



35th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)

ECO Work Programme 2025

*February 24-27, 2025
ECO Secretariat, Tehran*

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT		
1.	<p>The Council appreciated the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to organize and chair the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy preceded by the SOM on the side line of the Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Algeria on 19-22 May 2025, which could not be held in 2024.</p> <p>The Republic of Kazakhstan informed the Council that the matter is under consideration of relevant authorities and the details will be conveyed through diplomatic channel.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to initiate preparations for the meeting, and make high-level nominations once the meeting is announced.</p>	
2.	<p>The Council took note of the fact that the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) has not taken place for the last 14 years.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for their offer to host the 5th (ECO-MM on CFT) in Istanbul on June 25th, 2025 to be preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting to be held on 23rd - 24th June 2025 (Physical).</p>	
3.	<p>The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 9th <i>ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting (ECOTA CCM)</i>, successfully on July 30-31, 2024, with the participation of all ECOTA Contracting States, except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the report of the research study, titled “<i>Impediments in Implementation of ECO’s Trade Tools and Measures to Resolve</i>” is being updated in line with decisions of the 9th ECOTA CC. The final research report shall be circulated by May 15th 2025 with a view to seek the mandate of Ministers of Commerce and Foreign Trade to renegotiate ECOTA.</p> <p>The Secretariat further informed the Council of certain challenges faced during the collection of trade data for the successful execution of the research study. The study was initiated with data from all ECOTA Contracting States, except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan.</p>	

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	<p>The Secretariat reminded Member States to timely provide their views/comments to the comprehensive report, covering the updated research study, and the negotiation strategy/ roadmap to be presented by the Secretariat at the upcoming Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade June 25, 2025.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat and ECOTA Parties for following up and noting the importance of completing all legal and procedural requirements for the implementation of ECOTA.</p>	
4.	The Council recommended that other ECO Member States, not a party to the ECOTA and the ECO CCI could be invited to ECOTA Cooperation Council Meetings as observers.	
5.	<p>The Council recalled that the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) established two Joint Working Groups (JWGs) for the following:</p> <p>i) Establishment of <i>Joint Working Group</i> to finalize the draft “<i>Multi-Dimensional Regional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region</i>” (ECO-MDTIS) as well as an Action Plan defining the role, responsibilities and timeframe for launching promotional activities by the relevant organizations for the ultimate goal of creating a Free Trade Area in the ECO region. Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the 1st<i>Joint Working Group</i> Meeting on “<i>Multi-Dimensional Regional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region</i>” in 2025 before 5th ECO MM of CFT.</p> <p>ii) Establishment of a <i>Joint Working Group</i> for preparing a draft <i>ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy/Agreement aimed at simplification of Customs Procedures, harmonizing transit trade mechanisms and putting in place transparent customs regulatory regimes</i>.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the JWG on <i>ECO-MDTIS</i> could not be held since 2011, accordingly, its necessity shall be reviewed during the 5th ECO-MM on CFT.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the 1st<i>Joint Working Group</i> Meeting on “<i>Multi-Dimensional Regional Trade and Investment Strategy and Prospects of Establishing a Free Trade Area in the Region</i>” in 2025 before 5th ECO MM of CFT.</p> <p>The Secretariat further informed the Council that the JWG on ECO trade facilitation could not be held in 2024, since the Republic of Uzbekistan withdrew their offer to host the event.</p>	

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	<p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 2nd JWG on ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy/Agreement on April 29th, 2025 (Ankara), and requested Member States to share nominations for the said meeting to actively participate and pursue this important area.</p> <p>The Council further appreciated the offer of Republic of Uzbekistan to host the 3rd Meeting of Joint Working Group for Trade Facilitation Strategy/Agreement on May 10-11, 2025 (tentatively).</p>	
6.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the <i>1st Meeting of the Experts of Tax Administration</i>, on 26-28 May, 2014 in Tehran had finalized the following three draft documents on ECO Tax Cooperation, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Charter for Establishment of ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX); b) ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters; and c) Agreement on the Exchange of Information in Tax Matters, and <p>subsequently, the <i>Preliminary Discussion Meeting</i> on August 1, 2023 unanimously decided to drop out the two documents and decided to pursue only one document titled '<i>Draft Charter of the ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX)</i>', and appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Preliminary Consultative Meeting on June 11, 2024 where the <i>Draft Charter of the ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX)</i> was adopted.</p> <p>The Secretariat reminded the Council that the Republic of Uzbekistan offered to host the 2nd Meeting of Heads of Tax Administration in 2024, which could not be held subsequently.</p> <p>The Council invited Member States to host the 2nd Meeting of Heads of Tax Administration in 2025.</p>	
7.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the <i>6th Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC)</i> and the <i>10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA)</i> could not be held in 2024 as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regretted hosting the 6th ECCC meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat further briefed the Council that the <i>6th Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs</i></p>	

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	<p><i>Cooperation (ECCC) and the 10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) shall cover all customs related topics, including the Electronic Data Interchange, ECO Customs Smuggling Databank, and the latest status of “the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters” pending since 2017, etc.</i></p> <p>The Council appreciated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Republic of Türkiye for their offer to host an online Technical Consultative Meeting regarding “<i>the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters</i>” on March 12, 2025 and the 6th ECCC Meeting on April 30, 2025 (Hybrid), in Ankara, and - the Islamic Republic of Iran for their offer to host the 10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) on May 28 2025 (Physical), in Tehran <p>The Council also requested Member States to share nominations and actively participate in the said meetings since customs topics shall also be in the agenda of the 5th Ministerial Meeting Commerce and Foreign Trade (CFT).</p>	
8.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the training events that were offered to be hosted by the Republic of Türkiye and the Republic of Azerbaijan during the 34th RPC meeting could not be held in 2024 as agreed before.</p> <p>The Council invited ECO Member States to kindly share their positions to organize any experience-sharing or training events on matters of customs as well as e-commerce/paperless trade in 2025, through diplomatic channel.</p> <p>The Council requested Member States and the Secretariat to coordinate such events with the World Customs Organization, whenever possible, with a view to developing relations with the international bodies for better global visibility of the ECO.</p>	
9.	<p>The Council was informed that “<i>ECO Smuggling and the Customs Offences Data Bank</i>” under “<i>the Agreement on Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</i>”</p>	

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	<p>entered into force in December, 2017. Member States, signatory to the Agreement except Azerbaijan, were requested to kindly take the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to deposit the original version of the Instrument of Ratification with the ECO Secretariat; 2. The Republic of Tajikistan, being the only remaining signatory of the Agreement awaiting ratification, to share the Instrument of Ratification at the earliest. <p>In order to start full operation of the databank, the Council invited the Membership (the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) to notify to the ECO Secretariat the following information at the earliest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contact information of their authorized focal points, and b. IP addresses of computers that are to access relevant data, and c. The Republic of Türkiye to organize a technical online meeting agreed to be held in 2024, aimed at testing the current data bank infrastructure with the participation of volunteer Member States in 2025. <p>The Council stressed the non-signatory Member States, namely the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement at their earliest convenience.</p> <p>The Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Council that they will share their updated focal points and IP address soon.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of Republic of Türkiye for hosting a Consultative Technical Online Meeting for testing “<i>ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank</i>” in April 2025.</p>	
10.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that based on the recommendation of the study project titled “<i>ECO Regional Payment System (ERPS) Feasibility Study Phase-I</i>”, the following is awaited:</p>	

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	<p>1. Member States to make nominations of commercial banks to participate in RPS.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the <i>2nd Experts Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters of ECO and Forming ECO Clearing Union (ECU)</i> was virtually hosted by the ECO Secretariat on December 10, 2024, with the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Türkiye, and that the topic shall also be included in the agenda of the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that a questioner has been shared by the Secretariat with the Member States for their input to make an analysis of the issues in clearing union, for which response is awaited.</p> <p>The Council invited Member States to offer to host the 3rd Experts Group Meeting in 2025. The Council further appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize and host an online technical consultative meeting with the Asian Clearing Union in 2025. The I. R of Iran informed the Council that the date and time of the briefing with ACU will be shared through diplomatic channel.</p>	
11.	<p>The ECO Secretariat briefed the Council that the <i>Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI)</i> has come into force in 2022 after the deposit of the 4th Instrument of Ratification as per Article 12 of APPI. The Council urged the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to deposit original instrument of ratification with the Secretariat.</p> <p>The Secretariat apprised that the Republic of Azerbaijan is the only signatory awaiting ratification of the APPI. The Council asked the Republic of Azerbaijan to kindly make its utmost to complete the ratification procedures along with its Amendment Protocol at the earliest convenience.</p> <p>The Council also encouraged the non-signatory Member States, i.e. Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to consider signing/ratifying the Agreement.</p>	
12.	The Secretariat informed the Council that the “ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal” is	

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	<p>available on the main ECO Web-Site with the following address: "https://eco.int/eco-chamber-of-commerce-and-industry-eco-cci/". So far, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Uzbekistan have conveyed information to the Secretariat, in this regard. The Council requested the Member States to encourage their National Chambers to contribute to <i>the ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</i> and to keep sharing updated information periodically.</p> <p>The Secretariat emphasized the announcement of national focal points and designated focal points on Trade Facilitation, WTO, Tax, Banking, Capital Markets, E-Trade and Visa facilitation and update them periodically. The Republic of Türkiye kindly reminded the Secretariat to reflect their recently notified updates on the ECO Web-Site. Secretariat suggested that the Member States may nominate designated focal points to work with Secretariat.</p> <p>The Council requested all the Member States to share their updated information at the earliest, nominate designated focal points to work with Secretariat</p>	
13.	<p>The Council took note of the project titled, "<i>Study on Preparation of the Guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the Establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones</i>". The Secretariat informed the Council that detailed TORs for "<i>Study on Preparation of the Guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the Establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones (SEZs/FTZs) in the ECO Member States</i>" were prepared by the Secretariat and after updating them, shared with the Member States for their views/comments and proposals.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to share their comments/ proposals on the ToRs and tasked the Secretariat to follow-up for conducting the aforesaid study and share the outcome of the study with Member States for their views.</p> <p>The Secretariat further informed the Council that in the light of decisions of the <i>1st and 2nd Meetings of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States</i>, nominations for the <u>Permanent Standing Committee</u> and the <u>Joint Commission</u> of the FT/SEZs of the ECO Member States have been received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the I.R. of Iran, the I.R. of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Türkiye. The Republic of Uzbekistan shared nomination for the</p>	

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	<p>Standing Committee, only.</p> <p>The <i>3rd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States</i> could not be held in 2024. The Council requested the Member States to announce their offers to host the <i>3rd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of ECO Member States</i> in preferred mode in 2025 and complete the pending actions including providing of nominations to the mandated Committees.</p>	
14.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the draft report of the study titled “<i>Study on Preparation of the Road-Map for Formulating a Comprehensive Plan among the Sovereign and National Development Funds of Member States</i>” has been shared with the Member States for their views/comments. The views/comments were received from I.R of Iran and circulated among the membership. The comments from remaining Member States are awaited.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed that the <i>2nd Meeting of Heads of the SW/NDF</i> could not be hosted in 2024 by the Islamic Republic of Iran as agreed during 34th RPC.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of I.R of Iran to host the <i>2nd Meeting of Heads of the SW/NDF</i> in 4th quarter of 2025 (hybrid). The Council further requested the remaining Member States to share their comments on the report of the study.</p>	
15.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX)) had expressed its willingness for hosting <i>the First meeting of ECO Heads of Commodity Exchanges</i> on 28 May 2024, in virtual mode. However, it could not be held due to lack of quorum. Only Republic of Tajikistan sent its nominations to participate in the said event. The Secretariat further informed the Council that Islamic Republic of Pakistan was requested to announce new dates, mode, venue, etc. for the meeting in order to start due preparations.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of I. R of Pakistan to host the <i>First meeting of ECO Heads of Commodity Exchanges</i> in 2nd quarter of 2025 (virtual).</p>	
16.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the ‘Capacity Development Project for ECO Member States to Effectively Contribute to Standardization Activities at the National and International Levels’ was successfully completed on June 24-28, 2024.</p>	

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	<p>The Council approved the implementation of the following two small-sized project proposals on accreditation and sustainability in 2025, developed on a need-basis as identified by the conclusions of the standardization training in 2024, and recommended inviting the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECO Capacity Building Project on Train-The-Trainers Programme For ECO Member States on Accreditation Standards (USD9,360) 2. ECO Capacity Building Project on Train-The-Trainers Programme For ECO Member States on Sustainability Reporting Standards (USD9,600) 	
17.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Secretariat prepared a draft concept note to revitalize the 4th phase of the ECO-UNIDO Joint Trade Capacity Building Project on the Quality Infrastructure of ECO Member States, pending since 2017; and shared it with Member States, UNIDO and the ECO Trade and Development Bank. Views/Comments of Member States on the draft concept note are awaited by the Secretariat by the end of February 2025.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the work of the Secretariat on the draft concept note, and recommended the CPR to approve the allocation of seed funding for the project amounting to USD50,000 through the Secretariat funds, subject to the finalization of the concept note and UNIDO's decision to pledge any funding to the project.</p> <p>The Council encouraged the ECO Trade and Development Bank to reserve an appropriate funding to this project as well, since it is directly related to the expansion of intra-regional trade, as envisaged in the ECO Vision.</p>	
18.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the <i>4th ECO Trade Promotion Organization (ECO-TPOs) Forum could not be hosted in 2024</i>, by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as agreed during the 34th RPC Meeting.</p> <p>The Council requested Islamic Republic of Pakistan and other Member States to offer hosting <i>4th ECO Trade Promotion Organization (ECO-TPOs) Forum</i> in 2025.</p>	

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	<p>The Council stressed urgent actions to be taken by Member States to complete their internal approval procedures regarding the draft "Protocol on Organizing Joint Trade Promotional Activities", and inform the Secretariat.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host 4th <i>ECO Trade Promotion Organization (ECO-TPOs) Forum</i> in May 2025 before the 5th Ministerial Meeting on CFT.</p>	
19.	<p>The Secretariat, while recalling the decision of the 3rd <i>ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy</i> to set up an <i>ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPA) Forum</i>, apprised the Council that, 1st <i>Meeting of ECO-IPA of ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPA)</i> was held on December 26, 2016 in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Secretariat offered the hosting of 2nd <i>Meeting of ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum</i> in 2024 but no offer to host the meeting was received.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2nd <i>Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum</i> in 2025, Tehran, on the sideline of Meeting of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).</p>	
20.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that in the ECO region only two ECO Trade Fairs have been held so far, and as the Republic of Kazakhstan assumed the ECO Chairmanship for 2025, The Republic of Kazakhstan has been requested to host the 3rd <i>ECO Trade Fair in 2025</i>.</p> <p>The Council invited Republic of Kazakhstan to confirm their offer to host the third ECO Trade Fair in 2025.</p>	
21.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that Member States were requested to share the proposals with their national chambers to consider volunteering to host the Trade Exhibition in 2024, along with the proposed date and technical arrangements, but no response has been received.</p> <p>The Council invited Member States to consider hosting the event in 2025.</p>	

