



ECO Newsletter

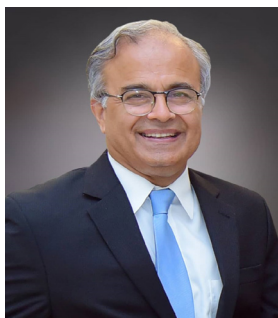
Economic Cooperation Organization

September, 2025- No.



Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the September 2025 edition of the ECO Newsletter.



This month, I attended the ECO High-Level Working Group Meetings on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Rail and Road Corridor in Islamabad, where participants agreed on taking steps to restore and revive the corridor and work towards its full operationalization as per international norms and practices. I also held in-depth and constructive bilateral discussions at the ministerial level in Islamabad. Our conversations focused on strengthening regional connectivity, trade integration, environmental protection, agricultural collaboration, and disaster risk reduction capacity. I was assured of full support and cooperation by all the interlocutors in advancing our development agenda.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, as one of the consistent contributors to the ECO activities and upholding its tradition of hosting major ECO events, organized the 6th Prosecutors General Meeting in Tashkent, where I represented ECO. I also availed the opportunity to hold extensive bilateral consultations with Uzbekistan's Ministers/Deputy Ministers responsible for Climate Change, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, and Trade. In these interactions, I emphasized the need for greater regional integration and interconnectedness and called for Uzbekistan to play even more active role in ECO affairs.

This month, I also had the privilege of attending the 2nd Iran-ECO National Conference, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Conference, inaugurated by the Honourable Foreign Minister H.E. Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, was an extraordinary initiative, bringing together all the national stakeholders to delve into challenges and opportunities facing ECO, while also exploring ways on how best Iran could contribute to ECO's success as its host. The Conference also produced a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at making ECO more effective and productive regional organization, which will be considered in the context of the finalization of the "Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035". I am hopeful that this Conference will act as a good role model for other ECO members to emulate.

We are committed to making 2025 a milestone year for ECO both in terms of crafting a new vision, undertaking comprehensive reforms and universalizing ECO agreements and frameworks. It is unprecedented that we have now dates locked for at least four ministerial meetings, some taking place after a gap of years. We will convene ECO Trade Ministers in November this year in Istanbul, Interior and Agriculture Ministers in Tehran and 29th ECO Council of Ministers in Shymkent, Kazakhstan later this year. This is certainly encouraging for us. We continue to count on your support and cooperation in furthering our ECO rejuvenation agenda.

Thank you.

Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO Prosecutors General Meet in Tashkent



September 25, 2025- Tashkent

The Sixth Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States was convened in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting reaffirmed the Member States' commitment to strengthening institutional linkages and enhancing inter-agency coordination in the fight against transnational organized crimes and emerging legal challenges.

In his welcome address, the Prosecutor General of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Nigmatilla Yuldoshev, highlighted that the meeting would produce valuable outcomes, fostering enhanced cooperation among regional countries in various areas, particularly in combating crime.

The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, emphasized that the meeting aligns with the strategic priorities outlined in the ECO Vision 2025 and reviewed the Plan of Interaction among Offices of Attorneys/Prosecutors General. He expressed confidence that collective efforts will strengthen a cohesive and effective prosecutorial framework within the ECO region, and reaffirmed the significance of regularly convening the Meetings of Attorneys/Prosecutors General as essential platforms for strategic alignment, mutual trust-building, and advancing regional legal cooperation.

The meeting welcomed offers from Pakistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan to host training programs on critical issues like drug awareness, anti-corruption, and cybercrime. It also highlighted the need to operationalise the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen and praised the role of prosecution authorities in environmental protection.

