

309th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

August 25, 2026
Hybrid Mode

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 309th CPR Meeting

No: CFU /2026/823

Priority: Normal
Date: 2026/08/18
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and with reference to Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/789 dated August 9, 2026, has the honour to enclose a revised Draft Annotated Agenda of the 309th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), and the List of meetings/events of 2026 proposed to be supported from the Special Support Fund (SSF), during the 309th CPR Meeting scheduled for August 25, 2026 (10:00 hours, Tehran time) at the ECO Secretariat.

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



All ECO Member States, Tehran

309th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Agenda And Annotated Draft Agenda

*August 25, 2026
Hybrid Mode*

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 309th CPR Meeting;
2. Adoption of Draft Report of the 308th CPR Meeting;
3. Follow-up to the Fourth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom):
 - *Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;*
 - *Preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting;*
 - *Convening the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly;*
4. Consideration of the List of Events-2026 to be covered out of Special Support Fund (SSF);
5. ECO Relationship with Other Regional Organizations;
6. Consideration of Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities;
7. Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
8. Any Other Business;
9. Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Draft Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 309th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 308th CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up to the Fourth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom):
 - *Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;*
 - *Preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting;*
 - *Convening the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly;*
- Consideration of the List of Events to be covered out of Special Support Fund (SSF);
- ECO Relationship with Other Regional Organizations;
- Consideration of Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities;
- Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
- Any Other Business;
- Date of the Next CPR Meeting.

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

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 308th CPR Meeting

3. The Draft Report of the 308th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on July 21, 2026, was circulated amongst the Member States vide Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/696 dated July 23, 2026.

4. The Council may consider and adopt the Draft Report of the 308th CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Follow-up to the 4th PrepCom Meeting

- *Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035*

5. The 308th CPR Meeting took note of the progress achieved by the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) in considering the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035. The Council encouraged the concerned Member States to resolve the limited outstanding issues through consultations and agreed that the PrepCom

would continue its deliberations at its Fourth Meeting on August 10, 2026, and thereafter through back-to-back meetings, if necessary.

6. The Chair of the PrepCom and the Secretariat will brief the Council on the outcome of the Fourth PrepCom Meeting and the status of finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035.

- *Preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting*

7. The 308th CPR Meeting reviewed the preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th COM Meeting. The Council encouraged continued consultations on the proposed timeframe for the Summit and took note of the preparations for the 30th COM, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, 2026, including the preparation of the Islamabad Communiqué and issuance of invitations to the Honourable Ministers.

8. The Chair of the PrepCom and the Secretariat will brief the Council regarding preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, the 30th COM Meeting and 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Agenda Item No. 4

Consideration of the List of Events for 2026 to be covered out of Special Support Fund (SSF)

9. In accordance with the Modalities for the Utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF), the Secretariat prepared the list of meetings/events proposed to be supported from the SSF during 2026. The list was considered within the framework of the 36th RPC Meeting. It should be stated that the meetings/events of 2026 are put in the chart **in order of their priority**.

10. The Council may consider and approve the proposed List of Events – 2026 to be covered out of the Special Support Fund (SSF), **as enclosed at Annexure-I**.

Agenda Item No. 5:

ECO Relationship with Other Regional Organizations

11. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Following ECO's initial outreach to the GCC in early 2024, contacts between the two organizations have continued, including subsequent correspondence and a meeting between the ECO Secretary General and the GCC Assistant Secretary General in November 2025. During these engagements, both sides expressed their interest in advancing cooperation in areas of shared regional priorities.

12. The Secretariat will brief the Council on the progress made and seek guidance and approval for further cooperation with the GCC.

13. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

At its 304th Session, the CPR considered the proposal for ECO to seek Observer Status at the SCO with a view to establishing a formal framework for cooperation. Following a request by the Republic of Türkiye for additional information, the Secretariat circulated the relevant details to all Member States vide Note Verbale No. IR/2026/220 dated March 15, 2026.

14. The Secretariat will brief the Council on the matter and seek approval to initiate formal negotiations with the SCO for acquiring Observer Status.

15. Cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

At its 304th Session, the CPR considered the proposal to initiate discussions with the EEC to explore potential areas of mutual interest and the possibility of formalizing cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Additional information sought by the Republic of Türkiye was subsequently provided to all Member States.

16. The Secretariat will brief the Council on the matter and seek approval to proceed with further coordination with the EEC.

17. The Council may consider the above matters and take appropriate decisions.

Agenda Item No. 6

Consideration of Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities

18. The 308th CPR Meeting took note of the Secretariat's engagement with the Afghan side concerning Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, in the context of the gradual and incremental approach agreed by the Member States. The Council was also informed of Afghanistan's willingness to host an ECO meeting and agreed that these matters would be considered substantively at its next meeting.

19. In this context, the Secretariat will brief the Council on the communications received from Afghanistan concerning its participation in the activities of ECO and its specialized institutions. It will also be stated about the offer of Afghanistan to host the 5th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum in 2026.

20. The Council may consider the matter and provide guidance, as appropriate.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

21. The Secretariat will brief the Council on administrative and budgetary matters requiring its consideration, including:

- Follow-up on the proposed amendment to Article 18 of the ECO Financial Regulations concerning the composition and quorum of the Audit Board;
- Status of Member States' assessed contributions;

- Draft ECO Budget for 2027 and follow-up to the Council's decision to establish a Working Group to examine the draft budget and submit its recommendations to the Council;
- Financial compensation for ECO Staff arising from exceptional circumstances.
- Recommendations of the Selection Panel.

22. The Council may consider the above matters and take appropriate decisions.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

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

Agenda Item No. 9

Date of the next CPR Meeting

24. The Council may decide the date of its next (310th) Meeting in consultation with the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 308th CPR Meeting

No: CFU /2026/696

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 23/7/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, has the honour to enclose herewith the Draft Report of 308th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on July 21, 2026, for consideration.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran



308th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Report

*July 21, 2026
Hybrid Mode*

Draft Report

Held in hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on July 21, 2026, the 308th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was attended by distinguished Permanent Representatives/ Representatives of the ECO Member States, including from **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. The ECO Secretary General and relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. List of Participants attached as **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, the ECO Secretary General, **Ambassador Asad M. Khan**, joined the **Council** in warmly welcoming the new Chair/Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to ECO, **Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui**. The members of the esteemed Council extended their heartfelt congratulations and expressed confidence that, under his able leadership, the Council's deliberations would further strengthen cooperation, mutual understanding and partnership among the ECO Member States. They also conveyed their best wishes for the success of his tenure.

3. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and kind sentiments. He affirmed his commitment to meeting the expectations of the Member States in discharging his responsibilities as Chair of the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The **Council** adopted its following agenda for discussion and deliberations:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 308th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 307th CPR Meeting;
- Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
- Preparations for the 18th Summit and the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting;
- Follow-up to the Working Group on the Recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC);
- Consideration of the Calendar of Events 2026;
- Preparations for the International Conference on Financing the ECO Transport Projects and Corridors;
- Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
- Any Other Business;
- Date of the Next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of Draft Report of the 307th CPR Meeting

5. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 307th CPR Meeting held on June 22, 2026, and circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/543 dated June 23, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 3

Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

6. The **Chair** recalled that the 307th Meeting of the CPR welcomed the progress achieved by the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and agreed to convene its Third Meeting on July 15, 2026. He then invited the Chair of the PrepCom and the ECO Secretariat to brief the Council on the outcome of the Third PrepCom Meeting and the current status of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035.

7. The Chair of the PrepCom, **Mr. Kashif Ali**, informed the Council that the PrepCom so far held three meetings to consider the draft document. Referring to the deadline of July 9, 2026 agreed during the Second PrepCom Meeting for submission of final comments, he noted that Kazakhstan submitted additional comments after the deadline. He further informed that the Secretariat circulated several revised clean versions of the draft, and that the Fourth PrepCom Meeting would be held on August 10, 2026 with a view to finalizing the document.

8. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev** informed the Council that the Third PrepCom Meeting continued its consideration of the Draft Strategic Goals, focusing on the remaining proposals submitted by Member States. He noted that broad agreement was reached on most outstanding issues, with only a limited number of provisions requiring further consultations among the concerned Member States before the document could be finalized. He further emphasized the Committee's appeal to Member States to refrain from submitting any new proposals and to confine any further comments to the existing text of the draft in order to facilitate its timely finalization. He added that, once the document is finalized by the PrepCom, the Secretariat would undertake the necessary technical adjustments and language harmonization of the text.

9. The **ECO Secretary General** underscored the importance of adhering to the agreed timeline for finalizing the Draft Strategic Goals ahead of the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers on November 15-16, 2026. He urged Member States to refrain from submitting any further new proposals so that the PrepCom could complete its work, enabling the Secretariat to undertake the necessary technical and language adjustments before submitting the document to the Council for approval. He encouraged the delegations to resolve the outstanding issues through bilateral consultations in order to expedite the document's finalization process.

10. The **Chair** reiterated the importance of expediting the process, urging Member States to refrain from submitting any new proposals and to confine any remaining comments to the existing text of the draft.

11. Given the positions expressed, the **Council** encouraged the concerned Member States to resolve the limited outstanding issues through bilateral consultations, with the support of the Chair, if required, to facilitate early consensus on the draft Strategic Goals. Moreover, the Council set **August 1, 2026** as the final deadline for the submission and completion of all remaining comments. It also agreed that the PrepCom would continue its deliberations on **August 10, 2026**, and thereafter, through back-to-back meetings, if necessary, in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 4

Preparations for the 18th Summit and the 30th COM Meetings

12. The **Chair** recalled that the preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Council of Ministers were discussed during the previous CPR Meeting. He invited the distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to brief the Council on the status of preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), respectively.

13. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa**, informed the Council that close consultations were ongoing with the Presidential Office to ensure the successful organization of the 18th ECO Summit. He noted that the Summit was tentatively envisaged for the first ten days of December 2026, while the exact date was still under consideration and would be communicated once finalized. He also requested the Secretariat to ascertain whether the proposed period coincides with any other major regional or international summit-level event, and also invited Member States to indicate whether the proposed timeframe was convenient for their respective leaderships.

14. The **Secretary General** stated that the Secretariat would review the proposed timeframe for the 18th ECO Summit to identify any possible overlap with major regional summit-level meetings. He also encouraged Member States to undertake similar consultations through their own channels with the respective regional organizations, as they may have better access to such information, and suggested that both the Secretariat and Member States report back at the next CPR Meeting. However, he noted that it would be difficult for Member States to confirm the availability of their leadership until a firm proposal on the Summit dates was made. He therefore suggested the host country to propose a specific set of dates and, through its diplomatic channels, consult Member States to facilitate the timely finalization of the Summit schedule.

15. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** concurred with the proposed approach of pursuing consultations through both the Secretariat and diplomatic channels. He emphasized that these complementary efforts would help identify suitable dates and ensure the highest participation in the Summit. He expressed hope that a proposed timeframe would be finalized in the coming weeks, after which Iran would further intensify its coordination with the Secretariat and the Member States regarding the preparations for the 18th ECO Summit.

16. The **Chair** took note of the briefing by the Representative of Iran and encouraged the host country to continue its consultations with Member States regarding the proposed dates for the 18th ECO Summit. He also invited Member States to consult

their capitals and convey their feedback to facilitate the timely finalization of the Summit schedule.

17. As regards 30th COM Meeting, the **Chair** invited the Representative of Pakistan to brief the Council on the event's preparations.

18. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** recalled that the 30th COM Meeting is scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, 2026, adding that the relevant documents, including the Islamabad Communiqué, would be circulated amongst the Member States shortly. He noted that Pakistan side had also requested the Secretariat to provide the list of invitees from Member States to facilitate the necessary organizational arrangements.

19. The **Secretary General** informed the Council that the Secretariat already shared the zero draft of the Islamabad Communiqué with the host country for its consideration and suggested that a timeline for commencing negotiations on the draft be announced. He also encouraged the early dispatch of invitation letters from the COM Chair to the distinguished Foreign Ministers of the Member States to facilitate their scheduling for the Meeting.

20. The **Chair** requested the Representative of Pakistan to convey the distinguished Secretary General's suggestions to the capital for appropriate follow-up.

Agenda Item No. 5

Follow-up to the Working Group on Recommendations of High Level Committee (HLC)

21. The **Chair** recalled that the previous CPR Meeting encouraged the HLC Working Group to continue its work on developing concrete proposals based on the recommendations of the High-Level Committee. He invited the Chair of the Working Group and the Secretariat to brief the Council on the outcome of the latest meeting.

