



# **36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

## **ECO Work Programme 2026**

*May 17-20, 2026  
ECO Secretariat, Tehran*

| Paragraph#                             | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| <b>A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT</b> |   |                     |
| 1.                                     | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Kazakhstan offered to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy preceded by the SOM on the side line of the Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Algeria on 19-22 May 2025, which could not be held in 2025.</p> <p>The Council requested the volunteer Member States to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy, in 2026 and communicate its date(s).</p>   |                     |
| 2.                                     | <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for the successful organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> HLEG Meeting and the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) after 20 and 14 years, respectively. The Council appreciated the full participation of all ECO Member States, and acknowledged the adoption of the “Istanbul Declaration”.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 6<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT). The Council reminded that HLEG meeting and ECO-MM on CFT are to be organized back-to-back. Further, the Member States were requested to communicate the dates of Ministerial Meeting.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 6<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) and share the dates, depending on the progress of the work of the TNC, through diplomatic channel to ECO Secretariat.</p> |                     |
| 3.                                     | <p>The Council was briefed that first meeting of Technical Negotiation Committee was held successfully on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026, hosted by the Secretariat in online mode. The Council requested the Member States to offer to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ECOTA Technical Negotiation Committee in 2026.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat and ECOTA Parties for noting the importance of</p>  |                     |

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|            | <p>completing all legal and procedural requirements for the re-negotiations of ECOTA.</p> <p>The Council recommended that other ECO Member States, not a party to the ECOTA could be invited to ECOTA TNC Meetings. In addition, where relevant, the ECO-CCI, ECO-RISCAM, and ECOSA (ECO Seed Association) could be invited as an observer.</p> <p>The Council also reminded the Member States that the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting in Istanbul also approved the transfer of the technical work regarding drafting the “Multi-dimensional trade and investment strategy and prospects of establishing of free trade area in the region” to the ECOTA Technical Negotiating Committee. The Council noted Secretariat intention to host an informal consultative virtual meeting to discuss with Member States the prospects of the work of the TNC in near future. The Council strongly urged the Member States to consider participating proactively in the work of TNC.</p> |                     |
| 4.         | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the report of the research study, titled “Impediments in Implementation of ECO Trade Agreement and Measures to Resolve” was successfully updated in line with decisions of the 9<sup>th</sup> ECOTA CCM. The final research report was presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> HLEG meeting in Istanbul.</p> <p>Upon the recommendations of Republic of Türkiye and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Council agreed that the focus at this stage should be on the work of the TNC. The Council may revisit the issue of 10<sup>th</sup> ECOTA Cooperation Council Meeting (ECOTA CCM) in future, in light of the progress to be made in the TNC.</p>   |                     |
| 5.         | <p>The Council welcomed the approval of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy at the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (ECO-MM on CFT) in Istanbul, and invited the Secretariat to coordinate the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ECO Trade Facilitation Committee.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of Republic of Türkiye to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ECO Trade Facilitation Committee and dates will be shared through diplomatic channel.</p>  |                     |

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| 6.         | <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> JWG on ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement on April 29, 2025 (Ankara), and Republic of Uzbekistan to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Joint Working Group for Trade Facilitation Agreement on May 22, 2025.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Working Group to draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2026 and the exact dates will be shared through diplomatic channel.</p>   |                     |
| 7.         | <p>Following the Preliminary Discussion Meeting on August 1, 2023, it was unanimously decided to pursue 'Draft Charter of the ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX)'. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a Preliminary Consultative Meeting on June 11, 2024, wherein the <i>Draft Charter of the ECO Tax Administration Cooperation Society (ECOTAX)</i> was adopted.</p> <p>The Secretariat recalled that the Republic of Uzbekistan offered to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Heads of Tax Administration in 2024; however, the meeting could not be held. The Council now invites Member States to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Heads of Tax Administration in 2026.</p>  |                     |
| 8.         | <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye for the successful organization of both the Technical Consultative Meeting regarding “the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters” on March 12, 2025 and the 6<sup>th</sup> ECCC Meeting on April 30, 2025, Ankara.</p> <p>The Council also appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for the successful organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) on May 28 2025, Tehran.</p> <p>The Council recognized the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to coordinate the finalization and approval of the Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters” by the Council of Ministers, effective as of June 25, 2025.</p> <p>As mentioned in the Istanbul Declaration, the Council also welcomed the signing of the Agreement by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Türkiye and invited other Member States to sign</p> |                     |

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|            | <p>and ratify the Agreement.</p> <p>The Council encouraged the Member States to host the next ECO Committee Customs Cooperation (ECCC) Meeting, with the primary agenda item of EDI.</p>  |                     |
| 9.         | <p>The Council appreciated the efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host trainings on customs (textile classification) and EDI in December 2025.</p> <p>The Council invited the ECO Member States to kindly share their latest positions about organizing any experience-sharing or training events on customs as well as e-commerce/paperless trade in 2026. Member States are requested notifying the Secretariat of suggested dates, agenda items, and hospitality arrangements.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States and instructed the Secretariat to coordinate such events with the World Customs Organization, whenever possible, with a view to developing relations with the international bodies for better global visibility of the ECO.</p>                                    |                     |
| 10.        | <p>The Council appreciated Member States for notifying the Secretariat of their focal points regarding the operation of “ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank”</p> <p>The Council welcomed the first consultative technical meeting hosted by the Republic of Türkiye for testing “ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank” in April 2025.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the efforts of the Republic of Türkiye to fix remaining technical issues for the full operationalization of the ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank.</p> <p>The Council stressed the non-signatory Member States, namely the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement at their earliest convenience.</p> |                     |
| 11.        | <p>The Secretariat informed that the Customs Administration of Islamic Republic of Iran has offered</p>   |                     |

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|            | <p>to host virtual training webinars on the TIR Convention, Harmonized System (HS), and Risk Management in Customs Operations in June, July, and August 2026, respectively. a</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran and invites all the Member States to participate actively.</p>   |                     |
| 12.        | <p>The Secretariat recalled that the <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters of ECO and Forming ECO Clearing Union (ECU)</i> was virtually hosted by the ECO Secretariat on December 10, 2024, with the participation of Azerbaijan, I.R of Iran, Kazakhstan, I. R of Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye. Subsequently, a questionnaire was shared by the Secretariat with the Member States to gather input on clearing union issues, for which response have been received from Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan and Republic of Türkiye. In this regard, the Council urged the remaining Member States to share their responses, at the earliest.</p> <p>The Council noted that the online technical consultative meeting with the Asian Clearing Union, as proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran could not be held in 2025 due to lack of quorum. In this regard, the Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to reschedule the online technical consultative meeting with the Asian Clearing Union in 2026.</p> <p>The Council further invited the Member States to offer to host the <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters of ECO and Forming ECO Clearing Union (ECU)</i>, in 2026 after having the online consultative meeting with Asian Clearing Union.</p> |                     |
| 13.        | <p>The ECO Secretariat briefed the Council that the <i>Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI)</i> has come into force in 2022 after the deposit of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instrument of Ratification as per Article 12 of APPI. The Council urged the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to deposit original instrument of ratification with the Secretariat.</p> <p>The Secretariat apprised that the Republic of Azerbaijan is the only signatory awaiting ratification of the APPI. The Council asked the Republic of Azerbaijan to kindly make its utmost to complete the ratification procedures along with its Amendment Protocol at the earliest</p>  |                     |

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|            | <p>convenience.</p> <p>The Council also encouraged the non-signatory Member States, i.e. Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to consider signing/ratifying the Agreement.</p>  |                     |
| 14.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the “ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal” is available on the main ECO Web-Site with the following address: "<a href="https://eco.int/eco-chamber-of-commerce-and-industry-eco-cci/">https://eco.int/eco-chamber-of-commerce-and-industry-eco-cci/</a>". The Council requested all the Member States to encourage their National Chambers to contribute to <i>the ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal</i> and to keep sharing updated information annually.</p> <p>The Secretariat emphasized the announcement of national focal points and designated focal points on Trade Facilitation, WTO, Tax, Banking, Capital Markets, E-Trade and Visa facilitation and update them periodically. The Secretariat suggested that the Member States may updated designated focal points to work with the Secretariat, through diplomatic channel.</p>  |                     |
| 15.        | <p>The Council took note of the project titled, “Study on Preparation of the Guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the Establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones”. The Secretariat informed the Council that detailed TORs for “Study on Preparation of the Guidelines and Joint Action Plan for the Establishment of ECO Regional Network of Special Economic Zones/Free Trade Zones (SEZs/FTZs) in the ECO Member States” were prepared by the Secretariat and after updating them, shared with the Member States for their views/comments and proposals.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to share their comments/ proposals on the ToRs and tasked the Secretariat to follow-up for conducting the aforesaid study and share the outcome of the study with Member States for their views.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that in the light of decisions of the 1st and 2nd Meetings of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States, nominations for the Permanent Standing</p> |                     |

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|            | <p>Committee and the Joint Commission of the FT/SEZs of the ECO Member States have been received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the I.R. of Iran, the I.R. of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Türkiye. The Republic of Uzbekistan shared nomination for the Standing Committee, only.</p> <p>The ECO Secretariat scheduled to hold an online consultative meeting comprising Members of Standing Committee on July 14, 2025 but could not be held due to lack of quorum. The Council requested the Secretariat to host the online consultative meeting comprising Members of Standing Committee.</p> <p>The Secretariat recalled that the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States could not be held in 2025. The Council requested the Member States to announce their offers to host the 3rd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of ECO Member States in preferred mode in 2026 and complete the pending actions including providing of nominations to the mandated Committees.</p>  |                     |
| 16.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the draft report of the study titled “<i>Study on Preparation of the Road-Map for Formulating a Comprehensive Plan among the Sovereign and National Development Funds of Member States</i>” has been shared with the Member States for their views and comments. The comments were received from I.R. of Iran and circulated among the membership. The comments from remaining Member States are awaited.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Heads of the SW/NDF could not be hosted in 2025 by the Islamic Republic of Iran as agreed during 35<sup>th</sup> RPC.</p> <p>The National Development Fund of Islamic Republic of Iran (NDFI) proposes the creation of an association for ECO SW/NDFs as an initial, non-financial platform focused on building shared understanding, exchanging experiences and best practices, defining conceptual frameworks, and forming a genuine discourse on cooperation as a preliminary meeting before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Heads of the SW/NDF. The proposal and concept note will be shared in due course of time</p> |                     |

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|            | <p>through diplomatic channel for the consideration of the relevant authorities of the Member Countries.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of I.R of Iran to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Heads of the SW/NDF in 2026 (hybrid). The Council further requested the remaining Member States to share their comments on the report of the study.</p>  |                     |
| 17.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) had expressed its willingness for hosting <i>the First meeting of ECO Heads of Commodity Exchanges</i> on December 17, 2025 or January 14, 2026, however, due to the lack of quorum, the Meeting could not be held in 2025.</p> <p>The Council invited the Member States to offer to host the <i>First meeting of ECO Heads of Commodity Exchanges</i> in 2026.</p>  |                     |
| 18.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the following projects could not be completed in 2025, on grounds of budgetary limitations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECO Capacity Building Project on Train-The-Trainers Programme for ECO Member States on Accreditation Standards (maximum budget USD10,000)</li> <li>2. ECO Capacity Building Project on Train-The-Trainers Programme for ECO Member States on Sustainability Reporting Standards (maximum budget USD10,000)</li> </ol> <p>The Council requested the Secretariat try to complete these projects in 2026, and to arrange funding for these projects from the ECO General Reserve Fund, and/or the ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund, and recommended inviting the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM) to the trainings.</p> <p>The Council recommended the Secretariat to develop similar train-the-trainers type of projects on the fields of trade, customs, quality infrastructure, investment and other related areas.</p> |                     |

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| 19.        | <p>Recalling the decisions of the 5th HLEG Meeting and the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade held in Istanbul in 2025, the Council recommended the Secretariat to re-activate the ECOTA Implementation Fund, and revise the modalities of the Fund, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support ECOTA renegotiation process, trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities, as well as taking into account the sectoral needs of ECO level business-related entities, e.g. ECO Seed Association to include the seed sector in the revised ECOTA.</p>  |                     |
| 20.        | <p>The Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to revitalize the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of the ECO-UNIDO Joint Trade Capacity Building Project on the Quality Infrastructure of ECO Member States, pending since 2017.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the efficient coordination of the Secretariat between UNIDO, Islamic Development Bank and ECO Development Bank.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the funding (USD50,000) provided by the ECO Trade and Development Bank for a period of 9 months starting from October 2025, and the contribution of \$50,000 as committed by IsDB, as this project is directly related to the expansion of intra-regional trade.</p>  |                     |
| 21.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (TPO) Forum was successfully organized on May 6, 2025, in Karachi, in hybrid mode, hosted by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.</p> <p>The Council recognized the efforts of the ECO Secretariat to coordinate the finalization and approval of the ECO Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Trade Promotion Activities by the Council of Ministers, effective as of June 25, 2025.</p> <p>As mentioned in the Istanbul Declaration, the Council also welcomed the signing of the MoU by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye and invited other Member States to sign and ratify the Memorandum of Understanding.</p> |                     |

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|            | <p>The Council recommended the Member States to make utmost use of the MoU on Trade Promotion and requested the Member States to share the Calendar of trade promotion events for the next two years with the Secretariat for the compilation of the Joint Calendar of Trade Promotion Events.</p>  |                     |
| 22.        | <p>The Secretariat, while recalling the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Finance/Economy to set up an ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPA) Forum, apprised the Council that, 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO-IPA of ECO Heads of Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPA) was held on December 26, 2016 in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2026 on the sideline of the Iran Investment Forum in Tehran.</p> |                     |
| 23.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that only two ECO Trade Fairs have been held so far in the ECO region. The Secretariat appreciated the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the ‘3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Trade Fair’, on the sideline of Kish Expo 2025, which was not held due to lack of confirmation from the Member States.</p> <p>The Council invited the Islamic Republic of Iran or any volunteer Member States to consider hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Trade Fair in 2026.</p>   |                     |
| 24.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that Member States were requested to share the proposals with their national chambers to consider volunteering to host the Trade Exhibitions in 2025, but no response has been received.</p> <p>The Council invited the Member States to consider hosting the Trade Exhibitions in 2026.</p>  |                     |
| 25.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that presently six ECO Member States are member to the ECO TDB and the Secretariat has been encouraging the remaining four ECO Members States, i.e.</p>   |                     |

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|            | <p>Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan&amp; Turkmenistan to join ECO-TDB.</p> <p>The Council requested the remaining Member States, who have not joined ECO-TDB, to join this important regional financial institution.</p>  |                     |
| 26.        | <p>The Secretariat updated the Council that all the Contracting Parties to the ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC) have submitted their nominations for the Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Assembly (GA) of ERC.</p> <p>The Secretariat further informed the Council that the 273<sup>rd</sup> CPR, held on February 27, 2023 approved organizing of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the G.A preceded by 1<sup>st</sup>BoD Meeting of the ERC, as requested by the Parties to ERC. Moreover, the Secretariat has circulated the draft documents i.e. regulations for General Assembly &amp; BoD, the recruitment policy, the financial &amp; service rules etc., in 2025, prepared by ERC, for views/comments of the Stakeholders. Additionally, the Secretariat scheduled an online meeting between the State Bank of I.R of Pakistan (SBP) and Central Bank of I.R. of Iran (CBI) coupled with Central Insurance of Iran to finalize the transfer of full subscription of paid-in capital contribution by I.R of Iran. However, the meeting was postponed at the request of SBP.</p> <p>The Council requested the I. R of Pakistan to reschedule this meeting in 2026. The Council further invited remaining Member States to consider joining this important ECO affiliated body for secure trade in the ECO region.</p> |                     |
| 27.        | <p>The Secretariat briefed the Council that the <i>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities</i> was hosted by I.R of Pakistan in 2022. The Secretariat further informed that Islamic Republic of Iran announced the <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in 2024-2025</i>. However, the meeting could not be held despite scheduled twice, due to lack of quorum.</p> <p>The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic Iran to host <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities in November 23-24, 2026</i> and requested the Member States</p>  |                     |