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22.	<p>The Council was informed by the Secretariat that the PIDE has submitted its 2nd milestone study report, which has been subsequently shared with Member States, however, no comments have been received from Member States yet. The Council requested Member States to give their views on the 2nd milestone report of the 2nd Phase of the PIDE study. The 3rd Milestone Report submitted by the PIDE was lacking updates on the data and PIDE was requested to update the report and resubmit for approval of the Secretariat, to which PIDE agreed. However, the updated report is awaited from the PIDE.</p> <p>The Council requested Member States to give their views/comments on the report of the second Phase (2nd milestone) of the PIDE study.</p> <p>In case no views/comments are received by the first quarter of 2025, the Council mandated the Secretariat to pay only for the completed part of the work done by the PIDE, as given in the contract, and subsequently close this project</p>	
23.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that presently six ECO Member States are party to the ECO TDB and the Secretariat has been encouraging the remaining four ECO Members States, i.e. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan& Turkmenistan to join.</p> <p>The Council requested the remaining Member States, who have not joined ECO-TDB, to join this important regional financial institution. The Secretariat informed the Council that some priority projects have been shared with the ECO TDB for project financing during 2025. The Council encouraged the ECO-TDB, as the affiliated body of ECO to continue to support the implementation of project in trade as the main priority area.</p>	
24.	<p>The Secretariat updated the Council that all the Contracting Parties to the ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC) have submitted their nominations for the Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Assembly (GA) of ERC.</p> <p>The Secretariat further informed the Council that the 273rdCPR, held on February 27, 2023 approved organizing of the 1st Meeting of the G.A preceded by 1stBoD Meeting of the ERC, as requested by the Parties to ERC. Moreover, the Secretariat has circulated the draft documents i.e. regulations for</p>	

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	<p>General Assembly & BoD, the recruitment policy, the financial & service rules etc., in 2025, prepared by ERC, for views/comments of the Stakeholders. Additionally, the Secretariat scheduled an online meeting between the State Bank of I.R of Pakistan (SBP) and Central Bank of I.R. of Iran (CBI) coupled with Central Insurance of Iran to finalize the transfer of full subscription of paid-in capital contribution by I.R of Iran. However, the meeting was postponed at the request of SBP. Islamic Republic of Iran encourages the Member States to expand reinsurance transactions and joint ventures through MoUs, technical training courses, inward/outward reinsurance contracts.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the Secretariat for their readiness to host the meetings and requested the parties to ERC to accelerate implementing the decisions of the Meeting in 2025, so that the ERC can be operationalized at an early date.</p> <p>The Council invited remaining Member States to consider joining this important ECO affiliated body for secure trade in the ECO region.</p>	
25.	<p>The Secretariat briefed the Council that the <i>1st Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities</i> was hosted by I.R of Pakistan in 2022. The Secretariat further informed that Islamic Republic of Iran announced the <i>2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in 2024</i>. However, the meeting could not be held despite scheduled twice, due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council appreciated Islamic Republic Iran to host <i>2nd Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in 3rd quarter of 2025</i> and requested the Membership to share their nominations.</p>	
26.	<p>The Council was reminded that considering the importance of investment promotion among the Member States of ECO Region, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed the Secretariat, to initiate cooperation with UNCTAD in preparing and publishing "<i>The Investment Policy Review (IPR) of the Member States of ECO Region</i>".</p> <p>The Council recommended the Secretariat to make a review note based on the information received by the ECO Secretariat so far, and based on the findings, consider initiating a fresh survey among ECO Member States.</p>	

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27.	<p>The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy in Tehran, the Republic of Tajikistan was designated as the coordinating country for ECO initiatives on investment.</p> <p>The Council appreciated Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the <i>4th ECO Investment Conference</i> in Tehran in 2025, on the sideline of Meeting of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), and requested the Member States to share their confirmation/nominations, at the earliest.</p>	
28.	<p>The Council appreciated Republic of Uzbekistan for organizing the <i>5th ECO Business Forum</i> on 8th November 2023, in Tashkent on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit, successfully.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Azerbaijan has been requested for hosting the 6th ECO Business Forum in July 2025, in Baku on the sidelines of the 17th ECO Summit.</p> <p>The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan to share the details of the event with the Secretariat, through diplomatic channel, at the earliest possible.</p>	
29.	<p>The Council took note of the fact that 20th General Assembly and 30th <i>Executive Committee & Specialized Committees Meetings</i> of ECO-CCI could not be held in 2023 and 2024 due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council requested I.R. of Pakistan (Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry) as President of ECO-CCI to organize the 20th General Assembly and 30th <i>Executive Committee & Specialized Committees Meetings</i>, at early dates in 2025 to make necessary decisions regarding pending action related to the ECO-CCI Secretariat.</p>	
30.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the 3rd meeting of the Technical Committee and Working Group of Experts on EDI could not regularly take place due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council recognized the silent procedure followed by the Secretariat to merge EDI topics under the agenda of ECCC meetings.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council approved the transferring the functions of Technical Committee and Working Group of Experts on EDI to the ECCC and CHCA meetings as of 2025.</p>	

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31.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that “<i>the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen</i>” has been signed by seven Member States and ratified by the five Member States, whereas, “<i>the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States</i>” has been signed by three countries and ratified by on I.R of Pakistan.</p> <p>The Council requested the remaining Member States to sign and ratify Agreement and additional Protocol for their early implementation.</p>	
32.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that in line with instruction of 267th CPR the Secretariat has been pursuing to hold a virtual meeting on visa facilitation for the businessmen including issuance of ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region for Greater Collaboration between the Business Communities. The meeting could not be held in 2024 due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to announce their nominations for the meeting and requested I.R of Iran as the coordinating country to offer to host the meeting in 2025.</p>	
33.	<p>The Secretariat informed the Council that during 15th ECO Summit (2021), the Republic of Uzbekistan initiated a proposal through a concept paper on ‘Establishment of a Centre for Trade, Investment, Innovation within the Framework of the ECO’, for which all ECO Member States shared their views/comments except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Uzbekistan was requested to provide a comprehensive clarification/presentation regarding the proposed Center, as also requested by the Republic of Türkiye and Turkmenistan, and the meeting was organized by the Secretariat in October 2024, however, the Republic of Uzbekistan requested the Secretariat to postpone the meeting to a future date.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council requested the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretariat to follow up this important initiative, through diplomatic channel.</p>	

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B. SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Strategies, Policies and General Guidelines:		
34.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 12 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport on 1-2 November 2023 in Tashkent and requested the Member States to prioritize implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the meeting in their national strategies.	
35.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 13 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport in the 2 nd quarter of 2025 (late May or early June) and requested the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for organizing the Meeting.	
36.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the 11 th Meeting of the Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and meetings of its Committees in 2025 and requested the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for organizing those meetings.	
37.	The Council underlined the importance of 2025 as announced the year of Advancing Regional Transport Connectivity and Sustainable Development under the chairmanship of the Republic Kazakhstan, and welcomed implementation of study projects on digitalizing transport and connectivity as valuable mechanism for sustainable development.	
38.	The Council reiterated that the Draft Concept Note for the establishment of ECO's Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent, initiated by the President of Uzbekistan during the 16th ECO Summit, has been circulated among Member States. Iran, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan have provided comments on the Draft Concept Note. Accession of Uzbekistan to TTFA is considered to be a pre-requisite for establishment of the proposed Center in Tashkent.	
39.	The Council requested the Republic of Uzbekistan to organize a meeting (in-person) to discuss the details and technical aspects of the Establishment of ECO's Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent with the participation of transport, customs and IT experts.	
40.	The Council underlined the importance of preparation of project proposals/concepts to be submitted and implemented according to the rules and regulations particularly the guiding principles on ECO projects (Functional Methodologies of ECO Projects) and financial regulations of the Organization.	

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I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK: TTFA		
Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)		
41.	The Council emphasized to expedite full implementation of the TTFA as a prerequisite for achieving the goals of ECO Vision and , called upon the Member States who have not acceded to the agreement to expedite their internal process for accession first of all to complete TTFA ratification process as well as depositing its “Instruments of Ratification” as early as possible to the Secretariat by Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.	
42.	The Council proposed the organization of a fund-raising forum by ECO-TDB in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat to mobilize funds through national and international financial institutions for the rehabilitation of existing railways and road links, as well as the construction of new railways.	
43.	The Council requested the parties to fully implement the provisions of the TTFA and in particular regarding Visa simplification and border crossing facilitation to enhance cooperation and facilitate transit transport and avoid any practice in breach of their commitments.	
44.	The Council requested the Member States to consider acceding to major international transport facilitation mechanisms and legal instruments, such as the e-TIR and e-CMR, Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP), Unified railway Law (URL) and other relevant conventions, and requested the Secretariat to explore possibility of implementing/organizing capacity building workshops in collaboration with the relevant international organizations in the mentioned areas. The Council also requested the Member States to actively participate in the ongoing negotiations for development of new international legal frameworks on transport cooperation.	
45.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for organizing workshops upon the request of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on ADR, ATA Carnets, Border Crossing Points modernization, Digital TACHOGRAPHS, TIR System and eTIR and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to organize a new workshop in 2025 for the interested Member States. The Secretariat was requested to explore possibility of conducting study on need assessment of the Member States for accession to the ADR and ATP Conventions.	
46.	The Council requested the Member States to consider providing their comments and proposals on the Draft “Modalities for Implementation of Article 7 of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	(TTFA)” suggested in June, 2023 by Iran and circulated by the Secretariat. The Council further recommended for holding an online meeting for discussion on the draft modalities.	
47.	The Council welcomed the establishment of the Multimodal Committee of TTCC, and proposal of Iran to host the 1st Meeting and requested the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements.	
II. RAILWAY TRANSPORT		
48.	The Council recommended obtaining “Standing Observer Status at the Ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation Committee of Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) by the Secretariat and requested the Council of Permanent Representative to support participation of the Secretariat in the relevant Meetings.	
Area Priority No. 1: Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI Railway)		
49.	The Council reiterated its urge to the Secretariat to conduct the study on creating an Economic Corridor along the KTI, and requested the CPR to consider allocation of the amount of \$10,000 for implementation of the study project and instruct the Secretariat to conduct in the second quarter of 2025.	
50.	The Council welcomed offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group of KTI (PWG-KTI) in April 2025 and requested the latter to provide exact date and details of hospitality of the meeting to enable the Secretariat to ensure proper arrangements.	
51.	The Council recommended that the 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group of KTI (PWG-KTI) consider the recommendations of the “Sub-Working Group” and the relevant Road Map for the Corridor.	
52.	The Council requested to consider organizing the 2 nd Meeting of the “Sub-Working Group for Commercialization of the KTI Corridor” in-person in 2025, involving public and private sectors, including freight forwarders, to finalize the roadmap and tariff rates.	
53.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to implement the Action Plan of the 1 st Meeting of the Sub-Working Group for commercialization of the KTI Corridor including, among others, establishment of relevant website and circulation of tariffs.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
54.	The Council requested en-route Member States to regularly submit their annual statistical reports on bilateral and transit operations of the corridor to enable monitoring of train service performance.	
Area priority No. 2: ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) route		
55.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite the construction and rehabilitation of the Taftan-Quetta segment of the ITI Railway Corridor and convey periodic progress reports to the Secretariat. The Council also requested Pakistan to include the Taftan-Quetta railway reconstruction in the C-PEC priority plans for development.	
56.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide the Secretariat their statistical annual report of the bilateral and transit operations in the corridor to enable monitoring the performance of the train services.	
57.	The Council requested the Member States to nominate more freight forwarders for fair competition and extend facilities to more businessmen in order to enhance the business in the corridor.	
58.	The Council requested the en-route countries to publicize the regular operation of the ITI Train among the business communities.	
59.	The Council requested Pakistan to inform, well in advance, about the dispatch of wagons, and Iran and Türkiye to secure the provision of necessary wagons at Zahedan Station. The Republic of Türkiye was also requested to mobilize cargo towards destinations in Pakistan.	
60.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 14th HLWGM in person in 2025, with participation from all public and private stakeholders. Further, the Council requested the Secretariat to finalize the exact date and other details in consultation with the host authorities.	
61.	The Council, as per the decisions of the 15th Heads of Railways Meeting, recommended that the en-route Member States consider multimodal railway transportation on the corridor and requested to enhance cooperation with relevant international organizations in this regard.	
62.	The Council, as per the decisions of the 15th Heads of Railways Meeting, requested the Secretariat to organize a railway transport forum for the commercialization of the ITI Corridor, involving freight forwarders and the business community in Istanbul to help revitalize the corridor.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
63.	The Council noted the project proposal titled as "Digital Modelling for Advanced Railroad Construction and Maintenance of the ECO Railways," utilizing a cost-effective mathematical methodology currently piloted at the KTI (Uzen-Bolashak section) and distributed at Quetta-Taftan and other sections of the ECO Railway and requested the Secretariat to prepare a bankable project document and circulate among the Member States for their comments and views, and the Council also requested the interested Member States to contribute to the implementation of the project.	
Area Priority No. 3: ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty routes		
64.	The Council requested the en-route countries to implement the Plan of Action endorsed during the 2nd HLWG and to submit their progress reports to the ECO Secretariat.	
65.	The Council requested the en-route countries to host the 3rd HLWG of the Corridor in conjunction with the next meetings of the "UNECE/ECO Coordination Committee on the Trans-Caspian and the Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridors" in 2025, and to consider inviting interested countries and organizations.	
66.	The Council requested the Secretariat to review the progress of the implementation of the 2023-2025 biennial programme of work of the "UNECE/ECO Coordination Committee on the Trans-Caspian and the Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridors" and if necessary, to consider adopting/signing new programme of work with the UNECE.	
67.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide the Secretariat with their statistical annual reports on bilateral and transit operations in the corridor to facilitate monitoring of train service performance.	
68.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to implement "Electronic Data Interchange" (EDI) among themselves and recommend that the Secretariat facilitate meetings and workshops in this regard.	
69.	The Council noted the importance of the project proposed by Kazakhstan titled "Study on Electronic Information Exchange among Railways and Customs of ECO Member States" and requested the Member States to consider and provide their comments and views on the concept.	
70.	The Council called on Member States to undertake necessary activities to attract additional cargo from China, as proposed by Kazakhstan, regarding the containers to be sent back to western China	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	by railroad.	
71.	The Council mandated the Secretariat to conduct a Workshop on the experiences of Kazakhstan in Altynkol-Khorgos Free Economic Zones (FEZs) development focusing on railway transportation opportunities, containers transportation management systems (including private CTMS), electronic commerce (payments) and prospects of "Trade House/Showroom" ECO-produced goods , and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to share their invaluable experience in this connection, and requested the Secretariat to approach IsDB and other regional and international partners for mobilizing necessary funds.	
72.	The Council recommended the MS to arrange field trips of ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry's members (including ICCIMA) under Kazakh side' invitation and self-financing starting the earliest after Novruz and Ramadan holidays in 2025.	
Area priority No. 4: Railway Project for the connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)		
73.	The Council recommended the MS to consider exploring interim solutions to involve technical entities in Afghanistan in the follow-up mechanisms of the Secretariat to facilitate and speed up regional cooperation on transport.	
74.	The Council encouraged the en-route countries of KTAI Railway to complete the "missing links" in their relevant segments, in line with recommendation-5 of the Turkmenbashi Declaration (3 May 2018).	
75.	The Council requested the en-route countries to consider re-structuring the project design into separate but easily workable segments, and provide their suggestions to the Secretariat in this regard.	
76.	The Council requested ECO-TDB, IsDB, ADB (CAREC Program) and AIIB to consider financing the feasibility study and construction of the missing links of the KTAI Corridor.	
Area Priority No. 5: Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran) route		
77.	The Council requested the Secretariat to start negotiations with ECO international partners, including	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	inter alia, UNESCAP, and IsDB for conducting a study project for commercialization of the Route.	
78.	The Council requested that the 6th HLWG Meeting on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) convened in 2025 in person.	
79.	The Council request the ECO-TDB to consider financing the missing link of the afore-mentioned corridor (Rasht - Astara).	
III. ROAD TRANSPORT		
Area Priority No.1: Development of ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan- Afghanistan- Iran (KTAI) and Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) routes		
80.	The Council highlighted the recommendations of 12th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport (1-2 November, Tashkent) regarding establishment of TIR Parks at Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and expansion of transit capacity of BCPs and mandated the Secretariat to conduct technical meetings in this regard.	
81.	The Council requested the en-route countries for immediate implementation of the Action Plan approved by the 4th and 5th HLWGMs on KTAI and ITI road corridors. The Action Plan will serve as a framework for systematic monitoring.	
82.	The Council requested the ITI en-route countries to remove the existing bottlenecks for facilitation of transit transport with the aim of providing an alternative route of connectivity between East and West.	
83.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 7th Meeting of the High Level Working Group on ITI Road Corridor during the 2 nd quarter of 2025 (in person) and instructed the Secretariat to coordinate with the host authorities for date(s) and hospitality details through diplomatic channel.	
84.	The Council welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 7 th Meeting of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC to discuss the establishment of a regional MVTPL insurance (White Card) scheme. The exact date and details of hospitality will be communicated in due course of time by the Iranian authorities.	
85.	The Council requested the en-route countries of ITI to expand the corridor to international destinations and markets towards Europe and China.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
86.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide their Statistical Annual Report of the bilateral and transit operations in the corridor to enable monitoring the performance of the train services, and took note of the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran requesting the Secretariat to consider possibility of establishment of Management Information System (MIS) to regularly update and monitor statistical data of transport in the region	
87.	The Council requested the en-route countries to facilitate the movement of trucks in their territory, avoid any disturbance and unnecessary practices and remove all the bottlenecks in the corridor to help enhance regional connectivity and economic integration.	
88.	The Council requested Iran to organize the First Technical Working Group Meeting on the expansion\restructuring of ITI BCPs and establishment of TIR green lanes to reduce waiting time of trucks.	
89.	The Council requested the ITI en-route countries to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the relevant Plan of Action and the 6th HLWGM on ITI Road Corridor.	
Area Priority No. 2		
New Multimodal Road Corridor Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (KTAP)		
90.	The Council mandated the Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility of establishing multimodal freight transportation along the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan route. The study should include an analysis of infrastructure readiness, logistics conditions, tariff policies, and potential freight flow, and requested the Secretariat to approach the regional and international partners for financing the project.	
91.	The Council called on the participating states to explore the prospects for developing a multimodal corridor along this route and to consider mechanisms for engaging the private sector and financial institutions in the project's implementation.	
92.	The Council recommended the development and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among interested Member States to further assess and advance the initiative for establishing a multimodal transport corridor along the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan route.	

