



## **29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)**

### **Report**

**November 28, 2025**  
**(Online)**

## Report

The 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) was held in an online format on November 28, 2025. The Honourable Foreign Ministers /Heads of Delegations of the ECO Member States, including Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan (Chair), Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. The Delegations from ECO Observers, including Turkish Cypriot State and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) also attended the meeting. The ECO Secretariat was represented by Secretary General and his team. Moreover, the Head of ECO Science Foundation took part in the meeting. List of Participants is attached as **Annex-I**.

### **Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**

2. The Senior Officials Meeting (SoM) was held online on November 24, 2025, to review and finalize the draft Agenda, Report and Joint Communiqué for consideration and adoption by the esteemed Council of Ministers (COM).

3. The ECO Secretary General, **H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan**, delivered a comprehensive reflection on the Organization's progress throughout 2025, highlighting the revitalization of ministerial processes, significant advancements across priority sectors, and the launch of new initiatives designed to enhance regional connectivity, sustainability and institutional capacity. His statement is attached as **Annex-II**.

4. **H.E. Mr. Beibit Kulatayev**, Director General of the Department for Near and Middle East and Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, extended greetings to the senior delegates and conveyed his appreciation to the ECO Secretary General and his team for their constructive support and efficient coordination in facilitating the successful convening of this online meeting. He further underscored the principal achievements and major activities undertaken during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in 2025.

### **29<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING (COM)**

#### **Inauguration**

5. As the current ECO Chairman, the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, **H.E. Mr. Yermek Kosherbayev**, formally opened the meeting and extended warm greetings to the participating delegations. In his statement, he reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to the ECO and outlined the country's key regional priorities under the theme of "Advancing Regional Transport Connectivity and Sustainable Development." His statement is placed as **Annex-III**.

6. The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar**, designated to assume ECO Chairman for 2026, also delivered a statement outlining Pakistan's forthcoming priorities for the Organization. His statement is placed as **Annex-III**.

7. The Honourable Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **H.E. Mr. Abbas Araghchi**, also delivered a statement in his capacity as the COM Chairman for 2023. His statement is placed as **Annex-III**.

8. The ECO Secretary General, **H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan**, expressed his sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Yermek Kosherbayev for chairing the 29th COM Meeting. He noted that 2025 revitalized ECO's institutional activity, with renewed ministerial engagement, key sectoral progress and expanded international partnerships. His statement is placed as **Annex-III**.

### **Agenda Item No. 1**

#### Adoption of the Agenda

9. As proposed by the Senior Officials Meeting, the **Council** reviewed and adopted the following Agenda for discussion and deliberations:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Statements by:
  - Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Member States;
  - ECO Observers (*if any*);
  - CICA Secretary General.
3. Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization;
4. Review, and Approval of:
  - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
  - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
  - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions.
5. Adjustment of Unpaid Contributions of Kazakhstan;
6. Deliberations on Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
  - Current status of deliberations on Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035
  - Extension of ECO Vision-2025 until the end of June 2026;
7. Sequencing of COM and Summit under Two-Year ECO Chairmanship;
8. Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat:
  - Audit Report for 2023 and 2024;
  - ECO Budget for 2026;
  - Turkmenistan's proposal to upgrade their Program Officer position from grade "P-1" to "P-3";
  - Appointment of Mr. Yerzhan Mukash (Kazakh national) to the post of Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA).

9. Any other business.
10. Date and venue of the next COM meeting.
11. Adoption of Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council of Ministers.
12. Vote of thanks and closing of the Meeting.

## **Agenda Item No.2**

### Statements by:

- **Ministers/Heads of Delegation**

10. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation from ECO Member States emphasized the need to strengthen regional cooperation amid emerging global challenges and acknowledged the essential role of ECO's specialized agencies and institutions in advancing the Organization's multifaceted agenda. They also briefed the Council on their national programs and policy priorities within the ECO framework. Their statements are placed at **Annex-III**.

- **ECO Observers**

11. The Representative of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered statement in their capacities as ECO Observer, reaffirming their shared commitment to closer collaboration in support of ECO's objectives and priorities. His statement is placed at **Annex-III**.

- **International Partners**

12. The Head of the CICA Delegation delivered a statement underscoring the importance of strengthening their partnership with ECO. His statement is placed at **Annex-III**.

