

First ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT

13 November 2012

Tehran- the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tehran Declaration

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We, the Ministers/Authorities responsible for information and communications technologies of the ECO Member States, met in Tehran on 13th November 2012 on the occasion of the First ECO Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communications Technology:

Having discussed the ways and means for enhancement of regional cooperation in the field of ICT;

Reaffirming the strong determination of ECO Member States to accelerate economic and social progress, development and stability in the region;

Recalling the objective of the Organization to accelerate development of regional communications infrastructures as envisaged in the Izmir Treaty;

Mindful of the significant role that ICT can play in the economic development of our countries and the Region as a whole;

Mindful also of the dynamic nature of the ICT which poses major challenges in keeping pace with new technologies;

Recognizing the imperative of favourable national and regional regulatory and legislative environment for enhanced ICT cooperation in the ECO Region;

Cognisant of the need to strengthen R&D and human resources development in ICT sector with a view to harnessing ICT benefits and addressing its potential challenges;

Recognizing the importance of ECO's initiatives, efforts and projects in the fields of transport and communications for the mutual benefit of the Member States;

Acknowledging the importance of involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector, in developing and implementing national and regional ICT strategies;

Reiterating our strong commitment and resolve to achieve ECO goals and objectives in the field of ICT;

1. **Recognize** the accelerated growth of ICT services in the global economy and call for enhanced cooperation and exchange of experiences and expertise within the Region in the areas of, *inter alia*, E-Government, E-Commerce, E-Banking, Mobile Banking, E-Health, and E-Education.
2. **Emphasize** the need for cooperation and coordination among ECO Member States in providing common proposals to ICT International Organizations compatible with the decision of other international organizations.
3. **Highlight** the need for improving the provision of IP Services between ECO Member States, and for this purpose, called for strengthening and expanding the fiber optic infrastructure amongst the Member States and agreed to conduct a Feasibility Study Project in the region for the connectivity and reduced rates for the transit of international traffic with other ECO Member States in compliance with the national regulations and international commitments.
4. **Stress** the importance of enhancing cooperation among the ICT Regulators of the ECO Member States and agreed to consider establishment of a High Level Working Group in this regard.
5. **Encourage** the Member States/Mobile Network Operators to share their policies, SOPs regarding Mobile sectors, international roaming issues including reduce rates, design, installation, optimization, maintenance, training, and emergency communication, with a focus on, *inter alia*, expanding the 2G and 3G technologies as well as Value Added Services (VAS) and content provision.
6. **Recognize** the increasingly significant role of the private sector in the development of ICT infrastructure, design, manufacturing and maintenance of equipment and services; **Welcome** the proposal to establish the ECO ICT Providers

Association to facilitate investment in this field and develop common market and strengthen industrial cooperation in both areas of ICT software and hardware.

7. **Consider** the possibility of having a common satellite for the ECO region and welcome the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with other Member States, to conduct a feasibility study in this regard for submission to the next ICT Ministerial Meeting;
8. **Recognize** the importance of information and network security and **request** the Member States to exchange experience and know-how on combating cybercrime.
9. **Acknowledge** the need to develop ICT **infrastructure** and services along the approved ECO road and rail **transit** corridors, particularly at the border crossing points, as a prerequisite for launching online electronic data exchange systems, particularly Customs-to-Customs links, risk management, single window, E-business, Electronic Pre-Declaration (EPD), and Real Time Safe TIR (RTS; **ask** ECO Secretariat and International Road Transport Union (IRU) to propose concrete activities and projects in this regard
10. **Highlight** the need for enhancing cooperation on education, research, and transfer of knowledge in the field of ICT through cooperation among ICT universities and research centres as well as implementation of joint research projects, such as establishment of ECO ICT Scientific Network, ECO ICT Digital Library, ECO ICT Virtual University, educational workshops and exchange of ICT faculty and graduate students.
11. **Call for** early implementation of the ECO Online Money Order through postal services of the interested Member States, in line with the decisions of the 20th ECO Council of Ministers (Baku, October 2012).
12. **Agree** to formulate the “ICT Development Plan in the ECO Region” in 2013. In this regard, the ECO Secretariat would

undertake a feasibility study utilizing its available resources and in close contact with the Member States.

13. **Give** mandate to the ECO Secretary General to assure effective implementation of the Tehran Declaration as well as decisions of the Ministerial Meeting reflected in the Report and submit regular progress report to the Member States.
14. **Welcome** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 2nd ECO ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2013 in Islamabad. It also welcomes the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the 3rd ECO ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2014.
15. **Express** our profound thanks to H.E. Mr. Reza Tagipour, the Honourable Minister of Information and Communications Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran for leading deliberations of the Meeting to a successful conclusion. We also express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.