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Area Priority No. 3 Development of ECO Road Corridors on Kyrgyz Republic-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran-Türkiye (KUTIT) and Tajikistan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran -Türkiye (TUTIT)		
93.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the “First Meeting of the High-Level Working Group on the “Tajikistan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Türkiye” (TUTIT) Multimodal Corridor” on September 21, 2023 in Dushanbe and welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan to host 2nd Meeting of the High-Level Working Group on 26-27 May 2025 in Dushanbe (in person). The hospitality details will be communicated to the Secretariat in due course of time.	
94.	The Council requested the en-route MS to consider inviting China for participation in the meetings of the HLWGs of the KUTIT and TUTIT corridors.	
95.	The Council requested the en-route Member States of TUTIT Multimodal Corridor to implement the recommendations and outcomes of the First Meeting of TUTIT Corridor.	
96.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide their Statistical Annual Report of the bilateral and transit operations in the corridors to enable monitoring the performance of the train services.	
97.	The Council requested the Kyrgyz Republic to consider organizing of the First Meeting of the High-Level Working Group on KUTIT Multimodal Corridor in 2025 (in person) and instructed the Secretariat to coordinate with the host authorities for date(s) and hospitality details.	
Area Priority No. 4 Facilitation of border crossing procedures		
98.	The Council highlighted the geopolitical developments in the world and encouraged the Member States to take serious measures to provide alternative options to the international community for East-West and North-South connectivity through improvement of infrastructure and simplification of transit procedures in their respective territories.	
99.	The Council requested the interested Member States and the Secretariat to expedite the conducting of the Study on operational assessment of the North-South International Transport Corridor, including on the eastern route of the Russia - Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran – India as per previous decisions based on the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan.	

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100.	The Council requested the en-route Member States for transit facilitations at all the borders and avoiding any practice of closure of the BCPs to secure the unhindered passage of trucks and drivers throughout the region and beyond.	
101.	The Council requested the Member States to establish 'TIR Green Lanes' along the main ECO transport routes. The Council also requested the Member States to keep the Secretariat informed of progress in this regard as well as any progress in customs improvements at their relevant border cross points (BCPs).	
102.	The Council requested the interested Member States to abolish road transport permits to foster regional trade growth. The Council also requested the interested Member States to consider suspending bilateral and transit permit system for a test phase of two years starting from 2025 till 2027 to examine costs and benefits of abolishment of permits in the region.	
103.	The Council supported the Member States to continue efforts to achieve the ultimate objective of abolishing bilateral and transit permit system as envisaged in TTFA and relevant documents. The Council also took note of the implementation of e-permit system between Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan, and the Republic of Türkiye invited the other interested Member States that still apply permit system to join the system.	
104.	The Council requested the Secretariat to approach the relevant international organization for their assistance in digitalizing the transit including through implementing eTIR and eCMR.	
105.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to organize the Workshop on Border Crossing Facilitation and TIR Green Lanes jointly with IRU, IsDB in Istanbul and requested the Republic of Türkiye to kindly provide local hospitality for the participants.	
106.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 9th Meeting of the Customs Committee of TTCC in 2025.	
107.	The Council requested the Secretariat to organize the Workshop on Border Crossing Facilitation and Best Practices back to back with the 9th Meeting of the Customs Committee of TTCC in 2025.	
108.	The Council requested the Secretariat to further institutionalize cooperation with the International Road Union (IRU) to speed up and enhance transit and transport facilitation in the ECO Region.	

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109.	The Council requested the en-route Member States to expedite their construction in the BCPs and remove any limitation in this respect.	
110.	The Council welcomed the proposal by the Republic of Türkiye to share experiences and knowledge regarding reconstruction and modernization of the BCPs with the Member States and requested the Secretariat to consider organizing a Capacity Building Workshop in this connection in collaboration with the Customs Administration of Türkiye.	
111.	The Council called upon MS to arrange test-runs of automobile transportation under TIR Carnet along China-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan/Turkmenistan-Iran route jointly with ECO CCI (ICCIMA) and Chinese side with ECO Secretariat in 2025 that will help in expediting signing of relevant agreements on permits by route countries (like what was done between Azerbaijan and China making the test-run before the agreement' conclusion).	
Area Priority No. 5 Project: Joint IDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems (GIS)		
112.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to finalize the negotiations with UNECE and IDB for the commencement of the next phases of the project including i) preparation of the list of priority investment projects; ii) preparing regional study on “Benchmarking transport construction and maintenance costs”; iii) preparing regional study on the “Establishment of multi-donor RCI financing facilities”.	
113.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to recruit technical staffs on temporary basis for cooperation with the project team and the member states to follow up the GIS project and assist in devising and implementing the 2nd phase of the project on temporary basis.	
114.	The Council requested the Member States to update their transport data on the ITIO GIs platform to provide the stakeholders proper use of the platform.	
115.	In pursuance of the decision of 12th Ministerial Meeting on Transport, the Council mandated the ECO Secretariat to establish GIS section under Transport & Communication Directorate (T&C) for mapping of regional connectivity networks in the fields of transport (road, rail, air and maritime) and other regional connectivity initiatives of the Organization.	

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Area Priority No. 6: ECO Visa Scheme for Drivers		
116.	The Council requested the interested Member States (except Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Türkiye) to consider acceding and implementing the Visa Pilot Scheme to help further facilitation of visa procedure for the drivers.	
117.	The Council requested the Member States to facilitate more in the Visa formalities and avoid unhelpful practices that disturb the smooth transit in the region.	
118.	The Council requested the Secretariat to organize the meeting of the Consular Officials of the Member States to discuss the latest developments and cooperation related to visa issues.	
Area Priority No.7: Public Private Partnership: ECO-TIR National Associations Consultative Group (ECO-TIRACG)		
119.	The Council requested the Secretariat to further institutionalize cooperation with the International Road Union (IRU) to speed up and enhance transit and transport facilitation in the ECO Region.	
120.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat and IRU for jointly functionalizing of the Group and organizing the First Meeting of the “Consultative Group of ECO TIR Issuing and Guaranteeing Associations” (ECO-TIRACG) and requested the ECO-TIRACG to participate in the relevant meetings to contribute in development of connectivity in the region.	
121.	The Council welcomed the offer of Chamber of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2nd Meeting of ECO TIR National Associations Consultative Group (ECO-TIRACG) in 2025 (in person).	
122.	The Council appreciated support for the candidacy of the Member States in TIR Executive Board and requested the Secretariat to continue consultations with the elected members of the TIR ExB on matters related to the transit transport affecting the region	
123.	The Council requested the Secretariat to approach IRU and IsDB or any other relevant international organization for their assistance in digitalizing the transit including through implementing eTIR and eCMR.	

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124.	The Council requested the Member States to accede to eTIR and eCMR protocols to speed up digitalization of transit in the region.	
125.	The Council requested the Secretariat to approach IRU to conduct a Study on promotion of TIR coverage of multimodal transportation in the ECO region.	
Area Priority No.8: Public Private Partnership: ECO Freight Forwarders Association		
126.	The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat for preparation and circulation of the Statute of the ECO Freight Forwarder Association, as mandated by the 12 th Ministerial Meeting on Transport and requested the Member States to host the First Meeting of the “ECO Freight Forwarders Association”.	
127.	The Council requested the Secretariat to expedite their views and comments on the Statue of the Association.	
IV.MARITIME COOPERATION		
Area Priority No. 1 Meeting of Heads of Maritime Organizations (HRMO)		
128.	The Council welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 7th Meeting of the HRMO in coordination with the ECO Secretariat.	
129.	The Council recommended organizing capacity building in various areas of the maritime industry and in particular the safety packing and handling of containers.	
130.	The Council requested the Member States to collaborate on facilitating access of each other to the dry and sea ports and the neighboring countries.	
131.	The Council welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allocate land plots in Chahbahar to the ECO Member States for establishment of logistic centres and re-exporting facilities.	
Area Priority No. 2 “Establishment of a RO- RO Cooperation in the Caspian Sea		
132.	The Council welcomed the proposal of establishment a committee for enhanced cooperation on the promotion of Ro-Ro services in the Caspian Sea by the pre-coastal states, and requested the	

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	Member States to participate in this arrangement.	
Area Priority No. 3 “Establishment of a common gateway among ECO countries – ECO Gate”		
133.	The Council appreciated the Member States for participating in the 1st Meeting (11.02.2025) to discuss the draft study and for their remarks/comments/proposals/views on the study.	
134.	The Council requested the Member States to actively participate in the 2nd validation meeting also to be held in April/May 2025, during which the draft study is expected to be finalized.	
135.	The Council stressed on further attention of the study on facilitated access to the maritime ports of the region including logistics of Caspian Sea Ports.	
V. CIVIL AVIATION		
Area Priority No.1 ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation:		
136.	The Council requested the Member States to provide their detailed proposals on cooperation in Civil Aviation to the Secretariat.	
137.	The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with their proposals and requirements with regards to capacity building programs on civil aviation in 2025.	
138.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to do necessary coordination for holding the 4th Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (WGCA) in 2025.	
Area Priority No.2 Development of ECO Air Hubs		
139.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Uzbekistan to provide in collaboration with the Secretariat the Member States with the strategy, road map and marketing plans for enhancement of the said airports to serve as regional air hubs. The Council also supported the proposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hire international consultant in order to prepare necessary roadmap for the Airport Gabala and Samarkand.	
140.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Uzbekistan to consider preferential treatments for the officials of the Member States through installing special entry gates at the said Air	

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	Hubs.	
141.	The Council recommended the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Uzbekistan to host the First High Level Meeting of Private Airlines of the ECO Region in the designated ECO Air Hubs.	
VI. “ESTABLISHING OF ECO TRANSPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD”		
142.	The Council proposed to the ECO – CCI, other potential candidates and the Member States to consider organizing Award Ceremony on the sidelines of the transport ministerial meetings holding the Meeting for discussion the future steps of organizing of the “ECO Transport Excellence Award”.	
VII. COMMUNICATIONS (ICT)		
143.	The Council requested the Member States to consider organizing the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 2025.	
144.	The Council requested the MS to implement the decisions which has been taken during the virtual meeting of the “ECO High Level Working Group ICT Regulatory Authorities” held on 21 October 2024.	
145.	The Council requested the MS to consider hosting the 2nd meeting of the “ECO High Level Working Group ICT Regulatory Authorities” in 2025 (in-person).	
146.	The Council requested the Member States for hosting the 3 rd Meeting of ECO-ICT Working Group to discuss cooperation on cyber security in ECO region as well as implementation of “2025 ECO Regional Strategy for Information Society Development”..	
147.	The Council requested ECO Secretariat to enhance and continue the cooperation with ITU to seek institutional guidance and any new possible project to be implemented in 2025.	
148.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to establish a fiber optics line along the KTI Corridor and requested the en-route countries to provide their comments and views on the proposal.	
149.	The Council requested the Secretariat to continue organizing technical and scientific capacity building and training courses of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Artificial Intelligence.	
150.	The Council requested the Secretariat to continue arranging technical meetings on cooperation, among others, on space technology, artificial intelligence, data transit, CERTs cooperation, emerging technologies, establishment of cybersecurity and e-Government committees and Startups.	

