



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

304th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

February 25, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 304th CPR Meeting

No: CFU /2026/133

Priority: Urgent

Date: 10/2/2026

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 of the 304th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled for February 25, 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

304th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Agenda And Annotated Draft Agenda

*February 25, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 304th CPR Meeting;
 2. Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
 3. Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan;
 4. Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC);
 5. Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
 6. Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)
 7. Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030;
 8. Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
 9. Any other business;
 10. Date of the next CPR Meeting.
-

Draft Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Secretariat proposes the following Draft Agenda for consideration and adoption by the Council:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 304th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation-2035
- Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)
- Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030;
- Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel.
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

2. The Council may consider and adopt the above agenda for discussion and deliberations.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting

3. The Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting held on January 27, 2026 was circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/88 dated February 1, 2026 for consideration of the member states.

4. The Council may consider and adopt the Draft Report of 303rd CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

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

5. The 303rd CPR Meeting considered the Plan of Action on the follow-up of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan. During discussion, the delegation of Azerbaijan requested additional time to convey its comments, while the Representative of Türkiye informed the Council that it had transmitted further inputs on the document to the Secretariat, requesting their incorporation in the document.

6. Given the views expressed, the Council deferred consideration of the matter to its 304th Session scheduled for February 25, 2026, urging the Member States to expedite their final feedback, if any, within the extended timeframe. The Council also tasked the Secretariat to incorporate all views/comments received from member states during this period, and re-circulate the updated version of the document.

7. The ECO Secretariat will circulate an updated version of the Plan of Action before the 304th CPR Meeting, including all views/comments received thereon.

8. The Council may consider and finalize the Plan of Work.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

9. Following the endorsement of the 303rd CPR Meeting, the approval of the Council of Ministers (COM) was secured for the interim list of events scheduled to take place between January and May 2026, through a two-week silence procedure that completed on February 10, 2026. However, the organizational and hospitality format for the 36th RPC is yet to be considered and approved by the Council.

10. In this context, the Secretariat will brief the Council on the proposed format for its consideration and decision.

Agenda Item No. 5

Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

11. The formulation of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 has been ongoing for over a year. In this regard, it is recalled that the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), held on November 28, 2025, extended the validity of the current ECO Vision 2025 until the end of June 2026, or the finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals, whichever is earlier.

12. In view of the foregoing, and given the conclusion made by 303rd CPR Meeting, the ECO Secretariat vide Note Verbale No. ECO /2026/86 dated February 1, 2026, requested the member states to convey their final and consolidated feedback on the Draft Strategic Goals by February 15, 2026, for circulation of its updated version before the 304th CPR Meeting. A clean version of the document, including all inputs received from member states as of January 26, 2026, was also circulated along with the cited Note Verbale.

13. The Council may consider the matter, and establish a Working Group to finalize the contents of the Draft Strategic Goals, so that the formulation of the document may be completed well in time.

Agenda Item No. 6

Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)

14. The 303rd CPR Meeting on January 27, 2026 finalized the Report of First Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC), and agreed to establish a Working Group to develop concrete reform proposals as recommended by HLC.

15. Subsequently, the ECO Secretariat, vide Note Verblale No. ADM/2026/85 dated February 1, 2026, requested the member states to nominate their authorized representatives for the formulation of Working Group. The Council may consider the matter and request the member states to expedite the requested nominations, enabling early formulation of the said Forum.

16. In addition, as requested by the Republic of Uzbekistan, and discussed by the Council in its 303rd Session, the Council may explore the possibility to convene the Second HLC Meeting in 2026. The Secretariat will start necessary preparations with regard to the agenda and working paper of the next HLC in line with the Council's decision.

Agenda Item No. 7

Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030

17. The 301st CPR Meeting discussed on 17 November 2025 the draft “*ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030*” and deferred it to the agenda of the next CPR Meeting for taking a decision on its adoption with a view to enable its implementation from 2026.

18. The draft Roadmap has further been slightly modified incorporating the comments of Türkiye reflected in the Note Verbale of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran No. Z-2025/99530379/40942896 dated November 16, 2025. This revised version of the draft Roadmap was circulated among the Member States accordingly vide Secretariat’s Note Verbale No. EME/2025/1810 dated November 23, 2025 for their final review and comments, to be transmitted at the latest by 8 December 2025. No further comments were received.

19. While the expert-level consideration of the Roadmap was completed at the dedicated Task Force Meeting on September 24, 2025 and ECO does not avail the ministerial-level platform on minerals cooperation, the 303rd CPR Meeting is thus expected to directly approve the revised draft Roadmap.

Agenda Item No. 8

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

➤ *Recommendation of the Selection Panel (if any)*

20. The Secretariat will brief the Council on the recommendations of the selection panel, if any.

Agenda Item No. 9

Any other business

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

Agenda Item No. 10

Date of the next CPR Meeting

22. The Council may decide the date of its next (305th) Meeting in consultation with the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.

No: CFU /2026/151

Priority: Urgent

Date: 17/2/2026

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 with reference to Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/133 dated February 10, 2026, has the honour to enclose a revised Draft Agenda of the 304th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled for February 25, 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

304th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Agenda And Annotated Draft Agenda

*February 25, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran*

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 304th CPR Meeting;
2. Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
3. Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan;
4. Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC);
5. Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
6. Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)
7. Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030;
8. Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region;
9. Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
10. Any other business;
11. Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Draft Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Secretariat proposes the following Draft Agenda for consideration and adoption by the Council:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 304th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up of the Outcomes of 17th Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan
- Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation-2035
- Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)
- Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030;
- Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones 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 and adopt the above agenda for discussion and deliberations.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting

3. The Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting held on January 27, 2026 was circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/88 dated February 1, 2026 for consideration of the member states.

4. The Council may consider and adopt the Draft Report of 303rd CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

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

5. The 303rd CPR Meeting considered the Plan of Action on the follow-up of the 17th ECO Summit and ECO Week in Azerbaijan. During discussion, the delegation of Azerbaijan requested additional time to convey its comments, while the Representative of Türkiye informed the Council that it had transmitted further inputs on the document to the Secretariat, requesting their incorporation in the document.

6. Given the views expressed, the Council deferred consideration of the matter to its 304th Session scheduled for February 25, 2026, urging the Member States to expedite their final feedback, if any, within the extended timeframe. The Council also tasked the Secretariat to incorporate all views/comments received from member states during this period, and re-circulate the updated version of the document.

7. The ECO Secretariat will circulate an updated version of the Plan of Action before the 304th CPR Meeting, including all views/comments received thereon.

8. The Council may consider and finalize the Plan of Work.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

9. Following the endorsement of the 303rd CPR Meeting, the approval of the Council of Ministers (COM) was secured for the interim list of events scheduled to take place between January and May 2026, through a two-week silence procedure that completed on February 10, 2026. However, the organizational and hospitality format for the 36th RPC is yet to be considered and approved by the Council.

10. In this context, the Secretariat will brief the Council on the proposed format for its consideration and decision.

Agenda Item No. 5

Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

11. The formulation of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 has been ongoing for over a year. In this regard, it is recalled that the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), held on November 28, 2025, extended the validity of the current ECO Vision 2025 until the end of June 2026, or the finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals, whichever is earlier.

12. In view of the foregoing, and given the conclusion made by 303rd CPR Meeting, the ECO Secretariat vide Note Verbale No. ECO /2026/86 dated February 1, 2026, requested the member states to convey their final and consolidated feedback on the Draft Strategic Goals by February 15, 2026, for circulation of its updated version before the 304th CPR Meeting. A clean version of the document, including all inputs received from member states as of January 26, 2026, was also circulated along with the cited Note Verbale.

13. The Council may consider the matter, and establish a Working Group to finalize the contents of the Draft Strategic Goals, so that the formulation of the document may be completed well in time.

Agenda Item No. 6

Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)

14. The 303rd CPR Meeting on January 27, 2026 finalized the Report of First Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC), and agreed to establish a Working Group to develop concrete reform proposals as recommended by HLC.

15. Subsequently, the ECO Secretariat, vide Note Verblale No. ADM/2026/85 dated February 1, 2026, requested the member states to nominate their authorized representatives for the formulation of Working Group. The Council may consider the matter and request the member states to expedite the requested nominations, enabling early formulation of the said Forum.

16. In addition, as requested by the Republic of Uzbekistan, and discussed by the Council in its 303rd Session, the Council may explore the possibility to convene the Second HLC Meeting in 2026. The Secretariat will start necessary preparations with regard to the agenda and working paper of the next HLC in line with the Council's decision.

Agenda Item No. 7

Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030

17. The 301st CPR Meeting discussed on 17 November 2025 the draft “*ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030*” and deferred it to the agenda of the next CPR Meeting for taking a decision on its adoption with a view to enable its implementation from 2026.

18. The draft Roadmap has further been slightly modified incorporating the comments of Türkiye reflected in the Note Verbale of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran No. Z-2025/99530379/40942896 dated November 16, 2025. This revised version of the draft Roadmap was circulated among the Member States accordingly vide Secretariat’s Note Verbale No. EME/2025/1810 dated November 23, 2025 for their final review and comments, to be transmitted at the latest by 8 December 2025. No further comments were received.

19. While the expert-level consideration of the Roadmap was completed at the dedicated Task Force Meeting on September 24, 2025 and ECO does not avail the ministerial-level platform on minerals cooperation, the 303rd CPR Meeting is thus expected to directly approve the revised draft Roadmap.

Agenda Item No. 8

Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region

20. The Embassy of Turkmenistan vide Note Verbale No. 28/3-218 dated February 12, 2026, requested the inclusion of their proposal to conduct a pre-feasibility study for establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region. The same was circulated amongst member states vide Secretariat Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/145 dated February 17, 2026.

21. The Turkmen delegation will brief on the administrative and technical aspects of their proposal for consideration by the Council.

Agenda Item No. 9

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

➤ *Recommendation of the Selection Panel (if any)*

22. The Secretariat will brief the Council on the recommendations of the selection panel, if any.

Agenda Item No. 10

Any other business

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

Agenda Item No. 11

Date of the next CPR Meeting

24. The Council may decide the date of its next (305th) Meeting in consultation with the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 303rd CPR Meeting;

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

Draft Report

January 27, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Draft Report

Held on January 27, 2026 under the Chairmanship of Pakistan, the 303rd 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 Meeting began with Pakistan, taking over the ECO Chairmanship for 2026-2027 from Kazakhstan – the ECO Chair in 2025. In his remarks, the outgoing Chair, **Ambassador Ontalap Onalbayev** thanked all delegations for their cooperation and support during Kazakhstan’s chairmanship. He noted that, during his chairmanship, the Council’s work had focused on strengthening coordination, advancing agreed priorities, facilitating trade and investment, supporting social development, and promoting people-to-people contacts. While acknowledging that further efforts were required, he emphasized that the CPR had remained an effective platform for practical cooperation. He congratulated Ambassador Muhammad Mudassir Tipu of Pakistan on assuming the CPR chairmanship for two years, and expressed confidence in Pakistan’s continued commitment to ECO.

3. The incoming Chair, **Ambassador Mudassir Tipu** said that Pakistan, as a founding member of ECO, had remained committed to the Organization’s objectives and principles since its inception. He underlined the importance of strengthening regional cooperation in the current global context and expressed confidence that, under the guidance of the Secretary General, ECO would continue to advance its goals. He thanked member states for their trust and formally assumed the chairmanship of the Council.

4. The ECO Secretary General, **Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan**, welcomed all delegations and thanked Kazakhstan for its effective leadership during 2025, noting the successful convening of several ministerial meetings and the 17th ECO Summit. He congratulated Pakistan on assuming the chairmanship under the newly approved two-year term and expressed confidence in Pakistan’s leadership. He briefed the Council on the busy schedule of ministerial meetings planned in 2026 across various sectors and urged member states to confirm dates well in advance to ensure effective participation and preparation, making the year pathbreaking for ECO. He emphasized the importance of close coordination between capitals, embassies and the Secretariat. He also acknowledged improved financial contributions by member states, encouraged timely payments and reaffirmed the Secretariat’s full support to the Chair.

5. The other distinguished Permanent Representatives and delegates also congratulated Pakistan on assuming the chairmanship of the Organization for 2026–2027 and expressed confidence in its leadership. They commended Kazakhstan for its successful chairmanship in 2025 and welcomed the progress achieved by ECO. Delegations assured their full cooperation and support for the work of the Council and the Secretariat during the new chairmanship period, with a view to further strengthening regional economic cooperation.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The **Council** adopted the following agenda for discussion and deliberations:

- 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:
- Any other business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting

7. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 302nd CPR Meeting held on December 17, 2025, and circulated amongst the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2025/1959 dated December 18, 2025.

Agenda Item No. 3

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

8. The **Chairman** recalled that 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, and extended the deadline for submission of final inputs until the current CPR session. He requested the Secretariat to brief the Council on the matter.

9. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev** stated that the updated version of the said action plan was circulated amongst the member states on December 22, 2025 incorporating therein the last inputs received from Türkiye. He added that no further comments were received thereafter from any other member state, requesting the Council to finalize the Action Plan so that necessary follow-up actions may be initiated.

10. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Ambassador Ali Alizada** while appreciating the Secretariat for the patience and vigorous work to finalize the action plan, requested that given the current situation, the matter may be deferred for another month, or until the next CPR Meeting, enabling them to convey their feedback.

11. The Representative of the Republic of Türkiye, **Mr. Murat Sogangoz** informed about their additional comments on the Plan of Action which were conveyed to the Secretariat vide Note Verbale on January 26, 2027. He requested to reflect the same in the revised version of the document.

12. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan, **Ambassador Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda** while noting certain issues pending on the agenda for

several months, emphasized the importance of expeditious decision-making. He supported the request made by his Azerbaijani counterpart for one more month's extension in the deadline to receive any additional comments on the action plan.

13. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mr. Alireza Toutouchian** pointed out some inconsistency in the action plan stating that country names were mentioned in some sectors against the leaders' proposal whereas the other they appear missing in other areas. He requested to apply uniformity in approach while formulating the document, and stressed that the focus should be made on specific proposals put forward by the distinguished Heads of State/Government.

14. While taking note of the status of action plan and the positions of the member states, the **Council** agreed to defer the matter till the next meeting of CPR. The **Council** also urged the member states to speed up their feedback in order to avoid further delay in finalizing the document.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

15. The **Chairman** recalled that based on the consensus regarding Türkiye's original proposal on ECO Observers in the Draft HLC Report, the 302nd CPR Meeting agreed, in principle, to finalize the Draft Report. He, however, noted that in light of the request made by Uzbekistan, the CPR, tasked the Secretariat to re-circulate the HLC Draft Report, and concluded that it would be formally agreed by its current session. He requested the Council to consider and finalize the HLC report.

16. The Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, **Mr. Elbek Yuldashev** while agreeing with the consensus on HLC Report, requested that the right to extend or not to extend invitations to ECO Observers in the events/meetings should remain with the concerned member states.

17. The **ECO Secretary General**, while congratulating the member states to finally reach a consensus on the HLC Report, reiterated his previously uttered position that the HLC report is merely of recommendatory nature. He added that the recommendations made therein would remain subject to finalization by CPR and the COM for being transformed into formal decisions. He requested the Council to establish a working group, as envisaged in the HLC Report, tasking it to initiate developing concrete proposals in line with the HLC recommendations.

18. Having consent expressed by all member states, the **Council** finalized the Draft Report of the First HLC Meeting held on February 3, 2025, and also agreed to establish the envisaged working group, requesting the Secretariat to take further necessary action, in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 5

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

19. The **Chairman** noted that, as per decision of the previous CPR, the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) is scheduled to be held on May 17-20, 2026. He requested the Secretariat to update the Council with regard to RPC preparations.

20. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** explained that as per agreement reached during the 302nd CPR meeting, the Secretariat prepared and circulated a list of events, occurring between January and May 2026. He mentioned that the provided list was required to be endorsed by the Council in order to ensure smooth organization of the important meetings which would take place before RPC Meeting. He added that, after the RPC Meeting, the final version of the ECO Calendar of Events and Work Program for 2026 will be submitted for endorsement by the CPR and onward submission to COM for adoption.

21. The Representative of the **Republic of Türkiye** informed that the response from their Capital was yet to be received on the said list of events. Delegations, particularly from Iran, highlighted the possibility of expanding the tentative list by adding some more events to the list which are expected from the line ministries in due course.

22. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that every effort was made to convene the RPC meeting in the first quarter of the year, given its mandate to finalize the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events. However, due to inconvenience expressed by some member states, the meeting was postponed and scheduled for mid-year. He requested the member states to inform of any meetings that they plan before the RPC meeting, so that those could also be circulated for the Council's approval. He also sought the Council's approval for meetings requiring authorization before the next CPR session, in particular the ICT Ministerial Meeting to be held in Islamabad on March 30-31, 2026.

23. The **Council**, while noting the views of the delegations and given the importance of the matter, endorsed the list of events and decided to adopt a two-week silence procedure to seek the COM's approval on this list, occurring during this interim period i.e. between January and May 2026. The Council also agreed to make expansion, if any, in the list on receipt of events' detail from member states.

Agenda Item No. 6

Implementation of Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region

24. The **Chair** invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on its proposal regarding implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO region.

25. The **Deputy Secretary General (Transport & HRSD)** briefed the Council on the Awaza Programme of Action, recalling that the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in Awaza, Turkmenistan, from August 5-8, 2025. He noted that the Programme builds on the Vienna Programme of Action and aims to accelerate progress in trade facilitation, transport connectivity, structural transformation, technology, climate resilience and international support, by aligning national, regional

and global efforts. He highlighted that seven landlocked developing countries are located in the ECO region and recalled that an ECO-exclusive high-level meeting was held on the margins of the Awaza Conference to discuss regional implementation of the Programme for 2024–2034. He emphasized that the Programme calls for active involvement of regional and sub-regional organizations in its implementation, follow-up and monitoring. He informed that the Secretariat had prepared proposals in this regard and invited the Director for Transport to present them.

26. In his presentation, the Director (Transport), **Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari** briefed the Council on the Awaza Programme of Action, noting that it was a major recent global initiative relevant to ECO region, alongside COP29, and that ECO had a clear role in its implementation. He recalled that seven ECO member states are landlocked developing countries and sought the Council's guidance on how ECO should address this agenda at the regional level. He explained that the Awaza Programme of Action (2024–2034), building on the Vienna Programme of Action, aims to address vulnerabilities arising from remoteness and geographical constraints through five priority areas: structural transformation; trade and trade facilitation; transit, transport and connectivity; climate resilience; and means of implementation.

27. Focusing on priority area three, the **Director (Transport)** highlighted the importance of transit, transport and connectivity, including physical and digital connectivity, to improve landlocked countries' access to global markets. He noted that the Programme calls for enhanced transit infrastructure, multimodal transport systems, harmonized infrastructure standards and border crossing procedures, investment and financing mechanisms, due attention to air transport and international support in line with the principle of freedom of transit. He also emphasized digital connectivity, including expanded access to internet infrastructure such as submarine cables, increased investment in digital infrastructure and support for digital transformation through ICT and emerging technologies.

28. The **Director (Transport)** underscored that the Programme assigns a specific role to regional organizations, including ECO, particularly in regional reviews and in mainstreaming the Programme into national, regional and global policy frameworks, with regional mechanisms complementing national and global efforts. From an ECO perspective, he recalled that the challenges of landlocked member states had already been recognized in the ECO Vision 2025 and the 2025 Tehran Declaration on Transport. He outlined the proposed actions, including assisting landlocked member states with national reviews, preparing regional inputs for global review processes, mainstreaming relevant provisions of the Programme into ECO strategies and sectoral activities, and strengthening cooperation with UN entities, regional commissions, development partners and donors. He identified opportunities in 2026 to advance implementation, including ECO sectoral ministerial meetings, a possible financing conference for ECO transport projects, and a regional kick-off meeting on implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO region. He also informed the Council that a dedicated webpage on the Awaza Programme of Action had been established on the ECO website and invited member states to contribute relevant information.

29. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of the Awaza Programme of Action for ECO member states. He stated that the Secretariat would work

closely with member states on the recommendations and proposals presented, and suggested that the Council take note of the presentation as a blueprint for ECO's work on implementing the Awaza Programme of Action. He further emphasized the need to institutionalize private sector engagement in ECO processes, particularly in ministerial meetings, including transport ministerial meetings, by ensuring the participation of both financiers and private sector representatives.

30. The Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan, **H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov** expressed Turkmenistan's full support for the proposals presented. He recalled that Turkmenistan's proposals, particularly under priority area three on transport and transit connectivity, had been reflected in the Awaza Programme of Action. He reaffirmed Turkmenistan's readiness to cooperate actively with ECO member states in the implementation of the Programme.

31. The **Chair** commended the Director (Transport) for the informative presentation and hoped that it would assist landlocked member states in making better-informed decisions. He underlined the importance of land and maritime connectivity for the ECO region and welcomed Iran's proposal regarding Chabahar Port in the context of the Awaza Programme of Action. In this regard, he proposed the inclusion of Gwadar Port, noting its deep-sea capacity, strategic location and proximity to Chabahar, which could create complementarities in support of the Programme's objectives.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative and budgetary Matters:

- *Extension of Term of Service in respect of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, Russian/English Interpreter*
- *Extension of Term of Service in respect of Ms. Saida Armina, Russian/English Interpreter*

32. The Council considered and approved the following based on the requests received from Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, vide Note Verbale No. 5-001/26 dated January 6, 2026, and the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan vide Note Verbale No. 30/33 dated January 21, 2026:

- a. Extension of service in respect of Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) for a full 4-year term.
- b. Extension of service in respect of Ms. Armina, Russian Interpreter/Translator (Category-II, P3) until arrival of her successor.

33. The Secretary General made a general observation regarding the appointments and extensions of personnel. He noted that, while the initial appointment of staff is a matter for the sending state, it would be important, based on the Staff Regulations and as a principle, for the Secretariat to be formally consulted when extensions are under consideration, particularly with regard to performance evaluation. He explained that the Secretariat conducts internal performance assessments of its staff; however, these evaluations are not formally shared with member states. He, therefore, suggested that,

when considering extensions, member states may like to consult the Secretariat, to secure assessment of individuals' performance based on their service. He further noted that across-the-board extensions for full terms should also be considered in the context of efficiency and discipline within the Secretariat. He invited the Council to reflect on the merit of observation, with a view to possibly adopting a formal decision at an appropriate time, emphasizing that such an approach would serve the overall efficiency of the Secretariat.

➤ *Proposal on Category-III Staff*

34. The Deputy Secretary General (Administration), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut** recalled that the Secretariat had submitted a 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. He noted that the proposal could be accommodated within the approved 2026. He further noted that while general consensus had been expressed by member states, the Kazakhstan side requested that a decision be deferred pending Kazakhstan's final position, and that consideration of the proposal would therefore be taken up at this session of CPR with a view to reaching consensus.

35. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev** stated that, following feedback received from Astana, his delegation was not in a position to support the Secretariat's proposal at this stage. He asked the Secretariat to provide detailed explanations regarding the budgetary figures associated with the proposal, noting discrepancies between previously cited cost estimates for the conversion of the guard positions, and requested clarification on other related budgetary items. Regarding the proposed promotion of two staff members, he noted that this issue was linked to the proposal on guard positions, as the promotions were understood to be financed from the resulting savings. He therefore requested that consideration of the matter be deferred to the next CPR meeting, indicating that Kazakhstan would submit its questions formally.

36. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** explained that the three guards currently serving under temporary contracts in local currency, while the proposal sought to convert these into permanent contracts against US dollars. He noted that this change would provide job security to the guards.

37. The **ECO Secretary General** said that the Secretariat had already responded to the budget-related questions raised by Kazakhstan and did not consider the budget to be flawed. He acknowledged, however, that further clarification might be helpful and stated that the Secretariat was ready to meet with Kazakhstan to explain the differences in the figures, in the interest of transparency. He noted that most member states supported the proposal and that the Secretariat remained open to addressing any additional questions. Regarding the guards, he recalled that their continued employment on temporary contracts had been questioned by auditors and could not be sustained. He emphasized that, in light of the Secretariat's security needs and recent experiences, there was a strong justification for retaining the guards under appropriate contractual arrangements. He added that the Secretariat was prepared to further explain salary-related aspects, if required.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

38. The Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI), **Mr. Behzad Saberi** Ansari informed the Council that, following the mandate of ECO Trade Ministers at their Istanbul meeting in November 2025, the Secretariat had prepared draft Terms of Reference for a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) to renegotiate ECOTA, with the first meeting envisaged for the first quarter of 2026. He noted that the draft was circulated to member states on January 14, together with a request for indications on hosting the first meeting and for comments on the draft, and encouraged early feedback from capitals. He also reported that the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry had convened its Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings on January 22 in Karachi, with Secretariat participation. He noted that ECO-CCI remained an important platform for private sector engagement, in line with ministerial mandates, and that a report would be shared with the Council at its next session.

39. The **Deputy Secretary General (TI & AI)** further informed the Council that the Secretariat was considering re-establishing cooperation with the International Trade Centre, with which ECO had a Memorandum of Understanding that expired in 2002. He noted ITC's interest in renewed engagement and indicated that, in the absence of objections, the Secretariat would move to revive cooperation and to sign a new MoU, with the understanding that any future concrete projects will be submitted to the relevant ECO bodies.

40. The Council endorsed the proposed course of action as outlined by the Deputy Secretary General.

41. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that the Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), signed in November 2021, was valid until the end of 2025. He noted that, following discussions between ECO and UNESCAP, there was in-principle agreement to work on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding. He therefore sought the Council's permission to proceed in this regard.

42. The **Council** endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to proceed with the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and UNESCAP. The Council also authorized the ECO Secretary General to sign it on behalf of the Organization.

43. The Representative of the **Republic of Uzbekistan** raised two issues under any other business. **First**, he referred to the draft strategic document Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, noting that discussions had been ongoing for over a year without reaching consensus. He requested member states to expedite the submission of their comments and asked the Secretariat to follow up with capitals and consider setting a deadline for finalization, preferably by the next CPR meeting or a specified date. **Second**,

he sought clarification on the timing of the second High-Level Conference (HLC), noting that the first HLC was held in 2025 and that its report had been finalized by the Council.

44. The **ECO Secretary General** underlined that 2026 is the year for adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035. He urged member states to expedite their national consultations and submit final inputs, noting that finalization of the Vision in the first half of the year is a priority for the Secretariat. He stated that a revised draft would be circulated and that, while no deadline was set at this stage, the matter would be revisited at the next CPR to agree on a clear timeline, recalling that the 2025 Vision had been extended pending adoption of the new document.

45. Regarding the High-Level Conference (HLC), the **Secretary General** conveyed that, following finalization of its report, the Secretariat would work through the relevant working group to develop actionable recommendations for consideration by the CPR and the Council of Ministers. He stated that the second HLC could be held either in conjunction with the Council of Ministers or, alternatively, in the middle of the year, possibly linked to consideration of the Vision document, with proposed dates to be submitted to the CPR.

46. Concerning TNC (Technical Negotiation Committee to renegotiate ECOTA), the **Secretary General** urged member states to provide early comments on the draft Terms of Reference. He noted that, given time constraints, the first TNC meeting might be convened in a hybrid format to approve the Terms of Reference and commence negotiations, following practices used in other regional organizations, and emphasized the need to launch this process without delay.

47. On Draft Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation 2025, the Representative of the **Republic of Türkiye** informed the Council that comments from the Turkish authorities had been conveyed previously and that additional comments from the Ministry of Industry and Technology also received and formally communicated to the Secretariat.

48. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC&HRSD)** informed the Council that the Secretariat had received an invitation from the Ministry of Information Technology and Communication of Pakistan to participate in the AI Summit 2026, to be held on February 9 in Islamabad. He noted that the Summit aimed to bring together global stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and investment circles, and that it would provide useful opportunities for engagement in the ICT sector, particularly in view of Pakistan's hosting of the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT in March. He therefore requested the Council's approval for the Secretary General's participation in the event.

49. The **Council** concurred with the participation of the Secretary General in the AI Summit 2026 scheduled for February 9, 2026 in Islamabad.

50. The Representative of the **Republic of Uzbekistan** inquired about the status of the meeting of railway agencies scheduled to be held on February 9, 2026 in Tehran, seeking clarification on whether the meeting would take place in person as planned or whether capitals should await further notice.

51. The Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa** confirmed that the meeting remained on the programme with no changes and assured that member states would be informed through the Secretariat in case of any further update.

52. In addition, the Representative of **Islamic Republic of Iran** explained that the temporary internet disruption was the result of a strategic decision taken by the relevant authorities for security reasons. He emphasized that ensuring the smooth functioning of the ECO Secretariat and the work of member states remained a top priority for Iran as the host country. He stated that, shortly after the disruption, MFA of Iran had engaged closely with relevant authorities to restore internet connectivity and that the ECO Secretary General had met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy where Iran's full support was reaffirmed for the practical solutions. He noted that, from the Iranian authorities' perspective, internet connectivity has been restored, but acknowledged that technical issues appeared to persist at the Secretariat level. He assured the Council that Iran would continue to follow up on the matter to address any remaining technical difficulties.

53. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that drawing on experience from previous situations, preparation of a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is under consideration by the Secretariat to guide responses in such circumstances. He explained that any decisions on possible measures affecting Secretariat staff would be taken by the Secretariat and the Secretary General, in close consultation with member states and guided by the assessments and decisions of the host authorities as well as respective embassies, given that Secretariat staff is seconded by respective member countries. He emphasized that the Secretariat would not take decisions on behalf of individual member states and would rely on guidance from embassies concerning their nationals. He further noted that international staff had been given the option, on a voluntary basis, to make temporary arrangements for their families if they so wished. He added that the Secretariat did not have a dedicated budget for emergency measures and that any such actions would require appropriate arrangements and support from member states, including, if necessary, special contributions. He stated that these considerations would be reflected in the draft SOPs, which would be shared with member states for their views in due course.

54. The **Council** expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Jandos Asanov, for his distinguished service, leadership and significant contributions to the work of the Secretariat, and extended its best wishes for his future endeavours.

55. Moreover, the **Council** welcomed the appointment of Ms. Sameeah Alvi of Pakistan as Head of Section for International Relations, and expressed confidence that her expertise would be a valuable addition to the work of the Secretariat. They wished her every success in the discharge of her new responsibilities.

Agenda Item No. 9

Date of the next CPR Meeting

i. The **Council** decided to hold its next (305th) Meeting on February 25, 2026 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Asgar Asgarov, Counsellor

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

- H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian, **Permanent Representative**
- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Head of Department, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation
- Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

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

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- Ms. Aizada Berdigulova, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Mr. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu
- Mr. Ahmed Shami, Deputy Head of Mission

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye:

- H.E. Mr. Hicabi Kirlangic, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Murat Sogangoz, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ilyas Gayypov, Permanent Representative
- 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. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet
- Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer
- Ms. Marryam Moeen, Desk Officer

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

No: CFU/2026/144

Priority: Urgent

Date: 17/2/2026

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 in line with the conclusion made by the 303rd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on January 27, 2026, has the honour to enclose herewith an updated Plan of Work (both English and Russian version) on the proposals and initiatives of the 17th ECO Summit, incorporating the feedback received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Türkiye.

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



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

No: CFU/2026/181

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 23/2/2026

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 with reference to Secretariat's Note Verbale No. 144 dated February 17, 2026, has the honour to enclose herewith an updated Plan of Work on the proposals and initiatives of the 17th ECO Summit, incorporating the feedback received from the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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 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"> 1. Announce their nominations, where not already done 2. 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 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
<p>Business Forum (Shusha), called for continued people-to-people and private-sector engagement within ECO.</p>	<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. The Meeting recommended the ECO Secretariat to organize an additional meeting to deal with such technical issues in coordination the host country of the databank.</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 	<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
	<p>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> <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'. 	<p>finalize the Conceptual framework.</p>
<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 	<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 	<p>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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>improve trade access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined procedures at borders and harmonization of tariffs to enhance transport and logistics connectivity. Improved visa regimes and better investment environments to unlock economic potential and raise prosperity. 	<p>coordinating country for visa affairs. The 'Additional Protocol for Visa Facilitation for the Businessmen and Drivers in the ECO' is signed by three ECO Member States i.e. Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and ratified by Pakistan only.</p>	<p>in 2026 in the light of 267th CPR meeting, mandating the secretariat to pursue the matter through virtual meetings.</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.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
6. Tajikistan: Removal of trade and transit barriers, and digitalization of transit documentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As given in Para 3 above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As given in Para 3 above.
7. Türkiye: <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 it amends and implements 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 	<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 promote co-financing through ECO Vision Fund. Secretariat aims to invite details on the ECO Investment Coordination Mechanism under a unified platform.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>allocate funds for 4th Phase of the Joint ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project, and Regional Partnership Forum, as a trade 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 4th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations’ Forum, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan agreed to host the RPF in 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 	<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 	<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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a unified digital platform of the Chambers with database of export and import opportunities. • Creating favourable conditions for trade in the framework of the border free trade zones. 	<p>exists in the chambers for database of export/import opportunities. The proponents will be requested to 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 	<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 	<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

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>infrastructure, green energy, and 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>ECO Joint Working Group on Trade Facilitation’ was held in Tashkent on 22 May 2025. The meeting deliberated in detail and updated the draft Trade Facilitation Agreement, drafted and shared by the Secretariat.</p>	<p>encouraged to host the next Trade Ministers meeting in Tashkent in 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		
Full implementation of the international TIR (Transit	Within the ECO, the TIR/eTIR system is operational in Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkiye, under	Together with the IRU, ECO states developed an Action Plan encouraging all member countries to

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
International Routier) system to establish an efficient, low-cost transit network for trade among ECO member states.	implementation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, but still pending in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, so a full ECO-wide network is not yet achieved.	join and support for other members to achieve full implementation.
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. Additionally, enhance the reliability of maritime safety and port management by providing high capacity satellite connectivity as a redundant communication layer.
Establishment of Digital Transport and Customs Office <u>and acceleration of negotiations at the expert level</u>	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;

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		Request the preparation of a Concept Paper on the establishment of the ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office.
Simplify border-crossing and unify tariffs among ECO Member States	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.	Encourage Member States to expedite the ratification and full implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). Promote alignment of national regulations with TTFA provisions on border-crossing facilitation and tariff harmonization. Place the proposal on the agenda of the next meetings of the ECO Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and relevant sectoral committees for detailed discussion and coordination. Explore capacity-building initiatives and pilot projects to demonstrate practical benefits of simplified procedures and unified tariffs within the ECO region.
Develop the China-Kyrgyzstan-	The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project is under active	Conduct feasibility studies and technical assessments in coordination

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Uzbekistan railway corridor, <u>as well as consideration of the possibility of connecting this main line with the Trans-Afghan corridor in the future.</u></p>	<p>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 Trans-Caspian International Transport Route and the ongoing work on the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkiye (KUTIT) railway corridor, which have been recognized as priority multimodal route under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). Efforts are being made to align these initiatives to strengthen East-West connectivity across the ECO region.</p>	<p>with China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan to evaluate the corridor's implementation. Promote investment mobilization, including engagement with regional development banks and potential private sector partners. 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. Organize regular trilateral consultations among the concerned Member States to finalize technical, financial, and operational modalities.</p>
<p>Develop the Rasht-Astara railway line</p>	<p>Land acquisition activities are currently underway under the Rasht-Astara railway construction project, which integrates the railway networks of Iran and Azerbaijan.</p>	<p>Ensure regular information exchange on the progress of the railway project within the ECO framework and identify potential areas of cooperation for its implementation through the ECO Railway Committee.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
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.	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. Await the official response from the Government of Uzbekistan to confirm the venue and finalize organizational arrangements.
Develop Logistics network; ECO hubs	In March 2025, a pre-feasibility study on the ECO Gates Project, jointly conducted with the IsDB, was completed. As a follow-up, in November 2025, a draft Concept Paper entitled “Concept Paper on Comprehensive Study of the Caspian Sea Level Decline Crisis: Integrating Transport and Environmental Solutions” was presented to the UNEP Europe Office (Secretariat of the Tehran Convention). The paper aims to develop a unified methodology for assessing the economic efficiency of dredging for	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. 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 of the Caspian Sea dredging impact on Maritime Logistics. The Secretariat will continue to collaborate with the UNEP Europe

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	ECO Caspian seaports. The methodology is to be developed and advanced through the mechanisms of the Tehran Convention and ECO.	Office (Secretariat of the Tehran Convention) and the IsDB to facilitate the adoption of the Concept Paper, conduct the Study on the Caspian Sea Level Decline Crisis, and implement the follow-up actions.
Establishment of integrated management system for the ECO corridors;	In 2025, ECO approved the conduct of four small-scale studies on the development of an economic corridor along the Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran (KTI) railway, including related digital and infrastructure connectivity, which could serve as a model for other ECO corridors. Two of the four studies have been successfully completed.	The proposal to establish the integrated management system for the ECO corridors as well as a digital platform for corridor management will be put forward for consideration at the upcoming RPC. The Secretariat will accelerate the completion of the remaining two studies, namely (i) the study on the exchange of electronic information between railway operators and customs authorities, and (ii) the study on the operational appraisal of the Corridor. The Secretariat will approach IsDB, AIIB, EDB, UNESCAP, UNECE, and other international partners to seek support for full-scale feasibility studies, including bankability assessments

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		and the identification of potential grant financing opportunities.
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 Intelligence (AI) Centre <u>Organizing cooperation in the field of AI with ECO member countries without creating a</u>	This is a new proposal under consideration by the ECO Secretariat. 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. <u>The main focus is proposed to be on</u>	Request a Concept Paper outlining the Center's mandate, operational framework, and potential funding mechanisms. Conduct detailed consultations with Member States to finalize the objectives, functions, and governance structure of the AI Center. Identify potential host country and suitable institutional arrangements

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<u>Artificial Intelligence Centre.</u>	<u>the exchange of data in the social sphere, ready-made datasets, open models, expertise and research.</u>	<p>for the Center, based on the detailed criteria distributed among Member States.</p> <p>Organize an expert-level meeting to review technical requirements and draft an implementation roadmap.</p> <p><u>To further discuss the prospects for cooperation, it is proposed to organize an expert-level meeting.</u></p>
Fostering Technology and Innovation Cooperation among ECO Member States	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>Organize the 2nd Meeting of the ECO High-Level Working Group of <u>Science, Innovation and ICT</u> Regulatory Authorities to discuss ongoing initiatives and coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>Convene the 4th Ministerial Meeting on <u>Science, Innovation and ICT</u> to review progress, set strategic priorities, and strengthen regional <u>innovation and ICT</u> cooperation.</p> <p>Establish a dedicated <u>Science, Innovation and ICT</u> 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 research, innovative projects and 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. Additionally, facilitate the protection of transport ICT infrastructure by providing technical expertise for sector-specific monitoring tools and satellite-backed secure communication links.</p>
ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT		
Energy		
Recognized significance of intensifying efforts for transition to low-carbon development by expanding	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 4 th ECO Energy	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

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>renewable capacity and jointly developing renewable energy infrastructure (Khankendi Communiqué);</p>	<p>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>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>sought to be pursued by the ECO Secretariat in collaboration with national focal points and relevant institutions/authorities in the Member States. Coordination and 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 (Khankendi 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</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 fund-</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>Secretariat on 28 August 2025.</p> <p>The 1st Board of Governors Meeting of CECECO was held on 9 September 2025 in virtual mode, which adopted the Rules of Procedure and appointed the Executive Director of the Centre. The Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and CECECO was signed on December 2, 2025. The Centre has started functioning with limited local staff supported by the financial and in-kind contribution of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.</p>	<p>raising are critical to launch the programmatic activities of the Centre. According to its Charter, the Centre is expected to be financed through membership fees and in-kind contributions of the Member States, as well as with the support of the international development partners.</p>
<p>Developing renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency</p>	<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>ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) will also significantly support and contribute to this process through relevant projects and initiatives.</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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>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 please see the above paragraph.</p>
<p>Green Economy as a strategic priority for Tajikistan. Green energy development is a vital platform for regional economic integration and industrial growth</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 by ECO Secretariat to Member States for possible replication and subsequent implementation in the region. Two of them relate to the green economy and</p>	<p>CECECO</p> <p>The Member States (other than Azerbaijan, Iran and Türkiye) are encouraged to expedite their replies on the mentioned projects and to present their priority areas for relevant projects to be developed by CECECO taking into account the mandate of the Centre, and available and potential resources.</p> <p>Interested Member States are called upon to consider (co)financing/coordinating fundraising activities for the realization of relevant projects.</p> <p>ECO-REM</p> <p>Driven by the outcomes of the</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>green energy. The last RPC Meeting acclaimed the uptake of potential project proposals in the ECO Region and their subsequent implementation by CECECO.</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 interconnectivity.</p>	<p>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> <p>The 3rd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) and the 5th ECO Ministerial on Energy could be a milestone in advancement of this project.</p>
Establishment of a mechanism for coordination of the energy policy of the member states of the Organization	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.

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Minerals		
<p>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 critical minerals exploration, processing, and recycling to strengthen clean-energy technology supply chains.</p>		<p>Develop a regional cooperation framework to advance joint exploration, sustainable processing, and recycling of critical minerals to strengthen clean energy technology supply chains.</p>
Environment		
<p>Stressed importance of protecting the region's ecosystem through sustainable water management, biodiversity</p>	<p>This is obviously a cross-cutting paragraph between AI and EME Directorates scope of work. EME through initiatives like Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in</p>	<p>To do this and position ECO as the regional leader in environmental cooperation, ECO and its Member States must embed ecological concerns into their relevant policies and plans by adopting a unified</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
protection and climate-smart agriculture in line with socio-economic development needs of member states. (Khankendi Communiqué);	the ECO Region (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.	framework, securing dedicated financing, and driving high-level collective action alongside the endorsed initiatives and commitments taken at the COP29.
Economic development is closely interlinked with climate change 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	Taking into account this nexus between economic development and climate change, the ECO Secretariat in partnership with Azerbaijan launched the Regional Initiative (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	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. The ECO Secretariat will collaborate with the Member States to draft and present this resolution. Member States with strong diplomatic ties to UNIDO and UNEP should leverage their influence to ensure the resolution's visibility and adoption. Treat the circular economy as a

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Caspian Sea level depletion by Azerbaijan, mountain ecosystems by Kyrgyzstan and reservation of glaciers by Tajikistan (Khankendi Communiqué);</p> <p>Welcomed successful hosting by Republic of Azerbaijan of the 29th Session of the 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</p>	<p>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>regional opportunity.</p> <p>Move beyond fragmented approaches by adopting a comprehensive framework for environmental cooperation.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
the historic breakthroughs achieved therein (Khankendi Communiqué);		
Supported the Republic of Türkiye to host COP31 in 2026 (Khankendi Communiqué);	It is a great news that Türkiye will host the 31 st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) between 9-20 November 2026.	<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 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>
Kyrgyzstan is actively promoting	This year, the ECO Secretary-General took part and delivered a statement at	The ECO Member States especially Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are to

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>the Declaration on Climate Change, Mountains, and Glaciers</p>	<p>the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan</p>	<p>follow up on this issue, leveraging relevant regional and global conferences. Meanwhile, the RESCUE initiative complements the existing country-led global initiatives by the ECO Member States.</p>
<p>Kazakhstan will hold an UN regional climate conference in 2026</p> <p>Strengthen joint mechanisms to tackle environmental threats and improve resilience</p> <p>Cooperation in tackling the global climate change</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 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>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 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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		promote a synergistic initiative like RESCUE to harmonize policies, pool resources, create a structure for joint implementation, and contribute to collective action.
Zero Waste initiative by HE Emine Erdogan is an important undertaking	<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 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>The ECO Secretariat should continue discussions with the ZWF to secure a win-win collaboration, potentially through a Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>Ensure synergies between Zero Waste Initiative and COP29 Initiative on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste.</p>
Coordinate and combine their efforts on the global climate	Uzbekistan is going to host the 6 th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in 2026. The coordination between ECO	We need to ensure the adoption of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment and its annexes on

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>agenda (Uzbekistan)</p> <p>We propose developing a Trans boundary “Green Initiative” within the Organization</p>	<p>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 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 ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) in Baku will play a key role in advancing transboundary green transition initiatives across the region.</p>	<p>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> <p>The Member States should ensure high-level participation in all referred events and maintain active engagement to promote ECO initiatives, and address environmental challenges. Member States should increase their political, financial, and technical support for the CECECO Centre, to ensure its success, particularly by expediting regulatory processes and facilitating resource mobilization.</p>

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AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Industry

Underlined that innovation drives 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 (Khankendi Communiqué);

ECO promotes industrial development as a key driver of economic growth and 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.

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

The Secretariat will encourage Member States to convene the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry to strengthen policy dialogue on innovative technologies and AI.

The Secretariat will promote active participation in ECO-NANO and ECO-RISCAM to advance quality infrastructure, MSME support, and industrial transformation.

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. In this regard, facilitate the integration of technical infrastructure for the

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>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>In this context, showcasing platforms like INNOTEX 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>proposed ECO AI Centre to support the development of Digital Twins for key transport assets and AI-driven predictive maintenance through robust satellite data services.</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>
Establishing smart infrastructure in the fields of agriculture and industry	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	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

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	<p>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 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</p>	<p>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 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
	<p>Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation, and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) and active engagement of Member States in this industrial priority area.</p>	
<p>Encourage joint ventures and SME development</p>	<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</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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	long-term regional growth. ECO Vision 2035 is expected to continue this focus, prioritizing MSMEs with greater focus on digital inclusion and innovation.	promote capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives.
Fostering Technology Innovation & Cooperation	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>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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>and technological achievements.</p> <p>Member States will also be requested to provide periodic reports and update focal point nominations for priority industrial areas to ensure effective coordination.</p>
<p>Build Cross-Border Logistics and Industrial Hubs</p>	<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>
<p>Agriculture</p>		

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>Enhance regional food security and climate resilience through coordinated efforts in climate-resilient seed systems, animal health cooperation, sustainable water management, meteorological cooperation, and the adoption of modern agricultural technologies, including biotechnology, supported by joint research and capacity building. (Khankendi Communiqué);</p>	<p>The mandate of the ECO agricultural cooperation is to enhance regional food security, productivity, and climate 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</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 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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>Agriculture (17-18 November 2025, Iran) provide an opportunity to advance policy orientations in this 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>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 to implement pilot projects within a defined timeframe, establish a regional platform for the exchange of experience in the field of smart agriculture, and carry out smart infrastructure projects in cooperation with the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO).</p>
Adoption of agri-technologies is critical to increasing productivity and mitigating climate-related risks	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	<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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>exchange across the region. Two Expert Group Meetings have been convened, 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>	<p>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> <p>The Secretariat follows up on the proposed project to strengthen regional cooperation in agricultural biotechnology.</p>
Sustainable water	Water management remains a key ECO	Member States and the Secretariat

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>management cooperation for mutual benefit through joint technical projects, data exchange, and drought management</p>	<p>priority, reflected in the ongoing 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>work to integrate concrete elements 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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>information sharing, technical cooperation, capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in sustainable 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	<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. 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</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 supply of goods.</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 pending meetings and events as</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<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 Statute to ensure its full</p>	<p>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
	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 Verbale (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 collaboration among national disaster management and humanitarian agencies to enhance regional</p>	<p>Enhance coordination among Member States’ humanitarian and disaster management agencies.</p> <p>Develop mechanisms for joint planning, rapid response and resource mobilization in emergencies that include the needs of children, persons with disabilities and older</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>preparedness and response capabilities.</p>	<p>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>
<p>Creation of Regional Disaster Resilience Systems</p> <p>In line with the</p>	<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 DRR for the next five years during the upcoming Ministerial Meeting.</p> <p>We need to promote regional</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<p>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>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. In this context, strengthen disaster resilience by providing satellite-enabled backup connectivity for critical national transport hubs and establishing emergency communication channels to ensure operational continuity during crises.</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</p>	<p>Promote regional initiatives and projects that advance sustainable development practices across Member States.</p> <p>Support sustainable management of</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>change challenges within the ECO 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>natural resources, including water, 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
	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.	
Engage activity and benefit from important regional events to be hosted by Azerbaijan in 2026	Azerbaijan has been confirmed as the host and preparations are underway for the World Urban Forum (WUF13) to be held on 17-22 May and World Environment Day 2026 to be held on 5 June.	The Member States will actively engage in these events to promote relevant regional initiatives.
TOURISM		
Promote Tourism Cooperation <u>and develop integrated marketing strategies between the tourism and aviation sectors</u>	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	Operationalize the ECO-ACT as a central platform for shaping regional tourism policies. Ensure representation from public and private sectors, as well as academia, to provide strategic guidance and coordination particularly facilitating tourist visas,

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>commitment to strategic, collaborative, and sustainable tourism development.</p> <p>The continued political support, 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>digitizing tourism services and developing regional tourism standards.</p> <p>Reorganize technical cooperation 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>Follow up and coordinate the arrangements for a series of festivities and high-level events to be organized in Shusha, designated as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Tourism Capital for 2026. These include the official Unveiling</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>In parallel, a series of local and international events are being organized each month in Erzurum to 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>Ceremony for Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026 and related events; the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, preceded by the 9th High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Tourism Meeting; the organization of a gastronomy festival in Shusha highlighting the region's rich culinary heritage, traditional cuisine, and local Gastronomic culture, along with other tourism and promotional activities.</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> <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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		hosting selected ECO tourism-related events in Lahore in 2026 as part of the preparatory activities for the ECO Tourism Capital celebrations.
Promote green-energy corridors and eco-tourism initiatives	<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 mountain, ski, and health tourism. Notably, the 3rd ECO Confobition on Health Tourism was successfully held in Hamedan, Iran, in June 2025, highlighting regional strengths and collaboration in health and wellness tourism.</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> <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	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan is currently in contact with the ECO Secretariat regarding the drafting of a dedicated	Designate ECO-ACT as the primary platform for the development and monitoring of the implementation of the roadmap.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	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.	Include the formulation of the roadmap as a key agenda item at the 1 st Meeting of ECO-ACT.
ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND STATISTICS/PROJECT MANAGEMENT		
Highlighted full operationalization of ECO Research Centre as a regional hub for economic research and innovations (Khankendi Communiqué);	<p>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 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</p>	<p>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 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: Collaboration: Fostering active participation and ownership from all Member States. Relevance: Aligning the Centre's</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>follows: Signatories: Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan. 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>research agenda with the strategic priorities of the ECO Vision. Sustainability: Building a robust financial and institutional foundation for long-term success. Impact: Focusing on producing high-quality, policy-relevant research that drives regional economic integration and development. Strategic Pillars: 1. Pillar I: Finalizing the Legal and Governance Framework This pillar focuses on completing the necessary legal and administrative prerequisites for the Centre to formally exist and function. Action Area: Expedite the entry into force of the ECO-RC Charter by securing the required number of ratifications. 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>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<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. 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. Action Area: Secure a sustainable funding model through Member 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. 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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
		<p>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 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.</p>
JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION AND EAPA		
<p>Emphasized that lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan remain prerequisites for sustainable</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</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</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
development and reaffirmed support for its gradual engagement into the activities of ECO to ensure the integrity of the Organisation (Khankendi Communiqué);	<p>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, 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>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 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	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	The Islamic Republic of Iran has offered to host the 4 th 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-

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>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>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 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>
<p>We should support Afghanistan in its security and restoration</p>	<p>The Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye provided humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan following a recent</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat, in close cooperation with the ECO Member States, will continue its dedicated efforts to support the people of</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	<p>earthquake, dispatching essential supplies to support the affected population.</p> <p>Since 2022, Türkiye has sent 24 “Goodness Trains” carrying 11,739 tons of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.</p>	<p>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 stakeholders and the international community.</p>
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
<p>Encouraged deeper cooperation with United Nations, international organisations and financial institutions to amplify ECO’s collective voice on sustainable economic development issues (Khankendi Communiqué);</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On September 5, 2025, the UN General Assembly adopted a biennial resolution on cooperation with ECO.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	<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.</p>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
	held meeting with senior leadership of ASEAN, EAEU and CIS.	
ECO VISION 2025 AND BEYOND		
Launch a visionary strategic framework for 2026–2035 (ECO Vision 2035) defining clear and attainable sectoral priorities, including Trade, Transit, Digital, Tourism and Resilience.	ECO is formulating the “Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035” and incorporating lessons from ECO Vision 2025. Sector-wise priorities are being drafted.	Draft Strategic Goals 2035 is under 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.	The Secretariat will define specific targets for strengthening human capital and to develop regional principles for the use of AI.

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Engage youth, women, and business communities in formulation and implementation of strategic documents; incorporate recommendations from dedicated forums.	Recommendations from Youth, Women, and Business Forums have been incorporated into updated Draft Strategic Goals	In process
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.
<u>Assigning the High-Level Committee to develop by the next summit proposals and recommendations to reform and boost the</u>	<u>The 303rd Meeting of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives on January 27, 2026 has agreed to establish a dedicated Working Group to develop concrete reform proposals in line with the HLC's recommendations.</u>	<u>Organize the first meeting of the established Working Group and develop proposals aimed at further enhancing the Organization's international standing, prestige, and operational effectiveness.</u>

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
<u>Organization's functions.</u>		<p><u>Convene the second meeting of the High-Level Committee in mid-year.</u></p> <p><u>Submit the finalized proposals and recommendations for consideration at the forthcoming ECO Summit.</u></p>
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
Adopt a new program document defining strategic goals and priorities of economic	Recognized and integrated into Draft Strategic Roadmap, supported by Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.	In process

PROPOSALS, SUGGESTIONS	CURRENT STATUS	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
cooperation until 2035, serving as a roadmap for all members		

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 36th Meeting of ECO Regional Planning
Council (RPC)

No: CFU /2026/136

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 15/2/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of Note Verbale No. 531/2817637 dated January 10, 2026 and attachments, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, proposing some additional meetings to be added to the list of events (January - May 2026) circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/82 dated January 28, 2026.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran

Cc.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran - ECO Affairs Bureau



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial Translation

In the Name of God

NOTE

No: **531 / 2817637**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and, with reference to the latter's Notes Verbal No. CFU/2026/82 dated 28 January 2026, has the honor to enclose herewith the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the "**List of ECO Events from January to May 2026**".

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

10 February 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization-Tehran



جمهوری اسلامی ایران
وزارت امور خارجه

شماره : ۵۳۱/۲۸۱۷۶۳۷
تاریخ : ۱۴۰۴/۱۱/۲۱
پیوست : دارد

آنی

به نام خدا
یادداشت

وزارت امور خارجه جمهوری اسلامی ایران با اظهار تعارفات خود به دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) در تهران احتراماً اشعار می‌دارد:

بازگشت به یادداشت شماره 82 / 2026 / CFU مورخ ۲۸ ژانویه ۲۰۲۶، پیشنهادات جمهوری اسلامی ایران در خصوص "جدول رویدادهای اگو از ژانویه تا می ۲۰۲۶" به پیوست ارسال می‌گردد.