22. The Chair of the HLC Working Group, **Mr. Kashif Ali**, informed the Council that the Working Group had held three meetings and recalled that the Secretariat was tasked with preparing a draft of the concrete proposals based on the HLC recommendations. He noted that, at the latest meeting held on July 15, 2026, the Secretariat informed the Working Group that the draft was under preparation and requested additional time.

23. The ECO Deputy Secretary (Administration), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah Ongut**, informed the Council that the third meeting of the HLC Working Group, scheduled for July 15, 2026, was postponed to allow more time to finalize the draft concrete proposals on the HLC recommendations. He further informed that the draft would be shared with Member States once completed, and that the new date of the Working Group meeting would be communicated in due course.

24. The **Secretary General** reiterated that the Secretariat required additional time to draft concrete proposals/decisions in line with the HLC recommendations. He expressed hope that these decisions and proposals would be finalized within the next two weeks for consideration by Member States.

25. The **Council** took note of the briefings and encouraged the Secretariat to expedite the finalization and circulation of the draft concrete proposals as mentioned. It also looked forward to the early convening of the next meeting of the HLC Working Group.

Agenda Item No. 6

Consideration of the Calendar of Events – 2026

26. The Chairperson, **Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial**, recalled that the 36th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) was held in a hybrid format at the ECO Secretariat from May 17–20, 2026, adding that the meeting finalized the draft ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026, and that the report of the meeting was circulated by the Secretariat on May 21, 2026. She invited the Council to consider recommending the documents for endorsement by the Council of Ministers through a two-week silence procedure.

27. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council that the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran requesting the inclusion of a virtual expert meeting on Geo-information Maturity Assessment in the ECO Region, proposed by the National Cartography Center of Iran, in the Calendar of Events for 2026. He clarified that the activity had already been reflected in the ECO Work Programme and approved by the 36th RPC, proposing its inclusion in the Calendar of Events.

28. The **Chairperson** sought clarification on whether the proposed addition to the Calendar of Events required a specific timeline.

29. The Legal Advisor, **Mr. Hojjat Moghavem**, clarified that, subject to the CPR's agreement at the present meeting, the proposed activity could be incorporated into the Calendar of Events, enabling the initiation of a two-week silence procedure for seeking the approval of the COM.

30. The **Council** agreed to include the proposed virtual expert meeting on Geo-information Maturity Assessment in the ECO Region in the ECO Calendar of Events–2026. It further recommended the Secretariat to initiate a two-week silence procedure to seek the approval of the COM for the Report of the 36th RPC, together with the ECO Work Programme and Calendar of Events for 2026, as amended.

Agenda Item No. 7

Preparations for the International Conference on Financing the ECO Transport Projects and Corridors

31. The **Chairperson** recalled the decision of the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport and the recommendations of the 36th Regional Planning Council (RPC) concerning the proposed Conference, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the preparations being undertaken jointly with the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB).

32. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** briefed the Council on preparations for the proposed International Conference on Financing ECO Transport

Projects and Corridors, being organized jointly by the ECO Secretariat and the ECO TDB pursuant to the decision of the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport. He informed that the Secretariat and the ECO TDB had established a joint Steering Committee and were coordinating preparations, including the development of a draft concept paper, which would be shared with Member States in due course. He further informed that the Secretariat had initiated consultations with key partners and stakeholders to promote broad participation in the Conference. Regarding its timing, he noted that, while the 36th RPC had welcomed the idea of organizing the Conference on the sidelines of the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport in Kazakhstan, consultations with the ECO TDB and other partners indicated that 2027 would allow for more effective preparations. In this regard, the possibility of organizing a pre-conference event during the Ministerial Meeting in Kazakhstan, followed by the main Conference in 2027, is being considered. The Deputy Secretary General emphasized that the Conference would seek to mobilize sustainable financing and strengthen partnerships for the development and modernization of transport infrastructure and corridors across the ECO region. He also informed that the Secretariat would continue its coordination with the ECO TDB and other partners and would keep Member States informed of further developments.

33. The **Secretary General** underscored the strategic importance of the proposed Conference, emphasizing that enhanced connectivity was essential for strengthening regional trade, investment and economic integration. He informed that the initiative received encouraging support from the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB) and other key development partners, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. He further informed that the Secretariat was exploring a tripartite cooperation arrangement with the Islamic Development Bank and the ECO TDB to support the implementation of regional connectivity initiatives. He highlighted the need to mobilize sustainable financing for transport infrastructure in the ECO region and encouraged Member States to actively support the initiative through their respective capitals and engagement with the relevant financial institutions.

34. The **Chairperson** also emphasized the importance of the proposed Conference as a means of mobilizing financing for regional connectivity projects and reaffirmed its relevance to advancing the Organization's mandate. She encouraged Member States to convey the significance of the initiative to their respective capitals and invited their views on the proposed Conference.

35. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** underscored the meaning of the proposed Conference and emphasized the need for thorough preparations at both the Secretariat and Member State levels. He proposed the establishment of a Working Group, involving the relevant national authorities, to facilitate coordinated preparations for the Conference and the identification of priority transport projects and financing needs.

36. The **Secretary General** welcomed the proposal and supported the establishment of a dedicated working group. He suggested that it should comprise representatives of the relevant line ministries, with the participation of finance ministries where appropriate, to facilitate coordination with international financial institutions and support the preparations for the proposed Conference.

37. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed that, following the establishment of the joint Steering Committee between the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Trade and Development Bank, a working group would be established with the participation of the relevant authorities from Member States once the proposed dates of the Conference are identified.

38. The **Council** welcomed the progress made in the preparations for the proposed Conference and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its coordination with the ECO Trade and Development Bank, Member States and other relevant partners to support the preparation of the Conference.

Agenda Item No. 8

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

39. The **Chairperson** invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the administrative and budgetary matters requiring its consideration.

- Proposed Amendment to the ECO Financial Regulations

40. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that, in response to Kazakhstan's request to join the ECO Audit Board, the Secretariat proposed amending the relevant Financial Regulations to increase the membership of the Audit Board from three to four Member States, while establishing a quorum of three members to ensure its effective functioning. He proposed amendment to ECO Financial Regulations and sought the Council's concurrence in this regard.

41. The **Legal Advisor** clarified that, as amendments to the ECO Financial Regulations require the approval of the Council of Ministers, the Council could endorse the proposed amendment to **Article 18** and initiate a two-week silence procedure to seek the approval of the Council of Ministers.

42. Having no objections raised, the **Council** agreed to recommend the proposed amendment to Article 18 of the ECO Financial Regulations to the Council of Ministers through a two-week silence procedure.

- Status of Member States' Assessed Contributions

43. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that **three Member States** remitted their assessed contributions for **2026**. He expressed the Secretariat's appreciation for their continued support and encouraged the remaining Member States to settle their outstanding contributions at the earliest to ensure the effective implementation of the Organization's programmes and approved budget.

- Category-III Staff's Related Matters

44. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** recalled that, at its 304th Meeting held on 25 February 2026, the Council agreed to maintain the existing staffing arrangement pending a final decision and encouraged the Representative of Kazakhstan to expedite the required concurrence from the competent authorities in Astana. He

informed the Council that the Secretariat had not yet received any response in this regard.

- *ECO Budget - 2027*

45. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council that the Secretariat prepared the draft **ECO Budget for 2027** in accordance with the ECO Financial Regulations and would circulate it to Member States shortly. He further proposed the establishment of a working group to examine the draft budget and submit its recommendations to the Council for subsequent consideration and approval by the Council of Ministers.

46. The **Council** took note of the briefing and agreed to establish a working group to examine the draft ECO Budget for 2027 and submit its recommendations to the Council for consideration prior to its approval by the Council of Ministers.

Agenda Item No. 9

Any other business

47. The Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan, **Mr. Bahodur Nazir**, informed the Council that the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry would be held on September 23, 2026 in Tajikistan. He requested Member States to convey their participation confirmations at the earliest and sought the Secretariat's support in facilitating the timely receipt of confirmations. He further informed the Council that the host country intended to invite China, Oman and the Russian Federation, as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the Meeting.

48. The **Secretary General** appreciated the preparations undertaken by the Republic of Tajikistan for the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, noting that it would be the first such meeting in nearly two decades. He underscored its importance for advancing regional industrial cooperation and encouraged Member States to ensure participation at the ministerial level.

49. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of **Iran** appreciated the preparations undertaken by the Republic of Tajikistan for the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and informed the Council that Iran would encourage participation at the ministerial level. He further sought clarification on the procedure for inviting China, Oman and the Russian Federation to the Meeting, particularly whether the proposed invitations already had the concurrence of Member States or whether a formal communication through the Secretariat would follow.

50. The **Legal Advisor** clarified that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, invitations to non-member States and international organizations to ECO high-level meetings require the approval of the Council of Permanent Representatives. He noted that the proposal was presented to seek the Council's approval and could be decided either at the present meeting or at a later date.

51. The **Secretary General** encouraged the Council to consider the proposal at the present meeting to facilitate timely preparations for the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting

on Industry. He noted that the proposed non-member participants had previously attended ECO meetings and observed that postponing the decision until the next CPR meeting could delay the necessary arrangements.

52. The **Chairperson** thanked the Republic of Tajikistan for its preparations for the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and encouraged Member States to convey their participation confirmations at the earliest to support its successful organization.

53. The **Council** concurred with the proposal regarding the participation of China, Oman and the Russian Federation, as well as the proposed international organizations, in the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, to be hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan in September 2026. It further authorized the Secretariat to take the necessary follow-up action in accordance with the applicable Rules of Procedure

54. The **Secretary General** briefed the Council on his participation in the 25th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB) held on July 10, 2026 in Istanbul. He informed the Council that the Meeting reflected strong confidence in the Bank's performance and reaffirmed the Member States' commitment to further strengthening its role. He noted the Bank's record operational and financial performance, support for expanding its regional engagement, and interest in co-sponsoring the proposed International Conference on Financing ECO Transport Projects and Corridors. He further informed the Council that the Secretariat would circulate a detailed report on the Meeting. He also encouraged Member States that had not yet joined the ECO TDB to consider becoming members and informed the Council that the Bank expressed its willingness, in principle, to participate in a trilateral cooperation arrangement with the Islamic Development Bank and the ECO

55. The **Chairperson** also thanked the Secretary General for his briefing on the 25th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Trade and Development Bank, appreciated his efforts to strengthen cooperation with regional and international partner organizations and looked forward to the circulation of the Secretariat's detailed report.

56. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council that the Secretariat received an invitation from the UNECE and the Chair of the Working Party on Transport Trends to participate in the 39th Annual Session of the Working Party on Transport Trends, to be held from September 23–25, 2026 in Geneva. He noted that the meeting would consider the 2027–2028 Programme of Work and the future direction of the Coordination Committee for the Trans-Caspian and Almaty–Tehran–Istanbul Corridors. Recalling that the Coordination Committee was established in 2003 at the initiative of the ECO Secretariat, the Deputy Secretary General emphasized the importance of maintaining ECO's active role in its future work. He therefore sought the Council's authorization for the Secretariat to participate in the Meeting at the appropriate level on a self-financing basis.

57. The **Council** authorized the Secretariat to participate, on a self-financing basis, in the 39th Annual Session of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends, to be held from September 23–25, 2026 in Geneva, at the appropriate level,

58. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration)** informed the Council of the progress made in developing, in collaboration with UNIDO, the regional project entitled "Strategic Foresight for Circular Economy Transition in the ECO Region," pursuant to the decision of the Sixth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment held in Samarkand on June 3, 2026. He noted that the project document was in its final stage of preparation, with UNIDO expected to provide the majority of the funding, while ECO's indicative contribution would amount to USD 50,000. He invited Member States to actively participate in the forthcoming consultation process, provide timely feedback on the project proposal, explore voluntary financial contributions to support ECO's share of the funding and express interest in hosting baseline assessments and stakeholder consultation activities during the first phase of the project.

59. The **Chairperson** noted that the Secretariat would circulate the project proposal to Member States for their review and comments, with a view to facilitating further consultations on its development and implementation.