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151.	The Council requested the Secretariat in consultation with the Member States to consider formulating new ICT Document/Strategy beyond 2025 through a relevant study, the findings of which could serve as a foundation for the document. The Council further requested the Secretariat, based on previous experience, to consider conducting this study jointly with the ITU.	
152.	The Council requested the MS to provide their progress report on the implementation of “2025 ECO Regional Strategy for Information Society Development” and its Action Plan, which is vital for formulating a new ICT document.	
Cooperation with Regional and International Organizations		
153.	The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in strengthening cooperation with Regional/International Organizations, including IsDB, UNECE, UNESCAP, IRU, UIC, OSJD, ITU, AIIB, OTIF, CAREC/ADB and others, to seek expertise and financial/technical assistance for advancing ECO’s mandated projects and, in that regard, the Council encouraged the Secretariat to keep continue such efforts.	
154.	In view of ongoing cooperation and the prospective cooperation, the Council requested the Secretariat to institutionalize cooperation with the interested international organizations\agencies\unions in order to enhance transit transport and communication cooperation in the region.	
C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
ENERGY		
General Provisions		
155.	The Council acknowledged that the cascading global crises have highlighted and exacerbated multiple energy and environment-related challenges in the ECO Region. The Council thus re-emphasized that the integrated and cross-sectoral nature of energy, minerals, and environment sectors necessitates a regional response to keep pace with rapidly evolving global developments, address challenges, and reinforce action among countries.	
156.	The Council highlighted the significance of funding mechanisms and resource mobilization strategies, and called in this regard for adequate means of implementation, particularly scaling up predictable,	

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	sustainable, and sufficient finance for regional sustainable energy and environmental projects and initiatives. In this context, the Council emphasized the importance of securing financial resources by the Member States as a sign of regional ownership and a foundation for leveraging international financial resources, taking into account that many international cooperation initiatives require co-financing.	
157.	In view of the evaluation of “ECO Vision 2025”, the Council recognized the positive progress in some activities and projects, which may lead to the accomplishment of certain energy and environment-related objectives and expected outcomes set in “ECO Vision 2025”. The Council thus reiterated the importance of regular dialogue and proactive engagement of the Member States in enhancement of regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access, trade, investment, technologies and connectivity.	
158.	The Council recognized and appreciated the steady efforts for mainstreaming the sustainable energy and regional electricity market in the overall energy agenda of ECO in pursuance of “ECO Vision 2025” and “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan, as well as the recent global and regional energy trends and developments. This regional focus was manifested in advancement of two major energy projects of ECO, namely the Establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) and Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) in the course of 2024.	
159.	The Council called upon the Member States and ECO Secretariat to jointly implement the Work Programme for 2025 as follows:	
Priority area 1: Implementation of “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan, as well as the decisions of 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting		
160.	The Council resolved to bold, ambitious and accelerated action to realize the “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” in the six years leading up to 2030.	
161.	The Council invited all Member States to regularly monitor and oversee the implementation of “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan, and leverage its elements in their relevant	

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	national development agenda and policies. The Council requested the Member States to designate their national focal points for coordination and overseeing of its in-country components.	
162.	The Council called on the Member States to put forward new proposals/initiatives on issues of interest for them driven by the Action Plan of “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030”, which will contribute to its effective implementation.	
163.	The Council requested the volunteer Member States to host the 5 th Energy Ministerial Meeting in 2025 and transmit its date(s) and modality of hospitality. The Council also encouraged the Member States to convey their ideas/proposals/recommendations for the stocktaking and enriching the agenda of the subject meeting.	
Priority area 2: Sustainable Energy Transition and Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre		
164.	The Council welcomed the “Soft Launch Event of the Clean Energy Centre for the ECO region” on 15 November 2024, jointly organized by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ECO Secretariat and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the sidelines of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29 of UNFCCC) in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.	
165.	The Council called for more active engagement of the Member States in operationalization process of the ECO Clean Energy Centre, particularly in terms of speeding up regulatory procedures, and rendering political, financial and technical support for successful and soonest launching of the Operational Phase of the Project.	
166.	While welcoming the signing of the Charter of the ECO Clean Energy Centre by the Republic of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the course of 2024, and the ratification of the Charter by the Republic of Azerbaijan in February 2025, the Council called upon the Member States that have signed the Charter to finalize the ratification procedure in the first half of 2025 for the earliest operationalization of the Centre. The Council invited other Member States that have not yet signed the Charter to sign it at their earliest convenience.	

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167.	Expressing concerns on ongoing financing gaps, notably the global decline of international public financial flows in support of clean energy in low- and middle-income countries and its unequal distribution globally, the Council underscored the need to mobilize financial resources for the operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Centre with seed funding. The Council thus called for scaling up financial commitments through enhanced development cooperation from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral with international development partners of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) taking the lead.	
168.	The Council acclaimed the uptake of potential project proposals built on success stories across the globe for possible replication in the ECO Region and subsequent implementation by the ECO Clean Energy Centre. The Council further called upon the Member States (other than Azerbaijan, Iran and Türkiye) to expedite their replies for the identification of priority projects to lay the ground for the programmatic activities of the Centre.	
169.	The Council took note that the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the host country of the ECO Clean Energy Centre will soon present a new nomination for the position of Interim Director of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.	
170.	The Council invited the volunteer Member States to host the 5 th Meeting of ECO Experts Group on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources (EGEERES) in 2025. The Council encouraged the Member States to be proactively involved in the EGEERES to address their regional cooperation agenda for mainstreaming sustainable energy transition to the cleaner sources.	
171.	The Council resolved to enhance international cooperation to contribute to ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030 through sustained investments, advancing research and development, and promoting investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies.	
Priority area 3: Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)		
172.	The Council noted with high appreciation the strong support of ESCAP in launching and	

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	implementing the Feasibility Study of the Project on the establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) through its dedicated project “Energy Connectivity for Sustainable Development”, kicked off in January 2024, which covers all 10 ECO Member States.	
173.	While the subject ESCAP project delivered a draft roadmap for peer review with a set of targeted, actionable recommendations for policy and regulatory reforms that would enable the establishment of multilateral, multi-directional power trading at sub-regional levels, the Council resolved to finalize consideration of the draft roadmap in the first quarter of 2025. The Council thus requested the Member States to expedite providing their views and comments, if any, on the draft Roadmap by 15 March 2025.	
174.	The Council called upon the Member States to keep up the momentum of cooperation within the Project on establishment of ECO-REM and provide their utmost support for its successful advancement in 2025.	
175.	Driven by the outcomes and recommendations of the subject ESCAP project, the Council called upon the Member States and the Secretariat to further re-consider the ways and means of implementation of the ECO-REM, including revisiting the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for its Feasibility Study. Taking note that the views and comments were received from Azerbaijan and Iran, the Council thus requested other Member States to expedite providing their views and comments, if any, on the subject draft ToR by 15 April 2025.	
176.	The Council welcomed the idea of the 2 nd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM to create the Task Force on establishment of ECO-REM at the technical level and called upon the Member States to be actively engaged in proceedings of the relevant Task Force. The Task Force meetings will be organized by the Secretariat or a volunteer Member State regularly in virtual mode in 2025 bringing together the technical experts and paving the way for identification of next steps for launching ECO-REM.	
177.	The Council requested any volunteer Member State to consider hosting the 3 rd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM in the second half of 2025.	

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178.	The Council acclaimed the steady efforts and interaction of ECO with ESCAP for advancement of the ECO-REM Project and tasked the Secretariat to continue exploring best international practices towards establishment of regional electricity markets through cooperation with international development partners.	
<i>Other priorities/ activities on energy</i>		
179.	The Council invited the relevant authorities of I.R. Iran to confirm the readiness to host the 1 st Meeting on Establishment of Refinery Association in the ECO Region in 2025.	
180.	The Council encouraged the Member States to share their needs and interests, and consider the coherent and meaningful activities that may contribute to the advancement of ECO agenda in upstream, midstream and downstream sectors.	
181.	The Council requested the Secretariat to pursue the partnerships and engagements with the UN agencies, Energy Charter, IRENA, IsDB and other interested regional and international organizations in the relevant fields in consultation with the Member States and setting out further roadmap for proceeding on it.	
182.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to take part in the relevant events of the abovementioned organizations and other interested partners on a reciprocal basis with a view to promote cooperation, get the support for implementation of “ECO Vision 2025” and “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan, as well as raise the visibility and outreach of ECO.	
183.	The Council underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in energy and environment cooperation by improving the science-policy interface and engaging with the private sector.	
C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
MINERALS		
<i>Priority Area: Streamlining the project-oriented cooperation in the field of minerals</i>		
184.	The Council reiterated that the minerals sector represents an engine for greater economic growth	

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	and social welfare in the ECO region playing a supporting role towards achieving the ECO Vision 2025, and that ECO Region represents a major current and future demand centre for minerals production.	
185.	The Council called on the Member States to take advantage of the growing demand in minerals and new commodity markets in view of the long-term forecasts of an increase in both traditional and new applications of minerals. In this vein, the Council underscored the need for the ECO region in enhancement of resilient, competitive and sustainable value chains for critical raw materials, as well as circularity, resource-efficiency and risk mitigation in minerals sector.	
186.	The Council emphasized the importance of synergies in cross-cutting and emerging issues in response to global mineral and mining industry opportunities and challenges, notably from clean energy transition, low carbon economies, resource-efficiency and circularity, digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the overall thrust towards sustainable development and green growth.	
187.	The Council underscored with appreciation the outcomes of the 9 th Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM), held on 12 th February 2025 in hybrid mode and chaired by I.R. Pakistan, which provided a timely opportunity for stocktaking and advancement of ECO's comprehensive regional agenda in the mineral sector. In this context, the Council took note of streamlining the remarkable project proposals in minerals and the need in adoption of the "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030" as the first ever long-term overarching cooperation framework document of ECO in the minerals sector. The Council also noted the proposals on the establishment of ECO Mineral Resources Center in Pakistan and on setting up a dedicated ECO platform of heads of minerals authorities put forward at the 9 th MEGM. The Council thus called upon the Member States to consider the proposals made at the 9 th MEGM, and share their respective views and comments.	
188.	The Council encouraged the Member States to host the 10 th Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM) in 2025, as proposed during 9 th MEGM to keep the cooperation in minerals intact.	
189.	The Council recommended that the project proposal "Preparation of the ECO-Environmental Quality	

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	Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI)” could be launched with the understanding of all ECO Member States’ firm support. To this end, the Council took note that the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) may consider co-financing of the subject project proposal from ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) upon allocation of the pledged budget by the Islamic Republic of Iran as its initiator country. The Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) renews its willingness to launch ECO-EQI project and requests the ECO Secretariat to facilitate this process.	
190.	The Council recalled the initiative of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) to implement the project “World is our home”, which aims to create digital learning materials for nature sciences and geological heritage, provide with interactive engaging resources, and thus requested ECOEI to provide the detailed information on the subject project and ECO’s possible engagement.	
191.	The Council called upon the Member States and the Secretariat to identify renewed mechanisms and solutions for enhancement of regional cooperation in the minerals sector with the strong focus on just, resource-efficient and sustainable transition.	
Other activities/capacity-building efforts		
192.	The Council invited the Member States to consider hosting the 3 rd Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations and encouraged them to actively participate and enrich the agenda of the subject meeting by providing project-oriented regional cooperation proposals. The National Cartographic Centre of Iran (NCC) proposed to organize the subject meeting on 4 th November 2025 in hybrid format.	
193.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4 th Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee on 16 th September 2025 in hybrid format, which will aim at exploring the project-oriented opportunities in regional cooperation on geomatics.	
194.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the technical meeting titled “Laying the Groundwork for the Implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) in the ECO Member Countries” on 24 th June 2025 in virtual mode. The Council encouraged	

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	other Member States to convene capacity building events on pertinent topics, namely Spatial Data Infrastructure; Scientific GNSS Data Processing; Local Geodetic Datum; Regional Deformation Study of the Earth; Orthophoto Generation; Cadastral and Cartographic Maps and Atlas, in accordance with the outcomes of the 3 rd Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee.	
C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
ENVIRONMENT		
General Provisions		
195.	The Council echoed a single stark truth that environmental degradation and climate change threaten our very existence, reiterated that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an urgent priority for the ECO Member States demanding relentless action and regional cooperation.	
196.	The Council reiterated the importance of integrating and mainstreaming the environment into decision-making at every level including policies, strategies, plans, programs, and budgets. The Council also called for reducing harmful incentives and scaling up positive encouragements for the environment by all the Member States.	
197.	The Council emphasized the significance of the commitment to an integrated and coordinated approach to tackle in the ECO region the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and pollution in combination, for which we need circular economy solutions and material recovery. This approach will help to decouple economic activity from the overconsumption of finite resources, reduce systematic leakage and negative externalities, and could be a game changer for the green transition in the ECO region and beyond. In such a context, the Council highlighted the importance of revisiting our consumption and production patterns, including by transitioning to sustainable economic and business models, bolstering national and regional zero-waste initiatives, and building scientific, technological, and innovation capacity.	
198.	The Council commended the Republic of Azerbaijan on the successful organization of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29 of UNFCCC) in Baku, and noted with	

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	appreciation the proactive involvement of the ECO Member States and ECO Secretariat in its proceedings.	
199.	The Council welcomed convening the Ministerial Meeting on Circular Economy “Empowering Interregional Partnerships for Circular Economy Transition: Towards a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Future via Resource-Efficiency” on the margins of COP29 on 16 November 2024, co-organized by the ECO Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the COP29 Presidency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, represented by the Ministry of Economy. The Council acclaimed in this regard the launching of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE) through the Joint Statement, as well as the “Joint Declaration on Baku Resource Efficiency and Circularity Agenda” as the outcome documents of the subject meeting.	
200.	The Council also recalled the 28 th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held in Mashhad on 3 December 2024, during which the RESCUE Initiative was welcomed, and urged the Member States to actively engage in collaborative efforts to translate this Initiative into tangible actions, and the joint activities to be undertaken. These endeavours will particularly encompass the initiation and development of a project with the support of the relevant stakeholders on the preparation of a robust needs assessment report of the ECO region for a just transition to a resource-efficient and circular economy. Furthermore, the reflection of the significance of a just transition to a resource-efficient and circular economy and more sustainable management of natural resources in key strategic and vision documents of ECO will be provided.	
201.	The Council called upon the Member States to seek synergy solutions to address environmental issues, and in this respect invited them to take further ownership and expedite hosting the formerly pledged and new ECO meetings on the environment, particularly the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the first meeting of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation in the ECO Region. These meetings are necessary for addressing the regional and global environmental challenges, and streamlining the ECO ecological agenda.	

