

Good morning,

Dr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director of the Energy, Minerals and Environment of the ECO Secretariat and Chairman of the ECO Committee on Mines, Energy, and Environment, Dr. Nawaz Ahmed Virk, Director General of Minerals, Ministry of Energy, Pakistan.

Respected Representatives of ECO Member States, and Colleagues at the ECO Secretariat, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Energy in Pakistan for hosting the Ninth ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting.

As you are aware, the ECO Mining Committee has been instrumental in strengthening regional mineral cooperation, facilitating the implementation of various geological and mineral exploration projects. The Geological Survey of Iran, as the focal point of this committee, has organized one session for the heads of the geological surveys of ECO member states and five sessions for the mineral experts group. Through these meetings and the presentation of numerous projects aligned with the ECO Mining Committee, we emphasize the opportunities for member states to create a productive force for geologists and mining experts, and to share knowledge in addressing key challenges and increasing cooperation. Feasibility studies for the ECO Geosciences Database, the distribution map of minerals in the ECO member states, and the seismic hazard and risk map (ECO Sharp) are among the projects implemented by this survey within ECO.

Additionally, the projects to prepare the Environmental Quality Index Map of ECO member states and the Metadata Catalogue Service of the Member States are approved projects from previous meetings that are currently under review.

In this meeting, we intend to operationalize digital transformation and smartization tools in the field of mining and geology through the presentation of a new proposal titled "Practical Roadmap for Digital Transformation and Smartization of Geology and Mineral Exploration of the ECO Member States." We hope this meeting, like those in the past, will highlight the priorities and mineral and geological potentials of the ECO member states. Through the activities of the ECO Secretariat in the field of mineral materials, we aim to achieve sustainable and reliable socio-economic development in the ECO region.