موقع را مغتنم شمرده، احترامات فائقه را تجدید می‌نماید.
دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) - تهران

**Proposals of Islamic Republic of Iran on
List of ECO Events between January and May 2026**

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
Transport & Communication			
1	3 rd HLEG on Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul/ Almaty-Bandar Abbas Rail Corridor	Iran	2026
Agriculture			
2	8th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	Iran	2026
TOURISM			
3	6 th ECO Silk Road Food Festival & Meeting	Iran	2026
4	4 th Meeting of the Confobition (Conference + Exhibition) on Health Tourism	Iran	2026
International Relations			
5	10th General Assembly ECOSAI	Iran	2026

No: CFU /2026/163

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 20/2/2026

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 copy of a self-explanatory Note Verbale No. 30/73 dated February 17, 2026 received from the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, breaking therewith the silence procedure initiated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/82 dated January 28, 2026 for securing COM approval on the list of events occurring between January-May 2026.

The matter will be discussed and finalized by the upcoming 304th CPR Meeting scheduled for February 25, 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



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF KAZAKHSTAN
Tehran**

№ 30/73

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note Verbale № CFU/2026/82 dated 28 January 2026 concerning the launch of a two-week silence procedure aimed at securing the ECO Council of Ministers' approval of the *Calendar of Events (January-May 2026)*, with the indicated deadline for comments by 10 February 2026.

In view of the fact that the said Note Verbale was received by the Embassy only on 16 February 2026, i.e. after the expiration of the indicated deadline, the Kazakh side cannot be deemed to have been duly notified within the time frame required to participate in the silence procedure.

Accordingly, the Republic of Kazakhstan does not recognize the commencement of the two-week silence procedure on the basis of the above-mentioned Note Verbale and considers that the procedure, as applied to the Kazakh side, cannot produce any consequences.

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization the assurances of its highest consideration,

Tehran, 17 February 2026



**SECRETARIAT
OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION**

Tehran

No. CFU/2026/82

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 in line with the decision of the 303rd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on January 27, 2026 has the honour to initiate a two-week silence procedure to secure COM's approval for the enclosed list of events, occurring between January and May 2026.

The esteemed Member States are requested to kindly ascertain approval of their Honourable Foreign Ministers concerning the enclosed list of events by February 10, 2026. In the absence of any objections by the given timeframe, the provided list of events will be considered **"APPROVED"** by the COM.

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 the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.

January 28, 2027



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	Türkiye	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

Non-ECO Events

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

Human Resources & Sustainable Development

S #	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
<u>ECO Events</u>			
1.	10th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction preceded 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

Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination

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

No: CFU /2026/179

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 23/2/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of Note Verbale No. 531/2827199 dated January 18, 2026 and attachment, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, conveying their updated proposals to be added to the list of events (January - May 2026) circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/82 dated January 28, 2026.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial Translation

In the Name of God

NOTE

No: 531 / 2827199

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and, following to the Note Verbal No. 531/2817637 dated 10 February 2026, has the honor to enclose herewith the updated proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the "List of ECO Events from January to May 2026".

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

18 February 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization-Tehran



جمهوری اسلامی ایران

وزارت امور خارجه

شماره : ۵۳۱/۲۸۲۷۱۹۹

تاریخ : ۱۴۰۴/۱۱/۲۹

پیوست : دارد

فوری

به نام خدا

یادداشت

وزارت امور خارجه جمهوری اسلامی ایران با اظهار تعارفات خود به دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) در تهران احتراماً اشعار می‌دارد:

پیرو یادداشت شماره ۲۸۱۷۶۳۷ / ۵۳۱ مورخ ۱۰ فوریه ۱۴۰۴، فهرست به روز شده پیشنهادات جمهوری اسلامی ایران جهت درج در "جدول رویدادهای اگو از ژانویه تا می ۲۰۲۶" به پیوست ارسال می‌گردد.

موقع را مغتنم شمرده، احترامات فائقه را تجدید می‌نماید.

دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) - تهران

**Proposals of Islamic Republic of Iran on
List of ECO Events between January and May 2026**

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
Transport & Communication			
1	3 rd HLEG on Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul/ Almaty-Bandar Abbas Rail Corridor	Iran	2026
2	7 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Reference Maritime Organization	Iran	2026
3	9 th Meeting of Customs Committee of Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and 2 nd Meeting of ECO TIRACG	Iran	2026
4	7 th Insurance Committee Meeting of TTCC	Iran	2026
Agriculture			
5	8 th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture	Iran	2026
TOURISM			
6	6 th ECO Silk Road Food Festival & Meeting	Iran	2026
7	4 th Meeting of the Confobition (Conference + Exhibition) on Health Tourism	Iran	2026
International Relations			
8	10 th General Assembly ECOSAI	Iran	2026
Minerals			
9	Meeting of ECO Geomatics Committee (Heads of NMCAs)	Tehran/virtual	November 2026
10	Expert Meeting on the Production of the ECO General Atlas	Tehran/virtual	August 2026
11	Expert Meeting on Geospatial Maturity Level in ECO Region	Tehran/virtual	July 2026

Agenda Item No. 5
Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

No: ECO /2026/86

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 1/2/2026

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 refer to the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, the formulation of which has been ongoing for over a year.

In this regard, it is kindly recalled that the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) decided to extend the validity of the ECO Vision 2025 until the end of June 2026, or the finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals, whichever is earlier.

In view of the timeline set by the Council of Ministers, the ECO Secretariat requests the esteemed Member States to convey their final and consolidated feedback on the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, avoiding the submission of comments in a fragmented manner to facilitate the timely finalization of the document.

The Secretariat would appreciate receiving the consolidated feedback by February 15, 2026, enabling the circulation of an updated version of the document before the upcoming 304th CPR Meeting which is scheduled for February 25, 2026. **A clean version of the Draft Strategic Goals, including all inputs received as of January 26, 2026, is enclosed.**

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed 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

DRAFT

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE

ECONOMIC COOPERATION - 2035

ECO VISION 2025

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2017, ECO Vision 2025 served as a strategic framework guiding the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) toward sustainable economic growth, enhanced regional connectivity and deeper socio-economic development. It focused on key sectors such as trade & investment, transport & connectivity, energy & environment, tourism, economic growth & productivity, and social welfare. The Vision aimed to align regional efforts with global sustainable development goals, supported by structured monitoring mechanisms.

While implementation remained uneven across sectors, moderate progress was witnessed in trade sector, whereas notable advancements were seen in regional energy cooperation, corridors development, agriculture & food security, tourism promotion, etc. Financial constraints and insufficient engagement by Member States emerged as recurring challenges. The ECO Vision Midterm Review in 2021 and the ECO Vision Review Committee in 2024 identified both accomplishments and gaps, leading to prioritized efforts in the final phase.

The deliberative process laid the foundation for formulating a more inclusive, responsive and target-based strategy for the upcoming decade, with stronger ownership, realistic goals and enhanced regional collaboration at its core.

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION - 2035

OVERVIEW

The formulation of Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation - 2035 represents a renewed opportunity to articulate a forward-looking regional strategy that is both ambitious and grounded in practical realities. Building on the experiences and outcomes of Vision 2025, the new document is designed to address the evolving socio-economic landscape, regional and global dynamics. Mandated by the 28th Council of Ministers Meeting, ECO Strategy 2035 aims to guide the Organization toward a future characterized by sustainable development, deeper regional integration and equitable prosperity for all member states.

Central to the development of this document is a strong commitment to inclusivity and participatory governance. While Vision 2025 largely emerged from intergovernmental dialogues, the new strategic process places greater emphasis on engaging various societal groups to ensure a multidimensional and responsive approach. To broaden the ownership of the new roadmap, an inclusive approach to formulate the document has been developed.

In addition to reaffirming ongoing priorities, the new document incorporates several emerging areas that were not featured in ECO Vision 2025 but have been actively pursued in the years since. These include economic research & statistics (ERS), international relations (IR), judicial and parliamentary cooperation (JPC), the ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA) and human resources and sustainable development (HRSD). This reflects the Organization's broader and more integrated strategic outlook for the coming decade.

CORE PILLARS

Advancing Sustainability

ECO is committed to fostering sustainable, inclusive growth by aligning regional efforts with global development goals. The focus will be on addressing regional priorities while ensuring that progress is balanced with environmental responsibility, social equity and long-term economic resilience. A stable and peaceful environment remains a fundamental pillar for this sustainable development.

Strengthening Regional Integration

Our diverse region holds immense potential for economic cooperation. ECO will work to deepen regional integration through enhanced infrastructure, harmonized policies and collaborative initiatives. By building on cultural ties and shared interests, ECO aims to create a more cohesive economic space that benefits all member states, encouraging mutual growth and stability.

Fostering Innovation and Inclusive Growth

To promote entrepreneurship, job creation and targeted technological upgrading, ECO will create an enabling environment supported by transparent governance and equitable access. This includes empowering local businesses, enhancing education and skills development and fostering technological advancements. By nurturing a business-friendly climate, ECO seeks to drive inclusive development that benefits all sectors of society.

SECTORAL APPROACH

In formulating Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation - 2035, a structured and comprehensive approach has been applied to develop sector-specific strategies that align with the Organization's long-term goals. This approach ensures that each sector's role is clearly defined within the broader framework of ECO, building on the lessons and achievements of Vision 2025 while addressing the challenges encountered during its implementation. By reflecting on the past, the new document provides a target-specific strategy for regional cooperation and development, with a sharper focus on inclusivity, sustainability and innovation.

The process involved developing clear and forward-looking statements for each sector, ensuring that these are realistic, measurable and impactful. Strategic objectives have been identified to guide each sector, with a focus on achievable outcomes by 2035. Priority areas and policy focus, along with expected outcomes are outlined to ensure that each sector addresses areas requiring immediate and sustained attention. The following sectors form the foundation for the targeted actions of the new document:



TRADE & INVESTMENT

Introduction

Trade is the main driver of economic growth. While the ECO region has made notable strides, challenges such as the absence of a fully operational preferential trading system, high trade costs due to high intra regional tariffs and non-tariff barriers, banking and payment issues, and inadequate financing continue to hinder progress. Global shifts toward protectionism and re-defined trade norms further impact the region's trade performance. Despite contributing over USD 1 trillion to global trade for three consecutive years, intra-regional trade remains low at just 8.8%, signaling untapped potential. ECO's most important Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is "intra-regional trade", which unfortunately remains one of the Organization's concern as only 8% share of intra-regional trade in ECO's world trade, cannot be justified. One major reason for the organization's inability to meet the full targets is lack of effective means, ownership and monitoring for implementation of the agreements by the Member States. To realize this potential, the region must accelerate efforts for implement preferential trade under ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), implement effective trade facilitation framework, harmonize standards, ensuring efficient trade payment systems, and promoting FDI in priority sectors.

In order to enhance youth's participation in the ECO initiatives, there is a need for an accentuated representation of youth in the ECO National Chambers of Commerce and ECO CCI to promote meaningful and structured participation of youth in policy formulation. Greater facilitation for the youth entrepreneurs/SMEs with easier access to trade financing through national institutions/ECO TDB programmers, and technical assistance opportunities to engage in cross-border trade initiatives in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), will accelerate infrastructure development, , entrepreneurial digital activity and inclusive growth.

Although, noteworthy progress has been made under ECO Vision 2025, with progress made to:

- i. Initiate negotiations to amend and update ECOTA with view to increase its membership and implement it,
- ii. Adoption of the Trade Facilitation Strategy,
- iii. Initiation of technical consultations on Trade Facilitation Agreement,
- iv. Operationalization of 'Agreement on Promotion and Protection on Investment' and
- v. Adoption of the 'MoU on Joint Trade Promotion Activities in the ECO

These important milestones, which have been achieved under the implementation matrix of ECO Vision-2025, have significant bearing on laying the foundation for a more integrated, resilient and dynamic trade and investment landscape by 2035.

Vision Statement

To achieve sustainable growth with greater and greener intra-regional trade in the ECO region and contribute to the global trade commensurate to the potential of the region.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ To ensure sustainable increase in intra-regional trade with an efficient and operational preferential trading system under ECOTA and its progressive liberalization, to a regional trade and increase ECO share in the global trade, attract greater investment into the region to tap trade investment potential of the region, diversify regions' exports.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Enhanced intra-regional trade through:
 - Paying special attention to simplifying trade in goods and services by gradually eliminating technical and non-tariff barriers to trade. Only five Member States have signed the ECOTA,

so far. We need to rope-in all Member States, and endeavour towards expanding membership of ECOTA and ensure its earliest implementation.

- Strengthen regional economic cooperation within the ECO framework, in accordance with the goals of ECO Vision-2025. By 2035, discussions should be initiated to identify practical arrangements that will enhance mutual trade and economic ties. Member States and the Secretariat need to prepare the required groundwork at national and regional levels.
- Improve Trade Facilitation in the region by implementing ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) with a view to imbibe greater transparency, predictability and uniformity in cross border trade by:
 - a. Removing technical barriers to trade,
 - b. Removing non-tariff barriers through automation of procedures, harmonization of policies etc.
 - c. Strengthening cooperation in practical digital solutions, artificial intelligence and use of digital technologies, and e-commerce.
- Finalize ongoing technical consultations for signing ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement to implement the Trade Facilitation Strategy.
- Adopt a Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy with an aim to:
 - a. Harmonize investment regulations, simplify administrative procedures, Improve the region's business environment by reducing costs, and attracting sustainable investment with appropriate incentives
 - b. Promote intra-regional trade with enhanced participation across ECO Member States to develop regional supply chains, contributing to regional value chains and connect with global value chains.
- Implement "ECO Invest" Program drafted by the Republic of Uzbekistan to strengthen cooperation among ECO Member States by improving the investment climate, increasing inflow of mutual foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhancing investment efficiency.
- Adopt 'Regional Quality Policy' drafted by ECO-UNIDO Joint Trade Capacity Building Project, and utilize ECO-RISCAM to promote harmonized standards, conformity assessment procedures and best practices in the region for risk free, predictable and cost effective intra-regional trade.
- Implement Joint Trade Promotion activities in the ECO by organizing meaningful trade promotion events in the region to enhance business engagement through closer ties among the national trade bodies and Export Promotion Agencies to foster cross-border partnerships and joint export promotion activities on digital platforms..
- Ensure participation of business communities of the region through ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as critical in following:
 - a. Establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
 - b. Create unified digital platform of the ECO national chambers in the ECO CCI to establish an online database to provide information on trade (*export and import*) opportunities in the ECO region, and national regulations/mutual recognition of the quality certification, markets' conditions in the region etc, to help traders in the region.

- Given the difficulty in trade related payment systems which hampers movement of goods and services, may focus on trade in national currencies among ECO Member States as a catalyst and accelerator.
- Create an online mentors' network aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs in the member states of the ECO;
- Develop a unified online platform for small and medium-sized business representatives.

Expected Outcomes

- i) Early conclusion of re-negotiations to amend ECOTA text, and implement the ECOTA with full ECO Membership.
- ii) Progressive development of ECOTA's scope to promote broader opportunities for intra-regional trade by 2035.
- iii) Implementation of the adopted ECO Trade Facilitation to improve trade facilitation in the region.
- iv) Finalize ongoing technical consultations for signing ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement to implement the Trade Facilitation Strategy.
- v) Implement ECO agreements in Customs cooperation for harmonization of customs procedures, like ECO Agreement on Smuggling and Customs offences Data Bank, ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in customs Matters, use of EDI and digital trade, etc.
- vi) Full operationalization of ECO-RISCAM and adoption of the 'Quality Policy' to streamline conformity assessment and boost trade in industrial and agricultural products.
- vii) Pursue all ECO Member States to sign/ratify the 'Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment' and Implement a 'Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy' by 2035.
- viii) Sign and ratify the adopted 'MoU on Joint Trade Promotion Activities in the ECO' and organize meaningful trade promotion events in the region. The ECO country assuming annual ECO chair, may organize one 'ECO Trade Fair'.
- ix) Establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
- x) Operationalize the ECO Re Insurance Company for secure trade in the region.
- xi) Initiate technical discussions on establishing trade in national currencies among ECO Member States.
- xii) Stronger coordination mechanisms involving the ECO Secretariat, Member States, and private sector stakeholders for effective policy implementation and initiative ownership.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

The transport and ICT sectors are vital enablers of regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development in the ECO region. They are both self-completed and overwhelming, thus fairly suggested to be divided operationally by decision of ECO Foreign Ministers at their last meeting (Mashhad Communiqué). In the meantime, until the division is completed the Secretariat's Transport and Communications Directorate will keep working in this unified domain. Enhancing physical connectivity through efficient regional transport systems and boosting digital integration via harmonized ICT policies are central goals. Notable progress has been made in operationalizing transport corridors and upgrading infrastructure, though challenges remain in customs inefficiencies, policy harmonization, and limited private sector engagement. Together, transport facilitates trade and

mobility, while ICT drives innovation, competitiveness, and digital connectivity across member states.

Vision Statement

To establish a seamlessly connected and integrated ECO region by enhancing road, rail, air and maritime transport networks, supported by smart ICT systems. This comprehensive approach to regional connectivity aims to facilitate efficient cross-border movement of goods and people, strengthen economic interdependence and promote sustainable development. By aligning infrastructure and policy frameworks, the initiative seeks to deepen regional integration and cooperation among ECO member states.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Ensure full operationalization and commercialization of the major ECO transport corridors, through infrastructure upgrades and legal frameworks. It is essential to streamline customs and transportation-associated procedures.
- ⦿ Harmonize transport regulations and customs procedures across ECO member states, through coordinated implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- ⦿ Digitalize transport sector, corridors and transit facilities, including border crossing procedures.
- ⦿ Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across all ECO member states by 2030, with special focus on rural and underserved areas.
- ⦿ Develop and launch a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance, and knowledge-sharing, enabling secure data exchange and fostering digital entrepreneurship across ECO countries.
- ⦿ Strengthen cooperation among national IT parks, promote mutual exchange of experience and best practices, and support IT companies' access to the markets of ECO member states.
- ⦿ To encourage experience and mutual knowledge sharing among Technology Park companies operating in the ICT sector.
- ⦿ Application of emerging technologies such as Internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Blockchain, Machine learning, Quantum Computing, 5G, Digital Twin.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Ensure the full and active participation of all ECO member states in the comprehensive implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), with the aim of harmonizing customs and transit regulations, reducing delays and facilitating seamless cross-border movement.
- ⦿ Prioritize investment in regional corridors, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multilateral funding to upgrade and expand transport infrastructure across corridors.
- ⦿ Develop ECO Gates - multimodal logistic hubs, Caspian and open seaports, inland dry ports, encourage interoperability in transport systems and equipment, and align technical standards across member states to ensure integrated road, rail, sea and air networks for seamless transport.
- ⦿ Promote transit, transport and connectivity in line with the third priority of the Awaza Programme for Landlocked Developing Countries (2024–2034), focusing on developing

regional transport corridors, enhancing multimodal networks and harmonizing cross-border transit procedures.

- ⦿ Develop common cyber-security standards and establish regional data protection as well as regulatory frameworks to strengthen the regional digital ecosystem.
- ⦿ Prioritize the corridors connecting the ECO region to China, Persian Gulf and Europe.
- ⦿ Establish cooperation among national IT parks and support them through the creation of international IT Hubs, fostering collaboration, innovation, and integration within the ECO region.
- ⦿ Enhance the involvement of youth, women, and the private sector in the transport and ICT sectors through the region.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Full operationalization and commercialization of major ECO transport corridors through infrastructure upgrades, completing the missing links and harmonized regulations.
- ii. Streamlined and digitalized border procedures across all member states under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- iii. Establishment of multimodal logistics hubs (ECO Gates), integrated transport networks (road, rail, sea, air) and reduced cross-border transit time.
- iv. Integration of Awaza Programme priorities into ECO transport strategy, leading to improved regional corridors, harmonized transit procedures and strengthened connectivity among member states.
- v. Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across ECO member states by 2030, with improved digital access in rural areas.
- vi. Launch of a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance and digital transformation supporting secure data exchange and entrepreneurship.
- vii. Adoption of cyber security and data protection standards to enhance the digital ecosystem.
- viii. Strengthened public-private partnerships and increased investment in smart infrastructure and ICT-enabled services.
- ix. Enhanced regional cooperation in transport, trade, tourism, agriculture, education and health through improved physical and digital connectivity.
- x. Development of digital skills among the population and youth, and establishment of regional IT Hubs in cooperation with national IT parks.
- xi. Greater collaboration in the application of emerging technologies, including the establishment of ECO bodies/centers, e.g. on Applied Artificial Intelligence.

ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Regional cooperation in energy, minerals, and environment is vital for sustainable development in the ECO region. Energy has always been a priority area of cooperation within ECO since its inception. Availing abundant traditional and renewable energy resources, ECO aims to increase energy market integration and enhance the energy security through adequate, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supplies in the region. Over the past decade, ECO has been mainstreaming sustainable energy transition and low-carbon development model in its overall energy agenda. The regional transition journey has started, however a multiplicity of political, economic, and social challenges persist in this pathway. The mineral sector, a key driver of industrial growth, also holds untapped potential for regional collaboration. The ECO countries encounter significant environmental and climate challenges, which have necessitated enhanced collaboration for ecological protection in the ECO region. The environment and impacts of climate change were designated as ECO's cross-sectoral priority. ECO countries must responsibly harness energy and mineral resources while advancing ecological protection and contributing to global climate resilience efforts.

Vision Statement

To foster a thriving, sustainable, and resilient ECO region via responsible management of energy and mineral resources, pursuing the irreversible just and sustainable energy transition and stronger energy-environment nexus approach to promote economic development, protect the environment for future generations, and collaboratively tackle climate change while enhancing regional cohesion. This requires our countries to coordinate and unify their efforts on the global environmental agenda and to involve key stakeholders, particularly the private sector, youth, and women.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade: ECO will facilitate diversification of energy mix, improving energy connectivity, enabling and upgrading policy and regulatory framework, and strengthening the role of ECO region in global energy architecture.
- ⦿ Create Regional Power System Connectivity and Electricity Market: Multilateral and multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources will be established gradually at the sub-regional and regional levels through harmonization and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral electricity grids under the single platform.
- ⦿ Mainstream Sustainable Energy Transition: ECO will support unlocking the ECO region's renewable energy and energy efficiency potential, market expansion and transformation of sustainable energy into local energy value chains, and creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments, particularly via the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⦿ Promotion of production and deployment of high-tech energy equipment: support for local manufacturing and technology transfer in renewable energy and energy efficiency, alongside the development of innovative solutions and joint research projects to strengthen the region's industrial capacity.
- ⦿ Forge Sustainable Resource Management: ECO will contribute to the sustainable management of mineral resources in the ECO region underpinned by a set of regional actions and a multi-year ECO Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation, to be adopted and implemented.
- ⦿ Strengthen Environmental Protection and Resilience to tackle the triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss: ECO will develop regional regulations to improve resource efficiency and manage emissions, waste, and other pollutants from various activities, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health. Furthermore, the robust collective attitude that

engages the entire region in environmental action on climate, biodiversity, desertification and other relevant areas will be achieved to enable ECO to be recognized as a regional group/partner in the global environmental community.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Sustainable energy transition, particularly policy, capacity development and knowledge management, as well as market and investment promotion in renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure, services, businesses and industry with the strong support of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⦿ Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market, most notably multilateral, multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources for harnessing the benefits of larger integrated systems.
- ⦿ Sustainable resource management with the focus on creating stronger regulatory environment, investing in sustainable mining practices and technologies, and bolstering multi-stakeholder approach and international partnerships, as well as capacity-building and public awareness-raising in minerals.
- ⦿ Environmental protection and shift to low-carbon development model, including integration and mainstreaming environmental safeguards into national development plans and projects, promotion of a regional cooperation platform that will advocate for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, and implementation of climate action on adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation with enhanced inclusion of businesses, women and youth.
- ⦿ Support for the production and dissemination of high-tech energy equipment, including localization of solar panel, wind turbine, battery, and smart meter manufacturing, as well as fostering technology transfer and joint innovation projects.
- ⦿ Establish a dedicated environmental fund within the Organization to support advanced innovations in air purification.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Expansion of local production and deployment of advanced energy equipment, stimulating regional industrial cooperation, job creation, and innovation uptake.
- ii. Enhanced regional energy security and sustainability through expanded access, diversified energy mix, improved connectivity and strengthened policies aligned with global energy trends.
- iii. Established integrated regional power system and electricity market, enabling multilateral and multidirectional power trading and better integration of renewable energy resources.
- iv. More diverse and resilient energy architecture will be supported through accelerated sustainable energy transition by unlocking regional renewables potential, expanding markets, transforming local value chains and attracting investments via dedicated ECO clean energy initiatives.
- v. Improved sustainable mineral resource management guided by a multi-year regional cooperation roadmap, fostering responsible mining practices and technology upgrading.

- vi. Strengthened environmental protection and resilience with regional regulations targeting resource efficiency, emission and pollution control, ecosystem preservation and coordinated climate change, biodiversity and desertification actions.
- vii. Developed robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and tailored action plans aligned with the strategic objectives through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government, private sector and communities.
- viii. Addressed major resource-related challenges, most notably adequate and reliable financing, human and institutional capacity underpinned by knowledge and science, and effective use of available resources.
- ix. Mobilized sustainable financing from domestic and international sources, public-private partnerships and regional funds to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.
- x. Integrated ECO strategies with global sustainability agendas (e.g., SDGs, Paris Agreement) and established monitoring systems for transparent progress tracking.
- xi. Engaged businesses, youth, women, and researchers actively in environmental sustainability and sector development, fostering innovation, advocacy, capacity-building and inclusive participation.
- xii. Strengthened regional and international partnerships to enhance technology transfer, build indigenous green technology ecosystems, and promote circular economy and just transition principles.

AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

Introduction

Agriculture and industry (A&I) are vital to the ECO region's economic growth but face challenges from environmental degradation, climate change, demographic shifts and evolving consumption patterns. These issues are intensified by global policy shocks, trade barriers and unequal technology access. Persistent disparities in industrialization and technology, coupled with limited collaboration and inconsistent standards, hinder balanced development. To address this, the ECO region must enhance financial and technical support, deepen regional integration, secure sustainable funding and harmonize standards. Attracting, technology-based improvements, strengthening cooperation in artificial intelligence and digital technologies, and fostering partnerships and FDI within a supportive environment are crucial for expanding A&I sectors.

Vision Statement

The ECO region will enhance its collaborative capacity to drive sustainable economic growth, boost productivity and ensure food security through robust regional cooperation in the agriculture and industry sectors.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance policy development and implementation capacity of Member States in agriculture and industry sectors for driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and productivity by 2035.
- ⦿ Foster cooperation through operationalized intra-regional platforms and strategic partnerships with other international and regional organizations, maximizing collective action to drive sectoral development and address shared challenges by 2035.
- ⦿ Strengthen regional food security and agricultural resilience through enhanced regional food security initiatives, seed supply, animal health, sustainable and efficient water management, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology capacities by 2035.
- ⦿ Advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development across priority sectors of common interest through promoting quality infrastructure, nanotechnology utilization, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement by 2035.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Enhanced Regional Food Security through:
 - Effective implementation of ECO-RPFS and operationalization of ECO-RCCFS.
 - Strengthening regional seed supply and trade.
 - Improving animal trade and veterinary services.
 - Promoting efficient water utilization in agriculture to address climate change driven risks, including water scarcity challenges in the region.
 - Encouraging the adoption of agri-technologies.
 - Fostering regional meteorological cooperation to mitigate agriculture-related risks and shocks.
 - Encouraging application of agricultural biotechnology for increased productivity and sustainability.

- Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations
- ⊙ Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
 - Establishing a robust and harmonized quality infrastructure across the region by fully operationalizing the ECO-RISCAM and its associated TMBs
 - Promoting the development and application of advanced, digital and green technologies, including nanotechnology
 - Strengthening industrial property rights
 - Fostering MSMEs, startups, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and privatization
 - Developing permanent mechanisms among the chambers of commerce and industry of member states to coordinate business community activities
 - Supporting women and youth access to innovation ecosystems
 - Encouraging the creation of a common certification system for key export sectors such as agriculture, textiles, machinery, and industrial goods
 - Enhancing transparency in business regulation drafting and publication to support startups and MSMEs compliance.
 - Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to leverage synergies and best practices.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened policy development and implementation capacities across Member States to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture and industry by 2035.
- ii. Enhanced regional cooperation through operational platforms and strategic partnerships, maximizing collective action on shared sectoral challenges for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
- iii. Improved regional food security, enhanced agricultural productivity and strengthened agricultural resilience to climate-related challenges through better seed supply, animal health, sustainable water management, meteorological cooperation and biotechnology use, along with the application of agri-technologies.
- iv. Advanced, inclusive and sustainable industrial development focusing on quality infrastructure, digital and technologies such as nanotechnology, intellectual property, MSMEs, entrepreneurship and private sector engagement.
- v. Established and harmonized regional standards and quality infrastructure supporting efficient trade and innovation.
- vi. Increased financial sustainability through the ECO Vision Fund and strengthened partnerships with multilateral donors and UN agencies for technical and financial support.
- vii. Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensuring transparency, measurable progress and alignment with Member States' priorities.
- viii. Greater engagement and empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and industry, fostering entrepreneurial capability, entrepreneurship and inclusive economic transformation.
- ix. Improved coordination, communication and accountability mechanisms among Member States and ECO bodies for effective implementation and timely decision-making.

TOURISM

Introduction

Tourism plays a significant role within ECO framework, significantly contributing to economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional connectivity among ECO Member States. Under ECO Vision 2025, the main achievements cover the annual celebration of ECO Tourism Capitals, establishment of the ECO Tour Operators' Network (ETON), ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT), and ECO Tourism Educational Network (ECO-TEN), and the launch of the ECO Tourism Website and the ECO Tourism Investment Guide. However, challenges including inconsistent tourism policies, inadequate infrastructure and connectivity and limited regional marketing efforts persist. The strategic importance of tourism in regional cooperation and integration is evident in its capacity to drive economic development, promote cultural heritage and strengthen people-to-people connections.

Vision Statement

To establish the ECO region as a premier sustainable tourism destination by 2035, leveraging its cultural heritage and natural beauty to drive economic growth, promote regional identity and foster connectivity.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance the tourism competitiveness of the region through efficient and effective guidance of the ECO-ACT in formulating and implementing relevant actions. Encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders within through ETON and ECO-TEN.
- ⦿ Boost regional tourism marketing via implementation of a well-coordinated marketing strategy to increase global visibility and position of the ECO region as a unique, attractive, and sustainable tourism destination. A unified promotion campaign prioritizing the ECO Tourism Capitals in particular and various destinations in the Member States consisting of modern and digital destination marketing tools will be created.
- ⦿ Enhance the tourism competitiveness of the region through efficient and effective guidance of the ECO-ACT in formulating and implementing relevant actions. Encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders within through ETON and ECO-TEN.
- ⦿ Promote sustainable tourism practices with a primary focus on adopting eco-friendly policies, diversifying tourism offerings in niche areas such as health tourism, gastronomy tourism, nature tourism, business tourism and winter tourism as well as operational sustainability models.
- ⦿ Strengthen tourism infrastructure encouraging investments in transportation, hospitality, digital infrastructure, and tourism services. The expansion of current efforts on standardization to all relevant aspects of modernizing travel and tourism facilities. By 2035, the ECO Member States will work towards aligning regional infrastructure with international hospitality and transport standards.
- ⦿ Enhance connectivity for tourism facilitating seamless travel experiences through integrated travel routes taking Silk Road and several regional concepts, easier visa procedures and collaborative tourism packages under ETON. To this end, direct flight routes in collaboration with aviation sector will be expanded and border procedures for passenger transport will be simplified.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Regional Tourism Strategy: Formulating a comprehensive "Roadmap for the Expansion of Tourism Services" that aligns with national tourism strategies of the Member States under the main tasks of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT).

- ⦿ Human Resource Development: Establishing training programs (workshops, seminars and training courses) for tourism professionals in collaboration with the members of the ECO Tourism Educational Network.
- ⦿ Private Sector Involvement: Supporting to creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.
- ⦿ Innovative and Digital Transformation: Contributing to the national efforts for digitizing tourism industry with advanced digital tools such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence to enhance the tourism experience, including digital marketing, upskilling the tourism workforce with digital transformation.
- ⦿ Inclusive Tourism Development: Foster entrepreneurial participation and equitable growth by empowering women, youth and the private sector through inclusive policies and initiatives.

Expected Outcomes

- ⦿ Establishment of ECO as a premier sustainable tourism destination by 2035 via achieving following targets:
 - i. Growth in tourist arrivals from 102 million (2024) to 130 million by 2030 and 155 million by 2035.
 - ii. Increase in tourism's GDP contribution to 5% by 2035.
 - iii. Improved regional tourism infrastructure, achieving an average TTDI score increase from 3.76 (2024) to 4.25 by 2035.
- ⦿ Completion of the actions below for abovementioned strategic objectives including:
 - i. Unified regional tourism marketing strategy implemented across all Member States.
 - ii. Improved cross-border travel through simplified visa processes, expanded direct flight routes and integrated digital travel systems.
 - iii. Adoption of sustainable tourism practices and eco-friendly policies.
 - iv. Greater private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.
 - v. Enhanced use of modern and digital technologies in tourism promotion and delivery.
 - vi. Increased capacity and skills in tourism through training programs and workshops.
 - vii. Empowerment of women, youth and communities in tourism development
 - viii. Active engagement of stakeholders, including local communities and civil society
 - ix. Operationalization of ECO-ACT for regional tourism coordination and monitoring
 - x. Stronger partnerships with international organizations (e.g., UN Tourism, UNESCO, OIC)
 - xi. Diversified tourism financing, including reactivation of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund
 - xii. Conduct training programs within the framework of ECO Tourism Educational Network to build capacities of tourism staff across member states.

HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The ECO remains committed to advancing human resources and sustainable development (HRSD) through regional cooperation in sustainable development, disaster risk reduction (DRR), health and education. Aligned with the UN SDGs, ECO initiatives have included the establishment of key policy frameworks and institutions such as the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters and action plans on health and education. Emphasis is placed on ensuring policy coherence with medium- and long-term development priorities, strengthening institutional capacities, and fostering inclusive partnerships. These efforts aim to improve well-being, enhance resilience, promote lifelong learning, and support investment in human capital across the region.

Vision Statement

ECO aims to build an inclusive, resilient and knowledge-driven region, where sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health and education systems are strengthened through the active participation of private sector, youth and women in policy and decision making process to ensure equitable social welfare and long-term regional prosperity.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Promote policy coherence for sustainable development by aligning local, regional, and international efforts to effectively address SDG challenges and enhance regional cooperation.
- ⦿ Tackle migration, poverty, inequality, family institution and population dynamics by adopting inclusive social protection and environmental policies to improve living standards and overall well-being.
- ⦿ Establish a regional disaster risk reduction system to minimize disaster-related losses in lives and assets through integrated preparedness and response mechanisms.
- ⦿ Establish a specialized working group within the ECO focused on the development of science and innovation.
- ⦿ Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, entrepreneurial capability and participation in development, entrepreneurship, and climate action for inclusive and resilient communities through accessible financing mechanisms and transformative education across the ECO Region.
- ⦿ Strengthen regional health cooperation by addressing non-communicable diseases and advancing equitable, inclusive universal health coverage systems.
- ⦿ Advance regional education and skills development by establishing frameworks for higher education, vocational training, and capacity-building, with a focus on youth and women's empowerment, as well as inclusive education systems that ensure access, participation and achievement for learners with disabilities, including development of teacher competencies, accessible learning environments, and individualized education plans.
- ⦿ Develop disaggregated data systems, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.
- ⦿ Establish regional training programs on inclusive education practices for teachers and educational administrators, focusing on curriculum adaptation, classroom support strategies, and collaborative teaching.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

⦿ Sustainable Development

- Ensure including a framework for mobilizing financial resources and operationalizing bankable projects.
- Develop a regional action plan for SDG-aligned policy coherence and adopt scorecard-based monitoring systems for SDGs, human capital and inclusive development performance.
- Institutionalize the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development to share experiences and challenges.
- Address migration, poverty, inequality, family institution, and sustainable population growth.
- Promote the empowerment of youth and women for inclusive development by establishing regional platforms to support sustained engagement, communication, and leadership (networking), and by providing financing for youth- and women-led projects.
- Strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations on SDG practices.
- Establish a dedicated platform within the framework of sustainable cities to promote collaboration, knowledge exchange, and integrated urban development across the ECO Region.
- Formulate ECO SDGs Performance Index - a benchmark mechanism, supported by Pakistan, to encourage data-driven reforms and transparent showcased via an ECO Dashboard.
- Establish an ECO SDG Accelerator Labs which designs cross-border solutions to common regional challenge
- Create ECO-Pakistan SDG Collaboration Taskforce which is led by Pakistan Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, convenes biannually to showcase innovations in health, education, climate resilience, and digital governance to the ECO region and member states take turn to share success stories in SDG implementation.

⦿ Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Revise the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and its five-year roadmap and monitor its implementation.
- Incorporate actions on youth, women, researchers and private sector engagement in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through technological innovation into ECORFDRR.
- Leverage AI and emerging technologies, and appoint an ECO Ambassador for Climate and DRR to champion regional initiatives and advocacy.
- Enhance the capacity and operational effectiveness of the ECO-RCRM.
- Improve intergovernmental collaboration on DRR efforts.
- Foster partnerships with global and regional organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.
- Adopt a long-term "Eco-Invest" Program to invest in climate change and DDR and encourage private sector for green investment.

- Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, including accessible early warning systems and evacuation plans for persons with disabilities.
- ⊙ Health
 - Update and implement the ECO Health Action Plan based on Member States' needs.
 - Build strong partnerships with WHO and other key organizations for technical and financial support.
 - Establish a Regional Consultation Mechanism for better cooperation on communicable diseases.
 - Promote role of youth and women in ECO Health Action Plan.
 - Adopt inclusive social protection frameworks addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, ensuring access to education, healthcare, employment, and community participation.
- ⊙ Education
 - Strengthen regional education systems, harmonize academic standards and promote internationalization of higher education.
 - Develop an action plan for internationalizing higher education in the ECO Region and monitor its implementation.
 - Strengthen collaboration with ECO Educational Institute and other related global partners.
 - Conduct targeted training and capacity-building initiatives, with a focus on youth and women.
 - Prioritize educational reforms that integrate climate resilience, digital skills, and entrepreneurship in curricula.
 - Encourage youth and women participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- ⊙ A new priority area titled "Inclusive Education" can be added under the Human Resources and Sustainable Development section:

Inclusive Education

- ⊙ Strengthen inclusive education policies and practices across the ECO region by:
 - Supporting legislation and national strategies aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
 - Promoting accessible learning environments and assistive technologies.
 - Encouraging collaboration among Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Services to ensure a holistic support system.
 - Enhancing peer-learning among member states through knowledge exchange and regional forums.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Improved regional policy coherence on SDGs through actionable frameworks and coordinated implementation mechanisms.

- ii. Development of a scorecard mechanism to track the performance of member states on inclusive development, SDGs, and human capital indicators
- iii. Enhanced disaster resilience via a functional ECO Regional DRR system and operational ECO-RCRM.
- iv. Expanded universal health coverage and strengthened response to non-communicable and communicable diseases through regional collaboration and the updated ECO Health Action Plan.
- v. Elevated quality and access to education, including vocational, non-formal and higher education, with increased youth and women's participation and institutional cooperation.
- vi. Greater inclusion of youth and women in leadership, problem-solving and entrepreneurship and regional policy processes across all HRSD priority areas.
- vii. Operationalized regional platforms like the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development and ECO Youth and Women Engagement Mechanism for cross-sector collaboration.
- viii. Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, using data-driven tools to track progress on DRR, health, education and SDG implementation.
- ix. Increased mobilization of resources and institutional capacity through strategic partnerships with UN bodies, development banks and civil society.
- x. Strengthened cooperation in innovation, artificial intelligence and digital technologies.
- xi. Mainstreamed cross-sectoral linkages, connecting HRSD with climate action, trade, agriculture and energy for integrated development outcomes.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

Economic Research and Statistics (ERS) has emerged as an important ECO pillar, advancing evidence-based policymaking and regional integration. Through platforms like the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER), Meetings of Heads of National Statistics Offices (HNSO) and the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Statistics, along with key outputs such as the Annual Economic Reports, ERS supports informed decision-making across the region. The forthcoming ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku and the revitalized ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) will further strengthen ECO's analytical and intellectual foundation.

Vision Statement

To position ERS as a cornerstone for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development in the ECO region by enhancing regional economic analysis, promoting data-driven policymaking and fostering deeper cooperation through high-quality research, statistics and dialogue among Member States.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Operationalize the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku as a regional hub for economic research and innovation.
- ⦿ Elevate the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) into a peer-reviewed internationally recognized publication.
- ⦿ Institutionalize the ECO Think-Tank Forum, making it a recurring, high-level platform hosted across Member States.
- ⦿ Produce applied research and analytical publications focused on key regional priorities such as trade, investment, transport, climate change, green economy, regional security, and food security and sustainable water management.
- ⦿ Strengthen capacity building and knowledge exchange among national statistics offices and economic institutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Regional Economic Analysis
 - Strengthen data collection and harmonization across Member States.
 - Develop comparative studies and benchmarking tools to support policy decisions.
- ⦿ Strategic Publications and Research
 - Focus on actionable research in trade, investment, sustainable development, transport, logistics, energy and resilience.
 - Explore the socio-economic impacts of regional initiatives and global trends on ECO countries.
- ⦿ Capacity Building and Networking
 - Support training, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among statistical offices and research institutions.

- Encourage youth and academic engagement through fellowships and research opportunities.

Expected Outcomes:

- i. Full operationalization of the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) as a regional hub for economic research and innovation.
- ii. Establishment of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) as a respected, peer-reviewed international publication.
- iii. Regular convening of the ECO Think-Tank Forum as a key platform for high-level policy dialogue and research exchange.
- iv. Enhanced regional data harmonization and strengthened capacity of national statistics offices to support evidence-based policymaking.
- v. Production of applied research and analytical reports addressing priority regional issues including trade, investment, climate change, green economy and food security and sustainable water management.
- vi. Increased engagement of youth, women, businesses and academia in economic research through fellowships, advisory panels and collaborative networks.
- vii. Development and launch of a digital ECO Statistics and Research Portal to improve transparency, data sharing and monitoring of regional progress.
- viii. Strengthened partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions and the private sector for co-funded research and knowledge exchange.
- ix. The publication of the outcomes of research projects conducted on the topics in priority sectors in the ECO Economic Journal.

JUDICIAL & PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND EAPA

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan (JPC&EAPA) are key to strengthening judicial, law enforcement, and legislative cooperation among ECO Member States, promoting regional peace, security and sustainable development. Achievements during Vision 2025 include establishing the Plan of Interaction among Attorneys/Prosecutors General to combat transnational crime, advancing the operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), strengthening legislative cooperation via the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO) and its Charter, and successfully implementing the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan. Challenges persist, including delays in RCCACO's full operation, the absence of ECOPOL, and suspended activities in Afghanistan.

Vision Statement

Judicial cooperation, anti-corruption frameworks, law enforcement coordination and parliamentary collaboration across the ECO Member States will be institutionalized and strengthened. These efforts will foster a secure and rules-based regional environment conducive to economic integration. ECO will also work to reintegrate Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, ensuring sustained regional support for its stability, prosperity, economic growth and sustainable development.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance regional judicial cooperation among ECO Member States through institutional mechanisms and coordinated frameworks.
- ⦿ Foster effective cooperation in the prevention of financial and organized crimes via operational platforms like RCCACO and ECOPOL.
- ⦿ Promote legislative coordination among ECO parliaments through the institutional strengthening of PAECO.
- ⦿ Sustain regional commitment to Afghanistan's development and reengagement with ECO.
- ⦿ Build the institutional capacities of judicial and law enforcement agencies across the region through comprehensive training programs, enhanced resource allocation and improved inter-agency collaboration.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Judicial and Anti-Corruption Cooperation: Implement the Plan of Interaction and operationalize RCCACO to tackle financial and organized crimes.
- ⦿ Law Enforcement Coordination Continue elaborates on improving intelligence and operational collaboration among law enforcement agencies.
- ⦿ Parliamentary Engagement: Strengthen the mandate and functioning of PAECO, encouraging all Member States to ratify the Charter.
- ⦿ Capacity Building: Expand training and knowledge-sharing programs to address emerging legal challenges (e.g., cybercrime, financial crime).
- ⦿ Afghanistan Engagement: Facilitate dialogue and support mechanisms to enable Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, subject to Member State consensus.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened regional judicial cooperation through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination among Member States' institutions authorized central authorities.
- ii. Effective establishment and functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), boosting anti-corruption efforts across the region.
- iii. Development of a robust regional law enforcement coordination platform (ECO POL or alternative) to improve intelligence sharing and cross-border crime prevention.
- iv. Increased legislative collaboration through full ratification and active engagement within the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO), supporting harmonized policies and rule of law.
- v. Expanded capacity-building programs targeting emerging challenges such as cybercrime, financial crimes and organized crime, enhancing institutional competencies.
- vi. Successful reintegration of Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, enabling its meaningful participation in regional judicial, legislative and security cooperation.
- vii. Sustained multi-stakeholder partnerships with international organizations and donors to ensure financial sustainability and technical support.
- viii. Enhanced inclusion of women and youth in legislative processes via PAECO's dedicated committees, promoting diversity and regional stability.
- ix. Regular monitoring and reporting frameworks established to track progress on judicial cooperation, anti-corruption initiatives, parliamentary activities and Afghanistan's engagement.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

In today's interconnected world, challenges like technological change and population growth transcend national borders, making regional cooperation essential. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), with its ten member states, faces shared transboundary issues that require regional collaboration. Strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations and implementing existing cooperation frameworks are vital for effectively addressing these challenges.

Despite being one of the oldest regional groupings, ECO struggles with low visibility and impact. Enhancing its presence through streamlined web content, increased media engagement, and active participation in international forums will boost its profile. Moreover, fully activating and coordinating ECO's 24 subsidiary bodies will promote a unified, effective approach to achieving its goals.

Vision Statement

ECO aims to harness regional collaboration to tackle global and regional challenges, promoting sustainable development through strengthened and new partnerships. Committed to boosting its visibility and impact, ECO will enhance media engagement and actively participate in international events, fostering a cooperative and inclusive community for collective progress and a sustainable future.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Strengthening existing partnerships by actively participating in collaborative programs and initiatives.
- ⦿ Establishing new agreements with international organizations which are beyond ECO's ambit.
- ⦿ Increasing media presence through interaction, digital outreach, better material and publications
- ⦿ Streamlining web content to effectively communicate ECO's mission, achievements, activities and ongoing projects.
- ⦿ Engaging in international events to represent ECO's interests and showcase its contributions.
- ⦿ Hosting side events at international events to make most participation
- ⦿ Strengthening and fully operationalizing the ECO bodies
- ⦿ Improving coordination among ECO bodies and with the Secretariat to maximize organizational efficiency and effectiveness.
- ⦿ Encouraging ECO Member States to host major international events.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ **Increasing Synergies**
 - Developing a centralized digital platform, featuring shared calendars, document repositories, and project management tools, to facilitate seamless coordination among the ECO Secretariat and ECO bodies.

⦿ **Strengthening Subsidiary Agencies**

- Launching targeted outreach programs such as presentations, regional workshops, and bilateral meetings, to engage potential Member States, highlighting the benefits of joining ECO Subsidiary Agencies.
- Offering training and development programs to enhance the capabilities of agency staff and member representatives.

⦿ **Hosting Sideline Events**

- Developing and publishing an annual calendar of sideline events at major international forums.
- Collaborating with regional and international organizations and host countries to co-organize events that align with global agendas and ECO priorities.
- Planning and executing at least two sideline events annually at major UN conferences and member state-hosted events.

⦿ **Media Engagement and Presence**

- Establishing a dedicated media team to manage public relations and increase ECO's visibility.
- Developing a comprehensive media strategy to engage with international media outlets and promote ECO initiatives.
- Utilizing social media platforms to share updates, success stories, and upcoming events to reach a wider audience.
- Organizing press conferences and media briefings to highlight key achievements and upcoming projects.
- Creating engaging content, such as videos and infographics, to effectively communicate ECO's impact and goals.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened existing collaborations and new agreements with international organizations will improve ECO's capacity to address transboundary challenges effectively.
- ii. ECO's media presence, web content, and participation in international forums will be significantly enhanced, raising public awareness and stakeholder engagement.
- iii. All ECO subsidiary agencies will be active and well-coordinated, promoting organizational efficiency and cohesive implementation of ECO's mandates.
- iv. Centralized digital platforms and streamlined communication channels will enable seamless cooperation among the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies, and member states.
- v. A dedicated media team and comprehensive communication strategy will effectively promote ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

No: ECO /2026/180

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 23/2/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose Notes Verbales No. 531/2827196 dated February 18, 2026 received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and No. 5-016/26 dated February 19, 2026 received from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, along with their fresh feedback on Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States, Tehran



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial translation

In the Name of God

Note

No: 531/2827196

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran and, with reference to its Note Verbale ECO/2026/86 dated 1/2/2026, has the honour to attach herewith proposed changes to the "Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation-2035"

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that the aforementioned document requires some structural reforms in order to achieve an optimal and operational framework. These views need to be proposed and discussed in the course of a meeting, with the aim of finalizing the said draft.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ECO Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

18 February 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) - Tehran



جمهوری اسلامی ایران
وزارت امور خارجه

شماره : ۵۳۱/۲۸۲۷۱۹۶
تاریخ : ۱۴۰۴/۱۱/۲۹
پیوست : دارد

به نام خدا

یادداشت

وزارت امور خارجه جمهوری اسلامی ایران با اظهار تعارفات خود به دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) در تهران احتراماً اشعار می‌دارد:

پیرو یادداشت شماره ECO/2026/86 مورخ ۱۲ بهمن ۱۴۰۴، به پیوست، اصلاحات پیشنهادی در خصوص "پیش نویس اهداف استراتژیک همکاری اقتصادی ۲۰۳۵" ارسال می‌گردد. شایان ذکر است جمهوری اسلامی ایران معتقد است سند فوق الذکر با هدف دستیابی به یک چارچوب بهینه و عملیاتی، نیازمند برخی اصلاحات ساختاری است که این نظرات در نشست نهایی کردن سند مطرح شده و مورد بحث قرار خواهد گرفت.

موقع را مغتنم شمرده، احترامات فائقه را تجدید می‌نماید.

دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) - تهران



E C O V I S I O N 2 0 3 5



ECO VISION 2025

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2017, ECO Vision 2025 served as a strategic framework guiding the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) toward sustainable economic growth, enhanced regional connectivity, and deeper socio-economic development. It focused on key sectors such as trade & investment, transport & connectivity, energy & environment, tourism, economic growth & productivity, and social welfare. The Vision aimed to align regional efforts with global sustainable development goals, supported by structured monitoring mechanisms.

While implementation remained uneven across sectors, moderate progress was witnessed in trade sector, whereas notable advancements were seen in regional energy cooperation, corridors development, agriculture & food security, tourism promotion, etc. Financial constraints and insufficient engagement by Member States emerged as recurring challenges. The ECO Vision Midterm Review in 2021 and the ECO Vision Review Committee in 2024 identified both accomplishments and gaps, leading to prioritized efforts in the final phase.

The deliberative process laid the foundation for formulating a more inclusive, responsive and target-based strategy for the upcoming decade, with stronger ownership, realistic goals and enhanced regional collaboration at its core.



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STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION - 2035

OVERVIEW

The formulation of Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation - 2035 represents a renewed opportunity to articulate a forward-looking regional strategy that is both ambitious and grounded in practical realities. Building on the experiences and outcomes of Vision 2025, the new document is designed to address the evolving socio-economic landscape, regional and global dynamics. Mandated by the 28th Council of Ministers Meeting, ECO Strategy 2035 aims to guide the Organization toward a future characterized by sustainable development, deeper regional integration and equitable prosperity for all member states.

Central to the development of this document is a strong commitment to inclusivity and participatory governance. While Vision 2025 largely emerged from intergovernmental dialogues, the new strategic process places greater emphasis on engaging various societal groups to ensure a multidimensional and responsive approach. To broaden the ownership of the new roadmap, an inclusive approach to formulate the document has been developed.

In addition to reaffirming ongoing priorities, the new document incorporates several emerging areas that were not featured in ECO Vision 2025 but have been actively pursued in the years since. These include economic research & statistics (ERS), international relations (IR), judicial and parliamentary cooperation (JPC), the ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA) and human resources and sustainable development (HRSD). This reflects the Organization's broader and more integrated strategic outlook for the coming decade.



CORE PILLARS

Advancing Sustainability

ECO is committed to fostering sustainable, inclusive growth by aligning regional efforts with global development goals. The focus will be on addressing regional priorities while ensuring that progress is balanced with environmental responsibility, social equity and long-term economic resilience. A stable and peaceful environment remains a fundamental pillar for this sustainable development.

Strengthening Regional Integration

Our diverse region holds immense potential for economic cooperation. ECO will work to deepen regional integration through enhanced infrastructure, harmonized policies and collaborative initiatives. By building on cultural ties and shared interests, ECO aims to create a more cohesive economic space that benefits all member states, encouraging mutual growth and stability.

Fostering Innovation and Inclusive Growth

To promote entrepreneurship, job creation and innovation, ECO will create an enabling environment supported by transparent governance and equitable access. This includes empowering local businesses, enhancing education and skills development and fostering technological advancements. By nurturing a business-friendly climate, ECO seeks to drive inclusive development that benefits all sectors of society.



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SECTORAL APPROACH

In formulating Strategic Goals of the Economic Cooperation - 2035, a structured and comprehensive approach has been applied to develop sector-specific strategies that align with the Organization's long-term goals. This approach ensures that each sector's role is clearly defined within the broader framework of ECO, building on the lessons and achievements of Vision 2025 while addressing the challenges encountered during its implementation. By reflecting on the past, the new document provides a target-specific strategy for regional cooperation and development, with a sharper focus on inclusivity, sustainability and innovation.

