

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of Agenda



No: CFU /2026/32

Priority: Normal

Date: 15/1/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose the Draft Agenda/Annotated Draft Agenda of the 303rd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled to be organized on January 27, 2026 (1000 hours) at the ECO Secretariat.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

ECO/CPR/303rd/2026
January 14, 2026

303rd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Agenda And Annotated Draft Agenda

January 27, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Draft Agenda

Chairmanship Handover/Takeover Ceremony

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
2. Adoption of Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting;
3. Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
4. Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers;
5. Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
6. Implementation of Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region
7. Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel.
8. Any other business;
9. Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Annotated Draft Agenda

CPR Chairmanship Handover/Takeover Ceremony

The meeting will begin with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan taking over the CPR Chairmanship from the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Secretariat proposes the following Draft Agenda for adoption:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers;
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Implementation of Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel.
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

2. The Council may consider the above Draft Agenda for adoption.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting

3. The Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting held on December 17, 2025 at the ECO Secretariat was circulated amongst the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2025/1959 dated December 18, 2025.

4. The Council may consider the adoption of the Draft Report of 302nd CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan

5. The 302nd CPR Meeting reviewed the status of the Plan of Work on the follow-up of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan, in light of Azerbaijan's request to extend the deadline for submission of additional proposals and Türkiye's request to ensure that its fresh inputs were duly reflected in the Summit's Follow-up Plan of Work.

6. Taking into account the views expressed and noting the ongoing consideration of the document by Member States, the Council agreed that a deadline should be set to conclude the process. Accordingly, the Council urged Member States to convey their final inputs by or before the next CPR Meeting and tasked the Secretariat to incorporate all comments received within this timeframe. The Council further agreed that no additional

comments received after the set deadline would be considered for inclusion in the Plan of Work.

7. In light of the above, the Council may finalize the 17th Summit's Plan of Work, enabling the commencement of its follow-up actions.

Agenda Item No. 4

Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers

8. In view of the understanding reached between Türkiye and Tajikistan and the views expressed by Member States regarding Türkiye's original proposal on ECO Observers reflected in the Draft HLC Report, the 302nd Meeting of CPR, in principle, agreed on the adoption of the Draft Report.

9. Nevertheless, taking into account the request made by Uzbekistan, the Council agreed that the Draft Report would be formally adopted at its next meeting. As tasked by the Council, the Secretariat, vide Note Verbale No. ECO/2025/1958 dated December 18, 2025, re-circulated the Draft Report, including Türkiye's original proposal for final consideration.

10. Foregoing in view, the Council may consider and adopt the HLC Report which is pending since February 2025. Moreover, the Council may also approve the establishment of a Working Group, as envisaged in the HLC Report, to initiative the necessary follow-up process.

Agenda Item No. 5

Preparations for the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

11. The 302nd CPR agreed to convene the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council from 17-20 May 2026. It was further agreed that a list of events, occurring between January and May 2026, will be prepared by the Secretariat to get it endorsed by the Council.

12. While the preparations for the 36th Meeting of RPC are ongoing, the Council may endorse the ECO Calendar of Events, which would take place between January and May 2026. In this regard, a list of events will be circulated.

13. After the RPC Meeting in May 2026, the final version of the ECO Calendar of Events and Work Program for 2026 will be submitted to the Council for endorsement and onward submission to COM for adoption.

Agenda Item No. 6

Implementation of Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region

14. Third UN conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was hosted by Turkmenistan from August 5 to 8, 2025 in Awaza. As mentioned in the Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (2024-2034), it "draws on lessons learned from the Vienna Programme of Action (2014-2024) and seeks to ensure that

progress accelerates, especially in such areas as trade facilitation, structural transformation, transport connectivity, technology, climate resilience, and the mobilization of international support. The aim is to align national-level actions, regional integration efforts, and global policy frameworks to place LLDCs on a more dynamic and inclusive path to sustainable development, while safeguarding them against future shocks and disasters."

15. Seven out of 32 landlocked developing countries are located in the ECO Region. In a sideline event in Awaza, the ministers/high level delegations from the ECO Member States participated in an ECO exclusive meeting organize by the ECO Secretariat to exchange views under the theme of "*ECO and implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action 2024-2034.*"

16. The "*implementation, follow-up and monitoring*" section of the Awaza Programme of Action emphasizes that sub-regional and regional mechanisms are complementary to national and global ones. It requests the relevant regional and sub-regional organizations to be actively involved in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

17. Under this item, the ECO Secretariat will share with the Council some ideas and possible approach to implement this tacit mandate given to the ECO by Awaza Programme of Action. The Council may give guidance and support, for future activities in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative and budgetary Matters:

- *Recommendation of the Selection Panel (if any)*
- *Extension of Term of Service in respect of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, Russian/English Interpreter*

18. The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran, vide Note Verbale No. 5-001/26 dated January 6, 2026, has proposed extension of service tenure of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the ECO Staff Regulations.

19. Accordingly, the Council may consider the proposed extension in line with Article 6.5 of the ECO Staff Regulations.

- *Proposal on Category-III Staff*

20. The 302nd CPR Meeting considered the Secretariat's proposal concerning Category-III staff, including the upgrading of two positions based on merit and the conversion of three long-standing temporary guard positions into permanent posts, noting that the proposals would be accommodated within the approved 2026 budget and would not entail any additional financial implications.

21. While general consensus was expressed by Member States, the Chair requested deferral of a decision, pending Kazakhstan's final position. Accordingly, the Council agreed to defer consideration of the proposal to its next meeting, with a view to concluding the matter by consensus.

22. The Council may discuss and approve the above proposal of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

23. Under this Agenda Item, the Council may discuss any other relevant issues, if raised.

Agenda Item No. 9

Date of the next CPR Meeting

24. The Council may decide the date of its next (304th) Meeting in consultation with the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the
302nd CPR Meeting



No: CFU /2025/1959

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 18/12/2025

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, has the honour to enclose herewith the Draft Report of 302nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on December 17, 2025, for consideration and views/comments, if any.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

ECO/CPR/302nd /2025/
December 17, 2025

302nd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Report

December 17, 2025
ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Draft Report

Held on December 17, 2025 under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan, the 302nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I**.

2. The **Council** opened its proceedings by extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed ECO Permanent Representatives, H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and H.E. Mr. Akylbek Kylychev of the Kyrgyz Republic. Delegations welcomed them, noting their extensive diplomatic experience and expressing confidence that their expertise would contribute positively to the work of the Organization.

3. In response, the newly appointed **Permanent Representatives** expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chair, the ECO Secretary General, and the other distinguished members of the Council for the warm welcome. They reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with the Council and the Secretariat and pledged their full support to advancing the objectives and activities of ECO in coordination with their respective governments.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The **ECO Secretary General** requested the Council to include, as a separate agenda item, the issue concerning preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC). Based on the proposal of the ECO Secretary General, the following agenda was adopted by the Council:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 302nd CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 301st CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Follow-up of the outcomes of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held online on November 28, 2025;
- Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers;
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel.
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 301st CPR Meeting

5. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 301st CPR Meeting held on November 17, 2025, and circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2025/1803 dated November 20, 2025.

Agenda Item No. 3

Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan

6. The **Council** reviewed the status of the matter in light of Azerbaijan's request to extend the deadline for submitting additional proposals and Türkiye's request to have its fresh inputs duly reflected in the Summit's Follow-up Plan of Work.

7. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA)** clarified that, pursuant to the 301st CPR decision, it had circulated a Note Verbale on November 24, 2025, notifying member states of the finalization of the Plan of Work. However, Azerbaijan's Note Verbale was received only after that circulation. Moreover, it was underlined that the comments received from member countries after this circulation were also incorporated in the document and a revised version was duly circulated too, with the assurance that any fresh comments received will also be included in the document and circulated afresh.

8. Given the views expressed and in light of the ongoing consideration by member states, the **Council** concluded that there should be a deadline to finalize the process. In this regard, the **Council** urged the member states to convey their final inputs by or before next CPR meeting, and tasked the ECO Secretariat to incorporate all the comments received from member states within this timeframe. The **Council** further agreed that no additional comments would be considered for inclusion in the Plan of Work if received after the set deadline.

Agenda Item No. 4

Follow-up of the outcomes of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held online on November 28, 2025

9. The **Chair** informed the Council that, it was initially agreed that a Chair's Summary of the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers would be prepared by Kazakhstan, a review of past practice indicated that such summaries are generally issued for Summit meetings, which do not adopt formal reports. In contrast, he added, the COM meetings adopt official reports, and the key elements normally reflected in a Chair's Summary are already fully captured in the adopted COM Report. Accordingly, the Chair noted that preparing a separate Chair's Summary for the 29th COM would not add substantive value, as it would largely duplicate the contents of the approved report.

10. The **Council** took note of the Chair's explanation, and agreed that follow-up actions on the outcomes of the Meeting would be guided by the adopted COM Report, and that the ECO Secretariat would proceed accordingly.

Agenda Item No. 5

Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers

11. The **Council** considered the follow-up of the outcomes of the first meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers, noting that the HLC Draft Report had remained pending since February 2025 due to the absence of consensus on one paragraph. It was recalled that, at its 301st CPR Meeting, the Council had requested **Türkiye** and **Tajikistan** to continue bilateral consultations, with facilitation by the ECO Secretariat, with a view to finalizing mutually agreeable language by the 302nd CPR meeting.

12. During the discussion, the Representative of **Türkiye** reiterated the importance it attached to its original proposal, including reference to permanent observer status. The Representative of **Tajikistan** indicated its readiness to support a consensus-based outcome and expressed willingness to go along with an agreed formulation in order to move forward. The **ECO Secretary General** and the **Legal Advisor** clarified that, under the HLC Terms of Reference, the conclusions are recommendatory in nature and require consensus, and encouraged finalization of the report at the earliest possibility. However, the Representative of **Uzbekistan** requested additional time for consultation and asked for re-circulation of the HLC's Draft Report.

13. Based on the understanding reached between **Türkiye** and **Tajikistan** and the consensus amongst member states concerning the original proposal on ECO Observers added by **Türkiye** in the Draft HLC Report, the **Council**, in principle, agreed on the adoption of the HLC Draft Report. However, in light of the views expressed by **Uzbekistan**, the **Council** agreed that the Draft Report would be formally adopted at its next meeting, tasking the Secretariat to re-circulate the Draft Report, with **Türkiye**'s original proposal on ECO Observers, for final consideration by member states.

Agenda Item No. 6

Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

14. The **ECO Secretariat** briefed the Council on the procedural requirements governing the RPC, noting that, under the Rules of Procedure, the RPC is required to convene at least once a year. In this context, the Secretariat proposed initiating the preparatory process for the 36th RPC meeting in 2026 and initially suggested early April 2026 as possible dates, taking into account the need to circulate the draft agenda and working documents in advance.

15. During the discussion, the delegations emphasized the importance of holding the RPC meeting as early as possible, given its role in shaping the annual calendar of ECO activities. The Representative of **Türkiye** indicated scheduling constraints in April due to their overlapping international commitments and proposed alternative dates in May, while the Permanent Representative of **Iran** and some other delegations underlined the preference for an early meeting, including consideration of February, subject to collective convenience. The **ECO Secretariat** further explained the practical constraints related to Ramadan and Nowruz, which affected the availability of suitable dates in February and March.

16. After considering the views expressed and given the scheduling constraints, the **Council** agreed to convene the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council on May 17-20, 2026. The **Council** also approved the initiation of the preparatory process and tasked the ECO Secretariat to proceed with the necessary arrangements, including circulation of the draft agenda and relevant working documents to member states in a timely manner.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative and budgetary matters:

Proposal on Category-III Staff

17. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** outlined the background of the Secretariat's proposals on Category-III staff, including the authorization to the ECO Secretary General to upgrade two staff positions to A-4 and A-5, based on merit, as well as the conversion of three long-standing temporary guard positions into permanent posts. It was recalled that the matter had been examined by working group, discussed at previous CPR meetings, clarifying that the proposals would not entail any additional financial burden, as it could be accommodated within the approved budget for 2026. The Secretariat proposed to adopt a silence procedure for securing COM's approval in this regard.

18. The **Chair**, representing Kazakhstan, raised some queries regarding the advisability of initiating a silence procedure in light of Kazakhstan's earlier reservation and requested that the decision be held until the next CPR meeting. The **ECO Secretariat** provided further clarifications on the rationale, audit considerations, staff motivation and the budget-neutral nature of the proposals. Following these explanations, the **Chair** invited each delegation to state its position, and all delegations present expressed their readiness to proceed on the basis of consensus, subject to Kazakhstan reverting with its final position.

19. The **Council** took note of the explanations provided by the ECO Secretariat and the views expressed by member states. While noting the general consensus among delegations, the **Council** agreed, at the request of the Chair, to defer a final decision on the proposal until its next meeting, by which time Kazakhstan would revert with its final position, with a view to concluding the matter by consensus.

Agenda Item No. 7

Any other business

➤ *Two-Year ECO Chairmanship*

20. The **Council** was informed by the **ECO Secretary General** that Pakistan had agreed to assume the ECO Chairmanship for a two-year period, in line with the proposed reform to consolidate the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers and the Summit under a single country. The Representative of **Pakistan** confirmed its acceptance of the two-year chairmanship and expressed readiness to contribute to improved sequencing of COM and Summit meetings under this arrangement. He further noted that consultations would be held with the Islamic Republic of Iran

regarding the sequencing of the upcoming 18th ECO Summit, taking into account Iran's earlier announcement at the 17th Summit in Khankendi. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** concurred and confirmed readiness to engage in consultations with Pakistan and to inform the Council of the outcome in due course.

➤ *ECO Economic Journal*

21. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC & EAPA)** briefed the Council on the status of the ECO Economic Journal, based in Baku under the Institute of Economic Research of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It was recalled that the Journal was launched in 2010, experienced a temporary pause, and resumed publication in 2022, with its ninth and tenth editions published in 2024 and 2025, respectively. The Secretariat further informed the Council that, since 2023, a project entitled "Transformation of the ECO Economic Journal" has been under implementation pursuant to the decision of the 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers. The total required budget for the project amounts to USD 50,000, of which USD 30,000 has already been mobilized, including USD 20,000 from the ECO Trade and Development Bank and USD 10,000 from the ECO Secretariat. It was further explained that the allocated funds cover, *inter alia*, honoraria for contributing authors and publication-related expenses, and that the Journal has increasingly shifted towards an electronic format through its dedicated website. In view of a renewed request from the host institution to continue implementation of the approved project, he proposed the allocation of an additional USD 5,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.