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|            | to share their nominations.  |                     |
| 28.        | <p>The Council was reminded that considering the importance of investment promotion among the Member States of ECO Region, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed the Secretariat, to initiate cooperation with UNCTAD in preparing and publishing “<i>The Investment Policy Review (IPR) of the Member States of ECO Region</i>”.</p> <p>The Council was informed that the Secretariat circulated a survey on “<i>The Investment Policy Review (IPR) of the Member States of ECO Region</i>”, in 2025, the response from the Member States is still awaited except Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>The Council requested the Member States to share their inputs regarding the survey.</p> |                     |
| 29.        | <p>The ECO Secretariat recalled the Council that during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance and Economy in Tehran, the Republic of Tajikistan was designated as the coordinating country for ECO initiatives on investment.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the offer of Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Investment Conference on the side line of Iran Investment Forum in Tehran during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2026.</p>   |                     |
| 30.        | <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan for successfully organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum on July 2, 2025, in Shusha on the sidelines of the 17<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, under the theme of "Investment and Trade Promotion as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in the ECO region".</p> <p>The Council requested the Chairing Member State of 18<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, to consider hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> ECO Business Forum in 2026, on the sidelines of the 18<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit.</p>   |                     |
| 31.        | <p>The Council was informed that the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meetings AND the Meetings of Specialized Committees of ECO-CCI held in January 2026 by Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).</p>  |                     |

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|            | <p>Further, the Meetings of Specialized Committees of ECO CCI also held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.</p> <p>The Council requested the I.R. of Pakistan (Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry) as President of ECO-CCI to discuss the issue/decisions regarding pending action related to the ECO-CCI Secretariat including the issue of Permanent Secretariat of ECO CCI in the next <i>Executive Committee Meetings</i>.</p>   |                     |
| 32.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that “<i>the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen</i>” has been signed by seven Member States and ratified by the five Member States, whereas, “<i>the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States</i>” has been signed by three countries and ratified by I.R of Pakistan.</p> <p>The Council requested the remaining Member States to sign and ratify Agreement and additional Protocol for their early implementation.</p>   |                     |
| 33.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that in line with instruction of 267<sup>th</sup> CPR the Secretariat has been pursuing to hold a virtual meeting on visa facilitation for the businessmen including issuance of ECO Business Visa Stickers to the Businessmen of the ECO Region for Greater Collaboration between the Business Communities. The meeting could not be held in 2025 due to lack of confirmation.</p> <p>The Council requested the volunteer Member States to offer to host the <i>Technical Consultation Meeting on Visa Facilitation for the Businessmen in the ECO Region</i>, in 2026. The Council also requested the Secretariat to consider to host this meeting in hybrid/virtual format in 2026.</p> |                     |
| 34.        | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that during 15<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit (2021), the Republic of Uzbekistan initiated a proposal through a concept paper on ‘Establishment of a Centre for Trade, Investment, Innovation within the Framework of the ECO’, for which all ECO Member States shared their views/comments except the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.</p>   |                     |

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|  | <p>The Secretariat informed the Council that the Republic of Uzbekistan was requested to provide a comprehensive clarification/presentation regarding the proposed Centre, as also requested by the Republic of Türkiye and Turkmenistan, and the meeting was organized by the Secretariat in October 2024, however, the meeting was postponed on the request of Republic of Uzbekistan to a future date.</p> <p>The Council urged the ECO Secretariat to reach out the Republic of Uzbekistan to receive the comprehensive clarification/presentation regarding the proposed Establishment of a Centre for Trade, Investment, Innovation within the Framework of the ECO', and instructed the Secretariat to consider this initiative as closed if such information is not received by the end of 2026.</p> |                     |
| <b>B. SECTOR: TRANSPORT &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</b>   |  |                     |
| <b>Strategies, Policies and General Guidelines</b> |  |                     |
| 35.  | The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 13th Ministerial Meeting on Transport on 1-2 June 2025 in Tehran and requested the Member States to prioritize implementation of Tehran Declaration.  |                     |
| 36.  | The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat for preparing and circulating the draft “ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026-2035”, envisaged in the Tehran Declaration. Given the importance of this Strategy, the Council emphasized the need for timely contributions by all Member States into the process of its finalization before submission to the 14 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting for adoption. The ECO Secretariat was mandated to also ensure contributions from relevant regional and international partners.  |                     |
| 37.  | The Council welcomed the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the 14 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Transport in 2026 and requested the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for organizing the Meeting.  |                     |
| 38.  | The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT in 2026 and requested the Secretariat to make necessary  |                     |

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|            | arrangements for organizing the Meeting. The Council further emphasized that the new ECO regional ICT strategy document, to be developed and submitted to the Ministerial meeting for adoption, should be comprehensive and focused one to harness opportunities and address challenges associated with the new and emerging technologies in the ECO Region, including AI.   |                     |
| 39.        | The Council supported organization of an international conference on financing for ECO transport corridors and projects, envisaged in the Tehran Declaration, with participation of the multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, development partners and donor community. The Council requested the CPR to support the ECO Secretariat in its efforts to effectively organize this important conference. The Council also welcomed the idea to organize the Conference on the sidelines of the 14 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting in Kazakhstan.   |                     |
| 40.        | The Council appreciated the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish the “ECO Rail Research Institute” in the School of Railway Engineering at the Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST) in Tehran with cooperation of the Railway Company of the I.R. Iran and requested the Member States to actively participate in its activities. Moreover, the Council requested the MSs to convey their views and comments on the Concept Paper of the mentioned Institute within 3 months.  |                     |
| 41.        | The Council underlined the importance of preparation of project proposals/concepts to be submitted and implemented according to the ECO rules and regulations, particularly the guiding principles on ECO projects (Functional Methodologies of ECO Projects) and financial regulations of the Organization.   |                     |
| 42.        | The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat for organizing a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) in August 2025 in Awaza, Turkmenistan. The Council appraised the initiative of the Secretariat to contribute to this UN global agenda through supporting the implementation of AWAZA Programme of Action in the ECO. The Council also emphasized the need for cooperation between 7 ECO landlocked Member States, 3 ECO transit Member States, UN and other international and regional partners, and welcomed organization of an ECO Kick-off meeting in 2026 in this regard. |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
|--|---|---------------------|
| <b>A) TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT</b>  |   |                     |
| <b>I. Implementation of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)</b> |   |                     |
| 43.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to arrange a working meeting/seminar on the legal and technical aspects of the TTFA for Uzbekistan. (Agreed)  |                     |
| 44.  | The Council reiterated the importance of acceding to major international transport facilitation mechanisms and legal instruments, such as e-TIR, e-CMR, ADR, and ATP, and active participation of ECO and its Member States in ongoing negotiations for new international legal frameworks.   |                     |
| <b>II. Railway Transport</b>   |   |                     |
| 45.  | The Council recommended that the committed Member States or the volunteer Member States to organize the meetings as contained in the proposed Calendar of Events 2026, including the 16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railways and 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of TTCC Railway Committee. Given the importance of these two meetings, the Council requested the Secretariat to ensure their organization on early basis in 2026 in an interested Member State or in the Secretariat. |                     |
| 46.  | The Council requested the Secretariat, in cooperation with relevant partners and stakeholders, to seriously work on the early development of a model for an integrated (and digitalized) ECO corridor management system to ensure optimum harmonization and functioning as well as competitiveness of the ECO corridors. The Council also asked the CPR to ensure necessary support to the Secretariat.   |                     |
| <b>Railway between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI)</b>           |   |                     |
| 47.  | The Council requested Kazakhstan, as per its commitment in 35 <sup>th</sup> RPC meeting, to host the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of Permanent Working Group of KTI (PWG-KTI) and 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of "Sub-Working Group for Commercialization of the KTI Corridor" in 2026.  |                     |
| 48.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to include KTI in the agenda of the envisaged   |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
|--|--|---------------------|
|  | conference for financing the ECO transport corridors and projects. Accordingly, the en-route countries may be requested to jointly develop bankable projects to be funded by interested donors and investors.  |                     |
| 49.  | [The council requested the Secretariat to make an update on the previous and present activities of the en-route countries on establishing electronic data exchange along the corridor and to make necessary coordination with en-route countries as well as cooperation with UNECE initiative on “Digital Transportation in KTI Corridor: electronic equivalent of the SMGS railway consignment note using UN standards”.]   |                     |
| <b>ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) route</b>          |  |                     |
| 50.  | The Council emphasized the importance of the ITI container train and its regular and frequent movement for the ECO Region and beyond, and requested for early implementation of the agreements reached at 14 <sup>th</sup> ITI HLWG in Pakistan. Given the delayed implementation of agreed outcome of the 14 <sup>th</sup> ITI HLWGM, the Council requested the en-route countries and the Secretariat to convene, on an early basis, a meeting to discuss and resolve the possible impediments and challenges. The Council took note with appreciation the update by the Pakistani delegation on its upgradation of the ML3 Railway Line in collaboration with Reko Diq Mining Company under the broader framework of railway infrastructure development for mineral and freight transportation. |                     |
| 51.  | The Council also mandated the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the en-route countries for necessary preparations for a successful 15 <sup>th</sup> ITI HLWG meeting to be hosted by Iran in 2026. (Agreed)   |                     |
| 52.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to include ITI in the agenda of the envisaged conference for financing the ECO transport corridors and projects with clear idea about the possible bankable projects to make the Corridor fully functional and effective.  |                     |
| <b>ECO Container Train on Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty routes</b> |  |                     |
| 53.  | The Council welcomed the proposal of Iran to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> HLWG in Tehran and requested the   |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
|---|---|---------------------|
|   | Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements.   |                     |
| 54.   | The Council emphasized the importance of these two corridors for intra-regional and global trade flows and requested the ECO Secretariat to include their financial needs in the agenda of the envisaged conference for financing the ECO transport corridors and projects.   |                     |
| 55.   | The Council requested the en-route countries to provide a progress report on the implementation of the decisions of the previous HLWG meetings.   |                     |
| <b>ECO- UNECE Coordination Committee on Trans Caspian and Almaty- Tehran - Istanbul Corridors</b>                             |   |                     |
| 56.   | The Council emphasized the importance of the continued cooperation and coordination between the ECO Secretariat and the UNECE on the transport and transit-related areas of mutual interests, including in the context of the ECO-UNECE Coordination Committee on Trans Caspian and Almaty- Tehran - Istanbul Corridors. 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO- UNECE Coordination Committee on Trans Caspian and Almaty- Tehran - Istanbul Corridors will be held on 5 June 2026 in Istanbul. |                     |
| <b>Railway Project for the connection of China to Europe through Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran (KTAI)</b> |   |                     |
| 57.   | The Council requested the Secretariat to continue efforts to engage partners and relevant financial institutions, including ECO-TDB, IsDB, ADB (CAREC Programme) and AIIB with a proposal to engage in the activities related to operationalization of KTAI Corridor. The Council also requested the Secretariat to include financial needs of KTAI Corridor in the agenda of the envisaged conference for financing the ECO transport corridors and projects.                              |                     |
| 58.   | The Council requested en-route states to provide updated information on the missing links and other shortcomings of the KTAI Corridor.  |                     |
| 59.   | The Council gave mandate to the ECO Secretariat and requested the Member States to focus on ways and means to engage China in the construction and other activities related to operationalization of the KTAI Corridor.   |                     |
| <b>Railway Project on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran) route</b>  |   |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 60.   | The Council offered possible ECO assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan with a view to accelerating operationalization of this important rail connection.   |                     |
| 61.   | The Council requested the Secretariat, in coordination with Iran and Republic of Azerbaijan, to prepare for 6th HLWG Meeting on Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) in 2026, at the time and venue preferable by both countries.  |                     |
| 62.   | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to collect information from the en-route countries on the latest status of the progress of the railway route within their territories for circulation before the 6 <sup>th</sup> HLWG Meeting in 2026.   |                     |
| <b>III. Road Transport</b>  |  |                     |
| <b>Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) route</b>                      |  |                     |
| 63.   | As per discussions at the 7th HLWG Meeting, the Council requested en-route countries, who have not done so, to provide information and requested the Secretariat to circulate them among the en-route countries regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The permissible load limits, vehicles specifications and other regulations</li> <li>• Status of the ECO White Card Scheme (MVTPL insurance) for universal insurance</li> </ul> |                     |
| 64.   | The Council requested the ITI en-route countries to keep the Secretariat abreast about progress and developments on the construction\development\rehabilitation of the segments of the corridor in their territories.  |                     |
| 65.   | The Council also requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide to the Secretariat statistical annual report of the bilateral and transit operations in the Corridor.   |                     |
| 66.   | The Council supported interactions and cooperation between the ECO, IRU and ITI en-route countries on reducing the challenges at border crossing points of ITI Corridor.   |                     |
| 67.   | The Council requested Iran to host the First Technical Working Group Meeting on the ITI BCPs to accelerate measures such as establishment of TIR green lanes/windows to reduce waiting time of trucks. En-route states may support participation of IRU and TRACECA in such activities.  |                     |
| 68.   | The Council requested for timely organizing the 8 <sup>th</sup> ITI HLWG Meeting in 2026.  |                     |
| <b>Tajikistan- Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan- Iran -Türkiye (TUTIT)</b> |  |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 69.   | The Council instructed the Secretariat to continue its contacts with relevant Chinese authorities to discuss TUTIT-related matters with a view to utilizing all existing and potential capacities for full TUTIT operationalization.  |                     |
| 70.   | The Council requested the Secretariat to include financial needs of TUTIT Corridor in the agenda of the envisaged conference for financing the ECO transport corridors and projects.  |                     |
| 71.   | The Council emphasized the need to have regular meetings among the en-route countries and requested the ECO Secretariat to ensure that the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the HLWG on TUTIT is held in 2026 in one of the en-route countries. Inviting China to the meeting was also considered.                          |                     |
| <b>Kyrgyz Republic-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Türkiye corridor (KUTIT)</b>  |   |                     |
| 72.   | The Council emphasized the need to have regular meetings and contacts among the KUTIT en-route countries and requested the ECO Secretariat to ensure that the first Meeting of the HLWG on KUTIT will be held in 2026 in one of the en-route countries. Inviting China to the KUTIT meetings may also be recommended. |                     |
| <b>Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran Road (KTAI) Corridor</b> |   |                     |
| 73.   | The Council requested the en-route countries to continue implementation of the Action Plan approved by the 4 <sup>th</sup> HLWG on KTAI and to implement the recommendations of the reports of KTAI test run.   |                     |
| 74.   | The Council also requested the en-route Member States to regularly provide to the Secretariat their statistical annual report of the bilateral and transit operations across the different segments of the Corridor.  |                     |
| 75.   | The Council requested the Secretariat to assist coordination among the en-route countries, including through 5 <sup>th</sup> HLWG to be held in an appropriate time and venue in 2026.  |                     |
| 76.   | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to ensure organizing the next HLWG Meeting in 2026 on early basis, either in en-route countries or in the Secretariat.  |                     |
| <b>IV. Multimodal Transport</b>   |   |                     |
| 77.   | The Council reiterated the importance of multimodal mode of transport for ECO Region and requested the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 1 <sup>st</sup>  |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
|---|--|---------------------|
|   | meeting of the newly established TTCC Multimodal Transport Committee on the sidelines of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations, enabling focused discussions on the improvement of multimodality across the ECO Region and beyond.  |                     |
| <b>New Multimodal Road Corridor Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (KTAP)</b> |  |                     |
| 78.   | The Council requested the KTAP enroute countries as well as the ECO Secretariat to implement actions envisaged by 35 <sup>th</sup> RPC meeting.  |                     |
| 79.   | The Council, taking note of existing multimodal corridor frameworks of Pakistan-Iran-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyz Republic (PITUKK) and Pakistan-Iran-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan (PITUT), requested the Secretariat to organize a joint working group meeting among the en-route countries for necessary operations for coordination and arrangements involving the relevant stakeholders.  |                     |
| 80.   | The Council requested the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for setting of a cooperation mechanism between the ECO and China in the field of transport and transit with the aim of enhancing sustainable and resilient connectivity, establishing efficient economic and trade corridors, strengthening infrastructure development, digitalization, knowledge-sharing and adoption of best practices as well as other areas of mutual interest. |                     |
| <b>V. Facilitation of border crossing procedures</b>                                    |  |                     |
| 81.   | The Council recommended to the Member States to support implementation of the ECO-IRU Action Plan 2026-2027 and actively engage in its envisaged activities.   |                     |
| 82.   | The Council requested all Member States to apply, to the maximum extent possible, TIR system, including the guarantee and insurance procedures, in the transit and transport cooperation among themselves to allow for seamless and unhindered flow of road fleets.  |                     |
| 83.   | The Council requested the Secretariat to approach IRU, IsDB, ESCAP and any other relevant international organization for their assistance in digitalizing the transit across the ECO Region.   |                     |
| 84.   | The Council emphasized the imperative of convening, on priority basis, the 9 <sup>th</sup> TTCC Customs Committee Meeting, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of ECO-TIR National Associations Group (TIRACG), and next meeting of ECO consular officials (for visa facilitation purpose).  |                     |
| 85.   | The Council supported the extension of ECO- IRU current cooperation to include TRACECA and   |                     |