## **Agenda Item No.3**

### Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization

13. The **Council** noted with appreciation the report presented by the ECO Secretary General, detailing the Organization's progress since the 28th COM Meeting and highlighting major sectoral developments, accomplishments and continuing efforts across ECO's principal areas of cooperation.

### **Follow -up of the decisions of 28th COM Meeting**

14. In view of the shifting regional and global dynamics, the **Council** underlined that stronger joint action between Member States and the Secretariat is indispensable for navigating emerging challenges and sustaining the region's development momentum. It noted that only a well-coordinated approach can effectively prevent the impact of these pressures on ECO's collective progress.

15. The **Council** also reiterated the need to ensure that ECO's undertakings remain firmly rooted in the Organization's strategic priorities. It emphasized that consistent and timely implementation of COM decisions is essential for driving forward ECO's economic agenda and achieving tangible results across the region.

### **ECO Agreements/Treaties concluded among Member States**

16. While assessing the current status of ECO's legal instruments, the **Council** encouraged closer coordination among both signatory and non-signatory Member States. It urged them to accelerate their respective internal processes for the signing and ratification of outstanding agreements, noting that timely action in this regard would reinforce the Organization's legal architecture and contribute to deeper regional cohesion.

### **Implementation of ECO Projects and Programmes**

17. The **Council** took note of the advances achieved in the implementation of ECO projects and looked forward to the timely completion of both current and planned initiatives. It underscored the need for these efforts to remain firmly anchored in the Organization's sectoral economic priorities, consistent with the guidance provided through the Council's decisions and recommendations.

### **ECO Relations with International Partners**

18. The **Council** welcomed the Organization's continued efforts to deepen engagement with regional and international partners, noting the value of proactive participation in multilateral platforms for advancing ECO's interests. It emphasized the importance of sustaining these efforts to further elevate the Organization's profile and expand its external outreach.

19. The **Council** also underscored the importance of closer cooperation between ECO and relevant UN agencies on issues of shared significance. In this context, it encouraged the Secretariat to maintain and strengthen this collaborative approach to effectively advance ECO's objectives and regional economic agenda across global forums.

### **Agenda Item No.4**

#### **Review and Approval of:**

- Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings
  - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings
  - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
- i) Reports of (291st to 300th) Meetings of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR);

- ii) Reports of Ministerial Meetings on **6th Tourism** (Türkiye – April 2025), **13th Transport** (Iran – June 2025), **4th Interior** (Iran – October 2025); **5th Commerce & Foreign Trade** (Türkiye – November 2025)
- iii) 6th Meeting of the ECO Prosecutors/Attorneys General (Uzbekistan – September 2025)
- iv) Annual Reports of the ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated bodies.

20. The **Council** adopted all the above reports submitted for its consideration.

21. The **Council** also acknowledged the essential role of ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies in advancing the Organization's cooperation agenda and encouraged them to continue pursuing initiatives that support collective and sustainable regional progress.

### **Agenda Item No.5**

#### Adjustment of Unpaid Contributions of Kazakhstan

22. The **Council** noted that, in line with the decision of its 24th Session in Antalya, the adjustment of Kazakhstan's unpaid contribution to the ECO Budget was required to be addressed during the implementation period of the revised scale of assessment.

23. Recognizing the successful implementation of this mechanism, marked by the increase of Kazakhstan's contribution from 16% to 18% and the country's consistent and timely payments throughout the period, the **Council** expressed its appreciation to Kazakhstan and agreed that its outstanding contributions for 2014–2018 be considered "**Settled**" as of December 31, 2025.

### **Agenda Item No.6**

#### Deliberations on Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

- Current status of deliberations on Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

24. The **Council** recalled that the formulation of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 was mandated by its 28<sup>th</sup> Session held in Mashhad on December 3, 2024. The Council appreciated the ongoing work on the preparation of this important strategic document, commended the efforts of the Member States and the ECO Secretariat, and took note that the draft remains under review and requires additional time for its comprehensive finalization.

- Extension of ECO Vision-2025 until the end of June 2026;

25. Accordingly, the **Council** agreed to extend the validity of the existing ECO Vision 2025 until the end of June 2026, or finalization of the new Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035, whichever is earlier.