22. The **Chair** sought clarification on the appropriateness of financing the ECO Economic Journal from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund, noting that the Fund is primarily intended to support feasibility studies and projects, and requested confirmation on whether continued financial support to the Journal was consistent with established rules and past practice.

23. In response, the **Legal Advisor** clarified that, in line with established practice, the Council may consider support to the ECO Economic Journal as a project eligible for funding under the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.

24. The **ECO Secretary General** further clarified that the requested allocation constituted a continuation of an already approved project, implemented through contractual arrangements and subject to applicable financial rules and procedures. It was also noted that the present request was intended as one of the final tranches of support, with the expectation that, once fully operationalized, the Journal would become self-sustaining and no longer require regular financial support from the ECO Secretariat.

25. The **Council** took note of the information and clarifications provided by the ECO Secretariat. In the absence of any objection, the Council agreed to approve the allocation of USD 5,000 from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund to support the ECO Economic Journal, in continuation of established practice.

- *Ministerial Meeting on DRR*
- *Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture*

26. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** briefed the Council on the preparations for the 10th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), to be preceded by a High-Level Working Group meeting dedicated to updating the Regional Framework on DRR, scheduled to take place on January 21-22, 2026 in Islamabad. He informed that the meetings would be hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, with hospitality to be extended on a 1+2 format, including accommodation, meals and local transportation. Member states were requested to confirm participation at the earliest and ensure high-level representation. He further informed the Council that invitations were planned to be extended to relevant observers and selected international organizations, including UNDRR, UNICEF, APDIM, JICA, Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience under the auspices of the UNESCO, and the ECO-affiliated Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters, and that all related documentation had already been circulated by the ECO Secretariat.

27. The **ECO Secretary General** emphasized the importance of the DRR meetings as the first major activity of the New Year and encouraged all member states to ensure active and high-level participation. He further noted that a High-Level Working Group meeting would be held one day prior to the Ministerial Meeting and sought the Council's approval for the ECO Secretariat to cover the travel expenses of one expert per member state from SSF, in accordance with established rules and past practice.

28. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** informed the Council that an ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture would be held on February 17-18, 2026 in Tehran. He noted that the host ministry was considering inviting ECO Observers, selected international organizations and countries from the region to attend the meeting and that, once finalized, the details would be conveyed to the ECO Secretariat for circulation in accordance with established procedures.

29. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of the Meeting, highlighting growing interest among member states in cooperation on food security, seed development and modern irrigation practices, and encouraged all delegations to sensitize their capitals and ensure high-level participation.

30. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & AI)** further informed the Council that a High-Level Expert Group Meeting would precede the Ministerial Meeting and that the ECO Secretariat would fund one delegation per member state for participation in the expert meeting from SSF, in line with established practice, in order to help secure quorum. He also requested the early submission of the agenda, annotated agenda and work plan by the host authorities and encouraged member states to participate actively and at the highest possible level in both meetings.

31. The **Council** approved the proposals of the ECO Secretariat concerning the Ministerial Meetings on Disaster Risk Reduction and Agriculture, including the provision of airfare for one expert-level delegate from each member state, separately for

the preparatory meetings of both Ministerials. It further endorsed extending invitations to ECO Observers for participation in the Ministerial Meeting on DRR.

➤ *ECO CCI Events*

32. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & AI)** informed the Council that, due to lack of quorum, meetings of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI), including its Executive Committee and General Assembly, could not be held during 2023–2025. He informed that, according to a recent communication from the ECO-CCI Presidency (Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry), the 30th Executive Committee Meeting and the 20th General Assembly Meeting of ECO-CCI are scheduled to be held on January 22, 2026. He encouraged member states to reach out to their respective national chambers of commerce and industry to ensure participation, underlining the importance of private sector engagement. He further noted that, although the meeting has been part of the ECO calendar in previous years, the Secretariat sought the Council's concurrence for participation, given that the calendar of events for 2026 is yet to be finalized.

33. The **ECO Secretary General** welcomed the convening of the ECO-CCI meetings, recalling the strong emphasis placed by Trade Ministers on private sector engagement during the recent ECO Trade Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul. He urged member states to actively encourage their national chambers to participate and noted that the Secretariat would be represented at the meeting, subject to scheduling constraints with the DRR Ministerial Meeting. He requested the Council's in-principle approval for the Secretariat's participation.

34. In light of the foregoing explanations, the **Council** endorsed the Secretariat's participation in the ECO-CCI meetings. It further endorsed extending invitations to ECO Observers for participation in the ECO-CCI meetings.

35. The Representative of **Türkiye** noted that, except for the Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, for which the Islamic Republic of Iran would revert with its position regarding the participation of ECO observers, there were no objections among member states to the participation of ECO observers in the forthcoming meetings, including Disaster Risk Reduction and ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

➤ *ECO SG's Visit to Ashgabad*

36. The **ECO Secretary General** briefed the Council on his recent visit to Ashgabat to attend the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Neutrality Conference and the Year of Peace and Trust, noting that the visit provided an opportunity for high-level interactions with the leadership of several ECO member states. He highlighted productive exchanges with the national leadership of Turkmenistan, including discussions on ECO activities and Turkmenistan's strong interest in enhanced cooperation on energy issues, particularly regional electricity networks.

➤ *Ministerial Meeting on Energy*

37. The **ECO Secretary General** further informed the Council that **Türkiye** had conveyed its readiness to host the next ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting and

emphasized the importance of timely notification by member states, preferably three to four months in advance, for the organization of ministerial meetings, in order to allow adequate preparation and coordination for meetings planned during the first half of 2026.

➤ *Afghanistan's participation in CPR*

38. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that the issue of Afghanistan's participation in CPR remains under consideration, pending receipt of responses from the Afghan side, which would be shared with member states for further guidance by the Council.

39. In addition, the **ECO Secretary General** noted that this was the last CPR meeting to be chaired by Kazakhstan, with the formal handover of the Chairmanship to Pakistan to take place at the next meeting. He expressed appreciation for Kazakhstan's active and effective stewardship of the Organization and conveyed the Secretariat's gratitude, which would be formally reiterated during the handover ceremony at next CPR meeting in January 2026.

Agenda Item No. 8

Date of the next CPR Meeting

40. The **Council** decided to hold its next (303rd) Session on January 27, 2026. The Council tasked the Secretariat to finalize and circulate the program of the next CPR Meeting in consultation with the Islamic Republic of Iran that offered to host the event outside Tehran.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Ms. Nasrin Esmaeili, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Akylbek Kylychev, Permanent Representative

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr. Bahodur Nazir, Counsellor
- Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor
- Mr. Ahmed Bicer, Third Secretary

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündogdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Mr. Naimatullah Almani, Desk Officer

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and
ECO Week in Azerbaijan



No: CFU/2025/1972

Priority: Urgent

Date: 22/12/2025

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and, referring to Note Verbale No. 1942, dated December 16, 2025 as well as other related correspondence, has the honour to enclose herewith the revised Plan of Work on the proposals and initiatives of the 17th ECO Summit held in the Republic of Azerbaijan on July 4, 2025. The document has been revised upon recommendations received from the Republic of Türkiye, vide their Note dated December 16, 2025.

Pursuant to the discussions at the 302nd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on December 17, 2025, the esteemed Member States may forward their proposals and amendments until January 27, 2026, after which the Plan of Work will be considered 'finalized'.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry and Embassies the assurances of its highest consideration.

All ECO Member States - Tehran



PLAN OF WORK
on the proposals and initiatives of the 17th ECO Summit
held in Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan on July 4, 2025

The 17th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan on July 4, 2025. H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Honourable President of the Republic of Azerbaijan chaired the august event under the theme “New ECO Vision for a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future”.

The Honourable Presidents/Heads of Governments while addressing the Summit underscored the need for expansion of cooperation in various fields, reaffirming their support to the objectives and goals of the Organization for economic development, social welfare, connectivity, peace and stability in the ECO Region. Based on the outcome of the 17th Summit, the Chair’s Summary titled the Khankendi Communiqué was issued.

This Plan of Work serves as guidelines for taking follow-up measures by the ECO Secretariat with respect to the recommendations/proposals shared during the 17th ECO Summit held in Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan on July 4, 2025.

The following proposals, initiatives and suggestions of the Summit:

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
TRADE AND INVESTMENT		
<p>1. Afghanistan Investment Promotion</p> <p>Afghanistan's emergence as a favorable investment destination and called on member states to invest across sectors including transport and infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECO Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments (APPI) signed by 5 ECO Member States is in force since 2022. Secretariat is pursuing Standing Committee on SEZs/FTZs as of ECO Task Force/ Investment Committee, for which nominations have been received from 6 Member States. A study report has been shared with Member States for their comments, and institutionalization of a networking of the Sovereign Wealth/ national Development Funds (SW/NDFs) of the ECO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The member states will be encouraged to sign/ratify the APPI. The Member States will be invited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Announce their nominations, where not already done Offer to host the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of Specialized Economic Zones/ Free Trade Zones (SE/FTZs) of the ECO. The Member States will be invited to offer hosting the 2nd Meeting of the ECO Head of SW/NDFs)
<p>2. Azerbaijan Business Forum</p> <p>Promotion of the ECO Youth Forum (Aghdam), ECO Women's Forum (Lachin), and ECO</p>	<p>The ECO Business Forums are organized on the sidelines of the ECO Summits as given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th ECO Business Forum on the sidelines of 15th ECO Summit in Ashgabat, November 2021, 5th ECO Business Forum, on the 	<p>The Member States will be invited to offer hosting the 7th ECO Business Forum in 2026.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Business Forum (Shusha), called for continued people-to-people and private-sector engagement within ECO.	<p>sidelines of 16th ECO Summit in Tashkent, November 2023,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th ECO Business Forum on the sidelines of 16th ECO Summit in Shusha, 4th July 2025. 	
<p>3. Iran Intra-regional Trade Expansion and digital Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of intra-regional trade by reducing tariffs, simplifying customs procedures, encouraging joint ventures & investments. Digitize trade & customs processes, set up a new financial architecture for ECO Region to enhance intra- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft ECOTA Negotiation Strategy has been prepared by the Secretariat as tasked by 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council meeting, containing the proposed scenarios for making amendment in ECOTA, and implement. The 5th MMCFT scheduled on 26th November 2025 in Istanbul; will mandate the initiation of re-negotiations to amend and implement ECOTA. ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (ECO AMAACM), adopted on 28th May 2025, by '10th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Customs Administration', has also been approved by COM. It is open for signatures during the 5th ECO MM CFT'. Moreover, the ECO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat will continue encouraging the Member States to mobilize political support for ECOTA re-negotiations at the 5th ECO MMCFT and secure approval and high-level commitment to re-negotiate and implement updated ECOTA. Secretariat will invite nominations from five ECOTA Parties and the remaining five ECO member States for the Technical Negotiation Committee, (TNC), notify TNC, and initiate the re-negotiations for amendment and hastened implementation of ECOTA. Secretariat will continue pursuing the Member States to complete their internal government approvals to sign the ECO

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
regional trade.	<p>Agreement on Smuggling & Customs Offences Databank, signed by 7 Member, and ratified by 5 Member States, has been in force since 2007. The 5 parties to Databank have provided names of their focal points and IP addresses of the computers. First technical meeting was held in May 2025. Technical issues are being addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) has been pursued through the meetings of Technical Committee, Expert Group and Working Groups. The Secretariat has integrated all these initiative under the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) and the Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA).• On the setting up of a new financial architecture no formal proposal submitted yet. For the detailed 'Concept Paper' the proponent i.e. I.R of Iran has been will be requested to share a concept paper for follow up.	<p>AMAACM, during the 5th ECO MMCFT on 26th November 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretariat will continue pursuing the rectification of the technical issue to operationalise the databank and invite the remaining Member States to sign/ratify the Agreement to expand ECO Smuggling & Customs Offences Databank participation.• The Secretariat will continue pursuing the EDI matters through 7th Meeting of the ECCC, and 11th Meeting of the CHCA.• Upon receipt of 'Concept Paper' on the proposed initiative, the Secretariat will pursue views/comments and proposals of Member States. Upon receipt of 'Concept Paper' on the proposed initiative, the Secretariat will pursue views/comments and proposals of Member States. Secretariat may consider forming a working group with ECO-TDB, Iran, and the ECO Secretariat to

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By new financial architects, it is proposed that new funds might be requested from the Member States particularly for the 'development projects'. The fund(s) be spent on the projects under the auspices of the ECO Secretariat. Further, not all the Member States of ECO are members of ETDB, so to harmonize the development of these members too, the Secretariat need these 'new financial architects'. 	finalize the Conceptual framework.
<p>4. Kyrgyz Republic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced tariffs at seaports—including cargo handling, unloading, and storage—for landlocked member states to improve trade access. Streamlined procedures at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As given in Para 3 above. For streamlined Visa regime, the 'ECO Agreement on Visa Facilitation for the Businessmen in the ECO' signed by 7 Member States and ratified by 5 Member States, is operational and Iran is the coordinating country for visa affairs. The 'Additional Protocol for Visa Facilitation for the Businessmen and Drivers in the ECO' is signed by 	Although the Member States have indicated that they have bilateral agreements on visa facilitation but the Secretariat will continue pursuing visa facilitation as demanded by the business communities in the ECO. Especially, the visa facilitation to the drivers and businessmen through additional protocol will be pursued in 2026 in the light of 267th CPR meeting, mandating the secretariat to pursue the matter through virtual meetings.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>borders and harmonization of tariffs to enhance transport and logistics connectivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved visa regimes and better investment environments to unlock economic potential and raise prosperity. 	<p>three ECO Member States i.e. Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and ratified by Pakistan only.</p>	
<p>5. Pakistan: ECOTA is to be implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan is the coordinating country on ECOTA and as a host and coordinator, played an instrumental role in successful outcomes of the 9th ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting in Islamabad on 30 July'2024. • Further details given in Para 3 above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As given in Para 3 above.
<p>6. Tajikistan: Removal of trade and transit barriers, and digitalization of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As given in Para 3 above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As given in Para 3 above.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>transit documentation.</p> <p>7. Türkiye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeper trade liberalization through activation of ECOTA, customs harmonization, and transport corridor enhancement, including rail and road links. • Türkiye role in financing critical projects via the Istanbul-based ECO Trade and Development Bank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Türkiye re-scheduled to host the 5th MMCFT for 26 Nov' 2025 in Istanbul. The Meeting will pursue 'trade agenda' of ECO with following important items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiation of re-negotiations by a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) on ECOTA to amend and implement it. - The treaty event will provide opportunity to sign the following two agreements, ready for signatures by interested Member States: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, and - MoU on Joint Trade Promotion Activities in ECO. • ECO TDB has been invited to allocate funds for 4th Phase of the Joint ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project, and Regional Partnership Forum, as a trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is pursuing confirmations from the Member States for participation of the Ministers and the experts in the High Level Expert Group Meeting on Trade, Investment and Others (HLEG). The meeting will also emphasize early implementation of ECO TFS. Secretariat will pursue signing and ratifying of these agreements by the membership. • The Secretariat has invited the non ETDB parties to join the Bank to promote co-financing through ECO Vision Fund. Secretariat aims to invite details on the ECO Investment Coordination Mechanism under a unified platform. • During 4th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations' Forum, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan agreed to host the RPF in