60. The **Secretary General** informed the Council that, pursuant to its earlier guidance, the Secretariat engaged with the Afghan side to clarify the terms of Afghanistan's participation in ECO meetings. He recalled the Council's gradual and incremental approach towards Afghanistan's engagement in ECO activities and noted that the Afghan authorities' response regarding their participation and representation at the Council of Permanent Representatives had been received and circulated to Member States for their guidance. He further informed the Council that Afghanistan had formally conveyed its willingness to host an ECO meeting, and that the relevant communication had also been circulated to Member States. He suggested that both matters be considered as a substantive agenda item at the next meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item No. 8

Date of the next CPR Meeting

61. The Council decided to hold its next (309th) Meeting on August 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the ECO Secretariat, in hybrid format.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegation / Organization	Participants
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	-
Republic of Azerbaijan	1) Mr. Matin Mirza, Counsellor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran	1) H.E. Ambassador Alireza Toutounchian, Permanent Representative 2) Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Director , ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department 3) Mr. Soheil Kheiri, Senior Expert , ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department 4) Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert , ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department 5) Ms. Shokoufeh Shadi, ECO Expert , ECO and Multilateral Economic Cooperation Department
Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan	1) Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev, Counsellor
Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic	1) H.E. Ambassador Akylbek Kylychev, Permanent Representative
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	1) H.E. Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Permanent Representative - Current Chair 2) Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial, Deputy Head of Mission 3) Mr. Kashif Ali, Third Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan	1) Mr. Bahodur Nazir, Counsellor 2) Mr. Alisher Azamzoda, First Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye	1) Mr. Ahmet Biçer, Third Secretary
Embassy of Turkmenistan	1) Mr. Batyr Charmanov, First Secretary 2) Mr. Islam Saparov, Attaché
Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan	1) Mr. Elbek Yuldashev, Second Secretary
ECO Secretariat	1) H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General 2) Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General 3) Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, Deputy Secretary General 4) Mr. Çağatay Emrah Ongut, Deputy Secretary General 5) Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, Legal Adviser 6) Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, Chef de Cabinet 7) Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim, Head of Section for CFU 8) Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Senior Desk Officer 9) Mr. Muhammad Irfan, Desk Officer 10) Ms. Marryam Moin, Desk Officer

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up to the Fourth Meeting of the Preparatory
Committee (PrepCom)

Report of the Fourth PrepCom Meeting August 10, 2026 – Hybrid Mode

The Fourth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was held in hybrid mode on August 10, 2026 under the chairmanship of Pakistan and coordinated by the ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD). The meeting was attended by representatives of **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**, as well as relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat.

The Committee recalled that, following the discussions at the Third PrepCom Meeting, the Secretariat circulated an updated track-change version of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, incorporating the proposals made by Member States, including fresh comments subsequently received from Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

The Meeting reviewed the updated draft on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis and considered the outstanding proposals and comments with a view to concluding substantive negotiations on the document. The Committee reached consensus on the text and agreed that the Secretariat would circulate a clean version of the document for consideration by the 309th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled for August 25, 2026.

The Secretariat also briefed the Committee on the latest status of the Zero Draft of the Islamabad Communiqué for the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM), which was circulated among Member States for their comments and feedback. The Committee noted that the document would be taken up for substantive consideration at the next session of the PrepCom after receipt of proposals and comments from Member States.

Regarding the 18th ECO Summit, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Committee that preparations were underway for hosting the Summit, proposed to be convened during the first ten days of December 2026. The representative further informed that Member States would be updated on the organizational arrangements and related details in due course.

The Committee agreed to hold its next (5th) Session on August 31, 2026, with a view to considering, inter alia, the Draft Islamabad Communiqué for the 30th COM. The Committee also agreed to hold its weekly sessions, if needed, to finalize the mandated tasks, including Draft Strategic Goals and the Draft Islamabad Communiqué.

(AS ON 10.08.2026 – 4th PrepCom)

DRAFT

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE

ECONOMIC COOPERATION – 2035

ECO VISION 2025

BRIEF BACKGROUND

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

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

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

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION – 2035

OVERVIEW

The Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 set out a shared vision for advancing regional cooperation, sustainable development and economic integration across the ECO region over the coming decade. Building upon the achievements, lessons learned and remaining challenges of ECO Vision 2025, the document provides a forward-looking framework to guide collective action in addressing evolving regional and global realities while unlocking the considerable economic, human and natural potential of the ECO region.

The ECO region occupies a strategically important position connecting Asia, Europe and the Middle East and possesses significant opportunities for growth driven by its abundant natural resources, youthful population, rich cultural heritage and expanding markets. At the same time, Member States face a range of interconnected challenges, including climate change, environmental degradation, food and energy security concerns, infrastructure and connectivity gaps, technological disparities, public health challenges and an increasingly complex global economic environment. The Strategic Goals 2035 seek to transform these challenges into opportunities through enhanced cooperation, stronger regional integration and a shared commitment to sustainable and inclusive development.

The Strategic Goals are founded on the principles of sustainability, regional solidarity, mutual benefit and shared prosperity. They promote a balanced approach that seeks to strengthen economic growth, social development, environmental stewardship and institutional effectiveness, while recognizing that peace, stability and constructive engagement among Member States remain essential prerequisites for long-term progress.

The document outlines a comprehensive framework for cooperation across the Organization's principal sectors. It seeks to enhance trade and investment through greater economic integration, improved trade facilitation, increased private sector participation and the progressive development of regional value chains. It promotes stronger regional connectivity through the development of integrated transport corridors, improved transit systems and accelerated digital transformation. It further seeks to strengthen energy security, support sustainable energy transition, promote responsible management of natural resources and advance regional cooperation on environmental protection and climate resilience.

Recognizing the importance of food security and industrial modernization, the Strategic Goals emphasize enhanced cooperation in agriculture, industry, research and innovation. They also seek to position the ECO region as a leading sustainable tourism destination by leveraging its unique cultural, historical and natural assets while improving infrastructure, connectivity and tourism services. Particular emphasis is placed on strengthening human resources and sustainable development through enhanced cooperation in health, education, disaster risk reduction, social development and the empowerment of youth and women.

The Strategic Goals also acknowledge the increasing importance of knowledge, innovation and effective governance in shaping the future of the region. Accordingly, greater attention is devoted to economic research and statistics, digital transformation, science and innovation, judicial and parliamentary cooperation, and strengthened international partnerships to support evidence-based policymaking, institutional development and regional visibility.

Across all sectors, the document promotes innovation, technological advancement and the responsible application of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital solutions, as important drivers of competitiveness, productivity and sustainable development. It further emphasizes the need to strengthen institutional capacities, mobilize resources, encourage public-private partnerships and deepen cooperation among governments, regional institutions, academia, the private sector and development partners.

By 2035, the Member States of ECO aspire to achieve a more integrated, connected, resilient and prosperous region characterized by increased intra-regional trade and investment, enhanced connectivity, stronger energy and food security, improved human development outcomes, greater environmental sustainability, accelerated digital transformation and deeper people-to-people ties. Through collective commitment and effective implementation, the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 seek to position ECO as a dynamic and results-oriented regional organization capable of contributing meaningfully to the prosperity, stability and sustainable development of its Member States and the wider region.

CORE PILLARS

Strengthening Regional Integration

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

Advancing Sustainability

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

Fostering Innovation and Inclusive Growth

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

SECTORAL APPROACH

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

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



TRADE & INVESTMENT

Introduction

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

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

At the same time, due consideration should be given to the membership of ECO Member States in other international economic integration arrangements and the international obligations arising therefrom with regard to the conduct of their foreign trade policies, including the conclusion of free trade agreements. Accordingly, the participation of individual ECO Member States in the implementation of institutional aspects of the preferential trading system within the ECO shall be undertaken in accordance with their respective international obligations.

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

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

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

Vision Statement

To achieve sustainable inclusive and rules-based growth in intra-regional trade and investment through deeper regional integration, enhanced trade facilitation and effective preferential trading framework and contribute to the global trade and investment commensurate to the potential of the region.

Strategic Objectives

- ⊙ To ensure sustainable growth in intra-regional trade through an efficient and operational preferential trading system, including its progressive modernization among Member States, with the aim of promoting regional trade, increasing ECO's share in global trade, attracting greater investment to the region to unlock its trade and investment potential, and diversifying the exports of Member States.
- ⊙ To enhance investment cooperation among member states and achieve national, regional as well as sustainable development goals by attracting Investment in priority sectors under APPI and IPAs collaboration.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⊙ Enhanced intra-regional trade through:
 - Paying special attention to simplifying trade in goods and services by progressively eliminating technical and non-tariff barriers to trade. Building on the modernization of the ECOTA, promote the gradual development of an efficient, inclusive and operational preferential trading framework with broader participation of all ECO Member States, while encouraging accession to the revised ECOTA upon its finalization.
 - Strengthen regional economic cooperation within the ECO framework, in accordance with the goals of ECO Vision-2025. By 2035, discussions should be initiated to identify practical arrangements that will enhance mutual trade and economic ties. Member States and the Secretariat need to prepare the required groundwork at national and regional levels.
 - Strengthen the role of ECO Trade Development Bank by expanding the Bank's memberships and increasing its capital to support the Bank's operation including bolster project funding in trade sector. Broaden its correspondent banking relationships through open accounts with other banks and explore financing options in multiple currencies. Furthermore, deepen collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to amplify financing the priority projects in priority areas with active role of ECO TDB.
 - Improve Trade Facilitation in the region by implementing ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) with a view to imbibe greater transparency, predictability and uniformity in cross border trade by:
 - a. Removing technical barriers to trade,
 - b. Removing non-tariff barriers through automation of procedures, harmonization of policies etc.
 - c. Strengthening cooperation in practical digital solutions, artificial intelligence and use of digital technologies, and e-commerce.
 - **Continuation of discussions on the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement**
 - Adopt a Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy with an aim to:
 - a. Harmonize investment regulations, simplify administrative procedures, Improve the region's business environment by reducing costs, and attracting sustainable investment with appropriate incentives
 - b. Promote intra-regional trade with enhanced participation across ECO Member States to develop regional supply chains, contributing to regional value chains and connect with global value chains.
 - Development of regional energy supply chains, including refining and petrochemical industries, shall be promoted to enhance value-added opportunities. Member States with downstream processing capacity shall be supported in strengthening linkages with upstream

hydrocarbon producers within the ECO region, fostering mutual industrial development and economic diversification.

- Implement “ECO Invest” Program drafted by the Republic of Uzbekistan to strengthen cooperation among ECO Member States by improving the investment climate, increasing inflow of mutual foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhancing investment efficiency.
- Adopt ‘Regional Quality Policy’ drafted by ECO-UNIDO Joint Trade Capacity Building Project, and utilize ECO-RISCAM to promote harmonized standards, conformity assessment procedures and best practices in the region for risk free, predictable and cost effective intra-regional trade, taking into account Member States’ existing obligations under international and regional standardization and accreditation frameworks
- Implement Joint Trade Promotion activities in the ECO by organizing meaningful trade promotion events in the region to enhance business engagement through closer ties among the national trade bodies and Export Promotion Agencies to foster cross-border partnerships and joint export promotion activities on digital platforms.
- Ensure participation of business communities of the region through ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as critical in following:
 - a. Establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
 - b. Create unified digital platform of the ECO national chambers in the ECO CCI to establish an online database to provide information on trade (*export and import*) opportunities in the ECO region, and national regulations/mutual recognition of the quality certification, markets’ conditions in the region etc, to help traders in the region.
- Given the difficulty in trade related payment systems which hampers movement of goods and services, may focus on trade in national currencies among ECO Member States as a catalyst and accelerator.
- Create an online mentors’ network aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs in the member states of the ECO;
- Develop a unified online platform for small and medium-sized business representatives.

Enhanced National & Intra Regional Investment through:

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

can finance large scale regional projects and attract financial resources from international and regional institutions for these funds.

