



28th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

Preparatory Committee First Session

November 5, 2024
ECO Secretariat

Draft Agenda

1. Preparation for the 28th COM Meeting:
 - Status of confirmations from the Member States (*as of November 4, 2024 only Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have confirmed*);
 - Consideration and finalization of the Draft Agenda and Annotated Draft Agenda of 28th COM Meeting;
 - Extension of invitation to ECO Observers, International Organizations and Partners;
 - Hospitality details and protocol arrangements from the Host;
 - Consideration of the Draft Tehran Communiqué provided by the Chair.

2. Preparation for the First HLC Meeting:
 - Consideration and finalization of the date of HLC meeting;
 - Status of confirmations from the Member States.

3. Date of the next session

No: CFU//2024/1553

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 4/11/2024

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has an honour to enclose the **Draft Agenda of 28th Meeting of COM** scheduled for December 3, 2024 in Tehran.

It should be mentioned the proposed Draft Agenda will be considered during the First PrepCom meeting on November 5, 2024 in the Secretariat.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

All ECO Member States - Tehran



Afghanistan Embassy

Afghanistan

Iran MFA



Economic Cooperation Organization

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Azerbaijan Embassy

Azerbaijan

Kazakhstan Embassy

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Embassy

Kyrgyz

Pakistan Embassy

Pakistan

Tajikistan Embassy

Tajikistan

Turkiye Embassy

Turkiye

Turkmenistan Embassy

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan Embassy

Uzbekistan





**28th Meeting of the ECO
Council of Ministers (COM)**

Draft Agenda

December 3, 2024
Tehran, Iran

Draft Agenda

1. Inaugural Ceremony
 - Welcoming remarks by the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Inaugural Statement by the Honourable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran (tbc)
 - Family Photo
2. Opening Statements
 - Statement by the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the host and Chairman of 28th COM Meeting
 - Statement by the Honourable Foreign Minister of Republic of Azerbaijan as the Chairman of 27th COM Meeting
 - Statement by the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the ECO Chairman in 2025
 - Statement by the ECO Secretary General
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Member States
5. Other statements
 - Statements by the ECO Observers (*if any*)
 - Statement by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
 - Statement by the Heads of Regional International Partners
6. Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization
7. Review and approval of:
 - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings
 - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings
 - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
 - Report of the ECO Vision 2025 Review Committee
8. Administrative and Financial Matters of the ECO Secretariat:
 - ECO Budget 2025
 - Appointments (*if any*)
9. Adoption of Tehran Communiqué.
10. Treaty Event (*might be proposed to be deleted by SOM from COM's agenda in case of no request from the non-signatories for ECO agreements for signing agreement(s) during the 28th Meeting of COM*)
11. Any other business
12. Date and venue of the next COM meeting
13. Adoption of Report and closing of the Meeting

No: CFU//2024/1551

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 4/11/2024

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose the Note Verbale No.531/2266854 dated November 4, 2024 received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding **Information Note containing organizational and protocol issues related to the 28th Council of Ministers (COM) and Senior Officials (SOM) Meetings** scheduled for December 2-3, 2024 in Tehran.

The Member States are requested to kindly provide the composition of their delegations and itinerary details not later than **November 20, 2024** enabling the host country to make necessary arrangement.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

All ECO Member States - Tehran





Economic Cooperation Organization

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Turkiye

Turkmenistan Embassy

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan Embassy

Uzbekistan





Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial Translation

In the Name of God

NOTE

No: 531 / 2266854

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organization and has the honor to forward herewith Information Note, containing organizational and protocol issues related to the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (2-3 December 2024, Tehran).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

4 November 2024

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization-Tehran



**28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)
2-3 December 2024-Tehran, Iran**

Information Note

1. Date of the events

The 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting (COM) will be held on 3 December 2024 in Tehran. It will be preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 2 December 2024.

