



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

277th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Report

July 4, 2023
ECO Secretariat

Report

Organized in hybrid mode under the chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan on July 4, 2023, the 277th CPR Meeting was attended by the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyz Republic**, Republic of **Tajikistan**, Republic of **Türkiye**, **Turkmenistan** and Republic of **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and the relevant Staff of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The **Council** adopted the following Draft Agenda of the Meeting:

- Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 277th CPR Meeting
- Adoption of the Draft Report of the 276th CPR Meeting
- Preparation for the 16th ECO Summit and 27th Meeting of the COM
- Invitation to the ECO Observers to participate in the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technology to be organized and hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran on July 13, 2023
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Extension of service tenure of Mr. Zahid Hussain Abbasi, Director of Trade & Investment (T&I) (Category-I, D2) till arrival of his successor
 - Replacement of the old vehicle of the Secretariat (KIA Rio 2012)
 - Reallocation of funds between the Chapters of ECO Budget 2023 without any increase in the total size of budget
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
- Any other business
- Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 276th CPR Meeting

2. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 276th CPR Meeting held on June 7, 2023, circulated amongst the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale on June 11, 2023, with the amendments proposed by the Republic of Azerbaijan on June 19, 2023 and circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale on June 20, 2023.

Agenda Item No.3

Preparation for the 16th ECO Summit and 27th Meeting of the COM

3. The PrepCom's Chair briefed about the recommendations of PrepCom concerning the 27th COM and 16th Summit meetings as well as the event's outcome documents, informing that initial draft of the "Communiqué" prepared by ECO Secretariat and shared with Azerbaijan, would be circulated for further consideration by the Member States. Regarding the date of the COM, he said that the event is proposed for October 9, 2023 in Shusha, Azerbaijan. If the proposed date is convenient to all Member States, the Azerbaijani authorities would extend formal invitations in this regard, he added.

4. The Representative of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** conveyed that some Member States were yet to convey their confirmations for participation in the 16th ECO Summit scheduled for November 9-10, 2023. Requesting a speedy response to this end, he mentioned that on receipt of required confirmations from the Member States, Uzbek authorities would initiate event's preparations.

5. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** pointed out that establishing the Summit's quorum and securing confirmations of participation and level of participation from all Member States are two different aspects of the case. If the required quorum is already achieved, the Summit's preparations should not be delayed any further due to paucity of time, he emphasized. In addition, he encouraged for expedited response of the remaining Member States in this regard.

6. The **Council** concluded that all Member States should kindly expedite the process of conveying their formal confirmations for participation in the 27th COM and 16th Summit Meetings.

Agenda Item No.4

Invitation to the ECO Observers to participate in the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technology to be organized and hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran on July 13, 2023

7. The **Council** considered the extension of invitations to the ECO Observers, in accordance with ECO Modalities, for their participation in the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technology to be organized and hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran scheduled for July 13, 2023 in Tehran.

Agenda Item No.5

Administrative and budgetary matters:

- Extension of service tenure of Mr. Zahid Hussain Abbasi, Director of Trade & Investment (T&I) (Category-I, D2) till arrival of his successor

8. The **Council** considered the matter and approved the adoption of a two-week silence procedure for securing approval of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) regarding extension of service of Mr. Zahid Hussain Abbasi, the Director for Trade and Investment, that will expire on August 13, 2023, till arrival of his successor.

- Replacement of the old vehicle of the Secretariat (KIA Rio 2012)

9. Based on the fact that only one old vehicle, KIA Rio 2012 (79.000 km mileage), is yet to be replaced given its exhausted condition (without airbag and ABS) and that a sole dealer is ready to trade in a Suzuki Dzire 2023 for Secretariat's old car without any financial/budgetary implications, the Secretariat requested Council's favorable consideration of the issue.

10. The **Council** approved the replacement of KIA Rio 2012 with Suzuki Dzire 2023 as per proposal of the Secretariat.

- Reallocation of funds between the Chapters of ECO Budget 2023 without any increase in the Total size of budget

11. The Council was briefed by the **Chief Accountant** that as provided in Article 9.2 of the ECO Financial Regulations, the ECO Secretary General may explore the possibility to transfer the funds within different Chapters of the Organization's budget. As per limit, the amount to be transferred should not exceed 10 percent of the actual budgetary allocation of the chapter to which fund is transferred. She maintained that transfer of some amounts exceeding the aforesaid limit is needed to meet the financial exigencies there-under that requires Council's authorization.

12. In addition, the **Chief Accountant** explained that three security guards were hired by the Administration for 24/7 services based on one-year contract in local currency. The respective emoluments are secured from the Chapter of Consumable Items and Other services. On the other hand, three positions of Auxiliary staff are lying vacant due to retirement of the post holders, providing sufficient savings under the Chapter of Salary and Allowances. By end of the year, the savings against these vacant positions will be USD 43,000, out of which, USD 28,000 could be transferred to the Chapter of Consumable Items and Other services to meet necessary expenses under this head of account. She confirmed that the proposed transfer of funds will take place within the limits of the ECO Budget 2023, bearing no additional costs or financial implications.

13. The Representative of the Republic of **Türkiye** sought some time to convey their formal position on the proposal for ECO inter-chapter transfer of funds, requesting the Council to defer the matter for next CPR Meeting.

14. The **Council** deferred discussions in the matter till its next session.

- Recommendations of the Selection Panel

15. During the 276th CPR Meeting held on June 7, 2023 the Selection Panel made recommendation to the Council to consider the appointment of Mr. Hojjat Moghavem (Iranian National) against the post of Legal Adviser (Category-II, P3) for a full term of four (04) years. Pending concurrence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the 276th CPR deferred the matter for its 277th Session.

16. Resuming discussion in the matter and having no objection from Azerbaijan, the **Council** approved the appointment of Mr. Hojjat Moghavem as Legal Adviser (Category-II, P3) for a full term of four (04) years to be effective from the date he assumes duties at the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No.6
Any other business

17. The Council was joined by all Member States and the ECO Secretary General to acknowledge and appreciate the services of following staff of the Secretariat and esteemed Members of the CPR:

1. Mr. Emirhan Yourulmazlar, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Republic of Türkiye in Tehran;
2. Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehrna;
3. Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Advisor, ECO Secretariat;
4. Ms. Aysegul Yourulmazlar, Program Officer, ECO Secretariat.

18. All of them were extended best wishes for their future endeavours and assignments.

Agenda Item No.7
Date of the next CPR Meeting

19. The Council decided to convene its next (278th) Meeting on July 31, 2023 in ECO Secretariat, Tehran.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizade, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov, Special Envoy, MFA
- Mr. Farid Valiyev, Head of Division, MFA
- Mr. Elchin Mirzayev, Attaché, MFA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Ms. Shokoufeh Shadi, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Sydykov Turdakun, **Permanent Representative**

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Maruf Abdurahmonov, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- Mr. Emirhan Yorulmazlar, Deputy Head of Mission
- Mr. Ertan Garip, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Kemal Atayev, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Amb. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General
- Amb. Mohsen Esperi, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Sukhrob Mirzoaliev, Head of CFU
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Mr. Shahid Hussain, Desk Officer