Expected Outcomes

- i) Conclusion of re-negotiations to modernize ECOTA followed by its progressive implementation and broader participation of ECO Member States through accession to the revised Agreement. .
- ii) Implementation of the adopted ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy to improve trade facilitation in the region.
- iii) Finalization of negotiations on the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement and implementation by 2025.
- iv) Effective Implementation ECO agreements in Customs i.e. ECO Agreement on Smuggling and Customs offences Data Bank, ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters, encourage wider use of EDI and digital trade.
- v) Full operationalization of ECO-RISCAM and adoption of the 'Quality Policy' to streamline conformity assessment and boost trade in industrial and agricultural products.
- vi) Pursue all ECO Member States to sign/ratify the 'Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment' and Implement a 'Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy' by 2035.
- vii) Sign and ratify the adopted 'MoU on Joint Trade Promotion Activities in the ECO' and organize meaningful trade promotion events in the region. The ECO country assuming annual ECO chair, may organize one 'ECO Trade Fair'.
- viii) Establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
- ix) Operationalize the ECO Re Insurance Company for secure trade in the region.
- x) Initiate technical discussions on establishing trade in national currencies among ECO Member States.
- xi) Stronger coordination mechanisms involving the ECO Secretariat, Member States, and private sector stakeholders for effective policy implementation and initiative ownership.
- xii) Enhanced cooperation with tangible results among Member States in the field of investment promotion, attraction and facilitation.
- xiii) Strengthening tax cooperation by following up on holding ECOTAX meetings.
- xiv) Establishment of ECO Clearing Union as a matter of urgency.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- ④ Ensure full operationalization and commercialization of the major ECO transport corridors, through infrastructure upgrades and legal frameworks, developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors, implementing the roadmap of each corridors and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade and extending ECO corridors to out of ECO region corridors and freight sources. It is essential to streamline customs and transportation-associated procedures.
- ④ Harmonize transport regulations and customs procedures across ECO member states, through coordinated implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).
- ④ Digitalize transport sector, corridors and transit facilities, including border crossing procedures.
- ④ Accelerate the establishment of the ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent, with its mandate, operational scope, and data governance arrangements to be further clarified in line with applicable laws of Member States.
- ④ Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across all ECO member states by 2030, with special focus on rural and underserved areas.
- ④ Develop and launch a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance, and knowledge-sharing, enabling secure data exchange and fostering digital entrepreneurship across ECO countries without prejudice to applicable laws of Member States.
- ④ Strengthen cooperation among national IT parks, promote mutual exchange of experience and best practices, and support IT companies' access to the markets of ECO member states.

- ◉ To encourage experience and mutual knowledge sharing among Technology Park companies operating in the ICT sector.
- ◉ Application of emerging technologies such as Internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Blockchain, Machine learning, Quantum Computing, 5G, Digital Twin.
- ◉ Establish an AI Cooperation Platform within the ECO framework to promote joint AI projects, technology exchange and regional coordination among member states in a manner that supports innovation while ensuring risk-based AI governance, cybersecurity, data protection and model security safeguards.
- ◉ Expand the ECO regional cooperation framework in digital skills development and IT education to strengthen human capital, support AI capacity-building, and enhance regional collaboration among member states.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ◉ Ensure the full and active participation of all ECO member states in the comprehensive implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), with the aim of harmonizing customs and transit regulations, reducing delays and facilitating seamless cross-border movement.
- ◉ Prioritize investment in regional corridors, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multilateral funding to upgrade and expand transport infrastructure across corridors.
- ◉ Develop ECO Gates - multimodal logistic hubs, Caspian and open seaports, inland dry ports, encourage interoperability in transport systems and equipment, enhance the logistical interconnectivity of ECO Member States and align technical standards across member states to ensure integrated road, rail, sea and air networks for seamless transport.
- ◉ Increase the number of container trains on regional rail corridors and further promote the safe, sustainable and high-quality development of rail transport.
- ◉ Develop international passenger rail transport and tourism between the Member States mainly between the capital cities and cultural and touristic centers of Member States.
- ◉ Promote transit, transport and connectivity in line with the third priority of the Awaza Programme for Landlocked Developing Countries (2024-2034), focusing on developing regional transport corridors, enhancing multimodal networks and harmonizing cross-border transit procedures.
- ◉ Encourage exchanging best practices, technical guidelines and capacity-building activities on cybersecurity, secure data exchange and personal data protection, in line with national legislation and institutional mandates of Member States.
- ◉ Prioritize the corridors connecting the ECO region to China, Persian Gulf and Europe.
- ◉ North-south corridors linking Central Asia with South Asia shall be prioritized as part of regional energy diversification and connectivity. In this context, development of regional ports and logistics hubs may be supported through enhanced investment facilitation and regional cooperation.
- ◉ Establish cooperation among national IT parks and support them through the creation of international IT Hubs, fostering collaboration, innovation, and integration within the ECO region.

- ⦿ Enhance the involvement of youth, women, and the private sector in the transport and ICT sectors through the region.
- ⦿ Promote the exchange of best practices and successful experiences among ECO Member States in the development and application of artificial intelligence technologies, including public sector, education, healthcare and industry use cases.
- ⦿ Encourage cooperation in the development, adaptation and responsible use of open-source artificial intelligence models, datasets and educational resources, taking into account national priorities and local languages of ECO Member States.
- ⦿ Expand cooperation in artificial intelligence education and digital skills development through joint training programs, workshops, seminars, expert exchanges and capacity-building initiatives among ECO Member States.
- ⦿ Strengthen collaboration among universities, research institutions, technology parks and innovation centers through joint research activities, academic exchanges, internships and knowledge-sharing programs in emerging digital technologies.

Expected Outcomes

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

- xii) Establishment of the single window for issuing flight permits to facilitate the passage of cargo and passenger flights in the regional airspace, especially on China-Europe routes.
- xiii) Establishment regional capacity committee and technical supervision in field of transport and transit including Civil Aviation, Rail, Road and Maritime.
- xiv) Establish regional standards in artificial intelligence to accelerate the creation of the ECO AI Centre.
- xv) Creation of a unified regional AI ecosystem, expansion of cross-border cooperation, implementation of joint AI initiatives, and to the regulation and safe use of artificial intelligence technologies.
- xvi) Development of a skilled regional digital workforce, increased mobility and cooperation among young IT professionals and researchers, wider participation of women in the digital economy, and strengthened regional capacity in AI, innovation, and digital transformation.

ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Regional cooperation in energy, minerals, and environment is vital for sustainable development in the ECO region. Energy has always been a priority area of cooperation within ECO since its inception. Availing abundant traditional and renewable energy resources, ECO aims to increase energy market integration and enhance the energy security through adequate, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy supplies in the region. Over the past decade, ECO has been mainstreaming sustainable energy transition and low-carbon development model in its overall energy agenda. The regional transition journey has started, however a multiplicity of political, economic, and social challenges persist in this pathway. The mineral sector, a key driver of industrial growth, also holds untapped potential for regional collaboration. Mineral resources cooperation is important given the strategic role of critical minerals in the energy transition. Significant untapped mineral resources across the ECO region, including copper, gold, and rare earth elements, offer substantial development potential. The ECO Roadmap on Mineral Cooperation shall prioritize regional value chains, sustainable mining practices, and investment frameworks to attract domestic and international capital. The ECO countries encounter significant environmental and climate challenges, which have necessitated enhanced collaboration for ecological protection in the ECO region. The environment and impacts of climate change were designated as ECO's cross-sectoral priority. ECO countries must responsibly harness energy and mineral resources while advancing ecological protection and contributing to global climate resilience efforts.

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- ④ Enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade: ECO will facilitate diversification of energy mix, improving energy connectivity, enabling and upgrading policy and regulatory framework, and strengthening the role of ECO region in global energy architecture.
- ④ Regional energy connectivity shall be advanced through mutually beneficial cross-border projects, including TAPI and related initiatives, to enhance energy security, economic integration, and sustainable development. A consensus-based approach supporting the gradual reintegration of all countries into ECO energy frameworks and infrastructure projects, including TAPI and CASA-1000, recognizing its importance for regional stability and cooperation.
- ④ Create Regional Power System Connectivity and Electricity Market: Multilateral and multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources will be established gradually at the sub-regional and regional levels through harmonization and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral electricity grids under the single platform.
- ④ Recognizing the challenges of harmonizing grid codes, regulatory frameworks, and tariff structures among Member States, a phased approach shall be pursued, beginning with bilateral and sub-regional electricity trade and progressively advancing toward a more integrated regional electricity market. Existing cross-border transmission interconnections shall be recognized as foundational elements of the regional power architecture.

- ⦿ Mainstream Sustainable Energy Transition: ECO will support unlocking the ECO region's renewable energy and energy efficiency potential, market expansion and transformation of sustainable energy into local energy value chains, and creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments, particularly via the ECO Clean Energy Centre.
- ⦿ A balanced and just energy transition approach shall be adopted, taking into account the diverse energy endowments and development levels of Member States. Natural gas may be recognized as a transitional fuel in support of energy security, alongside the expansion of renewable and other low-emission energy sources, ensuring that the transition does not compromise energy security, affordability, or economic growth.
- ⦿ Promotion of production and deployment of high-tech energy equipment: support for local manufacturing and technology transfer in renewable energy and energy efficiency, alongside the development of innovative solutions and joint research projects to strengthen the region's industrial capacity.
- ⦿ Forge Sustainable Resource Management: ECO will contribute to the sustainable management of mineral resources in the ECO region underpinned by a set of regional actions and a multi-year ECO Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation, to be adopted and implemented.
- ⦿ Strengthen Environmental Protection and Resilience to tackle climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss: ECO will develop regional regulations to improve resource efficiency promoting circular economy principles and zero-waste approaches, including the reuse of treated wastewater and manage emissions, waste, and other pollutants from various activities, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health. Furthermore, the robust collective attitude that engages the entire region in environmental action on climate, biodiversity, desertification and other relevant areas will be achieved to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships on environment and sustainable development.
- ⦿ Implement the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC) to strengthen cross-border operational coordination, emergency preparedness, and system reliability. This includes harmonizing regulatory frameworks for generation, transmission, and demand-response management, advancing grid moderation for renewable integration to mitigate supply disruption and climate-related risks.
- ⦿ Establish specialized consortiums among Member States to enhance short-term project efficiency, optimize resource utilization, and accelerate implementation timelines by leveraging shared expertise and capacities by 2035.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, including through application of zero-waste approaches and implementation of climate action on adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation with enhanced inclusion of businesses, women and youth.

- ⦿ Promotion of local manufacturing of high-tech energy equipment, including solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries, through joint ventures, technology transfer, and harmonized standards across the region shall be supported.
- ⦿ Ensuring regional supply chain security for the critical minerals required to manufacture solar panel, wind turbine, battery, and smart meter manufacturing.
- ⦿ Adopting water-saving technologies in energy and mining sectors for environmental protection with regard to the region's sustainability strategy.
- ⦿ Supporting the security of supply for critical minerals by developing sustainable and integrated recycling systems capable of recovering critical minerals—such as lithium, cobalt, and silicon—from end-of-life solar panels and batteries, with the aim of effectively utilizing waste generated when technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, and battery systems reach the end of their commercial lifespan.
- ⦿ Establish a dedicated environmental fund within the Organization to support advanced innovations in air purification.
- ⦿ Formation and promotion of consortiums among ECO member countries to pool technical, financial, and human resources, thereby boosting the efficiency and timely completion of regional agricultural and industrial projects.
- ⦿ Promote the formulation, alignment, and implementation of the cross-border “GREEN PROGRAM” of the ECO Member States for 2026–2030, designed to advance afforestation in desert areas and mitigate the risks of natural disasters, strengthening regional cooperation and joint operational capacity for combating forest fires and land degradation
- ⦿ Enhance regional climate resilience by establishing an ECO Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Mechanism to safeguard agricultural productivity, water security, and forestry ecosystems against extreme weather events.

Expected Outcomes

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

- vi) Strengthened environmental protection and resilience, targeting resource efficiency, emission and pollution control, ecosystem preservation and coordinated climate change, biodiversity and desertification actions.
- vii) Developed robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and tailored action plans aligned with the strategic objectives through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government, private sector and communities.
- viii) Mobilized sustainable financing and public private partnerships to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.
- ix) Addressed major resource-related challenges, most notably adequate and reliable financing, human and institutional capacity underpinned by knowledge and science, and effective use of available resources.
- x) Mobilized sustainable financing from domestic and international sources, public-private partnerships and regional funds to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.
- xi) Engaged businesses, youth, women, and researchers actively in environmental sustainability and sector development, fostering innovation, advocacy, capacity-building and inclusive participation.
- xii) Strengthened regional and international partnerships to enhance technology transfer, build indigenous green technology ecosystems, and promote circular economy and just transition principles that leave no one behind.
- xiii) Collaborative partnership under the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC) to systematize exchange of technical expertise, operational best practices, and crisis management protocols. Establish regional platforms to accelerate innovation, enhance grid resilience, and harmonize regulatory approaches. This synergy will optimize resource utilization, mitigate systematic risks, and enable collective responses to emerging challenges such as renewable integration, cyber threats, and climate-induced disruption.
- xiv) Enhanced project efficiency and expedited delivery through the establishment of cross-border consortiums, fostering stronger cooperation and resource-sharing among Member States.
- xv) Increased efficiency in establishing protective desert forests, expanded green zones in vulnerable border areas, and advanced professional qualifications for regional experts, achieved through the institutionalization of cross-border coordination mechanisms, joint innovative research, and structured multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange across the ECO Member States.

AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

Introduction

Agriculture and industry (A&I) are vital to the ECO region's economic growth but face challenges from environmental degradation, climate change, demographic shifts and evolving consumption patterns. These issues are intensified by global policy shocks, trade barriers and unequal technology access. Persistent disparities in industrialization and technology, coupled with limited collaboration and inconsistent standards, hinder balanced development. To address this, the ECO region must enhance financial and technical support, deepen regional integration, secure sustainable funding and harmonize standards. Attracting investment, promoting technology-based improvements, strengthening cooperation in artificial intelligence biotechnology, nanotechnology, digital agricultural and advanced industrial technologies, while encouraging appropriate cybersecurity, data protection and risk management measures to ensure their secure and resilient application, and fostering partnerships and FDI within a supportive environment are crucial for expanding A&I sectors. A leap in increase in targeted investment remains one of the key requirements for sustainable agricultural and industrial growth.

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Enhance policy development and implementation capacity of Member States in agriculture and industry sectors for driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and productivity by 2035.
- ⦿ Foster cooperation through operationalized intra-regional platforms and strategic partnerships with other international and regional organizations, maximizing collective action to drive sectoral development and address shared challenges by 2035.
- ⦿ Strengthen regional food security and agricultural resilience through enhanced regional food security initiatives, seed supply, animal health, sustainable and efficient water utilization, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology capacities by 2035.
- ⦿ Advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development across priority sectors of common interest through promoting quality infrastructure, nanotechnology utilization, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement by 2035.
- ⦿ Establish and develop regional agriculture supply chains among the Member states.
- ⦿ Enhance Research and Development (R&D) capacity in agriculture: strengthen the research and development infrastructure sector to foster innovation and improve sustainable agriculture technology by 2035. This will involve promoting collaboration among agriculture universities, research institutions and rural industries to develop new and sustainable practice that enhance productivity, food security, and resilience in rural communities.
- ⦿ Elevate Regional Research: To promote regional research cooperation in priority domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Circular Economy, Green Technologies and Smart Cities through the establishment of joint centers of excellence, coordinated by the ECO Science Foundation.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Enhanced Regional Food Security through:
 - Effective implementation of ECO-RPFS and operationalization of ECO-RCCFS.
 - Strengthening regional seed supply and trade.
 - Improving animal trade and veterinary services.
 - Promoting efficient water utilization in agriculture, in light of water scarcity in the arid and semi-arid region of the Member States.
 - Encouraging the adoption of agri-technologies.
 - Fostering regional meteorological cooperation to mitigate agriculture-related risks and shocks.
 - Encouraging application of agricultural biotechnology for increased productivity and sustainability.
 - Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations
- ⦿ Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
 - Establishing a robust quality infrastructure across the region by fully operationalizing ECO-RISCAM, facilitating the establishment of its Technical Management Boards (TMBs), and developing structured technical discussion platforms for exploring the possibility of regional standards alignment.
 - Promoting the development and application of advanced, digital and green technologies, including nanotechnology
 - Strengthening industrial property rights
 - Fostering MSMEs, startups, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and privatization
 - Developing permanent mechanisms among the chambers of commerce and industry of member states to coordinate business community activities
 - Supporting women and youth access to innovation ecosystems
 - Encouraging the creation of a common certification system for key export sectors such as agriculture, textiles, machinery, and industrial goods in accordance with Member States' national and international regulatory commitments.
 - Enhancing transparency in business regulation drafting and publication to support startups and MSMEs compliance.
 - Building stronger collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to leverage synergies and best practices.
 - Mainstreaming climate adaptation into agriculture policies to enhance resilience within the ECO region.
 - Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
 - Strengthening Collaboration between institutions
 - Promoting innovation in sustainable agriculture practices
 - Enhance access to research outputs
 - Encourage sustainable practice through funding and incentives.

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

Expected Outcomes

- i) Strengthened policy development and implementation capacities across Member States to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture and industry by 2035.
- ii) Enhanced regional cooperation through operational platforms and strategic partnerships, maximizing collective action on shared sectoral challenges for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
- iii) Improved regional food security, enhanced agricultural productivity and strengthened agricultural resilience to climate-related challenges through better seed supply, animal health, sustainable water utilization, meteorological cooperation and biotechnology use, along with the application of agri-technologies.
- iv) Advanced, inclusive and sustainable industrial development focusing on quality infrastructure, digital and technologies such as nanotechnology, intellectual property, MSMEs, entrepreneurship and private sector engagement.
- v) Established and harmonized regional standards and quality infrastructure supporting efficient trade and innovation.
- vi) Increased financial sustainability through the ECO Vision Fund and strengthened partnerships with multilateral donors and UN agencies for technical and financial support.
- vii) Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensuring transparency, measurable progress and alignment with Member States' priorities.
- viii) Greater engagement and empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and industry, fostering entrepreneurial capability, entrepreneurship and inclusive economic transformation.
- ix) Improved coordination, communication and accountability mechanisms among Member States and ECO bodies for effective implementation and timely decision-making.
- x) 5 regional research centers to become operational by 2030.
- xi) A 20% improvement in the ECO region's Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking by 2035.

TOURISM

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

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

Expected Outcomes

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

HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Promote policy coherence for sustainable development by aligning local, regional, and international efforts to effectively address SDG challenges and enhance regional cooperation.
- ⦿ Promote employment opportunities, including through dialogue between competent authorities, public employment services and other relevant institutions, exchange best practices and information about labour market needs, skills, legislation and labour migration procedures.
- ⦿ Mainstream a family-centered perspective across all social development policies, with priority given to initiatives that strengthen the family unit as a foundational social institution create a social environment that enables people to establish and sustain families in accordance with their aspirations and values and promote policies and programmes that support family well-being, demographic sustainability and the preservation and sustainable strengthening of the population structure.
- ⦿ Prioritize population-related issues by endorsing human capital as a driver of social advancement rather than conceptualizing it as a burden.
- ⦿ Tackle irregular migration, transnational organized crime, including human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality, strengthen family institution and promote conditions conducive for strong population structure by adopting inclusive social protection and environmental policies to improve living standards and overall well-being.
- ⦿ Advance transformative urban development across the ECO region by fostering sustainability, innovation and resilience, and by leveraging the unique opportunity presented by the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku in 2026 – the first global forum of this kind to take place in the region.
- ⦿ Establish a regional disaster risk reduction system to minimize disaster-related losses in lives and assets through integrated preparedness and response mechanisms.
- ⦿ Establish a specialized working group within the ECO focused on the development of science and innovation.
- ⦿ Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, entrepreneurial capability and participation in development, entrepreneurship, STEM-related fields, and climate action to

promote inclusive and resilient communities, through accessible financing mechanisms and transformative education, while sustaining Youth and Women's Forums launched at the ECO Summit 2025 in Khankendi, as key platforms for engagement and collaboration across the ECO region.

- ⦿ Strengthen regional health cooperation by addressing non-communicable diseases and advancing equitable, inclusive universal health coverage systems.
- ⦿ Sharing good practices of member states on culture-centered recovery, uniting physical reconstruction, social and cultural revitalization, and legal and institutional frameworks in conflict-affected and post-crisis settings.
- ⦿ Advance regional education and skills development by establishing frameworks for higher education, vocational training, and capacity-building, with a focus on youth and women's empowerment, as well as inclusive education systems that ensure access, participation and achievement for all learners.
- ⦿ To design and implement a "Comprehensive Professional Development Program for Teachers' Use of Technology" across the ECO region, aimed at enhancing the digital pedagogical competencies of educators to ensure effective technology integration in teaching and learning.
- ⦿ Develop disaggregated data systems, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking, targeted interventions, and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.
- ⦿ Develop disaggregated data systems, that are in conformity with data protection principles and, in particular, safeguards aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.
- ⦿ Establish regional training programs on inclusive education practices for teachers and educational administrators, focusing on curriculum adaptation, classroom support strategies, individualized education planning, and collaborative teaching.
- ⦿ Enhance sustainable development policies for the integrated management of water resources by the ECO member states to ensure efficient utilization by 2035.
- ⦿ Accelerate Digital Transformation: To transform digitally education and research by launching inclusive regional platforms that prioritize underserved and less-developed areas, under the guidance of the ECO Educational Institute. To Encourage Member States to initiate joint efforts towards the development of a regional digital cultural heritage platform, including integrated museum and information systems, drawing on best practices such as Türkiye's National Museum Information System (MUES), to support sustainable tourism, digital promotion, and coordinated cultural heritage management.
- ⦿ Strengthen Cultural Diplomacy: To reinforce cultural diplomacy and civilizational dialogue by leveraging the region's shared historical and cultural heritage, particularly along historic routes such as the Silk Road, led exclusively by the ECO Cultural Institute.
- ⦿ Enhance Inter-School Collaboration in Primary and Secondary Education: To cultivate a foundation of regional solidarity and shared civilizational consciousness by facilitating various partnerships, student exchange programs, and joint extracurricular projects centered on the region's common religious, historical, and cultural heritage.
- ⦿ Empower Youth and Women: To empower youth and women as primary drivers of sustainable development through scholarships, academic exchange programs, and green/climate education initiatives, in a collaborative effort among the three ECO institutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

⦿ Sustainable Development

- Ensure including a framework for mobilizing financial resources and operationalizing bankable projects.
- Develop a regional action plan for SDG-aligned policy coherence and adopt voluntary monitoring and reporting mechanisms for SDGs, human capital and inclusive development performance, taking into account, the different national circumstances, priorities, and capacities of ECO Member States.
- Institutionalize the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development to share experiences and challenges.
- Address irregular migration, transnational organized crime, including human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality and declining fertility rates, and demographic trends and their socioeconomic implications in accordance with national priorities

Strengthening the family institution and promoting population growth by maintaining the fertility rate above the population replacement level.

- Promote sustainable development policies for the integrated management of water resources between the relevant ECO Member States to ensure long-term resource preservation.
- Promote the empowerment of youth and women for inclusive development by establishing regional platforms to support sustained engagement, communication, and leadership (networking), and by providing financing for youth and women-led projects.
- Strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations on SDG practices.
- Establish a dedicated platform within the framework of sustainable cities to promote collaboration, knowledge exchange, and integrated urban development across the ECO Region.
- Formulate –ECO SDGs monitoring framework - a benchmark mechanism, supported by Pakistan, to encourage data-driven reforms and transparent showcased via an ECO Dashboard.
- Establish an ECO SDG Accelerator Labs which designs cross-border solutions to common regional challenge
- Establish an ECO Collaboration Taskforce, coordinated through the ECO Framework, with the participation of interested member states to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practice in SDGs' implementation.

⦿ Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Revise the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and its five-year roadmap and monitor its implementation.
- Incorporate actions on youth, women, researchers and private sector engagement in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through technological innovation into ECORFDRR.
- Leverage AI and emerging technologies, and enhance coordination among existing ECO institutions and mechanisms working on climate resilience and DRR to champion regional initiatives and advocacy.
- Enhance the capacity and operational effectiveness of the ECO-RCRM.

- Improve intergovernmental collaboration on DRR efforts.
- Foster partnerships with global and regional organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.
- Adopt a long-term “Eco-Invest” Program to invest in climate action, climate resilience and DRR and encourage private sector for green investment.
- Ensure disability and age-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, including accessible early warning systems and evacuation plans for persons with disabilities, and older persons.

⦿ **Health**

- Update and implement the ECO Health Action Plan based on Member States’ needs.
- Build strong partnerships with WHO and other key organizations for technical and financial support.
- Establish a Regional Consultation Mechanism for better cooperation on communicable diseases.
- Promote health cooperation in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by further strengthening regional collaboration to enhance national healthcare systems, prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, support the training and retraining of medical personnel, and expand access to equitable, inclusive and affordable healthcare services for all.
- Promote role of youth and women in ECO Health Action Plan.

Adopt inclusive social protection frameworks addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, and older persons ensuring access to education, healthcare, employment, and community participation.

