The 3rd ECO Think-Tank Forum

Theme: **Next Generation Economics: Challenges and Perspectives**

Baku, October 4, 2024

**Welcome remarks by ECO Deputy Secretary General Amb. J.Asanov**

Dear Mr. Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Dear Chairman of the Board of the ESRI Prof. Shahin Sadigov,

Dear President of the İKSAD INSTITUTE Dr. Mustafa Latif Emek,

Dear colleagues,

I am privileged to greet you at this important event.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Economic Scientific Research Institute of this Ministry and IKSAD Institute for interacting with the Economic Cooperation Organization for hosting this important event.

It is pleasing to note that the Republic of Azerbaijan is an active member of our Organization and has contributed a lot to the advancement of the goals and objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Azerbaijan hosts many events of the ECO. The 27th meeting of ECO Foreign Ministers was held last year in November in Shusha. By the way, Shusha – Cultural capital of Azerbaijan – is declared as the Tourism Capital of the Organization for the year 2026 and the 17th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the ECO is planned to be held next year in Azerbaijan.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Economic Scientific Research Institute (ESRI) of Azerbaijan with its 60th anniversary and note that thanks to the efforts of the ESRI the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) is undergoing very positive transformation and I am confident that when the ECO Economic Research Centre (ECO-ERC) will be operational with the help of ESRI, then it will turn into a leading think-tank in the ECO area.

The ECO Secretariat is cooperating with the ESRI and ECO Economic Journal constructively and thanks to joint efforts regular publications of the Journal have started appearing.

Let me tell you about the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which started its work as Regional Cooperation for Development back in 1964 until 1979.

In 1985 the organization resumed its activities as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Pakistan, Iran and Türkiye being the founding member-states and in November 1992 seven countries acceded this organization, greatly expanding the geography and scope of this regional grouping.

The Economic Cooperation Organization is the only pan-regional entity that brings together peoples that have historically many things in common. The ECO has great potential to utilise and economic, trade and investment relations among the member-states are increasing year by year. That is why the title of the 3rd think-tank forum: “Next Generation Economics: Challenges and Perspectives” is thought-provoking and inspiring.

I am confident that this event will be very helpful to the participants as well as to the countries that they represent.