2. Organizers

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat, is organizing the Events.

events@mfa.gov.ir

shahid@eco.int

mirzoaliev@eco.int

3. Confirmation of participation

The honorable Member States are kindly requested to confirm their participation and the list of the delegation to the organizers.

4. Visa arrangements

Holders of diplomatic passports from the ECO Member States do not require entry visa. For holders of the other types of passport/participants other than Member States are kindly advised to apply for entry visa through Iranian embassies/consulates (evisa.mfa.ir).

5. Arrival and Departure

The point of arrival and departure, to and from, the Islamic Republic of Iran is "Imam Khomeini International Airport".

For timely arrangements for VIP facilities, itineraries and flight information of the honorable Ministers and accompanying delegates need to be submitted through Note Verbal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a cc to the ECO Secretariat, not later than 30 November 2024.

Important Note: Other preferences of Arrival and/or Departure including private/special flights should be notified to the organizers, well in advance.

6. Venue of the events

The 28th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting, Senior Officials Meeting and other relevant events will be held at Persian Azadi Hotel, Tehran.

Address: Yadegar-e-Emam Intersection, Chamran Highway, Tehran,

Tel: + 98 21 29112

Website: azadihotel.com/page/en

A limited number of rooms will also be available for **bilateral meetings** at the venue of events. Prior notification and reservation are required through liaison officers

7. Hospitality

The host will cover local hospitality (boarding and lodging and local transportation) based on the following format:

	Number	Length
Member States	1+4	3 nights (1, 2 and 3 December 2024)
Observers	1+1	3 nights (2,2 and 3 December 2024)
ECO specialized agencies	1+1	3 nights (1, 2 and 3 December 2024)
Heads of international and regional organizations	1+1	2 nights (2 and 3 December 2024)

8. Accommodation

All honourable Ministers and accompanying delegates will be staying at Persian Azadi Hotel.

Address: Yadegar-e-Emam Intersection, Chamran Highway, Tehran,

Tel: + 98 21 29112

Website: azadihotel.com/page/en

9. Transportation

A VIP vehicle will be provided to the honourable Minister/Head of Delegation.

Additional vehicles will be available for accompanying delegates.

10. Official dinner

All the delegates are invited to attend an official dinner hosted by H.E Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the Honourable Chairman of the 28th Council of Ministers Meeting, on 2 December 2024 at Persian Azadi Hotel, from 19:00-21:00.

11. Liaison officers

A liaison officer will be assigned for each delegation.

12. Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation (Russian/English/Persian) will be provided during the COM and SOM meetings.

Other information

13. Weather

The temperature in December in Tehran varies from 7 to 15° (with the possibility of rain/snow).

14. Currency

The local currency unit is Iranian Rial. The current exchange rate is approximately US\$ 1 - 700,000 Rials which may be subject to market fluctuations.

15. Electricity and power plug

In Iran, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type C and type F are used. The standard voltage is 220 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.

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No: CFU//2024/1552

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 4/11/2024

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose the Note Verbale No.531/2266969 dated November 4, 2024 received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran conveying the **Zero Draft of Tehran Communiqué to be adopted during the 28th Council of Ministers (COM)** scheduled for December 3, 2024 in Tehran.

The Zero Draft of Tehran Communiqué will be considered during the First Meeting of PrepCom planned for November 5, 2024 at 10:30 in ECO Secretariat.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

All ECO Member States - Tehran





Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

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Iran MFA

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Tajikistan

Turkiye Embassy

Turkiye

Turkmenistan Embassy

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan Embassy

Uzbekistan





Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial Translation
Most URGENT

In the Name of God

NOTE

No: 531 / 2266969

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and, with reference to the Latter's Note Verbal No. CFU/2024/1425 dated 13 October 2024, has the honor to provide the proposed Zero Draft of Tehran Communiqué.