⦿ **Education**

- Strengthen regional education systems, harmonize academic standards and promote internationalization of higher education.
- Develop an action plan for internationalizing higher education in the ECO Region and monitor its implementation.
- Strengthen collaboration with ECO Educational Institute and other related global partners.
- Conduct targeted training and capacity-building initiatives, with a focus on youth and women and children.
- Promote curriculum enhancement by integrating climate resilience, digital skills, and entrepreneurship.
- Encourage youth, women and children participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields
- Prioritize the digital upskilling of the teaching workforce through standardized regional modules that focus on innovative teaching-learning methodologies and digital content creation.

- Foster cultural cooperation to consolidate cultural affinities and common heritage that bind the people of the region and mobilize ECO's contribution to Member States' initiatives on intercultural dialogue.
- Launch the ECO Regional Digital Education and Research Platform with multilingual content.
- Design and implement green and sustainability education programs in cooperation with the ECO Science Foundation and the ECO Cultural Institute.
- Organize regular regional events focused on culture, arts, sports, and tourism to highlight our shared heritage.
- Produce and disseminate multilingual media content.

Inclusive Education

- ⊙ Strengthen inclusive education policies and practices across the ECO region by:
 - Supporting legislation and national strategies aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
 - Promoting accessible learning environments and assistive technologies.
 - Encouraging collaboration among Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Services to ensure a holistic support system.
 - Enhancing peer-learning among member states through knowledge exchange and regional forums.
 - Promoting inclusive vocational education and supporting the transition of individuals with special needs into employment by encouraging member states to undertake coordinated efforts at both national and local levels, while fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Expected Outcomes

- i) Improved regional policy coherence on SDGs through actionable frameworks and coordinated implementation mechanisms.
- ii) Development of a scorecard mechanism to track the performance of member states on inclusive development, SDGs, and human capital indicators
- iii) Enhanced disaster resilience via a functional ECO Regional DRR system and operational ECO-RCRM.
- iv) Expanded universal health coverage and strengthened response to non-communicable and communicable diseases through regional collaboration and the updated ECO Health Action Plan.
- v) Elevated quality and access to education, including vocational, non-formal and higher education, with increased youth, children and women's participation and institutional cooperation.
- vi) Greater inclusion of youth, children and women in leadership, problem-solving and entrepreneurship and regional policy processes across all HRSD priority areas.
- vii) Operationalized regional platforms like the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development and ECO Youth and Women Engagement Mechanism for cross-sector collaboration.

- viii) Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, using data-driven tools to track progress on DRR, health, education and SDG implementation.
- ix) Increased mobilization of resources and institutional capacity through strategic partnerships with UN bodies, development banks and civil society.
- x) Strengthened cooperation in innovation, artificial intelligence and digital technologies.
- xi) Mainstreamed cross-sectoral linkages, connecting HRSD with climate action, trade, agriculture and energy for integrated development outcomes.
- xii) A 60% increase in student and researcher participation in academic exchanges by 2035.
- xiii) A 50% increase in student and teacher mobility specifically for primary and secondary education levels by 2035
- xiv) 80% coverage of underserved areas by the digital education platform by 2028.
- xv) The training of 100,000 youth, children and women in green and sustainability programs by 2035.
- xvi) The participation of at least 20 universities in the ECO University Network by 2032.
- xvii) The delivery of 8 cultural festivals and 10 co-produced media works by 2035.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Regional Economic Analysis
 - Strengthen data collection and harmonization across Member States. This should include a commitment to overcoming data quality and comparability challenges by adopting common statistical standards and methodologies.
 - Develop comparative studies and benchmarking tools to support policy decisions, while also addressing data gaps and a lack of standardized reporting. This ensures the analysis is comprehensive and reliable.

- Strengthen regional cooperation among the national statistical offices of ECO Member States in harmonizing data, metadata standardization, improving the quality and comparability of official statistics, and promoting the use of artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, and digital technologies in the collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of statistical data.
- ⦿ Strategic Publications and Research
 - Focus on actionable research in trade, investment, sustainable development, transport, logistics, energy and resilience, while ensuring the research agenda is responsive to the real-time needs and emerging crises of the region.
 - Explore the socio-economic impacts of regional initiatives and global trends on ECO countries, with a particular focus on capacity building to ensure all member states can effectively contribute to and benefit from this research.
- ⦿ Capacity Building and Networking
 - Support training, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among statistical offices and research institutions.
 - Encourage youth and academic engagement through fellowships and research opportunities.

Expected Outcomes:

- i) Full operationalization of the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) as a regional hub for economic research and innovation, and a clear mandate to produce applied research that directly informs policy.
- ii) Establishment of the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) as a respected, peer-reviewed international publication, achieved by implementing a rigorous editorial process and securing indexation in globally recognized academic databases.
- iii) Regular convening of the ECO Think-Tank Forum as a key platform for high-level policy dialogue and research exchange, with a focus on ensuring diverse representation and a mechanism for translating forum discussions into concrete policy recommendations.
- iv) Enhanced regional data harmonization and strengthened capacity of national statistics offices to support evidence-based policymaking, overcoming existing issues of data quality and comparability through technical assistance and a shared data framework.
- v) Production of applied research and analytical reports addressing priority regional issues including trade, investment, climate change, green economy and food security and water efficiency, while ensuring that this research is accessible and easily understood by policymakers.
- vi) Increased engagement of youth, women, businesses and academia in economic research through fellowships, advisory panels and collaborative networks, facilitated by a targeted outreach strategy and the removal of systemic barriers to participation.
- vii) Development and launch of a digital ECO Statistics and Research Portal to improve transparency, data sharing and monitoring of regional progress, while also addressing data security and privacy concerns.
- viii) Strengthened partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions and the private sector for co-funded research and knowledge exchange by establishing a clear and transparent partnership framework that defines mutual goals and resource commitments.
- ix) The publication of the result of research conducted on the identified priority sectors in the ECO's "Economic Journal).

JUDICIAL & PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND EAPA

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- ⦿ Judicial Cooperation: Strengthen cooperation in this field through the Institutions authorized by the ECO Member States as Central Authorities.
- ⦿ Anti-Corruption Cooperation: Implement the Plan of Interaction and operationalize RCCACO to tackle financial and organized crimes.
- ⦿ Law Enforcement Coordination Continue elaborates on improving intelligence and operational collaboration among law enforcement agencies.
- ⦿ Promote the exchange of experience and best practices among ECO Member States in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and information technologies in law enforcement activities.
- ⦿ Parliamentary Engagement: Strengthen the mandate and functioning of PAECO, encouraging all Member States to ratify the Charter.
- ⦿ Capacity Building: Expand training and knowledge-sharing programs to address emerging legal challenges (e.g., cybercrime, financial crime).

- ④ Afghanistan Engagement: Facilitate dialogue and support mechanisms to enable Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, subject to Member State consensus.

Expected Outcomes

- i) Strengthened regional judicial cooperation through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination among Member States' institutions authorized central Authorities.
- ii) Effective establishment and functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), boosting anti-corruption efforts across the region.
- iii) Development of a robust regional law enforcement coordination platform (ECOPOL or alternative) to improve intelligence sharing and cross-border crime prevention, without prejudice to national security legislation and constitutional requirements of each Member State.
- iv) Increased legislative collaboration through full ratification and active engagement within the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO), supporting harmonized policies and rule of law.
- v) Expanded capacity-building programs targeting emerging challenges such as cybercrime, financial crimes and organized crime, enhancing institutional competencies.
- vi) Successful reintegration of Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, enabling its meaningful participation in regional judicial, legislative and security cooperation.
- vii) Sustained multi-stakeholder partnerships with international organizations and donors to ensure financial sustainability and technical support.
- viii) Enhanced inclusion of women and youth in legislative processes via PAECO's dedicated committees, promoting diversity and regional stability.
- ix) Regular monitoring and reporting frameworks established to track progress on judicial cooperation, anti-corruption initiatives, parliamentary activities and Afghanistan's engagement.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

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

Efforts to strengthen subsidiary agencies will serve as key catalysts for fostering shared innovation, social cohesion and sustained growth across the region. Advanced scientific research, equitable education, and shared cultural heritage serve as the foundational pillars of regional integration, innovation, and sustainable development.

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- ⦿ Strengthening existing partnerships by actively participating in collaborative programs and initiatives.
- ⦿ Establishing new agreements with international organizations which are beyond ECO's ambit.
- ⦿ Increasing media presence through interaction, digital outreach, better material and publications
- ⦿ Streamlining web content to effectively communicate ECO's mission, achievements, activities and ongoing projects.
- ⦿ Engaging in international events to represent ECO's interests and showcase its contributions.
- ⦿ Hosting side events at international events to make most participation
- ⦿ Strengthening and fully operationalizing the ECO bodies
- ⦿ Improving coordination among ECO bodies and with the Secretariat to maximize organizational efficiency and effectiveness.
- ⦿ Encouraging ECO Member States to host major international events.
- ⦿ To attract international collaborations and mobilize resources from organizations such as UNESCO, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, and global academic networks, with coordination provided by the ECO Regional Committee and specialized contributions from each institution.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

⦿ Increasing Synergies

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

⦿ Strengthening Subsidiary Agencies

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

⦿ Hosting Sideline Events

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

⦿ Media Engagement and Presence

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

Expected Outcomes

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

- v) A dedicated media team and comprehensive communication strategy will effectively promote ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.
- vi) The mobilization of USD 15 million in international resources by 2035.
- vii) ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

No: CFU /2026/798

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 12/8/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose a copy of Note Verbale No. 531/3002631 dated August 11, 2026, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, conveying December 3-4, 2026, as the dates for hosting the 18th ECO Summit.

The esteemed Member States are kindly requested to bring the conveyed dates to the attention of the Offices of their respective Honourable Heads of State/Government, with a view to facilitating their advance planning and participation in the Summit.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran

Cc.

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





Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unofficial Translation

In the Name of God

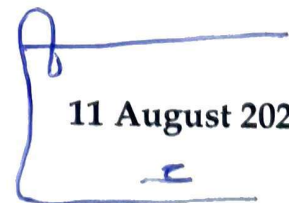
NOTE

No: 531 / 3002631

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and has the honor to state that the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to host the 18th ECO Summit on 3-4 December 2026. The pertinent invitation letters as well as the supplementary information will be communicated in due course.

It would be appreciated if the Secretariat informs the Member States and expedite the confirmation of the attendance of the ECO Heads of States/Governments and updates this Ministry accordingly.

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


11 August 2026


Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization-Tehran

شماره : ۵۳۱/۳۰۰۲۶۳۱
تاریخ : ۱۴۰۵/۰۵/۲۰
پیوست : دارد



آنی

به نام خدا

یادداشت

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

جمهوری اسلامی ایران تصمیم دارد هجدهمین نشست سران اگو را در تاریخ ۱۲ و ۱۳ آذر ۱۴۰۵ برگزار نماید. دعوتنامه ها و اطلاعات تکمیلی متعاقباً ارسال خواهد شد. مزید امتنان خواهد بود چنانچه دبیرخانه ضمن انعکاس موضوع، تایید حضور سران کشورهای / دولت های عضو را تسریع و این وزارتخانه را از نتیجه مطلع کند.

موقع را مغتنم شمرده، احترامات فائقه را تجدید می نماید.

دبیرخانه سازمان همکاریهای اقتصادی (اگو) - تهران

No: CFU /2026/848

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 23/8/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose the Note Verbale No. Z-2026/99530379/42459410 dated August 19, 2026, received from the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Tehran, concerning the scheduling of the 18th ECO Summit.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran





Z-2026/99530379/42459410 -

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and with reference to the Latter's Note Verbale dated 12 August 2026 (CFU /2026/798), has the honor to inform that the first week of December 2026 is not suitable for the schedule of H.E Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, regarding the 18th ECO Summit.

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



**Secretariat of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
Tehran**

No: CFU /2026/785

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 9/8/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose copy of Note Verbale dated August 8, 2026, together with comments on the Zero Draft Islamabad Communiqué.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran





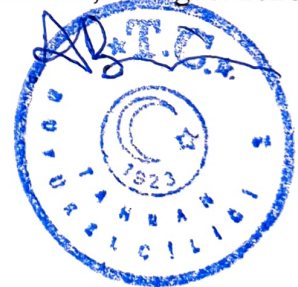
Z-2026/99530379/42414077 -

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and with reference to the Latter's Note Verbale dated 3 August 2026 (No: CFU/2026/758), has the honor to present enclosed herewith the comments of the Turkish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Treasury and Finance, National Education and Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) regarding the zero draft of the Islamabad Communiqué.