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>promotion event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trilateral collaboration of ECO with development partners through ECO TDB is being pursued through ECO TDB. 	2026.
<p>8. Turkmenistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of trade obstacles, promotion of investment, and enhancement of direct business engagement through closer ties between chambers of commerce. • Establishment of the permanent ECO Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry • Developing a unified digital platform of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and investment Promotion has been explained in previous paras. • ECO-CCI is functional but not formalized as a “permanent” Body. The Annual Meetings of the ECO CCI, in 2018, approved establishment of a ‘Permanent Secretariat’ for ECO CCI by 2027. The Presidency of ECO CCI has been rotated to I. R. Pakistan in November 2024 and the Secretariat in March 2025. The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), is now hosting ECO CCI presidency/ Secretariat. • No formal unified digital platform exists in the chambers for database of export/import opportunities. The proponents will be requested to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is already pursuing ECO CCI to organize the annual meeting of General Assembly and Executive Committee of ECO CCI, which have not been organized since 2022. • The information provided in the web link is about list of importers and exporters. Member States will be requested to share the details of information to be uploaded on the web site of the Secretariat. •

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Chambers with database of export and import opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating favourable conditions for trade in the framework of the border free trade zones. 	<p>share the details 'Concept Paper'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The secretariat created a web link on its website which is updated periodically with the information on obtained from national chambers of Member States. The matter of 'Border Trade Zones' was formally transferred to Transport and Communication Directorate, owing to its direct nexus to border transportation infrastructure. 	
<p>9. Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a long-term investment initiative aimed at attracting private investors, banks, and international financial institutions to fund regional infrastructure, green energy, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative of SW/NDFs has been explained in previous paras. For the concept of "ECO Invest", Uzbekistan has been requested to share a concept paper for follow up. The 5th ECO MMCFT is being hosted by Türkiye during, as offered during 35th RPC. It was scheduled on 25th June 2025. Now it has been rescheduled by Türkiye on 26th November, 2025 in Istanbul. The '3rd ECO Joint Working Group on Trade Facilitation' was held in Tashkent on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat welcomes the offer of Uzbekistan, proposed during 17th ECO Summit in Shusha, to host the ECO Trade Ministers' Meeting in Tashkent in 2025. At present, Secretariat is coordinating with Uzbekistan to participate at ministerial level in the 5th MMCFT, as scheduled by Türkiye on 25th June 2025. Moreover, Uzbekistan will be encouraged to host the next Trade Ministers meeting in Tashkent in

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>development projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting a long-term “ECO-Invest” Programme. • Convening an ECO Trade Ministers Meeting in Tashkent to enhance trade facilitation, resolve barriers, and boost intra-regional commerce. 	<p>22 May 2025. The meeting deliberated in detail and updated the draft Trade Facilitation Agreement, drafted and shared by the Secretariat.</p>	<p>2026. Secretariat will pursue scheduling the 4th JWG Meeting on Trade Facilitation to finalize the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Once finalized the agreement will be pursued through 7th Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation, to be adopted by 11th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration.</p>

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Transport

<p>Full implementation of the international TIR (Transit International Routier) system to</p>	<p>Within the ECO, the TIR/eTIR system is operational in Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkiye, under implementation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, but still</p>	<p>Together with the IRU, ECO states developed an Action Plan encouraging all member countries to join and support for other members to achieve full implementation.</p>
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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
establish an efficient, low-cost transit network for trade among ECO member states.	pending in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, so a full ECO-wide network is not yet achieved.	
Expansion of Caspian Sea Port Infrastructure	Within the ECO framework, expansion of Caspian Sea port infrastructure is progressing with upgrades at Kazakhstan's Aktau and Kuryk ports, modernization of Baku and Turkmenbashi ports, and development commitments from Iran , though full integration faces challenges such as falling Caspian Sea levels and the need for better logistics and customs links	ECO members should accelerate port expansion projects, improve multimodal links (rail/road), harmonise customs procedures, and cooperate on environmental measures (e.g. dredging, water-level adaptation) to ensure efficient Caspian Sea connectivity.
Establishment of Digital Transport and Customs Office	ECO Secretariat is currently working with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan to discuss the details of the proposal.	Pledge to advance cooperation in developing regional internet infrastructure, cyber security frameworks and a harmonized digital regulatory environment to support e-commerce and digital trade; Request the preparation of a Concept Paper on the establishment of the ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Introduce preferential port fees for landlocked ECO nations	<p>The ECO Secretariat has initiated consultations with the concerned Member States and relevant port authorities on the modalities of introducing preferential port fees for landlocked ECO nations. Discussions are ongoing to assess the feasibility, potential mechanisms, and legal frameworks required for implementation.</p>	<p>Continue consultations among Member States and relevant port authorities on modalities for introducing preferential port fees for landlocked ECO nations.</p> <p>Place the proposal on the agenda of the next meeting of the Working Group of the Maritime Authorities for detailed discussion and consideration of practical mechanisms.</p>
Simplify border-crossing and unify tariffs among ECO Member States	<p>The ECO Secretariat continues to promote the implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) as the primary regional instrument for facilitating border crossing and harmonizing transit procedures. Ongoing efforts are focused on encouraging Member States to accelerate the ratification and effective implementation of TTFA provisions, including measures related to tariff simplification and streamlined border-crossing practices.</p>	<p>Encourage Member States to expedite the ratification and full implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).</p> <p>Promote alignment of national regulations with TTFA provisions on border-crossing facilitation and tariff harmonization.</p> <p>Place the proposal on the agenda of the next meetings of the ECO Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and relevant sectoral</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>committees for detailed discussion and coordination.</p> <p>Explore capacity-building initiatives and pilot projects to demonstrate practical benefits of simplified procedures and unified tariffs within the ECO region.</p>
Develop the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway corridor	<p>The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project is under active consideration by the concerned Member States as a strategic route to enhance regional connectivity. Within ECO, the development of this railway is also viewed in complementarity with the ongoing work on the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkiye (KUTIT) railway corridor, which has been recognized as a priority multimodal route under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). Efforts are being made to align both initiatives to strengthen East-West connectivity across the ECO region.</p>	<p>Conduct feasibility studies and technical assessments in coordination with China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan to evaluate the corridor's implementation.</p> <p>Promote investment mobilization, including engagement with regional development banks and potential private sector partners.</p> <p>Coordinate with the ECO Railway Committee and relevant sectoral bodies to ensure alignment with the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) and complementarity with the KUTIT corridor.</p> <p>Organize regular trilateral consultations among the concerned</p>

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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	
			Member States to finalize technical, financial, and operational modalities.
Facilitate the launch of new regional air routes among ECO Member States	Draft documents for organizing the specified events are being prepared. The organization of the National Airlines Forum in Uzbekistan is currently in progress.	<p>The ECO Secretariat proposes to convene the First High-Level Meeting of Private Airlines of the Region, in conjunction with the Fourth Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation, in 2025 in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Await the official response from the Government of Uzbekistan to confirm the venue and finalize organizational arrangements.</p>	
Develop Logistics network;	ECO hubs	In March 2025, pre-feasibility study, conducted jointly with the IsDB, on ECO Transport and ECO Gates Project has been completed.	<p>As the next step to move towards ECO logistics hubs network initiative, the ECO Secretariat will contact IsDB. The IsDB has agreed in general to consider the proposal to conduct the second phase (feasibility study) of the ECO Gate Project.</p> <p>In this regard, the Secretariat will seek the IsDB's perspective on the scope and depth of its potential involvement in jointly undertaking the project.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		The Secretariat will also explore other arrangements towards realization of the proposed Network.
Establishment of integrated management system for the ECO corridors;		The proposal to establish this integrated system as well as a digital platform for corridor management will be put forward for consideration at the upcoming RPC.
Establishing direct flights between cities in all Member States;	The 4th Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation (WGCAA) and the First High-Level Meeting of private airlines of the region were held in person on November 11, 2025, in Tashkent. The meetings discussed also establishing direct flights between cities in all Member States. In particular, an agreement was reached to open direct flights between Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, as well as between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in 2026.	Future actions will include establishment of the ECO Aviation Hubs, cooperation in the training and professional development of aviation authority inspectors from member states, civil aviation industry specialists, and continued contacts with relevant stakeholders to intensify and diversify direct flights between cities in all Member States.
Communication		
Establishment of the ECO Artificial	This is a new proposal under consideration by the ECO Secretariat.	Request a Concept Paper outlining the Center's mandate, operational

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Intelligence (AI) Centre	<p>Initial discussions are expected to focus on identifying the objectives, potential scope, and benefits of establishing an ECO Artificial Intelligence Center to promote regional cooperation in AI research, development, and applications.</p>	<p>framework, and potential funding mechanisms.</p> <p>Conduct detailed consultations with Member States to finalize the objectives, functions, and governance structure of the AI Center.</p> <p>Identify potential host country and suitable institutional arrangements for the Center.</p> <p>Organize an expert-level meeting to review technical requirements and draft an implementation roadmap.</p>
Fostering Technology and Innovation Cooperation among ECO Member States	<p>Several meetings and consultations have been organized by the ECO Secretariat to promote technology and innovation cooperation among Member States. These discussions have focused on identifying priority areas, facilitating joint research and development projects, and strengthening networks between research institutions and innovation hubs in the region.</p>	<p>Organize the 2nd Meeting of the ECO High-Level Working Group of ICT Regulatory Authorities to discuss ongoing initiatives and coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>Convene the 4th Ministerial Meeting on ICT to review progress, set strategic priorities, and strengthen regional ICT cooperation.</p> <p>Establish a dedicated ICT Unit at the ECO Secretariat, as outlined in the Mashhad Communiqué, to facilitate coordination, implementation, and</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>monitoring of ICT-related initiatives. Continue promoting joint projects, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building programs in technology and innovation among Member States. Explore funding opportunities and partnerships with regional and international stakeholders to support ICT and innovation initiatives.</p>

ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT

Energy

Recognized significance of intensifying efforts for transition to low-carbon development by expanding renewable capacity and jointly developing renewable energy infrastructure	<p>The Secretariat developed the “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan with a view to add value to the regional energy transition and sustainability efforts. This Strategy was adopted at the 4th ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting in 2021. It was elaborated and adopted as an outcome of joint efforts of the Member States in line with their national priorities.</p>	<p>ECO Member States are expected to designate national focal points for coordination and overseeing of implementation of its in-country components. The follow-up of implementation of the Strategy is sought to be pursued by the ECO Secretariat in collaboration with national focal points and relevant institutions/authorities in the Member States. Coordination and</p>
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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
(Communiqué);	<p>The establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) will significantly contribute to this process by increasing access of the Member States to sustainable energy services and creating an enabling environment for regional sustainable energy markets and investments.</p>	<p>close monitoring of activities within the Action Plan should be undertaken.</p>
<p>Welcomed the establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre and completion of the process of ratification by a sufficient number of Member States enabling its full operationalization (Communiqué);</p>	<p>The 25th COM (27 November 2021, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan) selected the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Centre and adopted its Charter.</p> <p>Charter has been signed by Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Three signatories - Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Pakistan have ratified the Charter. The Charter has thus entered into force on 26 August 2025.</p> <p>It was officially announced by the ECO Secretariat on 28 August 2025.</p> <p>The 1st Board of Governors Meeting of CECECO was held on 9 September 2025 in virtual mode.</p>	<p>The signatory Member States and the Secretariat are expected to follow up the outcomes and decisions of the 1st Board of Governors Meeting of CECECO, held on 9 September 2025.</p> <p>It is expected to expedite regulatory procedures, notably other three signatories to proceed with the ratification and all remaining ECO Member States to sign and ratify the Charter.</p> <p>The resource mobilization and fundraising is critical to launch the programmatic activities of the Centre. The Project is expected to be financed through membership fees and in-kind contributions of the Member</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Developing renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency (Kyrgyzstan).	<p>ECO Experts Group Meeting for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources (EGEERES) is the major expert-level platform to discuss development of regional cooperation agenda in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.</p> <p>The operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) will also significantly support and contribute to this process including hydrogen technologies, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), and digital energy systems.</p>	<p>States, as well as with the support of the international development partners.</p> <p>The organization of the 5th Meeting of EGEERES may revive the discourse at the experts' level on the renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. The volunteer Member States are expected to host the 5th Meeting of EGEERES in 2025.</p> <p>There is also a dire need for scaling up financial commitments through enhanced development cooperation from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral with international development partners of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) taking the lead.</p> <p>For actions to be taken on CECECO Project, please see the above paragraph.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Green Economy as a strategic priority for Tajikistan. Green energy development is a vital platform for regional economic integration and industrial growth (Tajikistan)</p>	<p>Some green energy corridors and power interconnectors among Central Asia, Caucasus and Europe have recently been initiated and are underway. ECO is also expected to contribute to these transformation efforts. Two key ECO energy projects are set to pave the way for the green energy development in the region:</p> <p>Establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO). Five project proposals built on success stories across the globe have been presented within CECECO for possible replication and subsequent implementation in the region. Two of them relate to the green economy and green energy. The Secretariat circulated the aforementioned project proposals among Member States.</p> <p>The establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM). The project has a strong linkage with the sustainable energy sources, which will consequently contribute to green energy</p>	<p>CECECO</p> <p>The last RPC Meeting acclaimed the uptake of potential project proposals in the ECO Region and their subsequent implementation by CECECO, and called upon the Member States (other than Azerbaijan, Iran and Türkiye) to expedite their replies for the identification of priority projects to lay the ground for the programmatic activities of the Centre.</p> <p>ECO-REM</p> <p>Driven by the outcomes of the ESCAPs "Regional Roadmap on Power System Connectivity - ECO Regional Electricity Market: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development" project, the Member States and the Secretariat will revisit the ECO-REM Project and identify the best solutions for leveraging a set of recommendations for policy and regulatory actions reflected in the ESCAP project.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	interconnectivity.	The 3 rd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) and the 5 th ECO Ministerial on Energy could be a milestone in advancement of this project.
Establishment of a mechanism for coordination of the energy policy of the member states of the Organization (Turkmenistan)	High level energy dialogue among the ECO Member States at the ministerial level on a regular basis will play a critical role in defining future steps and ensuring full implementation of previous decisions.	The 5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy should focus on future opportunities and existing gaps to draw tailor-made approaches and find ECO's niches in the complicated regional energy architecture.
Minerals		
The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye suggests adding a new action area under this section focusing on regional cooperation in		Develop a regional cooperation framework to advance joint exploration, sustainable processing, and recycling of critical minerals to strengthen clean energy technology supply chains.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
critical minerals exploration, processing, and recycling to strengthen clean-energy technology supply chains.		
Environment		
Stressed importance of protecting the region's ecosystem through sustainable water management, biodiversity protection and climate-smart agriculture (Communiqué);	This is obviously a cross-cutting paragraph between AI and EME Directorates scope of work. EME through initiatives like RESCUE is trying to position the ECO region as a proponent of just transition in international arena to coherently address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, as well as more sustainable management of natural resources.	To do this and position ECO as the regional leader in environmental cooperation, ECO and its Member States must embed ecological concerns into all development policies by adopting a unified framework, securing dedicated financing, and driving high-level collective action.
Economic development is closely interlinked with climate change (Kyrgyzstan).	Taking into account this nexus between economic development and climate change, the ECO Secretariat in partnership with Azerbaijan launched the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular	Member States lead or co-sponsor a draft resolution at the upcoming UNIDO and UNEP assemblies to promote the circular economy transition via the RESCUE Initiative.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Welcomed relevant initiatives and high level events organised recently by ECO Member States to tackle the negative impact of climate change on sustainable development in the ECO region, including the ones on Caspian Sea level depletion by Azerbaijan, mountain ecosystems by Kyrgyzstan and reservation of glaciers by Tajikistan (Communiqué);</p> <p>Welcomed successful hosting by Republic of Azerbaijan of the 29th Session of the</p>	<p>Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE) during the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku to create a regional cooperation platform that will advocate for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular and regenerative economy, as well as for more sustainable management of natural resources. This Initiative which was later welcomed by the ECO Council of Ministers in Mashhad, could collaborate with and complement the existing country-led global initiatives by some of the ECO Member States, including 'Zero Waste' Initiative by Türkiye.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ECO Secretariat and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) jointly organized the online Accelerator Session on "The RESCUE Initiative in the ECO Region: Goals, Opportunities and Challenges" on 15 May 2025 during the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2025).</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat will collaborate with the Member States to draft and present this resolution.</p> <p>Member States with strong diplomatic ties to UNIDO and UNEP should leverage their influence to ensure the resolution's visibility and adoption.</p> <p>Treat the circular economy as a regional opportunity.</p> <p>Ensure all Member States take ownership and contribute to collective action.</p> <p>Move beyond fragmented approaches by adopting a comprehensive framework for environmental cooperation.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku (from 11 to 22 November 2024) - first ever Climate Change COP hosted in ECO region - and the historic breakthroughs achieved therein (Communiqué);		
Supported the bid of Republic of Türkiye to host COP31 in 2026 (Communiqué);	<p>It is a great news that Türkiye will host the 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) between 9-20 November 2026.</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat has been informed that the Republic of Türkiye looks forward to working closely with all the ECO Member States during this process.</p> <p>In the meantime, Member States should ensure high-level participation at COP31 and stay actively engaged to promote ECO initiatives, address environmental</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>challenges, and align the regional agenda accordingly.</p> <p>The coordination among the ECO Secretariat, Türkiye as the host of COP31, and other ECO Member States on this matter must be well established to effectively promote the ECO agenda within the UNFCCC framework.</p>
<p>Kyrgyzstan is actively promoting the Declaration on Climate Change, Mountains, and Glaciers (Kyrgyzstan).</p>	<p>This year, the ECO Secretary-General took part and delivered a statement at the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan</p>	<p>The ECO Member States especially Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are to follow up on this issue, leveraging relevant regional and global conferences.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the RESCUE initiative complement the existing country-led global initiatives by the ECO Member States.</p>
<p>Kazakhstan will hold an UN regional climate conference in 2026 (Kazakhstan).</p> <p>Strengthen joint</p>	<p>The ECO Secretary-General has received an invitation from the Honorable President of Kazakhstan to attend the Regional Ecological Summit to be held in Astana on 22-23 April 2026 in partnership with the United Nations</p>	<p>The Regional Ecological Summit presents a vital platform for ECO Member States and the Secretariat to make substantive preparations for the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, thereby laying a</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>mechanisms to tackle environmental threats and improve resilience (Tajikistan)</p> <p>Cooperation in tackling the global climate change (Türkiye)</p>	<p>and other leading international organizations.</p> <p>While the individual environmental initiatives undertaken by ECO Member States are commendable, their true potential can only be unlocked through a unified, regional framework. A fragmented approach fails to address our shared trans boundary challenges with the necessary scale and efficiency.</p>	<p>durable foundation for enhanced environmental collaboration across the region.</p> <p>We need to integrate the existing country-led initiatives. The Member States should collaborate with the ECO Secretariat in moving beyond isolated actions by steering the adoption of a comprehensive framework for environmental cooperation and facilitating to promote a synergistic initiative like RESCUE to harmonize policies, pool resources, and create a structure for joint implementation.</p>
<p>Zero Waste initiative by HE Emine Erdogan is an important undertaking (Türkiye)</p>	<p>Since we see the RESCUE Initiative and Zero Waste Initiative as the two sides of the same coin, we have started our consultations with the Zero Waste Foundation for seeking potential areas for collaboration.</p> <p>The ECO Secretariat partnered the first Global Zero Waste Forum, held in Istanbul on 17-19 October 2025</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat should continue discussions with the ZWF to secure a win-win collaboration, potentially through a Memorandum of Understanding.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>and advocated its Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy (RESCUE) on its sidelines. This engagement testified ECO's resolve to advancement of environmental cooperation and circular economy agenda among its Member States and beyond.</p>	
<p>Coordinate and combine their efforts on the global climate agenda (Uzbekistan)</p> <p>We propose developing a Trans boundary “Green Initiative” within the Organization (Uzbekistan)</p>	<p>Uzbekistan is going to host the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in 2026. The coordination between ECO Secretariat and Uzbekistan in this respect is underway.</p> <p>Furthermore, it should be recalled that the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation has been established based on the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan a couple of years ago. The First Meeting of this Platform was due to be held in Samarkand last year.</p> <p>We need to reiterate the RESCUE Initiative as a trans boundary green</p>	<p>We need to ensure the significant events are held as soon as feasible to adopt the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment and its annexes on climate change and biodiversity.</p> <p>The ECO Member States should collaborate with multilateral development banks and climate funds to create dedicated financing facilities for regional sustainability projects, particularly under RESCUE. We must invest in standardized data collection, monitoring systems, and analytical capabilities to support evidence-based policymaking.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>initiative which has already been launched and can serve as a cost-effective regional platform for enhancing environmental action and green transition in the ECO region. Meanwhile, the establishment and operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) in Baku is due to heavily contribute to trans boundary green transition endeavours in the region.</p>	<p>The Member States must ensure high-level participation in all referred events and maintain active engagement to promote ECO initiatives, address environmental challenges, and streamline the regional agenda.</p> <p>The Member States are expected to double their political, financial and technical support to the successful operationalization of the CECECO Project, particularly in terms of speeding up the regulatory procedures and resource mobilization.</p>

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Industry

Underlined that innovation drives	ECO promotes industrial development as a key driver of economic growth and	The Secretariat will encourage Member States to convene the 4th
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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>future prosperity and called for strengthened cooperation in advanced technologies, including crypto currency and block chain technologies, ICT, AI and space applications; and in this regard took note of the initiative on the establishment of ECO AI Centre (Communiqué);</p>	<p>productivity, with increasing attention to the role of innovation and advanced technologies. Existing initiatives, such as biotechnology and nanotechnology networks, provide a foundation; however, cooperation in high-tech sectors remains limited, and no ministerial-level industrial meeting has been held since 2006. The forthcoming ECO Vision is expected to place stronger emphasis on innovative technologies.</p> <p>At present, no regional mechanism exists to advance cooperation in ICT and artificial intelligence, despite their strong potential as cross-cutting enablers for agriculture and industry. Emerging proposals, including the establishment of an ECO AI Centre and the application of AI in agriculture, reflect rising recognition of these opportunities, but remain at an early stage and require a clear roadmap and strategic programming for realization.</p>	<p>ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry to strengthen policy dialogue on innovative technologies and AI.</p> <p>The Secretariat will promote active participation in ECO-NANO and ECO-RISCAM to advance quality infrastructure, MSME support, and industrial transformation.</p> <p>Together with Member States, the Secretariat will engage partners and donors to build regional capacities in innovation, ICT, and AI, and will consolidate focal point nominations and proposals into a roadmap for establishing an ECO AI Centre.</p> <p>The Secretariat will also support Member States in hosting technology exhibitions to share best practices and foster cooperation in smart infrastructure and innovation.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>In this context, showcasing platforms like INNOTECH 2025 in Iran and pending Interregional Industrial Exhibition and the ECO International Innovation and ECO Technological Exhibition (ECO-TEX), could play a facilitating role in fostering cooperation, attracting investment, and facilitating knowledge exchange, thereby advancing knowledge-based industries and innovative technologies across the region.</p>	
<p>Establishing smart infrastructure in the fields of agriculture and industry (Kyrgyzstan).</p>	<p>Alongside ongoing applications of nanotechnology in industry and biotechnology in agriculture, and efforts to establish a centre for metrological cooperation(ECO-MCC) and a centre of excellence for efficient water utilization in agriculture(ECO-CEEWUA), several proposals have been raised to promote smart infrastructure in both sectors. These include AI-driven agriculture using meteorological data for improved forecasting, as well as smart farming and irrigation systems. However, these</p>	<p>The Secretariat will request detailed proposals, including concept notes and action plans, on smart infrastructure and intelligent systems in agriculture and industry, to be consolidated into programmatic work streams for Member States' approval.</p> <p>The Secretariat will support Member States in advancing relevant industrial and agricultural priorities, while requesting updated nominations of national focal points</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>initiatives remain at the conceptual stage. Additionally, MSMEs, startups, and entrepreneurship are being promoted as priorities within the industrial sector to explore knowledge-based, smart, and innovative solutions for these purposes.</p> <p>Smart infrastructure in agriculture and industry depends on quality infrastructure to ensure that intelligent systems and AI applications function efficiently. By providing a reliable technical foundation, quality infrastructure supports the deployment of advanced technologies and enhances the overall performance of smart systems in the region. Achieving this requires the full operationalization of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation, and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) and active engagement of Member States in this industrial priority area.</p>	<p>and expediting the ratification of key instruments such as the ECO-RISCAM and ECO-VECO Statutes. Pending activities, including the 3rd Expert Group Meeting of the ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network and the 3rd Steering Committee of the ECO Nanotechnology Network, will be encouraged with proactive Secretariat support.</p> <p>The Secretariat coordination will encourage Member States to integrate smart infrastructure into ECO Vision 2035, strengthen policy dialogue at Ministerial level, and mobilize funding and technical collaboration with regional and international partners.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Encourage joint ventures and SME development (Tajikistan)	<p>Supporting MSMEs, startups and entrepreneurship remain a core industrial priority. While several workshops and four Steering Committee Meetings on Entrepreneurship and MSME Development have been held, initiatives such as financial mechanisms for SMEs and start-ups have seen limited progress, highlighting the need for renewed experience-sharing. At the 35thRPC Meeting in February 2025, Member States were encouraged to host expert-level meetings to explore financial support for start-ups, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>ECO Vision 2025 emphasized leveraging R&D, private sector involvement, and women's contributions to activate MSMEs for long-term regional growth. ECO Vision 2035 is expected to continue this focus, prioritizing MSMEs with greater focus on digital inclusion and innovation.</p>	<p>The Secretariat will request Member States to submit proposals and roadmaps to advance joint ventures, support MSME development, share policy updates, and nominate national focal points for stronger regional coordination.</p> <p>The Secretariat will assist in convening pending meetings, including the 5th Steering Committee on Entrepreneurship and MSMEs, and facilitate expert discussions on financial mechanisms to strengthen MSME growth.</p> <p>The Secretariat will also support the organization of regional technology exhibitions to enhance MSME visibility, expand networks, foster innovation-driven enterprises, and promote capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Fostering Technology Innovation Cooperation (Turkmenistan)</p> <p>&</p> <p>-</p>	<p>ECO has organized meetings and initiatives to promote technology and innovation cooperation among Member States, focusing on advanced technologies, such as nanotechnology in industry and biotechnology in agriculture, to address development needs and drive sustainable regional growth. These efforts prioritize identifying key areas, facilitating development projects, and strengthening networks between relevant entities and innovation hubs to share knowledge and showcase achievements. Under ECO Vision 2025, Member States have been encouraged to leverage R&D, private sector involvement, women's contributions, and SME activation, while ECO Vision 2035 is expected to continue this focus with an increased emphasis on innovation.</p>	<p>The Secretariat will continue follow-ups to convene the long-overdue 4th Ministerial Meeting on Industry to strengthen regional cooperation in innovative technologies.</p> <p>Member States, with proactive Secretariat support, are expected to promote joint projects, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building in the industrial sector, while exploring funding opportunities and fostering partnerships with regional and international stakeholders.</p> <p>Member Countries will be encouraged to hold pending events on technology and innovation cooperation, alongside expert meetings on financial mechanisms for start-ups and MSMEs, and regional exhibitions to showcase industrial and technological achievements.</p> <p>Member States will also be requested to provide periodic reports and</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		update focal point nominations for priority industrial areas to ensure effective coordination.
Build Cross-Border Logistics and Industrial Hubs (Kazakhstan)	<p>Kazakhstan has proposed developing industrial and logistics complexes along the Kazakhstan–Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan–Kyrgyzstan borders to support and enhance the trade of processed and agricultural goods. Given its cross-sectoral nature, this initiative requires coordinated arrangements across multiple sectors of the relevant Member States and the Directorates of the ECO Secretariat, including industry, agriculture, trade and transport.</p>	<p>The Secretariat will request submission of a detailed proposal - comprising a concept note, action plan, and any best-practice reports - and will coordinate feedback and facilitate technical discussions to advance operational work streams.</p> <p>The lead country and relevant Member States should hold regular consultations to define operational modalities, conduct feasibility studies, and carry out technical assessments to guide hub implementation, with proactive support from the Secretariat.</p>
Agriculture		
Stressed importance of protecting the region's ecosystem	The mandate of the ECO agricultural cooperation is to enhance regional food security, productivity, and climate	Member States and the Secretariat work to integrate this policy focus into the draft ECO Vision 2035 to