This draft has been re-produced on the basis of the original text provided by the Secretariat.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

4 November 2024

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization-Tehran

**28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)
3 December 2024-Tehran, Iran**

Tehran Communiqué

(Zero Draft- 4 November 2024)

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States, convening at the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) on December 3, 2024 in Tehran under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and **while**:

Reiterating our commitment to the foundational principles of the Treaty of Izmir and the objectives outlined in ECO Vision 2025, alongside the collective aspirations of ECO Heads of State/Government, as articulated most recently during the 16th ECO Summit, to deepen comprehensive cooperation and drive sustainable progress and economic development across the region;

Commending the Islamic Republic of Iran for effectively pursuing the ECO Chairmanship in 2024 under the vigorous yearly theme "Enhanced and Resilient ECO Region through Expansion of Intra-Regional Trade";

Welcoming the ECO Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2025 under an important regional theme "_____";

Recognizing the pivotal role of trade and investment for accelerating economic growth and acknowledging its significance as a top priority for the ECO in achieving goals for sustainable development in the region, including through fostering a business friendly environment in the region to address the emerging economic global challenges;

Understanding the need for a renewed focus on regional cooperation to diversify Member States' economies and boost intra-regional trade and increase contribution of the ECO in global trade,

Underscoring the need for inclusive, sustainable and environmentally friendly connectivity through the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA); **Focusing** on increasing the region's share in international transit transport, expanding corridors to global markets and facilitating cross-border transit trade by digitizing transport, customs and border processes; **Stressing** the importance of strengthening collaboration to decarbonize the transport industry;

Highlighting the urgency of cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Industry 4.0, Satellite Internet, and space technologies through mobilizing regional mechanisms to address sophisticated challenges and ensure these technologies are accessible and beneficial to all of humanity;

Recognizing that enhancing energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade is a strategic objective of the ECO coupled with the ongoing endeavours of the Organization towards scaling up a just and sustainable energy transition to advance regional energy connectivity, integration and coordination of infrastructure, resources and markets to strengthen energy security and system resilience;

Highlighting that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development, and the need to further integrate and mainstream the environment into all aspects of development activities and cooperation in the region to transform ECO into a greener region in line with "ECO Vision 2025" and Tashkent Communiqué of the 16th ECO Summit;

Emphasizing the need to enhance capacity of the Member States, individually and collectively through regional cooperation, to address food insecurity and its underlying environmental causes, **Cognizant of** the crucial role that agriculture plays in advancing the economies of the ECO region towards food security and sustainable socio-economic development;

Recognizing the need for developing quality management infrastructure and harmonization of standards in the region, as complementary and compulsory pillars of trade, in close cooperation and coordination with the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM);

Recognizing the tourism sector as a vital driver of economic growth, job creation and cultural exchange, and its potential to boost regional development through enhanced cooperation, infrastructure improvement and preservation of natural and cultural heritage;

Reaffirming our profound appreciation for the visionary establishment of the ECO Tourism Capitals tradition, showcasing the rich cultural and tourism heritage of selected cities;

Recognizing the need for strengthened regional cooperation on natural disasters and health issues which is essential for enhancing resilience and ensuring a more coordinated and effective response to cope with the challenges;

Considering the need to strengthen bilateral and regional legal and judiciary cooperation mechanisms for enhancing the security, sustainability and economic growth of the Member States;

Recognizing that effective parliamentary cooperation is essential for providing legislative support that can enhance economic collaboration among Member States,

Welcoming the upcoming Meeting of the ECO Parliamentary Assembly (PAECO) in Tehran;

Acknowledging the critical importance of supporting Afghanistan in its pursuit of peace, stability and socio-economic development, including through implementation of the "ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan";

Commending the Secretariat for its ongoing and future efforts to strengthen the Organization's ties with the United Nations, ASEAN, SCO, ACD, D8, development banks and other key regional and international institutions, as well as ECO observers, fostering deeper and more impactful partnerships;

