

STATEMENT

by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Iran - Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the ECO Turdakun Sydykov at the 28th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (ECO)

(Mashhad, December 3, 2023)

**Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Dear participants,**

Allow me to welcome all participants of the 28th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (ECO) in the beautiful city of Mashhad, which is one of the historical and cultural centers of the brotherly Iran, and express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for warm hospitality, excellent organization of our meeting and created conditions.

Allow me to convey to your Excellency and all honorable Ministers and heads of delegation the cordial greetings of His Excellency Mr. Jeenbek Kulubaev, Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, who is currently attending a previously scheduled event with the participation of the Head of State, and my Minister's best wishes for the success of this meeting.

Since the previous meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in brotherly Azerbaijan last year, we have continued to witness the grave situation in the Middle East with the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

We once again strongly urge the parties to respect the principles and norms of international law, to take exhaustive measures to prevent casualties and violence against civilians, to cease hostilities as soon as possible, and to begin political dialog and peaceful resolution of any conflicts.

We advocate the consolidation of the world community's efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and a complete cessation of hostilities in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly on the basis of the principle of "two states for two peoples".

Kyrgyzstan is interested in a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. As we all know, Afghanistan is a key participant of our region, with which we are historically linked by close economic, cultural and humanitarian ties. In that regard, Kyrgyzstan supports the full involvement of Afghanistan in the processes of regional economic cooperation as a guarantee of its sustainable development and stabilization.

We are convinced that the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan's economy is the foundation for peace and stability in the region. The ECO countries can play a decisive role in promoting Afghanistan's economic recovery by: expanding trade and economic ties, facilitating transit, creating trade corridors and supporting infrastructure projects that can contribute to Afghanistan's integration into the regional economy and create a basis for long-term stability, as well as participating in the development of human capital by providing educational and professional opportunities for the Afghan people through the ECO programs.

The Kyrgyz Republic is ready to contribute to these processes by offering its logistics capabilities and participating in joint projects. We believe that initiatives such as the development of the North-South transport corridor can open new markets for Afghanistan and stimulate economic growth.

**Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Secretary General,**

Regional and interregional integration based on common economic interests is a key element of the vision for the future. Our countries are united by common historical and cultural roots going back centuries along the Silk Road. The ECO has great potential to truly become an effective instrument of integration in the modern context.

In recent years, there has been an expansion of trade and economic relations and the development of investment cooperation between our countries. The export and import indicators of the member countries of the ECO both in the framework of mutual trade and in cooperation with third countries show a positive trend.

At the same time, it should be recognized that, at present, the role of our Organization in the system of regional economic and economic ties does not yet correspond to the real potential of Member States. Unfortunately, we face such problems as high transportation costs, differences in the approaches of member countries to protect their markets and producers, instability of the world financial and energy markets, as well as other factors that negatively affect the economic and social stability of our countries. In these circumstances, we believe that the Organization can reach a qualitatively new level of cooperation only by searching for new approaches in addressing these challenges. It is important to focus our joint efforts on identifying problematic issues and developing effective mechanisms to help resolve them. We should together promote greater diversification of mutual trade flows in order to form and promote common economic interests.

For the Kyrgyz Republic, as a landlocked country, the transport sector is of special interest for cooperation within the ECO framework. Kyrgyzstan, together with the other ECO countries, participates in the development of the East-West and North-South transport corridors, which gives the countries of Central Asia access to sea routes. We also support the dynamic development of the Trans-Caspian international transportation route and are ready to take an active part in this process.

I would like to note that the signing of the Agreement on cooperation in joint promotion of the railroad project is an important achievement in the realization of the strategic railroad project “China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan” and will contribute to the growth of international trade and investment, transport and logistics and transit potential of Central Asia. We express our hope that the early start of construction of this railroad will increase trade, economic and transit opportunities of our region, connecting about 4 (four) billion people and expanding the geography of cargo transportation from Asia through Turkey to Europe, the Middle East, Iran and the Persian Gulf countries to the countries of Europe.