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>through sustainable water management, biodiversity protection and climate-smart agriculture (Communiqué);</p>	<p>resilience through initiatives in seed supply, animal health, sustainable water management, regional meteorological collaboration, and modern agri-technologies, including biotechnology.</p> <p>Water management is a priority, reflected in the ongoing establishment of the ECO Centre of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization in Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA), while a nanotechnology-based water management project is under finalization. Climate-smart agriculture initiatives, including the proposed ECO Climate-Smart Agriculture Centre in Pakistan, remain at the concept stage, with detailed concept papers recommended.</p> <p>The upcoming 8th Ministerial and 7th High-Level Expert Meetings on Agriculture (17-18 November 2025, Iran) provide an opportunity to advance policy orientations in this</p>	<p>strengthen the strategic foundation for promoting agri-technologies.</p> <p>The Secretariat will follow up with the Member States to organize relevant technical consultations and meetings, including the 3rd Expert Group Meeting of the ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN).</p> <p>Member States will be encouraged to nominate or update national focal points across all relevant agricultural priority areas to enhance regional networking, communication, and coordination.</p> <p>Member States will be encouraged to submit project proposals with detailed concept notes and provide periodic country reports on the outcomes of any national initiatives aimed at adopting agri-technologies to increase productivity and mitigate climate-related risks.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>direction, expedite operationalization of the relevant bodies such as ECO-CEEWUA and the ECO Meteorological Calibration Centre (ECO-MCC), and strengthen climate-smart agriculture cooperation.</p> <p>The ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS), updated in 2022, continues to guide regional food security efforts, with the fifth Steering Committee Meeting planned for 2025 to promote innovative approaches and reinforce agricultural resilience.</p>	<p>The Secretariat follows up on the proposed project to strengthen regional cooperation in agricultural biotechnology.</p>
<p>Adoption of agri-technologies is critical to increasing productivity and mitigating climate-related risks (Tajikistan)</p>	<p>ECO encourages the application of agricultural biotechnology for increased productivity and sustainability as one of its agricultural priority areas. For that purpose, the ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN) is established to serve as a platform for joint research, harmonization of biosafety protocols, and information exchange across the region. Two Expert Group Meetings have been convened,</p>	<p>Member States and the Secretariat work to integrate this policy focus into the draft ECO Vision 2035 to strengthen the strategic foundation for promoting agri-technologies.</p> <p>The Secretariat will follow up with the Member States to organize relevant technical consultations and meetings, including the 3rd Expert Group Meeting of the ECO</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	most recently by Iran in October 2023, alongside a symposium on GMO biosafety and regulation. At the 35th Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting in 2025, Pakistan offered to host the 3rd EGM. Also in 2025, Iran proposed a regional initiative titled ECO Biosafety Capacity Building (ECO-BCB), aimed at evaluating the status of biosafety regulations across Member States, identifying gaps and advantages.	<p>Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN).</p> <p>Member States will be encouraged to nominate or update national focal points across all relevant agricultural priority areas to enhance regional networking, communication, and coordination.</p> <p>Member States will be encouraged to submit project proposals with detailed concept notes and provide periodic country reports on the outcomes of any national initiatives aimed at adopting agri-technologies to increase productivity and mitigate climate-related risks.</p> <p>The Secretariat follows up on the proposed project to strengthen regional cooperation in agricultural biotechnology.</p>
Regional water management	Water management remains a key ECO priority, reflected in the ongoing	Member States and the Secretariat work to integrate concrete elements

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
(Tajikistan)	<p>establishment of the ECO Centre of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization in Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA), which aims to advance regional water policy. Pakistan, as the lead country, hosted three working group meetings (2010, 2016, 2021) and finalized a draft Statute and Plan of Action; however, progress has stalled since 2021. The initiative remains highly relevant given ongoing regional water stress. Additionally, a nanotechnology-based water management project is under finalization, aiming to establish pilot plants for advanced water treatment across the region.</p>	<p>into the draft ECO Vision 2035 to promote efficient agricultural water use, address climate-driven risks, including water scarcity, and strengthen regional meteorological cooperation to mitigate agriculture-related shocks.</p> <p>The Secretariat follows up with Member States to expedite finalizing and operationalizing regional agricultural frameworks and mechanisms, particularly those related to water management, including ECO-CEEWUA and ECO-MCC.</p> <p>The Secretariat will follow up with the Member States to nominate or update national focal points to establish a collaborative network on water management.</p> <p>Member States and the Secretariat facilitate the promotion of information sharing, technical</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>cooperation, capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in regional water management.</p> <p>Member States and the Secretariat facilitate the finalization and implementation of pending relevant projects in agriculture and industry.</p>
Expand Humanitarian and Intersectoral Cooperation (Tajikistan)	<p>Tajikistan has proposed expanding intersectoral cooperation in agriculture, healthcare, education, science, environmental protection, and tourism to support sustainable regional development. This requires coordinated efforts across Member States and the relevant ECO Secretariat Directorates.</p> <p>Agriculture has critical cross-sectoral linkages, particularly with environmental protection, health, and science-based solutions for risk reduction. Environmental degradation and disaster vulnerability directly threaten agricultural outputs and long-term sustainability, making it essential to integrate environmental</p>	<p>The Secretariat requests the submission of a detailed proposal, including a concept note, an action plan, and any best-practice reports.</p> <p>Member States, through coordination by the Secretariat, organize technical discussions and consultations to support the development of operational work streams of the proposed approach.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>considerations into agricultural policy and planning. Similarly, food security and safety are closely connected with public health. The ECO has already initiated consultations to explore ways of adopting a stronger intersectoral approach to priority areas with cross-linkages that require multifaceted solutions.</p>	
<p>Create a system of “Green Corridors” for the rapid data sharing on agricultural trade and unrestricted supply of goods (Uzbekistan)</p>	<p>Uzbekistan has proposed developing a system of “Green Corridors” for the rapid data sharing on agricultural trade and unrestricted supply of goods. Given its cross-sectoral nature, this initiative requires coordinated arrangements across multiple sectors of the Member States and the relevant Directorates of the ECO Secretariat.</p> <p>Although no specific “Green Corridors” currently exist in ECO agriculture and industry, several initiatives already support data sharing and trade, aligning with Uzbekistan’s proposal for rapid data exchange and unrestricted</p>	<p>The Secretariat requests submission of concrete proposals and action plans that clarify the scope and intended outcomes of the initiative, to develop it into a practical regional mechanism.</p> <p>The Secretariat, in close coordination with Member States, facilitates technical discussions and consultations to support the development of operational work streams of the intended corridors.</p> <p>The Secretariat will follow up with the Member States to organize</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>supply of goods.</p> <p>The ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) has launched an online seed-sector platform to promote information sharing, highlight investment and trade opportunities, and strengthen regional integration. ECOSA has also advanced seed-sector infrastructure through the draft ECO Regional Seed Agreement and eight Seed Trade Congresses.</p> <p>Promoting animal health and preventing transboundary animal diseases are essential for regional trade and free movement of goods. The ECO Permanent Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) plays a central role in harmonizing animal health standards, laboratory accreditation, slaughterhouse operations, and certification. Since its establishment, three Technical Committee Meetings have been held, and the 2024–2028 Work Plan adopted. Member States are encouraged to ratify the ECO-VECO</p>	<p>pending meetings and events as platforms for data sharing and facilitation of regional trade.</p> <p>The Secretariat follows up with Member States to operationalize regional agricultural frameworks, focusing on data sharing and trade, including through the ratification of the ECO-VECO Statute and finalization of the ECO Regional Seed Agreement.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	Statute to ensure its full operationalization.	

HUMAN RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HRSD)

Strengthen joint mechanisms to tackle environmental threats and improve resilience	<p>The Draft Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) was finalized at the 26th COM Meeting in Tashkent in 2023. The ECO Secretariat has circulated Notes Verbales (NVs) to Member States for signature.</p> <p>The ECO Secretariat, in collaboration with the UNICEF office in Tajikistan, is working on the project "Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness.</p>	<p>Convene the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), preceded by a High-Level Working Group meeting.</p> <p>Finalize the "Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness" by the end of 2025.</p>
Strengthen Humanitarian Collaboration and Aid Mechanisms among ECO Member States	<p>ECO Member States have ongoing coordination through existing humanitarian frameworks and mechanisms. The ECO Secretariat continues to facilitate information sharing, joint planning, and</p>	<p>Enhance coordination among Member States' humanitarian and disaster management agencies.</p> <p>Develop mechanisms for joint planning, rapid response and</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>collaboration among national disaster management and humanitarian agencies to enhance regional preparedness and response capabilities.</p>	<p>resource mobilization in emergencies that include the needs of children, persons with disabilities and older persons.</p> <p>Promote exchange of best practices and capacity-building initiatives in humanitarian aid and disaster management.</p> <p>Strengthen ECO's institutional frameworks for monitoring and supporting regional humanitarian operations.</p>
Creation of Regional Disaster Resilience Systems	<p>ECO Member States have initiated discussions on regional disaster resilience strategies. Technical exchanges and knowledge-sharing activities are ongoing among national disaster management authorities to assess risks and explore adaptation measures for floods, droughts, glacier melt, and desertification.</p>	<p>Follow up on the signing of the ECO-RCRM Statute by Member States.</p> <p>Promote joint capacity-building programs and technical cooperation among Member States.</p> <p>Facilitate information sharing and dissemination of best practices in disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Adopt a Regional Action Plan on</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>In line with the ECO's commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection, encouraging member states to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies into their national environmental policies.</p>		<p>DRR for the next five years during the upcoming Ministerial Meeting.</p> <p>We need to promote regional cooperation in early warning systems, risk mapping, and the exchange of best practices related to environmentally induced disasters, including climate-related hazards.</p> <p>Foster capacity building and technical cooperation among ECO member states in areas such as emergency response coordination, green infrastructure development, and post-disaster environmental recovery need to be accelerated.</p>
<p>Enhance Environmental Cooperation and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>The First ECO Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Turkmenistan, focused on coordinated initiatives to tackle environmental degradation, promote sustainable resource management, and address climate change challenges within the ECO</p>	<p>Promote regional initiatives and projects that advance sustainable development practices across Member States.</p> <p>Support sustainable management of natural resources, including water,</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>region. The Forum delivered a set of recommendations to guide future regional cooperation. ECO Member States continue ongoing initiatives and technical exchanges to implement these recommendations and strengthen environmental cooperation.</p>	<p>energy, forests, and biodiversity.</p> <p>Facilitate capacity-building programs and knowledge-sharing on sustainable technologies and practices.</p> <p>Encourage adoption of environmentally sustainable policies and practices in key sectors such as agriculture, industry, and energy.</p> <p>Monitor progress on sustainability initiatives and report on outcomes to guide evidence-based regional policies.</p>
<p>Strengthening cooperation among Member States on family and population policies.</p>	<p>Changes in family and demographic structures have reached alarming levels in many countries. While marriage rates are declining, the age of first marriage, age of motherhood, and divorce rates are increasing. The number of individuals living alone is increasing, partly due to the impact of individualism. As a consequence of the</p>	<p>Sharing experiences and conducting joint studies, organizing events, and conducting working visits among member countries in the field of family and population policies.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>negative changes in the family institution, fertility rates are declining significantly in many countries. While the child and youth population are decreasing, the elderly population is increasing. The problems experienced in family and demographic structures make it imperative to take new measures.</p>	

