

**35th Meeting of the
ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

Report

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

Report

The 35th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) was held on February 24-27, 2025 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran. The Republic of Kazakhstan in its capacity as the Chairman of ECO in 2025 presided over the Meeting. Within the framework of RPC, the relevant Sectoral Committees met to discuss and consider the related issues and topics of their specific areas with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the 35th Meeting of RPC regarding the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2025.

2. The Delegations of the Member States, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the Meeting. The representatives of the Turkish Cypriot State attended the Meeting as an ECO Observer. The Secretariat headed by ECO Secretary General Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan also participated in the event. Moreover, the representatives of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies attended the Meeting. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annexure-I**.

Plenary Session

Agenda Item No.1

i. Opening remarks

3. In his welcome address, Dr. Khan highlighted ECO's key achievements over the past year and provided an update on major flagship initiatives, programs and projects, particularly during 2025. He also emphasized the significance of the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2025. This, he noted, presents a crucial opportunity to make 2025 a milestone year for ECO, as it marks the conclusion of Vision 2025—a pivotal moment to assess progress and define future priorities. Acknowledging Iran's successful ECO Chairmanship in 2024, he extended congratulations to Kazakhstan for assuming the role in 2025. His statement is attached as **Annexure-II**.

ii. Election of the Chairman

4. As per ECO's rules of procedure, H.E. Ambassador Ontalap Onalbayev, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan was elected to inaugurate and chair the Plenary Session of the 35th RPC meeting.

5. Presiding over the Plenary Session, the Chair acknowledged the progress made under Iran's leadership and reiterated Kazakhstan's commitment to strengthening regional economic ties. He emphasized trade, connectivity, green energy and climate change as key focus areas during Kazakhstan's tenure as ECO Chair. His statement is attached as **Annexure-II**.

iii. Adoption of the Agenda

6. As proposed, the Council adopted the Agenda of its Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Statements by the Heads of Delegation on the Implementation of the Decisions of the 34th RPC Meeting

i. ECO Member States

7. The Heads of Delegation of ECO Member States delivered their statements in alphabetical order, highlighting their national programs, policies and perspectives on the Organization's activities. They also provided the Council with updates on the status and progress of implementing sector-specific recommendations from the 34th Meeting of the RPC. Their statements are enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

ii. ECO Observer

8. The Head of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered his statement. His statement is enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

iii. ECO Specialized Agencies

9. The Heads of the ECO Specialized Agencies also delivered statements, providing the status of their activities undertaken since last RPC Meeting. Their statements are attached **Annexure-V**.

Agenda Item No. 3

Presentation of the National Statistical Reports and Review of the progress of implementation of the ECO approved programmes/projects/events and consideration of new programmes/projects/events for the year 2025 to be proposed in the Sectoral Committees

10. The Meetings of the Sectoral Committees were chaired by delegates of the Member States as per following details:

S#	Sectoral Committee	Name of the Chair and Designation	Structure	Country
1.	Trade and Investment	Ms. Maria Kazi, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Commerce	Pakistan
2.	Transport and Communication	Mr. Nurullo Ruzi, Head of Department	Ministry of Transport	Tajikistan
3.	Energy, Minerals and Environment	Mr. Emin Mammadov, Head of Division	MFA	Azerbaijan
4.	Agriculture and Industry	Mr. Ali Kiani, Head of Research Institute for Planning, Agricultural Economic and Rural Development	Ministry of Agriculture	Iran
5.	Tourism	Mr. Jalil Malikov, Head of Department	State Tourism Agency	Azerbaijan

6.	Human Resources and Sustainable Development	Mr. Selçuk Koç, Director General	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye
7.	Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and EAPA	Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Director of ECO Bureau	MFA	Iran
8.	International Relations	Mr. Selçuk Koç, Director General	Presidency of Strategy and Budget	Türkiye
9.	Economic Research and Statistics	Mr. Davlet Mustafin, Trade Representative	Ministry of Trade	Kazakhstan

11. While making deliberations on the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2025, the representatives of the Member States briefed about their national activities and statistics within the scope and framework of ECO. The Sectoral Committees also reviewed the status and progress of ECO activities, as well as finalized their respective Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2025.

Agenda Item No. 4

Endorsement of the draft outcomes

i. Annual Work Programme 2025

12. The Council mulled over the recommendations of Sectoral Committees on ECO Work Programme 2025 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). **Annexure-VI** of the Report contains the ECO Work Programme 2025.

ii. Calendar of Events 2025

13. The Council reviewed the recommendations of Sectoral Committees on ECO Calendar of Events 2025 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). **Annexure-VII** of the Report contains the ECO Calendar of Events 2025.

14. In line with Rule 32 of the ECO Rules of Procedure, which mandates that all ECO meetings be held at the Secretariat and Article 12 which states that each delegation covers its own expenses, the Council requested the CPR to develop a funding mechanism. This would enable the Secretariat to host all meetings in the 2025 Calendar of Events when no host is available, ensuring greater participation. The Council requested the Secretariat to bring the attention of the CPR by end of June 2025, the list of approved events for which there is no prospect of hosting by any Member States.

Agenda Item No. 5

Any other business

15. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 6

Date and venue of the next Meeting

16. The Council decided that the 36th Meeting of RPC will be held in the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, if no Member State appears to volunteer the hosting of the event. The dates of the next RPC Meeting will be communicated, in consultation with the Chairmanship in due course.

Agenda Item No. 7

Adoption of the Report of 35th RPC Meeting

17. The Council unanimously adopted its Report along with the outcomes of the event.

Agenda Item No. 8

Closing

18. The Council expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for efficiently and effectively chairing the event. Additionally, it commended all Sectoral Committees and their respective Chairs for successfully accomplishing their tasks and targets.

19. The Council acknowledged the efforts and significant contributions of the ECO Secretary General and his staff in preparing necessary working papers, supporting the Sectoral Committees and coordinating arrangements to ensure the successful organization of the 35th RPC Meeting.

20. In his concluding remarks, the ECO Secretary General expressed gratitude to the heads and members of delegations for their dedication and support in finalizing the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2025. Acknowledging emerging challenges affecting national, regional, and global progress, he reaffirmed ECO's commitment to advancing the region's collective interests with the continued support and guidance of its Member States.