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|--|---|---------------------|
|  | IsDB, including in the test-runs from/to China.   |                     |
| <b>VI. ECO Visa Scheme for Drivers</b> |   |                     |
| 86.                                    | The Council requested Member States (with the exception of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Türkiye) to accede and implement Visa Pilot Scheme to help further facilitation of visa procedures for the drivers. The Council also requested the Secretariat, in consultation with acceded countries, to propose modalities for early implementation of Visa Pilot Scheme among themselves.  |                     |
| 87.                                    | The Council requested the Secretariat to organize the next meeting of ECO Consular Officials.   |                     |
| <b>VII. Maritime Cooperation</b>       |   |                     |
| 88.                                    | The Council emphasized the importance of convening the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of ECO Maritime Reference Organizations as early as possible in 2026.   |                     |
| 89.                                    | The Council supported the initiative where 3 ECO transit countries (Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye) have planned to accumulate their efforts to offer ports facilities and opportunities to the ECO landlocked Member States.   |                     |
| 90.                                    | The Council recommended those Member States in the position to do so, to offer capacity building programmes in various areas of maritime industry for the rest of the Membership.   |                     |
| <b>VIII. ECO Gates Projects</b>        |   |                     |
| 91.                                    | Given the promising findings so far and IDB's readiness to continue, the Council gave mandate to the ECO Secretariat to advance to the next phase – jointly conducting a full feasibility study on the identified ECO gates in partnership with IDB and other interested relevant partners. The Council also requested the Member States and CPR to give necessary support to the Secretariat and national focal points.  |                     |
| 92.                                    | The Council underlined the importance of close cooperation with the UNEP European Office as the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention under Action Plan in case of dredging as well as the newly established Asia Pacific Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development (jointly with UNESCAP) and other regional structures aimed at promotion of digital transport and ICT in the ECO region as well as utilizing partnership with the Islamic Development Bank under the |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
|--|---|---------------------|
|  | ECO Gate project phase-2.   |                     |
| <b>IX. Civil Aviation</b>  |   |                     |
| 93.  | The Council requested Member States to provide their needs with regards to capacity building programmes in civil aviation areas in 2026-2027.   |                     |
| 94.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat, in coordination with Member States, to facilitate organization of capacity-building programmes proposed by Civil Aviation Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran.   |                     |
| 95.  | The Council encouraged regional cooperation on aviation training, mutual recognition of certification, technical capacity-building and aviation knowledge-sharing among ECO Member States, including in the context of digital platforms and specialized regional initiatives, through the ECO Working Group on Civil Aviation. |                     |
| 96.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to facilitate second High-Level Meeting of private airlines of the ECO Region in 2026 with wider participation by airlines from across the region.  |                     |
| 97.  | The Council proposed that the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan share their experience, achievements, and plans for developing the Gabala and Samarkand airports as regional aviation hubs.   |                     |
| <b>X. ECO Transport Excellence Award</b>   |   |                     |
| 98.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to explore possibility for engaging one or more international partner organizations for the effective implementation of the Award as proposed by 11 <sup>th</sup> ECO Transport Ministerial Meeting and submit a report to the next 14th Ministerial Meeting.                         |                     |
| 99.  | The Council encouraged ECO-CCI to play a more active role in this regard.   |                     |
| <b>XI. Joint IDB/UNECE Project on Transport Geographical Information Systems (GIS)</b> |   |                     |
| 100.   | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to agree with UNECE and IDB on the next steps and phases, including required studies and projects. This may also include possible financing for creating GIS section in the ECO Secretariat/or hiring temporary staff needed for next phases.   |                     |
| 101.   | The Council requested the Member States to continue to update their transport data on the ITIO  |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
|---|--|---------------------|
|   | GIS platform.  |                     |
| <b>XII. ECO Freight Forwarders Association</b>                      |  |                     |
| <b>102.</b>   | The Council may request the Member States to expedite their views and comments on the proposed Statute of the Association and suggest the Secretariat to organize technical meetings for the final approval of the Statute in 2026.  |                     |
| <b>103.</b>   | The Member States may be requested to encourage one interested freight forwarders association to host the first meeting of the “ECO Freight Forwarders Association”.   |                     |
| <b>B) COMMUNICATIONS (ICT)</b>                                      |  |                     |
| <b>I. ECO Regional Strategy for Information Society Development</b> |  |                     |
| <b>104.</b>   | The Council emphasized the importance of the expected decisions and outcomes of the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT to be held in the future in Islamabad, including the new ECO ICT Strategy, and requested for active participation by the Member States and full implementation of Ministerial outcome.  |                     |
| <b>105.</b>   | The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide a concept paper on the proposed initiative of the Honorable Iran’s President at 17 <sup>th</sup> ECO Summit for the establishment of the ECO Artificial Intelligence Centre as an ECO regional and specialized body.   |                     |
| <b>106.</b>   | The Council emphasized the importance of digitalization of the economies and sectors across the ECO Region and requested Republic of Uzbekistan to further elaborate on, and organize meeting for, the proposed ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office.  |                     |
| <b>107.</b>   | The Council deliberated on the idea of developing a digital platform for corridor management, applicable to all ECO transport and transit corridors, and mandated the ECO Secretariat to work and report on this important instrument.   |                     |
| <b>108.</b>   | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to interact with Member States in the position to do so, as well as ECO partners (ITU, ESCAP, Asia Pacific Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development etc), to ensure continued technical and scientific capacity building and training programmes in different areas of emerging technologies and knowledge and implementation of advanced algorithms for ECO Digital Strategy, ECO Fiber-Optic Network and AI. |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 109.  | The Council emphasized the importance of fiber-optic line linking Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and requested aforementioned countries to convene a meeting to finalize this proposal.  |                     |
| <b>II. ECO ICT Working Group</b>  |   |                     |
| 110.  | The Council requested the Member States to re-activate the Working Group as an appropriate technical body within ECO to discuss and coordinate policies, actions and measures vis-à-vis rapidly changing ICT environment. The Council welcomed the proposal of Iran to host the 4 <sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting in virtual format after the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT. |                     |
| <b>III. ICT regulatory frameworks</b>   |   |                     |
| 111.  | The Council encouraged Member States to actively participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ECO High Level Working Group of ICT Regulatory authorities, to be held in the future in Pakistan back-to-back with the Ministerial Meeting.  |                     |
| 112.  | The Council may encourage close cooperation with the ITU, ESCAP, ... in regulatory policy areas as well as technical assistance, training and capacity building and capacity development programmes tailored for the needs and requirements of the ECO Member States and the ECO Region as a whole.   |                     |
| <b>IV. Digital connectivity as envisaged in AWAZA Programme of Action 2024-2034</b> |   |                     |
| 113.  | The Council gave mandate to the ECO Secretariat to explore all possibilities and opportunities, within and outside the Region, to assist implementation of Awaza Programme of Action 2024-2034 in the ECO region, especially priority 3 on digital connectivity, to the benefit of 7 ECO landlocked Member States.  |                     |
| <b>C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>                                |   |                     |
| <b>ENERGY</b>   |   |                     |
| <b>General Provisions</b>   |   |                     |

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| 114.       | The Council emphasized that the rapidly evolving global energy landscape and multiple sustainability challenges in the wake of the cascading international crises necessitate enhanced regional cooperation and coordinated action among the ECO Member States. The Council thus called upon all relevant energy stakeholders to enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade with a view to foster a thriving and resilient ECO region pursuant to “ECO Vision 2025”, “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and a new “ECO Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035”. |                     |
| 115.       | The Council acknowledged that the focused approach on major promising projects and identification of ECO’s niche in the complicated regional energy architecture based on the realistic assessment of its advantages are critically important for the success of energy cooperation within ECO.  |                     |
| 116.       | The Council recognized with appreciation the recent developments in regional energy cooperation and steady progress of key energy projects within ECO since the 35 <sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting, most notably in terms of sustainable energy transition and ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO), multilateral power connectivity and ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM), stimulating policy and expert-level dialogues, as well as engagements with international partners.   |                     |
| 117.       | The Council, while reiterating the importance of adequate means of implementation and financial resource mobilization strategies, called for scaling up predictable, sustainable, and sufficient funds for key regional energy projects and initiatives. In this vein, the Council encouraged the Member States to enhance their ownership in the ECO’s major energy projects and provide co-financing with a view to leverage international financial resources.  |                     |
| 118.       | The Council acclaimed the steady efforts and interaction of ECO with UNIDO and ESCAP for advancement of the CECECO and ECO-REM projects, respectively and tasked the Secretariat to continue exploring cooperation opportunities with international development partners for implementation of energy projects.  |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
|---|--|---------------------|
| <b>Priority area 1: Implementation of “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan, as well as the decisions of 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting</b> |  |                     |
| 119.  | The Council strongly recommended the Member States to reflect and implement the provisions of the “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan in their relevant national development agenda and policies, while this strategy encompasses a number of target-oriented action areas and represents a guiding document towards enriching the regional energy agenda.                        |                     |
| 120.  | The Council also encouraged the Member States to regularly monitor and oversee the implementation of “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030” and its Action Plan, and designate to this end, their national focal points and institutions for coordination of its in-country components.  |                     |
| 121.  | The Council highlighted the importance of the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting at this critical juncture, as it may revive the policy dialogue and cooperation momentum within ECO, endorse ambitious plans, and navigate on necessary synergies and complementarities across sectors.   |                     |
| 122.  | The Council took note with appreciation the kind proposal of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 5 <sup>th</sup> ECO Energy Ministerial Meeting in 2026 and requested the host authorities to transmit its date(s), venue and modality of hospitality. The Council also called on the Member States to provide their insights and proposals for stocktaking and enriching the agenda of the subject meeting. |                     |
| <b>Priority area 2: Sustainable Energy Transition and Establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre</b>  |  |                     |
| 123.  | The Council reaffirmed the importance of coherent mainstreaming of the irreversible sustainable energy transition in ECO’s overall energy agenda and pursuing stronger energy-environment nexus approach to promote economic development in pursuance of “ECO Vision 2025” and “ECO Strategy for Energy Cooperation 2030”.   |                     |
| 124.  | The Council welcomed the steadfast advancement of ECO’s flagship energy project on   |                     |

| Paragraph# | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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|            | establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO), being jointly implemented with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Azerbaijan for its unwavering commitment, leadership, and continued support both throughout the establishment process and in ensuring the effective operationalization and long-term success of the Centre.   |                     |
| 125.       | The Council noted with appreciation the eventual finalization of entry into force of the Charter of CECECO in August 2025 with three ratifications (Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan). The Council welcomed the signing of the Charter of CECECO by six Signatory Member States, namely Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Kazakhstan, and further encouraged other ECO Member States to expedite the signing and ratification procedures of the Charter of CECECO. |                     |
| 126.       | The Council underscored the outcomes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors of CECECO, which took important decisions with respect to adoption of the Rules of Procedure and appointment of its Executive Director.   |                     |
| 127.       | The Council highlighted that the milestone decisions taken at the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors of CECECO enabled the CECECO to sign the Host Country Agreement with the Government of the Republic Azerbaijan and further set up the headquarters in Baku in October 2025. The Council thus welcomed the operationalization of the Centre with the limited local staff supported by the financial and in-kind contribution of the Government of Azerbaijan.                            |                     |
| 128.       | The Council also noted with satisfaction the convening of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting of CECECO on 14 May, which reviewed the report of the Center and Its Work Plan for May-December 2026. The Council also noted that the drafts Staff Regulations and Financial Regulations, had been presented for the consideration to the Executive Board by the CECECO Secretariat.  |                     |
| 129.       | The Council welcomed the decision of the 306 <sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting to allocate 50,000USD to CECECO from the ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) in the current Fiscal Year as a   |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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|             | partial financing of the project, which will be treated as a grant.   |                     |
| <b>130.</b> | The Council called upon the Signatory Member States to keep up this momentum of seamless progress of the CECECO by more proactive engagement in full operationalization of this Centre, most notably in expediting regulatory procedures and resource mobilization. In this context, the Council highlighted the need in the coherent resource mobilization at this initial stage, particularly allocation of financial resources for launching the programme activities. |                     |
| <b>131.</b> | The Council also called for scaling up financial commitments through enhanced development cooperation from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral with international development partners of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) taking the lead.   |                     |
| <b>132.</b> | The Council expressed its conviction that the CECECO will evolve into a pivotal hub to ramp up the green industrialisation, energy and climate goals in the ECO region, as well as become a strong component of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), being successfully realized across the globe.   |                     |
| <b>133.</b> | The Council extended the appreciation to UNIDO for its unwavering support to CECECO and called for continued cooperation with UNIDO and other international development partners for implementation of CECECO programmes and projects.  |                     |
| <b>134.</b> | The Council invited the volunteer Member States to host the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Experts Group on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources (EGEERES) in 2026, and encouraged all Member States to be proactively involved in the EGEERES with a view to advance regional sustainable energy agenda.   |                     |
| <b>135.</b> | The Council took note with appreciation the proposals made by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan with respect to regional cooperation possibilities on Green Energy Corridors and application of ESCO (Energy Service Companies) model for energy efficiency. The Council invited the Member States to share their reflections on these proposals.  |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| <b>Priority area 3: Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)</b> |   |                     |
| 136.   | The Council reemphasized the importance of speeding up of establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) through stronger technical dialogue and regional coordination. The Council thus called upon the Member States to give renewed impetus to cooperation within the subject Project and provide their utmost contribution to its successful advancement in the years ahead.  |                     |
| 137.   | The Council extended its appreciation to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its strong support in launching and implementing the Feasibility Study of the Project on the establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) through its dedicated project “Energy Connectivity for Sustainable Development”, kicked off in January 2024, which covers all ten ECO Member States.  |                     |
| 138.   | The Council welcomed the proceedings and outcomes of the Task Force Meetings on establishment of ECO-REM at the managerial and technical level, specifically the 1 <sup>st</sup> Task Force Meeting on 23 September 2025 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Task Force Meeting on 17 December 2025 both held in virtual mode.  |                     |
| 139.   | The Council resolved to finalize, prior to the 5 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Energy, the consideration and peer review of the draft “Regional Roadmap of Power System Connectivity – ECO Regional Electricity Market: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development” as a deliverable of the ESCAP Project. The Council noted with satisfaction that the roadmap entails a set of targeted, action-oriented recommendations for policy and regulatory reforms that would enable the establishment of multilateral, multi-directional power trading at sub-regional levels. |                     |
| 140.   | The Council called upon the Member States and the Secretariat to further re-consider, driven by the outcomes and recommendations of the subject ESCAP project, the ways and means of implementation of the ECO-REM, including revisiting the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for its Feasibility Study.  |                     |

