

**Remarks by Rapporteurs of the
ECO Women, Business and Youth Forum
At the 17th ECO Summit – Khankendi
July 3-4, 2025**

Women's Forum Rapporteur's Remarks

Speaker: *H.E. Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş*

Title: Minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye

Ladies and gentlemen, dear members of parliament, dear delegates, dear representatives of brotherly countries, dear participants,

I would like to salute you all with respect.

We are here together on the occasion of the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization and I am very proud to be here.

We also had a forum on women and we held this forum in Lachin on 2nd of July under the auspices of the Honourable President of Azerbaijan.

It was the very first forum on women and it was very significant for that purpose.

This forum underlined once again our determination to pursue women's participation in sustainable development and create further employment for women.

We had very concrete results and this has been a very important platform in this regard. Reinforcing women's autonomization with the help of the ECO Secretariat, the women leaders, policymakers, representatives of international organizations and business world as well as civil society organizations participated in that forum.

The goal of this forum was to contribute to the preparation process of the strategy documents for the 2026–2035 period.

In this regard, priorities for women as well as possible contributions that can be made have been defined within the forum.

We had sessions on three main topics: women's role in the fight against climate change and women's role in sustainable development.

Women's role has been underlined as central in empowering women. Countries acknowledge that empowering women is a catalyst for advancing economic competitiveness, social resilience, and environmental sustainability.

The forum highlighted that member states are implementing policies and action plans related to the role of women in climate resilience and sustainable development. Support for environmental initiatives as put forward by H.E. Mehmet Aliyeva, First and Vice President of Azerbaijan, and H.E. Emine Erdoğan, First Lady of Turkey, exemplifies the influential role in advancing the green transition.

The Zero Waste project led by H.E. Emine Erdoğan, now a global environmental movement, reflects their shared commitment.

Challenges such as under-representation of women in STEM and vulnerability to climate impacts require collective regional solutions.

Women must be empowered as climate solution drivers, knowledge holders, entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

Such forums are essential for visibility, coordination and action. The forum commended the appointment of a female leader to the ECO Clean Energy Center as a step toward balanced leadership.

It encouraged ECO member states to advance women's representation in leadership roles.

Based on discussions, the forum requested ECO Secretariat's recommendations be included in the Chair's Summary and final summit report, and considered in the ECO Development Document for 2026–2035.

In conclusion, the Women's Forum works to improve the regional climate and establish cooperation for coordinated, forward-looking action to advance the role of women.

Business Forum Rapporteur Remarks

Speaker: *H.E. Mikayil Jabbarov*

Title: Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan

**Your Excellencies,
Secretary General,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The 6th Business Forum of the Economic Cooperation Organization was held on July 2, 2025, in Shusha, Azerbaijan—ECOTourism Capital for 2026—within the framework of ECO Week and in the lead-up to the 17th ECO Summit.

Hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan, the ECO Secretariat and ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the forum was a vital platform for fostering regional economic cooperation through investment, trade and innovation.

The Summit featured a dynamic and inclusive ECO Week, organized for the first time by initiative of H.E. President Ilham Aliyev.

The forum convened up to 200 participants, including ECO Secretary General, ECO Chamber President, government officials, business leaders, heads of chambers of commerce, development institutions, and international partners.

It focused on unlocking the region's economic potential through collaboration in key sectors, enhancing infrastructure connectivity, and promoting sustainable, inclusive business models.

National heads of chambers delivered country-specific perspectives on trade, investment and recovery.

Emphasis was placed on public-private dialogue, cross-border infrastructure, and investment transparency.

Interventions stressed the need for digital tools like centralized business guides and regulatory platforms to help SMEs access regional markets.

Two rounds of B2B and B2G meetings enabled direct engagement between enterprises, government agencies, and development institutions, leading to new partnerships and insights.

The forum highlighted operationalizing the ECO Research Center, initiated by National Leader Haider Aliyev, as a hub for economic research and innovation.

Discussions emphasized harmonized economic policies, joint infrastructure development, and coordination in agriculture, textiles, ICT, and green industries.

Economic integration, when combined with strategic investment and regional cooperation, is key to a resilient, prosperous ECO region.

Business and policy actors stressed infrastructure, digital connectivity, and green transition, and recommended embedding private sector input into ECO's strategic and policy frameworks.

Side events included site visits to Aghdam Industrial Park. Drawing from discussions, the forum submitted recommendations to the ECO Secretariat for inclusion in the Chair's Summary and the ECO Development Document for 2026–2035.

The Shusha Business Forum reaffirmed the member states' aspiration to make the ECO region a globally competitive bloc founded on cooperation, innovation and sustainability.

I thank you for your attention.

Youth Forum Rapporteur's Remarks

Speaker: *H.E. Syed Amina Batool*

Title: Member of National Assembly, Pakistan

Dear Heads of State, Participants, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

The inaugural ECO Youth Forum was held on July 1, 2025 in Aghdam, Azerbaijan, as part of ECO Week for the 17th ECO Summit.

Initiated by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, the Forum demonstrated strong commitment to youth empowerment and policy dialogue.

Under the theme *"Enhancing the Role of Youth for Business, Building a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Future"*, the forum provided an inclusive platform for youth to exchange views and policy ideas for ECO's future.

Over 150 participants joined—youth delegates from ECO countries, students, professionals, and representatives from government, international organizations, academia and civil society.

The forum included keynotes from the Minister of Youth of Azerbaijan, ECO Secretary-General, Presidents of the ECO Educational Institute and ECO Science Foundation, etc.

Three expert-led thematic working groups took place:

- Economic and Trade Cooperation
 - Sustainability and Technology
 - Human Development and People-to-People Ties
- Youth participants developed joint recommendations forming the ECO Youth Action Blueprint.

Additional sessions included a youth organization showcase, a media zone with live coverage, and a forum newspaper.

Preceding the forum were five virtual ECO Youth Dialogues to prepare delegates and ensure inclusive engagement.

The forum emphasized that youth are not just stakeholders but key drivers of transformation.

Youth leadership, creativity and energy are essential to addressing regional challenges.

The forum fostered intergenerational dialogue, strengthened youth networks and highlighted their role in strategic areas.

ECO Youth Delegates were selected based on leadership potential and dedication to regional cooperation.

As a key outcome, the forum submitted recommendations to the ECO Secretariat for the 2026–2035 ECO Development Document and 17th Summit Chair's Summary.

This ensures that youth priorities are reflected in ECO's strategic planning and regional policymaking.

I thank you for your attention.