TOURISM

<p>Promote Tourism Cooperation</p>	<p>ECO has made notable progress in promoting tourism as a driver of economic growth across its member states. Key initiatives including the ECO Tourism Capitals, ECO Tour Operators Network, Tourism Website, ECO Tourism Educational Network and the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT)reflect a strong collective commitment to strategic, collaborative, and sustainable tourism development.</p> <p>The continued political support,</p>	<p>Operationalize the ECO-ACT as a central platform for shaping regional tourism policies.</p> <p>Ensure representation from public and private sectors, as well as academia, to provide strategic guidance and coordination particularly facilitating tourist visas, digitizing tourism services and developing regional tourism standards.</p> <p>Reorganize technical cooperation</p>
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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>exemplified by successive Ministerial Meetings, has further strengthened regional cooperation, notably with the recent endorsement of the 1st Edition of the ECO Tourism Investment Guide at the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.</p>	<p>mechanisms; including Working Groups, Expert Groups, and Task Forces as sub-groups under ECO-ACT starting next year.</p> <p>Align their activities with the broader objectives of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation for 2035 (SGEC-2035) upon its formal adoption.</p> <p>Integrate ECO-ACT deliberations into ECO decision-making bodies, including the Regional Planning Council and Ministerial Meetings.</p>
<p>Boost Regional Tourism Through ECO Capitals</p>	<p>Erzurum has been officially designated as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2025, and the ECO Secretariat is actively engaging with relevant stakeholders to promote the city across various platforms, particularly through the ECO's social media channels.</p> <p>In parallel, a series of local and international events are being organized each month in Erzurum to</p>	<p>Follow up the arrangements for the festivities to be organized in Shusha, designated as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026.</p> <p>Prepare for the upcoming 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism to deliberate on the nomination of Aktau and decide on the selection of the ECO Tourism Capital for 2030.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>commemorate and highlight its status as the ECO Tourism Capital. These events aim to enhance visibility, celebrate the city's cultural and natural assets and foster greater regional and international tourism cooperation. The official communication from the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the nomination of Aktau for the title of ECO Tourism Capital for 2030 was also received by the Secretariat on 2 July 2025. The nomination was subsequently circulated among the Member States on 8 July 2025 for their consideration.</p>	<p>Request information from the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding their plans and arrangements for the celebratory events in Lahore in 2027.</p> <p>Encourage Pakistan to consider hosting selected ECO tourism-related events in Lahore in 2026 as part of the preparatory activities for the ECO Tourism Capital celebrations.</p>
<p>Promote green-energy corridors and eco-tourism initiatives</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat has prepared a Draft Compendium of Best Practices in Ecotourism, based on the outcomes of the 4th Experts Group Meeting on Ecotourism. The draft was circulated to Member States in August 2025 for review and input.</p> <p>Meanwhile, efforts to diversify tourism services in the region continue, with an emphasis on niche segments such as</p>	<p>Convene an ad hoc Working Group on Tourism Diversification before the end of 2025.</p> <p>Develop a policy brief outlining the prioritization of niche tourism areas to enhance regional collaboration in these segments and share the draft policy brief with relevant stakeholders for consultation.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>mountain, ski, and health tourism. Notably, the 3rd ECO Conference on Health Tourism was successfully held in Hamedan, Iran, in June 2025, highlighting regional strengths and collaboration in health and wellness tourism.</p>	<p>Invite Member States to undertake concrete actions in the identified priority areas and consider their inclusion in upcoming ECO Work Programs.</p>
Development of a Road Map for Expansion of Tourism Services	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan is currently in contact with the ECO Secretariat regarding the drafting of a dedicated roadmap. The Secretariat has informally advised the relevant Uzbek authorities that the proposed roadmap should be complementary to existing ECO tourism initiatives and aligned with the new ECO Vision document.</p>	<p>Designate ECO-ACT as the primary platform for the development and monitoring of the implementation of the roadmap.</p> <p>Include the formulation of the roadmap as a key agenda item at the 1st Meeting of ECO-ACT.</p>

ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND STATISTICS/PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Highlighted full operationalization of ECO Research Centre as a regional hub for economic research	The Economic Cooperation Organization Research Centre (ECO-RC) is not yet operational. Its full activation is pending the deposit of a third instrument of ratification of its	To ensure the swift and effective operationalization of the ECO Research Centre in Baku as the premier regional hub for economic research, analysis, and policy
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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
and innovations (Communiqué);	<p>Charter.</p> <p>The initiative to establish the ECO-RC in Baku was led by the Republic of Azerbaijan and its Charter was approved in November 2013. The Centre is envisioned as a regional hub that will provide research-based foundations for cooperation, develop economic projects and policies, and function as the organization's primary think tank.</p> <p>As of the 17th ECO Summit in July 2025, the status of the Charter is as follows:</p> <p>Signatories: Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan.</p> <p>Ratifications: Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The Charter will officially enter into force once a third member state deposits its instrument of ratification with the government of Azerbaijan.</p>	<p>formulation, in line with the mandate of the 17th ECO Summit. This plan outlines the strategic framework, while a detailed action plan with specific timelines and deliverables will be developed and implemented in close collaboration with all ECO Member States.</p> <p>Guiding Principles:</p> <p>Collaboration: Fostering active participation and ownership from all Member States.</p> <p>Relevance: Aligning the Centre's research agenda with the strategic priorities of the ECO Vision.</p> <p>Sustainability: Building a robust financial and institutional foundation for long-term success.</p> <p>Impact: Focusing on producing high-quality, policy-relevant research that drives regional economic integration and development.</p> <p>Strategic Pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pillar I: Finalizing the Legal and Governance Framework This pillar focuses on completing the necessary

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>legal and administrative prerequisites for the Centre to formally exist and function.</p> <p>Action Area: Expedite the entry into force of the ECO-RC Charter by securing the required number of ratifications.</p> <p>Action Area: Establish the Centre's foundational governance structure, including its governing board and the appointment of its executive leadership, in accordance with the Charter's provisions.</p> <p>2. Pillar II: Strategic Alignment and Resource Mobilization This pillar aims to define the Centre's core mission and secure the resources needed for its operations.</p> <p>Action Area: Develop the Centre's inaugural strategic plan and a multi-year research agenda, ensuring direct alignment with the ECO Vision and the evolving economic priorities of the Member States.</p> <p>Action Area: Secure a sustainable funding model through Member</p>

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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	
		<p>State contributions and engagement with other international financial institutions.</p> <p>3. Pillar III: Operational Launch and Integration This pillar is focused on launching the Centre's activities and integrating it into the broader ECO institutional ecosystem.</p> <p>Action Area: Launch the Centre's operational activities, including the initiation of its first flagship research projects and the official integration of the ECO Economic Journal as its primary publication.</p> <p>Action Area: Establish the ECO-RC as the central hub for the ECO Think-Tank Forum and build a strong network of collaborating national research institutions from across the region.</p> <p>Collaborative Implementation: The ECO Secretariat, in its facilitating role, will coordinate with the Member States to develop a comprehensive and detailed implementation roadmap based on these strategic</p>	

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		pillars. This joint effort will ensure that the operationalization of the ECO-RC is a shared endeavor, reflecting the collective vision and priorities of the entire Organization.

JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION AND EAPA

<p>Emphasized that lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan remain prerequisites for sustainable development and reaffirmed support for its gradual engagement into the activities of ECO to ensure the integrity of the Organisation (Communiqué);</p>	<p>ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan, will be the main ECO agreed framework for assisting the Afghanistan in its efforts for stability, prosperity, economic growth and sustainable development. Due to current developments in Afghanistan and no official relations between the ECO Member States and Kabul, currently the presence of ECO projects is on hold.</p> <p>ECO Council of Permanent Representatives authorized the ECO Secretariat to have bilateral meetings with the Afghanistan's relevant authorities. Accordingly on August 04,</p>	<p>Under the mandate of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), the ECO Secretariat continues to engage with the relevant authorities of Afghanistan. All actions undertaken in this context will be duly reported to the CPR for their review and decision making.</p>
		<p>In line with ECO's inclusive approach to regional cooperation, Afghanistan has participated in some important events, including the 17th ECO Summit held in Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan on July 3-4, 2025, and the Technical Expert Group Meeting</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>2025, a bilateral Meeting was organized between the ECO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Jandos Asanov and Maulvi Fazal Muhammad Haqani, Acting Ambassador of Afghanistan in Tehran to discuss about participation of Afghanistan in upcoming COM meeting in Kazakhstan.</p>	<p>on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March 4-7, 2025 in Erzurum, the ECO Tourism Capital 2025.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its intention to invite Afghanistan to attend the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting to be held on 28 October 2025 in Tehran.</p>
Afghanistan is fully committed to eliminating illicit drug production and trafficking (Afghanistan).	<p>The ECO Secretariat, in close collaboration with ECO Member States, continues to advance anti-narcotics initiatives aimed at mitigating the adverse impacts of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. These efforts include the organization of targeted capacity-building programs and the convening of relevant high-level meetings to foster regional coordination and enhance institutional responses.</p>	<p>The Islamic Republic of Iran has offered to host the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting on 28 October 2025. This high-level meeting will serve as a platform for Member States to deliberate on regional anti-narcotics policies and cooperative measures to combat illicit drug trafficking.</p> <p>In addition, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has offered to organize a training course on Awareness of Drugs and Precursors on November 2025 in Islamabad, aimed at enhancing technical knowledge and</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>institutional capacity among ECO Member States.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran will convene the 5th Virtual Training Course on Addiction to Narcotic Drugs: Focus on Treatment and Harm Reduction on 10 November 2025, continuing its commitment to knowledge-sharing and regional collaboration in addressing drug-related challenges.</p>
We should support Afghanistan in its security and restoration (Türkiye)	<p>The Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye provided humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan following a recent earthquake, dispatching essential supplies to support the affected population.</p> <p>Since 2022, Türkiye has sent 23 “Goodness Trains” carrying 10,500 tons of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat, in close cooperation with the ECO Member States, will continue its dedicated efforts to support the people of Afghanistan through initiatives that foster regional cooperation, economic development and stability. In this context, the Organization remains committed to advocating for sustained humanitarian assistance, ensuring the provision of essential needs and facilitating constructive dialogue between Afghan</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		stakeholders and the international community.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Encouraged deeper cooperation with United Nations, international organisations and financial institutions to amplify ECO's collective voice on sustainable economic development issues (Communiqué);	<p>1. On September 5, 2025, the UN General Assembly adopted a biennial resolution on cooperation with ECO.</p> <p>2. ECO Secretary General attended the 25th Summit of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tianjin China. While in Beijing, he visited Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB) Headquarters. He also paid a visit to the SCO Secretariat and met SCO Secretary General. The Secretary General also held meeting with senior leadership of ASEAN, EAEU and CIS.</p>	ECO endeavours to approach regional and international organizations of its kind to enhance synergies and increase impact of its activities. Also, ECO strives to approach international financial institutions to explore possibility of financing its regional infrastructure development projects. In this regards, the ECO Secretariat intends to undertake a working visit to Islamic Development Bank and other relevant organizations.
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ECO VISION 2025 AND BEYOND

Launch a visionary	ECO is formulating the "Strategic Goals	Draft Strategic Goals 2035 is under
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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	
strategic framework for 2026–2035 (ECO Vision 2035) defining clear and attainable sectoral priorities, including Trade, Transit, Digital, Tourism and Resilience.	of Economic Cooperation 2035" and incorporating lessons from ECO Vision 2025. Sector-wise priorities are being drafted.	consideration by PrepCom. Upon finalization, it will be submitted to CPR for endorsement and subsequently to COM for adoption. Target adoption: 29th Ministerial Meeting in Kazakhstan, November 2025.	
Strengthen regional cooperation in advanced technologies, innovation, artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and space applications; establish ECO Artificial Intelligence Centre as a regional specialized body.	Draft Strategic Roadmap reflects cooperation in modern technologies and innovation, including AI, digital tech, Block chain, ICT and space; the proposal for ECO AI Centre is included.	In process.	
Engage youth, women, and business communities in formulation and implementation of	Recommendations from Youth, Women, and Business Forums have been incorporated into updated Draft Strategic Goals	In process	

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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	
strategic documents; incorporate recommendations from dedicated forums.			
Streamline ECO's institutional architecture; develop a concrete roadmap for administrative and institutional mechanisms with regular progress reporting.	Report from the First High-Level Meeting of ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers (Feb 2025) contains recommendations on institutional mechanisms; under consideration by CPR.	Upon CPR endorsement, report will be submitted to COM for adoption.	
Promote environmental sustainability and women's leadership in advancing the green transition (e.g., Zero Waste initiative)	Draft Strategic Roadmap acknowledges women's role and environmental initiatives led by ECO member states.	In process	
Reinforce ECO's role in multilateral economic diplomacy and regional integration.	Strategic Roadmap includes initiatives to strengthen regional cooperation and ECO's economic diplomacy role.	In process	

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PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	
Adopt a new program document defining strategic goals and priorities of economic cooperation until 2035, serving as a roadmap for all members	Recognized and integrated into Draft Strategic Roadmap, supported by Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.	In process	

Agenda Item No. 4
Follow-up of the outcomes of First Meeting of
High-Level Committee (HLC) of ECO Deputy
Foreign Ministers;



No: ECO /2025/1958

Priority: Urgent

Date: 18/12/2025

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and in supersession of the former's Note Verbale No. ECO/2025/1953 dated December 17, 2025, has the honour to re-circulate herewith the Draft Report of the First Meeting of High Level Committee (HLC), incorporating therein the Türkiye's original proposal on ECO Observers, received on February 23, 2025.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



First Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC)

DRAFT REPORT

**ECO Secretariat, Tehran
February 3, 2025**

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INAUGURAL SESSION

The 1st Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on ECO Reforms convened with the participation of Deputy Foreign Ministers/Heads of Delegation from ECO Member States, ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat. List of Participants is placed at **Annexure-I**.

2. Chaired by **Mr. Alibek Bakayev, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, the HLC served as an important forum to evaluate the current structure, operational mechanisms and future strategic direction of ECO.