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| 141.   | The Council requested any volunteer Member State to consider hosting the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on establishment of ECO-REM in the second half of 2026.   |                     |
| 142.   | The Council invited the Member States to harness the benefits of larger integrated systems through multilateral, multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources.   |                     |
| <b>Other activities on energy</b>  |  |                     |
| 143.   | The Council encouraged the Member States to share their needs which are relevant to the common interests of all ECO Member States, and consider the coherent and meaningful activities that may contribute to the advancement of ECO agenda in upstream, midstream and downstream sectors.   |                     |
| 144.   | The Council took note with appreciation of the proposal made by the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allocate a booth to the ECO Secretariat at the International Exhibition of Oil, Gas, Refining, and Petrochemicals of Iran (Iran Oil Show).  |                     |
| 145.   | The Council tasked the Secretariat to pursue the partnerships and engagements with the UN agencies, Energy Charter, IRENA, IFIs like IsDB, AIIB and other potential international partners with a view to promote cooperation, get the support for implementation of energy projects, as well as raise the visibility and outreach of ECO. |                     |
| 146.   | The Council underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in energy sector by improving the science-policy interface and engaging more actively with the private sector.  |                     |
| <b>MINERALS</b>  |  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area: Streamlining Project-Oriented Cooperation in the Minerals Sector</b> |  |                     |
| 147.   | The Council reaffirmed ECO as a unique platform for driving the minerals sector into a catalyst of greater economic growth and social progress across the region in pursuance of the “ECO Vision 2025” and “ECO Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035”. The Council thus  |                     |

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|            | called upon the Member States to streamline the project-oriented cooperation and mobilize resources for implementation of decisions in minerals sector via available institutional framework tools.  |                     |
| 148.       | The Council encouraged the Member States to capitalize on the surging global demand for minerals, including critical raw materials and strategic commodities essential for modern industries, clean energy technologies, and infrastructure development. The Council further highlighted the importance of promoting sustainable mining practices, resilient supply chains, and regional value-added production.   |                     |
| 149.       | The Council, while noting with appreciation the recent endeavours of individual ECO Member States to shift towards a sustainable and responsible mineral industry, called for exploring ways and means for coherent promotion and exchange of sustainable management of mineral resources and mining practices within ECO.   |                     |
| 150.       | The Council reiterated the necessity of an integrated approach and synergies across green growth, energy transition, digital transformation, resource-efficiency and circularity, and technological innovation associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution with a view to address minerals and mining industry opportunities and challenges.  |                     |
| 151.       | The Council acknowledged with satisfaction the convening of the 9 <sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting (MEGM) on 12 February 2025 in hybrid mode under the able chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Council commended the participation of the delegates of nine ECO Member States and a number of proposals discussed at the subject meeting, which manifested the interest in regional cooperation and growing ECO agenda in minerals. |                     |
| 152.       | The Council highlighted the proposal on the establishment of ECO Mineral Resources Centre in Pakistan to serve as regional knowledge-sharing and cooperation put forwards at the 9 <sup>th</sup> MEGM. In a follow up of the outcomes of the 9 <sup>th</sup> MEGM, the Council invited the Member  |                     |

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|            | States to share their respective views and comments on the aforementioned proposal made at the 9th MEGM.   |                     |
| 153.       | The Council took note of the proposal of Pakistan and encouraged the Member States for establishment of ECO Mineral Fund for (i) undertaking joint mineral exploration of identified most prospective mineral zones to the level of bankable feasibility studies; and (ii) collective development of such bankable mining projects.  |                     |
| 154.       | The Council also called on the Member States to meticulously consider and provide reflections on the remarkable number of project proposals on the ECO's minerals agenda with a view to prioritize the most feasible ones and identify the measurable steps for their subsequent launching and implementation, driven by ECO's limited resources.  |                     |
| 155.       | The Council took note of the readiness of the Geological Survey of Iran to implement the Service Catalog and Meta data System project and Smartization of Geology and Mineral Exploration project.   |                     |
| 156.       | The Council recommended that the project proposal "Preparation of the ECO-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI)" could be launched with the understanding of all ECO Member States' firm support. To this end, the Council took note that the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) may consider co-financing of the subject project proposal from ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) upon allocation of the pledged budget by the Islamic Republic of Iran as its initiator country. The Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) reiterated its willingness to cooperate with the ECO Secretariat and Member States with a view to facilitate the launch of ECO-EQI project. |                     |
| 157.       | The Council welcomed the overwhelming adoption of the "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030" at the 303 <sup>rd</sup> CPR Meeting, held on 27 January 2026. The Council thus encouraged the Member States to embrace and leverage the subject Roadmap,  |                     |

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|            | <p>initiated by ECO Secretariat as the first ever overarching, inclusive and strategic document for regional cooperation in the field of minerals. The Council expressed its conviction that the Roadmap will serve as a valuable guiding framework for enhanced cooperation among Member States in the areas of sustainable management of mineral resources, minerals database, creating stronger regulatory environment for mineral resources, investment promotion, technological innovation, capacity building and awareness raising, and other related areas.</p> |                     |
| 158.       | <p>The Council further took note of the proposal of ECO Secretariat to proceed with mapping out a sort of a Plan of Action of the “ECO Five-Year Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation for 2026-2030”, while this Plan of Action may embed the Roadmap with the implementation framework, specifically capturing concrete activities/actions, their timeframe, outcomes, responsibilities and roles of lead countries, and monitoring. The Council thus invited the Member States to proactively engage in preparation of the subject Plan of Action.</p>                    |                     |
| 159.       | <p>The Council invited the Member States to host the key cooperation platform meetings in minerals over the years of 2026 and 2027 to keep the regional cooperation in minerals intact.</p>  |                     |
| 160.       | <p>The Council welcomed, in this context, the readiness of the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) to host 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting in I.R. Iran and invited the Member States to actively participate in this key platform meeting and contribute to its proceedings. The Council also welcomed the kind intention of the Ministry of Energy of Pakistan to convene the subject event in virtual mode in case it will not be organized by Iran.</p>   |                     |
| 161.       | <p>The Council noted with appreciation the readiness of the National Cartographic Centre of Iran (NCC) to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ECO Heads of Surveying and Mapping Organizations and invited the Member States to actively participate in this key platform meeting and contribute to its agenda related to cartography, geospatial technologies, and digital mapping.</p>  |                     |
| 162.       | <p>The Council also noted with appreciation the readiness of the National Cartographic Centre of</p>   |                     |

| Paragraph#                | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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|                           | Iran (NCC) to host the <del>4<sup>th</sup></del> - <u>2<sup>nd</sup></u> ECO Geomatics Committee (He-GC) virtual Meeting in IR. Iran, which may explore new opportunities for technical cooperation and regional projects in geomatics and geospatial sciences, November 2026   |                     |
| 163.                      | The Council acknowledged with satisfaction the Technical Meeting for the Production of the ECO General Atlas, August 2026 by National Cartographic Center of Iran, in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat.   |                     |
| 164.                      | The Council recalled the initiative of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) to implement the project “World is our home”, which aims to create digital learning materials for nature sciences and geological heritage, provide with interactive engaging resources, and thus requested ECOEI to provide the detailed information on the subject project and ECO’s possible engagement.                       |                     |
| 165.                      | The Council encouraged the Member States to volunteer hosting / co-hosting the training courses for capacity building and sharing best practices in the ECO Region on various pertinent topics.   |                     |
| 166.                      | The Council called upon the Member States and the ECO Secretariat to identify innovative and practical mechanisms for enhancing regional cooperation in the minerals sector, with particular emphasis on sustainability, responsible resource management, technology transfer, investment facilitation, and human capacity development.   |                     |
| <b>ENVIRONMENT</b>        |   |                     |
| <b>General Provisions</b> |   |                     |
| 167.                      | The Council reaffirmed that environmental degradation and climate change pose an existential threat to the ECO region, demanding a unified and accelerated response. The core strategic goal must be the transition from fragmented national actions to a cohesive regional framework, enhancing collaboration to secure a just transition and solidify ECO’s role in the global environmental community. |                     |

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| 168.       | The Council recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right, as affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly. In this context, the Council underscored the necessity of mainstreaming environmental considerations into all levels of decision-making, including policies, strategies, plans, and budgets, and called upon Member States to gradually eliminate harmful incentives and scale up positive encouragements for environmental protection, circularity, and resource efficiency.                                  |                     |
| 169.       | The Council reiterated the importance of an integrated approach to tackle the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. It emphasized that a transition to a circular economy, which decouples economic activity from the overconsumption of finite resources, is a game changer for the green transition in the ECO region. This requires revisiting consumption and production patterns, bolstering national and regional zero-waste initiatives, and building scientific, technological, and innovation capacity.                 |                     |
| 170.       | The Council acknowledged the intensified regional environmental diplomacy in 2025, including the active participation of the ECO Secretariat and Member States in key global forums, such as the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2025) in virtual mode. It noted that major 2026 events, including the Regional Ecological Summit (RES) in the Kazakhstan and Türkiye's hosting of COP31, present pivotal platforms for unified ECO advocacy.                       |                     |
| 171.       | The Council welcomed the progress made on the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy in the ECO Region (RESCUE), launched at COP29, which has been endorsed as a crucial regional platform. It noted with appreciation the Secretariat's partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in co-organizing an online Accelerator Session during WCEF 2025 and the subsequent development of a project concept titled "Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition in the ECO Region". |                     |
| 172.       | The Council recalled the ongoing strategic consultations with multilateral environmental entities   |                     |

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|  | and international partners, including UNEP, UNIDO, and ZWF to promote the implementation of the RESCUE Initiative. It stressed that demonstrating stronger political will and investment by Member States is a requisite for a more positive and welcoming approach by these entities towards further collaboration with the ECO region.  |                     |
| 173.   | The Council called upon Member States to more proactively host and participate in the ECO environmental meetings to create and bolster mechanisms for policy coordination. In this context, it welcomed the convening of the inaugural meeting of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation by the Republic of Uzbekistan on the margins of the Regional Ecological Summit in Astana (Kazakhstan) in April 2026.  |                     |
| 174.   | The Council took note of the new date of the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, to be hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan in Samarkand on 3 June 2026. The Council underscored that this meeting is critical for creating a new momentum for regional cooperation and reviving a policy dialogue after a decade-long pause. The Council thus called upon all Member States to overwhelmingly participate at a high level to adopt key policy documents. |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 1: ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment</b> |   |                     |
| 175.   | The Council expressed concern over the growing gap between the adaptation needs of developing countries and the support provided, particularly due to the increasing impacts of climate change. It underscored that international climate financing must be made more equitable and responsive, and noted that a unified regional strategy will strengthen Member States' ability to collectively negotiate for and access international climate funds.                       |                     |
| 176.   | The Council noted with satisfaction the updating and revision of the draft ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) and its annexes - Work Program on Climate Change and Work Program on Biodiversity, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Member States.  |                     |

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| 177.   | The Council identified the consensus on formal adoption of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026-2030) during the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment as a critical policy milestone. This Framework is expected to transform the region into a coordinated platform capable of structured action, stronger advocacy, and improved access to resources. The Council invited Member States to spearhead finalizing the calendar of events and structured implementation pathway under the Framework.  |                     |
| 178.   | The Council highlighted the importance of exchanging trusted and reliable environmental data as a requisite for evidence-based decision-making and encouraged Member States to submit their environmental National Progress Reports (NPRs) to the Secretariat during the first quarter of each calendar year.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 2: Combating Land Degradation with a special emphasis on Sand and Dust Storms in the Region</b> |  |                     |
| 179.   | The Council noted that desertification, drought, land degradation, and sand and dust storms are among the environmental challenges affecting the region.   |                     |
| 180.   | The Council reviewed the status of the project proposal titled “Capacity Building of Countries in the ECO Region on Desertification, Land Degradation and Erosion Monitoring Systems,” developed by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye. While appreciating the aforementioned authority for initiating the project proposal, the Council noted the Secretariat’s circulation of the proposal, the absence of contradictory views from Member States, and the Secretariat’s encouragement to explore alternative funding sources, including the UNCCD. |                     |
| 181.   | The Council highlighted the following expected outcomes for 2026: The official launch of the Turkish-led “Capacity Building on Monitoring Systems” project, subject to the availability of financial resources. Upon launch, activities should entail the determination of the existing status of monitoring and evaluation systems of countries, preparation of the ongoing situation report and the study program and sharing it with the participating countries, and organizing a  |                     |

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|   | workshop in this respect.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 3: Addressing serious threats to biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems in the ECO Region</b> |  |                     |
| 182.  | The Council emphasized the escalating threats to the ECO region's diverse ecosystems, from mountains and forests to wetlands, and the need to reverse biodiversity loss to ensure long-term sustainability. The Council confirmed that the Work Program on Biodiversity in the ECO Region (2026-2030) has been finalized and is pending adoption. It identified the importance of the formal adoption of this Work Program during the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment as a key outcome for 2026, representing a significant regional contribution to the collaborative management of shared ecosystems. |                     |
| 183.  | The Council stressed that sustainable forest management, afforestation and reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and the promotion of nature-based solutions are essential for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, and the enhancement of regional ecological resilience.   |                     |
| 184.  | The Council invited Member States to actively prepare the ground for the implementation of the Work Program by moving towards harmonizing national policies and promoting ecosystem-based approaches. It further called for more effective engagement by Member States in collective biodiversity-related action through hosting and attending environmental meetings and events in the region and beyond.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 4: Cooperation with the environment-related international organizations/ entities/ instruments</b>   |  |                     |
| 185.  | The Council commended the ECO Secretariat's efforts to leverage its observer status in key global and regional forums, including UNEA, UNFF, ESCAP and the Rio Conventions, as well as to deepen collaboration with partners like UNIDO and ZWF.   |                     |
| 186.  | The Council endorsed the strategic direction for advancing the circular economy agenda, calling the Secretariat to finalize the concept and proceed with the joint implementation of the "Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition in the ECO Region" project in collaboration with   |                     |

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|            | UNIDO.                |                     |

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| 187.   | The Council noted the Secretariat’s active and impactful participation in the Regional Ecological Summit in Astana, using this occasion to convene the inaugural meeting of the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation, thereby establishing a permanent mechanism for high-level policy coordination.  |                     |
| 188.   | The Council called upon all Member States to leverage COP31 in Türkiye in 2026 as a pivotal advocacy platform. It urged them to articulate a unified ECO voice, showcase the RESCUE Initiative and other regional projects, and forge new partnerships for climate resilience and sustainable development, employing the newly adopted Cooperation Framework as a basis for a unified regional position.   |                     |
| <b>D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE &amp; INDUSTRY</b>                             |  |                     |
| <b>AGRICULTURE</b>   |  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-1: Policy Makers Cooperation on Agriculture</b>         |  |                     |
| 189.   | The Council, while noting the postponement of the 8 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and the 7 <sup>th</sup> High-Level Experts Meeting (HLEM) on Agriculture due to a lack of quorum, scheduled to take place in Iran on 16-17 February 2026, welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to reschedule both meetings in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2026 and invited all Member States to actively take part in these events at the highest level.   |                     |
| 190.   | The Council, while welcoming the initiative proposed by the Republic of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the “Green Lanes” System within the ECO framework to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation among Member States through the liberalization of trade in agro-industrial products, the establishment of electronic data exchange mechanisms and the reduction of administrative barriers in agricultural trade, requested Uzbekistan, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat, to develop a detailed implementation roadmap and framework for the initiative, and invited Member States to provide their feedback and support to facilitate its advancement. |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-2: Food Security and Implementation of the ECO-RPFS</b> |  |                     |