The Embassy kindly requests the attached Turkish comments to be reflected in the document.

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

Tehran, 8 August 2026



Encl: As stated.

**Secretariat of the
Economic Cooperation Organization
Tehran**

Zero Draft

**30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
Islamabad, Pakistan
(November 16, 2026)**

Islamabad Communiqué

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the ECO Member States, convened for the 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) on November 16, 2026 in Islamabad under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and while:

1. **Recalling** the principles enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir and the goals set within the ECO framework, as well as the shared resolve of our Heads of State and Government to strengthen regional cooperation, advance sustainable development and foster inclusive economic growth;
2. **Expressing** concern over the challenging geopolitical environment in the region as a result of the unprovoked external aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and expressing solidarity with the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a founding ECO Member State whose contributions have been central to the development of the ECO;
3. **Appreciating** the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's consistent and constructive diplomatic support for ECO Member States particularly during times of regional challenges, and commending its mediation efforts that contributed to de-escalation during the recent Iran–United States crisis, including the hosting of the Islamabad Peace Talks (11–12 April 2026), which led to the Islamabad MoU , as well as its participation, alongside the State of Qatar, in the first post-agreement negotiations held at Burgenstock, Switzerland, on June 21, 2026;
4. **Commending** the Organization for demonstrating that regionalism can remain effective and operational even under conditions of acute geopolitical stress;
5. **Underscoring** the importance of holding regular, in-person Meetings of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) as the Organization's principal decision-making forum with a view to ensuring annual convening of the

Council, strengthening policy coordination, enhancing guidance and advancing the effective implementation of ECO decisions and priorities;

6. **Recalling** the adoption of ECO Vision 2025 at the 13th ECO Summit held in Islamabad on March 1, 2017 under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and expressing confidence that the Strategic Goals 2035 will build upon its achievements and guiding principles to further strengthen regional integration, connectivity, resilience and sustainable prosperity across the ECO region;
7. **Recalling** the successful holding of the 29th COM Meeting chaired by the Republic of Kazakhstan in an online format on November 28, 2025;
8. **Recalling** the successfully organized 17th ECO Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan and organizing the first-ever ECO Week, held from July 1–4, 2025, which included the ECO Youth Forum, ECO Women's Forum and the 6th ECO Business Forum, providing an invaluable platform to strengthen dialogue, cooperation and partnerships among the youth, women and business communities across the ECO region;
9. **Acknowledging**, with deep appreciation, the assumption of the ECO Chairmanship for 2026– 2027 by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan under the newly established two-year ECO Chairmanship formula;
10. **Welcoming** Pakistan's Chairmanship theme for 2026, 'Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO'; **Expressing** confidence that, under the country's leadership, the Organization will make further progress towards the attainment of our shared regional objectives;
11. **Welcoming** the adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035 as a comprehensive document outlining the core principles and areas of cooperation within ECO, and resolving that Member States as well as ECO Secretariat, ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions will take necessary steps for implementation of Strategic Goals in a timely and effective manner;
12. **Supporting** the efforts of the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to advance the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO" through enhanced dialogue, strengthened multilateral cooperation, expanded regional connectivity and greater people-to-people exchanges;
13. **Commending** the timely and constructive diplomatic initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in promoting dialogue and the peaceful

resolution of disputes, reaffirming the importance of respect for international law and diplomacy, and calling upon all parties to continue supporting peaceful processes and to work collectively within the ECO framework to promote lasting peace, security and stability in the region;

14.**Acknowledging** the need for continuous reforms of institutional, regulatory and operational frameworks of the ECO aimed at enhancing the efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of the Organization, so that it remains responsive to the evolving challenges and needs of the ECO Member States; Highlighting the important role by the High-Level Committee (HLC) in this regard;

15.**Recognizing** the central role of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) in advancing the objectives of the Organization through programme planning, implementation review and sectoral coordination, and emphasizing the importance of further strengthening its role, in line with the ECO reform process, as an effective mechanism for coordination and engagement between the Secretariat and relevant national institutions of Member States;

16.**Recognizing** the importance of convening ECO ministerial and other high-level meetings on a regular and timely basis as an essential mechanism for advancing regional cooperation, facilitating policy coordination and ensuring the effective implementation of joint ECO initiatives;

17.**Welcoming** the continued momentum in ECO sectoral cooperation through the planned convening of next ministerial meetings on commerce and foreign trade and agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Iran, energy and education in the Republic of Türkiye; interior and ICT in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as ministerial meetings on finance/economy and health, and the 17th Joint ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in New York; Expressing confidence that these engagements will further strengthen policy coordination and the implementation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;

18.**Stressing** the vital importance of the collective adoption and implementation of ECO agreements and frameworks by all Member States to promote uniformity, strengthen institutional cohesion and ensure the effective achievement of the Organization's shared development goals;

19.**Recognizing** the essential contribution of trade and investment to economic prosperity and sustainable development; Stressing the

Commented [M51]: In Türkiye, ECOEI BoT meeting will be held on 14-15 October 2026. Ministerial meeting on education cannot be convened.

importance of strengthening intra-regional economic cooperation and enhancing the region's participation in international trade and global value chains; Emphasizing that deeper regional integration and broader market connectivity are critical to enhancing competitiveness, productivity and long-term economic resilience;

20. **Underlining** the important role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as drivers of innovation, employment and inclusive economic growth, highlighting the need to create an enabling environment for their development through fair competition, technological advancement, entrepreneurship, improved access to finance, business opportunities and professional networks, while promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible trade practices;

21. **Welcoming** the outcomes of the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, hosted by the Republic of Türkiye on November 26, 2025; Commending the adoption of the Trade Negotiation Strategy and Roadmap for amending the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the recommendation to establish a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC); Appreciating the convening of the First Meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) on April 15, 2026, and encouraging the maintenance of the momentum generated towards the advancement of the ECOTA amendment process and regional trade integration;

22. **Acknowledging** the strategic significance of the "ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy for 2026–2035" and the "ECO Regional ICT Strategy for 2026–2030" in enhancing connectivity, trade facilitation and digital transformation within the ECO Region; Recognizing the importance of strengthening institutional and human capacity across the ECO Region to accelerate connectivity initiatives and implement transport and ICT strategies effectively;

23. **Confident** that the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, to be held in 2026 in the Republic of Kazakhstan, will further strengthen regional cooperation on transport-related matters; Expressing appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the upcoming 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT in Islamabad and for its active role in preparing the new ECO Regional ICT Strategy for 2026–2030;

24. **Fully** aware of the transformative potential of emerging technologies – including artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum computing, 5G, robotics, space-based applications and others – and the need to harness these technologies to foster sustainable economic development, inclusive

Commented [ŞÖ2]: This paragraph, which lists artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum computing, 5G, and robotics technologies, is the only comprehensive statement in the draft regarding the technology agenda. The current structure of the paragraph, which balances opportunities and risks, is appropriate; however, it is recommended that space-based applications – which our country also prioritizes – be added to the list as part of cooperation efforts with certain EIT member countries.

growth, and regional prosperity, while remaining vigilant of associated risks and emphasizing collaborative approaches to mitigate them;

PP24bis. Acknowledging the outcomes of relevant United Nations processes on artificial intelligence, including General Assembly resolutions 78/265 and 78/311 adopted by consensus, as well as the convening of the first Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance in Geneva on 6–7 July 2026 pursuant to resolution 79/325, and underlining the importance of bridging the artificial intelligence capacity gap among and within countries and of promoting safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems in the non-military domain for sustainable development;

24.

25. **Recognizing** the critical role of quality education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), digital skills, research, innovation and lifelong learning in promoting human capital development, youth empowerment and sustainable economic growth across the ECO region;

26. **Attaching** increasing importance to sustained ECO multilateral engagement and diplomacy with existing and prospective partners in transport and ICT, including UNESCAP, UNECE, UN-OHRLS, IsDB, AIIB, ADB, SCO, OTS, ITU, DCO, IRU, OSJD, OTIF, and other relevant regional and global organizations;

27. **Recognizing** the steady developments in the ECO region towards enhancement of energy security and sustainability via stronger energy connectivity, diversification of energy mix and supplies, as well as advancement of clean energy and regional electricity market agendas;

28. **Reaffirming** the critical need for enhanced regional environmental coordination, collaborative policy-making, shared innovation, and inclusive multilateralism to safeguard our common future, as reflected in the outcomes of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment held in Samarkand on June 3, 2026 and the first meeting of the ECO High Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation in Astana in April 2026;

29. **Recognizing** the vital role of agriculture in ensuring food security, supporting rural livelihoods, generating employment, and promoting environmental sustainability, and underscoring the importance of enhanced investment, innovation, climate-resilient agricultural systems, and sustainable water ~~use management~~ through strengthened regional cooperation;

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 0.5", Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, No bullets or numbering

Commented [SÖ3]: In the draft, artificial intelligence is mentioned only in the list of technologies in paragraph P24; there is no reference to current developments at the UN level. However, the first meeting of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, established pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 79/325, was held in Geneva on July 6–7, 2026, and all EIT members are parties to this process. In this context, it is proposed that the aforementioned paragraph, which refers to UN resolutions adopted by consensus, be added to the Declaration. It is believed that this approach will integrate the EIT into the global artificial intelligence agenda without creating new normative obligations.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.5", No bullets or numbering

Commented [M\$4]: "Sustainable water use" is closely aligned with the water use efficiency thereby ensuring greater consistency throughout the text.

30. **Reaffirming** the strategic importance of sustainable industrial development as a key driver of economic growth, productivity, economic diversification, and regional competitiveness, and emphasizing the role of technological innovation, industrial modernization, harmonized standards, aligned standards (taking into account Member States' international obligations) and enhanced regional cooperation in advancing the common development objectives of ECO Member States;
31. **Taking** note of tourism as an important driver of regional integration, sustainable development and cultural connectivity, and emphasizing the importance of advancing collaborative efforts in this sector; Welcoming the successful holding of the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Shusha, Azerbaijan, on April 29, 2026, as well as the inauguration of Shusha as the ECO Tourism Capital 2026 and the associated year-long programme of activities, which together contributed to enhancing the visibility of the ECO brand and promoting the region's tourism destinations;
32. **Welcoming** the launch and advancement of key tourism policy initiatives, including the Compendium of Best Practices for Ecotourism in the ECO Region, the Policy Brief on Diversifying Intra-Regional Tourism, and the finalization of the 2026–2030 Roadmap for Expansion of Tourism Services (RETS-2030) by the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism, as important contributions to the sustainable development and competitiveness of the tourism sector in the ECO region;
33. **Recognizing** inclusive and sustainable development as essential to regional integration and prosperity, with youth, women and families serving as key drivers of social, economic and cultural progress; Acknowledging education, health, disaster resilience, sustainable water cooperation, access to finance, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms as important enablers for achieving the SDGs and advancing the long-term priorities of the ECO region; Underscoring the importance of promoting sustainable approaches and public procurement practices in the sectors of disaster risk reduction, education, healthcare and water cooperation;
34. **Emphasizing** the significance of the First ECO Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Arkadag, Turkmenistan, on April 28–29, 2025, and the First ECO Women and Youth Forum held in Azerbaijan on the sidelines of the 17th ECO Summit; Recognizing these initiatives as important steps towards strengthening regional cooperation on

sustainable development and the empowerment of youth and women;
Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to advancing the UN 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035;

35. **Reaffirming** the critical importance of robust regional cooperation against illicit drugs and transnational organized crime as a core pillar of the ECO Strategic Goals and Objectives (Vision 2035), and emphasizing the necessity of enhanced synergy among judicial, law enforcement, and parliamentary institutions;
36. **Recognizing** the important role of parliamentary diplomacy in advancing the objectives of the Organization and deepening cooperation among Member States, notably through the active engagement of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Member States (PAECO);
37. **Acknowledging** the importance of continued consultations with Member States to facilitate Afghanistan's engagement with the Organization in relevant areas, with a view to achieving the country's full and effective participation once circumstances permit;
38. **Emphasizing** the importance of enhancing scientific, educational and technological, as well as industrial cooperation among the Member States;
Recognizing the role of ECO Subsidiary Bodies in advancing the Organization's multifaceted agenda;
39. **Commending** the work of the ECO Secretariat in monitoring, coordinating and implementing ECO projects, and underscoring the importance of accelerating the implementation of priority initiatives;
Emphasizing the urgent need for diversified financing mechanisms – ~~including resources from the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB)~~ and other international financial institutions – for robust research and statistical data ecosystems, and for enhanced institutional collaboration to drive evidence-based policymaking and to deliver tangible regional outcomes aligned with the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the "Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035";

Commented [M55]: A more general reference to international financial institutions would better reflect the independent mandates and decision-making processes of such institutions while preserving the intended emphasis on diversified financing mechanisms.