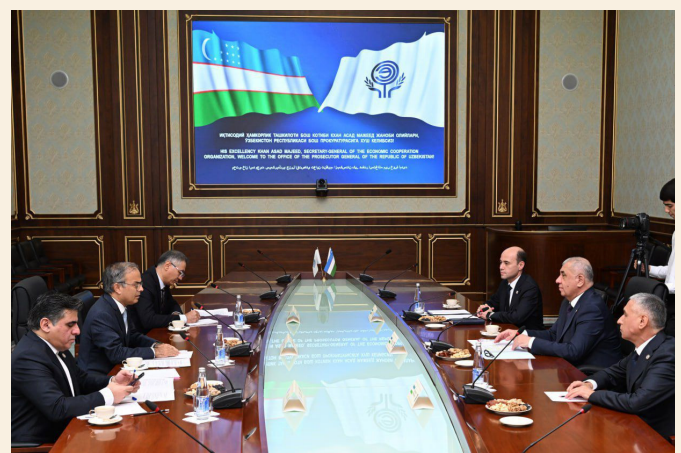
Bilateral Engagements in Tashkent

Meeting with Prosecutor General, Uzbekistan

September 23, 2025- Tashkent

On the sidelines of the Sixth Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States, Dr. Asad M. Khan held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Nigmatilla Yoldoshev, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Prosecutor General emphasized that the meeting would yield fruitful outcomes for strengthening cooperation in the region especially in combating crime.

Dr. Khan conveyed sincere appreciation to Mr. Yoldashev for his sustained attention and valuable contribution to the work of the Organization, particularly for hosting the 6th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States. Both sides stressed the importance of cooperation for crime control, and developing a vision to address new law enforcement challenges, including cyber-crimes, while also expressing necessity of advancing judicial and anti-corruption cooperation among ECO Member States.



Meeting with Minister of Agriculture

September 23, 2025- Tashkent

Dr. Asad M. Khan met with H.E. Mr. Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov, Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, on strengthening regional cooperation in agriculture and addressing shared environmental and food security challenges. The meeting highlighted Uzbekistan's active role in advancing ECO's agricultural agenda, recalling its hosting of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in 2022. The discussion further stressed the need to ensure that regional agricultural priorities are well-reflected in the evolving Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation- 2035.



Both sides reaffirmed the importance of existing ECO mechanisms, including ECO-VECO and veterinary cooperation platforms, as instruments to strengthen collaboration. They also underlined the significance of the upcoming 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, to be held on November 18, 2025 in Tehran, calling for active engagement and substantive contributions from all Member States. The two sides committed to advancing concrete proposals on carbon sequestration, including Uzbekistan's plan to designate a national focal point within its Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate cooperation under ECO frameworks.

Secretary General Addresses 2nd Iran-ECO National Conference

September 16, 2025- Tehran

The Second Iran-Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) National Conference was held in Tehran on September 16, 2025. H.E. Seyyed Abbas Aragchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, ECO Secretary General, delivered inaugural statements. The conference featured three specialized panels, held under the themes, "Transportation and Intra-Regional Interactions", "ECO and New Technologies", and "ECO Vision in 2035", with the participation of relevant government and private sectors, academic specialists, and researchers.



The Honourable Minister emphasized that ECO can and should play a leading and effective role in shaping a new economic architecture in the region, based on the principles of partnership, mutual respect, and common interests. Dr. Khan highlighted that Iran's geographical location, sharing borders with seven countries and maritime borders with eight countries, positions the country as a natural trade and transit hub in the region.

Meeting with First Deputy Minister of Climate Change

September 23, 2025- Tashkent

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Qudratov Obidjon Nematovich, First Deputy Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection & Climate Change of Uzbekistan. The Deputy Minister expressed Uzbekistan's readiness to work closely with ECO in the environment sector, where Uzbekistan has implemented numerous initiatives in recent years. He further conveyed Uzbekistan's desire to host the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment.

Appreciating the "Transboundary Green Initiative" proposed by the Honorable President of Uzbekistan during the 17th ECO Summit this year in Khankendi, Dr. Khan emphasized that the ECO region is acutely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Both parties stressed that environmental issues should have a special place in the next ECO vision and agreed to work closely in this regard, including cooperation on finalizing the agenda for the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment.