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| 191.  | The Council appreciated the ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) for submitting to the ECO Secretariat the outcome report of the project titled “Support the Transformation of the ECO Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS) from a Programme-Based Organization into a Self-Sustainable Institution within the ECO,” outlining its key findings and recommendations. |                     |
| 192.  | The Council encouraged Member States to develop and implement projects aligned with the endorsed RPFS under the technical guidance of ECO-RCCFS.  |                     |
| 193.  | The Council, while acknowledging the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 5 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the ECO-RCCFS for Implementation of the ECO-RPFS, requested the host authorities to provide the precise dates and details of the meeting  |                     |
| 194.  | The Council invited Member States to contribute actively to the regional food security monitoring and knowledge-sharing mechanism and early warning indicators, and tasked the ECO-RCCFS to serve as a technical facilitator coordinating data integration and harmonized information sharing among participating Member States.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-3: Strengthening Seed Supply in the ECO Region</b> |   |                     |
| 195.  | The Council, while acknowledging the draft ECO Regional Seed Agreement prepared under the ECO/FAO-SEC Project on Seed Sector Development in the Region, and the feedback received from Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, requested the remaining Member States to submit their feedback to expedite the finalization of the Agreement.   |                     |
| 196.  | The Council, while noting the nominations already received from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, called upon all Member States to submit and regularly update their nominations for the formation of the ECOSA Advisory Board.  |                     |
| 197.  | The Council invited Member States to consider hosting the 9 <sup>th</sup> ECOSA International Seed Trade Conference and requested interested Member State(s) to provide the proposed dates and relevant organizational details of the event.  |                     |

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| 198.  | The Council, while appreciating ECOSA for organizing a series of nine online meetings to showcase the seed sectors of Member States during 2025 and early 2026, encouraged ECOSA, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat, to develop and submit a concrete roadmap, for the establishment of an ECO Regional Seed Information Exchange Platform to facilitate transparency on seed varieties, certification systems, and trade opportunities.                 |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-4: Cooperation on Animal Trade and Veterinary Services</b> |   |                     |
| 199.  | The Council, while noting the ratification of the ECO Permanent Veterinary Commission (ECO-VECO) Statute by Afghanistan and Iran, urged the remaining Member States to consider signing and ratifying the Statute.  |                     |
| 200.  | The Council invited Member States to consider hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Veterinary Organizations as well as the 4 <sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting for the implementation of the ECO-VECO Work Plan 2024–2028, and requested the interested Member State(s) to provide the proposed dates and programmatic details of the events.  |                     |
| 201.  | The Council encouraged Member States to strengthen regional collaboration in the priority area relating to animal trade and veterinary services, to designate or update their national focal points, and to actively support the implementation of the outcomes of the small-scale project on the standardized ECO network of slaughterhouses and reference laboratories, with a view to facilitating trans-boundary trade of livestock and livestock products. |                     |
| 202.  | The Council encouraged Member States, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat and ECO-VECO, and in collaboration with FAO and WOAHP, to initiate a regional capacity-building programme on transboundary animal disease control, especially FMD and PPR, with a particular focus on harmonized surveillance and laboratory networking.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-5: Water Management</b>                                    |   |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| 203.   | The Council, while noting the pendency of the establishment process of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA), reiterated its call upon the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to expedite the establishment process of the Center and submit a progress report on the status of that process to the ECO Secretariat through diplomatic channels.  |                     |
| 204.   | The Council, while acknowledging the nominations of national focal points received from Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, renewed its request to Member States to nominate or update their national focal points and to actively engage in establishing a coordinated network among their relevant institutions, with a view to strengthening regional cooperation in water management and supporting the timely establishment of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA). |                     |
| 205.   | The Council called upon the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, pending the formal establishment of the ECO-CEEWUA, to consider organizing, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat, a series of regional technical meetings on efficient water use in agriculture, focusing on drought management, irrigation efficiency, and climate-smart practices.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 6: Cooperation on Meteorological Issues</b> |   |                     |
| 206.   | The Council, while noting the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations and recalling that the main purpose of the meeting is to discuss the draft Statute of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC), encouraged Member States to convey their comments and observations on the draft Statute in a timely manner so that the meeting may be scheduled thereafter.  |                     |
| 207.   | The Council, while noting the comments received from Pakistan and Tajikistan, requested the remaining Member States to submit their comments and observations on the draft Statute of the ECO Meteorological Calibration Center (ECO-MCC) to facilitate its finalization.   |                     |
| 208.   | The Council encouraged Member States to explore the development of a pilot regional agro-meteorological cooperation initiative to support agricultural planning and risk mitigation.  |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| <b>Priority Area-7: Agricultural Bio-technology Network</b>                     |   |                     |
| 209.  | The Council, while appreciating the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Expert Group Meeting of the ECO Agricultural Bio-Technology Network (ECO-ABN), called upon the host authorities to communicate the exact dates and detailed logistical arrangements for the meeting.  |                     |
| 210.  | The Council requested ECO-ABN to regularly update its website and strengthen its engagement with relevant international networks and organizations, and encouraged Member States to proactively advance the network's objectives by submitting their periodic national reports and updating their focal point nominations.  |                     |
| 211.  | The Council recommended that ECO-ABN, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat, initiate a regional inventory of agricultural biotechnology capacities and research priorities, with a view to identifying concrete opportunities for joint research and technology transfer.   |                     |
| 212.  | The Council requested Member States to provide comments and observations on the proposed ECO Biosafety Capacity Building (ECO-BCB) project by the Islamic Republic of Iran.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-8: Relations with Regional and International Organizations</b> |   |                     |
| 213.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to pursue cooperation and engagement with relevant international organizations and partners in agriculture, and recommended that Member States and the Secretariat invite representatives of these organizations and partners to relevant ECO events to enhance inter-organizational partnerships.  |                     |
| 214.  | The Council, while acknowledging the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ECO and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in 2025, expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for operationalizing the Joint Plan of Action and for its efforts in advancing its implementation, and called upon Member States to actively participate in the implementation of its agreed activities, while encouraging them to host relevant activities under the Joint Plan of Action, with a view to ensuring its effective and timely implementation. |                     |
| 215.  | The Council emphasized the need for strengthened collective efforts by Member States and the ECO Secretariat, using all available means, to mobilize financial resources from relevant international and regional organizations in support of ECO's agricultural projects and activities.   |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| <b>INDUSTRY</b>   |   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-1: Policy Makers Cooperation on Industry</b> |   |                     |
| 216.  | The Council, while appreciating the Republic of Tajikistan’s offer for hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry on 23 September 2026 and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Industry on 22 September 2026, along with an International Textile Forum on the margins of these events in Dushanbe, invited all Member States to actively participate in the scheduled events at the highest possible level. |                     |
| 217.  | The Council called for strengthened and coordinated efforts by Member States and the ECO Secretariat, utilizing all available means, to actively mobilize financial resources from relevant international and regional organizations in support of ECO’s agricultural projects and activities, with a view to ensuring their effective and timely implementation.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-2: Cooperation on Quality Infrastructure</b> |   |                     |
| 218.  | The Council, while noting the ratification of the Statute of the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (ECO-RISCAM) by Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye, requested the remaining Member States to sign and ratify the Statute and its Protocol Amending Article 5.4.1.10 to facilitate its operationalization, and urged all Member States to participate actively in its activities.              |                     |
| 219.  | The Council, while noting the comments received from Azerbaijan, Iran, and Türkiye on the draft basic documents ( <i>i.e.</i> Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations, Staff Regulations, Roadmap, and Work Programme) of ECO-RISCAM, requested the remaining Member States to submit their comments to facilitate the approval of these documents at the First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM.  |                     |
| 220.  | The Council reiterated its request to all Member States to timely update the nomination of their focal points, including their contact details, for the ECO-RISCAM and each of its Technical Management Boards (TMBs).  |                     |
| 221.  | The Council requested Member States to share their conformity assessment methods and  |                     |

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|   | procedures in order to study the possibility of the harmonization of conformity assessment in the ECO Region.   |                     |
| 222.  | The Council, while noting the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal to host the First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2026 and the postponement of earlier dates due to a lack of quorum, requested the host authorities, subject to achieving a quorum of members, to provide confirmed dates and logistical details for the Meeting, and urged Member States to ensure their effective participation by officially designating their relevant representatives and heads of delegations. |                     |
| 223.  | The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye to expedite the establishment of the ECO-RISCAM Technical Management Boards (TMBs) for Metrology and for Standardization and Accreditation, respectively, and to communicate the ECO Secretariat of the proposed dates and details for the inaugural meetings of their respective boards.  |                     |
| 224.  | The Council, while appreciating the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing a virtual Training Workshop on Conformity Assessment on 18 November 2025, requested the Republic of Türkiye to provide dates and details for a workshop on Standardization and Accreditation, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for a workshop on Metrology, both to be held in 2026, and further requested Pakistan and Türkiye to submit their draft procedures for the functioning of their respective Technical Management Boards (TMBs).    |                     |
| 225.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to communicate with ECO-RISCAM Member States in order to expedite the establishment of ECO-RISCAM Technical Management Boards (TMB) for Standardization with the aim of exploring opportunities and conducting technical discussions on the possibility of harmonization of regional standards.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-3: Cooperation on Nanotechnology Network</b> |   |                     |
| 226.  | The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting on ECO Nanotechnology Network and to provide precise dates and detailed logistical arrangements for the meeting to be held in 2026, and further invited all Member States to ensure their active participation therein.  |                     |
| 227.  | The Council called upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to update the study on nanotechnology in   |                     |

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|  | the ECO region, and requested all Member States to provide the necessary updated information through the ECO Secretariat for this purpose.   |                     |
| 228.   | The Council requested Member States to submit updated country reports on this area of cooperation to the ECO Secretariat and to ensure a more active involvement of their nanotechnology-related institutions in the ECO Nanotechnology Network.   |                     |
| 229.   | The Council requested the expedited finalization and implementation of the project proposal for establishing a coordinating and facilitating platform to implement nanotechnology-based water treatment pilot/demo plants in the ECO region.   |                     |
| 230.   | The Council invited all Member States to nominate an educational coordinator to facilitate participation in the Second International Nano Olympiad for High School Students in 2026 and its virtual training courses and workshops offered by the Iran Nano and Micro Technology Development Council, and requested Member States to encourage eligible students, aged 16-19 from all fields of study, to participate in the Olympiad. |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-4: Industrial Property Rights</b>                   |  |                     |
| 231.   | The Council called upon Member States to consider hosting the 4 <sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee Meeting on Industrial Property Rights in 2026 and requested all Member States to actively participate in the meeting.   |                     |
| 232.   | The Council requested Member States to organize capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops on matter related to Industrial Property Rights and to strengthen their proactive engagement and cooperation in this regard.   |                     |
| 233.   | The Council encouraged Member States, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat and in collaboration with WIPO, to develop a pilot regional mechanism for the identification, protection, and commercialization of industrial property rights in the ECO region, with a particular focus on improving access to intellectual property services for MSMEs and start-ups.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-5: Development of MSMEs &amp; Entrepreneurships</b> |  |                     |
| 234.   | The Council welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 5 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development in 2026 (in-person), and requested all Member States to actively   |                     |

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|  | participate in the meeting.  |                     |
| 235.   | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat, in close coordination with relevant national institutions in Member States to develop a regional framework strategy and update Action Plan on MSME and Entrepreneurship Development in the ECO region, and to report progress thereon to the Council, with a view to strengthening policy coordination, enhancing institutional cooperation, and supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. |                     |
| 236.   | The Council encouraged Member States to organize expert-level meetings to explore a financial mechanism supporting start-ups, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs, and requested interested Member States to provide the relevant details to the ECO Secretariat.   |                     |
| 237.   | The Council requested Member States to enhance cooperation in organizing the First ECO International Innovation and Technological Exhibition (ECO-TEX) in 2026, and invite all Member States to actively participate and nominate focal points to support coordination.  |                     |
| 238.   | The Council encouraged interested Member States to organize a regional ECO MSME Innovation Forum within the ECO International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ECO-TEX), with a view to facilitating matchmaking among entrepreneurs, investors, and technology providers.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area-6: Relations with Regional/International Organizations/Agencies</b>             |  |                     |
| 239.   | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration with international and regional organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), to obtain financial and technical support, and called upon Member States to actively cooperate in this regard.  |                     |
| <b>E. SECTOR: TOURISM</b>  |  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 1: Cooperation for marketing, promotion, and branding of tourism activities</b> |  |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
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| 240.  | The Council expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the <b>6<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism</b> and the <b>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Tourism</b> in April 2025, along with the official opening ceremony for Erzurum as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2025 as well as appreciating the Member States for their contributions to achieving the objectives outlined in the <b>Erzurum Declaration</b> , adopted as the outcome document of the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism held on 26 April 2025 in Erzurum, Türkiye.                    |                     |
| 241.  | The Council appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the <b>7<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Tourism</b> on 28-29 April 2026, along with the official opening ceremony for Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2026. The Council also called upon Member States to provide necessary support for the decisions in the <b>Shusha Declaration</b> adopted at the end of the <b>7<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism</b> , and wished success for the events and media outreach planned to be held in Shusha throughout 2026. |                     |
| 242.  | The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding hosting the <b>8<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism</b> , along with the celebratory tourism events in <b>Lahore</b> in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, ECO Tourism Capital for 2027, raised during the 7 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, and requested that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan share the tentative program with the ECO Secretariat via official channels for timely coordination of the events.   |                     |
| 243.  | The Council welcomed the organization of the <b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism (ECO-ACT)</b> on 26 November 2025 in Tashkent, urging Member States to actively participate in the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> ECO-ACT Meeting</b> and finalizing the <b>Roadmap of the Expansion of Tourism Services for 2026-2030 (RETS-2030)</b> , emphasizing strengthened coordination and implementation oversight role of ECO-ACT aligned with the new ECO vision for 2035.   |                     |
| 244.  | The Council called for the continuation of the project ' <b>ECO Honorary Tourism Ambassadors</b> ' in collaboration with the Member States and the selection of personas for the year 2027, authorizing the ECO Secretary General to assign among the nominees approved by the Member States based on the latest version of the project concept note.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 2: Cooperation in Promotion of Silk Road Tourism</b> |  |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| 245.   | The Council, while welcoming the publication of the Second Special Edition of the ECO Chronicle dedicated to “UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the ECO Region” launched during the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ECO Silk Road Task Force hosted by Azerbaijan in Sheki on 29 October 2025, calls the Secretariat and the Member States to consider the possibility of organizing workshops in cooperation with relevant organizations like UNESCO on preservation of the ancient Silk Road heritages.   |                     |
| 246.   | The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Silk Road Task Force</b> and <b>6<sup>th</sup> ECO Silk Road Food Festival</b> and mandated the Secretariat to begin preparations on launching ECO’s Silk Road theme tourism initiative within the concept and timeline defined in RETS-2030.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 3: Travel and Tourism Facilitation</b>                |   |                     |
| 247.   | The recent efforts of Member States to ease visa regimes for tourism purposes were welcomed by the Council, and it was requested that visa policy-making authorities of the Member States both host and participate in the <b>ECO High Level Expert Meetings on Visa Facilitation</b> . Furthermore, the Council instructed the Secretariat to ensure the involvement of all relevant directorates (namely Trade, Transport, and Tourism) to advance toward a comprehensive visa-free travel regime within the region, extending beyond tourists to include businesspersons and transport professionals.                                  |                     |
| 248.   | The Council welcomed the questionnaire, which will identify the gaps and priorities of the Member States for the tourism connectivity circulated by the Secretariat following the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Tourism and Transport Task Force, and urged the Member States to complete the necessary responses to this questionnaire as soon as possible. The continuation of the ECO Tourism and Transport Task Force, reorganizing it into the <b>ECO-ACT Sub-Committee on Transport</b> , with a dedicated meeting to finalize the tourism connectivity framework policy and its implementation, was supported by the Council. |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 4: Diversification of Tourism into various niches</b> |   |                     |

| Paragraph# | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
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| 249.       | <p>The Council expressed its appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for successfully hosting the <b>3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Confobition on Health Tourism</b> in Hamadan on 11-13 June 2025 and the Council welcomed proposal of Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the <b>4<sup>th</sup> ECO Confobition on Health Tourism</b> in 2026 urging the Member States to provide essential input to the <b>ECO-ACT Sub-Committee on Health Tourism</b> with their active participation, which will also convene along with the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Confobition on Health Tourism. ECO-ACT Sub-Committee on Health Tourism is expected to draft a regional health tourism strategy and a concept for a potential digital health tourism platform showcasing the facilities of the Member States for visitors coming to the Member States for medical and wellness purposes.</p> <p>The Council also welcomed Iran’s proposal to establish the ECO Working Group on Hydrotherapy and Spa Tourism. The Member States are urged to kindly designate a relevant focal point and accelerate the completion of the online questionnaire prepared by Iran through the provided link on <a href="https://survey.porsline.ir/s/GqSSYlo4">https://survey.porsline.ir/s/GqSSYlo4</a> circulated through the Notes Verbale No. 2024/1692 dated 24/11/2024 and No.2025/759 dated 20/05/2025. The Iranian side is requested to share the received responses on hydrotherapy tourism in the ECO region with the Member States through the Secretariat and to consider developing a comprehensive strategy aimed at fostering growth in health tourism. The organization of a wellness and spa tourism event is also expected.</p> |                     |
| 250.       | <p>The Council acknowledged the official launch of the <b>Policy Brief on Diversifying Intra-Region Tourism</b> at the 7<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, while appreciating the work of an ad-hoc specialized working group among Member States to prepare a document investigating and identifying the potential and opportunities for diversifying intra-regional tourism. The Council invited Member States to follow up on the recommendations outlined in the above-mentioned Policy Brief document to promote tourism diversification policies nationally and regionally, integrating them into Member States’ strategies.</p>  |                     |
| 251.       | <p>The Council welcomed the official launch of the <b>Compendium of Best Practices for Ecotourism in the ECO Region</b> during the 7<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and urged the Member States to consider the possibility of hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Ecotourism in 2026, reorganizing it as the ECO-ACT Sub Committee on Ecotourism, including the field-based</p>  |                     |