3. Addressing the gathering, **H.E. Mr. Alibek Bakayev** acknowledged that the Organization's current role in economic and business relations does not fully reflect its members' potential. He emphasized the need for innovative approaches to overcome challenges, enhance mutual trade, strengthen transport and transit links, ensure energy security and promote tourism. He highlighted Kazakhstan's commitment to advancing regional connectivity, trade, food security and energy cooperation, aligning these goals with sustainable development and regional integration. His complete statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

4. In his presentation, the **ECO Secretary General Amb. Dr. Asad M. Khan** provided a brief assessment of the Organization's progress and challenges. He highlighted the lack of comprehensive institutional reforms since ECO's inception and emphasized the need for stronger commitment from member states to foundational agreements, financial contributions and institutional participation. He underscored the direct correlation between regular ministerial meetings and tangible progress in key sectors such as transport and tourism. Stressing the imperative of regional cooperation in an evolving geopolitical landscape, he called for collective efforts to enhance ECO's operational efficiency and strategic impact. His presentation is placed at **Annexure-II**.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BRIEF REMARKS OF THE DISTINGUISHED HEADS OF DELEGATION

5. **H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan**, emphasized the importance of strengthening ECO's institutional framework and regional cooperation. He highlighted Azerbaijan's support for the organization's reforms and the initiation of ECO Vision-2035. Azerbaijan is committed to advancing regional sustainability, as demonstrated by hosting the ECO Research Center and ECO Clean Energy Center in Baku. He also underscored the need for a more results-oriented approach within ECO, focusing on regional connectivity, trade facilitation and clean energy transition. He reaffirmed Azerbaijan's dedication to working closely with member states to ensure the successful implementation of ECO's strategic goals, with a particular focus on the upcoming 17th ECO Summit in 2025 as a key opportunity for shaping the organization's future. His complete statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

6. **Mr. Seyed Rasoul Mohajer, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, highlighted the importance of building on the collective commitment shown during the 28th ECO Council of Ministers in Mashhad. He emphasized Iran's readiness to support the implementation of ECO Vision 2025 priorities and contribute to shaping a new Vision for beyond 2025. He called for reforms within ECO to increase its efficiency and dynamism, stressing the need for better participation and engagement among member states. He proposed transforming sectoral committees into standing committees and establishing a permanent budgetary and administrative committee to address organizational challenges. He expressed confidence that the meeting would yield positive outcomes for ECO's future. His complete statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

7. **H.E. Amb. Amna Baloch, Foreign Secretary/First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**, emphasized the importance of transforming ECO into a more vibrant and effective platform for regional cooperation. She noted the under-performance of intra-regional trade within ECO, urging the early implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to foster economic growth. She also underscored the need for a re-assessment of ECO Vision-2025 and supported Uzbekistan's proposal for the ECO Strategic Objectives-2035. She also called for comprehensive reforms within ECO, including improvements in financial, budgetary and organizational matters to enhance bureaucratic efficiency. Pakistan remains committed to actively shaping ECO's agenda and fostering stronger regional trade and connectivity, she added. Her statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

8. **H.E. Mr. Ismatullo Nasreddin, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan**, emphasized the importance of collective efforts to address global financial and economic challenges. He highlighted the untapped potential for trade and investment within the ECO region and proposed the removal of transit restrictions and tariff barriers to enhance economic cooperation. He also underscored Tajikistan's commitment to energy cooperation, particularly the CASA-1000 project, and the development of a regional energy market. He expressed strong support for a sustainable energy strategy and greater collaboration on food security, climate

change mitigation and tourism. He stated that Tajikistan remains dedicated to advancing the objectives of ECO Vision 2025, inviting member states to participate in the upcoming High-Level International Conference on Glacier Preservation in Dushanbe in May 2025. His statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

9. **H.E. Mr. A.K. Gurbanov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan**, stressed the importance of ECO as a strategic platform for promoting sustainable development and regional prosperity. He proposed several initiatives to enhance cooperation, including the development of a Regional Map of Sustainable Transport Routes and the digitalization of logistics through technologies like GIS and AI. He also highlighted Turkmenistan's commitment to energy security, advocating for a regional platform on renewable energy technologies and sustainable energy projects. Additionally, he proposed a Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development in April 2025, aimed at fostering collaboration among member states to address economic, social and environmental challenges. His statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

10. **H.E. Mr. Babur Usmanov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, highlighted the growing significance of the ECO in addressing global challenges amidst a complex geo-political and economic landscape. He emphasized the importance of sustainable economic cooperation and digital transformation in strengthening transport connectivity, trade and investment among member states. Reflecting on Uzbekistan's active participation in ECO, including hosting the 16th ECO Summit in November 2023, he expressed full support for Kazakhstan's chairmanship and the successful implementation of its priorities. He also called for the commencement of preparations for the upcoming 17th ECO Summit, emphasizing the importance of enhancing multilateral cooperation within the Organization. His statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

11. **H.E. Ambassador Aylin Sekizkök, Director General of International Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye**, emphasized the need for a strategic transformation within the ECO to enhance its efficiency and focus on trade and economic development. She pointed out that the organization has moved into areas un-related to its core mission, leading to stagnation in flagship projects like ECOTA. To revitalize ECO, she proposed simplifying its focus by eliminating areas with no progress or lack of engagement, deepening economic cooperation, prioritizing concrete and result-oriented projects and re-structuring the Secretariat for operational strength. Türkiye reaffirmed its commitment to supporting this transformation, ensuring that ECO remains a vibrant platform for regional economic growth, she said. Her statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

12. **H.E. Ambassador Turdakun Sydykov, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to ECO**, reaffirmed his country's commitment to strengthening the Organization by adopting new approaches to regional integration. He underlined the need to assess progress under the "ECO Vision 2025" and develop a revised strategy that is results-oriented and aligned with current economic realities. He supported comprehensive reforms to enhance ECO's effectiveness, particularly in

trade, transport, energy security and tourism. Additionally, he called for a detailed review of past recommendations and a step-by-step approach to reform discussions, ensuring well-informed and consolidated decisions for ECO's future. His statement is placed at **Annexure-II**.

WORKING PART-I **HLC OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS ON** **ECO REFORMS**

The High-Level Committee (HLC) conducted a thorough and detailed review of the ECO financial, institutional and operational issues. While recognizing the progress made by ECO in promoting its agenda, the delegates acknowledged that persistent challenges continue to impede the Organization's ability to fully realize its potential. They broadly supported the thrust of the paper and key suggestions made on reforming various aspects of the Secretariat work and functions. The discussion collectively underscored the need of comprehensive reforms within ECO to better align with the evolving needs and ambitions of the member states.

1. Financial & Budgetary Matters

Observations:

The ECO Secretariat remains heavily reliant on member state contributions, which are often inconsistent and delayed, resulting in financial strain. To ensure financial stability within the Organization, it is imperative that all member states make payments of their contributions in accordance with the actual scale of assessments. Timely budget circulation aligned with member states' fiscal cycles is essential to prevent delays in payment processing by member states. A minimum contribution threshold could encourage greater ownership among all member states. Additionally, long-term financial planning and regular reviews of operational expenses are required to ensure resource efficiency. Administrative and operational costs must be managed effectively to ensure adequate funding for the Organization's developmental projects and activities. To address funding shortfalls, the Secretariat often resorts to the General Reserve Fund (GRF), which, though providing temporary relief, gradually depletes critical reserves meant for development initiatives. The establishment of a dedicated Standing Committee, meeting biannually for financial reviews, would significantly enhance financial transparency and oversight and strengthen the Secretariat's fiscal management.

Recommendations:

- Prepare the annual budget (s) in timely manner and submit it to the member states in alignment with their financial cycles to avoid delays in operational processes and obtaining approvals for payment of their respective contributions.
- Hold consultations at appropriate levels to ensure that member states fulfill payments of their contributions timely and according to the scale of

assessments approved by the 24th COM, to maintain a consistent and reliable flow of funding.

- Timely payment of contribution by the Member States should be ensured for the smooth functioning of the organization.
- Conduct regular reviews of operational expenses to ensure efficient use of resources.
- Figure out a plan to replenish reserve funds, ensuring that they are used effectively for their intended purposes, without being depleted for budget deficits.
- Manage administrative and operational costs effectively, ensuring sufficient coverage for the Secretariat's developmental projects and activities, thereby enabling the Secretariat to operate more efficiently.

2. Efficiency of the Secretariat and Organizational Structure

Observations:

The Secretariat's staff structure has not undergone a comprehensive review to eliminate inefficiencies and optimize workload distribution. Overlapping tasks that duplicate assignments result in the ineffective use of human resources. Furthermore, the roles of Category-III staff need to be adequately rationalized, to avoid their inappropriate positioning. Currently, Cat-III includes three positions: A1, A2 and A3. To attract highly qualified professionals with significant experience, it may be beneficial to introduce higher-level positions such as A4 and A5 or upgrade some existing positions within this category. This adjustment would help create more opportunities for skilled professionals and further strengthen the Secretariat's capabilities. Moreover, a clear mechanism for defining the responsibilities of desk and program officers is also required to improve workflow efficiency. Empowering the Secretariat to recruit professionals from open markets would enhance institutional expertise and overall efficiency.

Recommendations:

- Secretariat to work out a specific proposal for increasing efficiency of the Organization, through elimination of duplications and overlaps and focus on the following in this regard:
 - Rationalize the roles of Category-III staff, ensuring that their job descriptions and responsibilities are clearly defined and that their positions align with their skills to optimize their contribution to the Secretariat's goals.

- Look in to the possibility of creating or upgrading Category-III positions to establish A4 and A5 positions to retain and attract experienced professionals.
- Re-define the responsibilities of desk and program officers to ensure that their roles are clearly aligned with their respective job descriptions.

3. Recruitment and Capacity Building

Observations:

The recruitment process within the Secretariat is not consistently aligned with the relevant provisions of the ECO Staff Regulations, limiting the selection to only a single nominated candidate and restricting the opportunity to choose from a broader pool of highly qualified professionals. Recruitment policies, particularly for program officers and experts, require revision and alignment with the evolving needs of the Secretariat. Staff salaries and benefits are not competitive with international standards, making it difficult to attract and retain skilled professionals. Capacity-building initiatives remain under-funded and lack strategic direction, restricting staff development within budgetary constraints. There is currently no structured engagement with academic institutions, to support knowledge sharing and capacity-building efforts. Additionally, the Secretariat has yet to establish a formal internship program to foster the development of young professionals. It is also crucial that the Secretariat has a formal say in the recruitment and appointment process to ensure that selected candidates meet the specific needs of the organization and align with its strategic goals. Since English is the organization's official language, proficiency in English is essential for its smooth operation, including for current Category-III staff. For new staff, English proficiency should be made mandatory, with a certification from an accredited institution.

Recommendations:

- Overall recruitment process should be merit based, transparent and aligned with the relevant provisions of ECO Staff Regulations.
- Review the overall recruitment process to ensure it is consistently merit-based, transparent and aligned with the relevant provisions of the ECO Staff Regulations, to enable the selection of highly qualified professionals and prevent the limitation of choices to a single nominated candidate.
- Improvements can be made in the qualifications required for ECO staff and in the recruitment processes that will not prejudice the candidate selection of the Member States.

- Ensure staff salaries and benefits are competitive and aligned with international standards to attract and retain top talent, considering annual salary adjustments based on inflation.
- Focus for capacity-building initiatives to maximize staff development within existing budget constraints, helping the Secretariat to better meet its objectives.
- Establish a working group on the recruitment process which can address the common recommendations in a holistic manner.
- Establish the structured engagement with academic institutions, to foster collaboration and promote capacity-building opportunities for Secretariat staff.
- Develop formal internship programs aimed at nurturing young professionals from the member states, providing them with valuable experience and developing future talent for Organization.
- English proficiency should be made compulsory for the Cat-III staff, including for new recruits.

4. IT Infrastructure and Digital Solutions

Observations:

Modernizing the Secretariat's IT infrastructure is crucial for efficiency, security and seamless communication with Member States. Upgrades should focus on advanced systems, secure networks and high-speed connectivity. Strengthening cyber-security, allocating sufficient resources and providing staff training will ensure sustainability. A structured monitoring framework will support ongoing improvements. ECO website should be improved to provide access to in-depth information.

Recommendations:

- Invest in modernizing IT infrastructure to improve coordination, management and reporting capabilities, with a particular focus on enhancing cyber-security and digitalization.
- Implement a digital performance evaluation system for staff to improve accountability, transparency and the overall management of staff performance.
- Expand translation capabilities by integrating modern automated tools to improve communication and efficiency across the Secretariat.

- Adopt digital platforms to streamline management, enhance reporting capabilities and improve engagement, thereby optimizing the Secretariat's operations and collaboration.
- Improve the ECO website to provide access to more detailed and up-to-date information on ECO countries, project developments and results.

5. ECO Visibility

Observations:

Improving ECO's visibility is essential to strengthening its position both regionally and globally, as well as increasing engagement with stakeholders. Additionally, using digital platforms, building stronger connections with international organizations and media, enhancing coordination between the ECO Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies and outsourcing some visibility-related tasks could help expand ECO outreach in a cost-effective way.

Improving ECO's visibility is essential to strengthening its position both regionally and globally, as well as increasing engagement with stakeholders. One option could be creating a Media Manager role within the current Secretariat team to lead communication efforts. Additionally, using digital platforms, building stronger connections with international organizations and media, enhancing coordination between the ECO Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies and outsourcing some visibility-related tasks could help expand ECO outreach in a cost-effective way.

Recommendations:

- Develop a unified communication strategy that integrates digital platforms, media partnerships and outreach programs, focusing on engaging key stakeholders and the broader public to boost ECO's visibility.
- Enhance coordination between the ECO Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies, ensuring a more streamlined and cohesive approach to visibility and outreach efforts of the Organization.
- Enhance coordination between the ECO Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions and Affiliated Bodies, ensuring a more streamlined, timely and cohesive approach to visibility and outreach efforts of the Organization.

6. Resource Mobilization

Observations:

Efforts to diversify funding sources and build strategic partnerships cannot succeed without effective resource mobilization. Establishing a dedicated resource mobilization mechanism would enhance the Secretariat's ability to secure additional funding from multilateral donors, international organizations and national initiatives. This will also enhance the organizational and human capacity of the Secretariat to implement international projects.

Recommendations:

- Diversify funding sources by possibly creating a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy to build strategic partnerships (including with UN, IsDB, ADB, etc.).
- Clarify the financial implications of resource mobilization efforts, if any, to ensure alignment with the Secretariat's financial strategy and an understanding of their cost-effectiveness.
- Enhance the role of ECO Bank as the financial pillar of economic cooperation among ECO member states.

7. ECO Awards

The ECO Awards require clearer criteria to maintain their value, ensure fairness across member states, and preserve their intended impact. Additionally, the practice of giving the ECO Awards should be temporarily suspended until a tangible strategy is finalized that serves the intended purpose.

Recommendations

- ECO Awards may be given on not regular, but significant occasions, by means other than cash contributions.
- Temporarily suspend the practice of giving the ECO Awards until a comprehensive policy is developed, ensuring it aligns with the intended goals of the Organization.
- Develop clear and structured criteria for the ECO Awards to ensure they remain meaningful, fair and impactful, recognizing significant contributions in ECO-relevant areas.