September 5, 2025- New York

The United Nations General Assembly, during its seventy-ninth session, adopted the resolution entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)”. The resolution highlights the importance of strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and ECO in addressing challenges and advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The resolution encompasses various dimensions of the UN-ECO relationship and provides a comprehensive framework for enhancing cooperation with the UN system, including its specialized agencies, funds, and programmes. Covering a wide range of areas relevant to ECO, the resolution focuses on trade, transport, energy, agriculture, industry, human resource development, and tourism.

The document recognizes ECO’s efforts in promoting regional connectivity, clean energy, and sustainable development, as outlined in ECO Vision 2025 and various declarations adopted at high-level summits and ministerial meetings. It also encourages international financial and specialized institutions to expand their cooperation with ECO, particularly in implementing regional transport corridors, digitized transit systems, and clean energy projects.

Granted observer status in the United Nations General Assembly in October 1993, ECO has been actively participating in the UN’s annual sessions at its headquarters in New York. The adoption of this resolution reaffirms the growing partnership between the United Nations and ECO, paving the way for stronger collaboration in achieving shared objectives for regional socioeconomic progress and sustainable development.

United Nations General Assembly Adopts Resolution on UN-ECO Cooperation



Meeting with First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs



September 23, 2025- Tashkent

Dr. Asad M. Khan met H.E. Mr. Rahmatullayev Ayubxon, First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Deputy Minister stressed that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan continues to strengthen public safety and uphold the rule of law through a comprehensive program of reforms and proactive policing.

Dr. Khan underscored the need to strengthen cooperation across all areas through experience sharing. He also noted that ECO is currently finalizing its new vision document “Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035,” with a title chosen based on the proposal of the Honorable President of Uzbekistan, and that it should also touch upon areas within the purview of interior ministries across the Member States.

Both sides emphasized the importance of the forthcoming 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting, under the theme “Regional Stability, Security, and Sustainable Development,” to be held in October in Tehran, which is envisaged to serve as a key multilateral platform for addressing critical security challenges that impede regional stability and socioeconomic progress.

Meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister

September 23, 2025- Tashkent

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Bobur Osmanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. The interaction highlighted Uzbekistan's emphasis on trade and investment, transport and connectivity, climate change, ICT and AI innovation, all of which are central elements of ECO's long-term development agenda. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of these themes as key drivers of sustainable regional growth and integration.

The meeting recognized the significance of environmental cooperation, with particular reference to Uzbekistan's "Transboundary Green Initiative" presented at the 17th ECO Summit. It reaffirmed the role of established ECO instruments, such as the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), as guiding frameworks for cooperation. It was agreed that future collaboration would benefit from joint committees, policy dialogues and pilot initiatives, particularly in environment, trade facilitation, digital governance and capacity-building.



SG Addresses Turkmenistan's Independence Day Celebrations



September 30, 2025-Tehran

Dr. Asad M. Khan participated in the reception marking the 34th Independence Anniversary of Turkmenistan, held at the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) in Tehran. During his address, Dr. Khan extended warm congratulations to the Government and people of

Turkmenistan, highlighting their invaluable contributions to the ECO and the region's shared journey toward cooperation and prosperity. He also commended Turkmenistan's unwavering commitment to promoting dialogue, global peace, and prosperity, as reflected in its policy of permanent neutrality.

Meeting with Deputy Minister of Trade

September 23, 2025- Tashkent

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Shokhrukh Gulamov, Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan. The meeting addressed current challenges in regional trade, noting the need for stronger and more coordinated action under ECO frameworks. The Deputy Minister confirmed Uzbekistan's participation in the upcoming ECO Ministerial Meeting on Trade, to be held in Istanbul this year on November 26.