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|  | capacity building activities.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 5: Enhancing utilization of digital technologies and social media in the tourism sector across the ECO region</b> |  |                     |
| 252.   | The Council recommended to establish a <b>Working Group on Tourism Product Development</b> under ECO-ACT following the endorsement of the RETS-2030 and adoption of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation for 2035 which will be responsible for the development of a modern ECO Tourism branding style guide to standardize visual identity and messaging across digital platforms, launch of an updated version of the ECO Tourism Website incorporating a digital tourism inventory aligned with new branding, creation of thematic contents and rollout of a long term digital marketing plan with national tourism administrations and possible private sector contributions. |                     |
| 253.   | The Council requested the support of the Member States for developing proposals on collaboration with regional and international financial institutions to support the implementation of RETS-2030 initiatives, including new projects like ECO-TIES (ECO Tourism Innovation and Entrepreneur Support). The Council mandated the Secretariat to draft and circulate the concepts of project proposals starting from ECO-TIES to be implemented within RETS-2030.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 6: Strengthening human resources and capacity building for the increase in the quality of the services</b>        |  |                     |
| 254.   | The Council urged the Member States to complete nominations ( <i>so far, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye have provided nominations</i> ) for the <b>ECO Tourism Educational Network (ECO-TEN)</b> , welcoming the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO-TEN Meeting. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> ECO-TEN Meeting is expected to identify priority cooperation areas in which ECO-TEN could work on the development of mutual recognition frameworks and joint tourism education/training programs.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 7: Cooperation in quality development and harmonization of rules and procedures for sustainable tourism</b>       |  |                     |

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| 255.   | <p>The Council tasked the <b>ECO Working Group on Tourism Standardization</b> to begin the pilot implementation of the 'ECO Sustainable Tourism - Common Criteria for Tourism Accommodation Facilities, including opening of an application window, initial engagement with regional or global tourism bodies to support awareness, technical review, and evaluation targeting at least 5 pilot applicant institutions by the end of 2026.</p> <p>The Council requested Member States to consider the possibility of hosting the <b>8<sup>th</sup> ECO Working Group on Tourism Standardization (WGTS)</b> Meeting to evaluate initial pilot applications and prepare an evaluation report, including development of a roadmap for full-scale implementation based on pilot findings, aligning with adopted RETS-2030.</p>   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 8: Strengthening the Private Sector and Local Community in tourism activities</b> |  |                     |
| 256.   | <p>The Council appreciated the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Cypriot State for successfully organizing the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Tour Operators Forum</b> and requested the Member States to provide feedback on the draft concept on the establishment of the ECO Tourism Agencies Federation submitted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Tour Operators Forum. The establishment of this federation is foreseen to allow the private sector to develop various partnerships within its own autonomous structure.</p> <p>The Council welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the <b>3<sup>rd</sup> ECO Tour Operators Forum</b> in Aras Free Zone. In this regard, the Council requested Iran to convey to the Secretariat the necessary information regarding the event (including exact dates, hospitality details, focal point, and other relevant information) for circulation amongst the Member States to enable timely coordination and called further partnership of private sector within and beyond the ECO region asking the host country authorities to consider the possibility of inviting tour companies outside the region to this event.</p> |                     |
| 257.   | <p>Following the organization of the <b>1<sup>st</sup> ECO Region Tourism Market Symposium</b> by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kish Island on 13-15 May 2025, the Council welcomed the proposal on hosting of the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on the Tourism Market of the ECO Member States</b> by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2026. In this regard, the Council requested Iran to convey to the Secretariat the</p>   |                     |

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|  | <p>necessary information regarding the event, including exact dates, hospitality details, and other relevant information for circulation amongst the Member States to enable timely coordination.</p>   |                     |
| 258.   | <p>The Council reiterated the need for stronger collaboration between public and private stakeholders in the regional tourism sector and encouraged joint participation in regional tourism activities through the organization of and involvement in relevant meetings, events, exhibitions, and fairs, like the 1<sup>st</sup> ECO Tourism Fair. In this context, the Council requested the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) to convene regular meetings of the <b>Tourism Committee of the ECO-CCI</b>.</p> <p>The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the possibility of hosting the <b>1<sup>st</sup> ECO Tourism Fair</b>, following a previous agreement, which the Secretariat has requested via its Note Verbale No. T/2025/1800 dated 20 November 2025. The Council further recommended the Member States to consider holding such fairs and exhibitions within the Celebratory events for the ECO Tourism Capitals.</p> |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 9: Investment Generation and Facilitation</b> |   |                     |
| 259.   | <p>Underlining the importance of the investments for the growth of regional tourism, the Council welcomed the official launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the <b>ECO Tourism Investment Guide</b> within the 6<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and organizing the ECO Tourism Investment Forum within the Mangystau International Tourism Forum hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan in Aktau on 23 September 2025.</p> <p>The Council Tasked the Secretariat to draft the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the ECO Tourism Investment Guide</b>, update information, and include a dedicated section in the updated guide focused on the development of tourism investments, particularly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Member States by the end of November 2026.</p>   |                     |
| 260.   | <p>It was also requested that the Member States consider the possibility of hosting the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Tourism Investment and Business Forum</b> to disseminate information on incentives, opportunities, and potential specific areas for investment among relevant investors in 2026.</p>  |                     |
| 261.   | <p>35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council asked the Member States to provide feedback on reconsidering</p>  |                     |

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|   | contributions to the <b>ECO Tourism Promotion Fund</b> to activate it and nominate the representatives for the Board of Trustees of the said fund. The Council reiterates its request for the reactivation of the said Fund, mandating the Secretariat to look for any other available tools to finance the tourism projects in the ECO region.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 10: Relations with Regional / International Organizations / Agencies</b> |   |                     |
| 262.  | The Council underscored the importance of Member States providing their latest tourism statistics in the format prepared by the Secretariat. Specifically, the Council requested data on the number of foreign visitors, the economic value of the tourism sector within national income, the capacity of tourism infrastructure, and employment. This consistent data collection will greatly enhance the ECO Secretariat's ability to analyze and support the sector.   |                     |
| 263.  | While appreciating the Secretariat's previous efforts to enhance bilateral ties with UN Tourism through a formal MoU, the Council saw an opportunity to further amplify this collaborative approach. It was suggested that the Secretariat explore expanding its partnerships with other key international organizations in the tourism sector.<br>In a related spirit of inclusivity, the Council encouraged Member States, when hosting events for other international or regional bodies, to take steps to ensure robust participation from both the ECO Secretariat and the tourism authorities of all Member States. |                     |
| 264.  | The Council encourages Member States to inform the Secretariat of the update of the previously designated <b>National Focal Points</b> for tourism whenever new appointments are made, in order to ensure greater coherence and coordination with the Secretariat.  |                     |
| <b>F. SECTOR: HUMAN RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>                             |   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 1: Sustainable Development</b>   |   |                     |
| 265.  | The <b>Council</b> has underscored the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals as an agenda of investment, encompassing both physical infrastructure and human capital, particularly in the realms of health, education, and disaster risk reduction.   |                     |
| 266.  | The <b>Council</b> called upon the Member States to facilitate the participation of the ECO Secretariat in meetings pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals, so as to enhance mutual  |                     |

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|   | cooperation between the Secretariat and the Member States.   |                     |
| 267.  | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the confirmation by the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Second ECO Forum on Sustainable Development, and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to inform the Secretariat, in due course, of the proposed dates for the said event, to be held in 2026.   |                     |
| 268.  | The <b>Council</b> instructed the ECO Secretariat to enhance mutual supportiveness, as set forth in the ECO Vision 2025, with respect to projects aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to secure broader recognition and to attract the maximum possible international resources from organizations such as UNDP, UNESCAP, UNDRR, UNICEF, IOM, UNESCO, JICA, ADB, and IsDB.  |                     |
| 269.  | The <b>Council</b> instructed the Secretariat to place greater emphasis, within the implementation framework of the Strategic Goals of ECO for 2035 in the coming years, upon activities and actions addressing migration, poverty, income inequality, the strengthening of family institutions, the empowerment of youth and women, sustainable population growth, water management and urban/rural development as well as green villages.  |                     |
| 270.  | The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Secretariat's advice and called upon both the Member States and the Secretariat to enhance mutual cooperation for the identification and establishment of an ECO Youth Platform, with a view to empowering the role of youth across the ECO region.   |                     |
| 271.  | The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to consider hosting the First ECO Conference on "Sustainable Clean Water and Sanitation in the ECO Region," with the objective of promoting regional dialogue and strengthened cooperation in support of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and other related regional priorities.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 2: Disaster Risk Reduction</b> |  |                     |
| 272.  | The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction preceded by a High-Level Working Group Meeting on 21-22 January 2026, and underscored the significance of the outcomes of this Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, including the update of the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR), and may request Member States to give due priority to the effective implementation of the updated Framework. |                     |
| 273.  | The <b>Council</b> the appreciated the Republic of Türkiye to host the ECO Technical Working Group   |                     |

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|            | Meeting on DRR along with “Winter Drill” on 4-7 March 2025 in Erzurum.  |                     |
| 274.       | The <b>Council</b> appreciated the proposal by Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting “2 <sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities” as well as the “3 <sup>rd</sup> Experts Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities” in 2026.   |                     |
| 275.       | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the launch of the joint project with UNICEF entitled “Short Animation Video for Children of the ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness”, and support the joint two-year working plan with UNICEF for its implementation.  |                     |
| 276.       | The <b>Council</b> instructed the ECO Secretariat to enhance collaboration with international organizations such as UNDRR, ESCAP in particular the APDIM, as outlined in the MoU, and welcomed NDMA of Pakistan for holding a joint workshop on DRR with APDIM and ECO Secretariat.   |                     |
| 277.       | The <b>Council</b> instructed the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States Working Group Meeting(s) for “Seismic Risk Assignment” and “ECO Innovation Hub” on Disaster Risk Reduction and appreciated the proposal by NDMA of Pakistan to lead and contribute to the proposed ECO Working Group on “Seismic Risk Assignment” under the ECO Events for 2026.                           |                     |
| 278.       | The <b>Council</b> appreciated the proposal of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for hosting the “1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of National Societies in ECO Region” in Tehran in 2026.  |                     |
| 279.       | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the offer of the I.R. of Iran Metrological Organization (IRIMO) and ECO-RCRM to convene an online seasonal meeting on natural disasters that have occurred in the ECO region, aiming to exchange information and expertise for more effective disaster management, and to provide the names of their designated focal points for coordinating this important meeting. |                     |
| 280.       | The <b>Council</b> , while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for its progress on the project proposal titled "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to Improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", requested Turkmenistan to continue its cooperation with the ECO-RCRM and to consider contributing to the project with a view to improving road weather monitoring.                 |                     |
| 281.       | The <b>Council</b> requested Member States to designate national focal points to establish a task force for coordinating and conducting country-specific meetings on disaster risk management issues in the region and for developing a Data Bank of Natural Disasters.   |                     |

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| 282.                           | The <b>Council</b> , while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for preparing the first phase of the project titled "Implementation of Seasonal Climate Prediction over the ECO Region" with in-kind support from the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO), requested other Member States to continue their cooperation and support for the completion of the subsequent phases of this project.  |                     |
| 283.                           | The <b>Council</b> stated its satisfaction for the final approval of the Statute of ECO-RCRM at the 27th COM meeting, in Tashkent and invited the Member States (except for Islamic Republic of Iran) to consider signing the protocol of ECO-RCRM Statute.  |                     |
| 284.                           | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the offer of the I.R. of Iran Metrological Organization (IRIMO) and ECO-RCRM to co-organize a Training Courses/Workshops entitled as "Natural Disaster Early warnings and loss Estimation System" in 2026 in Mashhad.  |                     |
| 285.                           | The <b>Council</b> requested Member States to join the project proposal initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran (Organization of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration) on Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ), which received support from Member Countries during the Validation Meeting held in 2022, and the Council also encouraged other interested Member States to provide all possible support for the successful launch and implementation of the project. |                     |
| 286.                           | The <b>Council</b> appreciated Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye (AFAD) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) to jointly organize a workshop on "Disaster Information Management for Seismic Risk and Mitigating Earthquake Risk" in 2025.   |                     |
| 287.                           | The <b>Council</b> welcomed offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 5 <sup>th</sup> Expert Group on DRR to be organized by Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) in 2026.  |                     |
| 288.                           | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the proposal of NCC of Iran hosting virtual Expert meeting on Geo special Information Maturity Assessment in the ECO Region.   |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 3: Health</b> |  |                     |
| 289.                           | The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to consider hosting the 6 <sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health within their territories-   |                     |
| 290.                           | The <b>Council</b> requested Member States to introduce their focal points to participate in the meetings to finalize the "ECO Action Plan on Health", which was prepared and circulated in  |                     |

| Paragraph#                        | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|                                   | 2025 and requested to actively participate in its implementation.  |                     |
| 291.                              | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the proposal of Pakistan to host the “Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage” in 2026 in virtual format.  |                     |
| 292.                              | The <b>Council</b> emphasized the importance of continued interaction with international organizations, including WHO and other stakeholders, as well as multilateral development banks, to maintain existing support and to accelerate their technical and financial assistance in joint projects. In this respect, the Council also appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to explore the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with WHO to strengthen the relationship on health. |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 4: Education</b> |  |                     |
| 293.                              | The <b>Council</b> requested the ECO-EI to coordinate with the ECO Secretariat and announce the scholarship Programs/Training Courses on Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Health for the ECO Member States.  |                     |
| 294.                              | The <b>Council</b> appreciated Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 1 <sup>st</sup> ECO-EI Expert Group Meeting on Internationalization of Higher Education in ECO Region in Islamabad, on 15-16 April 2025.   |                     |
| 295.                              | The <b>Council</b> requested the ECO-EI to collaborate with the Secretariat to organize the 1 <sup>st</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Education along with the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BoT to be held in 2026.   |                     |
| 296.                              | The <b>Council</b> encouraged Member States to work with ECO Educational Institute to organize a workshop and prepare a report on the state, challenges, and good practices of medical education in volunteering countries.  |                     |
| 297                               | The <b>Council</b> requested the Member States to consider extending their project proposals for inclusion in the next ECO-EI Work Programme; the proposals shall include the objectives of the activities, time, venue and participants, cost-sharing, if any, and other necessary information.”  |                     |
| 298.                              | The <b>Council</b> highlighted the importance of collaboration with regional and international institutions on education, including the UNESCO Center and the Resilience for West and Central Asia (RCECWA) and UNICEF.  |                     |
| 299.                              | The <b>Council</b> welcomed the readiness expressed by the ECO College of Insurance to host the Second Symposium of Rectors of Universities of the ECO Region, to be held in Tehran in 2026.   |                     |