To date, the Kyrgyz Republic is actively moving towards sustainable development and modernization of its energy infrastructure. The hydropower potential of the Kyrgyz Republic is estimated at 142 (One hundred forty two) billion kilowatt-hours of possible annual electricity generation, which allows us to rank 9th among high potential countries in the world. We are actively working on the construction of 50 (fifty) small and medium hydropower plants. The regional project for the construction of Kambarata HPP-1 was presented at the International Investment Energy Forum in the Austrian city of Vienna on June 10, 2024.

At the moment, the Kyrgyz Republic is updating the existing feasibility study of Kambarata HPP-1. Implementation of the Kambarata HPP-1 project will make a huge contribution to global efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by facilitating the integration of other renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy, thereby reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

I am pleased to note that Kyrgyzstan has completed the construction of energy infrastructure facilities under the CASA-1000 international project aimed at creating the largest transregional power transmission line connecting Central and South Asia. Four countries are participating in the project: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In this regard, I would like to inform about the signing by the Kyrgyz Republic on November 18, 2024 on the margins of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-29) in Baku of the Charter of the “ECO Clean Energy Center”. I express my hope that this institution will work effectively and will make a tangible contribution to our common cause of promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in our space.

I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished participants to the initiative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr Sadyr Zhaparov on establishment of the Regional Center for the Implementation of the Energy Efficient and Recourse-saving technologies in Bishkek. In this regard I call in the ECO Member States to support this initiative.

**Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Secretary General,**

In the framework of promoting the Mountain agenda, the Kyrgyz Republic together with the Azerbaijan Republic and Mongolia on the margins of the SOR-29 Conference organized the event “High Level Dialogue: Promoting the Mountain Agenda, Mainstreaming Mountains and Climate Change” with the participation of

H.E. Mr. Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, heads of a number of states and representatives of international organizations.

In this regard, I would like to thank the countries that participated in this event. Considering the importance and relevance of climate change issues and challenges in mountain regions, I call on all esteemed member countries of our Organization as well as countries-participants of this event to join the “Declaration on Climate Change, Mountains and Glaciers” presented at the said Mountain Dialogue in Baku.

As is known, at the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of delegations of 11 countries, including member countries of the Organization, such as Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, as well as co-sponsorship of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, a draft resolution on declaring October 23 as the International Day of the Snow Leopard was submitted to the UN General Assembly. Adoption of this resolution contributes to attracting the attention of the world community and various international institutions to the problem of the threat of extinction of wild fauna, which includes the snow leopard. The support of this initiative by all member-states of our Organization will be a valuable contribution of our countries to the protection of the environment and wildlife. In this regard, we request the support of the ECO Member Countries to co-sponsor this initiative.

We invite the countries to join the Negotiating Group of the Mountain Partnership, representing the interests of mountain countries on the basis of the UNFCCC, which was organized in 2023 by Kyrgyzstan and Andorra. In turn, we welcome the accession to this group of the ECO Member Countries - Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

We will summarize the results of the “Five-Year Action Plan for Mountain Regions 2023-2027” in 2027 in Kyrgyzstan at the Second Global Mountain Summit “Bishkek+25”. In this regard, we invite everyone to participate in the Mountain Summit in Bishkek at a high level and make their practical contribution to the development of mountain ecosystems.

Also, taking advantage of this auspicious occasion, I would like to appeal to all esteemed ECO Member States to support the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic for non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2027-2028, the election of which will be held in June 2026. I hope that you will express your solidarity on this very important issue for us.

**Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Dear participants,**

In conclusion, I would like to express my confidence that the outcome of today's meeting and the agreements reached reflect the aspiration of our countries for mutually beneficial cooperation and will ensure comprehensive interaction and partnership in priority areas.

Let me once again congratulate H.E. Mr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the successful holding of the

28th ECO Ministerial Council Meeting in Mashhad, as well as on the successful chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Organization in 2024.

I also would like to point out the previous successful chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the ECO.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on assuming the chairmanship of the ECO for 2025 and wish the brotherly Kazakhstan every success in this regards.

Thank you for your kind attention.