

ECO Project Monitoring Group (PMG)

Project Monitoring Group – the ECO’s institutional structure established in 2010 to monitor progress status of ECO’s projects on a quarterly basis and adopt change control issues, as required. The PMG regularly reports to RPC and COM via CPR.

Project Monitoring Group (PMG) meetings are chaired by the ECO Secretary General and representatives of the Embassies of the ECO Member States based in Tehran and ECO Secretariat’s directing staff-members take part in the meetings of PMG.

The overall inter-agency coordination of the projects is vested with the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) of ECO, which consists of the senior management of the Secretariat. The PMG is aimed at strengthening the efficiency in development, implementation and monitoring of the projects which include also accountability and financing. It is designed to maintain regular interactions with PMUs in Executing Agencies of Member States.

As regards the projects to be carried out by the Organization the ECO’s programmatic document **ECO Vision 2025** envisages “... resolve 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, enabling them to play a proactive role in realizing the objectives of the Organization and implementing the Vision. We also recognize the need to strengthen the ECO Secretariat for realization of our vision (p.1, Vision Statement, “ECO Vision 2025”).

As of May 2021 21 meetings of PMG were held. Particularly, the **16th Meeting of PMG** held on December 22, 2021 focused on speedy implementation of ongoing projects, and also, identified first priority projects for 2022/23. The Member States were informed about details of projects’ implementation.

Project Monitoring Group Meetings

21st meeting of the Project Monitoring Group

The Project Monitoring Group held its 21st meeting on October 21, 2024 to review the ongoing projects and to assess their efficiency. The representatives of the Embassies of the ECO Member-States located in Tehran and the directing staff of the ECO Secretariat attended the gathering.

The ongoing projects of the Organization have been presented and discussed, while evaluations and critical remarks were also aired during the meeting.

Chairing the meeting, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M.Khan said that there was a need to conceive and consider institutionally a new approach to projects, which have to be based on ground realities. Such thinking, as maintained the Secretary General, leads to result-oriented activity.

ECO Deputy Secretary General Amb. J.Asanov in his remarks said that there had been observable progress on some projects, whereas certain projects need evaluation and further discussions.

The Project Monitoring Group meeting noted the importance of intensification of exchange of views that involve the relevant agencies of the Member States and the directing staff of the ECO Secretariat.

20th meeting of the Project Monitoring Group

The Project Monitoring Group held its 20th meeting on February 06, 2024 to review the ongoing projects and to assess their efficiency. The representatives of the Embassies of the ECO Member-States located in Tehran and the directing staff of the ECO Secretariat attended the gathering.

The ongoing projects of the Organization have been presented and discussed, while evaluations and critical remarks were also aired during the meeting.

Chairing the meeting, ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri said that the **16th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the ECO Member States** held in Tashkent on November 9, 2023 under the motto “*Through Cooperation to Economic Stability and Development*” and **the 27th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ECO Member States** held in Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan on October 10, 2023 pointed to the fact that the Organization’s strategy document - **ECO Vision 2025** is approaching its target year and therefore, it is necessary to conclude this year **the final review process** and start working on the drafting a new vision document that would set new targets for regional economic cooperation in the ECO area beyond 2025.

ECO Secretary General also said that due attention should be always paid during this process to the existing **criteria in identifying a regional project**, namely: 1) common benefit of the region; 2) acceptability as a regional project; 3) viability and applicability; 4) economy and cost effectiveness; 5) compatibility with international standards and requirements and 6) availability of resources.

The representatives of the Member States noted that the projects would advance if there is interest on the part of the Member States and if required funds can be made available.

19th meeting of the Project Monitoring Group

The Project Monitoring Group held its 19th meeting on September 12, 2023 to review the ongoing projects and to assess their efficiency. The representatives of the Embassies of the ECO Member-States located in Tehran and the directing staff of the ECO Secretariat attended the gathering.

The current projects have been presented and discussed, evaluations and critical remarks were also aired.

Secretary General of the Organization Amb. Khusrav Noziri, who chaired the meeting, stressed the importance of timely and precise update of the pace of implementation of projects in order to have opportunity to secure balanced allocation of funds and efforts. Secretary General also requested to pay attention to the improvements of the wordings of project-related texts. In this connection he tasked the Project Management Section to work closely with the relevant directorates and sections.

The representatives of the Member States expressed opinion of the need to hold Project Monitoring Group meetings frequently and stressed the need to seek funds for the projects from various international donors.

The Project Monitoring Group called for intensification of project activity in line with the goals and objectives of the Member States.

18th meeting of the Project Monitoring Group

The Project Monitoring Group held its 18th meeting to review the ongoing projects and to deliberate on the new project proposals. The representatives of the Embassies of the ECO Member-States located in Tehran and the directing staff of the ECO Secretariat attended the gathering.

In his opening remarks Secretary General of the Organization Amb. Khusrav Noziri, while referring to the upcoming 33rd meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) and 26th meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) of the Organization to be held in January 2023, requested the participants to pay attention to the goals and objectives set in the ECO Vision-2025 and immediate priorities of the Member-States expressed at the 14th and 15th Summits of the Heads of State and Government the Organization held in 2021. The Secretary General also referred to

the Plan of Work on the proposals and initiatives of the 15th ECO Summit held in Ashgabat on November 28, 2021, which was adopted by the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

During the extensive exchange of views the representatives of the Embassies expressed wish to expedite the pace of the ongoing projects and raise their quality in order to address the current needs of the ECO area.

17th Meeting of the Project Monitoring Group

was held on May 31, 2022 to review end- of- second quarter status of project implementation.

Particular focus was drawn to those projects that address immediate needs of the ECO region like dust & sand storm and others. The 17th PMG Meeting recommended on ways of accelerating the implementation of ECO projects. To that effect, Interagency Coordination has been seen as a vehicle of drawing in external funding for ECO's mega and long-term projects. The Meeting also considered budgetary aspects of projects.