The discussions also underlined the importance of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy, due for adoption at the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, as well as the advancement of the ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement as practical instruments for strengthening intra-regional commerce. Both sides emphasized the role of Joint Trade Zones, deeper cooperation in trade facilitation, investment promotion, regulatory modernization and regional value chains. The meeting reaffirmed the collective commitment to enhancing economic integration across the ECO region, with Uzbekistan playing an active role in shaping new cooperative initiatives.



14th High-Level Working Group Meeting on ITI Train Corridor

September 8, 2025 – Islamabad

The 14th Meeting of the ECO High-Level Working Group on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Train Corridor was hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The meeting addressed critical issues related to the operationalization, extension, and commercialization of the ITI Corridor. Ways were discussed to address challenges, develop solutions, and take necessary decisions to accelerate progress. Particular attention was given to the mobilization of funds and investment for the development of infrastructure and removal of missing links.



Dr. Asad M. Khan emphasized the ITI multimodal corridor's role in boosting regional trade, reducing road transport reliance, and competing with maritime routes. He highlighted the Tehran Declaration's focus on transport corridors for trade, integration, and sustainable development. He also assured the Secretariat's support in coordination, resource mobilization, and digitalization efforts, reaffirming commitment to making the ITI Corridor a sustainable and competitive

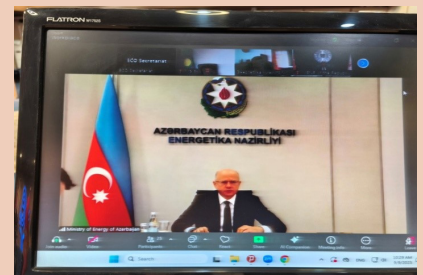
ECO Clean Energy Center Board of Governors Meeting

September 9, 2025

The 1st Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO) was held in a virtual mode and brought together six countries, signatories to the CECECO Charter. The Board was chaired by Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. UNIDO was also in attendance.

The meeting adopted the draft Rules of Procedure of CECECO and decided to designate the members of the Executive Board and Technical Committee of the Centre. It also appointed Ms. Aysel Yagubova as the Executive Director of CECECO for a full term of three years, who subsequently made a briefing on the planned activities of the Centre. All participants of the meeting expressed their firm support to the ECO Clean Energy Center and demonstrated their resolve to proactively participate in its operationalization.

Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted the potential role of CECECO in the green and sustainable energy transition in the region. He underscored that CECECO would respond to the multiple climate, energy and regional development needs by creating an enabling environment for sustainable energy markets and investments.



7th ITI Road Corridor High-Level Working Group Meeting

September 9, 2025 – Islamabad

The 7th Meeting of the High-Level Working Group on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Road Corridor was held under the auspices of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), hosted by the Government of Pakistan.

The meeting brought together experts from the en-route member states and stakeholders to review progress on the operationalization of the ITI Road Corridor and to deliberate on measures for enhancing regional transport connectivity.

Participants reviewed the 6th ITI Meeting Action Plan, emphasizing digital solutions like eTIR and eCMR to improve efficiency and security. They discussed the ECO Visa Scheme's potential to facilitate mobility for transport operators and traders. The meeting reaffirmed commitment to the ITI Road Corridor as a key trade link connecting South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted the successful October 2021 test run of the ITI Road Corridor under the TIR system. He stressed the need to implement recommendations from the Joint ECO/IRU Report to make the corridor fully operational and commercially viable. He urged en-route countries to collaborate on challenges such as customs harmonization, transit facilitation, and infrastructure development.



Bilateral Engagements in Islamabad

Meeting with Minister National Food Security & Research

September 11, 2025 – Islamabad

On the sidelines of the Islamabad–Tehran–Istanbul (ITI) Rail and Road Corridor meetings, Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, H.E. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain. Dr. Khan conveyed his sympathies and condolences over the loss of lives and property due to the recent floods in Pakistan, and sought an update on the damage particularly in the agriculture sector of the country. Following up on their previous interaction, they discussed the prospects regarding three specific initiatives, namely, Establishment of ECO Regional Seed Vault/Bank, ECO Climate Smart Agriculture Center, and Regional Locust Control Mechanisms.