1. **Reaffirm** our firm dedication, as the highest decision-making body within the ECO, to continue to support the ECO joint initiatives, efforts, programmes and projects.
2. **Emphasize** the need for continued comprehensive reforms to enhance effectiveness of the Organization and align its activities with our emerging national and regional needs as well as global agenda, and in this regard; **Acknowledge** the significant role to be played by the ECO High Level Committee (HLC) established at the level of deputy foreign ministers of the Member States.
3. **Endorse** the decisions and measures taken by the ECO ministerial and other important high-level meetings during 2024 and earlier, aimed at pursuing our common aims and objectives for greater economic integration in the region.
4. **Express** our heartfelt appreciation to Member States for their individual and collective contributions to the goals and objectives of our Organization, including through generous hosting of and active participation in the ECO events in 2024.
5. **Underscore** the significance of the integrity, coherence and consolidation in the ECO, and accordingly **Call upon** the Member States, who have not done so, to join/sign/ratify the ECO agreements, centers and agencies, arrangements, activities and projects.

ECO Vision 2025 and beyond

6. **Welcome and endorse** the outcomes of the Review Committee of the ECO Vision 2025, including priorities selected for implementation until the end of the Vision, and **Support** the upcoming measures in 2025 under the chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan to develop a new ECO Vision for beyond 2025.

7. **Recall** the need to take into consideration the instructions and initiatives by the ECO Heads of State and Government in the process of developing the next ECO Vision, including the initiative of strategic goals of economic cooperation-2035, proposed by the honourable President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Enhanced regional cooperation

8. **Underscore** the continued need to enhance trade liberalization in the ECO Region with the ultimate goal of creation of the ECO Free Trade Area (FTA), and in this regard **Appreciate** the ECOTA Contracting Parties for their recent constructive approach to accelerate its implementation through a technical negotiation/renegotiation process, open to all ECO Member States, to be finalized and operational by the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting of Commerce & Foreign Trade to be held in the Republic of Türkiye.
9. **Re-emphasize** the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Develop Bank (TDB) by both expanding its membership to all ECO Member States and by making necessary adjustments in its rules and practices enable it to engage in the ECO trade financing; and **Recommend also** strengthening the Bank's role in project financing and in fund raising from international partners for prioritized ECO projects.
10. **Reaffirm** our support to the ECO activities for greater trade facilitation and trade promotion, and **Call for** conclusion of the ongoing negotiations for an efficient framework for ECO trade facilitation and early operationalization of the ECO Reinsurance Company.
11. **Recall** the continued priority of intra-regional connectivity for the ECO and the increasing role of the ECO as transit region to connect neighbouring regions and countries; and **Call upon** all stakeholders within the ECO to effectively and responsibly implement decisions of the ECO ministerial and other meetings (on different modes of road, rail, air, maritime) and actively participate in the upcoming activities and meetings, including in the context of the new ECO Multimodal Transport Committee.
12. **Call for** commercialization and expansion of the ECO corridors to the neighboring regions and markets as well as facilitation of border crossing and transit procedures within the ECO Region and accession of the Member States, who have not done so, to the relevant regional and international agreements and conventions with a view to boosting regional trade and connectivity. In this regard, **Request** the Secretariat to explore joint arrangements with the relevant international organizations to improve and expand regional connectivity, as it is the case through UNECE/ECO Coordination Committee on Trans Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridors.