| Paragraph#   | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| 300.   | The <b>Council</b> appreciated the Cultural Heritage videos produced by the ECO-EI and kindly invited the Member States to share the videos show casting historical and cultural sites across the ECO region, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Iran such as Naqsh-e Jahan Square, the Bam Citadel (Arg-e Bam), and Shustar Historical Hydraulic System, as well as sites in Turkiye, including Selimiye Mosque, Troy, Catahoyuk, Gobeklitepe, and the Wooden Hypostyle Mosque of Anatolia.  |                     |
| 301.   | The <b>Council</b> highly appreciated the successful implementation of the International Workshop Series on Artificial Intelligence in education conducted by ECOEI in cooperation with Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science and invites the Member States to collaborate with the ECOEI in organizing similar initiatives aimed at promoting artificial intelligence, digital learning and innovation in education across the ECO region.   |                     |
| 302.   | The <b>Council</b> commended ECOEI's publications on Teacher Education in Iran, which highlights the development, challenges, and innovative practices within the country's teacher education system and invites the Member States to collaborate with the ECOEI in developing similar publications, research studies, and knowledge-sharing initiatives on teacher education and educational reform across the ECO region.   |                     |
| <b>G. SECTOR: JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND ECO ADVOCACY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN</b> |   |                     |
| 303.   | <p data-bbox="434 946 1805 1026"><b>A. <u>Regional Cooperation in Combating Drugs and Transnational Organized Crime:</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="456 1066 1805 1177">I. The Council reaffirmed the importance of enhancing regional cooperation against drugs, terrorism, and transnational organized crime as a core pillar of the ECO Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2035.</p> <p data-bbox="456 1185 1805 1297">II. The Council took note of the successful organization of the Fourth ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting (Tehran) and the Sixth Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General (Tashkent), both of which contributed to advancing institutional coordination among Member States.</p> <p data-bbox="456 1305 1805 1375">III. The Council requested the Member States to nominate/ update their designated focal points in the areas of drugs, organized crime, judiciary, anticorruption, police/law</p> |                     |

| Paragraph# | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
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|            | enforcement, and parliamentary cooperation.  |                     |
| 304.       | <p><b>B. <u>Meeting of the Ministers of Interior of ECO Member States</u></b></p> <p>I. The Council appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Fourth ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting on 28 October 2025.</p> <p>II. The Council recalled that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had offered to host the Fifth Meeting during the Fourth ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting in Tehran.</p> <p>III. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to kindly convey the exact date and hospitality arrangements for the Fifth ECO Interior Ministers’ Meeting, to be held in Islamabad in 2026.</p> <p>IV. The Council urged the ECO Secretariat to ensure proactive and sustained followup on the decisions adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Interior Ministers Meeting.</p>  |                     |
| 305.       | <p><b>C. <u>Judicial / Legal Cooperation: Implementation of the Plan of Interaction among the Offices of the Attorneys/ Prosecutors General</u></b></p> <p>I. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the Sixth Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in Tashkent on 25-26 September 2025, and welcomed convening of the Seventh Meeting, scheduled to take place on 11-12 September 2026 in the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p> <p>II. The Council requested the Member States to provide the Secretariat with updates regarding their designated focal points. This initiative aims to enhance communication and collaboration among the Attorneys/Prosecutors General Offices of the ECO Member States, thereby facilitating a more effective implementation of the Plan of Interaction among these offices.</p> <p>III. The Council invited the interested Member States to host thematic events in 2026 to support the Plan of Interaction, including workshops on judicial cooperation, asset recovery, cybercrime, and prosecutorial best practices.</p> <p>IV. The Council motivated the Member States to share their experiences and best practices in</p> |                     |

| Paragraph# | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
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|            | <p>judicial/legal matters for sharing among the ECO Member States.</p> <p>V. The Council took note of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's proposal to have collaboration amongst ECO Member States' Law and Justice Ministries/Prosecutors Offices in order to strengthen its institutional effectiveness of a legal affairs network to facilitate harmonization of regional agreements and timely execution of commitments.</p>  |                     |
| 306.       | <p><b>D. <u>Anti Corruption Cooperation: Operationalization of RCCACO</u></b></p> <p>The Council requested:</p> <p>I. The interested Member States to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads of Anti-corruption Organizations of the ECO Member States during the year 2026.</p> <p>II. The Islamic Republic of Iran to convey all necessary documents for the operationalization of RCCACO not later than October 2026.</p> <p>III. The interested Member States to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the State Parties to the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen during the year 2026. The primary agenda item for the meeting will be the consideration and finalization of the necessary documentation required for the operationalization of RCCACO.</p> <p>IV. The Republic of Tajikistan to consider ratifying the Statute of the RCCACO and;</p> <p>V. Encouraged Member States that have not yet signed the Statute to do so, noting that the Kyrgyz Republic has expressed readiness to join.</p> |                     |
| 307.       | <p><b>E. <u>Police and Law Enforcement Cooperation:</u></b></p> <p>I. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide updated information regarding organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Police as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ECO Chiefs of Anti Narcotics Police in Tehran during 2026.</p> <p>II. The Council also requested the ECO Member States to actively participate at the abovementioned meetings.</p>  |                     |

| Paragraph# | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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|            | <p>III. The Council took note of the Interior Ministers’ decision to remove ECOPOL from the ECO agenda, thereby formally concluding the initiative and enabling the development of more flexible cooperation frameworks. It further requested the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive regional strategy to strengthen the role of police and law enforcement agencies in advancing regional stability and economic development within the ECO Region.</p>  |                     |
| 308.       | <p><b>F. <u>Capacity Building Programs:</u></b></p> <p>The Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Expressed appreciation to the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran for regularly organizing virtual training courses on drug addiction, and requested the continuation of these important capacitybuilding activities for officials of ECO Member States.</li> <li>II. Appreciated the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the Training Course on the Fight against Corruption on 25 November 2025.</li> <li>III. Requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide preliminary details regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the virtual training course on the fight against corruption;</li> <li>• ECO Workshop on Controlled Delivery and Joint Investigation; and</li> <li>• the Fifth ECO Training Course on Psychosocial Interventions in Substance Use Disorder on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2026..</li> </ul> </li> <li>IV. Requested the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to consider hosting the Training Course on Awareness of Drugs and Precursors in a virtual format.</li> <li>V. Invited interested Member States to indicate their readiness to host training programs related to combating drugrelated offenses, financial crimes including corruption and money laundering, judicial cooperation, cybercrimes, and other relevant thematic areas.</li> <li>VI. Encouraged all Member States to actively participate in the full range of training activities organized under the ECO framework.</li> </ol> |                     |

| Paragraph# | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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| 309.       | <p><b>G. <u>Parliamentary Cooperation:</u></b></p> <p>I. The Council requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide preliminary information regarding convening of the Fourth Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO Countries (PAECO) at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>II. The Council urged those Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the PAECO Charter to complete the required procedures at their earliest convenience.</p>  |                     |
| 310.       | <p><b>H. <u>Resumption of Afghanistan in ECO Activities:</u></b></p> <p>I. The Council recognized that, due to the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, all ECO activities and projects within the country are currently on hold. The Council acknowledged that the ECO Advocacy Programme for Afghanistan will remain in effect until it is replaced by an alternative initiative.</p> <p>II. The Council took note of Afghanistan's participation in some ECO events in 2025, including the 5<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade (November 26, 2025 in Istanbul), the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Interior Ministers' Meeting (Tehran, 27-28 October 2025), Virtual Training Course on Fight against Corruption (Azerbaijan, 25 November 2025) and Technical Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and ECO Winter Drill in Erzurum.</p> <p>III. The Council welcomed the continued engagement between the ECO Secretariat and the officials of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran.</p> <p>IV. The Council requested the Secretariat to continue its consultations with the Member States and Afghanistan with a view to facilitate the full resumption of Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities.</p> |                     |

| Paragraph#  | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
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| <b>H. SECTOR: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>   |  |                     |
| <b>ECO'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/AFFILIATED BODIES</b> |  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 1: Relations with the United Nations System and Global Organizations</b>                 |  |                     |
| 311.  | The Council appreciated the ECO Secretariat's efforts to extend outreach and urged the Secretariat to expand its partnerships with UN bodies, including UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, FAO, and UNECE, to enhance collaboration through policy dialogue and capacity-building in areas such as trade, food security, energy, and sustainable development. |                     |
| 312.  | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to work towards establishing a formal forum between UN regional commissions and regional/international organizations to improve coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.  |                     |
| 313.  | The Council supported the ECO Secretariat's efforts to obtain observer status in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and urged Member States to advocate for ECO's application within the IOM framework.  |                     |
| 314.  | The Council appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to publish the monthly ECO Newsletter and recommended expanding its distribution to include international partners and stakeholders.   |                     |
| 315.  | The Council encouraged the Secretariat to enhance its digital outreach through interactive platforms, webinars, and online campaigns to showcase ECO's achievements and initiatives.   |                     |
| 316.  | The Council welcomed the Secretariat's endeavors to engage with media and called for more frequent interactions to enhance visibility and outreach.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 2: Relations with International Regional Organizations</b>                               |  |                     |
| 317.  | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to cooperate with regional organizations in order to enhance complementarities, avoid duplication and promote synergies in line with the mandates of RPC and COM.   |                     |
| 318.  | The Council urged the ECO Secretariat for continued engagement with SCO, OIC, CICA, D-8, GCC and other regional platforms.   |                     |
| 319.  | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to advance initiatives aimed at strengthening joint   |                     |

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|  | action plans and enhancing cooperation frameworks.   |                     |
| 320.   | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to hold the next Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.   |                     |
| 321.   | The Council welcomed the ECO Secretariat for holding the inaugural meeting of ECO-ASEAN Contact Group.   |                     |
| 322.   | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to further deepen its collaboration with ASEAN, particularly through the implementation of the ECO-ASEAN Framework of Cooperation (2024-2028) and through exploring new areas of collaboration, including renewable energy and digital economy. |                     |
| 323.   | The Council welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen ties with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and proposed convening a joint summit or conference among regional organizations within the OIC region to create synergies and avoid duplication.                     |                     |
| 324.   | The Council encouraged the Secretariat's engagement with the African Union and welcomed the Secretariat's intent to host Tehran-based Ambassadors of ASEAN, Mercosur, and GCC countries to brief them about ECO's activities and explore areas of mutual cooperation.                      |                     |
| 325.   | The Council urged Member States to convene ECO Ambassadors' meetings in key capitals such as Jakarta, New York, Geneva, Jeddah, and Addis Ababa to enhance ECO's visibility and partnerships.  |                     |
| 326.   | The Council recommended the ECO Secretariat to propose ECO-led side events at global platforms to highlight the Organization's initiatives in trade, connectivity, and sustainable development.  |                     |
| 327.   | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat for advancement of pending MoUs and cooperation mechanisms.   |                     |
| 328.   | The Council encouraged the ECO Secretariat to expand ECO participation in regional initiatives.  |                     |
| 329.   | The Council appreciated meetings with Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Officials and encouraged practical cooperation with CIS.  |                     |
| <b>Priority Area 3: ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies</b> |  |                     |
| 330.   | The Council took note of the ECO Secretariat's efforts to enhance coordination among ECO   |                     |

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|   | Specialized Agencies, appreciated these initiatives, and recommended increasing the frequency of such engagements.  |                     |
| 331.  | The Council urged all ECO Member States to sign and ratify the relevant charters and ensure inclusive ownership of the ECO Specialized Agencies, while also emphasizing the need to enhance their financial and operational sustainability. |                     |
| 332.  | The Council appreciated ECO Secretariat's participation in governing body meetings and institutional consultations and encouraged Secretariat for institutional consultation meetings.  |                     |
| 333.  | The Council appreciated the existing coordination between the Secretariat and ECO Subsidiary Bodies, and encouraged further improvement and strengthening of such coordination.   |                     |
| <b>ECO Specialized Agencies:</b>  |   |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)</b></li> </ul>   |   |                     |
| 334.  | The Council urged the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan to ratify the ECI Charter.   |                     |
| 335.  | The Council requested the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan to sign the ECI Charter.   |                     |
| 336.  | The Council encouraged all Member States to support the ECI by clearing arrears and paying annual contributions on time.  |                     |
| 337.  | The Council recommended to expand its digital footprint and enhance online initiatives.   |                     |
| 338.  | The Council recommended the ECI to convene its BoT and CPR meetings in a regular and timely manner.   |                     |
| 339.  | The Council encouraged the ECI Member States to actively engage in cultural activities of the ECI.  |                     |
| 340.  | The Council encouraged all ECO Specialized Agencies to be more interactively engaged with each other and the Secretariat in their activities to ensure smooth implementation, avoiding any duplication or overlapping in their efforts.     |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)</b></li> </ul> |   |                     |
| 341.  | The Council appreciated the activities and initiatives of the Foundation for developing and   |                     |

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|  | promoting cooperation among Member States particularly for hosting highly impactful international conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for ECO Region (ECONEX 2025) and its continued efforts for promoting scientific research in the Region.   |                     |
| 342.   | The Council encouraged the Member States to actively engage in scientific and technological activities of the ECOSF.  |                     |
| 343.   | The Council requested the Member States, who have not done so, to nominate their focal points for facilitating coordination between the Foundation and the Member States on relevant issues. The Council also urged the concerned Member States to nominate their eminent scientists for the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of ECOSF who have not yet done so. |                     |
| 344.   | The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Türkiye, and the Republic of Uzbekistan to complete the ratification of the ECOSF Charter and its Additional Protocol.   |                     |
| 345.   | The Council urged Member States (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) to fulfil their mandatory annual budgetary contributions including arrears to address the financial constraints faced by the ECOSF.  |                     |
| 346.   | The Council recommended the ECOSF to expand its digital footprint and enhance online initiatives.   |                     |
| 347.   | The Council urged the non-ratifying ECO Member States to ratify the ECOSF Charter.  |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)</b></li> </ul> |   |                     |
| 348.   | The Council requested Member States to nominate Academic Council Members and Focal Points to strengthen the ECOEI's governance.   |                     |
| 349.   | The Council welcomed ECOEI's production of audiovisual materials showcasing UNESCO World Heritage sites across the ECO region, in cooperation with Ankara University Digital education Center and encouraged Member States to utilize these materials within their national education systems and ministries as supplementary teaching resources.                             |                     |
| 350.   | The Council appreciated the Government of Türkiye for its allocation and provision of suitable premises to serve as the Headquarters for the ECOEI.   |                     |
| 351.   | The Council urged the non-signatory and non-ratifying ECO Member States to sign and ratify the  |                     |

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|  | ECOEI Charter and ECOEI Member States to pay their annual mandatory contribution to the Institute in a regular and timely manner.   |                     |
| 352.   | The Council took note of the upcoming Meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees and invited Member States to submit proposals for consideration in the ECOEI Work Programme to be adopted at the 5 <sup>th</sup> BoT Meeting in September 2026 through diplomatic channels.  |                     |
| 353.   | The Council highly appreciated ECOEI's publication on Teacher Education in Iran, which highlights the development, challenges, and innovative practices within the country's teacher education system and encouraged Member States to collaborate with ECOEI in producing similar studies, publications, and analytical reports on teacher education.   |                     |
| 354.   | The Council appreciated the successful implementation of the International Workshop Series on Artificial Intelligence in Education, conducted in September 2025 in cooperation with Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and encouraged Member States to collaborate with ECOEI in organizing similar capacity-building initiatives and joint training programs in the field of artificial intelligence in education. |                     |
| <b>ECO Regional Institutes/Affiliated Bodies</b>   |   |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECO Trade Development Bank (ETDB)</b></li> </ul> |   |                     |
| 355.   | The Council urged ECO Member States that are not yet members of the Bank to join the ETDB.  |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECO Clean Energy Center (CECECO)</b></li> </ul>  |   |                     |
| 356.   | The Council appreciated the activities and initiatives of the CECECO for developing and promoting cooperation among Member States in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, thus contributing to the clean energy transition in the region.   |                     |
| 357.   | The Council appreciated the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for its allocation and provision of suitable premises to serve as the Headquarters for the CECECO.   |                     |
| 358.   | The Council encouraged the non-signatory ECO Member States to sign the CECECO Charter.  |                     |
| 359.   | The Council encouraged Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Türkiye and Republic of Uzbekistan to finalise their domestic ratification processes of CECECO Charter in due course.  |                     |
| 360.   | The Council encouraged the ECO Member States to actively engage in activities of the CECECO.  |                     |