## Agenda Item No.7

### Sequencing of COM and Summit under Two-Year ECO Chairmanship;

26. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Member States and the ECO Secretariat in reaching consensus on the introduction of a two-year ECO Chairmanship under which the COM and Summit will be sequenced and held under a single-country chairmanship.

27. Accordingly, the Council, in principle, approved the new arrangement of a two-year ECO Chairmanship, and also agreed to the proposed deletion of Paragraph 22 of the Chapter V of the ECO Rules of Procedure, and amendment to Paragraph 23 of Chapter V of the ECO Rules of Procedure, as follows:

#### **Paragraph 22**

*At the beginning of every ECO calendar year, policy making organs (COM, RPC, CPR) shall form the Bureau of Chairperson by nominating the Chairperson and electing, a Vice Chairperson and a Rapporteur from among the heads of delegations of participating Member States in accordance with Paras 23 and 24 below. The Secretary General or his/her representative shall assist the Bureau. If the Chairperson is to be absent from a meeting, the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the meeting. 23.*

#### **Amended Paragraph 23**

*The Chairpersonship of the ECO shall rotate in alphabetical order among the Member States every two-year, at the beginning of at the start of a each calendar year. In the first year of the two-year Chairmanship, the Council of Ministers (COM) meeting shall be convened either in the Chairing country or at the ECO Secretariat, while in the second year; both the COM meeting and the Summit shall be convened back-to-back in the Chairing country. The Member State holding the Chairpersonship shall host the annual meeting of the Council of Ministers in the year concerned.*

28. Moreover, the Council agreed that the implementation of the above decision shall take effect from the date on which the first interested member state assumes the two-year Chairmanship, or otherwise from the next alphabetical cycle of Chairmanship starting from January 2031, **whichever is earlier**. Until that time, the existing chairmanship rotation cycle shall continue based on the existing provisions of the ECO Rules of Procedure.

## Agenda Item No.8

### Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat

- Audit Report for 2023 and 2024;

29. The **Council** considered and adopted the ECO Audit Report for the years 2023-24.

- ECO Budget for 2026;

30. The Council considered and approved the ECO Budget for 2026.

- Turkmenistan’s proposal to upgrade their Program Officer position from grade “P-1” to “P-3”;

31. The **Council** considered Turkmenistan’s request to upgrade its Program Officer position from grade P-1 to P-3. The Council took note that Turkmenistan, with a 4% contribution share, currently holds one D-2 and one P-1 post, while comparable Member States hold one D-2 and one P-3 post.

32. Recognizing the principle of parity and fairness among Member States, and noting that the proposed upgrade would have an annual financial implication of approximately USD 15,000, the **Council** agreed to the upgradation of Turkmenistan’s Program Officer post from P-1 to P-3 with effect from January 1, 2026.

33. In this regard, the **Council** tasked the ECO Secretariat to make the necessary administrative and budgetary adjustments, and to reflect this decision in the ECO organizational structure, accordingly.

- Appointment of Mr. Yerzhan Mukash (Kazakh national) to the post of Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA).

34. The **Council** considered and approved the appointment of Mr. Yerzhan Mukash (**Kazakh national**) against the post of Deputy Secretary General for Tourism, Judicial & Parliamentary Coordination, and ECO Advocacy Program (**Category-I, D3**) for a full term of three years to be effective from his date of joining the Secretariat.

#### **Agenda Item No.9**

##### Any other business

35. No issue was raised under any other business.

#### **Agenda Item No.10**

##### Date and Venue of the next meeting

36. The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to assume the next ECO Chairmanship and organize the 30<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting in Islamabad in the third quarter of 2026. The exact dates of the event will be finalized through diplomatic channels.

#### **Agenda Item No.11**

Adoption of Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting

37. The **Council** adopted the Report of the Meeting chaired by the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**Agenda Item No.12**

Closing of the Meeting and Vote of Thanks

38. The **Council** extended its sincere gratitude and appreciation to H.E. Mr. Yermek Kosherbayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for effectively and professionally chairing the meeting.

39. The **Council** further acknowledged the valuable participation of the Heads and Members of Delegations and their constructive contributions to the proceedings.

40. The **Council** also expressed its appreciation to the ECO Secretary General and his team for their dedicated support, timely preparations and efficient coordination with Member States, which ensured the smooth conduct and successful conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM).

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