The meeting reviewed preparations for the upcoming 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, on November 17–18, 2025 in Iran, which will provide a platform for high-level dialogue on sustainable agriculture, policy coordination, and steering regional cooperation to advance agricultural priority areas and food security initiatives across

Meeting with Minister for Railways

September 10, 2025 – Islamabad,

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Federal Minister for Railways of Pakistan. Dr. Khan requested Pakistan's close cooperation in advancing the implementation of the Tehran Declaration, adopted at the 13th Meeting of the ECO Ministers of Transport. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to working together towards transforming the ITI Rail Corridor into a viable and competitive transport route, contributing to the realization of ECO's vision of strengthened regional and inter-regional connectivity.



Both sides underlined the significance of the ITI Rail Corridor for the region and its role in enhancing trade, transport, and economic integration among member states and beyond. The meeting also reviewed the challenges impeding the full operationalization of the corridor, including infrastructure gaps, regulatory issues, and harmonization needs. The two sides exchanged views on possible solutions to enable the full upgrade of the ITI Corridor and ensure its seamless and sustainable operation.

Meeting with Chairman NMDA

September 11, 2025 – Islamabad

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Lieutenant General Imam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan. Dr. Khan sought updates on the rehabilitation efforts made by NDMA in the wake of recent floods in Pakistan. He also appreciated the capacity of NDMA to monitor and predict the precipitation patterns and also to undertake measures to mitigate the risk of disasters, and stressed the need for these capacities to be shared within the region through the ECO framework.

The meeting particularly focused on preparations for the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be preceded by a High-Level Working Group (HLWG) Meeting on DRR, planned to be hosted by Pakistan, which is expected to approve the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) for 2026-2030. Underscoring the importance of enhanced collaboration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) within the ECO region, the meeting reaffirmed both sides' readiness for closer collaboration.



Meeting with Minister of Climate Change

September 12, 2025 – Islamabad

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of Climate Change of Pakistan. The meeting called for a unified approach that can amplify resilience and advocacy concerning the sustained environmental degradation facing the region. It underscored the importance of the forthcoming 6th Ministerial Meeting on Environment, to be hosted by Uzbekistan in Samarkand. The two sides reviewed preparations for the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction. Dr. Khan informed the Minister on the progress of the ECO flagship projects, namely, the ECO Clean Energy Centre and the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE).



Meeting with Deputy Minister of Interior

September 9, 2025 - Islamabad

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Mr. Khurram Agha, Deputy Minister of Interior of Pakistan. Discussions focused on the upcoming ECO Interior Ministers Meeting, scheduled to take place on October 28, 2025, in Tehran. Dr. Khan briefed on the agenda and objectives of the meeting, emphasizing the importance of Pakistan's participation and active contribution to ensure its success.



Secretary General Underscores Regional Cooperation in Disaster Preparedness at CISE-6

September 30, 2025

Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed the Comprehensive International Simulation Exercise (CISE-6), hosted virtually by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan. The event brought together delegations from across the region to strengthen disaster risk reduction and emergency response capabilities. CISE-6 was designed to test and improve disaster management mechanisms by evaluating emergency protocols, enhancing interoperability and fostering coordination among national agencies. The exercise also promoted civil-military cooperation, private sector engagement and improved information-sharing with at-risk communities.



Dr. Khan highlighted the ECO region's acute vulnerabilities to natural hazards and stressed the urgent need for coordinated regional action. He noted that the ECO Secretariat is updating the Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, with the revised framework expected to be endorsed at the 10th Ministerial Meeting on DRR in Pakistan.

