



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

**Report**

**May 17-20, 2026  
Hybrid Mode**

## Report

The 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) was convened in a hybrid format from May 17 to 20, 2026. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in its capacity as Chair of ECO for 2026–2027, presided over the proceedings. In the framework of the RPC, the relevant Sectoral Committees held their respective sessions to deliberate on issues and matters pertaining to their areas of competence, with the objective of formulating appropriate recommendations for the Council concerning the ECO Work Programme and the Calendar of Events for 2026.

2. Delegations from the ECO Member States, namely Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, took part in the Meeting. Representatives of the Turkish Cypriot State attended the proceedings in their capacity as an ECO Observer. The ECO Secretariat, led by Secretary General Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, also participated in the event. In addition, representatives from ECO Bodies were present at the Meeting. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annexure-I**.

### Plenary Session

#### **Agenda Item No.1**

##### i. Opening remarks

3. In his welcome address, Ambassador Asad M. Khan highlighted the importance of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) as a key institutional mechanism for reviewing progress, strengthening coordination and guiding the future direction of ECO. He briefed delegates on ongoing reform efforts, progress toward the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035 and the successful convening of several ministerial meetings and high-level events during 2025 and 2026. Emphasizing the significance of the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026, he noted that these would contribute to greater continuity, coordination, and collective ownership of the Organization's activities, while reaffirming ECO's role as a practical platform for regional connectivity and economic cooperation. His statement is attached as **Annexure-II**.

##### ii. Election of the Chairman

4. As per ECO's rules of procedure, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ali Talpur, Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was elected to inaugurate and chair the Plenary Session of the 36th RPC meeting.

5. In his remarks, the Chair reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening regional economic cooperation and emphasized trade integration, connectivity, sustainable development and climate resilience as key priorities for advancing regional prosperity. He also underlined the importance of early implementation of ECOTA and finalization of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2026–2035 as

a forward-looking framework for enhancing cooperation among Member States. His statement is attached as **Annexure-II**.

iii. Adoption of the Agenda

6. As proposed, the Council adopted the Agenda of its Meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 2**

Statements by the Heads of Delegation on the Implementation of the Decisions of the 35<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting

i. ECO Member States

7. The Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States delivered their statements in alphabetical order, outlining their national programmes, policies and views regarding the activities of the Organization. They also apprised the Council of the progress achieved and the current status of implementation of the sector-specific recommendations adopted at the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RPC. Their statements are enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

ii. ECO Observer

8. The Distinguished Head of the Delegation of the Turkish Cypriot State also delivered statement. His statement is enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

iii. ECO Specialized Agencies

9. The Heads of the ECO Specialized Agencies also delivered statements, briefing the Council on the activities carried out by their respective institutions since the previous Meeting of the RPC. Their statements are attached **Annexure-V**.

**Agenda Item No. 3**

Presentation of the National Statistical Reports and Review of the progress of implementation of the ECO approved programmes/projects/events and consideration of new programmes/projects/events for the year 2026 to be proposed in the Sectoral Committees

10. The Meetings of the Sectoral Committees were chaired by delegates of the Member States as per following details:

S#	Sectoral Committee	Name of the Chair and Designation	Structure	Country
1.	Trade and Investment	Ms. Maria Kazi, Joint Secretary	M/o Commerce	Pakistan
2.	Transport and Communication	Mr. Saidzoda Saidjafar Head of Land Transport Department	M/o Transport	Tajikistan
3.	Energy, Minerals and Environment	Mr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev Head of Division	M/o Energy	Azerbaijan

