

Summary Report of the ECO Secretary General participation at the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly and sidelines events

The Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, H.E. Ambassador Khusrav Noziri visited New York on September 20-23, 2022 to participate at the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, as an observer.

On the sidelines of the event ECO Secretary General met:

With the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin

During the meeting the two sides' interaction featured discussions on certain issues of mutual interest as well as ways and means of expanded cooperation for greater regional integration.

The Secretary General briefed the Foreign Minister about the ECO's prominent activities and engagements, the approach adopted for evolving the organization to be more project and result oriented, the measures for implementation of the decisions taken during the 15th ECO Summit and 25th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held in November last year at Ashgabat. The Secretary General also valued and commended the efforts and role of the Republic of Tajikistan to secure the ECO's development targets for the shared welfare and wellbeing of the region.

The two sides also discussed some upcoming ECO events, including the 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) which is scheduled to be held at Tashkent on November 30 – December 1, 2022. A special emphasis was given to the implementation of economic agenda of the Organization, focusing on further improvement of regional connectivity through an augmented and strong transport and communication network that, they considered, quite essential for the overall progress, prosperity and economic growth in the region.

With the Secretary General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi

During the meeting, Ambassador Noziri briefed the ASEAN Secretary General about the ECO structure as well as the Organization's activities and engagements in various development sectors, including trade and investment, transport and communication, agriculture, energy, social welfare, tourism, environment and regional cooperation on cross-border issues. He also underscored the significance of ECO-ASEAN collaboration and the importance of the MoU, signed between the two sides in 2006 that institutionalized their cooperative relationship. He recalled that their various joint ministerial meetings emphasized on the importance of strengthening and expanding the existing level of cooperation between the ECO and the ASEAN. Moreover, the ECO Secretary General informed the ASEAN dignitary about the preparations of the 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) which is scheduled to be held at Tashkent on November 30 – December 1, 2022.

The ASEAN Secretary General thanked Ambassador Noziri for his informative presentation on ECO and its activities. He also acknowledged the importance of ASEAN-ECO partnership for greater inter-regional cooperation, exchange of knowledge and

expertise. Assuring his complete support and willingness to further improve the ASEAN-ECO working partnership, he expressed optimism that the two sides' joint activities in all identical areas would enhance based on their existing MoU. In this regard, he seconded the initiative of the ECO for revitalizing their framework of cooperation in line with the ASEAN-ECO existing MoU.

With the Foreign Minister of Turkish Cyprus State Mr. Tahsin Ertugruloglu

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the scope of cooperation between ECO and the Turkish Cypriot State and other issues of mutual interest.

The Turkish Cypriot State enjoys the status of ECO Observer.

ECO Secretary General was interviewed by the International Media representatives

During the interview, the ECO Secretary General underscored the core objectives of the Organization that are based on the principle of shared progress and prosperity in the ECO Member States. He stated that the ECO Vision 2025 envisages the idea of enhanced connectivity for an accelerated socioeconomic growth and development in the region. He further said that the main areas of cooperation determined by the member countries to achieve the perceived targets include, inter alia, transportation trade, energy and tourism.