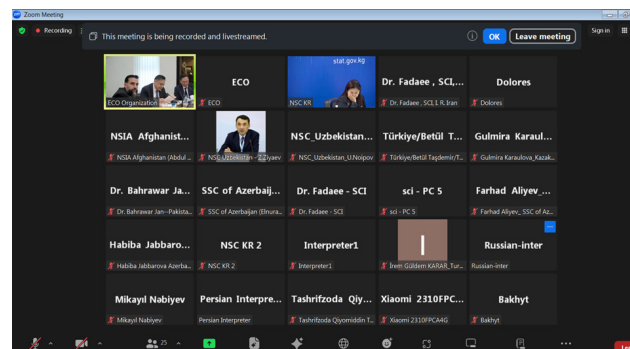
8th National Statistical Offices Meeting

September 16, 2025

The 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO) of the ECO Member States was held in virtual format, under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The event brought together senior officials and experts from the national statistical offices to discuss enhanced regional statistical cooperation and share national developments in official statistics.

The meeting was convened under the theme: "Advancing Regional Transport Connectivity and Sustainable Development." The Chair emphasized the critical role of high-quality, harmonized statistics in enabling evidence-based policymaking and monitoring the implementation of regional strategies, including ECO Vision 2025. The Member States shared their experiences in statistical digitalization, institutional reforms, and capacity development, underlining the need for stronger cooperation, technical assistance, and peer learning. Delegates emphasized the necessity of interoperability, data exchange mechanisms, and alignment with international standards such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting reaffirmed that statistical development is integral not only to monitoring ECO Vision 2025, but also to the formulation of a new post-2025 strategic framework, ensuring continuity, relevance, and adaptability to evolving regional priorities.



Aktau International Tourism Forum

September 25-26, 2025- Aktau

The Aktau International Tourism Forum brought together government officials, tourism authorities, investors, and industry stakeholders from across the ECO region to strengthen regional cooperation and explore new opportunities for tourism investment. Participants also engaged in B2B networking sessions, enabling direct interaction between investors, tour operators and public sector.



The Forum provided a platform for ECO Member States to present their tourism investment outlooks and share experiences in policy design, investment facilitation, and destination development. In addition to the plenary session, thematic panel discussions addressed key topics, including hospitality infrastructure and development opportunities, enhancing the tourism service chain, advancing medical tourism in Kazakhstan, and leveraging event tourism as a catalyst for growth in the country.

H.E. Yerbol Myrzabosynov, Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan, presented an overview of the country's latest tourism initiatives. He highlighted significant progress in developing the Mangystau region as a unique destination, underlining its potential for sustainable tourism and investment as well as mentioning recent nomination of Aktau for the title of ECO Tourism Capital for 2030.

The ECO Secretariat was led by the Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Jandos Asanov. In his statement, he commended the Kazakhstan's steadfast commitment to promoting tourism, highlighted the Secretariat's recent initiatives to enhance regional tourism cooperation and emphasized the need for increased investments in travel and hospitality infrastructure.

ECO and Zero Waste Foundation Explore Collaboration Opportunities

September 2, 2025

The ECO Secretariat and the Zero Waste Foundation held an online meeting to discuss potential collaboration opportunities within and after the upcoming Zero Waste Forum, scheduled to take place in Istanbul from 17 to 19 October 2025. This partnership aims to align the Zero Waste Initiative with ECO's strategic vision, particularly through the recently launched Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy (RESCUE), to address regional and global resource efficiency agenda and promote sustainable practices.



This forum, initiated by the First Lady of Türkiye, will bring together leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss innovative solutions for achieving zero waste and will feature an awards ceremony to recognize best practices in waste management.

During the meeting, both sides expressed their readiness for leveraging synergies and complementarities between the Zero Waste and RESCUE initiatives. This potential partnership is expected to boost regional ownership and encourage a cohesive approach to resource efficiency and sustainability at both regional and international levels. They reaffirmed their commitment to continue coordinating efforts to strengthen their partnership and mutually support these two green initiatives.