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202.	The Council welcomed the readiness of the Republic of Uzbekistan to convene the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Samarkand in November 2025 on the margin of the 20 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Council called upon the Member States to proactively participate in this meeting.	
<i>Priority Area 1: Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming in the ECO Region /ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment</i>		
203.	The Council noted the necessity of combined efforts in achieving effective regional adaptation to climate change through building climate resilience and expressed concern about the growing gap between the needs of developing countries, in particular those due to the increasing impacts of climate change, and the support provided and mobilized for their efforts to implement their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).The Council underscored that international climate financing must be made more equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries and regional stakeholders such as the ECO, to broaden and strengthen developing countries' voices and participation in international decision-making.	
204.	The Council welcomed, in this regard, the decisions adopted at the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, most notably the decisions on setting a new collective quantified goal of at least 300 billion dollars per year for developing countries and unlocking international carbon markets.	
205.	The Council re-emphasized the significance of an overarching document for environmental cooperation in the ECO region and invited the Member States to adopt during the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in the Republic of Uzbekistan in November 2025, the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2025-2030) and its two annexes – the Work Plan on Climate Change, and the Work Plan on Biodiversity as the revised version of the “Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming in the ECO Region”. The Council also invited Member States to suggest their proposed activities, events, and meetings to be incorporated into the	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	related calendar of events.	
206.	The Council highlighted the importance of the exchange of trusted and reliable environmental data among the Member States as a requisite for evidence-based decision-making and exploring regional cooperation opportunities on the environment. The Council therefore encouraged the Member States to submit their environmental National Progress Reports (NPRs) to the Secretariat during the first quarter of each calendar year.	
Priority Area 2: Combating Land Degradation with the special emphasis on Sand and Dust Storms in the Region		
207.	The Council reiterated the importance of combating desertification, sand, and dust storms in the ECO Region which should be seen as an integral part of climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of biodiversity, and land degradation management strategies. In this context, the Council highlighted the establishment of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation in the ECO Region on the proposal by the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 26 th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting. The Council also recalled that the first meeting of the subject Platform was due to be hosted by Uzbekistan to develop a strategy/roadmap to combat sand and dust storms as a serious problem.	
208.	The Council recalled the Member States of the need to host a meeting to elaborate on ways and means of advancement of the ECO LandCare as a collaborative programme by the ECO Member States to combat land degradation and desertification.	
209.	The Council took note of the project proposal titled “Capacity Building on Desertification, Land Degradation, and Erosion Monitoring System in the ECO Region” developed by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye. The Council, in this regard, requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with their views and comments on this proposal at the earliest and proactively engage in the way forward.	
Priority Area 3: Addressing serious threats to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems in the ECO Region		
210.	The Council emphasized the significance of an overarching document for biodiversity cooperation in	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	the ECO region and invited the Member States during the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2025 to adopt the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2025-2030) and its annex, the Work Plan on Biodiversity. The Council also invited Member States to suggest their proposed activities, events, and meetings to be incorporated into the related calendar of events.	
211.	The Council invited the Member States to actively prepare the ground for collective biodiversity-related action and cooperation in the ECO region through organizing and attending meetings and events on biodiversity in the region.	
Priority Area 4: Cooperation with the environment-related international organizations/entities/instruments		
212.	The Council commended the ECO Secretariat's efforts and interaction in bolstering the steadfast partnerships of ECO with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on environmental issues in 2024.	
213.	The Council took note of the engagements with international development partners in seeking their support in RESCUE as a cross-sectoral initiative and recommended the Secretariat to continue substantive consultations with multilateral environmental entities to explore ways and means for promoting the implementation of this Initiative and enhancing environmental collaboration and climate action in the region. In this context, the Council welcomed the ECO Secretariat's engagement with UNIDO in organizing the online Accelerator Session on "The RESCUE Initiative in the ECO Region: Goals, Opportunities and Challenges" on 15 May 2025 during the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2025).	
214.	The Council called upon the Member States to demonstrate stronger political will and further investment in regional cooperation on environmental issues which is a requisite for a more positive and welcoming approach by the multilateral environmental entities towards further collaboration with the ECO Secretariat and region as a strong-willed entity in this respect.	

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215.	The Council invited the Member States to consider the opportunity of key policy-making events of the international development partners, such as the twenty-first session of the UNIDO General Conference and the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in late 2025 as milestones to promote the implementation of RESCUE and transition to a circular economy in our region through possible initiatives including tabling and sponsoring a draft resolution on this matter.	
216.	The Council welcomed the ECO Secretariat's efforts and interaction with the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) to further enhance cooperation with this entity for soliciting technical and financial support and enhancing its visibility in forest-related issues, particularly through contribution to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) guidelines in order to make intergovernmental regional and sub-regional organizations as ECO eligible to receive GFFFN support.	
D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY		
AGRICULTURE		
Priority Area-1: Food Security and Implementation of the ECO-RPFS		
217.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for its proposal to host the 8 th ECO Ministerial Meeting in September 2025 on Agriculture and its preceding 7 th High Level Experts Meeting, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of these consecutive meetings and urged Member States to actively participate at the highest possible level.	
218.	The Council requested the ECO-RCCFS to submit a report to the ECO Secretariat on the progress of the project titled "Transformation of the ECO Regional Coordination Center for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) from a programme-based organization to a self-sustainable institution of ECO", to be presented at the 8 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture.	
219.	The Council requested the ECO-RCCFS to develop, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat, concrete project proposals and mobilize external financial resources for implementing the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) to promote coordination and synergy in regional food security efforts through technical cooperation, institutional capacity development, and	

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	technology transfer.	
220.	The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Türkiye for its offer to host the 5 th Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCCFS for the implementation of the ECO-RPFS in 2025, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the meeting in due course and invited Member States to collaborate on the implementation of the ECO-RPFS.	
221.	The Council urged Member States to update and enrich the ECO-RCCFS website content (www.ecorccfs.org), by providing their relevant inputs, such as best practices and achievements related to food security and agriculture, with a view to establishing a comprehensive knowledge portal to address food security challenges in the region.	
Priority Area-2: Strengthening Seed Supply in the ECO Region		
222.	The Council, while appreciating the preparation of the ECO Regional Seed Agreement as an outcome of the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the Region, and noting feedback already received from Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, requested the remaining Member States to expedite their feedback on the Agreement.	
223.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Kazakhstan and ECOSA for jointly organizing the 8 th International Seed Trade Conference in Taraz, Kazakhstan, on 20-21 March 2024.	
224.	The Council invited Member States to express their interest to host the 9 th ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and requested the interested Member State(s) provide the precise dates and details of the event.	
225.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye and ECOSA for organizing the plant breeding training program in Ankara from 27 to 31 January 2025, and encouraged Member States to actively collaborate on regional initiatives relating to the strengthening of seed supply in the region.	
226.	The Council, while noting the nominations received from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, requested the remaining Member States to submit their nominations for the formation of the ECOSA Advisory Board.	
227.	The Council, noting the Republic of Türkiye's project initiative, "Improving Cooperation in the Seed Sector in Asia and Caucasus Region", requested the submission of its concept paper and encouraged Member States to cooperate in the project's further development and utilization of its	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	outcomes.	
Priority Area-3: Cooperation on Animal Trade and Veterinary Services		
228.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for its proposal to host the 4 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations in the 4th quarter of 2025, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the event and further invited Member States to actively participate therein.	
229.	The Council, taking note of the ratification of the ECO-VECO Statute by Afghanistan and Iran, urged the remaining Member States to consider signing and ratifying the Statute.	
230.	The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the 3 rd Technical Committee Meeting for the implementation of the ECO-VECO Work Plan on the priority activities for the period 2024-2028, welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to virtually organize the 4 th Technical Committee in 2025, and agreed to deal with the following items proposed by Islamic Republic of Iran under relevant agenda item of the 4 th Technical Committee Meeting: I. Lab Standards, II. Slaughter Houses Standards, and III. Quarantine and Traceability of Animal.	
231.	The Council recommended Member States and ECO-VECO to implement, in close consultation with the ECO Secretariat, the outcomes of the small-sized project titled "Establishment of standardized ECO Network of slaughter houses and reference laboratories" to facilitate trans-boundary trading of livestock and livestock products.	
Priority Area-4: Water Management		
232.	The Council urged the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite the establishment process of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA) and submit a progress report to the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels.	
233.	The Council, while acknowledging the nominations of national focal points received from Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, requested the remaining Member States to nominate their national focal points and collaborate in establishing a network among their relevant institutions to facilitate the establishment of the ECO-CEEWUA.	
Priority Area 5: Cooperation on Meteorological Issues		

