

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

A. Preamble:

Members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO):

Considering the Paris Agreement as a landmark to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future, and the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of this century and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Noting that the majority of ECO Member States are currently recovering from post-Covid economic and social repercussions, which have exacerbated and widened the effects of climate change.

Emphasizing the importance of promoting sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development and integrating policies into responses to the global warming and ongoing climate change crisis.

Bearing in mind the expiration of the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States" focusing on Environmental Management, Global Warming, Climate Change and Means of Implementation (2016-2020) in lieu of global developments to revisit and spearhead climate action agenda in ECO.

Taking into account the outcomes of the Bonn Climate Change Conference (6-16 June 2022) on the Glasgow Climate Pact and the decisions adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022.

Recognizing the decisions of the ... ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment held in ..., which addressed resource mobilization, capacity-building, mainstreaming,,

Have agreed on the following Work Program on Climate Change for the sake of green and sustainable development of the ECO Region.

B. Objectives:

To integrate and mainstream a robust environment and climate-sensitive approach into the regional and national policies, plans and strategies in order to advance green and

resilient growth, and realize inclusive and sustainable development.

To improve transformative actions by the Governments and all representatives of society, to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.

To promote synergies and coordination between the Member States for the adequate implementation of activities at the regional level, with supporting actions at multilateral, bilateral, national and sub-national levels with regular monitoring and review of progress, which requires a sort of consistent, unified/harmonized and comparable environmental standards in the ECO region.

To encourage low-carbon and climate-resilient development and boost financial and technical assistance to the public and private sectors for mitigation and adaptation.

To advance the Sustainable Development Goals, put the Paris Agreement into practice, and reduce the COVID Pandemic's detrimental socioeconomic consequences in the ECO Region.

C. Financial Resources:

The ECO Member States shall consider priorities, allocate resources and provide voluntary financial support and incentives for the implementation of this Work Program;

The ECO Member States and the Secretariat will explore fundraising opportunities for the implementation of priority plans/programs envisaged in this Work Program;

ECO Secretariat will strengthen its ties with relevant international donor agencies to facilitate the effective implementation of regional plans/programs envisaged in this Work Program as a complementary step to the Member States' interactions with those agencies.

D. Ways and Means of the Implementation:

The ECO Member States have a responsibility to implement mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the Work Program.

The coordination for implementing this Work Program will be facilitated by the Expert Group on Climate Change, made up of the focal points from the Member States.

ECO Secretariat shall play a coordinative role in implementing the Work Program and promote and facilitate, in partnership with relevant international organizations, activities for resource mobilization and to strengthen capacity for the implementation of the Work Program.

ECO IEST shall provide technical and scientific support for the implementation of this Work Program in particular for capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and knowledge management.

E. **Suggested activities:**

This Work Program suggests activities for consideration by the Member States that need to be initiated immediately in harmony with relevant regional and international obligations, taking into account the sovereign rights and responsibilities of each Member State over its resources and national socio-economic conditions¹.

I. **Planning**

1. **Enabling: (1-4)**

Fostering climate-friendly business practices by supporting initiatives that benefit the environment, the climate, and sustainable development through the use of Green Growth and the Circular Economy, as well as by enhancing Environmental Management Systems, updating Long-Term Strategies (LTSs), reforming policies, and strengthening institutional frameworks.

2. **National planning: (B-2)**

Updating NDCs in accordance with the Paris Agreement to incorporate mitigation and adaptation strategies into national development frameworks and to scale up the adoption and integration of innovations and next-generation solutions into sustainable investments.

3. **Policy flows: (5-1) (6-1) (B-8)**

Ensuring that economic activities and financial flows are in line with the Paris Agreement and fully integrated into policies, regulations, planning, development procedures, legal instruments, poverty reduction strategies, and reducing environmental impacts at all levels and across all sectors of the economy.

¹ The numbers in brackets show related activities proposed in the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2016-2020).

4. **Financing: (1-5) (5-2) (B-1) (B-3) (B-4)**

Mainstreaming green financial measures in supporting policies to reduce or sequester GHG emissions (mitigation) or to lessen vulnerabilities and enable stakeholders to adapt to impacts of climate change (adaptation) through Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

II. Implementation

5. **Energy: (B-1)**

Developing strategies to enhance the performance and efficiency of the energy sector, increase its resilience, reform subsidies, invest in low-carbon and decarbonization technologies, promote renewable energy sources, and boost regional power trade initiatives.

