



Department of Environment  
Islamic Republic of Iran



Economic Cooperation Organization  
(ECO)

## Report

“4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment”

(9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Tehran)

**Report of the**  
**4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment**  
**(9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Tehran)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Meeting on Environment was held on 9 June 2011 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. It was preceded by Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) held on 7-8 June, 2011. The meeting was attended by the Ministers/Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran (host), Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey as well as ECO Secretary General and his delegation. H.E. Mr. Sargon Slewa, Environment Minister of Republic of Iraq and Dr. Subrata Sinha, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for Asia and the Pacific also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as ***Annex-I***.

**Agenda Item No.1**

**a. Inauguration of the Meeting**

1. The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his inaugural statement, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of ECO activities in the field of environment. The text of his inaugural statement is attached as ***Annex-II***.

2. H.E. Mr. Mohammad J. Mohammadi Zadeh, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his opening statement, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the regional cooperation to successfully respond to the environmental challenges. The text of his speech is attached as ***Annex-III***.

3. H.E. Mr. Mohammed Y. Maroofi, ECO Secretary General, in his statement expressed deep gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly to the Head of Department of Environment, for hosting the meeting and wished the participants to have useful deliberations and fruitful results on the issues covered by its agenda. A copy of his statement is attached as ***Annex-IV***.

**b. Green Industry Award Presentation**

4. During the inaugural session, the Green Industry Awards were presented to the following representatives of two selected companies:

- i. Mr. Irshad Ramay, National Cleaner Production Centre, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- ii. Engr. Sharim Frozen, Polyacryl Iran Corporation, Islamic Republic of Iran

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

### **Election of Chairperson**

5. In accordance with the ECO Rules of Procedures, H.E. Mr. Mohammad J. Mohammadi Zadeh, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Host) was elected as the Chairman of the Meeting.

6. After assuming the Chairmanship, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad J. Mohammadi Zadeh, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the Meeting for his election as the Chairman and expressed his best wishes for the success of the meeting.

## **Agenda Item No.3**

### **Adoption of Agenda**

7. The agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, which had been endorsed by the Senior Officials Meetings (SOM), was adopted by the Ministerial Meeting. A copy of the adopted Agenda of the Meeting is attached as ***Annex-V***.

## **Agenda Item No.4**

### **Appointment of Drafting Committee**

8. An open-ended drafting committee was appointed. The Senior Officials of the Member States and the ECO Secretariat Staff acted as members of the Drafting Committee.

## **Agenda Item No.5**

### **Statements by the Ministers/Heads of Delegations/Invited State and Organizations**

9. The Ministers / Head of Delegations of the Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey presented their statements covering the state of the environment in their countries, the policies and programmes concerning the environmental issues, implementation of the Plan of Action for cooperation among the ECO Member States on Environment (2003-2010) and proposals for regional cooperation in this field. H.E. Mr. Sargon Slewa, the Iraqi Minister of Environment and Dr. Subrata Sinha, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for Asia and the Pacific also

delivered their statements. Copies of their statements made available to the Secretariat are attached as ***Annex-VI***.

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

##### **Follow-up of the Implementation of Plan of Action on Cooperation in the field of Environment in ECO Region (2003-2010)**

10. The 1<sup>st</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (December, 2002 in Tehran) had adopted the Plan of Action for Cooperation among ECO Member States on Environment for the period of 2003-2007, which was afterwards extended up to 2010. The Secretariat presented to the Meeting a Status Report on ECO activities on Environment to implement the Plan of Action.

11. The Meeting took note and appreciated the activities carried out by the Member States and Secretariat and requested that they should endeavour to implement the Framework Plan of Action (2011-2015).

#### **Agenda Item No.7**

##### **Review and adoption of the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming in ECO region (2011 – 2015)**

12. The Meeting adopted the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming in ECO region (2011 – 2015) as finalized after detailed deliberations by the preceding Senior Officials Meetings (SOM). The text of the Framework Plan of Action is attached as ***Annex-VII***.

13. It has been decided that the Paragraph 2-5 of Framework Action Plan regarding Sustainable Development of Ecotourism will be retained in the Framework Plan of Action on Environment (2011-2015). However, it has also been emphasized that the issues related to Ecotourism may be incorporated in the draft agenda of the next Ministerial Meeting on Tourism. It may also be recalled that 21<sup>st</sup> RPC shifted the Ecotourism from Energy, Minerals & Environment (EME) Directorate to the Tourism sub-division under the Agriculture, Industry & Tourism Directorate of the ECO Secretariat.

14. The Meeting while endorsing in principle the Draft Proposal Project Profile of a regional program for implementation of the Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming (2011-2015) for ECO Member States, prepared by the Secretariat under the decision of 21<sup>st</sup> RPC Meeting mandated the Secretariat to submit it to the next CPR for its approval and allocation of funds. The Meeting also directed the Secretariat to approach the international Organizations/Institutions in particular UNEP, GEF and IDB for seeking their financial and technical assistance.

15. The Islamic Republic of Iran pledged US\$ 100,000/- as seed money amount for the Project. ECO Secretary General further proposed that the ECO Secretariat will also allocate an amount of US \$ 50,000/-. Other Members States were requested to consider extending financial assistance as well as International donors/agencies would be approached for seeking the funds, for the completion of the Project.

#### **Agenda Item No.8**

##### **Adoption of Tehran Communiqué**

16. The Tehran Communiqué, as endorsed by the preceding Senior Officials Meetings (SOM), was adopted by the Ministers and Head of Delegations. The text of the Tehran Communiqué is enclosed as ***Annex-VIII***.

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

##### **Any other business**

17. The Meeting welcomed the proposal for developing a regional project to combat desertification with a special emphasis on dust haze and sand storm in the region. The Secretariat would prepare a project document and submit to the CPR for approval and allocation of necessary funds. The Secretariat will approach Member States for voluntary contributions and regional/international organizations for possible technical and financial assistance. Taking into account, the trans-regional nature of the issue, the meeting envisaged the participation of non-ECO countries in this project and welcomed the willingness of Iraq to participate in this project, accordingly.

18. The Meeting encouraged that the Member States may inform the next Ministerial Meeting on Environment on the status of their membership to the international and regional conventions.

19. The Meeting agreed to establish a contact group in the ECO Secretariat who could interact with the UN and other international organizations and presents its point of view on the various issues.

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

##### **Date and venue of the next meeting**

20. The Meeting welcomed the kind offer of the Kyrgyz Republic to hold 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in July 2013. Other details will be communicated to the Member States in due course of time.

**Agenda Item No.11**  
**Adoption of the Report**

21. The Report of the Meeting was unanimously adopted.

**Agenda Item No.12**  
**Vote of thanks**

22. The Head of Delegations expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly to the Department of Environment, for the warm hospitality extended to all the delegates and excellent arrangements made for the meeting and to the ECO Secretariat for its productive contribution to the Meeting's success.

**Agenda Item No.13**  
**Closing of the Meeting**

23. The Chairman of the Meeting expressed the thanks to the participants for their participation and active deliberations. He particularly thanked to the Republic of Iraq and the UNEP for attending this event and wished all participants memorable and comfortable stay in Tehran.

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