishment of ties between the ECO and other international organizations, regional economic associations and international financial institutions is also important for the sustainable development of economic cooperation in the region.

For the Kyrgyz Republic, as a landlocked country, the transport sector is of particular interest for cooperation within the ECO. Kyrgyzstan, together with other ECO member states, is participating in the development of the East-West and North-South transport corridors, which gives the countries of Central

Asia

the opportunity to access sea routes. We also support the dynamic development of the Trans-Caspian international transport route and stay ready to take active participation in this process.

I would like to note that Kyrgyzstan attaches special importance to the strategic project for the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, which will contribute to the growth of the international trade, investment and transit potential of Central Asia. Expanding transport and logistics connections, including rail and air, will facilitate the movement of goods, capital and people between our countries and regions.

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to inform you about the following two international initiatives of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov and the measures being taken in the field of sustainable development.

At first, by the initiative of the head of state, we are actively working to exchange external debt for “green” projects. This course is a priority for the entire economy of the country, since our country has significant potential for renewable energy sources.

Government of Kyrgyzstan is actively working on the project - construction of the Kambar-Ata-1 hydroelectric power station with a project capacity of 1860 megawatts. I invite the ECO

member states to consider the possibility of participating in the construction of this hydroelectric power station in Kyrgyzstan, which will also make a significant contribution to strengthening regional energy security.

Secondly, during the last 77th session of the UN General Assembly, the five-year resolution on sustainable development of mountain regions for 2023-2027 was adopted. This resolution was supported by 109 countries. Taking this opportunity, I express my gratitude to the ECO member states for their support and hope for close cooperation in the development of mountain regions.

Moreover, I would like to address to all ECO member states to support the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic for non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2027-2028.

I hope that you will express your solidarity in this very important decision for us.

Dear Colleagues,

In the era of digitalization, one of the significant initiatives of the Kyrgyz Republic is also the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic, so called HTP. The HTP is an innovative zone where legal entities and individuals can obtain the status of HTP Residents, which provides unique tax advantages and creates favorable environment for business development and attracting investments in accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic

“On the High Technology Park”. HTP provides the most attractive preferences in the world. For the first half of 2023 HTP residents of the Kyrgyz Republic achieved significant results. Their income amounted to over \$17 million.

I would like to emphasize that this platform will allow all project participants to successfully sell their products. In this regard,

we propose to combine our capabilities and invite IT companies from ECO member states to cooperate and develop joint information products in the HTP of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Dear Colleagues,

It is obvious that the promotion of trade and economic ties and the implementation of regional projects are possible only in conditions of stability and security in the region. In this context, development of the situation in Afghanistan has a direct impact on the regional security system, as well as the success of trade, economic, transport, logistics and energy integration of the states of the region depends on our ability to assist the Afghan people in overcoming the economic and humanitarian crisis in the country. Kyrgyzstan is extremely interested in expanding regional trade and economic relations and electricity exports within the framework of the subregional project “CASA-1000”.

In this regard, the Kyrgyz Republic welcomes intentions of the Temporary Government of Afghanistan to make efforts in stabilizing the situation in the country. Kyrgyzstan also calls on

the ECO member states to continue assisting Afghanistan in promoting regional projects. We are confident that implementation of such projects will help to strengthen security and establish peace in the region.

Dear Colleagues,

In conclusion, taking this opportunity, I wish the Uzbek side success in organizing and holding the 16th Summit of ECO in November in Tashkent and express confidence that the ECO countries, having the necessary potential, will actively develop cooperation in various fields for the benefit of our countries and peoples.

Диггетинизе горе тешеккур едирем

Thank you for attention.