6. **Transport: (B-1)**

Supporting economic response plans for fleet modernization, decarbonization of the freight sector, and enhancement of urban transportation infrastructures, including high-quality public transit and non-motorized modes.

7. **Cities: (1-3)**

Improving urban land-use policies to support spatial planning for climate and disaster risks reduction, strengthen key infrastructure resilience, improve air quality, decarbonizing energy systems, enhance energy efficiency in buildings and construction sector, enhance transportation, including public and non-motorized options, improve water supply, sanitation, and wastewater treatment efficiency and resilience, promote integrated solid-waste management, and scale-up green and resource-efficient buildings.

8. **Industries: (4-3) (4-4)**

Encouraging sectoral policies that advance innovative pilot technologies, improving supply chain and industrial zone management, promoting energy efficiency in different industries, boosting green competitiveness and enhancing the role of the private sector in low-carbon industries through the exhibitions, ECO Green Award and other incentive measures.

9. **Mining:**

Encouraging the responsible extraction, processing, and recycling of the metals and minerals required for low-carbon technologies and reducing their value chain's environmental footprints.

10. Food security: (B-1)

Supporting climate-smart technology policies and interventions that may lead to de-risking agribusiness operations and paradigm shifts to enhance productivity, reduce GHG emissions, and improve resilience throughout the entire agriculture and food value chains.

11. Health: (1-6) (1-7)

Improving the quality of the air, land, and water; safeguarding people from dangerous natural disasters; offering benefits for human health and wellbeing; and monitoring waste management systems, particularly those dealing with chemicals and hazardous materials.

12. Biodiversity (2-1 to 2-8)

Implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Strategies (NBSAPs) and incorporating biodiversity-related policies into development processes, addressing the causes of biodiversity loss, applying ecosystem-based approaches, supporting restoration measures, and boosting resilience to climate change and potential mitigation.

III. Mainstreaming

13. Data and info: (1-1) (1-2) (1-7) (1-8) (6-2) (B-1)

Supporting the exchange of climate-related inventories and early warning system data and information, working together to update and harmonize environmental standards, and networking national reference laboratories.

14. CEPA/TK: (4-1) (4-5) (B-5) (B-6) (B-7)

Encouraging Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) through training and capacity-building programs, scientific conferences, exchange of technical visits, technology transfer, joint research projects, and knowledge management, including traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities.

15. Participatory approach: (4-6)

Engaging actors beyond national Governments, including subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations,

citizens at large, and other stakeholders.

16. International and regional cooperation: (2-7)

Enhancing efficiency and effectiveness integration with relevant MEAs and other relevant international processes through the strengthening or establishment of regional mechanisms, including regional consultation and preparatory meetings prior to the COPs of the UNFCCC to exchange best practices and lessons learned and develop common positions as appropriate.

F. Suggested list of meetings:

The following is a list of potential meetings that could help with the implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and regional synchronization of this Work Program.

Each meeting will include technical representatives from the governments of the Member States, the ECO Secretariat and relevant affiliated bodies, selected specialists, academic and research institutions, stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations. Based on the financial implications and available resources and a balanced representation of disciplines and sectors, the Secretariat will examine and approve candidates.

It is recommended that each Expert Group meet annually (or at least biannually), either through teleconference or in person if it is more convenient.

The proposed template for including the meetings of this Work Program in the ECO Calendar of Events is annexed. It should be considered when scheduling each meeting at the proper time and venue.

- Expert Group on Climate Change, to consider implementing progress and 1, 2, 3, 4, 16.
- Technical Expert Group on Global Warming, to consider activities: 5, 6, 7.
- Technical Expert Group on Green Production, to consider activities: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
- Technical Expert Group on Human Environment CEPA, to consider activities: 13, 14, 15.

Annex: Proposed template for Calendar of Events

Row	Action #	Title	Host	Venue	Date
1.			(tbc)	(tbc)	(tbc)
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