

Minute Speech

- Excellencies, Madame Chair, Dear ECO Secretariat, Distinguished Delegates,
- It is a great honour to address you on behalf of IRU,
- IRU is the world organisation representing the road transport industry.
- Road transport is the backbone of trade and economic activity in every ECO country. If trucks slow down, trade slows down; if borders become unpredictable, economies pay the price.
- **As IRU, we manage TIR system under the mandate of UN and TIR system remains one of the most powerful tools available to all ECO member states.**
- It provides secure, predictable, and cost-efficient transit, reducing delays and bringing full transparency to cross-border operations.
- Many ECO countries already use TIR effectively, and as a result, the **ECO region today accounts for more than 70% of all global TIR movements.** This is a major regional strength.
- Together with ECO, we have developed a **practical and results-oriented IRU–ECO Action Plan for 2026–2027.** This Action Plan is our roadmap to reduce border delays, modernise transit procedures, and improve connections across East–West and North–South corridors.
- It focuses on three core priorities:
- **First**, accelerating full implementation of TIR and especially **eTIR**. Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Pakistan are already ready to use. Türkiye will be ready this year.
- **Second**, reducing unnecessary costs and administrative barriers.
- **Third**, strengthening cooperation between customs authorities and the transport industry.
- We are pleased to see that our objectives are fully aligned with the objectives of ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- I am also very pleased to see the political will today to facilitate trade and transport in ECO region.
- IRU stands ready to support every ECO country and help the industry.
- Thank you.