

**ECO Informal Ministerial Meeting on  
Environment**  
**under the theme of**  
**“Accelerating the Transition Towards  
a Resource Efficient, Sustainable and Circular ECO Region”**

**Pavilion of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Dubai, UAE**

**9 December 2023 - 9:00-11:00**

**On the sidelines of the United Nations Climate Change Conference  
(COP 28 of UNFCCC)**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**Agenda Item No. 1**

**Opening remarks**

1. The meeting will be inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who will chair the meeting and by H.E. Amb. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

**Agenda Item No. 2**

**Statements and Presentations by the Member States**

2. Honourable ministers in charge of environment and head of delegations of the ECO Member States will be invited to make statements / presentations.

### Agenda Item No. 3

#### Deliberations on issues of environmental cooperation within ECO

##### Consideration of the draft ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2023-2030) and its Annexes:

###### I. Work Program on Climate Change in ECO Region (2023-2030)

###### II. Work Program on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2023-2030)

###### III. Draft Roadmap for implementation of the first phase of ECO Landcare Initiative (2023-2025)

3. The Secretariat in cooperation with the ECO Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST), has examined the former Framework Plan of Action in view of "ECO Vision 2025", recent global and regional environmental patterns, and rapidly evolving global environmental agenda. As an outcome of this process, the draft of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment and its annexes have been elaborated. These documents have been disseminated to the ECO Member States vide ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale No. EME/MM on Environment/2022/995 dated 7 July 2022.

4. The Cooperation Framework could pave the way for streamlining and bolstering the long-term result-oriented cooperation in the field of environment within ECO. Only the Republic of Türkiye has so far transmitted its views and comments on the above-mentioned draft. Most notably, the Republic of Türkiye conveyed its dissenting position on the ECO Land Care project proposal (Annex III of the ECO Cooperation Framework) and submitted an alternative project proposal. The latter project proposal was circulated among the Member States for their views and comments vide ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale No. EME/Environment/2023/1697 dated 13 December 2023.

5. Following the lack of any feedbacks from the Member States, the Secretariat shared its own views and comments in respect with the relevant project proposal of the Republic of Türkiye. Later on, the ECO Secretariat received another project proposal titled "Capacity building of countries in the ECO Region on desertification, land degradation and erosion monitoring system", developed by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye. The Secretariat conveyed its subsequent views and comments in this regard for consideration by the relevant Turkish authorities in early 2023. The reaction and update on this matter is awaited.

6. The Member States are expected to share their views and comments on the draft ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2023-2030) and its Annexes. Upon the consent of the Member States, the draft ECO Cooperation Framework may fully or partially (i.e., with the exception of Annex III) be welcomed/endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

#### **Agenda item No. 4**

##### **High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation: deliberation on the way forward**

7. Following the initial proposal by the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 15<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Ashgabat in 2021, as well as the consequent communications and meetings for consideration of this proposal by the Member States, the Terms of Reference for the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation, prepared by the ECO Secretariat after incorporating the Member States' amendments was approved through silence procedure (see the ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale No. LA/2023/1813 dated 7 November 2023).

8. Taking into account that the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation was finally established in the course of the 16<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Tashkent in November 2023, deliberating on the way forward is quite significant. The Ministerial Meeting is an appropriate opportunity for all the Member States, particularly the initiator to share their views on this matter and holding the first meeting of High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation in 2024.

9. The distinguished representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan is thus invited to share its insights on the way forward with respect to modalities and promotion of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5**

##### **Presentation of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE)**

10. ECO Secretariat in partnership with the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan have developed the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE). Its Concept Paper was circulated

among the Member States for due consideration and review vide ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale No. EME/2023/1614 dated 8 October 2023.

11. The consideration of RESCUE is sought to be one of the key agenda items of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Environment while the meeting is dedicated to the relevant topic of "Accelerating the Transition Towards a Resource Efficient, Sustainable and Circular ECO Region". The 7<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Environment, held on 20 November 2023 in a hybrid mode, welcomed the presentation delivered by the ECO Secretariat in this respect and consideration of the subject initiative at the Ministerial Meeting.

12. ECO Secretariat is expected to deliver a presentation on RESCUE at the Ministerial Meeting on Environment. The Member States may wish to share their initial views and comments on the RESCUE and welcome it.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6**

##### **Any other business**

13. Under this agenda item, the Member States may also deliberate on ways and means to enhance regional cooperation on environment, including identification of priority solutions and best practices in regional partnerships that provide opportunities for strengthening capacities of ECO to address ECO Region's environmental challenges.

14. The Member States may announce their readiness to host the next – 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

15. The Meeting may consider any other issue not covered by this Agenda.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7**

##### **Adoption of the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Meeting on Environment**

16. The Meeting may wish to consider the adoption of the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Meeting on Environment as its outcome document. The draft of the Joint Statement will be circulated among the Member States in due course.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8**

##### **Closing Remarks**

17. The Chairman, ECO Secretariat and any interested Member State may deliver closing remarks.