

The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment

Tehran Communiqué

(Tehran, 9th June, 2011)

The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment was held on 9th June 2011 in Tehran, Iran, and it was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held on 7-8 June 2011. The Ministerial Meeting was attended by the Ministers / Head of Delegations from Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey as well as the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) along with his delegation. The meeting was also attended by H.E. Mr. Sargon Slewa, the Environment Minister of Republic of Iraq and Dr. Subrata Sinha, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for Asia and Pacific.

The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Mohammad J. Mohammadi Zadeh, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Mr. Mohammed Y. Maroofi, Secretary General of ECO.

The Ministers of Environment /Head of Delegations:

Reaffirming the decisions taken at the previous Ministerial Meetings on Environment (1st – December, 2002, Tehran, Iran; 2nd – October, 2004, Istanbul, Turkey; 3rd – June, 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan)

Expressing concern about the trends of environmental degradation and pollution in the ECO region;

Determining for achieving significant success in combating environmental degradation in the ECO Region with active and full participation of all actors of the society and aware that educated population have respect for ethical and spiritual values and cultural diversity;

Appreciating the activities carried out under the Plan of Action for Cooperation among ECO Member States on Environment (2003 – 2010);

Adopted the Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming (2011-2015) and endorsed the Proposed Project Profile for Preparation of Regional Programme for its Implementation;

Urged more concerted and active participation of environment organizations of the member states in the implementation of the Framework Plan of Action;

Stressed the importance of National Progress Reports on the successful implementation of the ECO Framework Plan of Action on Environment cooperation; and ***Agreed*** that submission of National Progress Reports to ECO Secretariat in the first quarter of each year, would be continued on the basis of the unified agreed format;

Appreciated the outcomes of the 5th Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Environment on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Cooperation among ECO Member States on Environment (2003-2010) (Baku, May, 2008); and ***Emphasized*** the need to continue holding these meetings for successful implementation of the Framework Plan of Action (2011-2015), as well as experts meetings/workshops and training programs to promote human resource development in the field of environment in the ECO region;

Appreciated the establishment of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (IEST) for ECO region on the project basis; and ***Requested*** all Member States to kindly cooperate with the ECO-IEST through participating in the training courses and other programs;

Welcomed the participation of the High-Level Iraqi delegation in the Meetings and their demonstrated in depth desire to join into partnership in the ECO Framework Plan of Action for future cooperation;

Expressed appreciation to the international organization for attending the Meeting and assisting the implementation of projects/activities under ECO Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming (2011-2015);

Requested the ECO members to consider the possibility of extending their technical and financial support for the implementation of ECO Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming (2011-2015);

Mandated the ECO Secretariat to take the leading role in securing technical and financial assistance from regional and international institutions for implementation of the adopted Framework Plan of Action;

Stressed the importance of the environmental public awareness; ***Considered*** the efforts of the ECO Secretariat for the publication of nine issues of ECO Bulletin on Environment; ***Urged*** that the capacity of the ECO Secretariat to be strengthened to promote different public awareness alternatives such as but not limited to Website, consolidated annual ECO Member States Progress Report on Environment, ECO Times Magazine and so on;

Welcomed the offer of Kyrgyz Republic to hold 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in July 2013;

Extended their appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly to the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and warm hospitality extended to the participating delegations;

Commended the work done by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and thanked the ECO Secretary General and his delegation for their support and hard work to make the meeting a success;