13. **Acknowledge** the challenges and opportunities associated with the rapid pace of new and emerging technologies for countries and peoples, including in the ECO Region, and **Task** the ECO Secretariat to strengthen its ICT-related capacities, including through creating a special ICT unit in the Secretariat within the current budget.
14. **Underscore** the continued importance and relevance of energy trade, efficiency and security for the ECO Region and the urgent need for establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) as well as early operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (ECO-CEC); and in this regard **Welcome** collaboration with relevant regional and international partners and initiatives, including through the UNESCAP's ongoing "Energy Connectivity for Sustainable Development in the ECO Region".
15. **Support** gradual transition to resource-efficient, low-emission and nature-positive regional cooperation within the ECO through partnerships and access to globally available funds and technologies; and **Welcome** the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE), jointly developed by the ECO Secretariat and the Republic of Azerbaijan.
16. **Welcome** the initiatives such as ECO High-Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG) and ECO Forum on Sustainable Development as regional platforms, in addition to the existing sectoral ministerial meetings, for further fostering collaboration and coherence in the areas such as disaster risk reduction, food security, health, climate change, energy efficiency, environment protection, water management, etc.
17. **Re-emphasize** the huge potential for enhanced tourism cooperation in the ECO Region which owns among the most attractive tourism destinations in the world, and **Urge** the Member States to upgrade regional cooperation through enhanced regional tourism initiatives and strategies; and in this regard **Welcome** initiatives such as ECO Tourism Capitals (with Erzurum as ECO Tourism Capital 2025), ECO Tour Operators Forum, Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors, ECO tourism visa facilitation, etc.
18. **Acknowledge** the encouraging interests among Member States to cooperate against crimes, including through legal and judicial cooperation by offices of the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General, ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen, the envisaged ECOPOL, etc. and **Value** the dedication of the parliaments in the ECO Region to support the Member States' governments, including through Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO (PAECO).
19. **Reaffirm** strong commitment to the timely resumption of activities under the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan; and **Urge** the international community to

take decisive actions in addressing the challenges facing the Country, with a focus on promoting stability, sustainable development and ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need.

International and regional developments

20. **Welcome** the convening of the Summit of the Future which adopted the UN Resolution 79/1 entitled "The Pact for the Future" and its annexes; and **Call upon** the UN system to effectively work with the regional organizations to maximize the development impacts of such global initiatives.
21. (A paragraph on COP29 to be added.)
22. **Acknowledge** the trade, connectivity and development challenges of the landlocked developing countries, including the 7 ECO Member States, and in this regard **Appreciate** the ECO Secretariat and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS) for their recent approach to enhance relations; **Express** hope that the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, scheduled for 10-13 December 2024 in Gaborone, Botswana, would result in concrete actions and solutions to assist land-locked countries unlock their full potential.
23. **Commend** the initiative of the ECO Secretariat for formulating "The Mechanism and Principles of Collaboration between the ECO and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB); **Requests** the Secretariat to explore the possibility of cooperative mechanisms with other partners and interested financial institutions aimed at securing funds and other advocacies for the ECO regional projects and programmes.
24. **Condemn** continued brutal attacks against civilian targets in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, and **Call for** an immediate, full and complete ceasefire and unrestricted access to relief and essential humanitarian assistance, **Reaffirm** our support for the full membership of Palestine in the UN and a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue. (to be updated in line with the developments)
25. (A paragraph on unilateral coercive measures and sanctions will be added)

We express our deep appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the Honourable Foreign Minister Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, for outstanding leadership of the ECO in 2024, as well as the successful organization of the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) and excellent hospitality arrangements extended to delegations.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Republic of Kazakhstan for its next ECO Chairmanship; **Express** sincere wishes for the Organization's continued success and growth under Kazakhstan's leadership in 2025;

We acknowledge the valuable support provided by the distinguished ECO Secretary General Ambassador Asad M. Khan and his team at the Secretariat in Tehran, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring the preparations and successful holding of the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) in Tehran.

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No: CFU//2024/1542

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 4/11/2024

Attachment: No

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to inform that in consultation with the current ECO Chair, an Extraordinary Meeting of CPR is scheduled for November 10, 2024 at 10:30 at the Secretariat to discuss the preparation for the 28th COM and First HLC meetings, as well as the recommendations of the First PrepCom meeting to be held on November 5, 2024.

The esteemed Member States are kindly requested to ascertain convenience of their distinguished Permanent Representatives to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of CPR.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

All ECO Member States - Tehran