The process involved developing clear and forward-looking statements for each sector, ensuring that these are realistic, measurable and impactful. Strategic objectives have been identified to guide each sector, with a focus on achievable outcomes by 2035. Priority areas and policy focus, along with expected outcomes are outlined to ensure that each sector addresses areas requiring immediate and sustained attention. The following sectors form the foundation for the targeted actions of the new document:





TRADE & INVESTMENT

Introduction

Trade is the main driver of economic growth. While the ECO region has made notable strides, challenges such as the absence of a fully operational preferential trading system, high trade costs due to high intra regional tariffs and non-tariff barriers, banking and payment issues, and inadequate financing continue to hinder progress. Global shifts toward protectionism and re-defined trade norms further impact the region's trade performance. Despite contributing over USD 1 trillion to global trade for three consecutive years, intra-regional trade remains low at just 8.8%, signaling untapped potential.

To realize this potential, the region must accelerate efforts for implement preferential trade under ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), implement effective trade facilitation framework, harmonize standards, ensuring efficient trade payment systems, and promoting FDI in priority sectors.

Noteworthy progress has been made under ECO Vision 2025, with ongoing negotiations to amend and update ECOTA, finalize the Trade Facilitation Strategy/ Agreement, and launch joint trade promotion events—laying the foundation for a more integrated, resilient and dynamic trade and investment landscape by 2035

Vision Statement

To achieve sustainable growth with greater and greener intra-regional trade [and Investment](#) in the ECO region and contribute to the global trade [and Investment](#) commensurate to the potential of the region.

Strategic Objectives

To ensure sustainable increase in intra-regional trade with an efficient and operational preferential trading system under ECOTA and its progressive liberalization to a Free Trade Area, and increase ECO share in the global trade by diversifying the regions' exports.

[To enhance investment cooperation among member states and achieve national, regional as well as sustainable development goals by attracting Investment in priority sectors under APPI and IPAs collaboration.](#)

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Enhanced Intra Regional Trade through:
 - Operationalization of Preferential Trade in the region under ECOTA and expanding its coverage to an ECO Free Trade Area.
 - Strengthening Trade Facilitation by implementing Trade Facilitation Strategy/Agreement. with a view to reduce non-tariff costs through automation of procedures, harmonization of policies, and create incentives for FDI into flow into the region
 - Implement Joint Trade Promotion activities in the ECO by organizing meaningful trade promotion events in the region.



- Adopting regional quality policy drafted by ECO-UNIDO Joint Trade Capacity Building Project, and fully operationalizing the ECO-RISCAM to promote harmonized standards, conformity assessment procedures and best practices in the region for risk free, predictable and cost effective intra-regional trade.
- Strengthen the role of ECO Trade Development Bank, by expanding the Bank's memberships and increasing its capital to support the Bank's operation including to bolster project funding in trade sector. Broaden its correspondent banking relationships through open accounts with other banks and explore financing options in multiple currencies. Furthermore, deepen To build collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to amplify for financing the priority projects in priority areas with active role of ECO TDB.
- To set up financing for infrastructure development to create strategic partnerships with other international and regional organization and address shared challenges and goals by 2035.

Enhanced National & Intra Regional Investment through:

- Upgrading a Comprehensive ECO Investment Platform to facilitate identification of investment opportunities, connect investors and projects, provide up-to-date information on investment regulations in member countries by providing project database, investor profiles, risk assessment tools and market analysis.
- Focusing on priority sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, information and communication technology (ICT), tourism and agriculture.
- Develop human resources and knowledge sharing by joint training programs, scholarships in investment facilitation, management, finance and expert exchanges.
- Strengthening private sector cooperation by encouraging them to identify opportunities, implement project as well as financing them through organizing investment conferences and exhibitions, facilitation of the formation of investment consortiums.
- Cooperation the IPAs of the member states to promote and market investment opportunities, providing integrated services to investors, facilitate the creation of funds that can finance large scale regional projects and attract financial resources from international and regional institutions for these funds.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Operationalization of the updated ECOTA, and its progressive liberalization into a Free Trade Area to significantly increase intra-regional trade.
- ii. Implementation of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy/Agreement.
- iii. Implementation of ECO agreements in Customs cooperation for harmonization of customs procedures, use of EDI and digital trade, mutual administrative assistance etc.
- iv. Full operationalization of ECO-RISCAM and adoption of a regional quality policy to streamline conformity assessment and boost trade in industrial and agricultural products.
- v. Implementation of APPI to attract FDI in priority sectors.

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¶vi. **Enhanced cooperation with tangible results among member states in the field of investment promotion, attraction and facilitation**

¶vii. Enhanced role of the ECO TDB in financing trade and investment projects, supported by Member States and development partners for financial sustainability.

¶viii. Development of regionally connected value chains through improved FTZs/ SEZs and infrastructure and strategic partnerships, enhancing trade competitiveness and resilience.

¶ix. To operationalize the ECO Re-insurance Company for secure trade in the region.

¶x. Stronger coordination mechanisms involving the ECO Secretariat, Member States, and private sector stakeholders for effective policy implementation and initiative ownership.

xi. Inclusion of trade in services, such as tourism, within future free trade agreements, contributing to a broader and more dynamic regional trade ecosystem.

[xii. Strengthening tax cooperation by following up on holding ECOTAX meetings](#)

¶xiii. [Establishment of ECO Clearing Union as a matter of urgency](#)

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TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

The transport and ICT sectors are vital enablers of regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development in the ECO region. They are both self-completed and overwhelming, thus fairly suggested to be divided operationally by decision of ECO Foreign Ministers at their last meeting (Mashhad Communiqué). In the meantime, until the division is completed the Secretariat's Transport and Communications Directorate will keep working in this unified domain. Enhancing physical connectivity through efficient regional transport systems and boosting digital integration via harmonized ICT policies are central goals. Notable progress has been made in operationalizing transport corridors and upgrading infrastructure, though challenges remain in customs inefficiencies, policy harmonization, and limited private sector engagement. Together, transport facilitates trade and mobility, while ICT drives innovation, competitiveness, and digital connectivity across member states. Furthermore, in to execute and realize the decisions and mandates of Member States in transport sector fully as well as establish strong liaison mechanism between the related sections in each Member States to expedite and facilitate the assigned duties, it is necessary to create some changes in the structure and function of transport and communication sector in ECO Secretariat.

Vision Statement

To establish a seamlessly connected and integrated ECO region by enhancing road, rail, air and maritime transport networks, supported by smart ICT systems. This comprehensive approach to regional connectivity aims to increase transport and transit between the Member of ECO region, managing transport flows, facilitate efficient cross-border movement of goods and people, strengthen economic interdependence and promote sustainable development. By aligning infrastructure and policy frameworks, the initiative seeks to deepen regional integration and cooperation among ECO member states.

Strategic Objectives

- ① Ensure full operationalization and commercialization of the major ECO transport corridors, through infrastructure upgrades and legal frameworks, developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors, implementing the roadmap



[of each corridors and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade and extending ECO corridors to out of ECO region corridors and freight sources.](#) It is essential to streamline customs and transportation-associated procedures.

- ⦿ Harmonize transport regulations and digitalize border crossing procedures across ECO member states, through coordinated implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- ⦿ Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across all ECO member states by 2030, with special focus on rural and underserved areas through public-private investment partnerships.
- ⦿ Develop and launch a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance, and knowledge-sharing, enabling secure data exchange and fostering digital entrepreneurship across ECO countries.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Ensure the full and active participation of all ECO member states in the comprehensive implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), with the aim of harmonizing customs and transit regulations, reducing delays and facilitating seamless cross-border movement.
- ⦿ Prioritize investment in regional corridors, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multilateral funding to upgrade and expand transport infrastructure across corridors.
- ⦿ Develop ECO Gates - multimodal logistic hubs, Caspian and open seaports, inland dry ports, encourage interoperability in transport systems and equipment, [enhancing the logistical interconnectivity of ECO Member States](#) and align technical standards across member states to ensure integrated road, rail, sea and air networks for seamless transport.
- ⦿ [Increase the number of container trains on regional rail corridors and further promote the safe, sustainable and high-quality development of rail transport.](#)
- ⦿ [Developing international passenger rail transport and tourism between the Member States mainly between the capital cities and cultural and touristic centers of Member States.](#)
- ⦿ [Creation of conditions for the integration of digital transport systems between ECO Member States.](#) Develop common cyber-security standards and establish regional data protection as well as regulatory frameworks to strengthen the regional digital ecosystem.

Expected Outcomes

- Full operationalization and commercialization of major ECO transport corridors through infrastructure upgrades and harmonized regulations. [Developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors, implementing the roadmap for each corridors and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade extending ECO corridors to out of ECO region corridors and freight sources.](#)

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- iii. Streamlined and digitalized border procedures across all member states under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- iii. Establishment of multimodal logistics hubs (ECO Gates), integrated transport networks (road, rail, sea, air) and reduced cross-border transit time.
- iv. Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across ECO member states by 2030, with improved digital access in rural areas.
- v. Launch of a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance and innovation, [transport documents](#), supporting secure data exchange and entrepreneurship.
- vi. Adoption of cyber security and data protection standards to enhance the digital ecosystem, [and establishing electronic data exchanging between transport authorities as well as the customs of the Member States](#).
- vii.
- viii. Strengthened public-private partnerships and increased investment in smart [and prioritized](#) infrastructure [project](#) and ICT-enabled services.
- ix. Enhanced regional cooperation in transport, trade, tourism, agriculture, education and health through improved physical and digital connectivity.
- x. [Establishment of the single window for issuing flight permits to facilitate the passage of cargo and passenger flights in the regional airspace, especially on China-Europe routes.](#)
- xi. [Establishment regional capacity committee and technical supervision in field of transport and transit including Civil Aviation, Rail, Road and Maritime.](#)
- xii. [Establish regional standards in artificial intelligence to accelerate the creation of the ECO AI Centre](#)

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ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Regional cooperation in energy, minerals, and environment is vital for sustainable development in the ECO region. Energy has always been a priority area of cooperation within ECO since its inception. Availing abundant traditional and renewable energy resources, ECO aims to increase energy market integration and enhance the energy security through adequate, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supplies in the region. Over the past decade, ECO has been mainstreaming sustainable energy transition and low-carbon development model in its overall energy agenda. The regional transition journey has started, however a multiplicity of political, economic, and social challenges persist in this pathway. The mineral sector, a key driver of industrial growth, also holds untapped potential for regional collaboration. The ECO countries encounter significant environmental and climate challenges, which have necessitated enhanced collaboration for ecological protection in the ECO region. The environment and impacts of climate change were designated as ECO's cross-sectoral priority. ECO countries must responsibly harness energy and mineral resources while advancing ecological protection and contributing to global climate resilience efforts.

Vision Statement

To foster a thriving, sustainable, and resilient ECO region via responsible management of energy and mineral resources, pursuing the irreversible just and sustainable energy transition and stronger energy-environment nexus approach to promote economic development, protect the environment for future generations, and collaboratively tackle climate change while enhancing regional cohesion.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade: ECO will facilitate diversification of energy mix, improving energy connectivity, enabling and upgrading policy and regulatory framework, and strengthening the role of ECO region in global energy architecture.
- ⊙ Create Regional Power System Connectivity and Electricity Market: Multilateral and multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources will be established gradually at the sub-regional and regional levels through harmonization and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral electricity grids under the single platform.
- ⊙ Mainstream Sustainable Energy Transition: ECO will support unlocking the ECO region's renewable energy and energy efficiency potential, market expansion and transformation of sustainable energy into local energy value chains, and creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments, particularly via the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⊙ Forge Sustainable Resource Management: ECO will contribute to the sustainable management of mineral resources in the ECO region underpinned by a set of regional actions and a multi-year ECO Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation, to be adopted and implemented.
- ⊙ Strengthen Environmental Protection and Resilience to tackle the triple planetary crisis - climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss: ECO will develop regional regulations to improve resource efficiency and manage emissions, waste, and other pollutants from various activities, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health. Furthermore, the robust collective attitude that engages the entire region in environmental action on climate, biodiversity, desertification and other relevant areas





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will be achieved to enable ECO to be recognized as a regional group/partner in the global environmental community.

- ⦿ Implement the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC) to strengthen cross-border operational coordination, emergency preparedness, and system reliability. This includes harmonizing regulatory frameworks for generation, transmission, and demand-response management, advancing grid moderation for renewable integration to mitigate supply disruption and climate-related risks.
- ⦿ Establish specialized consortiums among Member States to enhance short-term project efficiency, optimize resource utilization, and accelerate implementation timelines by leveraging shared expertise and capacities by 2035.

⦿

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Sustainable energy transition, particularly policy, capacity development and knowledge management, as well as market and investment promotion in renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure, services, businesses and industry with the strong support of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⦿ Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market, most notably multilateral, multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources for harnessing the benefits of larger integrated systems.
- ⦿ Sustainable resource management with the focus on creating stronger regulatory environment, investing in sustainable mining practices and technologies, and bolstering multi-stakeholder approach and international partnerships, as well as capacity-building and public awareness-raising in minerals.
- ⦿ Environmental protection and shift to low-carbon development model, including integration and mainstreaming environmental safeguards into national development plans and projects, promotion of a regional cooperation platform that will advocate for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, and implementation of climate action on adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation.
- ⦿ Formation and promotion of consortiums among ECO member countries to pool technical, financial, and human resources, thereby boosting the efficiency and timely completion of regional agricultural and industrial projects.

⦿

Expected Outcomes

- i. Enhanced regional energy security and sustainability through expanded access, diversified energy mix, improved connectivity and strengthened policies aligned with global energy trends.
- ii. Established integrated regional power system and electricity market, enabling multilateral and multidirectional power trading and better integration of renewable energy resources.
- iii. More diverse and resilient energy architecture will be supported through accelerated sustainable energy transition by unlocking regional renewables potential, expanding markets, transforming local value chains and attracting investments via dedicated ECO clean energy initiatives.

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- iv. Improved sustainable mineral resource management guided by a multi-year regional cooperation roadmap, fostering responsible mining practices and technological innovation.
 - v. Strengthened environmental protection and resilience with regional regulations targeting resource efficiency, emission and pollution control, ecosystem preservation and coordinated climate change, biodiversity and desertification actions.
 - vi. Developed robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and tailored action plans aligned with the strategic objectives through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government, private sector and communities.
 - vii. Addressed major resource-related challenges, most notably adequate and reliable financing, human and institutional capacity underpinned by knowledge and science, and effective use of available resources.
 - viii. Mobilized sustainable financing from domestic and international sources, public-private partnerships and regional funds to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.
 - ix. Integrated ECO strategies with global sustainability agendas (e.g., SDGs, Paris Agreement) and established monitoring systems for transparent progress tracking.
 - x. Engaged businesses, youth, women, and researchers actively in environmental sustainability and sector development, fostering innovation, advocacy, capacity-building and inclusive participation.
- xi. Strengthened regional and international partnerships to enhance technology transfer, build indigenous green technology ecosystems, and promote circular economy and just transition principles.
- **xii. Collaborative partnership under the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC) to systematize exchange of technical expertise, operational best practices, and crisis management protocols. Establish regional platforms to accelerate innovation, enhance grid resilience, and harmonize regulatory approaches. This synergy will optimize resource utilization, mitigate systematic risks, and enable collective responses to emerging challenges such as renewable integration, cyber threats, and climate-induced disruption.
- xiii. Enhanced project efficiency and expedited delivery through the establishment of cross-border consortiums, fostering stronger cooperation and resource-sharing among Member States.

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AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

Introduction

Agriculture and industry are vital to the ECO region's economic growth but face challenges from environmental degradation, climate change, demographic shifts and evolving consumption patterns. These issues are intensified by global policy shocks, trade barriers and unequal technology access. Persistent disparities in industrialization and technology, coupled with limited collaboration and inconsistent standards, hinder balanced development. To address this, the ECO region must enhance financial and technical support, deepen regional integration, secure sustainable funding and harmonize standards. Attracting innovation, partnerships and FDI within a supportive environment is crucial for expanding trade and investment. [A leap in targeted investment is one of the main requirements for sustainable agricultural growth.](#)

Vision Statement

The ECO region [with an emphasis on joint investment](#) will enhance its collaborative capacity to drive sustainable economic growth, boost productivity and ensure food security through robust regional cooperation in the agriculture and industry sectors.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance policy development and implementation capacity of Member States in agriculture and industry sectors for driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and productivity by 2035.
- ⦿ Foster cooperation through operationalized intra-regional platforms and strategic partnerships with other international and regional organizations, maximizing collective action to drive sectoral development and address shared challenges by 2035.
- ⦿ Strengthen regional food security and agricultural resilience through enhanced regional food security initiatives, seed supply, animal health, water management, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology capacities by 2035.
- ⦿ Advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development across priority sectors of common interest through promoting quality infrastructure, nanotechnology utilization, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement by 2035.
- ⦿ [Establish and develop regional agriculture supply chains among the Member states.](#)
- ⦿ [Enhance Research and Development \(R&D\) capacity in agriculture: strengthen the research and development infrastructure sector to foster innovation and improve sustainable agriculture technology by 2035. This will involve promoting collaboration among agriculture universities, research institutions and rural industries to develop new and sustainable practice that enhance productivity, food security, and resilience in rural communities.](#)

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Enhanced Regional Food Security through:



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- Effective implementation of ECO-RPFS and operationalization of ECO-RCCFS.
 - Strengthening regional seed supply and trade.
 - Improving animal trade and veterinary services.
 - Promoting region efficient water utilization in agriculture , with particular emphasis on addressing water scarcity in the predominantly arid and semi-arid region of the Member states to address water scarcity challenges in the region.
 - Fostering regional meteorological cooperation to mitigate agriculture-related risks and shocks.
 - Encouraging application of agricultural biotechnology for increased productivity and sustainability.
 - Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to leverage synergies and best practices.
- ⊙ Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
- Establishing a robust and harmonized quality infrastructure across the region by fully operationalizing the ECO-RISCAM and its associated TMBs to promote harmonized regional standards and conformity assessment procedures.
 - Promoting the development and application of advanced technologies, including nanotechnology, in industrial sectors to address regional needs.
 - Strengthening industrial property rights to foster innovation.
 - Fostering MSMEs, startups, entrepreneurship and privatization to boost economic growth and employment as well as networking opportunities.
 - Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to leverage synergies and best practices.
 - Mainstreaming climate adaption into agriculture policies to enhance resilience within the ECO region.
- ⊙ Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
- Strengthening Collaboration between institutions
 - Promoting innovation in sustainable agriculture practices
 - Enhance access to research outputs
 - Encourage sustainable practice through funding and incentives

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Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened policy development and implementation capacities across Member States to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture and industry by 2035.
- ii. Enhanced regional cooperation through operational platforms and strategic partnerships, maximizing collective action on shared sectoral challenges.



- iii. Improved regional food security and agricultural resilience via better seed supply, animal health, water management, meteorological cooperation and biotechnology use.
- iv. Advanced, inclusive and sustainable industrial development focusing on quality infrastructure, nanotechnology, intellectual property, MSMEs, entrepreneurship and private sector engagement.
- v. Established and harmonized regional standards and quality infrastructure supporting efficient trade and innovation.
- vi. Increased financial sustainability through the ECO Vision Fund and strengthened partnerships with multilateral donors and UN agencies for technical and financial support.
- vii. Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensuring transparency, measurable progress and alignment with Member States' priorities.
- viii. Greater engagement and empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and industry, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and inclusive economic transformation.
- ix. Improved coordination, communication and accountability mechanisms among Member States and ECO bodies for effective implementation and timely decision-making.

TOURISM

Introduction

Tourism plays a significant role within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) framework, significantly contributing to economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional connectivity among ECO Member States. Despite the advancements achieved under ECO Vision 2025, challenges persist, including inconsistent tourism policies, inadequate infrastructure and connectivity and limited regional marketing efforts. The strategic importance of tourism in regional cooperation and integration is evident in its capacity to drive economic development, promote cultural heritage and strengthen people-to-people connections across the ECO region.

Vision Statement

To establish the ECO region as a premier sustainable tourism destination by 2035, leveraging its cultural heritage and natural beauty to drive economic growth, promote regional identity and foster connectivity.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Promote Sustainable Tourism Practices while Enhancing the Competitiveness of the ECO Region.
- ⦿ The ECO region is home to a rich cultural and natural heritage, which must be preserved and promoted through sustainable tourism initiatives. Strengthening regional cooperation among the Member States is essential to achieving environmentally responsible tourism



while enhancing the global competitiveness of the ECO tourism products and services. Efforts will be made to encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders, with a focus on adopting eco-friendly policies and innovative sustainability models.

- ⦿ **Strengthen Tourism Infrastructure:** Robust tourism infrastructure is a fundamental requirement for ensuring seamless travel experiences and attracting a larger number of domestic and international visitors. To enhance regional tourism, investments in transportation, hospitality, digital infrastructure, and tourism services will be prioritized. A comprehensive needs assessment will be conducted to identify key infrastructure gaps and investment opportunities in the tourism sector. By 2035, the ECO Member States will work towards aligning regional infrastructure with international hospitality and transport standards modernizing travel and tourism facilities.
- ⦿ **Boost Regional Tourism Marketing:** The ECO region has immense tourism potential, but a lack of cohesive branding and marketing has limited its ability to attract global travelers. A well-coordinated marketing strategy will be implemented to increase global visibility and position of the ECO region as a unique, attractive, and sustainable tourism destination. A unified promotion campaign consisting of modern destination marketing tools will be launched, promoting the ECO region under a single, recognizable brand. This marketing strategy will be integrated into national tourism promotion efforts.
- ⦿ **Enhance Connectivity for Tourism:** Facilitating seamless travel experiences through integrated travel routes, visa facilitation, and collaborative tourism packages is critical for boosting cross-border tourism. Greater emphasis will be placed on regional tourism linkages to create an interconnected and accessible tourism network. The cooperation mechanisms will work to enhance intra-regional connectivity, particularly by improving transport links, visa facilitation processes, and digital travel platforms. Efforts will also focus on expanding direct flight routes, simplifying border procedures, and introducing digital visa solutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ **Regional Tourism Strategy:** Formulating a comprehensive ECO tourism development strategy that aligns with national tourism strategies of the Member States under the main tasks of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT).
- ⦿ **Human Resource Development:** Establishing training programs (workshops, seminars and training courses) for tourism professionals in collaboration with the members of the ECO Tourism Educational Network.
- ⦿ **Private Sector Involvement:** Supporting to creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.
- ⦿ **Innovative and Digital Transformation:** Contributing to the utilization of modern technologies such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence to enhance the tourism experience, including digital marketing, upskilling the tourism workforce with digital transformation.
- ⦿ **Inclusive Tourism Development:** Foster innovation and equitable growth by empowering women, youth and the private sector through inclusive policies and initiatives.

Expected Outcomes

Establishment of ECO as a premier sustainable tourism destination by 2035 via achieving following targets:

- i. Growth in tourist arrivals from 102 million (2024) to 130 million by 2030 and 155 million by 2035.



- ii. Increase in tourism's GDP contribution to 5% by 2035.
- iii. Improved regional tourism infrastructure, achieving an average TTDI score increase from 3.76 (2024) to 4.25 by 2035.

Completion of the actions below for abovementioned strategic objectives including:

- i. Unified regional tourism marketing strategy implemented across all Member States.
- ii. Improved cross-border travel through simplified visa processes, expanded direct flight routes and integrated digital travel systems.
- iii. Adoption of sustainable tourism practices and eco-friendly policies.
- iv. Greater private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.
- v. Enhanced use of modern and digital technologies in tourism promotion and delivery.
- vi. Increased capacity and skills in tourism through training programs and workshops.
- vii. Empowerment of women, youth and communities in tourism development
- viii. Active engagement of stakeholders, including local communities and civil society
- ix. Operationalization of ECO-ACT for regional tourism coordination and monitoring
- x. Stronger partnerships with international organizations (e.g., UN Tourism, UNESCO, OIC)
- xi. Diversified tourism financing, including reactivation of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund

HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The ECO remains committed to advancing human resources and sustainable development (HRSD) through regional cooperation in sustainable development, disaster risk reduction (DRR), health and education. Aligned with the UN SDGs, ECO initiatives have included the establishment of key policy frameworks and institutions such as the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters and action plans on health and education. Emphasis is placed on policy coherence, institutional capacity-building and inclusive partnerships to improve well-being, enhance resilience and promote lifelong learning across the region.

Vision Statement

ECO aims to build an inclusive, resilient and knowledge-driven region, where sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health and education systems are strengthened through the active participation and empowerment of youth and women, ensuring equitable social welfare and long-term regional prosperity.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Promote policy coherence for sustainable development by aligning local, regional, and international efforts to effectively address SDG challenges and enhance regional cooperation.



- ⊙ Tackle migration, poverty, inequality, family institution and population dynamics by adopting inclusive social protection and environmental policies to improve living standards and overall well-being.
- ⊙ Establish a regional disaster risk reduction system to minimize disaster-related losses in lives and assets through integrated preparedness and response mechanisms.
- ⊙ Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, innovation, and participation in development, entrepreneurship, and climate action for inclusive and resilient communities.
- ⊙ Strengthen regional health cooperation by addressing non-communicable diseases and advancing equitable, inclusive universal health coverage systems.
- ⊙ Advance regional education and skills development by establishing frameworks for higher education, vocational training, and capacity-building, with a focus on youth and women's empowerment.
- ⊙ [Develop sustainable policies for the management of shared water resources and safeguard the rights of water users among ECO member states to ensure equitable and efficient utilization by 2035.](#)

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Sustainable Development
 - Develop a regional action plan for SDG-aligned policy coherence and monitor its implementation.
 - Institutionalize the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development to share experiences and challenges.
 - Address migration, poverty, inequality, family institution, and sustainable population growth.
 - Promote youth and women's empowerment for inclusive development.
 - Strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations on SDG practices.
 - [Promote sustainable development policies in the management of shared water resources and protection of water users' rights to ensure fair access and long-term resource preservation in the ECO region.](#)
- ⊙ Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
 - Revise and monitor the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and its five-year roadmap.
 - Enhance the capacity and operational effectiveness of the ECO-RCRM.
 - Improve intergovernmental collaboration on DRR efforts.
 - Foster partnerships with global and regional organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.
- ⊙ Health
 - Update and implement the ECO Health Action Plan based on Member States' needs.



- Build strong partnerships with WHO and other key organizations for technical and financial support.
- Establish a Regional Consultation Mechanism for better cooperation on communicable diseases.

⊙ Education

- Develop and implement an action plan for internationalizing higher education in the ECO Region.
- Strengthen collaboration with ECO educational institutions and global partners.
- Conduct targeted training and capacity-building initiatives, with a focus on youth and women.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Improved regional policy coherence on SDGs through actionable frameworks and coordinated implementation mechanisms.
- ii. Enhanced disaster resilience via a functional ECO Regional DRR system and operational ECO-RCRM.
- iii. Expanded universal health coverage and strengthened response to non-communicable and communicable diseases through regional collaboration and the updated ECO Health Action Plan.
- iv. Elevated quality and access to education, including vocational and higher education, with increased youth and women's participation and institutional cooperation.
- v. Greater inclusion of youth and women in leadership, innovation and regional policy processes across all HRSD priority areas.
- vi. Operationalized regional platforms like the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development and ECO Youth Engagement Mechanism for cross-sector collaboration.
- vii. Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, using data-driven tools to track progress on DRR, health, education and SDG implementation.
- viii. Increased mobilization of resources and institutional capacity through strategic partnerships with UN bodies, development banks and civil society.
- ix. Mainstreamed cross-sectoral linkages, connecting HRSD with climate action, trade, agriculture and energy for integrated development outcomes.
- x. [Sustainable management of shared water resources and protection of water users' rights, ensuring equitable access and long-term preservation of vital water assets in the ECO region.](#)

ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

Economic Research and Statistics (ERS) has emerged as an important ECO pillar, advancing evidence-based policymaking and regional integration. Through platforms like the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER), Meetings of Heads of National Statistics Offices (HNSO) and the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Statistics, along with key outputs such as the Annual Economic Reports, ERS supports informed decision-making across the region. The forthcoming ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku

and the revitalized ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) will further strengthen ECO's analytical and intellectual foundation.