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234.	The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Türkiye for its offer to host the 4 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in 2025, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the meeting and urged Member States to actively participate therein.	
235.	The Council, while noting the comments received from Pakistan and Tajikistan, requested the remaining Member States to submit their comments and observations on the draft Statute of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) for its finalization.	
Priority Area-6: Agricultural Bio-technology Network		
236.	The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their readiness to host the 3 rd Expert Group Meeting of the ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network (ECO-ABN) in the 2 nd quarter of 2025.	
237.	The Council requested the ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network to regularly update its website and to strengthen its engagement with Member States and relevant international networks and organizations through enhanced activities and communication.	
238.	The Council requested Member States to contribute to the ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network by sharing their relevant information, studies, inputs, experiences, and best practices, and by providing their country reports and periodic updates on agricultural biotechnology developments.	
Priority Area-7: Relations with Regional and International Organizations		
239.	The Secretariat informed the Council that it has maintained regular interactions with key international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN World Food Programme, the UN Food System Summits, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), for the purposes of identifying and developing strategic partnerships, securing financial and technical support for ECO projects and initiatives, and expanding ECO's outreach and visibility.	
240.	The Council requested the Secretariat to pursue cooperation and engagement with the aforementioned organizations and other interested partners in relevant fields and to develop, in close consultation with Member States, a detailed roadmap for future action.	
241.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to invite representatives of the aforementioned organizations and other interested partners to relevant ECO events with a view to enhancing	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	cooperation in the implementation of ECO Vision 2025.	
242.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and IOFS and requested Member States to extend their support and cooperation in this regard.	
243.	The Council emphasized the need for enhanced resource mobilization efforts by the Secretariat, including engagement with relevant international and regional organizations through communication, meetings, and visits, to support ECO agricultural projects and activities.	
D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY		
INDUSTRY		
Priority Area-1: Policy Makers Cooperation on Industry		
244.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for its offer to host the 3 rd High Level Expert Group Meeting on Industry, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the event and urged Member States to actively participate therein.	
245.	The Council reiterated its invitation to interested Member States to consider hosting the 4 th Ministerial Meeting on Industry, as referenced in the Shusha Declaration adopted at the 27 th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) in Shusha, Azerbaijan, on 10 October 2023, and to inform the Secretariat of the proposed dates and pertinent logistical details.	
246.	The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Uzbekistan for its proposal to host the First Interregional Industrial Exhibition of ECO, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the event and invited Member States to actively participate therein.	
247.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for convening the virtual workshop concerning “Green Transformation of Industry and SMEs” on 10 September 2024, with the active participation of Member States.	
248.	The Council recommended Member States to organize meetings to initiate the process of developing a regional green industrial development strategy for the purpose of contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.	
Priority Area-2: Cooperation on Quality Infrastructure		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
249.	The Council, while noting the ratification of the Statute of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) by Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye, requested the remaining Member States to sign and ratify the Statute and its Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10, to facilitate the Institute's operationalization and urged all Member States to participate effectively in its activities.	
250.	The Council requested the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite the establishment of ECO-RISCAM Technical Management Boards for Standardization and Accreditation, and for Metrology, respectively, and to inform the Secretariat of the proposed dates and details for the inaugural meetings of their respective boards.	
251.	The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for its proposal to host the First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM in 2025, noted the postponement of the previously proposed dates due to the lack of a quorum. The Council further requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the meeting, contingent upon achieving a quorum of members, and urged Member States to ensure their effective participation by officially designating their representatives and heads of delegations.	
252.	The Council, while noting the comments received from Azerbaijan, Iran, and Türkiye on the draft basic documents of ECO-RISCAM (i.e. rules of procedure, financial regulations, staff regulations, roadmap, and work programme), urged the remaining Member States to submit their comments to facilitate the approval of these documents at the First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM.	
253.	The Council, while welcoming the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to organize a virtual workshop in the field of Conformity Assessment in the 3 rd quarter of 2025, reiterated its request to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye to provide the precise dates and details for holding workshops in standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and metrology, and further urged Member States to actively participate therein.	
254.	The Council requested Member States to share their conformity assessment methods and procedures with a view to facilitating the harmonization of conformity assessment in the ECO Region.	
255.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye to prepare and submit the draft procedures for the functioning of the standardization, accreditation and metrology Technical Management Boards.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
256.	The Council requested the Republic of Türkiye to establish a technical committee for harmonizing standards in the region and to share its plan and roadmap for this purpose.	
257.	The Council reiterated its request to all Member States to update the nomination of their representatives, including their contact details, for each of the ECO-RISCAM Technical Management Boards.	
Priority Area-3: Cooperation on Nanotechnology Network		
258.	The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to consider hosting the 3 rd Steering Committee Meeting on ECO Nanotechnology Network in November 2025 and urged Member States to actively participate therein.	
259.	The Council encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to update the study project on the situation of nanotechnology in the ECO region and requested all Member States to provide updated necessary information for this purpose to the ECO Secretariat.	
260.	The Council requested Member States to submit updated country reports on this area of cooperation to the Secretariat and to ensure a more active involvement of their nanotechnology-related institutions in the ECO Nanotechnology Network.	
261.	The Council, while appreciating the project proposal on the establishment of a coordinating and facilitating platform for implementation of Nanotechnology based water treatment pilot/demo plants in ECO Region, invited Member States to strengthen their cooperation in this field.	
Priority Area-4: Industrial Property Rights		
262.	The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Türkiye for its offer to host the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in Ankara, noted the postponement of the previously proposed dates of 24-25 February 2025 due to a lack of quorum, and requested the host authorities to provide rescheduled dates and details for the meeting in 2025, while inviting Member States to actively participate therein.	
263.	The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to organize a virtual workshop on "National and International Patent Protection Mechanism with the focus on Green Technologies" in April 2025 and, while noting the intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize further workshops with details to be communicated accordingly, requested Member States to actively	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	participate in the workshops.	
Priority Area-5: Development of SMEs & Entrepreneurships		
264.	The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to propose precise dates for hosting the 5th Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and SMEs Development in 2025 and invited Member States to actively participate in the meeting.	
265.	The Council requested Member States to consider hosting expert level meetings to explore the development of a financial mechanism supporting start-ups, SMEs, and entrepreneurs, and, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to host the first expert level meeting, requested the relevant authorities to provide its details.	
266.	The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for its readiness to host the First ECO International Innovation and Technological Exhibition (ECO-TEX) in Tehran from 29 April to 2 May 2025 and requested Member States to actively participate and nominate their focal points to facilitate communication regarding the ECO-TEX.	
Priority Area-6: Privatization and Private Sector Development		
267.	The Council requested Member States to nominate their focal points, along with the relevant contact details, for matters concerning privatization and state property management.	
268.	The Council requested interested Member States to consider hosting the 7 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Privatization Administration and the 6th Meeting of the High-Level Expert Group on Privatization and Private Sector Development in 2025 and invited Member States to actively participate in these meetings.	
Priority Area-7: Relations with Regional/International Organizations/Agencies		
269.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for its continued follow-up of the Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and requested Member States to actively cooperate in this regard.	
270.	The Council requested the Secretariat to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration with international and regional organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with a view to	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	obtaining their financial and technical support.	
E. SECTOR: TOURISM		
271.	The Council, while appreciating Türkiye for its proposal to host the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the 8 th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Tourism in Erzurum , along with the Official Opening Ceremony for the ECO Tourism Capital for 2025 , requested the host to provide the exact details of the whole programme, including the specific dates, meeting documents and hospitality arrangements and called upon the Member States to actively participate in the events.	
272.	<p>The Council expressed its appreciation to the Member States for their contributions to achieving the objectives outlined in the Ardabil Declaration, adopted as the outcome document of the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism held on 5 October 2023 in Ardabil, Iran.</p> <p>Additionally, the Council urged Member States to actively take part in preparation and the implementation of the Erzurum Declaration, which will serve as the outcome document of the forthcoming 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Türkiye.</p>	
273.	<p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the ceremony of proclaiming Shahrisabz as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2024 as well as successful implementation of sideline events in this regard.</p> <p>The Council also kindly requested Azerbaijan to propose their programs for holding various tourism events including the unveiling ceremony in Shusha in the Republic of Azerbaijan, ECO Tourism Capital for 2026 and share it with the ECO Secretariat for timely coordination of the events.</p>	
274.	The Council called upon Member States to provide essential support for effective functioning of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT) . In this context, the Council instructed the Secretariat to complete the ECO-ACT nominations from Member States. Additionally, Member States were encouraged to explore the possibility of hosting the inaugural ECO-ACT Meeting.	
275.	The Council called on Member States to contribute in the implementation of the project developed under the "ECO Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development" and/or to update the action plan in line with current trends and policies, with the involvement of the ECO-ACT once it	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	becomes functional. ECO-ACT might be mandated to undertake to develop more up-to-date Action Plan and/or one comprehensive regional tourism strategy document aligning with the new ECO Vision document.	
276.	The Council, while appreciating the new Selection Criteria for ECO Tourism Capital drafted by the Secretariat, requested all Member States to contribute in finalizing this draft document to be applied in the selection process of new ECO Tourism Capitals till mid-March 2025	
277.	<p>The Council urged Member States to expedite the submission of necessary feedback for the initiative titled “Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors” which was circulated with the Secretariat’s Notes Verbales No: Tourism/2024/635 dated 14/5/2024 and Tourism/2024/1102 dated 8/8/2024, and instructed the Secretariat to prepare for the subsequent phases essential for the project’s implementation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Council mandated the Secretariat to initiate preparations for collecting nominations for the selection of tourism ambassadors, along with the details of the officials designated to represent Member States on the relevant coordination mechanisms overseeing this initiative.</p>	
278.	The Council requested the consent of Member States for the closure of the procedures regarding the 'Road Map on Facilitating Accelerated Recovery, Safe and Sustainable Development of Tourism after "COVID-19" in the ECO region' since the report of the Monitoring Committee adopted in the 5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism which indicates the complete removal of restrictions for touristic travels in the Member States and to remove it from the ECO tourism agenda taking into account the World Tourism Barometer released by UN Tourism in January 2025 informing that international tourism virtually recovered (99%) pre-pandemic levels in 2024.	
279.	<p>The Council appreciated the establishment of the ECO Silk Road Task Force to increase cooperation and coordination to publicize Silk Road Tourism initiative with the cooperation of the Member States, the international community and relevant organizations.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the proposal of Republic of Azerbaijan to host the First Meeting of ECO Silk Road Task Force and requested active participation of Member States to this meeting to create an effective Silk Road brand strategy, enhance collaboration between Silk Road destinations and increase consumer awareness.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
280.	The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the 6th International ECO Silk Road Food Festival with the workshop on Culinary Tourism and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information regarding the event (including exact dates, hospitality details, focal point and other relevant information) for circulation amongst the Member States to enable timely coordination.	
281.	The Council requested the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) to cooperate with the ECO Secretariat and include the ECO Silk Road Initiative in their work program for 2025 to enhance the visibility of the ECO Silk Road destinations in their publications, exhibitions and events.	
282.	<p>The Council urges the Member States (<i>except Azerbaijan and Pakistan</i>) to complete the relevant inputs of a Second Special Edition of the ECO Chronicle dedicated to “UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the ECO Region” regarding their registered UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the Secretariat is tasked to launch this special Chronicle on the ECO Tourism Website.</p> <p>The Council authorized ECI to approach UNESCO to organize the joint workshop on preservation of the ancient Silk Road monuments and cultural heritages.</p>	
283.	The recent efforts of Member States to ease visa regimes for tourism purposes welcomed by the Council, and it was requested that Member States host and participate in the ECO High Level Expert Meetings on Visa Facilitation in order to advance toward a comprehensive visa-free travel regime within the region.	
284.	The Council welcomed the recent improvements in regional connectivity, particularly through increased flight frequencies both within and beyond the region and supported the continuation of holding meetings of the ECO Tourism and Transport Task Force requesting the Member States to actively contribute to this task force.	
285.	The Council requested the Secretariat to follow up on the meetings of the ECO Tour Operators’ Network to facilitate the development of joint tour packages for tourists in the ECO region. The Council appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan for successful hosting of the 1st ECO Tour Operators Forum , which included panel discussions on creating and realizing joint ECO tour packages, B2B meetings among tour companies, and a roundtable meeting in Baku on May 2-3, 2024.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	The Council instructed the Secretariat to collaborate with volunteer tour operators from the Member States to develop a pilot ECO regional tour package for 2025 or to initiate familiarization trips for the tour packages proposed during the Forum. The Council also called for volunteers to host the 2nd ECO Tour Operators Forum in 2025 , with the aim of further advancing the implementation of joint tour packages and maintaining the synergy among tour operators, working towards the ultimate goal of establishing the ECO Tour Agencies Federation.	
286.	<p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Cypriot State for successfully organizing the 4th EGM (Experts Group Meeting) on Ecotourism in Girne on 25-26 November 2024 which provided the opportunity for exchange of practices and reiteration of preparing a comprehensive compendium consisting of best practices to develop nature-based tourism in ECO region.</p> <p>The Council mandated the Secretariat to complete all necessary information for the Compendium incorporating the already received inputs from the Member States for the “Ecotourism Catalogue for the ECO Region” and “Ecotourism Database” and publish a comprehensive document on this subject on <i>the ECO Tourism Website</i> instead of paper-based documents upon the endorsement of the Member States. The Council also urged the Member States to consider the possibility of hosting the 5th EGM on Ecotourism including the field trips for sharing best practices among the experts.</p>	
287.	<p>The Council appreciated the establishment of an ad-hoc specialized working group among Member States to prepare a document investigating and identifying the potential and opportunities for diversifying intra-regional tourism. The goal is to broaden the regional tourism offerings by collaborating to promote lesser-known or niche destinations and identifying all available and potential tourism resources and facilities across various tourism segments. The Council requested Member States to finalize their nominations for the ad-hoc specialized working group till April 2025.</p> <p>Additionally, the Council mandated the ECO Secretariat to hold the first meeting of the ad-hoc working group to exchange current information and develop an up-to-date framework document for investigating and identifying potential opportunities for the diversification of intra-regional tourism. The Council also recommended consideration of completion of this task within the framework of the ECO-ACT’s works once it becomes functional.</p>	
288.	The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd ECO Confobition on	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>Health Tourism in Hamedan City and requested that information regarding the exact date and hospitality details of the event be conveyed to the Secretariat for smooth coordination.</p> <p>The Council also welcomed Iran's proposal to establish a working group on hydrotherapy and spa tourism to develop health and wellness tourism. The Member States are requested to kindly complete the online questionnaire prepared by Iran through the provided link on https://survey.porsline.ir/s/GqSSYlo4 circulated through the Note Verbale No. 2024/1692 dated 24/11/2024. The Iranian side is requested to share the received responses on hydrotherapy tourism in the ECO region with the Member States through the Secretariat and to consider developing a comprehensive strategy aimed at fostering growth in medical tourism.</p>	
289.	<p>The Council appreciated the efforts of the ECO Working Group on Tourism Standardization in preparing the Common Criteria for the Sustainability of Accommodation Facilities in the ECO region. The Council requested Member States to contribute to further progress in this area.</p> <p>The Council recommended that the initial work of the Working Group on accommodation facility standardization be expanded to include other areas and stakeholders in tourism, and requested the active contribution of Member States to achieve the ultimate goals for tourism standardization.</p>	
290.	<p>The Council while welcoming the launch of the ECO Tourism Website which is now available on http://tourism.eco.int/ and the affiliated YouTube channel, requested the Member States to cooperate with the Secretariat for technical and financial support in further development of the website and convey to the Secretariat their most up-to-date inputs to be regularly uploaded on the website.</p> <p>The Council recommended that the main tour operators and tourism agencies of the Member States may collaborate with the Secretariat to enhance presence and initiatives of the tourism sector in digital platforms to expand regional market reach and sharpen its competitiveness.</p>	
291.	<p>Considering the need to develop a well-trained, customer and service-oriented tourism workforce in the ECO region, the Council tasked the Secretariat and the Member States to organize training activities for tourism experts from ECO Member States in cooperation with leading institutes. The Council welcomed the reiteration of Türkiye's proposal of providing international tourism training programs to the other Member States.</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	The Council also requested the Secretariat and the Member States to consider the possibility of organizing joint workshops in cooperation with leading training centers or other regional and international organizations like UN Tourism Academy for enhancing skills and knowledge of tourism experts in the ECO Region.	
292.	<p>The Council mandated the Secretariat to complete the procedures for the establishment of the ECO Tourism Educational Network (ECO-TEN), which was adopted during the 1st Meeting of the Tourism Specialized Education Institutions of the ECO Member States, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 4-5 December 2023.</p> <p>In this regard, the Council requested Member States to nominate their representatives to join ECO-TEN and welcomed the ECI's proposal of hosting the 2nd Meeting of the Tourism Specialized Education Institutions of the ECO Member States (or 2nd ECO-TEN Meeting) in 2025.</p>	
293.	The Council reiterated the need for stronger collaboration between public and private stakeholders in the regional tourism sector and encouraged joint participation in regional tourism activities through the organization of and involvement in relevant meetings, events, exhibitions, fairs like 1 st ECO Tourism Fair. In this context, the Council requested the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) to convene regular meetings of the Tourism Committee of the ECO-CCI.	
294.	<p>Emphasizing the significance of mobilization of investment to regional tourism by promoting ways to increase the regional tourism appeal and facilitate development of the regional tourism sector as envisioned in the ECO Vision 2025, the Council requested the Member States to consider organizing a Tourism Investment and Business Conference/Forum to raise awareness of the ECO region's investment potential and marketing regional tourism investment opportunities.</p> <p>The Council also welcomed the draft of the 1st Edition of the ECO Tourism Investment Guide prepared by the Secretariat and requested Member States to contribute to further progress in this area making this Guide for its adoption within the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.</p>	
295.	Considering the significance of the Tourism Promotion Fund established to finance tourism projects and initiatives, the Council requested the Member States to reconsider contributing to the said Fund to activate it for financial support for the projects and initiatives to reach the tourism mandates of the ECO Vision 2025.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	The Council requested the Member States to expedite their replies to the Secretariat's Note Verbale No:Tourism/2024/746 dated 6/6/2024 requesting nomination of their Representatives to the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Fund till June 1, 2025. Furthermore, the Council solicited the Secretariat to look for means including financial support for tourism projects and initiatives.	
296.	<p>The Council, while appreciating the Secretariat's efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation between UN Tourism and to institutionalize relations with both organizations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), recommended that the Secretariat expand its cooperation with other relevant international organizations in the tourism sector.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Council encouraged Member States hosting events of other international or regional organizations to ensure greater participation from the ECO Secretariat, as well as from the tourism authorities of other Member States.</p>	
297.	The Council encouraged Member States to inform the Secretariat of the update of the previously designated National Focal Points for tourism whenever new appointments are made, in order to ensure greater coherence and coordination with the Secretariat.	
SECTOR F: HUMAN RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
Priority Area I: Sustainable Development		
298.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to enhance mutual supportiveness, as outlined in the ECO Vision 2025, regarding projects aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to seek broader recognition and to attract maximum international resources from organizations such as UNDP, UNESCAP, UNDRR, IOM, UNESCO, JICA, ADB, and IsDB.	
299.	The Council called upon the Member States to facilitate the ECO Secretariat's participation in meetings on SDGs to enhance mutual cooperation between the Secretariat and the Member States.	
300.	The Council welcomed the initiative of Turkmenistan to host the 1st ECO Forum on Sustainable Development on April 28-29, 2025, and High Level Sustainable Working Group Meeting on 27 th April 2025 in Arkadag, Turkmenistan, and requested the Member States to ensure their active and high-level participation in the both the events.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
301.	The Council welcomed the establishment of the "High-Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HSDWG)" to prepare an Action Plan for enhancing Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in the region and recalled the Member States which have not yet conveyed their focal points to the Secretariat.	
302.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to place greater emphasis on activities and actions related to migration, poverty, and income inequality, and to highlight these areas in the implementation framework of the new ECO Vision document for the upcoming years.	
303.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat for drafting the ECO Sustainable Development Performance Index Report, which will be finalized and unveiled during the 1st SDG Forum in Turkmenistan.	
304.	The Council appreciated the initiative by Asian Mayer Forum (AMF) to host ECO Sustainable Cities Forum in 2025 in Tehran.	
305.	The Council welcomed the announcement of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the events i.e. Meeting of Deputy Mayors for Economic Affairs from ECO Member States; and Summit of Mayors from ECO Member Countries to be organized by the Asian Mayors Forum and hosted by Tehran Municipality in 2025, in order to strengthen urban economic diplomacy.	
Priority Area II: Disaster Risk Reduction		
306.	The Council appreciated the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 9 th Ministerial Meeting on DRR and highlighted the significance of outcomes for the implementation of ECORFDRR.	
307.	The Council welcomed the initiative by the Republic of Türkiye to host the ECO Technical Working Group Meeting on DRR along with "Winter Drill" on 4-7 March 2025 in Erzurum.	
308.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States for hosting "2 nd Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities" as well as the "3 rd Experts Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities" in 2025.	
309.	The Council tasked the Secretariat to approach concerned regional and international organizations to conduct the project on "Short Animation Video for Children of ECO Region on Disaster Prevention	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	and Preparedness”.	
310.	The Council instructed the ECO Secretariat to enhance collaboration with international organizations such as UNDRR, and particularly ESCAP, as outlined in the MoU.	
311.	The Council appreciated the proposal of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for hosting the “1 st Meeting of the Heads of National Societies in ECO Region” in Tehran in the second quarter of 2025.	
312.	The Council requested Member States to convene an online seasonal meeting on natural disasters that have occurred in the ECO region, aiming to exchange information and expertise for more effective disaster management, and to provide the names of their designated focal points for coordinating this important meeting.	
313.	The Council, while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for their progress on the project proposal titled "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", requested Turkmenistan to continue its cooperation with ECO-RCRM and consider contributing to the project with a view to improve the road weather monitoring.	
314.	The Council requested Member States to designate national focal points to establish a task force for coordinating and conducting country-specific meetings on disaster risk management issues in the region and for developing a Data Bank of Natural Disasters.	
315.	The Council , while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for preparing the first phase of the project titled “Implementation of Seasonal Climate Prediction over the ECO Region” with in-kind support from the I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO), requested other Member States to continue their cooperation and support for the completion of the subsequent phases of this project.	
316.	The Council stated its satisfaction for the final approval of the Statute of ECO-RCRM at the 27th COM meeting, in Tashkent and invited the Member States (except for Islamic Republic of Iran) to join the protocol of ECO-RCRM.	
317.	The Council welcomed the offer of the I.R. of Iran Metrological Organization (IRIMO) and ECO-RCRM to co-organize a Training Courses/Workshops entitled as “Natural Disaster Early warnings	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	and loss Estimation System” in 2025 in Mashhad.	
318.	The Council requested Member States to join the project proposal initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran (Organization of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration) on Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ), which received support from Member Countries during the Validation Meeting held in 2022, and the Council also encouraged other interested Member States to provide all possible support for the successful launch and implementation of the project.	
319.	The Council welcomed proposal by Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye (AFAD) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) to jointly organize a workshop on “Disaster Information Management for Seismic Risk and Mitigating Earthquake Risk” in 2025.	