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| <b>Priority Area 4: ECO Observers, MoUs and Institutional Partnerships</b> |  |                     |
| 361.   | The Council urged ECO Secretariat's engagement with existing ECO Observers in high-level meetings.   |                     |
| 362.   | The Council encouraged ECO Secretariat to maintain dialogue with prospective partners.   |                     |
| 363.   | The Council encouraged ECO Secretariat for review and follow-up of existing and pending MoUs.  |                     |
| 364.   | The Council appreciated efforts for Renewal of MoU between ECO and ESCAP, to be signed, after taking into account inputs from member States.   |                     |
| 365.   | The Council welcomed ECO Secretariat's initiative to explore observer mechanisms with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and requested the Secretariat to finalize the Plan of Action under the ECO-SCO MoU.  |                     |
| 366.   | The Council appreciated the reciprocal observer status granted by the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) and recommended exploring collaborative initiatives in areas such as trade, transport, and energy.   |                     |
| <b>I. SECTOR: ECONOMIC RESEARCH &amp; STATISTICS</b>                       |  |                     |
| <b>STATISTICS</b>  |  |                     |
| 367.   | The Council reiterated the provision of "ECO Vision 2025", which envisaged "to make the Organization better equipped to face challenges and advance the fundamental principles of the Organization to expand project-based economic activities and develop and strengthen the ECO institutions" ("Implementation Framework of ECO Vision 2025", p. 1). |                     |
| 368.   | The Council highlighted that the Economic Research and Statistics (ERS) sector is a cornerstone of the ECO, dedicated to evidence-based policymaking, as the Organization transitions from ECO Vision 2025 to the "Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation - 2035".  |                     |
| 369.   | The Council recognized that the ERS Sector is the primary operator of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework of the Organization, ensuring that regional integration efforts in trade, transport, energy and connectivity are backed by verified macroeconomic data and rigorous research.  |                     |
| 370.   | The Council reiterated the importance of high-quality data for regional integration. The focus for   |                     |

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|             | <p>2026 shifts towards digital transformation and automated data exchange, with three priority deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ECO Statistical Dashboard – launch of the pilot version in 2026, led by the Republic of Kazakhstan;</li> <li>• the Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030 – finalization of the roadmap for statistical modernization focusing on “Big Data” and “Smart Statistics”;</li> <li>• Capacity Building – workshops on carbon-footprint monitoring, transport statistics in support of the Kazakhstan–Turkmenistan–Iran (KTI) railway-corridor modelling, and other topics of interest to the Member States.</li> </ul> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) proposed the formation of a dedicated Technical Working Group (TWG) on Statistical Modernization and Data Science. The Secretariat is mandated by the Council to reach out the IRI to receive the Concept Note on this proposal through diplomatic channels for further deliberation.</p> |                     |
| <b>371.</b> | <p>The Council noted with satisfaction the successful convening of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO), held virtually on 16 September 2025 under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Meeting carried out a substantive review of the current Strategic Plan on Statistics 2021–2025 and agreed that the successor framework should take the form of a new 5-year Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030, rather than a 10-year plan, in order to allow for closer monitoring and greater analytical accuracy. The Meeting also welcomed the announcement by the Republic of Kazakhstan of its initiative on launching the ECO Statistical Dashboard.</p>   |                     |
| <b>372.</b> | <p>The Council recommended that the 11th ECO High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Statistics be convened in 2026 prior to the 9th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO), so as to ensure that the latter receives a fully prepared technical text of the new Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030 for formal adoption.</p>  |                     |
| <b>373.</b> | <p>The Council recommended that the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of ECO Member States forward to the Secretariat their relevant proposals and suggestions on the provisional Agenda</p>  |                     |

| Paragraph#                                  | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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|   | items and the proposals for the next 5-years Strategic Plan to be discussed at the 11th HLEG Meeting and the 9th HNSO Meeting.  |                     |
| 374.  | The Council invited the Member States to host, in 2026, the 11th ECO High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Statistics and the 9th Meeting of the Heads of ECO National Statistical Offices (HNSO), as separate events.   |                     |
| 375.  | The Council invited the National Statistical Agencies of the Member States to submit suggestions for the new Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030, in particular with regard to indicators for the digital economy, carbon-footprint monitoring and the modernization of National Accounts.   |                     |
| 376.  | The Council requested the Member States to broaden the exchange of best practices, experience and expertise among the National Statistical Agencies, with a view to building up shared statistical potential in the region.   |                     |
| 377.  | In practical terms, particularly with regard to the organisation and holding among the Member States of interactive webinar sessions, online seminars, training courses and workshops under the ECO framework – with specific emphasis on “sharing knowledge, experience and expertise among ECO NSOs” – the Council encouraged Member States to offer such statistical events focused on the capacity-building needs of the ECO countries.   |                     |
| 378.  | <p>The Council tasked the Secretariat: (i) to monitor and report on the implementation of the new Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030, including a timetable of activities; and (ii) to conduct an annual survey of the capacities and needs of the Member States’ National Statistical Offices, with a view to providing tailored services to them.</p> <p>The Statistical Centre of Iran highlighted the necessity of development of a comprehensive Action Plan after finalizing the drafting of the new Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030 accompanied by a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track its achievement.</p> |                     |
| <b>ECONOMIC RESEARCH</b>                    |   |                     |
| <b>Establishment of ECO Research Centre</b> |   |                     |
| 379.  | The Council appreciated that the Charter of the ECO Research Centre (ERC) was signed by three   |                     |

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|   | ECO Member States, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Türkiye on the sidelines of the 14th ECO Summit (4 March 2021), and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the 26th COM Meeting in Tashkent (24 January 2023). Ratification has been completed in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while the process remains ongoing in the Republic of Türkiye. The Council emphasized the importance of operationalization of ECO Research Centre (ERC) and encouraged the Republic of Türkiye to ratify the Charter in 2026.  |                     |
| 380.  | The Council called on the remaining ECO Member States to consider signing and ratifying the Charter at their earliest convenience and tasked the ECO Secretariat to assist in this process in line with the relevant established procedures and protocol.  |                     |
| 381.  | The Council stated that the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) can be affiliated with the ECO Research Center (ERC), since it is in Baku, Azerbaijan.  |                     |
| <b>Transformation of ECO Economic Journal (EEJ)</b> |  |                     |
| 382.  | The Council reiterated the importance of implementing the task set by the 26th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ECO countries (Tashkent, 24 January 2023), which supported the continuation of activities aimed at transforming the ECO Economic Journal into an internationally recognised, widely disseminated and reputable publication, and called on the Secretariat to continue work on the financing of the transformation.   |                     |
| 383.  | <p>The Council expressed thanks to the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) for arranging allocation of USD 20,000 (twenty thousand US dollars) in 2023.</p> <p>The Council expressed thanks to the ECO Secretariat for arranging allocation of USD 5,000 (five thousand US dollars) in 2025 for the transformation of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ).</p> <p>The Council directed the Secretariat to further consider the financing of the ECO Economic Journal aimed at transforming it into internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication among academic, scientific and policy-oriented publications.</p> |                     |
| 384.  | The Council took note that, during 2025, the Secretariat additionally approached the ETDB with a request for a further allocation of USD 20,000, and directed the Secretariat to follow up on this   |                     |

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|   | request, and to continue mobilising resources required to complete the transformation of the Journal.  |                     |
| 385.  | The Council expressed satisfaction with the publication, in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, of the regular editions of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ), and with the assistance rendered by the ECO Secretariat in this regard – in particular through the forwarding of expert articles from the Member States, the Foreword and an article by the ECO Secretary General.       |                     |
| 386.  | The Council requested the ECO Secretariat to continue close interaction with the ECO Economic Journal in preparing in-depth research materials for its publications, and to forward to the Member States, in a timely manner, Notes Verbales requesting articles, analytical papers and other relevant materials in line with the current priorities of the Member States. |                     |
| 387.  | The Council requested the ECO Economic Journal to place on its web-site publications and relevant economic reports prepared jointly by Member States and ECO Secretariat.  |                     |
| 388.  | The Council stated that the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) can be affiliated with the ECO Research Centre (ERC) upon the latter becoming operational, since both are located in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.  |                     |
| 389.  | The Council further recommended that the ECO Economic Journal place on its website the publications and economic reports prepared jointly by the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.  |                     |
| <b>ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research (EPSCER)</b> |  |                     |
| 390.  | The Council reiterated the provision of “ECO Vision 2025” that “the core mandate of the Economic Cooperation Organization is economic development and regional integration”, with “Economic Growth and Productivity” as one of its core cooperation areas.   |                     |
| 391.  | The Council expressed its satisfaction with the results of the 7th Meeting of the EPSCER, held on 5 June 2024, and recommended the convening of the 8th Meeting of EPSCER in 2026, to provide oversight of the ECO Research Centre and the regional research portfolio.  |                     |
| <b>ECO Annual Economic Reports and other publications</b>             |  |                     |

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| 392.                | The Council positively assessed the preparation and dissemination by the ECO Secretariat, in cooperation with the Member States, of the “ECO Annual Economic Report 2023: Overall Economic Situation, Industry and Diversification of the Economy in the ECO Area” and the “ECO Annual Economic Report 2024” with its focus on transport connectivity.   |                     |
| 393.                | <p>The Council positively assessed the interaction between the Member States and the ECO Secretariat in updating and refining the Annual Economic Reports, and called for the same level of interaction in preparing the forthcoming Annual Economic Reports and other publications.</p> <p>IRI proposed the prepared annual reports to be descriptive and analytical on the status of key macroeconomic variables including economic growth, liquidity, inflation, population, unemployment rate, employment, government revenues, exports, imports, the current account and the exchange rate.</p> |                     |
| 394.                | In practical terms, the Council requested the Member States to provide their inputs and country reports for the compilation of the ECO Annual Economic Report 2024/2025, and suggested that the Secretariat make use of accessible official data sources and online publications of the relevant authorities and ministries dealing with Economy, Budget and Planning of the ECO Member States.  |                     |
| 395.                | The Council instructed the Secretariat to also use available national data sources in compiling ECO regional economic and statistical reports and publications, following the UN “Recommended Practices on the Use of Non-Official Sources in International Statistics”.   |                     |
| <b>ERS PROJECTS</b> |  |                     |
| 396.                | The Council positively assessed the progress made in carrying out the project “Transformation of the ECO Economic Journal” (detailed above, in the section on Economic Research).  |                     |
| 397.                | <i>The Council expressed satisfaction with the completion of the project “Kazakhstan’s Trade and Economic Potential in the Markets of the ECO Countries in the New Geo-economic Realities”, the outcomes of which were welcomed at the 8th HNSO Meeting and circulated to the Member States under Note Verbale No. 1323 of 22 September 2024.</i>  |                     |

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| 398.  | The Council positively assessed the progress in carrying out the project “Agricultural Statistics and Land Cover Statistics from Earth Observations for Selected ECO Countries”, in coordination with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Statistical Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan as the pilot country. Noting that in 2025 the Project could not move forward as planned, owing to IT-infrastructure constraints on the host side, the Council requested the Statistical Agency of Tajikistan to cooperate with FAO in order to bring the Project to full implementation, and supported the Secretariat’s ongoing negotiation with FAO of a technical-support package to upgrade server capability. |                     |
| 399.  | The Council took note of the preparatory work on the ECO Statistical Dashboard – the flagship digital initiative proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, which will translate the ECO Key Statistical Indicators (KSIs) into an interactive monitoring environment – and looked forward to its formal endorsement by the Council of Permanent Representatives in June 2026 and its launch later in the year.   |                     |
| 400.  | The Council requested the Member States to initiate further research and practical projects in the field of Economic Research and Statistics, contributing to the expansion of ECO’s analytical potential and theoretical base.  |                     |
| <b>ECO ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME (EERP)</b> |  |                     |
| 401.  | The Council expressed its satisfaction that the 7th Meeting of EPSCER, drawing on the economic priorities of the Member States expressed at the 14th, 15th and 16th ECO Summits (2021 and November 2023, Tashkent), took up the task of drafting the new ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) for the period 2026–2030. The Council reiterated its previous request that emphasis be placed on the areas of transit and transport, energy, water, food security, diversification of the economy, green economy and climate change.   |                     |
| 402.  | The Council requested the Member States to continue the practice of providing Key Statistical Indicators (KSIs), in the previously agreed Excel format, together with country economic-performance reports and other related materials for the compilation of analytical reports and publications and tasked the Secretariat with the regular production of reports on the KSIs of the Member States.  |                     |

| Paragraph#               | Programmes/Activities  | Actions to be taken |
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| 403.                     | The Council recommended that the ECO Economic Journal place at its website the reports, analytical materials and publications prepared by the ECO Secretariat and the Member States, with a view to broader dissemination.   |                     |
| <b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b> |  |                     |
| 404.                     | The Council expressed its satisfaction that the 3rd ECO Think-Tank Forum was held in Baku on 4 October 2024, dedicated to the theme “Next Generation Economics: Challenges and Perspectives”. Renowned economists and experts from ECO Member States, as well as from other countries, participated in the event, where in-depth analysis of current economic trends was undertaken. The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Economic Scientific Research Institute (ESRI) of that Ministry, and the ECO Secretariat.  |                     |
| 405.                     | The Council requested the Republic of Azerbaijan and other Member States to consider holding the ECO Think-Tank Forum on a regular basis, and welcomed the proposal to convene the 4th ECO Think-Tank Forum during the fourth quarter of 2026, dedicated to the “Khankendi Initiatives” and the digital economy.   |                     |
| 406.                     | <p>The Council expressed its thanks to the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Republic of Iran for jointly delivering four online technical webinars in 2025, namely: one session by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) on 23 October 2025, and three consecutive sessions by the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) on 10 November, 8 December and 17 December 2025. The sessions addressed key methodological areas, including the integration of administrative registers into foreign trade statistics, paperless censuses and the use of geospatial data.</p> <p>The Council encouraged the Member States to participate proactively in such webinars.</p> |                     |
| 407.                     | The Council acknowledged the introduction by TurkStat of the web-based International Data Transmission System (IDTS), which is now available to Member States as an efficient instrument for reporting to international organisations.   |                     |
| 408.                     | The Council requested the Member States to consider holding further physical and online events   |                     |

| Paragraph#                       | Programmes/Activities   | Actions to be taken |
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|                                  | on statistics, without relying solely on international partners, and in particular welcomed the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host, in the fourth quarter of 2026, a webinar on transport statistics in support of the modelling of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) railway corridor.   |                     |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b> |   |                     |
| <b>409.</b>                      | The Council noted that the ECO Secretariat maintains well-established ties with the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Statistics Division of UNESCAP, the Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) – in the area of SDG indicators – the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with which regular online and physical events are held. |                     |
| <b>410.</b>                      | The Council recommended that the Secretariat continue cooperation with the international partners in holding events related to capacity-building in statistics, including at least one joint capacity-building programme during 2026 focused on Big Data and automated data exchange  |                     |
| <b>411.</b>                      | The Council requested the Secretariat to expedite the conclusion of a fresh Memorandum of Understanding with SESRIC in 2026, with a view to opening new avenues for capacity-building across the Member States.   |                     |

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