Vision Statement

~~To position ERS as a cornerstone for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, the Vision must explicitly address three key issues. First, it will focus on data harmonization and quality by establishing a common framework for data collection to ensure statistics are comparable and reliable across the region. Second, to address varying technical capacities, the Vision commits to capacity building and technical expertise through targeted training programs and knowledge-sharing initiatives for national statistical offices. Finally, it will bridge the policy-research divide by creating user-friendly platforms and fostering direct dialogue between researchers and policymakers, ensuring that high-quality data is effectively translated into actionable insights for all member states.~~

~~To position ERS as a cornerstone for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development in the ECO region by enhancing regional economic analysis, promoting data driven policymaking and fostering deeper cooperation through high quality research, statistics and dialogue among Member States.~~

Strategic Objectives

- ~~Operationalize the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku as a regional hub for economic research and innovation, with a specific mandate to produce applied research that addresses critical data gaps in intra-regional trade, investment flows, and sustainable development indicators.~~
- ~~Operationalize the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku as a regional hub for economic research and innovation.~~
- Elevate the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) into a peer-reviewed internationally recognized publication, with a focused agenda on translating research findings into tangible policy recommendations..
- .
- Institutionalize the ECO Think-Tank Forum, making it a recurring, high-level platform hosted across Member States, with a focused agenda on translating research findings into tangible policy recommendations.;
- Produce applied research and analytical publications focused on key regional priorities such as trade, investment, transport, climate change, green economy, regional security, and food and water security. This will be supported by a commitment to using harmonized, high-quality data.
- .
- Strengthen capacity building and knowledge exchange among national statistics offices and economic institutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Regional Economic Analysis
 - Strengthen data collection and harmonization across Member States. This should include a commitment to overcoming data quality and comparability challenges by adopting common statistical standards and methodologies.



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- Develop comparative studies and benchmarking tools to support policy decisions, while also addressing data gaps and a lack of standardized reporting. This ensures the analysis is comprehensive and reliable.



○ Strategic Publications and Research

- Focus on actionable research in trade, investment, sustainable development, transport, logistics, energy and resilience, while ensuring the research agenda is responsive to the real-time needs and emerging crises of the region.



- Explore the socio-economic impacts of regional initiatives and global trends on ECO countries, with a particular focus on capacity building to ensure all member states can effectively contribute to and benefit from this research.



○ Capacity Building and Networking

- Support training, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among statistical offices and research institutions.
- Encourage youth and academic engagement through fellowships and research opportunities.

Expected Outcomes:

ix. Full operationalization of the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) as a regional hub for economic research and innovation and a clear mandate to produce applied research that directly informs policy.



x. Establishment of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) as a respected, peer-reviewed international publication, achieved by implementing a rigorous editorial process and securing indexation in globally recognized academic databases.



xi. Regular convening of the ECO Think-Tank Forum as a key platform for high-level policy dialogue and research exchange, with a focus on ensuring diverse representation and a mechanism for translating forum discussions into concrete policy recommendations.

xii. Enhanced regional data harmonization and strengthened capacity of national statistics offices to support evidence-based policymaking, overcoming existing issues of data quality and comparability through technical assistance and a shared data framework.



xiii. Production of applied research and analytical reports addressing priority regional issues including trade, investment, climate change, green economy and food and water security, including trade, investment, climate change, green economy, and food and

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water security, while ensuring that this research is accessible and easily understood by policymakers.

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xii. Increased engagement of youth, women, businesses and academia in economic research through fellowships, advisory panels and collaborative networks, facilitated by a targeted outreach strategy and the removal of systemic barriers to participation.

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xv. Development and launch of a digital ECO Statistics and Research Portal to improve transparency, data sharing and monitoring of regional progress, while also addressing data security and privacy concerns.

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xvi. Strengthened partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions and the private sector for co-funded research and knowledge exchange, by establishing a clear and transparent partnership framework that defines mutual goals and resource commitments.

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JUDICIAL & PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND EAPA

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan (JPC&EAPA) are key to strengthening judicial, law enforcement, and legislative cooperation among ECO Member States, promoting regional peace, security and sustainable development. Achievements during Vision 2025 include establishing the Plan of Interaction among Attorneys/Prosecutors General to combat transnational crime, advancing the operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), strengthening legislative cooperation via the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO) and its Charter, and successfully implementing the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan. Challenges persist, including delays in RCCACO's full operation, the absence of ECOPOL, and suspended activities in Afghanistan.

Vision Statement

Judicial cooperation, anti-corruption frameworks, law enforcement coordination and parliamentary collaboration across the ECO Member States will be institutionalized and strengthened. These efforts will foster a secure and rules-based regional environment conducive to economic integration. ECO will also work to reintegrate Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, ensuring sustained regional support for its stability, prosperity, economic growth and sustainable development.

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance regional judicial cooperation among ECO Member States through institutional mechanisms and coordinated frameworks.
- ⦿ Foster effective cooperation in the prevention of financial and organized crimes via operational platforms like RCCACO and ECOPOL.
- ⦿ Promote legislative coordination among ECO parliaments through the institutional strengthening of PAECO.
- ⦿ Sustain regional commitment to Afghanistan's development and reengagement with ECO.
- ⦿ Build the institutional capacities of judicial and law enforcement agencies across the region through comprehensive training programs, enhanced resource allocation and improved inter-agency collaboration.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Judicial and Anti-Corruption Cooperation: Implement the Plan of Interaction and operationalize RCCACO to tackle financial and organized crimes.
- ⦿ Law Enforcement Coordination: Establish or substitute ECOPOL to improve intelligence and operational collaboration among law enforcement agencies.
- ⦿ Parliamentary Engagement: Strengthen the mandate and functioning of PAECO, encouraging all Member States to ratify the Charter.
- ⦿ Capacity Building: Expand training and knowledge-sharing programs to address emerging legal challenges (e.g., cybercrime, financial crime).
- ⦿ Afghanistan Engagement: Facilitate dialogue and support mechanisms to enable Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, subject to Member State consensus.



Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened regional judicial cooperation through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination among Member States' prosecutorial offices.
- ii. Effective establishment and functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), boosting anti-corruption efforts across the region.
- iii. Development of a robust regional law enforcement coordination platform (ECOPOL or alternative) to improve intelligence sharing and cross-border crime prevention.
- iv. Increased legislative collaboration through full ratification and active engagement within the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO), supporting harmonized policies and rule of law.
- v. Expanded capacity-building programs targeting emerging challenges such as cybercrime, financial crimes and organized crime, enhancing institutional competencies.
- vi. Successful reintegration of Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, enabling its meaningful participation in regional judicial, legislative and security cooperation.
- vii. Sustained multi-stakeholder partnerships with international organizations and donors to ensure financial sustainability and technical support.
- viii. Enhanced inclusion of women and youth in legislative processes via PAECO's dedicated committees, promoting diversity and regional stability.
- ix. Regular monitoring and reporting frameworks established to track progress on judicial cooperation, anti-corruption initiatives, parliamentary activities and Afghanistan's engagement.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

In today's interconnected world, challenges like technological change and population growth transcend national borders, making regional cooperation essential. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), with its ten member states, faces shared transboundary issues that require regional collaboration. Strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations and implementing existing cooperation frameworks are vital for effectively addressing these challenges.

Despite being one of the oldest regional groupings, ECO struggles with low visibility and impact. Enhancing its presence through streamlined web content, increased media engagement, and active participation in international forums will boost its profile. Moreover, fully activating and coordinating ECO's 24 subsidiary bodies will promote a unified, effective approach to achieving its goals.

Vision Statement

ECO aims to harness regional collaboration to tackle global and regional challenges, promoting sustainable development through strengthened and new partnerships. Committed to boosting its visibility and impact, ECO will enhance media engagement and actively participate in international events, fostering a cooperative and inclusive community for collective progress and a sustainable future.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Strengthening existing partnerships by actively participating in collaborative programs and initiatives.
- ⊙ Establishing new agreements with international organizations which are beyond ECO's ambit.
- ⊙ Increasing media presence through interaction, digital outreach, better material and publications
- ⊙ Streamlining web content to effectively communicate ECO's mission, achievements, activities and ongoing projects.
- ⊙ Engaging in international events to represent ECO's interests and showcase its contributions.
- ⊙ Hosting side events at international events to make most participation
- ⊙ Strengthening and fully operationalizing the ECO bodies
- ⊙ Improving coordination among ECO bodies and with the Secretariat to maximize organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ **Increasing Synergies**
 - Developing a centralized digital platform, featuring shared calendars, document repositories, and project management tools, to facilitate seamless coordination among the ECO Secretariat and ECO bodies.



⦿ **Strengthening Subsidiary Agencies**

- Launching targeted outreach programs such as presentations, regional workshops, and bilateral meetings, to engage potential Member States, highlighting the benefits of joining ECO Subsidiary Agencies.
- Offering training and development programs to enhance the capabilities of agency staff and member representatives.

⦿ **Hosting Sideline Events**

- Developing and publishing an annual calendar of sideline events at major international forums.
- Collaborating with regional and international organizations and host countries to co-organize events that align with global agendas and ECO priorities.
- Planning and executing at least two sideline events annually at major UN conferences and member state-hosted events.

⦿ **Media Engagement and Presence**

- Establishing a dedicated media team to manage public relations and increase ECO's visibility.
- Developing a comprehensive media strategy to engage with international media outlets and promote ECO initiatives.
- Utilizing social media platforms to share updates, success stories, and upcoming events to reach a wider audience.
- Organizing press conferences and media briefings to highlight key achievements and upcoming projects.
- Creating engaging content, such as videos and infographics, to effectively communicate ECO's impact and goals.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened existing collaborations and new agreements with international organizations will improve ECO's capacity to address transboundary challenges effectively.
- ii. ECO's media presence, web content, and participation in international forums will be significantly enhanced, raising public awareness and stakeholder engagement.
- iii. All ECO subsidiary agencies will be active and well-coordinated, promoting organizational efficiency and cohesive implementation of ECO's mandates.
- iv. Centralized digital platforms and streamlined communication channels will enable seamless cooperation among the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies, and member states.
- v. A dedicated media team and comprehensive communication strategy will effectively promote ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.



Science, Education and Culture

Introduction

Building upon the mandates of ECO Foundation, the ECO Educational Institute and the ECO Cultural Institute outlined our collective commitment to advancing cutting-edge research, facilitating the digital transformation of education and strengthening cultural diplomacy. These efforts will serve as key catalysts for fostering shared innovation, social cohesion and sustained growth across the region.

Vision Statement

To establish the ECO region as a knowledge - based, culturally vibrant and inclusive community by 2035, where advanced scientific research, equitable education, and shared cultural heritage serve as the foundational pillars of regional integration, innovation, and sustainable development

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Elevate Regional Research: To promote regional research cooperation in priority domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Circular Economy, Green Technologies and Smart Cities through the establishment of joint centers of excellence, coordinated by the ECO Science Foundation.
- ⊙ Accelerate Digital Transformation: To transform digitally education and research by launching inclusive regional platforms that prioritize underserved and less-developed areas, under the guidance of the ECO Educational Institute.
- ⊙ Strengthen Cultural Diplomacy: To reinforce cultural diplomacy and civilizational dialogue by leveraging the region's shared historical and cultural heritage, particularly along historic routes such as the Silk Road, led exclusively by the ECO Cultural Institute.
- ⊙ Empower Youth and Women: To empower youth and women as primary drivers of sustainable development through scholarships, academic exchange programs, and green/climate education initiatives, in a collaborative effort among the three ECO institutions.
- ⊙ Cultivate International Partnerships: To attract international collaborations and mobilize resources from organizations such as UNESCO, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, and global academic networks, with coordination provided by the ECO Regional Committee and specialized contributions from each institution.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

ECO Science Foundation (Islamabad)

- ⊙ Establish 5 joint regional research centers by 2030.
- ⊙ Form a regional university network with a minimum of 20 member universities by 2032.
- ⊙ Expand scholarship and research fellowship programs in emerging technologies.

ECO Educational Institute (Ankara)

- Launch the ECO Regional Digital Education and Research Platform with multilingual content.
- Design and implement green and sustainability education programs in cooperation with the ECO Science Foundation and the ECO Cultural Institute.

ECO Cultural Institute (Tehran)

- Organize regular regional events focused on culture, arts, sports, and tourism to highlight our shared heritage.
- Produce and disseminate multilingual media content.

Expected Outcomes

- 5 regional research centers to become operational by 2030.

- [A 60% increase in student and researcher participation in academic exchanges by 2035.](#)
- [80% coverage of underserved areas by the digital education platform by 2028.](#)
- [The delivery of 8 cultural festivals and 10 co-produced media works by 2035.](#)
- [The mobilization of USD 15 million in international resources by 2035.](#)
- [The training of 100,000 youth and women in green and sustainability programs by 2035.](#)
- [The participation of at least 20 universities in the ECO University Network by 2032.](#)
- [A 20% improvement in the ECO region's Global Innovation Index \(GII\) ranking by 2035.](#)
- [ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.](#)





№ 5-016/26

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 Notes Verbale No. ECO/2025/781, dated May 21, 2025, and ECO/2025/1043, dated 02.07.2025, as well as to its previous Note Verbale No. 5-099/25, dated October 22, 2025, regarding the submission of comments and suggestions on the Draft ECO Vision 2035 (Concept Note titled "Broadening Participation in the Formulation of ECO Vision 2026-2035") has the honor to convey herewith in the appendix updated comments and suggestions of the Azerbaijani side on the said document for further consideration.

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.

Enclosure: 25 pages

February 19, 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization
Tehran





ECO VISION 2026-2035





ECO VISION 2025

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2017, ECO Vision 2025 served as a strategic framework guiding the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) toward sustainable economic growth, enhanced regional connectivity, and deeper socio-economic development. It focused on key sectors such as trade & investment, transport & connectivity, energy & environment, tourism, economic growth & productivity, and social welfare. The Vision aimed to align regional efforts with global sustainable development goals, supported by structured monitoring mechanisms.

While implementation remained uneven across sectors, moderate progress was witnessed in trade sector, whereas notable advancements were seen in regional energy cooperation, corridors development, agriculture & food security, tourism promotion, etc. Financial constraints and insufficient engagement by Member States emerged as recurring challenges. The ECO Vision Midterm Review in 2021 and the ECO Vision Review Committee in 2024 identified both accomplishments and gaps, leading to prioritized efforts in the final phase.

The deliberative process laid the foundation for formulating a more inclusive, responsive and target-based strategy for the upcoming decade, with stronger ownership, realistic goals and enhanced regional collaboration at its core.



ECO VISION 2035

OVERVIEW

The formulation of ECO Vision 2035 represents a renewed opportunity to articulate a forward-looking regional strategy that is both ambitious and grounded in practical realities. Building on the experiences and outcomes of Vision 2025, the new vision is designed to address the evolving socio-economic landscape, regional and global dynamics. Mandated by the 28th Council of Ministers Meeting, ECO Strategy for 2026-2035 aims to guide the Organization toward a future characterized by sustainable development, deeper regional integration and equitable prosperity for all member states.

Central to the development of this Vision is a strong commitment to inclusivity and participatory governance. While Vision 2025 largely emerged from intergovernmental dialogues, the new strategic process places greater emphasis on engaging various societal groups to ensure a multidimensional and responsive approach. To broaden the ownership of the new Vision, an inclusive approach to formulate the document has been developed.

In addition to reaffirming ongoing priorities, the new document incorporates several emerging areas that were not featured in ECO Vision 2025 but have been actively pursued in the years since. These include economic research & statistics (ERS), international relations (IR), judicial and parliamentary cooperation (JPC), the ECO Advocacy Program for Afghanistan (EAPA) and human resources and sustainable development (HRSD). This reflects the Organization's broader and more integrated strategic outlook for the coming decade.



VISION ANCHORS

Advancing Sustainability

- ECO is committed to fostering sustainable, inclusive growth by aligning regional efforts with global development goals. The focus will be on addressing regional priorities while ensuring that progress is balanced with environmental responsibility, social equity and long-term economic resilience. A stable and peaceful environment remains a fundamental pillar for this sustainable development.

Strengthening Regional Integration

- Our diverse region holds immense potential for economic cooperation. ECO will work to deepen regional integration through enhanced infrastructure, harmonized policies and collaborative initiatives. By building on cultural ties and shared interests, ECO aims to create a more cohesive economic space that benefits all member states, encouraging mutual growth and stability.

Fostering Innovation and Inclusive Growth

- To promote entrepreneurship, job creation and innovation, ECO will create an enabling environment supported by transparent governance and equitable access. This includes empowering local businesses, enhancing education and skills development and fostering technological advancements. By nurturing a business-friendly climate, ECO seeks to drive inclusive development that benefits all sectors of society.



SECTORAL APPROACH

In formulating ECO Vision 2035, a structured and comprehensive approach has been applied to develop sector-specific strategies that align with the Organization's long-term goals. This approach ensures that each sector's role is clearly defined within the broader framework of ECO, building on the lessons and achievements of Vision 2025 while addressing the challenges encountered during its implementation. By reflecting on the past, the new Vision provides a target-specific strategy for regional cooperation and development, with a sharper focus on inclusivity, sustainability and innovation.

The process involved developing clear and forward-looking vision statements for each sector, ensuring that these are realistic, measurable and impactful. Strategic objectives have been identified to guide each sector, with a focus on achievable outcomes by 2035. Priority areas and policy focus, along with expected outcomes are outlined to ensure that each sector addresses areas requiring immediate and sustained attention. The following sectors form the foundation for the targeted actions of the new Vision:





TRADE & INVESTMENT

Introduction

Trade is the main driver of economic growth. While the ECO region has made notable strides, challenges such as the absence of a fully operational preferential trading system, high trade costs due to high intra regional tariffs and non-tariff barriers, banking and payment issues, and inadequate financing continue to hinder progress. Global shifts toward protectionism and re-defined trade norms further impact the region's trade performance. Despite contributing over USD 1 trillion to global trade for three consecutive years, intra-regional trade remains low at just 8.8%, signaling untapped potential.

To realize this potential, the region must accelerate efforts for implement preferential trade under ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), implement effective trade facilitation framework, harmonize standards, ensuring efficient trade payment systems, and promoting FDI in priority sectors.

Noteworthy progress has been made under ECO Vision 2025, with ongoing negotiations to amend and update ECOTA, finalize the Trade Facilitation Strategy/ Agreement, and launch joint trade promotion events—laying the foundation for a more integrated, resilient and dynamic trade and investment landscape by 2035

Vision Statement

To achieve sustainable growth with greater and greener intra-regional trade in the ECO region and contribute to the global trade commensurate to the potential of the region.

Strategic Objectives

To ensure sustainable increase in intra-regional trade with an efficient and operational preferential trading system under ECOTA and its progressive liberalization to a Free Trade Area, and increase ECO share in the global trade by diversifying the regions' exports.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Enhanced Intra Regional Trade through:
 - Operationalization of Preferential Trade in the region under ECOTA and expanding its coverage to an ECO Free Trade Area.
 - Strengthening Trade Facilitation by implementing Trade Facilitation Strategy/Agreement. with a view to reduce non-tariff costs through automation of procedures, harmonization of policies, and create incentives for FDI into flow into the region
 - Implement Joint Trade Promotion activities in the ECO by organizing meaningful trade promotion events in the region.
 - Adopting regional quality policy drafted by ECO-UNIDO Joint Trade Capacity Building Project, and fully operationalizing the ECO-RISCAM to promote harmonized standards, conformity assessment procedures and best practices in the region for risk free, predictable and cost effective intra-regional trade.
 - Strengthen the role of ECO Trade Development Bank, to bolster project funding in trade sector. To build collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional



organizations for financing the priority projects in priority areas with active role of ECO TDB.

- To set up financing for infrastructure development to create strategic partnerships with other international and regional organization and address shared challenges and goals by 2035.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Operationalization of the updated ECOTA, and its progressive liberalization into a Free Trade Area to significantly increase intra-regional trade.
- ii. Implementation of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy/ Agreement.
- iii. Implementation of ECO agreements in Customs cooperation for harmonization of customs procedures, use of EDI and digital trade, mutual administrative assistance etc.
- iv. Full operationalization of ECO-RISCAM and adoption of a regional quality policy to streamline conformity assessment and boost trade in industrial and agricultural products.
- v. Implementation of APPI to attract FDI in priority sectors.
- vi. Enhanced role of the ECO TDB in financing trade and investment projects, supported by Member States and development partners for financial sustainability.
- vii. Development of regionally connected value chains through improved FTZs/ SEZs and infrastructure and strategic partnerships, enhancing trade competitiveness and resilience.
- viii. To operationalize the ECO Re-insurance Company for secure trade in the region.
- ix. Stronger coordination mechanisms involving the ECO Secretariat, Member States, and private sector stakeholders for effective policy implementation and initiative ownership.
- x. Inclusion of trade in services, such as tourism, within future free trade agreements, contributing to a broader and more dynamic regional trade ecosystem.



TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

The transport and ICT sectors are vital enablers of regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development in the ECO region. They are both self-completed and overwhelming, thus fairly suggested to be divided operationally by decision of ECO Foreign Ministers at their last meeting (Mashhad Communiqué). In the meantime, until the division is completed the Secretariat's Transport and Communications Directorate will keep working in this unified domain. Enhancing physical connectivity through efficient regional transport systems and boosting digital integration via harmonized ICT policies are central goals. Notable progress has been made in operationalizing transport corridors and upgrading infrastructure, though challenges remain in customs inefficiencies, policy harmonization, and limited private sector engagement. Together, transport facilitates trade and mobility, while ICT drives innovation, competitiveness, and digital connectivity across member states.

Vision Statement

To establish a seamlessly connected and integrated ECO region by enhancing road, rail, air and maritime transport networks, supported by smart ICT systems. This comprehensive approach to regional connectivity aims to facilitate efficient cross-border movement of goods and people, strengthen economic interdependence and promote sustainable development. By aligning infrastructure and policy frameworks, the initiative seeks to deepen regional integration and cooperation among ECO member states.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Ensure full operationalization and commercialization of the major ECO transport corridors, through infrastructure upgrades and legal frameworks. It is essential to streamline customs and transportation-associated procedures.
- ⊙ Harmonize transport regulations and digitalize border crossing procedures across ECO member states, through coordinated implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- ⊙ Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across all ECO member states by 2030, with special focus on rural and underserved areas through public-private investment partnerships.
- ⊙ Develop and launch a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance, and knowledge-sharing, enabling secure data exchange and fostering digital entrepreneurship across ECO countries.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Ensure the full and active participation of all ECO member states in the comprehensive implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), with the aim of harmonizing customs and transit regulations, reducing delays and facilitating seamless cross-border movement.
- ⊙ Prioritize investment in regional corridors, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multilateral funding to upgrade and expand transport infrastructure across corridors.
- ⊙ Develop ECO Gates - multimodal logistic hubs, Caspian and open seaports, inland dry ports, encourage interoperability in transport systems and equipment, and align technical



standards across member states to ensure integrated road, rail, sea and air networks for seamless transport.

- ⊙ Develop common cyber-security standards and establish regional data protection as well as regulatory frameworks to strengthen the regional digital ecosystem.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Full operationalization and commercialization of major ECO transport corridors through infrastructure upgrades and harmonized regulations.
- ii. Streamlined and digitalized border procedures across all member states under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- iii. Establishment of multimodal logistics hubs (ECO Gates), integrated transport networks (road, rail, sea, air) and reduced cross-border transit time.
- iv. Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across ECO member states by 2030, with improved digital access in rural areas.
- v. Launch of a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance and innovation, supporting secure data exchange and entrepreneurship.
- vi. Adoption of cyber security and data protection standards to enhance the digital ecosystem.
- vii. Strengthened public-private partnerships and increased investment in smart infrastructure and ICT-enabled services.
- viii. Enhanced regional cooperation in transport, trade, tourism, agriculture, education and health through improved physical and digital connectivity.



ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Regional cooperation in energy, minerals, and environment is vital for sustainable development in the ECO region. Energy has always been a priority area of cooperation within ECO since its inception. Availing abundant traditional and renewable energy resources, ECO aims to increase energy market integration and enhance the energy security through adequate, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supplies in the region. Over the past decade, ECO has been mainstreaming sustainable energy transition and low-carbon development model in its overall energy agenda. The regional transition journey has started, however a multiplicity of political, economic, and social challenges persist in this pathway. The mineral sector, a key driver of industrial growth, also holds untapped potential for regional collaboration. The ECO countries encounter significant environmental and climate challenges, which have necessitated enhanced collaboration for ecological protection in the ECO region. The environment and impacts of climate change were designated as ECO's cross-sectoral priority. ECO countries must responsibly harness energy and mineral resources while advancing ecological protection and contributing to global climate resilience efforts.

Vision Statement

To foster a thriving, sustainable, and resilient ECO region via responsible management of energy and mineral resources, pursuing the irreversible just and sustainable energy transition and stronger energy-environment nexus approach to promote economic development, protect the environment for future generations, and collaboratively tackle climate change while enhancing regional cohesion.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade: ECO will facilitate diversification of energy mix, improving energy connectivity, enabling and upgrading policy and regulatory framework, and strengthening the role of ECO region in global energy architecture.
- ⊙ Create Regional Power System Connectivity and Electricity Market: Multilateral and multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources will be established gradually at the sub-regional and regional levels through harmonization and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral electricity grids under the single platform.
- ⊙ Mainstream Sustainable Energy Transition: ECO will support unlocking the ECO region's renewable energy and energy efficiency potential, market expansion and transformation of sustainable energy into local energy value chains, and creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments, particularly via the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⊙ Forge Sustainable Resource Management: ECO will contribute to the sustainable management of mineral resources in the ECO region underpinned by a set of regional actions and a multi-year ECO Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation, to be adopted and implemented.
- ⊙ Strengthen Environmental Protection and Resilience to tackle the triple planetary crisis - climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss: ECO will develop regional regulations to improve resource efficiency and manage emissions, waste, and other pollutants from various activities, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health. Furthermore, the robust collective attitude that engages the entire region in environmental action on climate, biodiversity, desertification and other relevant areas will be achieved to enable ECO to be recognized as a regional group/partner in the global environmental community.



Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Sustainable energy transition, particularly policy, capacity development and knowledge management, as well as market and investment promotion in renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure, services, businesses and industry with the strong support of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⊙ Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market, most notably multilateral, multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources for harnessing the benefits of larger integrated systems.
- ⊙ Sustainable resource management with the focus on creating stronger regulatory environment, investing in sustainable mining practices and technologies, and bolstering multi-stakeholder approach and international partnerships, as well as capacity-building and public awareness-raising in minerals.
- ⊙ Environmental protection and shift to low-carbon development model, including integration and mainstreaming environmental safeguards into national development plans and projects, promotion of a regional cooperation platform that will advocate for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, and implementation of climate action on adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Enhanced regional energy security and sustainability through expanded access, diversified energy mix, improved connectivity and strengthened policies aligned with global energy trends.
- ii. Established integrated regional power system and electricity market, enabling multilateral and multidirectional power trading and better integration of renewable energy resources.
 - i. More diverse and resilient energy architecture will be supported through accelerated sustainable energy transition by unlocking regional renewables potential, expanding markets, transforming local value chains and attracting investments via dedicated ECO clean energy initiatives, including ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- iii. More diverse and resilient energy architecture will be supported through accelerated sustainable energy transition by unlocking regional renewables potential, expanding markets, transforming local value chains and attracting investments via dedicated ECO clean energy initiatives.
- iv. Improved sustainable mineral resource management guided by a multi-year regional cooperation roadmap, fostering responsible mining practices and technological innovation.
- v. Strengthened environmental protection and resilience with regional regulations targeting resource efficiency, emission and pollution control, ecosystem preservation and coordinated climate change, biodiversity and desertification actions.
- vi. Developed robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and tailored action plans aligned with the strategic objectives through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government, private sector and communities.
- vii. Mobilized sustainable financing and public-private partnerships to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.



vii.viii. Addressed major resource-related challenges, most notably adequate and reliable financing, human and institutional capacity underpinned by knowledge and science, and effective use of available resources.

viii.ix. Mobilized sustainable financing from domestic and international sources, public-private partnerships and regional funds to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.

ix.x. Integrated ECO strategies with global sustainability agendas (e.g., SDGs, Paris Agreement, Baku Climate Unity Pact) and established monitoring systems for transparent progress tracking.

x.xi. Engaged businesses, youth, women, and researchers actively in environmental sustainability and sector development, fostering innovation, advocacy, capacity-building and inclusive participation.

xi.xii. Strengthened regional and international partnerships to enhance technology transfer, build indigenous green technology ecosystems, and promote circular economy and just transition principles that leaves no one behind.



AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

Introduction

Agriculture and industry are vital to the ECO region's economic growth but face challenges from environmental degradation, climate change, demographic shifts and evolving consumption patterns. These issues are intensified by global policy shocks, trade barriers and unequal technology access. Persistent disparities in industrialization and technology, coupled with limited collaboration and inconsistent standards, hinder balanced development. To address this, the ECO region must enhance financial and technical support, deepen regional integration, secure sustainable funding and harmonize standards. Attracting innovation, partnerships and FDI within a supportive environment is crucial for expanding trade and investment.

Vision Statement

The ECO region will enhance its collaborative capacity to drive sustainable economic growth, boost productivity and ensure food security through robust regional cooperation in the agriculture and industry sectors.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Enhance policy development and implementation capacity of Member States in agriculture and industry sectors for driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and productivity by 2035.
- ⊙ Foster cooperation through operationalized intra-regional platforms and strategic partnerships with other international and regional organizations, maximizing collective action to drive sectoral development and address shared challenges by 2035.
- ⊙ Strengthen regional food security and agricultural resilience through enhanced regional food security initiatives, seed supply, animal health, water management, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology capacities by 2035.
- ⊙ Advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development across priority sectors of common interest through promoting quality infrastructure, nanotechnology utilization, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement by 2035.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Enhanced Regional Food Security through:
 - Effective implementation of ECO-RPFS and operationalization of ECO-RCCFS.
 - Strengthening regional seed supply and trade.
 - Improving animal trade and veterinary services.
 - Promoting efficient water utilization in agriculture to address water scarcity challenges in the region.
 - Fostering regional meteorological cooperation to mitigate agriculture-related risks and shocks.
 - Encouraging application of agricultural biotechnology for increased productivity and sustainability.



- Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to leverage synergies and best practices.
- ⊙ Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
 - Establishing a robust and harmonized quality infrastructure across the region by fully operationalizing the ECO-RISCAM and its associated TMBs to promote harmonized regional standards and conformity assessment procedures.
 - Promoting the development and application of advanced technologies, including nanotechnology, in industrial sectors to address regional needs.
 - Strengthening industrial property rights to foster innovation.
 - Fostering MSMEs, startups, entrepreneurship and privatization to boost economic growth and employment as well as networking opportunities.
 - Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to leverage synergies and best practices.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened policy development and implementation capacities across Member States to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture and industry by 2035.
- ii. Enhanced regional cooperation through operational platforms and strategic partnerships, maximizing collective action on shared sectoral challenges.
- iii. Improved regional food security and agricultural resilience via better seed supply, animal health, water management, meteorological cooperation and biotechnology use.
- iv. Advanced, inclusive and sustainable industrial development focusing on quality infrastructure, nanotechnology, intellectual property, MSMEs, entrepreneurship and private sector engagement.
- v. Established and harmonized regional standards and quality infrastructure supporting efficient trade and innovation.
- vi. Increased financial sustainability through the ECO Vision Fund and strengthened partnerships with multilateral donors and UN agencies for technical and financial support.
- vii. Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensuring transparency, measurable progress and alignment with Member States' priorities.
- viii. Greater engagement and empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and industry, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and inclusive economic transformation.
- ix. Improved coordination, communication and accountability mechanisms among Member States and ECO bodies for effective implementation and timely decision-making.



TOURISM

Introduction

Tourism plays a significant role within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) framework, significantly contributing to economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional connectivity among ECO Member States. Despite the advancements achieved under ECO Vision 2025, challenges persist, including inconsistent tourism policies, inadequate infrastructure and connectivity and limited regional marketing efforts. The strategic importance of tourism in regional cooperation and integration is evident in its capacity to drive economic development, promote cultural heritage and strengthen people-to-people connections across the ECO region.

Vision Statement

To establish the ECO region as a premier sustainable tourism destination by 2035, leveraging its cultural heritage and natural beauty to drive economic growth, promote regional identity and foster connectivity.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Promote Sustainable Tourism Practices while Enhancing the Competitiveness of the ECO Region.
- ⊙ The ECO region is home to a rich cultural and natural heritage, which must be preserved and promoted through sustainable tourism initiatives. Strengthening regional cooperation among the Member States is essential to achieving environmentally responsible tourism while enhancing the global competitiveness of the ECO tourism products and services. Efforts will be made to encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders, with a focus on adopting eco-friendly policies and innovative sustainability models.
- ⊙ Strengthen Tourism Infrastructure: Robust tourism infrastructure is a fundamental requirement for ensuring seamless travel experiences and attracting a larger number of domestic and international visitors. To enhance regional tourism, investments in transportation, hospitality, digital infrastructure, and tourism services will be prioritized. A comprehensive needs assessment will be conducted to identify key infrastructure gaps and investment opportunities in the tourism sector. By 2035, the ECO Member States will work towards aligning regional infrastructure with international hospitality and transport standards modernizing travel and tourism facilities.
- ⊙ Boost Regional Tourism Marketing: The ECO region has immense tourism potential, but a lack of cohesive branding and marketing has limited its ability to attract global travelers. A well-coordinated marketing strategy will be implemented to increase global visibility and position of the ECO region as a unique, attractive, and sustainable tourism destination. A unified promotion campaign consisting of modern destination marketing tools will be launched, promoting the ECO region under a single, recognizable brand. This marketing strategy will be integrated into national tourism promotion efforts.
- ⊙ Enhance Connectivity for Tourism: Facilitating seamless travel experiences through integrated travel routes, visa facilitation, and collaborative tourism packages is critical for boosting cross-border tourism. Greater emphasis will be placed on regional tourism linkages to create an interconnected and accessible tourism network. The cooperation mechanisms will work to enhance intra-regional connectivity, particularly by improving transport links, visa facilitation processes, and digital travel platforms. Efforts will also focus on expanding direct flight routes, simplifying border procedures, and introducing digital visa solutions.



Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ **Regional Tourism Strategy:** Formulating a comprehensive ECO tourism development strategy that aligns with national tourism strategies of the Member States under the main tasks of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT).
- ⊙ **Human Resource Development:** Establishing training programs (workshops, seminars and training courses) for tourism professionals in collaboration with the members of the ECO Tourism Educational Network.
- ⊙ **Private Sector Involvement:** Supporting to creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.
- ⊙ **Innovative and Digital Transformation:** Contributing to the utilization of modern technologies such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence to enhance the tourism experience, including digital marketing, upskilling the tourism workforce with digital transformation.
- ⊙ **Inclusive Tourism Development:** Foster innovation and equitable growth by empowering women, youth and the private sector through inclusive policies and initiatives.

Expected Outcomes

Establishment of ECO as a premier sustainable tourism destination by 2035 via achieving following targets:

- i-ii. Growth in tourist arrivals from 102 million (2024) to 130 million by 2030 and 155 million by 2035.
- ii-iii. Increase in tourism's GDP contribution to 5% by 2035.
- iii-iv. Improved regional tourism infrastructure, achieving an average TTDI score increase from 3.76 (2024) to 4.25 by 2035.

Completion of the actions below for abovementioned strategic objectives including:

- i. Unified regional tourism marketing strategy implemented across all Member States.
- ii. Improved cross-border travel through simplified visa processes, expanded direct flight routes and integrated digital travel systems.
- iii. Adoption of sustainable tourism practices and eco-friendly policies.
- iv. Greater private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.
- v. Enhanced use of modern and digital technologies in tourism promotion and delivery.
- vi. Increased capacity and skills in tourism through training programs and workshops.
- vii. Empowerment of women, youth and communities in tourism development
- viii. Active engagement of stakeholders, including local communities and civil society
- ix. Operationalization of ECO-ACT for regional tourism coordination and monitoring
- x. Stronger partnerships with international organizations (e.g., UN Tourism, UNESCO, OIC)
- xi. Diversified tourism financing, including reactivation of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund



- vi-xii. Conduct training programs within the framework of ECO Tourism Educational Network to build capacities of tourism staff across member states

HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The ECO remains committed to advancing human resources and sustainable development (HRSD) through regional cooperation in sustainable development with special emphasis on health and education, as well as disaster risk reduction (DRR), health and education. Aligned with the UN SDGs, ECO initiatives have included the establishment of key policy frameworks and institutions such as the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters and action plans on health and education. Emphasis is placed on policy coherence, institutional capacity-building and inclusive partnerships to improve well-being, enhance resilience and promote lifelong learning across the region.

Vision Statement

ECO aims to build an inclusive, resilient and knowledge-driven region, where sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health and education systems are strengthened through the active participation and empowerment of youth and women, ensuring equitable social welfare and long-term regional prosperity.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Promote policy coherence for sustainable development by aligning local, regional, and international efforts to effectively address SDG challenges and enhance regional cooperation.
- ⊙ Tackle migration, human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality, maintain family institution and population dynamics by adopting inclusive social protection and environmental policies to improve living standards and overall well-being.
- ⊙ Advance transformative urban development across the ECO region by fostering sustainability, innovation and resilience, and by leveraging the unique opportunity presented by the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku in 2026 - the first global forum of this kind to take place in the region.
- ⊙ Establish a regional disaster risk reduction system to minimize disaster-related losses in lives and assets through integrated preparedness and response mechanisms.
- ⊙ Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, innovation, and participation in development, entrepreneurship, and climate action to promote inclusive and resilient communities, while sustaining Youth and Women's Forums launched at the ECO Summit 2025 in Khankendi, as key platforms for engagement and collaboration across the ECO region.
- ⊙ Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, innovation, and participation in development, entrepreneurship, and climate action for inclusive and resilient communities.
- ⊙ Strengthen regional health cooperation by addressing non-communicable diseases and advancing equitable, inclusive universal health coverage systems.



- ⊙ Advance regional education and skills development by establishing frameworks for higher education, vocational training, and capacity-building, with a focus on youth and women's empowerment.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

⊙ Sustainable Development

- Develop a regional action plan for SDG-aligned policy coherence and monitor its implementation.
- Institutionalize the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development to share experiences and challenges.
- Address migration, human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality, maintain family institution, and sustainable population growth.
- Promote youth and women's empowerment for inclusive development.
- Strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations on SDG practices.

⊙ Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Revise and monitor the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and its five-year roadmap.
- Enhance the capacity and operational effectiveness of the ECO-RCRM.
- Improve intergovernmental collaboration on DRR efforts.
- Foster partnerships with global and regional organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.

⊙ Health

- Update and implement the ECO Health Action Plan based on Member States' needs.
- Build strong partnerships with WHO and other key organizations for technical and financial support.
- Establish a Regional Consultation Mechanism for better cooperation on communicable diseases.

⊙ Education

- Develop and implement an action plan for internationalizing higher education in the ECO Region.
- Strengthen collaboration with ECO educational institutions and global partners.
- Conduct targeted training and capacity-building initiatives, with a focus on youth and women.

⊙ Culture

- Foster cultural cooperation to consolidate cultural affinities and common heritage that bind the people of the region, and mobilize ECO's contribution to Member States' initiatives on intercultural dialogue.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Improved regional policy coherence on SDGs through actionable frameworks and coordinated implementation mechanisms.
- ii. Enhanced disaster resilience via a functional ECO Regional DRR system and operational ECO-RCRM.



- iii. Expanded universal health coverage and strengthened response to non-communicable and communicable diseases through regional collaboration and the updated ECO Health Action Plan.
- iv. Elevated quality and access to education, including vocational and higher education, with increased youth and women's participation and institutional cooperation.
- v. Greater inclusion of youth and women in leadership, innovation and regional policy processes across all HRSD priority areas.
- vi. Operationalized regional platforms like the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development and ECO Youth Engagement Mechanism for cross-sector collaboration.
- vii. Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, using data-driven tools to track progress on DRR, health, education and SDG implementation.
- viii. Increased mobilization of resources and institutional capacity through strategic partnerships with UN bodies, development banks and civil society.
- ix. Mainstreamed cross-sectoral linkages, connecting HRSD with climate action, trade, agriculture and energy for integrated development outcomes.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

Economic Research and Statistics (ERS) has emerged as an important ECO pillar, advancing evidence-based policymaking and regional integration. Through platforms like the ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER), Meetings of Heads of National Statistics Offices (HNSO) and the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Statistics, along with key outputs such as the Annual Economic Reports, ERS supports informed decision-making across the region. The forthcoming ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku and the revitalized ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) will further strengthen ECO's analytical and intellectual foundation.

Vision Statement

To position ERS as a cornerstone for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development in the ECO region by enhancing regional economic analysis, promoting data-driven policymaking and fostering deeper cooperation through high-quality research, statistics and dialogue among Member States.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Operationalize the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku as a regional hub for economic research and innovation.
- ⊙ Elevate the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) into a peer-reviewed internationally recognized publication.
- ⊙ Institutionalize the ECO Think-Tank Forum, making it a recurring, high-level platform hosted across Member States.
- ⊙ Produce applied research and analytical publications focused on key regional priorities such as trade, investment, transport, climate change, green economy, regional security, and food and water security.



- ⊙ Strengthen capacity building and knowledge exchange among national statistics offices and economic institutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Regional Economic Analysis
 - Strengthen data collection and harmonization across Member States.
 - Develop comparative studies and benchmarking tools to support policy decisions.
- ⊙ Strategic Publications and Research
 - Focus on actionable research in trade, investment, sustainable development, transport, logistics, energy and resilience.
 - Explore the socio-economic impacts of regional initiatives and global trends on ECO countries.
- ⊙ Capacity Building and Networking
 - Support training, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among statistical offices and research institutions.
 - Encourage youth and academic engagement through fellowships and research opportunities.

Expected Outcomes:

- i. Full operationalization of the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) as a regional hub for economic research and innovation.
- ii. Establishment of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) as a respected, peer-reviewed international publication.
- iii. Regular convening of the ECO Think-Tank Forum as a key platform for high-level policy dialogue and research exchange.
- iv. Enhanced regional data harmonization and strengthened capacity of national statistics offices to support evidence-based policymaking.
- v. Production of applied research and analytical reports addressing priority regional issues including trade, investment, climate change, green economy and food and water security.
- vi. Increased engagement of youth, women, businesses and academia in economic research through fellowships, advisory panels and collaborative networks.
- vii. Development and launch of a digital ECO Statistics and Research Portal to improve transparency, data sharing and monitoring of regional progress.
- viii. Strengthened partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions and the private sector for co-funded research and knowledge exchange.

viii-ix. The publication of the result of research conducted on the identified priority sectors in the ECO's "Economy" journal.





JUDICIAL & PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND EAPA

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan (JPC&EAPA) are key to strengthening judicial, law enforcement, and legislative cooperation among ECO Member States, promoting regional peace, security and sustainable development. Achievements during Vision 2025 include establishing the Plan of Interaction among Attorneys/Prosecutors General to combat transnational crime, advancing the operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), strengthening legislative cooperation via the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO) and its Charter, and successfully implementing the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan. Challenges persist, including delays in RCCACO's full operation, the absence of ECOPOL, and suspended activities in Afghanistan.

Vision Statement

Judicial cooperation, anti-corruption frameworks, law enforcement coordination and parliamentary collaboration across the ECO Member States will be institutionalized and strengthened. These efforts will foster a secure and rules-based regional environment conducive to economic integration. ECO will also work to reintegrate Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, ensuring sustained regional support for its stability, prosperity, economic growth and sustainable development.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Enhance regional judicial cooperation among ECO Member States through institutional mechanisms and coordinated frameworks.
- ⊙ Foster effective cooperation in the prevention of financial and organized crimes via operational platforms like RCCACO and ECOPOL.
- ⊙ Promote legislative coordination among ECO parliaments through the institutional strengthening of PAECO.
- ⊙ Sustain regional commitment to Afghanistan's development and reengagement with ECO.
- ⊙ Build the institutional capacities of judicial and law enforcement agencies across the region through comprehensive training programs, enhanced resource allocation and improved inter-agency collaboration.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ **Judicial and Anti-Corruption Cooperation:** Implement the Plan of Interaction and operationalize RCCACO to tackle financial and organized crimes.
- ⊙ **Law Enforcement Coordination:** Establish or substitute ECOPOL to improve intelligence and operational collaboration among law enforcement agencies.
- ⊙ **Parliamentary Engagement:** Strengthen the mandate and functioning of PAECO, encouraging all Member States to ratify the Charter.
- ⊙ **Capacity Building:** Expand training and knowledge-sharing programs to address emerging legal challenges (e.g., cybercrime, financial crime).
- ⊙ **Afghanistan Engagement:** Facilitate dialogue and support mechanisms to enable Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, subject to Member State consensus.



Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened regional judicial cooperation through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination among Member States' prosecutorial offices.
- ii. Effective establishment and functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), boosting anti-corruption efforts across the region.
- iii. Development of a robust regional law enforcement coordination platform (ECOPOL or alternative) to improve intelligence sharing and cross-border crime prevention.
- iv. Increased legislative collaboration through full ratification and active engagement within the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO), supporting harmonized policies and rule of law.
- v. Expanded capacity-building programs targeting emerging challenges such as cybercrime, financial crimes and organized crime, enhancing institutional competencies.
- vi. Successful reintegration of Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, enabling its meaningful participation in regional judicial, legislative and security cooperation.
- vii. Sustained multi-stakeholder partnerships with international organizations and donors to ensure financial sustainability and technical support.
- viii. Enhanced inclusion of women and youth in legislative processes via PAECO's dedicated committees, promoting diversity and regional stability.
- ix. Regular monitoring and reporting frameworks established to track progress on judicial cooperation, anti-corruption initiatives, parliamentary activities and Afghanistan's engagement.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

In today's interconnected world, challenges like technological change and population growth transcend national borders, making regional cooperation essential. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), with its ten member states, faces shared transboundary issues that require regional collaboration. Strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations and implementing existing cooperation frameworks are vital for effectively addressing these challenges.

Despite being one of the oldest regional groupings, ECO struggles with low visibility and impact. Enhancing its presence through streamlined web content, increased media engagement, and active participation in international forums will boost its profile. Moreover, fully activating and coordinating ECO's 24 subsidiary bodies will promote a unified, effective approach to achieving its goals.

Vision Statement

ECO aims to harness regional collaboration to tackle global and regional challenges, promoting sustainable development through strengthened and new partnerships. Committed to boosting its visibility and impact, ECO will enhance media engagement and actively participate in international events, fostering a cooperative and inclusive community for collective progress and a sustainable future.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ Strengthening existing partnerships by actively participating in collaborative programs and initiatives.
- ⊙ Establishing new agreements with international organizations which are beyond ECO's ambit.
- ⊙ Increasing media presence through interaction, digital outreach, better material and publications
- ⊙ Streamlining web content to effectively communicate ECO's mission, achievements, activities and ongoing projects.
- ⊙ Engaging in international events to represent ECO's interests and showcase its contributions.
- ⊙ Hosting side events at international events to make most participation
- ⊙ Strengthening and fully operationalizing the ECO bodies
- ⊙ Improving coordination among ECO bodies and with the Secretariat to maximize organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ **Increasing Synergies**
 - Developing a centralized digital platform, featuring shared calendars, document repositories, and project management tools, to facilitate seamless coordination among the ECO Secretariat and ECO bodies.



⊙ **Strengthening Subsidiary Agencies**

- ✓ Launching targeted outreach programs such as presentations, regional workshops, and bilateral meetings, to engage potential Member States, highlighting the benefits of joining ECO Subsidiary Agencies.
- ✓ Offering training and development programs to enhance the capabilities of agency staff and member representatives.

⊙ **Hosting Sideline Events**

- ✓ Developing and publishing an annual calendar of sideline events at major international forums.
- ✓ Collaborating with regional and international organizations and host countries to co-organize events that align with global agendas and ECO priorities.
- ✓ Planning and executing at least two sideline events annually at major UN conferences and member state-hosted events.

⊙ **Media Engagement and Presence**

- ✓ Establishing a dedicated media team to manage public relations and increase ECO's visibility.
- ✓ Developing a comprehensive media strategy to engage with international media outlets and promote ECO initiatives.
- ✓ Utilizing social media platforms to share updates, success stories, and upcoming events to reach a wider audience.
- ✓ Organizing press conferences and media briefings to highlight key achievements and upcoming projects.
- ✓ Creating engaging content, such as videos and infographics, to effectively communicate ECO's impact and goals.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Strengthened existing collaborations and new agreements with international organizations will improve ECO's capacity to address transboundary challenges effectively.
- ii. ECO's media presence, web content, and participation in international forums will be significantly enhanced, raising public awareness and stakeholder engagement.
- iii. All ECO subsidiary agencies will be active and well-coordinated, promoting organizational efficiency and cohesive implementation of ECO's mandates.
- iv. Centralized digital platforms and streamlined communication channels will enable seamless cooperation among the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies, and member states.
- v. A dedicated media team and comprehensive communication strategy will effectively promote ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

Agenda Item No. 6

Discussion on Second Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC)

No: ADM /2026/85

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 1/2/2026

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 herewith the Report of the First Meeting of High Level Committee held on February 3, 2025, and finalized by the 303rd Meeting of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on January 27, 2026, for presentation to the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers (COM).

It is further noted that the 303rd CPR Meeting has also agreed to establish a dedicated Working Group to develop concrete reform proposals in line with the HLC's recommendations. The preparation for organizing the 1st Meeting of the established Working Group is under way that will be conveyed shortly, along with the meeting's agenda.

The esteemed Member States are kindly requested to nominate their authorized representatives, enabling the formation of the said Working Group at the earliest convenience.

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 the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran

No: ADM /2026/117

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 5/2/2026

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 ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose a self-explanatory Note Verbale No. 15/1419 dated January 25, 2026, received from the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, along with proposals for the next Meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC).

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 ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



**O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI
TASHQI ISHLAR VAZIRLIGI**

№15/1419

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and has the honour to refer to the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held on 4 July 2025 in Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the Summit, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan proposed tasking the High-Level Committee with preparing concrete proposals and recommendations aimed at reforming and strengthening the Organization's functions ahead of the next Summit.

In this connection, the Ministry has the honour to transmit the relevant proposals of the Uzbek side for the consideration of the Secretariat, with a view to further enhancing the activities of the ECO.

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

Tashkent, January 25, 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization,
Tehran



No	Proposal	Justification
1.	<p>Establishment of a Coordination Committee, composed of the heads of ECO-affiliated institutions and specialized agencies, under the chairmanship of the ECO Secretary General, to enhance the alignment and synchronization of their activities</p>	<p>While ECO-affiliated institutions and specialized agencies perform valuable work within their respective mandates, their activities are sometimes implemented in parallel, which may limit overall efficiency and the strategic coherence of the Organization’s programmes.</p> <p>Establishing a Coordination Committee, chaired by the Secretary General, would provide a structured platform for regular consultation and alignment, ensure systematic coordination of activities, enhance oversight of programme and project implementation, and foster greater synergy across the ECO framework. This would strengthen institutional cohesion, reduce duplication of efforts, and support the Organization in achieving its objectives in a more integrated and results-oriented manner.</p> <p>The Coordination Committee would convene at least biannually, with the option to hold additional meetings as necessary, including through virtual means, to review progress and ensure effective alignment of activities across ECO-affiliated institutions and specialized agencies.”</p>
2.	<p>Enhancing the mandate of the ECO Secretariat’s Coordination and Follow-up Unit (CFU) to systematically monitor and facilitate the implementation of adopted decisions</p>	<p>The ECO Secretariat’s CFU currently focuses on the organizational support for the Council of Permanent Representatives, the Council of Ministers, and Summits. Expanding its mandate to include systematic monitoring and facilitation of decision implementation would provide a structured framework to track progress, identify challenges, and ensure timely follow-up on commitments.</p> <p>Regular reporting and coordination would be a key element of this mechanism. This could include quarterly meetings of the CFU with the Directors of relevant ECO Secretariat Directorates, attended by representatives of the relevant departments of the MFAs of member states, enabling more effective follow-up on the implementation of ECO initiatives. Strengthening this reporting and coordination process would enhance accountability, ensure continuity in the work of ECO bodies, and promote a results-oriented approach to the Organization’s decisions.</p>

No: ECO /2026/147

Priority: Urgent
Date: 17/2/2026
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 Notes Verbales dated February 10 and 12, 2026 received from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan, respectively, nominating their representatives for the formation of HLC's working group.

Accordingly, the Secretariat kindly requests that the other ECO Member States nominate their representatives at their earliest convenience to facilitate the timely commencement of the working group's meeting.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial Translation

In the Name of God

NOTE

No: 531 / ۲۸۱۷۹۲۳

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and, with reference to the Latter's Note Verbal No. ADM/2026/85 dated 1 February 2026, has the honor to inform that Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Expert of ECO Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran will attend the "HLC Working Group".

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.

10 February 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization-Tehran



شماره : ۵۳۱/۲۸۱۷۹۲۳
تاریخ : ۱۴۰۴/۱۱/۲۱
پیوست : دارد

به نام خدا

یادداشت

وزارت امور خارجه جمهوری اسلامی ایران با اظهار تعارفات خود به دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) در تهران احتراماً اشعار می‌دارد:

بازگشت به یادداشت شماره ADM / 2026 / 85 مورخ ۱ فوریه ۲۰۲۶ به اطلاع می‌رساند آقای سهیل خیری، کارشناس اداره اگو وزارت امور خارجه جمهوری اسلامی ایران در "کارگروه نشست عالی‌رتبه" شرکت خواهند کرد.

