

**34th Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

Report

**January 22-25, 2024
ECO Secretariat, Tehran**

Event's Report

The 34th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) was held on January 22-25, 2024 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran. The Islamic Republic of Iran in its capacity as the Chairman of ECO for the year 2024 presided over the Meeting. Within the framework of RPC, the relevant Sectoral Committees met to discuss and consider the relevant issues and topics of their specific areas with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the 34th Meeting of RPC regarding the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2024.

2. The Delegations of the Member States, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the Meeting. The representatives of the Turkish Cypriot State attended the Meeting as an ECO Observer. The Secretariat headed by ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri also participated in the event. Moreover, the representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies attended the Meeting. The complete list of participants will be provided in due course.

Plenary Session

Agenda Item No.1

i. Opening remarks

3. The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Amb. Khusrav Noziri welcomed the participants and delivered a comprehensive statement highlighting some important achievements of the Organization during 2023. He briefed the Council on the status of flagship initiatives, programs and projects in the priority areas of regional economic cooperation. Referring to the emerging global political and economic challenges, he noted that the Organization remained persistent with its cooperation framework based on the earlier recommendations of RPC and the ECO decision-making bodies. Moreover, he thanked the Republic of Azerbaijan for their successful ECO Chairmanship in 2023, and welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Chairman of the Organization in 2024. *Annexure-II*.

ii. Election of the Chairman

4. As per ECO's rules of procedure, H.E. Mr. Rahim Mombeini, Deputy Chief, Plan and Budget Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran was elected to inaugurate and chair the Plenary Session of the 34th Meeting of RPC.

5. The Chair welcomed the delegations and thanked them for their active participation in the Meeting. While announcing the formation of Sectoral Committees and naming their Chairs, he expressed pleasure over assumption of ECO's Chairmanship by Iran. In his remarks, he acknowledged the progress made under the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan in 2023, and added that Iran would continue to actively contribute to the regional economic cooperation, keeping the issues of

trade, connectivity, green energy and climate change high on the regional development agenda throughout 2024. Annexure-II.

iii. Adoption of the Agenda

6. As proposed, the Council considered the Agenda of its Meeting and adopted the same with consensus.

Agenda Item No. 2

Statements by the Heads of Delegations on the Implementation of the Decisions of the 33rd RPC Meeting

i. Heads of Delegations of ECO Member States

7. The Heads of delegation of the ECO Member States delivered their statements in alphabetical order. While outlining their national programs, policies and views in relation to the activities of the Organization, they updated the Council on the current status and progress regarding implementation of the sector-wise recommendations made by 33rd Meeting of the RPC. Annexure-III.

ii. ECO Observers

8. The Head of delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered statement as ECO Observer. Annexure-IV.

iii. Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies

9. The ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies provided to the ECO Secretariat the status of their activities undertaken since last RPC Meeting for inclusion in the Report of 34th Meeting of RPC. Annexure-V.

Agenda Item No. 3

Presentation of the National Statistical Reports and Review of the progress of implementation of the ECO approved programmes/projects/events and consideration of new programmes/projects/events for the year 2024 to be proposed in the Sectoral Committees

10. The Meetings of the Sectoral Committees were chaired by delegates of the Member States as per following details:

S#	Sectoral Committee	Name of the Chair and Designation	Structure	Country
1.	Trade and Investment	Ms. Maria Kazi, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Commerce	Pakistan
2.	Transport and Communication	Mr. Saifullo Qodirzoda, Head of Land Transport Department	Ministry of Transport	Tajikistan
3.	Energy, Minerals and Environment	Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, Deputy Head of Economic Cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Azerbaijan

		Department		
4.	Agriculture and Industry	Mr. Hooman Fathi, Director General of the Bureau of International Affairs and Specialized Organizations	Ministry of Agriculture	Iran
5.	Tourism	Mr. Jalil Malikov, Deputy Chief of Staff, Head of International Relations Department	State Tourism Agency	Azerbaijan
6.	Human Resources and Sustainable Development	Mr. Erhan SIRT, Head of Multilateral Development Cooperation Department	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye
7.	Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and EAPA	Dr. Hamidreza Raeapour Tehrani, Director of International Law Department	Drug Control Headquarters	Iran
8.	International Relations	Mr. Erhan SIRT, Head of Multilateral Development Cooperation Department	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye
9.	Economic Research and Statistics	Mr. Mert Can SELVER, Assistant Expert	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye

11. While making deliberations on the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events 2024, the Representatives of the Member States briefed about their national activities and statistics within the scope and framework of ECO. The Sectoral Committees also reviewed the status and progress of ECO activities, as well as finalized their respective Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2024.

Agenda Item No. 4

Endorsement of the draft outcomes

i. Annual Work Programme 2024

12. The Council mulled over the recommendations of Sectoral Committees on ECO Work Programme 2024 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). **Annexure-VI** of the Report contains the ECO Work Programme 2024.

ii. Calendar of Events 2024

13. The Council reviewed the recommendations of Sectoral Committees on ECO Calendar of Events 2024 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). **Annexure-VII** of the Report contains the ECO Calendar of Events 2024.

14. While approving the Calendar of Events for 2024, the Head of delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Council that the next United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) is scheduled for November 11-24, 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Since the said event is very important, he requested the

Member States to take this event into account while scheduling their Calendar of Events during 2024.

15. As per Rule 32 of the ECO Rules of Procedure which specifies that all ECO Meetings shall be held in the ECO Secretariat, the Council referring to Article 12 of Rules of procedure based on which “For the meetings organized at the ECO Secretariat, each participating delegation shall bear his/her own expenses”, requested the CPR to develop funding mechanism to help Secretariat host all the meetings included in the Calendar of Events 2024 in the absence of any host for attracting more participation.

Agenda Item No. 5

Any other business

16. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 6

Date and venue of the next Meeting

17. The Council decided that the 35th Meeting of RPC will be held in the start of October or December 2024 before the next COM Meeting. It was concluded that the next RPC Meeting will be held at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, if no Member State appear to volunteer the hosting of the event.

Agenda Item No. 7

Adoption of the Report of 34th RPC Meeting

18. The Council unanimously adopted its Report along with the outcomes of the event.

Agenda Item No. 8

Closing

19. While concluding the Meeting, the Council extended gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for chairing the event in an efficient and effective way. Moreover, the Council felicitated all the Sectoral Committees and their respective Chairs for successful accomplishment of their tasks and targets.

20. The Council also commended the efforts and valuable contribution of the ECO Secretary General and the members of his staff for the preparation of required working papers, provision of assistance to facilitate the working of the Sectoral Committees as well as making arrangements to ensure successful organization of the 34th Meeting of RPC.

21. In his concluding remarks, the ECO Secretary General also thanked all the Heads and Members of Delegation for their dedication and support to successfully finalize the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2024. Noting the emerging challenges that appear to impede national, regional and global progress,

he stated that the ECO will look after the collective interest of the region with continued support and patronage of the Member States.