8. Engagement of Member States and Quorum Issues

Observations:

Member States' involvement in ECO activities, agreements and initiatives has been uneven, which has sometimes slowed down decision-making and limited the full impact of adopted frameworks. In addition, increased involvement from relevant line ministries could help improve decision-making. Developing a direct nexus between the technical teams of the ECO Secretariat and the focal points within the line ministries of member states is crucial. This would complement the existing diplomatic channels and strengthen coordination, leading to more effective outcomes. Furthermore, the ratification of key ECO agreements and institutions is taking longer than expected. Speeding up this process would help put them into action more quickly and increase their impact. Additionally, looking into more flexible event scheduling and direct engagement strategies could help ensure better participation from stakeholders in important meetings, leading to quicker and more effective decisions.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the role of RPC as a formal nexus between the expert staff of the ECO Secretariat and the relevant focal points in member states' line ministries/departments to ensure that effective communications and timely follow-ups are made, in addition to maintaining diplomatic channels.
- Strengthen diplomatic efforts to expedite the signing and ratification of key ECO agreements and institutions, ensuring their quick operationalization.
- Explore flexible scheduling of meetings to ensure member states' participation in all ECO meetings, ensuring consistent involvement and preventing quorum issues.

9. ECO Observers

Observations:

The process for engaging ECO Observers based on the modalities in some cases leads to inconsistent collaboration and increased administrative burdens. A structured and inclusive approach to observer engagement is required to enhance efficiency and strengthen ECO's partnerships.

Recommendations:

- Establish clear and inclusive approach for engaging ECO observers to streamline the observer invitation process and reduce administrative procedures, fostering more consistent collaboration and stronger partnerships.
- Observers, whose observer status is renewed more than three times should acquire the Permanent Observer status and be invited to the ECO meetings and events ex officio, without the need for CPR decision. (Para originally proposed by Türkiye on Feb 23, 2025)

WORKING PART-II **ECO VISION**

Summary of Discussions

The High-Level Committee (HLC) discussions on ECO Vision 2025 underscored the need for a future-oriented strategy that builds on past achievements while addressing persistent challenges. There was consensus on the necessity of a pragmatic, results-driven vision with clear goals, strong implementation mechanisms and enhanced coordination among member states. It was emphasized by some delegates that financial constraints, bureaucratic inefficiencies and inconsistent engagement have hindered progress in key sectors of trade, transport and energy. Along with the public representatives, the stakeholders' involvement, including representatives of the private sector, youth and academia was seen as vital for fostering a more dynamic and inclusive approach. Additionally, the importance of reforms within the Secretariat was also underscored to improve efficiency, ensure timely decision-making and enhance regional collaboration.

2. Looking ahead, some delegates advocated for refining the existing vision, while others pushed for a completely new framework aligned with evolving regional and global dynamics. However, there was a strong call for greater financial sustainability, digital transformation and sector-specific commitments to ensure meaningful outcomes. Trade agreements, like the ECOTA, were highlighted as crucial to deepening economic integration, yet challenges such as customs cooperation and regulatory alignment remain to be also taken into account on priority basis. Moreover, concerns were raised about the feasibility of long-term planning amid geo-political uncertainties, with suggestions to adopt a more flexible and adaptive strategy. Overall, the discussions emphasized the need for a well-structured and action-oriented vision that prioritizes economic cooperation and strategic coordination, ensuring that ECO's future direction remains relevant and impactful. Bearing all this in mind and after thoughtful deliberations, the HLC made following recommendations for the formulation of a new ECO Vision to be implemented in the post-2025 period.

Recommendations for Future Vision

1. Formulation of a New Vision

- Prepare a streamlined and result-oriented new vision document focusing notably on economic and trade relations, incorporating past achievements and addressing gaps, aligning with the priorities of member states by taking into consideration the expectations and the demands of the private sector.
- Ensure that the new vision includes clear, measurable goals, realistic timelines and accountability mechanisms to foster tangible outcomes.

- Explore the possibility of finalizing the new vision before the next Summit in Azerbaijan for presentation to heads of state/government. If this timeline is not feasible, prioritize formulating the post-2025 strategy before the next Council of Ministers meeting.

2. Implementation & Results-Oriented Approach

- Ensure the new vision is action-driven, focusing on practical and achievable initiatives with measurable outcomes rather than just conceptual framework.
- Strengthen financial sustainability by developing a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, including partnerships with multilateral donors and international organizations.
- Establish concrete tools and monitoring mechanisms to track progress, ensuring timely implementation and effective follow-up.
- Regularly assess and adjust the vision based on evolving regional and global realities to maintain its relevance and effectiveness.

3. Trade & Economic Integration

- Prioritize the operationalization of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to boost intra-regional trade, with clear targets and regular reporting to track progress.
- Prioritize the operationalization of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to boost intra-regional trade
- Strengthen trade cooperation by addressing customs cooperation issues and supporting data-sharing initiatives to streamline cross-border trade.
- Prioritize actions which cover collective interest of the member states, and also encourage multi country-specific and scalable commitments in trade related sectors and areas (transport, agriculture, mining, energy, manufacturing, customs, finance, regulatory framework, technology and SMEs) to enhance regional collaboration, ensuring the active participation of member states in trade integration.

4. Sectoral & Cross-Border Cooperation

- Focus on key sectors, particularly trade, transport and energy with specific emphasis on digitalization and green transition.
- Address cross-border coordination challenges to enhance the efficiency of regional infrastructure projects, especially through better coordination in the ITI Corridor and within key sectors of trade, transport and energy.

- Promote regional cooperation on thematic initiatives, particularly in tourism, agriculture and industry to foster integrated development.

5. **Stakeholder Engagement & Inclusivity**

- Actively involve governments, private sector, academia and youth in shaping and implementing the new vision, ensuring inclusivity at all levels.
- Establish structured platforms for youth participation in ECO's regional development efforts, fostering engagement from the younger generation.
- Organize an "ECO Vision 2035 Forum" to foster dialogue among various stakeholders, including member states, private sector entities and academic institutions, to ensure broad-based support and input for the new vision.

Conclusion

The High-Level Committee (HLC) recognized the critical need for comprehensive reforms to enhance ECO's effectiveness, financial stability and strategic direction. To address this, the HLC agreed to establish a dedicated Working Group under the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR). This Working Group will be tasked with developing concrete reform proposals and contributing to the formulation of the New Vision Document based on HLC's recommendations. The composition and structure of the Working Group will be determined by the CPR.

The HLC also acknowledged the efforts of the ECO Secretariat in preparing HLC Working Paper prepared, which significantly facilitated the Committee's proceedings.

Agenda No. 5

Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO

Regional Planning Council (RPC)



No: CFU /2026/35

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 18/1/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose herewith a list of events expected/scheduled to be held prior to the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) which will be organized on May 17-20, 2026. The enclosed list will be considered, for endorsement, by the 303rd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on January 27, 2026.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran

Calendar of Events (January - May 2026)

Trade and Investment			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	1 st Meetings of Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) on ECOTA Revision	TBD	1 st quarter of 2026/ Hybrid
2	2 nd Meetings of Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) on ECOTA Revision	TBD	2 nd quarter of 2026/ In-person
3	2 nd Consultative Technical Online Meeting for testing "ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank"	Türkiye	February 2026/virtual
4	1 st Meeting of the ECO Heads of Commodity Exchanges	Pakistan	February 2026/ virtual
5	2 nd Meeting of Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities	Iran	2026
6	2 nd Meeting of the Heads of SW/NDFs of the ECO Member States	Iran	2026 / Hybrid
Meetings of the ECO Subsidiary Bodies with ECO Secretariat Participation			
7	Executive Committee Meetings and General Assembly Meetings of ECO-CCI	Karachi, Pakistan	22 January 2026
8	ECO Reinsurance Company	ECO Secretariat	2026/hybrid
Transport & Communication			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	Webinar on ICT Policy and Regulation for a Digital Future (<i>Jointly with the ITU</i>)	Virtual	20 January 2026
2	3 rd High Level Working Group Meeting on Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul and Almaty-Bandar Abbas Train Corridors	Iran	9 February 2026
3	2 nd Meeting of the ECO High Level Working Group of ICT Regulatory Authorities	Pakistan	30-31 March 2026
4	4 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT	Pakistan	30-31 March 2026
5	7 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations	Iran	February/March 2026
6	1 st Meeting of the ECO Freight Forwarders Association	TBD	2026
7	9 th Meeting of TTCC Customs Committee, Workshop on Border Crossing Facilitation and Best Practices, and 2 nd Meeting of the ECO TIR Advisory Group (TIRACG)	Iran	2026
8	2 nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on KTI Railway Corridor/ and 2 nd Meeting of the Sub-	TBD	2026

	Working Group on Commercialization of the KTI Railway Corridor		
9	Meetings/Visits on Implementation of the ECO-IRU Action Plan 2026-2027	Secretariat and Member States (based on agreement with concerned Member States)	Across the year before and after May 2026
10	Secretariat meetings with partner organizations		If required, as per its mandates

Energy

ECO Events

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	5 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy	Republic of Türkiye	Autumn 2026 (tbc)
2	5 th High-Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy (back-to-back with the Ministerial Meeting on Energy)	Republic of Türkiye	Autumn 2026 (tbc)
3	3 rd Task Force Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)	Virtual	February (Date tbd)
4	3 rd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)	Tbd	June 2026 (Date tbd)
5	5 th ECO Experts Group Meeting on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources (EGEERES)	Tbd	1 st half of 2026 (tbd)

Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	The training course(s) organized by the Oil and Gas International Training Centre of Iran (OGITC)	I.R.Iran	2026

Non-ECO Events

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF), and the Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) Platform	Vienna, Austria	9-10 April 2026
2	Baku Energy Week	Baku, Azerbaijan	1-3 June 2026

Minerals

ECO Events

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	10 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting	Tbd	2026
2	4 th ECO Geomatics Committee	Tbd	2026
3	3 rd Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations	Tbd	2026

Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Training Courses

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	Webinar on Urban Mining and Economic Security, organized by the Asian Mayors Forum	Virtual	14 January 2026 (subject to availability of internet)
2	The event for the youth within the project "World is our home", to be organized by the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)	Tbd	2026

Non-ECO Events

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	International Geological Forum	Astana, Kazakhstan	2-3 April 2026

Environment

ECO Events

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment	Tbc (Samarkand, Uzbekistan)	3 June 2026 (tbc)
2	The Senior Officials Meeting & 8 th Working Group Meeting on Environment	Tbc (Samarkand, Uzbekistan)	2 June 2026 (tbc)
3	The First Meeting of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation	Uzbekistan	2026

Non-ECO Events

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	Regional Ecological Summit	Astana, Kazakhstan	22-23 April 2026
2	The 21 st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF21)	UN Headquarters, New York	11-15 May 2026
3	2026 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP31)	Antalya, Türkiye	9-20 November 2026

Agriculture & Industry

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	8 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	Tehran, Iran	17 February 2026
2	7 th High Level Experts Meeting on Agriculture	Tehran, Iran	16 February 2026
3	9 th ECO Seed Association (ECOSA) International Trade Conference and Fair ECO Expert Meeting on Seed	Tehran, Iran	16-17 February 2026
4	4 th Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights	Turkey	2026 (TBD)

TOURISM			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
<u>ECO Events</u>			
1	The Official Opening Ceremony for Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026 and Related Events / 7 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the 9 th Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Tourism	Shusha, Azerbaijan	27-30 April 2026 (Most Probably)
2	1 st ECO Tourism Fair	Iran	12-15 February 2026 (Tentative)
3	2 nd Symposium on the Tourism Market of the ECO Member States and 2 nd ECO-TEN (ECO Tourism Educational Network) Meeting	Kish Free Zone, Iran	21-24 April 2026
4	3 rd ECO Tour Operators Forum	Aras Free Zone, Iran	May 2026
<u>Non-ECO Events</u>			
1	19 th International Tehran Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition	Tehran, Iran	12-15 February 2026
2	Pakistan Travel Mart	Karachi & Lahore, Pakistan	3-8 April 2026
3	Turkmen Travel 2026	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	14-16 April 2026
4	24 th Kazakhstan International Exhibition "Tourism and Travel"	Almaty, Kazakhstan	22-24 April 2026
<u>Human Resources & Sustainable Development</u>			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
<u>ECO Events</u>			
1.	10th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction proceeded by High Level Working Group Meeting	Pakistan	21-22 January 2026
<u>Non-ECO Events</u>			
1.	14th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)	Bangkok	24-27 February 2026
2.	82nd session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Baku	20-24 April 2026
3.	Thirteenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13)	Baku	17-22 May 2026
4.	79th World Health Assembly	Geneva	18-23 May 2026
5.	4th High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028	Dushanbe	25-28 May 2026
<u>Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination</u>			

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1	5th ECO Training Course on Psychosocial Interventions in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders	Online	11 May 2026
Project Management			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	1st Meeting of the ECO-IsDB Joint Task Force	Jeddah / Tehran/Online	March
Economic Research and Statistics			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	Webinar on "Integration of Big Data into Official Trade Statistics"	Türkiye (TurkStat)	2 Quarter
International Relations			
S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
ECO Event			
1.	5 th Meeting of the BoT of ECO Educational Institute	TBD	
Non-ECO Event			
2.	10 th General Assembly ECOSAI	Tehran	28 January 2026
3.	13th Global Baku Forum	Baku	March 2026
4.	5th Antalya Diplomacy Forum	Antalya	April 2026
5.	Astana Forum	Astana	May 2026
6.	International Glaciers Conference	TBC	TBC

Agenda No. 6
Administrative and budgetary Matters



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

No:ADM/2026/37

Priority: Normal

Date: 18/1/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose a self-explanatory Note Verbale No.5-001/26 dated January 6, 2026 received from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, conveying requesting extension in service tenure of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva (Azerbaijan national) Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) in accordance with the relevant provision contained in the ECO Staff Regulations.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration



All ECO Member States - Tehran



№ 5-001/26

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and with reference to the Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ADM/2025/1433, dated September 16, 2025, regarding the vacancy for the post of Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) that would fall vacant in the ECO Secretariat on March 12, 2026, has the honour to propose the extension of the tenure of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva (Azerbaijani national) in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the ECO Staff regulations, and to process the proposal for the approval of the Council of Permanent Representatives.

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

January 06, 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization
Tehran



Agenda No. 7
Any other business

Agenda No. 8
Date of the next CPR Meeting.