320.	The Council welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting a virtual Technical Meeting on Data and Spatial Information Management for Sustainable Economic Development on 9 December 2025 to be organized by National Cartography Center (NCC).	
321.	The Council welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting scientific side events on DRR to be organized by Geological Survey of Iran (GSI).	
Priority Area III: Health		
322.	The Council requested the Member States to consider hosting the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health within their territories or on the sidelines of World Health Assembly organized by WHO.	
323.	The Council requested the Member States (except for the Republic of Azerbaijan) to provide their views and feedback to the Secretariat on the Feasibility Study of the project on “Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals” as well as their nominations for a Task Force dedicated to discuss this project.	
324.	The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host “Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage” in hybrid mode in 2025.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
325.	The Council emphasized the importance of continued interaction with the international organizations, including WHO and other stakeholders including Multilateral Development Bank to maintain the existing support to accelerate their technical and financial assistance in joint projects. In this respect, the Council also appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to explore the possibility of signing an MoU with WHO to strengthen the relationship on health.	
326.	The Council welcomed offer of a virtual Meeting on Health Tourism to be hosted by Islamic Republic of Iran in order to prepare a Joint Action Plan in this area in collaboration with ECO Member States.	
Priority Area IV: Education		
327.	The Council requested the ECO-EI to coordinate with the ECO Secretariat and announce the scholarship Programs/Training Courses on Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Health for the ECO Member States.	
328.	The Council welcomed the initiative by Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 1 st ECO-EI Expert Group Meeting on Internationalization of Higher Education in ECO Region in Islamabad, on 15-16 April 2025 and requested the Member States for their active participation to the meeting.	
329.	The Council encouraged Member States to work with ECO Educational Institute to organize a workshop and prepare a report on the state, challenges, and good practices of medical education in volunteering countries.	
330.	The Council requested the Member States to consider extending their project proposals for the inclusion in the next "ECO-EI Work Program", the proposals shall include the objectives of the activities, time, venue and participants, cost-sharing if any, and other necessary information."	
331.	The Council highlighted the importance of collaboration with regional and international institutions on education, including the UNESCO Center and the Resilience for West and Central Asia (RCECWA) and UNICEF.	
332.	The Council welcomed the offer extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the willingness of two universities (Farhangian University and Shahid Rajaei University) to admit students for their	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	teacher training program.	
333.	The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran on providing the willing Member States with in-service teacher training program.	
334.	The Council also welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposition on providing the Member States with courses on Scientific Olympiads.	
G. SECTOR: JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND ECO ADVOCACY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN		
335.	<p>Regional Cooperation in Combating Drugs and Organized Crime:</p> <p>The Council reaffirmed the critical importance of regional cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by drugs and organized crime within the ECO Region, recognizing it as a vital contributor to economic growth and sustainable development. It urged the ECO Section for Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (JPC&EAPA) and Member States to continue in their collaborative efforts to strengthen cooperation in this domain.</p> <p>The Council emphasized the significance of establishing robust regional institutional frameworks, including police and law enforcement collaboration, judicial and anti-corruption partnerships, as well as capacity building and training programs to ensure the effectiveness of collective initiatives against drugs and organized crime.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Council requested that the Secretariat maintain close communication with relevant regional and international organizations to secure their continued support in combating illicit drug trafficking and organized crime activities in the region.</p> <p>The Council has requested that Member States nominate or update their designated focal points across various sectors, including drugs, organized crime, judiciary, anti-corruption, police and law enforcement and parliamentary cooperation.</p>	
336.	Meeting of the Ministers of Interior	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4th Meeting of Ministers of Interior of the ECO Member States on 30th June 2025. (The exact venue of the meeting will be communicated through diplomatic channels).</p>	
337.	<p>Judicial/Legal Cooperation:</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to promptly provide the Secretariat with updates regarding their designated focal points. This initiative aims to enhance communication and collaboration among the Attorneys/Prosecutors General Offices of the ECO Member States, thereby facilitating a more effective implementation of the Plan of Interaction among these offices.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the Sixth Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in Tashkent/Samarkand during September/October 2025.</p> <p>The Council invited the interested Member States to express their willingness to host events in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Plan of Interaction among the Attorneys/Prosecutors General Offices of the Member States, These events will be designed for officials from the Attorneys/Prosecutors General Offices of the Member States, aiming to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices among participants.</p> <p>The Council motivated the Member States to share their experiences and best practices in judicial/legal matters for sharing among the ECO Member States.</p>	
338.	<p>Anti-Corruption Cooperation:</p> <p>The Council appreciated/requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The interested Member States to host the 5th Meeting of Heads of Anti-corruption Organizations of the ECO Member States during the year 2025. ii) The Islamic Republic of Iran to convey all necessary documents for the operationalization of 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>RCCACO not later than June 2025.</p> <p>iii) The interested Member States to host the 2nd General Assembly of the State Parties to the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen during the year 2025. The primary agenda item for the meeting will be the consideration and finalization of the necessary documentation required for the operationalization of RCCACO.</p> <p>iv) The Republic of Tajikistan to consider ratifying the Statute of the RCCACO.</p> <p>v) The Member States who have not signed the Statute of the Center to consider signing it.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that Kyrgyz Republic has already expressed its readiness to join the Center and is considering signing and ratifying the Statute of RCCACO.</p>	
339.	<p>Police and Law Enforcement Cooperation:</p> <p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the necessary information regarding hosting of the 2nd Meeting of the Chiefs of Police of the ECO Member States. It is important to note that, in addition to discussions aimed at strengthening police cooperation among the Member States, the primary agenda of this meeting will be the approval of the Draft Statute of ECOPOL.</p> <p>The Council also requested the ECO Member States to actively participate at the above mentioned meeting.</p>	
340.	<p>Capacity Building Programs:</p> <p>The Council appreciated the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 4th Virtual Training Course titled “Drug Addiction: Focusing on Treatment and Harm Reduction Associated with Addiction” on February 19, 2024, as well as the National Accountability Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the Virtual Training Course titled “Fight Against Corruption” on October 7, 2024. The Council requested that both entities continue to organize such important events for officials from the ECO Member States.</p> <p>The Council requested:</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>i) The interested Member States to indicate their willingness to host the necessary training programs related to combating drug-related offenses, financial crimes such as corruption and money laundering, judicial collaboration, cybercrimes, and other relevant areas.</p> <p>ii) The Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Secretariat with the preliminary information as regards the 5th virtual training course on Addiction to Narcotic Drugs and Focus on Treatment and Harm Reduction as well as the “Training Course on Fight against Corruption” to be organized in virtual mode.</p> <p>iii) The Islamic Republic of Pakistan to provide the Secretariat with the preliminary information as regards hosting the “Training Course on awareness of Drugs and Precursors”</p> <p>iv) The Member States to actively participate in the training courses hosted by their counterparts. The active participation of Member States in these events will encourage organizers to continue facilitating such important initiatives.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to organize Training Programs on Fight against Corruption during 2025. (virtual/in person)</p>	
341.	<p>Parliamentary Cooperation:</p> <p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey the preliminary information as regards to convene the “4th Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Countries (PAECO)” at the earliest possible.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States which have yet to sign/ratify the Charter of the PAECO to sign/ ratify it.</p>	
342.	<p>ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan:</p> <p>The Council recognized that, due to the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, all ECO activities and projects within the country are currently on hold. The Council affirmed that the ECO Advocacy</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	Programme for Afghanistan will remain in effect until it is replaced by an alternative initiative.	
H. SECTOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
ECO`S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/AFFILIATED BODIES		
a) INTER-REGIONAL ECO ACTIVITIES		
i) ECO Specialized Agencies		
• ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)		
343.	The Council urged the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan to ratify the ECI Charter.	
344.	The Council requested the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan to sign the ECI Charter.	
345.	The Council encouraged all Member States to patronize the ECI by clearing arrears and paying annual contributions on time.	
346.	The Council took note of the recently launched new ECI Website and further recommended to expand its digital footprint and enhance online educational initiatives.	
347.	The Council recommended the ECO to convene CPRs in a regular and timely manner	
348.	The Council encouraged the ECI Member States to actively engage in cultural activities of the ECI.	
349.	The Council encouraged all ECO Specialized Agencies to be more interactively engaged with each other and the Secretariat in their activities to ensure smooth implementation, avoiding any duplication or overlapping in their efforts.	
• ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)		
350.	The Council appreciated the ECOSF's efforts in promoting Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE)	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
351.	The Council encouraged the Member States to actively engage in scientific activities of the ECOSF.	
352.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Türkiye, and the Republic of Uzbekistan to complete the ratification of the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol.	
353.	The Council urged Member States to fulfill their mandatory annual budgetary contributions to address the financial constraints faced by the ECOSF.	
354.	The Council encouraged the ECOSF to continue its initiatives, including the International Conference on Leveraging STI for Regional Connectivity, scheduled for April 2025 in Islamabad.	
355.	The Council recommended the ECOSF to expand its digital footprint and enhance online educational initiatives.	
356.	The Council urged the non-signatory and non-ratifying ECO Member States to sign and ratify the ECOSF Charter and ECOSF Member States to pay their annual mandatory contribution to the Institute in a regular and timely manner.	
• ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)		
357.	The Council requested Member States to nominate Academic Council Members and Focal Points to strengthen the ECOEI's governance.	
358.	The Council recommended the ECOEI to expand its digital footprint and enhance online educational initiatives.	
359.	The Council appreciated the Government of Türkiye for its allocation and provision of suitable premises to serve as the Headquarters for the ECOEI.	
360.	The Council urged the non-signatory and non-ratifying ECO Member States to sign and ratify the ECOEI Charter and ECOEI Member States to pay their annual mandatory contribution to the Institute in a regular and timely manner.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
361.	The Council encouraged all the Member States to examine and actively cooperate in the implementation of ECOEI Work Program, which has been approved by the Education Ministers of all Member States at the Fourth Meeting of ECOEI Board of Trustees (BOT) in August 2023.	
• ECO Regional Institutes/Affiliated Bodies		
362.	The Council urged the ECO Secretariat to resume working on draft 'Modalities for the Establishment of Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and the Establishment of Specialized Agencies', which was temporarily halted due to outbreak of the Pandemic.	
363.	The Council encouraged the ETDB to explore funding mechanisms to support ECO priority sectors, including trade, transport, and connectivity and emphasize the need to expand the Membership of the Bank.	
364.	The Council urged Member States to sign and ratify the ERC Charter to operationalize the Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan.	
365.	The Council acknowledged the ECOCCI's efforts to promote trade and investment among Member States and urged timely rotation of its presidency.	
366.	The Council encouraged Member States to actively participate in RISCAM's Technical Management Boards to enhance regional trade facilitation.	
367.	The Council recommended the ECO College of Insurance to expand its academic and research programs to address the evolving needs of the insurance industry in the region as well as expand its research programme in priority areas of cooperation.	
368.	The Council urged Member States to sign and ratify the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) Charter to expedite operationalization of the Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan.	
b) ECO'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS		
369.	The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat's efforts to strengthen ties with the United Nations	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	System, including active participation in the 79th UNGA Session and the UN Summit of the Future.	
370.	The Council appreciated the efforts to extend outreach and urged the Secretariat to expand its partnerships with UN bodies, including UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, FAO, and UNECE, to enhance collaboration in areas such as trade, food security, energy, and sustainable development.	
371.	The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to work towards establishing a formal forum between UN regional commissions and regional/international organizations to improve coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.	
372.	The Council acknowledged the successful 16 th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held on September 27, 2024 in New York, welcomed the expansion of agriculture and food security in the ECO-ASEAN Framework of Cooperation (2024–2028), and urged formalizing the expansion of Framework of Cooperation by exchange of letters.	
373.	The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to further deepen its collaboration with ASEAN, particularly through the implementation of the ECO-ASEAN Framework of Cooperation (2024–2028) and through exploring new areas of collaboration, including renewable energy and digital economy.	
374.	The Council supported the ECO Secretariat's efforts to obtain observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and urged Member States to advocate for ECO's application within the IOM framework.	
375.	The Council welcomed the Secretariat's initiative to explore observer mechanisms with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and requested the Secretariat to finalize the Plan of Action under the ECO-SCO MoU.	
376.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat to explore observer mechanisms with IRENA, particularly to support the ECO Clean Energy Centre and renewable energy initiatives.	
377.	The Council urged the Secretariat to finalize the MoU with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
378.	The Council welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen ties with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and proposed convening a joint summit or conference among regional organizations within the OIC region to create synergies and avoid duplication.	
379.	The Council appreciated the reciprocal observer status granted by the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) and recommended exploring collaborative initiatives in areas such as trade, transport, and energy.	
380.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's engagement with the African Union and welcomed the Secretariat's intent to host Tehran-based Ambassadors of ASEAN, Mercosur, and GCC countries to brief them about ECO's activities and explore areas of mutual cooperation.	
381.	The Council urged Member States to convene ECO Ambassadors' meetings in key capitals such as Jakarta, New York, Geneva, Jeddah, and Addis Ababa to enhance ECO's visibility and partnerships.	
382.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to propose ECO-led side events at global platforms to highlight the Organization's initiatives in trade, connectivity, and sustainable development.	
383.	The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to publish the monthly ECO Newsletter and recommended expanding its distribution to include international partners and stakeholders.	
384.	The Council encouraged the Secretariat to enhance its digital outreach through interactive platforms, webinars, and online campaigns to showcase ECO's achievements and initiatives.	
385.	The Council welcomed the Secretariat's endeavors to engage with media and called for more frequent interactions to enhance visibility and outreach.	
I. SECTOR: ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS		
STATISTICS		
386.	The Council re-iterated the provision in ECO Vision 2025, which envisaged: "to make the Organization better equipped to face challenges and advance the fundamental principles of the Organization to expand project based economic activities and develop and strengthen the ECO institutions" (<i>Implementation Framework of ECO Vision 2025</i> p.1).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
387.	The Council took note of the Report of the 10th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Statistics held on November 5, 2024.	
388.	The Council recommended that the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of ECO Member States may forward to the Secretariat their relevant proposals/suggestions regarding the provisional Agenda items to be discussed at the next meetings of Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO) and High Level Expert Group meetings.	
389.	The Council mandated the member states to host the 11 th ECO High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting on Statistics and 8th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNS), separately.	
390.	The Council expressed satisfaction with the pace of the realization of the “Five Year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021-2026” and proposed the national statistical agencies of the Member States to put forward suggestions for developing a new strategic plan on statistics for the years 2026-2030.	
391.	The Council requested the Member-States for wider exchange with good practices/experiences/expertise among the National Statistical Agencies in order to build up a shared potential in the field of statistics.	
392.	In practical terms, particularly in the part which relates to the organizing and holding among the Member States of interactive webinar sessions, online seminars, training courses and workshops under ECO’s framework with specific emphasis on “ <i>sharing knowledge, experiences, and expertise among ECO NSOs</i> ”, the Council encouraged Member States to offer such statistical events that primarily focus on ECO countries’ statistical capacity building needs.	
393.	<p>The Council tasked the following to the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the implementation of the Action Plan should be assessed. Moreover, a timetable accompanied by the respective activities should be prepared and monitored for this Action Plan; to conduct annual survey on the capacities and needs of the Member States; NSOs to enjoy 	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	their capabilities and provide needed services to them.	
ECONOMIC RESEARCH		
Establishment of ECO Research Centre		
394.	<p>The Council appreciated that the Charter of ECO Research Center (ERC) was signed by the three ECO Member States, notably by the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Türkiye, on the sidelines of the 14th ECO Summit Meeting of the Heads of State/Government (March 4th, 2021) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the 26th COM Meeting held in Tashkent, on January 24, 2023. The Council expressed the hope that ECO Research Center will start functioning soon.</p> <p>The Council emphasized the importance of operationalization of ECO Research Centre (ERC) and motivated the remaining Member States to sign and ratify the said Charter at their earliest convenience.</p>	
395.	<p>The Council noted with satisfaction the willingness of the relevant government agencies of the Member States to accede to the Charter of ECO Research Center (ERC) and therefore tasked the ECO Secretariat to ensure timely signing of the said document in line with relevant established procedures and protocol.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to sign the Charter of ECO Research Centre during the upcoming high level meetings.</p>	
396.	The Council stated that the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) can be affiliated with the ECO Research Center (ERC), since it is located in Baku, Azerbaijan.	
Transformation of ECO Economic Journal (EEJ)		
397.	The Council reiterated the importance of the implementation of the task of the 26 th meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ECO countries held in Tashkent on January 24, 2023, which unequivocally supported the continuation of activities aimed at transforming the ECO Economic Journal borne by the Chief Editor's Office into an internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication and called on the Secretariat to continue work on financing the transformation of the Journal.	
398.	The Council noted with satisfaction the pace of implementation of its task, when it requested the Secretariat to consider the financing of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ), which needs USD 50,000	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<p>(fifty thousand US dollars), aimed at transforming it into internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication among academic, scientific and policy oriented publications (<i>33rdRPC, Work Programme 2023, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-17</i>).</p> <p>The Council expressed thanks to the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) for arranging allocation of USD 20,000 (twenty thousand US dollars) and the ECO Secretariat for arranging allocation of USD 5,000 (five thousand US dollars) for the transformation of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) in the year 2023.</p> <p>The Council also expressed thanks to the ECO Secretariat for allocating USD 5,000 (five thousand US dollars) for the transformation of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) in the year 2024 (<i>34th RPC, Work Programme 2024, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraph-14</i>).</p> <p>The Council directed the Secretariat to further consider the financing of the ECO Economic Journal aimed at transforming it into internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication among academic, scientific and policy oriented publications.</p>	
399.	<p>The Council expressed satisfaction with publications by the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) publications for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>The Council expressed satisfaction with the assistance of the ECO Secretariat rendered to the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) in preparing and publishing its publications for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Particularly, ECO Secretariat forwarded notifications to Member States to contribute expert articles to EEJ. Further ECO Secretariat forwarded to EEJ articles from the Member States as well as a Foreword and an Article by ECO Secretary General.</p>	
400.	The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to continue close interaction with ECO Economic Journal in preparing in-depth research materials for EEJ publications.	
401.	The Council requested the ECO Economic Journal to place on its web-site publications and relevant economic reports prepared jointly by Member States and ECO Secretariat.	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
402.	The Council took note of the fact that since the Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) and ECO Secretariat have been dealing with securing funding for the transformation of the EEJ, the 7 th Meeting of ECO Editorial Board of ECO Economic Journal (EBEEJ) was not organized. The issues related to EEJ was included into the agenda of 7 th Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) and considered on June 5, 2024.	
403.	The Council expressed satisfaction that the Board of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) and ECO Secretariat considered alignment of the agendas of the Journal and EPSCER, since the agenda of EPSCER is focused on carrying out economic researches and EEJ agenda is publication of economic research results, expert articles and publications. This item was considered at the 7 th Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) (<i>34th RPC, Work Programme 2024, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-20</i>).	
404.	The Council stated that the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) can be affiliated with the ECO Research Center (ERC), when it becomes operational, since it is located in Baku, Azerbaijan	
405.	The Council recommended the Secretariat to timely forward to the Member States Notes Verbale requesting for articles, analytical papers and other relevant materials in line with the current priorities of the Member-States to be published in the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ).	
ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER)		
406.	The Council re-iterated the provision in " ECO Vision 2025 " which envisaged that: "the core mandate of the Economic Cooperation Organization is economic development and regional integration". To that end, "ECO Vision 2025" particularly emphasized " Economic Growth and Productivity " as one of core cooperation areas of ECO (Section 3, "Co-operation Areas", sub-section "E", " <i>Implementation Framework of the ECO Vision 2025</i> ", p.2).	
407.	The Council expressed its satisfaction with the results of the 7 th Meeting of the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER) which was held on June 5, 2024 (<i>34th RPC, Work Programme 2024, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-25</i>) (pl see report of the event distributed with NV No.782, dated 13.06.2024).	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
408.	The Council expressed its satisfaction that the 7 th meeting of EPSCER, stemming from the economic priorities of the Member States expressed at the 14 th and 15 th Summits of Heads of State and Government held in 2021 and 16 th Summit held in November 2023 in Tashkent, took a task of drafting a new ECO Economic Research Programme for the period from 2026 to 2030 (34 th RPC, <i>Work Programme 2024, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph-26</i>).	
ECO Annual Economic Reports and other publications		
409.	The Council positively assessed preparation and dissemination by the ECO Secretariat in cooperation with the Member States of <u>"ECO Annual Economic Report 2023: Overall Economic Situation, Industry and Diversification of the Economy in the ECO Area"</u> .	
410.	The Council positively assessed interaction between the Member States and the ECO Secretariat in updating and introducing due adjustments into the ECO Annual Economic Reports and called for the continuation of the same level of interaction in publishing fresh Annual Economic Reports as well as other publications.	
411.	In practical terms, the Council requested the Member States for their relevant inputs and country reports for period 2024/2025 for the purposes of compilation of ECO Annual Report 2024/2025 and, in that regard, also suggested that the Secretariat avails of accessible official data sources and/or online official publications of relevant authorities/Ministries dealing with Economy, Budget and Planning of ECO Member States as regards the economic research and country strategy development.	
412.	The Council instructed the Secretariat to also use available national data sources in compiling ECO regional economic and statistics reports and publications, following the UN <i>"Recommended Practices on the Use of Non-Official Sources in International Statistics"</i> .	
ERS PROJECTS		
413.	The Council positively assessed the progress in carrying out the project titled "Transformation the ECO Economic Journal" (<i>detailed information is given above, in the section ECONOMIC RESEARCH, Transformation the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ)</i>).	
414.	The Council expressed satisfaction with the completion of the project titled "Kazakhstan's trade and economic potential in the markets of the ECO countries in the new geo-economic realities" (<i>The</i>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	<i>project has been completed now. On September 22, 2024 the ECO Secretariat with its Note Verbale No.1323 distributed the project).</i>	
415.	The Council positively assessed the progress in carrying out the project titled “ <i>Agricultural statistics and Land Cover statistics from Earth Observations for selected ECO Countries</i> ” in coordination with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Statistics Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan as pilot country for the project. The Council requested the Statistical Agency of Tajikistan to cooperate with FAOSTAT to gain practical results of the project.	
416.	The Council requested the Member States to initiate various research or practical projects in the field of Economic Research and Statistics, which will contribute to the expansion of ECO’s potential, theoretical base, experience and potential.	
ECO ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME (EERP)		
417.	The Council expressed its satisfaction that the 7 th meeting of EPSCER, stemming from the economic priorities of the Member States expressed at the 14 th and 15 th Summits of Heads of State and Government held in 2021 and 16 th Summit held in November 2023 in Tashkent, took a task of drafting a new ECO Economic Research Programme for the period from 2026 to 2030 (<i>34th RPC, Work Programme 2024, “I” Sector: ERS, paragraphs 26 and 35</i>). The Council reiterated its previous request to make emphasis in the following areas - transit and transport, energy, water, food security, diversification of economy, green economy, climate change.	
418.	The Council requested the Member States to continue the practice of providing Key Statistical Indicators (KSIs) (in a previously agreed excel format), country economic performance reports and other related materials and publications to the Secretariat for compilation of analytical reports and publications. The Council tasked the Secretariat to regular provide reports on KSIs of the Member States.	
419.	The Council recommended to the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) to place various reports, analytical materials and publications prepared by ECO Secretariat and Member states at the web-site of EEJ as well for greater dissemination.	
CAPACITY BUILDING		

