## 9th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

## Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan

## September 17, 2024

##  Dushanbe Declaration

**We**, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States, convening on September 17, 2024, in Dushanbe for the 9th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, under the esteemed Chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan, reaffirm our commitment to the principles enshrined in Article II of the Izmir Treaty, alongside other pertinent ECO documents, including the ECO Vision 2015-2025 and the relevant provisions of the Sendai Framework, and while:

**Recalling** the recommendations from the 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Management, held in 2021 virtually under the chairmanship of the Republic of Türkiye, we emphasize the imperative of fostering enhanced regional cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction (DRR);

**Highlighting** the adoption of the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) and the Roadmap for its implementation (2021-2025), we affirm the establishment of a technical expert group tasked with updating this framework for the forthcoming five years, which represents a significant next step for our region in advancing disaster risk reduction (DRR);

**Following** the outlines priorities and targets of Global Frameworks particularly SFDRR, we emphasize to enhance disaster risk reduction in the ECO region, such as capacity building initiatives; research and data sharing; international partnership and collaboration with various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and the private sector, to foster a multi-hazard approach to DRR; funding resources; advocacy and awareness; monitoring process.

**Stating** the critical role of leveraging the latest technologies and best practices, we affirm integrating innovative solutions, such as early warning systems, data analytics, artificial intelligence machine learning, remote sensing, integration of data system for enhancing disaster risk reduction in the ECO region.

**Concerning** the human and asset losses relative to Gross Domestic Product, which are prone to exacerbation in countries with limited capacity to prepare for, finance, and respond to disasters and climate change, we underscore the necessity of engaging in the process of Damage and Loss Fund as delineated in COP29, to be hosted by Azerbaijan;

**Acknowledging** that building resilience to disasters constitutes a significant development challenge for the region, we recognize that an enhanced understanding of risk, use of technology for resilience, fortified risk governance, increased investment, and improved preparedness collectively establish a robust foundation for the resilience of individuals, communities, governments, and businesses;

**Highlighting** the significance of the upcoming Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in October 2024, in Manila, Philippines, we emphasize the importance of adhering to its thematic pillars, which include practical solutions to enhance disaster risk reduction financing, ensuring inclusivity with a focus on leaving no one behind, promoting gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk governance, and advancing both localization and urban and rural resilience, these considerations will be integral as we update the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR);

**Have decided to:**

1. **Establish the** ECO Regional technical expert group for updating Disaster Risk Reduction framework for ECO region and its Roadmap for (2025-2030), which are imperative for implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as carrying out expert analysis on the establishment of ECO Funds on DRR in the region and will enhance collaboration among our Member States to integrate disaster risk reduction in the region;
2. **Address** the importance of transitioning the governance mechanism from a ministry-centric approach to a comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-society including academia civil society NGOs/INGOs and private sectors to provide reasonable assurance in achieving the objectives of disaster risk reduction policies and propose joint projects based on the implementation of the ECORFDRR.
3. **Promote** cooperation among Member States and with international stakeholders and partners in alignment with the new ECO Vision and the ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
4. **Encourage** Member States to exchange their ideas and comments on the proposed projects by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 4th Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2023.
5. **Underline** the importance of human capacity development, sharing of knowledge and practices and invite the Member States to consider the benefits of capacity enhancement through the short-term training facility of the Secretariat on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System, including Disaster Loss Accounting, developed in close cooperation with the UNDRR, especially during the upcoming Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) as well as during the forums, training sessions and exhibitions on DRR by the ECO Member States/Secretariat.
6. **Emphasize** the continuation of effective interaction with relevant regional and international organizations and development partners, including UN organizations and international/regional bodies, inter alia, the UNDRR, UNESCAP [and its relevant regional bodies, including APDIM], and welcome the recent proposal of UNESCAP to cooperate on a new regional framework and strategic action plan for managing cascading risks from natural and biological hazards, through cooperation with sub-regional bodies such as ECO and others to shape a longer-term, holistic, coordinated, and more strategic approach to building disaster and climate resilience aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. **Welcome** the project recommended by the 34th Regional Planning Council on "The Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness," which aligns with the Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) framework, to enhance awareness and interest in disaster recovery and prevention among the ECO society and to improve public information.
8. **Invite** Member States to engage in the approved project on the "Land Hazard Zonation Map of ECO Member States."
9. **Carry out** expert analysis prioritizing the activities of the ECO Regional Framework on DRR, including establishment of:

 **(a)** ECO regional disaster information system;

**(b)** ECO disaster insurance system, envisaged in the ECO Vision 2025, with a timeline end of 2024 and propose them for 2025.

1. **Call** for the development, review, and enhancement of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction, and the exchange of experiences on a regional scale for the next vision and updated framework on DRR.
2. **Encourage** national, regional, and international (public and private) organizations and institutions to support programs, projects, and plans contributing to DRR in the region, and implementation of applicable decisions of the adopted declaration, and **support** the initiatives of the ECO Secretariat.

Expressdeep gratitude and appreciation to Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Republic of Tajikistan, for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting also thank the ECO Secretariat for its contribution to successfully organize the event.

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