موقع را مغتنم شمرده، احترامات فائقه را تجدید می‌نماید.

دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) - تهران



Embassy of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
Tehran

№011/158

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and with reference to ADM/2026/85, has the honor to inform that Mr. Jasur Rajabov, Head of the Department of Cooperation with Regional Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan (tel.:+998956232386), is nominated for the special Working Group for developing reform proposals for the Economic Cooperation Organization.

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

Tehran, February 12, 2026

Enc: a/s

**The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization,
Tehran**



No: ECO /2026/162

Priority: Urgent

Date: 19/2/2026

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 with reference to the former's Note Verbale No. ECO/2026/147 dated February 17, 2026, has the honour to enclose Note Verbale No. 5-014/26 dated February 18, 2026 received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, nominating their representative for the formation of HLC's working group.

The Secretariat will appreciate if other esteemed member states could also kindly expedite their nominations for the said working group.

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



№ 5-014/26

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/2026/85, dated February 1, 2026, regarding to nominate authorized representatives, enabling the formation of the Working Group to develop concrete reform proposals in line with the HLC's recommendations has the honor to provide below the details on the representative of Azerbaijan who will represent at the said Working Group.

- Mr. Togrul Niyazli, Second secretary of the Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (e-mail: t_niyazli@mfa.gov.az);

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.

February 18, 2026

Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization
Tehran



Agenda Item No. 7
Approval of the ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals
Cooperation for 2026-2030



ECO FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP ON MINERALS COOPERATION FOR 2026-2030

A. Overview and State of Play

The ECO region is abundant with diverse mineral resources and enjoys the leading positions globally for some deposits. The minerals sector represents one of the major contributors to the economies and industrial growth of the ECO Member States.

The uptake of the minerals agenda has always been pertinent for ECO, through which the Organization strives to transform this sector into a catalyst of greater economic growth and social progress in the region. ECO avails several full-fledged platforms, which could trigger mutually beneficial regional cooperation in the field of minerals. These mechanisms entail the ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations (HSMO) at the managerial level, ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM) at the expert level, and the ECO Geomatics Committee (GC).

Notwithstanding certain progress and achievements over the past few decades, the pace and dynamics of cooperation in minerals were not steady and impactful for the region. In fact, one must admit that the sluggish implementation and evolvment ratio of the targeted projects and activities in this sector was notably due to the complexity of systemic challenges of the Organization.

ECO Member States are yet to unlock new avenues and optimal solutions for regional cooperation in the minerals sector. The continuous pressure on resource production systems and supply chains, and fierce competition over resource access negatively affect the minerals sector. This competition also creates opportunities, while the ECO Region stands as a key current and future demand centre for minerals production. Its Member States have ample opportunities to take advantage of the growing demand for minerals and new commodity markets in view of the long-term forecasts of an increase in both traditional and new applications of minerals. To this end, ECO needs to develop resilient, competitive, and sustainable value chains for critical raw materials, as well as advance circularity, resource efficiency and risk mitigation in the minerals sector.

Currently, minerals markets receive limited attention globally, and where governments engage, they are often pursuing a narrow national agenda. Both large mineral producers and consumers are confronted with serious challenges in elaborating coherent mineral policies. One of the key challenges is the cross-sectoral nature of these policies that encompasses economic policy, trade, environmental protection, and development. In this vein, ECO should also find synergies in cross-cutting and emerging issues in response to

global mineral and mining industry opportunities and challenges, notably from clean energy transition, low carbon economies, resource-efficiency and circularity, digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the overall thrust towards sustainable development and green growth.

From the mineral resources viewpoint, ECO remains a highly decentralized and fragmented region. The ECO Member States are divergent in terms of the regulatory framework, classifications of mineral resources, laws on ownership of subsurface resources, types of licenses for exploration and exploitation, and many other aspects.

Exploiting mineral resources does not automatically translate into industrial or sustainable development. Raw materials are often extracted and exported without being processed domestically or integrated into local supply chains. Companies and countries reap huge benefits, often at great cost to the immediate surrounding communities and environment.

Along with the national agenda, the enhancement of global and regional cooperation in the field of minerals within different IGOs has been explicitly observed over the past few decades. There is a dire need for the ECO to consolidate collective efforts, enhance ownership and streamline project-oriented cooperation in minerals. This regional cooperation should also be aligned with and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and “ECO Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035”.

B. Rationale and Objective

Indeed, the mineral sector is one of the unnoticed promising areas, which can play a crucial role in the enhancement of economic cooperation in the region through tangible projects. Regional cooperation is an effective tool to address all the outlined opportunities and challenges in the minerals sector. The Member States may promote their economies of scale, a competitive sustainable minerals market and business sector through stronger regional action in the areas of policy, capacity development, knowledge management, awareness raising, as well as business and investment. Furthermore, the transition to clean energy has led to a drastic increase in the need for critical minerals as renewable energy systems require more minerals than their fossil fuel-based counterparts.

In this particular context, the current “ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030” (hereinafter referred to as “the Roadmap”) was charted by the ECO Secretariat as an overarching, all-inclusive and guiding framework document for cooperation in the field of minerals in the ECO region. ECO lacked such a concept document in minerals in the past and the Roadmap therefore seeks to fill this gap.

Translating the regional goals in minerals into tangible steps responsive to the needs and aspirations of ECO Member States and to the rapidly evolving global resources landscape necessitates mapping out the agile and targeted regional policies in an integrated manner by finding complementarities between global, regional, and national dimensions.

The objective of the Roadmap is to contribute towards the consolidation of a sustainable, resilient and resonant minerals sector in the ECO region through enhanced cooperation and capacities. The Roadmap predominantly captures the mid- and long-term cooperation framework in minerals focusing on the key action areas. It derives from the ECO's recent annual Work Programmes, "ECO Vision 2025" and builds on the long, extensive track of regional cooperation over the past years. The Roadmap delivers these key action areas in a concise, streamlined and straight-forward manner.

C. Key Action Areas and streamlined priorities:

Action Area 1

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (SMR)

The recent global outlook demonstrates that the minerals sector is evolving towards a more sustainable and responsible industry. With continued efforts to promote sustainable practices and ensure responsible mineral extraction, this sector has the potential in the ECO region to contribute positively to economic growth and development while minimizing its negative impacts.

The objective of this action area is to prioritize the sustainable management of mineral resources and mining practices in the ECO region. It will develop and adopt a set of regional actions for sustainable minerals development to underpin the progressive track of cooperation. These actions can help to build trust along the supply chain between producers and consumers of critical minerals for the energy transition (supply chain stability, security, sustainability, benefit-sharing, transparency, and value-added activities). Promoting environmentally sound and socially responsible mineral development practices in the sustainable management and optimum utilization of mineral resources are the major deliverables for the success of this pivotal component of regional cooperation. The implementation of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE), launched in November 2024 could be instrumental in the delivery of this action area, while this initiative advocates for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular and regenerative economy and sustainable mineral development. This could allow our countries to ensure that they expand their share of benefits while tapping the booming demand for minerals, especially the critical ones, in an equitable, environmentally, and socially responsible manner.

Although the clean energy transition necessitates an exponential growth of metals and minerals demand, circularity can turn this challenge into opportunity by bringing about high-value and high-impact solutions along mineral supply chains. Inefficient, wasteful, and polluting processes for extracting and processing critical raw materials call for more R&D to improve their performance, durability, recyclability, and safety. Decisive action is required to diversify sustainable material sources and integrate circular solutions in the mining sector. Assessment and decarbonisation of mining activities; mitigation of negative

environmental and social impacts; and enhancement of circularity in the critical minerals value chain could be in focus.

The end result of this process will be the value-added to a sustainable, low-carbon mineral-based system, where, 1) critical minerals are extracted and processed in a circular and low-carbon manner, using innovative technologies and practices that minimize water use, land disturbance, waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions; 2) benefits of the transition are shared equitably among countries and communities, by ensuring good governance, transparency, social responsibility, value addition, and regional cooperation.

Action Area 2

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH IN REGIONAL COOPERATION (MSARC)

Globally, the minerals sector undergoes increased collaboration between governments, industry stakeholders, and civil society organizations to address the ongoing challenges. Engaging actors beyond national governments, including cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, local communities, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, citizens at large, and other stakeholders is critical and represents one of the success factors of regional cooperation in this area.

To this end, **a lasting, self-sustainable and efficient network of relevant stakeholders shall be established. The network will entail all relevant stakeholders**, including but not limited to the line agencies/geological and geo-science authorities, businesses, think-tanks, academia and training/excellence centres, as well as other public and private sector stakeholders of the ECO Member States. Besides, worldwide institutions and partners may also be involved in the subject network, which is expected to be the ECO's permanent communication hub in minerals. The network's overall goal is to promote and mobilize all relevant stakeholders and international partners in addressing the challenges of the ECO Member States in minerals, building on existing global and regional cooperation and dialogues on minerals. It could identify key gaps and emerging needs, and elaborate ways and means for enhancing ECO's outreach, thus functioning as the agenda-setter. The network could develop recommendations for institutional reforms and evolve into an international platform where producer and consumer countries could meet regularly to exchange views and develop joint solutions to market challenges.

Action Area 3

MINERALS DATABASE AND INFORMATION (MDI)

The meetings of the ECO platforms in the minerals sector produced a number of collaborative activities in mapping and led to developing several specialized regional maps as well as the "Atlas of the ECO Member States Thematic Maps" in the past.

This cluster envisages **setting effective mechanisms for collecting, managing, updating, and exchanging minerals data and information. A key target of this action area is to**

improve the quality and availability of precompetitive web-based geo-science data as well as mineral development and production data, and, package and promote datasets to scale up investments in the minerals sector.

Under this action area, ECO shall also explore the opportunities for enhanced international cooperation by systematic surveys of state-of-affairs in the global minerals field, the relevant strategies and instruments, including production, consumption, trade, and investment trends in the mineral markets. Understanding the nature of trade agreements, the use of technology and innovation (artificial intelligence, big data, enabling blockchain) to enhance transparency, sustainability, and competitiveness could also be focused.

Bridging knowledge gaps on complex and prospective markets might be appropriate, for instance, by conducting a review of pricing mechanisms, market platforms and the associated regulatory mechanisms for major traded minerals. This could consequently fuel actions through the identification of weaknesses in current arrangements and national authorities that require targeted support and capacity-building. These efforts may consequently lead to new opportunities in trade and investment cooperation in the minerals sector, as well as to better planning, and bringing out new technologies and innovative solutions.

Action Area 4

CREATING STRONGER REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT FOR MINERAL RESOURCES (SREM)

This action area primarily envisages **the possible harmonization of standards, where appropriate, engagements for identification of optimal classification system for the ECO region in terms of conducting inventories of mineral resources at the country level, and leveraging a unified set of definitions and intergovernmental comparable terms.**

Currently, shared or coexisting systems are still lacking, and while some countries have adopted the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC) as a classification system for their mineral resources, others use their own system or even none at all. Recently, the United Nations also developed the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) as a voluntary global standard for managing natural resources sustainably that goes beyond classification, offering a holistic approach to resource management. ECO may engage in deliberation to align between UNFC and UNRMS. ECO can also leverage the UN Framework on Just Transitions for Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

ECO may further tap into progressive and transparent fiscal and regulatory measures that can strengthen the management of mineral revenue, diversify economies, and re-distribute financial flows for investment in social and economic development needs.

Action Area 5

CAPACITY-BUILDING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS-RAISING IN MINERALS (CPAM)

ECO needs to better capitalize on its institutional and human resources. Over the past period of time, ECO has been active in conducting regular training courses and sharing best practices in the region on various pertinent topics of geosciences under the auspices of the Geomatics Committee. However, these activities were rather fragmented without a strong strategic goal.

Many benchmarks set by the leading global stakeholders of the minerals sector present an opportunity for ECO to harness the best and most inspiring practices in the world and adapt them to suit regional circumstances. This action area thus aims at **building international skills and knowledge, increasing access to advanced expertise and experience, and promoting communication, education, and public awareness systematically**. This objective will be achieved through coherent training and capacity-building programs, scientific events, exchange of technical visits, technology transfer, joint research projects, and knowledge management. CPAM could improve regional institutional and technical capabilities with a programmatic approach to activities in a longer-term framework. It may also include enhancement of producer capacities (contractual and negotiation skills; attracting investment, financing, and developing effective partnerships, etc.). This action area should deliver the opportunity to create jobs, income, and value addition by developing local capacities and capabilities.

Action Area 6

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN MINERALS (IPM)

This cluster envisions the building and enhancement of effective integration with the multilateral partners and other relevant international processes in the mineral sector through inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration, coordination, and consultation mechanisms to exchange best practices and lessons learned and develop common positions in the global arena, where appropriate.

ECO shall engage in **enhanced intergovernmental and inter-sectoral collaboration with potential international development partners for the advancement of its minerals agenda**. ECO should build and enhance partnerships with key global entities and platforms in the field of minerals, including but not limited to the following:

1. Explore possibilities to coordinate activities on mining and minerals in the framework of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF), as a unique intergovernmental forum for dialog and consultation to enhance the mining sector's contribution to sustainable development. Its Mining Policy Framework lays out comprehensive recommendations on best practices and policies in the minerals sector.

2. The collaboration with the International Resource Panel (IRP) of UNEP, which is tasked to disseminate scientific information on the sustainable use of natural resources and environmentally compatible economic growth, could be meaningful to advance circularity-related agenda and sustainable mineral development.
3. The World Resources Forum (WRF), which is a non-profit organization, could be leveraged as a platform for sharing knowledge about the economic, political, social, and environmental implications of global resource use.
4. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has been developing the UNFC and UNRMS classifications, which were outlined under Action Area 4. ECO may engage in the deliberations to align between UNFC and UNRMS.
5. The UN Working Group on Transforming Extractive Industries brings together governments, industry, civil society, academia, and international organizations. The Member States may cooperate within this platform to be provided with guidelines, standards, and indicators for responsible resource management, capacity building and innovation, and facilitation of dialogue and cooperation.
6. The minerals sector is also an important component of development cooperation. One way of benefiting from it could be ECO's collective appeal addressed to the key training centres to pool mining sector capacity-building efforts in the ECO Member States, which can be an integral part of Action Area 5.

D. Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism

The Roadmap will be a guiding framework document of the relevant platforms of ECO in the minerals sector, outlined in "Chapter A". These platforms shall regularly supervise and monitor the implementation of the Roadmap and the achievement of its objective. ECO Secretariat will discharge the duty of coordination of activities for the implementation of the Roadmap on a daily basis.

The role of the lead country is very important to ensure that the result-oriented respective action areas of the Roadmap are carried out and accomplished in an efficient manner. The Member States shall thus be designated as Country Coordinators of each action area to lead and coordinate relevant activities.

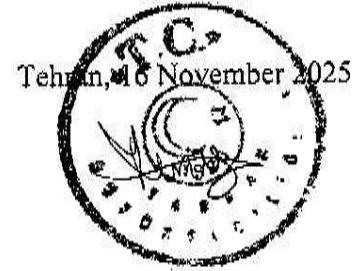
Building on the Roadmap, a Plan of Action shall be developed to embed it with the implementation framework, including concrete activities/actions, their timeframe, outcomes, responsibilities, and monitoring. The Roadmap shall be underpinned by a program logic that ensures clear linkages among objective, action areas, outcomes, and long-term impacts. The Roadmap will be implemented in line with this logic framework and associated monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning (MERL) mechanism to enable that the monitoring outcomes and impacts lead to continuous improvements and revisiting.



Z-2025/99530379/40942896 -

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and with reference to the Latter's Note Verbale dated 2 November 2025 (No: EME /2025 /1681), has the honor to present enclosed herewith the comments of the relevant Turkish authorities (in track changes format) regarding the "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030".

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



Encl: As stated.

**Secretariat of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
Tehran**

Draft as of 30 September 2025



ECO FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP ON MINERALS COOPERATION FOR 2026-2030

A. Overview and State of Play

The ECO region is abundant with diverse mineral resources and enjoys the leading positions globally for some deposits. The minerals sector represents one of the major contributors to the economies and industrial growth of the ECO Member States.

The uptake of the minerals agenda has always been pertinent for ECO, through which the Organization strives to transform this sector into a catalyst of greater economic growth and social progress in the region. ECO avails several full-fledged platforms, which could trigger mutually beneficial regional cooperation in the field of minerals. These mechanisms entail the ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations (HSMO) at the managerial level, ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM) at the expert level, and the ECO Geomatics Committee (GC).

Notwithstanding certain progress and achievements over the past few decades, the pace and dynamics of cooperation in minerals were not steady and impactful for the region. In fact, one must admit that the sluggish implementation and evolvment ratio of the targeted projects and activities in this sector was notably due to the complexity of systemic challenges of the Organization.

ECO Member States are yet to unlock new avenues and optimal solutions for regional cooperation in the minerals sector. The continuous pressure on resource production systems and supply chains, and fierce competition over resource access negatively affect the minerals sector. This competition also creates opportunities, while the ECO Region stands as a key current and future demand centre for minerals production. Its Member States have ample opportunities to take advantage of the growing demand for minerals and new commodity markets in view of the long-term forecasts of an increase in both traditional and new applications of minerals. To this end, ECO needs to develop resilient, competitive, and sustainable value chains for critical raw materials, as well as advance circularity, resource efficiency and risk mitigation in the minerals sector.

Currently, minerals markets receive limited attention globally, and where governments engage, they are often pursuing a narrow national agenda. Both large mineral producers and consumers are confronted with serious challenges in elaborating coherent mineral policies. One of the key challenges is the cross-sectoral nature of these policies that encompasses economic policy, trade, environmental protection, and development. In this vein, ECO should also find synergies in cross-cutting and emerging issues in response to

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global mineral and mining industry opportunities and challenges, notably from clean energy transition, low carbon economies, resource-efficiency and circularity, digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the overall thrust towards sustainable development and green growth.

From the mineral resources viewpoint, ECO remains a highly decentralized and fragmented region. The ECO Member States are divergent in terms of the regulatory framework, classifications of mineral resources, laws on ownership of subsurface resources, types of licenses for exploration and exploitation, and many other aspects.

Exploiting mineral resources does not automatically translate into industrial or sustainable development. Raw materials are often extracted and exported without being processed domestically or integrated into local supply chains. Companies and countries reap huge benefits, often at great cost to the immediate surrounding communities and environment.

Along with the national agenda, the enhancement of global and regional cooperation in the field of minerals within different IGOs has been explicitly observed over the past few decades. There is a dire need for the ECO to consolidate collective efforts, enhance ownership and streamline project-oriented cooperation in minerals. This regional cooperation should also be aligned with and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and "ECO Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035".

B. Rationale and Objective

Indeed, the mineral sector is one of the unnoticed promising areas, which can play a crucial role in the enhancement of economic cooperation in the region through tangible projects. Regional cooperation is an effective tool to address all the outlined opportunities and challenges in the minerals sector. The Member States may promote their economies of scale, a competitive sustainable minerals market and business sector through stronger regional action in the areas of policy, capacity development, knowledge management, awareness raising, as well as business and investment. Furthermore, the transition to clean energy has led to a drastic increase in the need for critical minerals as renewable energy systems require more minerals than their fossil fuel-based counterparts.

In this particular context, the current "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030" (hereinafter referred to as "the Roadmap") was charted by the ECO Secretariat as an overarching, all-inclusive and guiding framework document for cooperation in the field of minerals in the ECO region. ECO lacked such a concept document in minerals in the past and the Roadmap therefore seeks to fill this gap.

Translating the regional goals in minerals into tangible steps responsive to the needs and aspirations of ECO Member States and to the rapidly evolving global resources landscape necessitates mapping out the agile and targeted regional policies in an integrated manner by finding complementarities between global, regional, and national dimensions.

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The objective of the Roadmap is to contribute towards the consolidation of a sustainable, resilient and resonant minerals sector in the ECO region through enhanced cooperation and capacities. The Roadmap predominantly captures the mid- and long-term cooperation framework in minerals focusing on the key action areas. It derives from the ECO's recent annual Work Programmes, "ECO Vision 2025" and builds on the long, extensive track of regional cooperation over the past years. The Roadmap delivers these key action areas in a concise, streamlined and straight-forward manner. Building on the Roadmap, a Plan of Action shall be developed to embed it with the implementation framework, including concrete activities/actions, their timeframe, outcomes, responsibilities, and monitoring.

C. Key Action Areas and streamlined priorities:

Action Area 1

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (SMR)

The recent global outlook demonstrates that the minerals sector is evolving towards a more sustainable and responsible industry. With continued efforts to promote sustainable practices and ensure responsible mineral extraction, this sector has the potential in the ECO region to contribute positively to economic growth and development while minimizing its negative impacts.

The objective of this action area is to prioritize the sustainable management of mineral resources and mining practices in the ECO region. It will develop and adopt a set of regional actions for sustainable minerals development to underpin the progressive track of cooperation. These actions can help to build trust along the supply chain between producers and consumers of critical minerals for the energy transition (supply chain stability, security, sustainability, benefit-sharing, transparency, and value-added activities). Promoting environmentally sound and socially responsible mineral development practices in the sustainable management and optimum utilization of mineral resources are the major deliverables for the success of this pivotal component of regional cooperation. The implementation of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE), launched in November 2024 could be instrumental in the delivery of this action area, while this initiative advocates for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular and regenerative economy and sustainable mineral development. This could allow our countries to ensure that they expand their share of benefits while tapping the booming demand for minerals, especially the critical ones, in an equitable, environmentally, and socially responsible manner.

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Although the ~~green~~ energy transition necessitates an exponential growth of metals and minerals demand, circularity can turn this challenge into opportunity by bringing about high-value and high-impact solutions along mineral supply chains. Inefficient, wasteful, and polluting processes for extracting and processing critical raw materials call for more R&D to improve their performance, durability, recyclability, and safety. Decisive action is required to diversify sustainable material sources and integrate circular solutions in the

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mining sector. Assessment and decarbonisation of mining activities; mitigation of negative environmental and social impacts; and enhancement of circularity in the critical minerals value chain could be in focus.

The end result of this process will be the value-added to a sustainable, low-carbon mineral-based system, where, 1) critical minerals are extracted and processed in a circular and low-carbon manner, using innovative technologies and practices that minimize water use, land disturbance, waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions; 2) benefits of the transition are shared equitably among countries and communities, by ensuring good governance, transparency, social responsibility, value addition, and regional cooperation.

Action Area 2

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH IN REGIONAL COOPERATION (MSARC)

Globally, the minerals sector undergoes increased collaboration between governments, industry stakeholders, and civil society organizations to address the ongoing challenges. Engaging actors beyond national governments, including cities and other local authorities, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, local communities, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, citizens at large, and other stakeholders is critical and represents one of the success factors of regional cooperation in this area.

To this end, a **lasting, self-sustainable and efficient network of relevant stakeholders shall be established. The network will entail all relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to the line agencies/geological and geo-science authorities, businesses, think-tanks, academia and training/excellence centres, as well as other public and private sector stakeholders of the ECO Member States. Besides, worldwide institutions and partners may also be involved in the subject network, which is expected to be the ECO's permanent communication hub in minerals. The network's overall goal is to promote and mobilize all relevant stakeholders and international partners in addressing the challenges of the ECO Member States in minerals, building on existing global and regional cooperation and dialogues on minerals. It could identify key gaps and emerging needs, and elaborate ways and means for enhancing ECO's outreach, thus functioning as the agenda-setter. The network could develop recommendations for institutional reforms and evolve into an international platform where producer and consumer countries could meet regularly to exchange views and develop joint solutions to market challenges.**

Action Area 3

MINERALS DATABASE AND INFORMATION (MDI)

The meetings of the ECO platforms in the minerals sector produced a number of collaborative activities in mapping and led to developing several specialized regional maps as well as the "Atlas of the ECO Member States Thematic Maps" in the past.

This cluster envisages **setting effective mechanisms for collecting, managing, updating,**

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and exchanging minerals data and information. A key target of this action area is to improve the quality and availability of precompetitive web-based geo-science data as well as mineral development and production data, and, package and promote datasets to scale up investments in the minerals sector.

Under this action area, ECO shall also explore the opportunities for enhanced international cooperation by systematic surveys of state-of-affairs in the global minerals field, the relevant strategies and instruments, including production, consumption, trade, and investment trends in the mineral markets. Understanding the nature of trade agreements, the use of technology and innovation (artificial intelligence, big data, enabling blockchain) to enhance transparency, sustainability, and competitiveness could also be focused.

Bridging knowledge gaps on complex and prospective markets might be appropriate, for instance, by conducting a review of pricing mechanisms, market platforms and the associated regulatory mechanisms for major traded minerals. This could consequently fuel actions through the identification of weaknesses in current arrangements and national authorities that require targeted support and capacity-building. These efforts may consequently lead to new opportunities in trade and investment cooperation in the minerals sector, as well as to better planning, and bringing out new technologies and innovative solutions.

Action Area 4

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D. Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism

The Roadmap will be a guiding framework document of the relevant platforms of ECO in the minerals sector, outlined in "Chapter A". These platforms shall regularly supervise and monitor the implementation of the Roadmap and the achievement of its objective. ECO Secretariat will discharge the duty of coordination of activities for the implementation of the Roadmap on a daily basis.

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No: EME/2025/1810

Priority: Urgent
Date: 23/11/2025
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 to the Embassies of the Member States, and with reference to its Note Verbale No. EME/2025/1519 dated 2 October 2025 has the honour to recall that the 301st Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on 17 November 2025 discussed the draft “ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026–2030” and deferred it to the agenda of the 302nd CPR Meeting for taking a decision on its adoption with a view to enable its implementation from 2026.

The Secretariat wishes to state that the Roadmap has been slightly modified following the comments of Türkiye reflected in the Note Verbale of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran No. Z-2025/99530379/40942896 dated 16 November 2025. The referred note along with its attachment of the Roadmap in track changes, as well as the clean version of the document are transmitted enclosed herewith.

The Secretariat has further the honour to remind that the expert-level consideration of the Roadmap was completed at the dedicated Task Force Meeting on 24 September 2025. The Secretariat would therefore highly appreciate if the Member States, particularly those which have not engaged in consideration of the draft Roadmap could kindly review and share their comments, if any, at the latest by 8 December 2025.

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

All ECO Member States, Tehran



Agenda Item No. 8

**Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones in the
ECO Region**

No: CFU /2026/145

Priority: Urgent

Date: 17/2/2026

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 copy of Note Verbale No.28/3-218 dated February 12, 2026 received from the Embassy of Turkmenistan, proposing therewith the inclusion of "Pre-feasibility Study for Establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region" as a separate item in the agenda of 304th CPR Meeting, circulated vide Secretariat Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/133 dated February 10, 2026.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ECO Member States in Tehran, the assurances of its highest consideration.



All ECO Member States - Tehran



**EMBASSY
OF TURKMENISTAN
TEHRAN**

Urgent!

28/3-218

The Embassy of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and, with reference to its note № 28/3-1689 dated 30 October 2025, has the honor to request the inclusion of the proposal of the Turkmen side to conduct a pre-feasibility study for establishing Joint Trade Zones in the ECO Region issue in the Agenda of the 304th Meeting of the CPR, to be held on 25 February 2026.

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



Tehran, «12» February 2026.

**SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
Tehran**

Agenda Item No. 9
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

Agenda Item No. 10
Any other business

Agenda Item No. 11
Date of the next CPR Meeting