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
420.	<p>The Council expressed satisfaction that the 3rd ECO Think-Tank Forum was held in Baku on October 4, 2024 and its work was dedicated to the theme: Next Generation Economics: Challenges and Perspectives. Well-known economists and experts from ECO member-states as well as other countries took part in the event, where the participants attempted to make in-depth analysis of the current trends and developments in economy.</p> <p>The event was jointly organised in cooperation between the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Economic Scientific Research Institute (ESRI) of this Ministry and ECO Secretariat (34th RPC, Work Programme 2024, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph 43).</p>	
421.	The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan and other Member States to consider holding regularly ECO Think-Tank Forums.	
422.	The Council thanked the Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) for holding an online workshop on <u>Trade Related Statistics</u> on May 13-16, 2024 for the Member States of the ECO (34 th RPC, Work Programme 2024, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph 42).	
423.	The Council expressed satisfaction that the ECO Secretariat for assisting the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in holding an online workshop titled "Halal Industry Development in OIC Member Countries" 24-25 April 2024.	
424.	<p>The Council welcomed the readiness of the Republic of Türkiye to host online workshop on 'Remote Sensing in Statistical Production' during the 2nd half of 2025.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the following three Webinars (virtually) during the 2nd half of 2025;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Population area and its features, ii) Working with the Statistical Software; and iii) Methods of Data Production from Designing Questionnaire to the end of the process. <p>The Council also requested other Member States to consider holding various physical or online</p>	

Paragraph #	Programmes/Activities	Actions to be taken
	events on statistics, without solely relying on the international partners.	
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION		
425.	<p>The Council stated that the ECO Secretariat has well-established ties with UN Statistical Institute for Asia (UN SIAP), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Statistics Division of UNESCAP, the Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM), United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with who regular online or physical events are held.</p> <p>The Council recommended to the Secretariat to continue cooperation with international partners in holding various events related to capacity building in statistics.</p>	
426.	<p>The Council took note that due to busy schedule the fresh Memorandum of Understanding between the ECO Secretariat and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) was not signed in 2024 and requested the Secretariat to expedite conclusion of a fresh MoU with SESRIC in 2025 (<i>34th RPC, Work Programme 2024, "I" Sector: ERS, paragraph 45</i>).</p>	