9th North & Central Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on SDGs Implementation

September 4-5, 2025- Almaty

The ECO Secretariat participated in the 9th North and Central Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), held in a hybrid format. Dr. Husnu Tekin, Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD) joined the Forum virtually.

Attended by UNESCAP Member States as well as international organizations, the Forum centered on the theme, "Transformative, Equitable, Innovative and Coordinated Actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a Sustainable Future for All."

During the fifth session on SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals, Dr. Husnu Tekin, ECO's Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and policy coherence for achieving the SDGs. He highlighted ECO's initiatives, including targeted events, an Action Plan for Policy Coherence, and outcomes from the 1st ECO Forum on Sustainable Development. Challenges such as data gaps, financial constraints, migration, and climate change were also discussed.



ECO Engages INSO to Advance Regional Quality Infrastructure Cooperation

September 14, 2025-Tehran

The ECO Secretariat led by Mr. Can Aygöl, Director for Agriculture and Industry, paid a courtesy visit to the Iranian National Standards Organization (INSO) in Tehran to review ongoing cooperation and explore avenues to further strengthen regional quality infrastructure through the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM). Discussions centered on joint initiatives aimed at enhancing regional coordination in the field of quality infrastructure. As part of the visit, the ECO Secretariat delegation also toured the ECO-RISCAM Secretariat Office, located within INSO headquarters in Tehran.



INSO provided an overview of ECO-RISCAM activities and highlighted future collaboration priorities. Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed support for ECO-RISCAM initiatives. The meeting focused on preparations for a virtual Training Workshop on Conformity Assessment (1 October 2025) and the First General Council Meeting. Emphasis was placed on active member participation, swift ratification of the ECO-RISCAM Statute, and updated nominations of national focal points to strengthen regional coordination.

Regional Sustainable Tourism Standardization

September 17, 2025– Tehran

The 7th Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Tourism Standardization was held in virtual format, with the participation of representatives from five ECO Member States: The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye. Participants engaged in productive dialogue and exchanged constructive feedback on the practical aspects of implementing the Common Criteria document as well as the representative of Türkiye Tourism Development and Promotion Agency delivered a comprehensive presentation on their national sustainable tourism program.



The meeting focused on finalizing the implementation modalities of the Organization's first regional tourism standardization document titled "ECO Sustainable Tourism – Common Criteria for Tourism Accommodation Facilities in the ECO Region." This initiative stems from the mandate given by the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, held in April 2025, which underscored the need to promote and institutionalize sustainable tourism practices across the region.

Regional Workshop on Enhancing Seismic Risk Assessment Capacities

September 22–23, 2025-Istanbul

The ECO Secretariat, in collaboration with the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of the Republic of Türkiye (AFAD) and the Asian and Pacific Center for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), convened a joint regional workshop in Istanbul on enhancing seismic risk assessment capacities in ECO Member States. The workshop provided a platform for forward-looking dialogue on strengthening seismic risk assessment across the region. The two-day event brought together participants from relevant government institutions of ECO Member States, academia, civil society organizations, and representatives of international partners, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).



Participants highlighted their experiences in seismic risk assessment, while also identifying key challenges such as the lack of standardized data, limited financial resources, and the urgent need for regional cooperation in data sharing and capacity-building. The workshop concluded with a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing collaboration among ECO Member States to strengthen disaster risk reduction and build resilience against seismic hazards.

