



Economic Cooperation Organization

Istanbul Declaration on Climate Change and Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development

We, the Ministers/the Head of Delegations of ECO Member States responsible for environment and climate related issues, having gathered in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on December 17, 2014 at the "**5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment**" are determined to address climate change challenges of the 21st century most likely to affect the natural resources and economic activities in the ECO region, are therefore:

Reaffirming our commitments made in previous Ministerial Meetings on tackling the impacts of climate change which require regional concerted actions in the field of environmental protection and environmental impact assessment,

Recognizing that changing climatic conditions will affect food security, the availability of water, forests, biodiversity, the number of natural disasters and functioning of ecosystems throughout the ECO region require the ECO Member States to work towards development of environmentally sound mechanisms and innovative solutions for facing the prevailing challenges and problems,

Noting the importance of the transition to the use of renewable energy sources, existing energy resources with clean technologies and environment friendly alternatives in order to address challenges posed by environmental pollution and climate change more effectively,

Commending the activities carried out under the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2011-2015) and stressing the need to identify applicable common approaches on combating climate change and promoting a green economy, development of coherence and synergy in adaptation-related actions among key stakeholders and policy makers

and elaboration of relevant frameworks/platforms within the ECO region,

Reiterating that the enhancement of cooperation and concerted actions among the ECO Member States shall contribute to giving higher preference for climate change issues in national and regional agendas and promoting the investments in green economy which will bring effective changes in socio-economic development,

Acknowledging that enhancement of policy coherence, adaptation of existing institutional arrangements and establishing new frameworks for synergies across sectors will contribute to sustainable development and long-term sustainability of ECO region environment and global climate resiliency,

Noting that shifting to green economy requires context-specific targets for the implementation of targets in the framework of national legislations, institutions and various platforms supported by regional and international cooperation, including the dissemination of relevant technologies and sharing best practices,

While adopting Report prepared by the Senior Officials Meeting and the decisions therein, as contained in the Document ECO/EME/ENV/5th M/3, agreed:

1. **To extend** the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2011-2015) until the end of 2020.
2. **To call on** the ECO Council of Ministers to designate environment and impacts of climate change as a cross-sectoral priority of the Organization to be seriously considered by all ECO activities and events on different issues and at different levels.
3. **To call on** the ECO Member States to develop and consolidate common efforts to adopt the most coherent, equitable and sustainable cross-sector frameworks needed to achieve sustainable development in coherence with the Rio+20 outcome document entitled “The Future We Want” with particular emphasis on formulation of green economy policies as well as roadmaps for mitigation and adaptation measures to address the adverse impacts of climate change and events induced thereof.

4. **To request** the ECO Secretariat to maximize efforts to strengthen its cooperation with relevant international and financial entities, including but not limited to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), other pertinent UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), regional and international financial/development cooperation agencies to promote good practices on green economy and climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as, for ensuring effective implementation of regional projects/programs/studies within the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States (2011-2015) and other environmental related activities, including development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, practices and facilitation of cooperation and technology transfer and those envisaged in this Declaration.
5. **To emphasize** that under the UNFCCC, the new agreement, a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force to be concluded in its COP21, in December 2015 - Paris should capture the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as the provision of finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building to developing countries in order to support their mitigation and adaptation actions.
6. **To call on** the ECO Secretary General to exercise his supervisory role with a view to ensuring necessary human resources and expertise needed for Secretariat to fully attain its mandate in the area of global warming and environmental cooperation and in order for ECO to act as a regional node for mobilizing relevant stakeholders and policy makers across the region to formulate and submit environmental projects to appropriate financial/development agencies and institutions.
7. **To encourage** the ECO Member States and the ECO Secretariat to actively participate, as well as, to prepare a declaration to be submitted during UNCCD COP 12 in Turkey in 2015.
8. **To commend** the work done by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and thank ECO Secretary General and his staff for their support and hard work to make this Meeting a success.

9. **To express** our profound gratitude to the Government and the People of the Republic of Turkey and to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and generous hospitality extended to the participating delegations.

Istanbul-December 17, 2014