4.	Agriculture and Industry	Dr. Hasan Momeni, Director General	M/o Agriculture Jihad	Iran
5.	Tourism	Mr. Enis Ugur, Coordinator for Multilateral Relations	M/o Culture & Tourism	Türkiye
6.	Human Resources and Sustainable Development	H.E. Amb Atageldi Haljanov Head of Economic Cooperation Department	M/o Foreign Affairs	Turkmenistan
7.	Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and EAPA	Dr. Hamidreza Rafeapour Tehrani Director, International Law Department	Drug Control Headquarter	Iran
8.	International Relations	Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert,	M/o Foreign Affairs	Iran
9.	Economic Research and Statistics	Mr. Riza Kagan Yilmaz, Head of Department	Directorate General for International Economic Policies and Organizations	Türkiye

11. During the deliberations on the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026, the representatives of the Member States provided updates on their national activities and relevant statistics within the framework and scope of ECO cooperation. The Sectoral Committees also reviewed the status and progress of ECO-related activities and finalized their respective Work Programmes and Calendars of Events for 2026.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

##### **Endorsement of the draft outcomes**

##### *i. Annual Work Programme 2026*

12. The Council considered the recommendations put forward by the Sectoral Committees concerning the ECO Work Programme for 2026 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). The ECO Work Programme 2026 is attached to the Report as **Annexure-VI**.

##### *ii. Calendar of Events 2026*

13. The Council reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Sectoral Committees regarding the ECO Calendar of Events for 2026 and adopted the document for final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). The ECO Calendar of Events 2026 is attached to the Report as **Annexure-VII**.

14. Recalling the provisions of Rule 32 of the ECO Rules of Procedure, under which ECO meetings are to be convened at the Secretariat, as well as Article 12 stipulating that each delegation shall bear its own participation costs, the Council tasked the CPR with exploring possible modalities for establishing a dedicated

funding arrangement. The proposed mechanism would facilitate the organization of activities included in the 2026 Calendar of Events in cases where no Member State offers to host them, thereby promoting broader participation. In this regard, the Council further requested the Secretariat to submit to the CPR, by the end of June 2026, a list of approved events for which hosting arrangements remained unavailable.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5**

##### Any other business

15. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6**

##### Date and venue of the next Meeting

16. The Council agreed that, should no Member State express willingness to host the 37th Meeting of the RPC, the Meeting would be held at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran. The dates of the Meeting will be finalized and communicated at an appropriate time in consultation with the Chairmanship.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7**

##### Adoption of the Report of 36<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting

17. The Council unanimously adopted its Report along with the outcomes of the event.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8**

##### Closing

18. The Council expressed its sincere appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its effective chairmanship and successful conduct of the Meeting. The Council also commended the Sectoral Committees and their respective Chairs for the efficient discharge of their responsibilities and the successful completion of their work.

19. The Council acknowledged the efforts and valuable contributions of the ECO Secretary General and the Secretariat staff in the preparation of the necessary documentation, facilitation of the work of the Sectoral Committees, and coordination of arrangements for the successful convening of the 36th Meeting of the RPC.

20. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran during the current difficult circumstances and appreciated the active participation and constructive contributions of Member States, the ECO Secretariat, sectoral committees, affiliated organizations, and all participants in successfully conducting the 36th RPC in a hybrid format. He noted the adoption of the Annual Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026 and emphasized the importance

of strengthening regional cooperation, connectivity, trade facilitation, climate resilience, and institutional coordination within the ECO framework.

21. In his closing remarks, the ECO Secretary General appreciated the constructive engagement and flexibility shown by Member States in successfully conducting the 36th RPC in a predominantly virtual and hybrid format under challenging regional circumstances. He commended the work of the sectoral committees, the ECO Secretariat and the technical teams for finalizing the Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026, while emphasizing the importance of timely preparations for meetings, stronger whole-of-government participation and further strengthening the institutional role of the RPC within the ECO framework.

22. The Heads of Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Chair, the ECO Secretary General, the Secretariat, sectoral committees and all participants for the successful conduct of the 36th RPC under challenging regional circumstances. They welcomed the adoption of the Annual Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and coordination within the ECO framework, and appreciated the constructive and cooperative spirit that characterized the deliberations of the meeting.

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