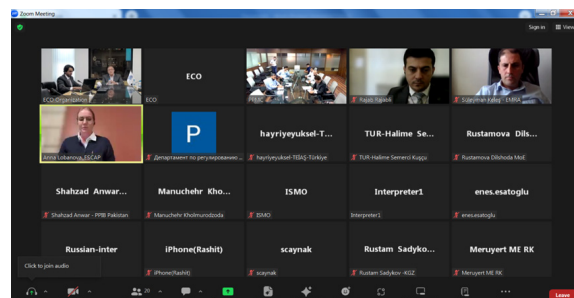


1st Task Force Meeting on Establishment of ECO-REM

September 23, 2025

The 1st Task Force Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) was organized virtually, bringing together more than twenty technical experts in the field of power system connectivity from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan, as well as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as a core partner of the ECO-REM project.

The Meeting deliberated on the recommendations of the “Regional Roadmap of Power System Connectivity – ECO Regional Electricity Market: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development”, designed by UNESCAP, and streamlined the next steps for advancement of the ECO-REM project. The meeting decided to finalize the consideration of the aforementioned Roadmap at the next – 2nd Task Force Meeting for

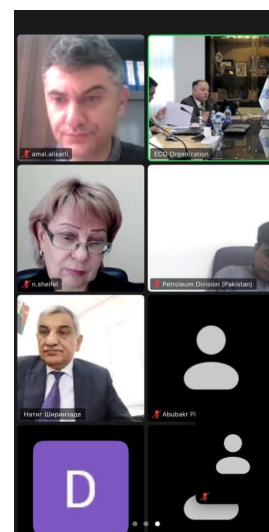


ECO Reviews Five-Year Roadmap for Minerals Cooperation

September 24, 2025-Tehran

The ECO Task Force Meeting on development of the “ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030” was held virtually, bringing together representatives of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Tajikistan. The Roadmap represents the first-ever overarching and all-inclusive framework document for regional cooperation within ECO in the field of minerals capturing mid- and long-term perspective.

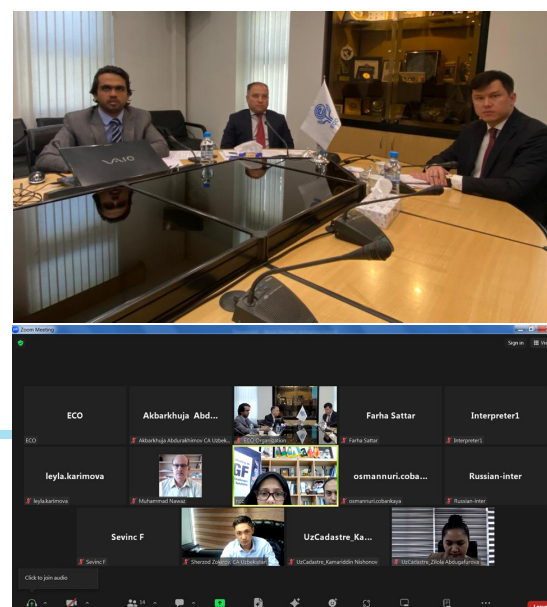
Discussions focused on key action areas and priorities of the roadmap designed by ECO Secretariat, namely sustainable management of mineral resources, multi-stakeholder approach, minerals database and information, creating stronger regulatory environment, capacity-building and public awareness-raising and international partnerships. The meeting overwhelmingly underscored the importance of the earliest finalization of the Roadmap so that to pave the way for its implementation from 2026. Dr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, ECO Director for Energy, Minerals, and Environment highlighted that the adoption of the Roadmap will mark a milestone towards streamlining and coherence of the regional cooperation in the minerals sector.



Global Statistical Geospatial Framework

September 30, 2025

The National Cartographic Center (NCC) of Iran, in partnership with the ECO Secretariat, organized a virtual Technical Meeting to address implementation challenges and collaborative solutions for the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF). In-depth discussions focused on sharing strategies and overcoming barriers to GSGF adoption, with outcomes expected to contribute to creating a more integrated data ecosystem in the ECO region to support evidence-based policy-making. These efforts are designed to strengthen regional cooperation and empower Member States to adopt advanced geospatial frameworks, facilitating better decision-making and sustainable development across the region.





Economic Cooperation Organization



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