Have decided to:

1. **Underscore** the pivotal role of sectoral ministerial engagement in advancing ECO agenda; Welcome the renewed momentum in the Organization's ministerial processes, marked by the convening of several long-pending meetings in 2025, including the Ministerial Meetings on Commerce and Foreign Trade and on Interior, as well as a number of other

important ministerial meetings held in 2026; Encourage all Member States to ensure the timely hosting of and highest-level participation in the ministerial meetings scheduled for 2027, with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of joint ECO initiatives;

2. **Welcome** the convening of the first High-Level Committee (HLC) Meeting on ECO Reforms on February 3, 2025 and its outcomes, followed by the development of concrete proposals by the relevant Working Group for the implementation of the HLC recommendations; Encourage the continued active engagement of Member States in the reform process and underscore the importance of sustaining this momentum through regular and substantive HLC meetings;
3. **Support** the accelerated amendment and implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), in accordance with the Trade Negotiation Strategy and Roadmap adopted by the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, through an inclusive technical negotiation process open to all ECO Member States, with a view to aligning ECOTA with contemporary trade agreements and evolving developments in international trade, while taking into account the respective international obligations and commitments of Member States;
4. **Encourage** Member States to actively participate in the ongoing ECOTA amendment process and invite those Member States that are not yet Parties to ECOTA to engage in the negotiations and consider accession to the revised Agreement upon its finalization, with a view to advancing trade liberalization, reducing trade barriers, improving market access, strengthening regional connectivity and competitiveness, and promoting the greater integration of the ECO region into the global trading system;
5. **Welcome** the adoption of the ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy, endorsed by the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, as a key framework for facilitating intra-regional trade, reducing trade costs, improving customs and border procedures, and advancing regional economic integration within the ECO region;
6. **Urge** the Member States to fully implement the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) to unlock the region's full potential and enhance regional connectivity, trade, and economic development;
7. **Encourage** Member States to accord priority and urgency to ECO connectivity initiatives, including transport, transit and digital connectivity projects, in their national and regional development agendas,

and to strengthen coordination through the Council of Ministers and relevant technical and ministerial forums to ensure their effective and timely implementation, and in this regard; Highlight the importance of the timely finalization and operationalization of the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy 2026–2035 and the ECO Regional ICT Strategy 2026–2030 as flagship frameworks for advancing regional connectivity, trade facilitation and digital transformation;

8. Encourage Member States to deepen cooperation on artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, including through the exchange of experiences and best practices on national strategies, joint capacity-building, training and research programmes under the auspices of the ECO Science Foundation and other relevant ECO bodies, with a view to bridging the digital and artificial intelligence divide and harnessing these technologies for inclusive and sustainable development across the ECO region;

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 0.5", Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, No bullets or numbering

Commented [§Ö6]: The call for greater ownership of the EIT Science Foundation is supported. Using the Foundation as the existing institutional framework for collaboration activities in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies will also eliminate the need to establish a new structure.

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 0.5", Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 0.5", Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li, No bullets or numbering

9. Encourage interested Member States to explore cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space, including satellite technologies and space-based services in support of regional connectivity, disaster risk reduction and environmental monitoring

10. Underline the importance of strengthening the security and resilience of critical digital infrastructure across the ECO region, and encourage enhanced cooperation among Member States in the field of cybersecurity, including through capacity-building and sharing of best practices, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international frameworks;

Commented [§Ö7]: The draft contains no reference to cybersecurity. The failure to address the security and resilience aspects of digital connectivity and ICT infrastructure investments is viewed as a significant shortcoming; in this context, a measured, function-oriented paragraph focused on cooperation in capacity building and the sharing of best practices is proposed.

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

7.11.

8.12. Stress the need for strengthened and diversified ECO multilateral diplomacy and outreach as a catalyst for connectivity and ICT development, and encourage results-oriented cooperation and partnerships with existing and prospective partners, and in this context; Note the importance of exploring and advancing cooperation mechanisms with ~~key partners, including China,~~ relevant partners to enhance transport, transit corridors and ICT initiatives in the ECO Region;

Commented [§Ö8]: The fact that only China is specifically mentioned in the context of information and communication technologies and connectivity creates a selective impression in a multilateral EIT document and raises concerns about balance regarding the technology cooperation processes that member states conduct with various partners. It is recommended that the wording be neutralized by replacing it with "relevant partners," taking into account diversified technology partnerships

9.13. Take note with appreciation the intention of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy in 2026; Call upon the Member States to enhance their ownership in the ECO's major energy projects while doubling support to the ECO Clean Energy Centre

(CECECO) and earliest launching of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM);

~~10-14.~~ **Welcome** the operationalization of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO) in Baku, which will contribute to paving the way for regional sustainable energy transition in the ECO region, expressing conviction that it will evolve into a pivotal mechanism to ramp up the industrialisation, energy and climate goals in the ECO region and beyond;

~~11-15.~~ **Welcome** the adoption of "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on minerals cooperation for 2026– 2030" as the first ever overarching and inclusive framework document for regional cooperation in the field of minerals and, in this regard; Reaffirm the commitment to promoting the sustainable management of mineral resources across the region;

~~12-16.~~ **Reiterate** the resolve to support stronger regional action for addressing the triple planetary crisis by promoting a transition toward resource efficient, low emission, and nature positive circular economies, while underscoring the need to secure adequate means of implementation, including financing, technology transfer, and capacity building;

~~13-17.~~ **Emphasize** with satisfaction the milestone decisions on adoption of the ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment (2026–2030) and its thematic Work Programs on Climate Change and Biodiversity, as well as on the successful follow-up of the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, and Circular Economy (RESCUE), taken at the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment held in Samarkand on June 3, 2026; Encourage all Member States to actively participate in the implementation of these frameworks and initiatives, and to contribute to the High Level Dialogue Platform, thereby transforming the ECO region into a leading example of climate smart and resilient regional cooperation;

~~14-18.~~ **Call** upon Member States to further strengthen regional cooperation in the agriculture and industry sectors through focusing on effective implementation of already existing and/or agreed upon frameworks, programmes, and initiatives, with a view to enhancing food security, promoting sustainable industrial development, fostering innovation, facilitating technology transfer, and advancing economic integration within the ECO region;

~~15-19.~~ **Express** sincere appreciation to the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group on Industry on September 22–23, 2026 in

Dushanbe, providing a valuable opportunity to renew high-level policy dialogue, oversight, and advance industrial development trajectory in the region;

~~16.20.~~ **Encourage** all ECO Member States to strengthen regional efforts in tourism investment, promote sustainable tourism practices, expand digital outreach, and enhance capacity building initiatives through the newly established ECO Tourism Educational Network;

~~17.21.~~ **Urge** active participation of relevant stakeholders in ECO's tourism cooperation mechanisms, including the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism, the ECO Tour Operators' Network, the ECO Silk Road Task Force, and other relevant sub-committees, to foster a vibrant and resilient tourism sector across the region;

~~18.22.~~ **Welcome** the continued implementation of the ECO Tourism Capital initiative and call upon all Member States to actively support and engage in this program as this initiative plays a vital role in fostering cultural exchange, promoting local economic development and preserving cultural heritage throughout the ECO region;

~~19.23.~~ **Note** with appreciation the planned activities for the upcoming ECO Tourism Capitals, commencing with Lahore in 2027, followed by Mary in 2028 and Karakol in 2029, and further acknowledge the designation of Aktau as the ECO Tourism Capital for 2030;

~~20.24.~~ **Support** ECO activities on sustainable development aimed at fostering collaboration and coherence among the ECO Member States; Acknowledge the recommendations of the 1st ECO Forum on Sustainable Development, the ECO Youth Forum and the ECO Women Forum; Encourage the institutionalization of these forums to ensure continuous dialogue and the effective implementation of youth empowerment and equality between women and men initiatives; Call upon the ECO Member States to consider allocating appropriate financial resources to support youth and women's engagement in regional economic integration, including through the possible establishment of a Youth Start-up Fund;

~~21.25.~~ **Welcome** the outcomes of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in January 2026, especially updating the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR); Invite Member States to give due priority to the effective implementation of the updated Framework;

22-26. **Encourage** the Member States and the Secretariat to strengthen their coordinated efforts in combating illicit drugs and transnational organized crime through enhanced judicial, law-enforcement and parliamentary cooperation;

23-27. **Urge** the Member States to further strengthen parliamentary cooperation within the ECO framework, including through active engagement with the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Countries (PAECO), urging those Member States that have not yet done so to complete the necessary procedures for signing and/or ratifying the PAECO Charter at the earliest opportunity;

24-28. **Understand** that achieving meaningful progress on the concerns of Member States would contribute toward creating an enabling environment and conducive conditions for fostering regional cooperation and lay the basis for Afghanistan's full and effective participation in ECO activities and processes;

25-29. **Acknowledge** the ECO Secretariat's efforts for consolidating cooperation with other regional and international organizations, as well as ECO Observers; Welcome the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/79/330 entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization" during the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 5, 2025;

26-30. **Commend** Pakistan's efforts, as current ECO Chair, to spearhead the convening of the inaugural meeting of the ECO-ASEAN Contact Group, with the Ambassador of Pakistan in Jakarta leading coordination efforts;

27-31. **Urge** Member States to actively engage with and support the ECO Educational Institute, ECO Cultural Institute and ECO Science Foundation through broader participation, enhanced collaboration and greater ownership; Commend their continued efforts in advancing the work of the Organization across the region, encouraging them to further strengthen mutual coordination and develop complementary programmes, joint initiatives and thematic events that effectively promote ECO priorities, objectives and regional cooperation agenda;

28-32. **Underscore** the importance of enhancing ECO's global visibility and, to this end, encourage Member States to observe ECO Day in a coordinated manner, including through gatherings of ECO Ambassadors,

particularly when it coincides with UN or other international events, to strengthen the Organization's profile and visibility;

29.33. Encourage the ECO Secretariat to intensify engagement with the United Nations, regional and international organizations, development banks, with the aim of advancing priority initiatives, leveraging comparative strengths and generating tangible socio-economic benefits across the region;

30.34. Urge the ECO Member States to support the Secretariat in its efforts to engage with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Multilateral Development Banks ~~(notably the ECO Trade and Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank)~~, in order to secure grant and concessional financing for regional initiatives, including: (i) grants for the implementation of sustainable and green tendering procedures; (ii) co-financing of the transformation of the ECO Economic Journal (Scopus/Web of Science indexing); (iii) capacity-building of National Statistical Offices in the field of Smart Statistics; and (iv) pre-feasibility studies for projects originating from the Member States;

31.35. Reiterate the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB), including through the expansion of its membership to all ECO Member States; ~~Encourage the Bank to play a more active role in financing priority regional projects and programmes, as well as in mobilizing resources and forging partnerships with international financial and development institutions in support of ECO objectives.~~

32.36. Foster vibrant and resilient media cooperation across the region, recognizing the transformative impact of digital communication and emerging technologies. Strengthen coordinated efforts to promote the dissemination of factual information and responsible media reporting, contributing to the realization of the ECO Vision, regional solidarity and sustainable development;

33.37. Call upon ECO Member States and the ECO Secretariat to strengthen cooperation on sustainable use of ~~in~~ water resources ~~management, including integrated water resources management, capacity building in~~ water-use efficiency, flood and drought management, groundwater recharge, watershed management, water quality improvement, wastewater treatment and reuse, climate-resilient water infrastructure, ~~hydrological monitoring~~, and early warning systems; and encourage the development of bankable regional water resilience projects ~~for~~ supported by international financial institutions and multilateral

Commented [M\$9]: We support ECO Secretariat in its efforts to engage with IFIs and MDBs. However we are not in favor of explicitly naming any specific MDB in reference to cooperation with the ECO Secretariat. Thus, it is preferable to refer to MDBs and IFIs in general terms.

Commented [M\$10]: As an independent international financial institution operating under its own governing framework, references to the Bank's role could be framed in a manner that fully respects its institutional autonomy and governance structure, while continuing to encourage regional cooperation. Therefore we propose the wording should be removed from the text.

Commented [M\$11]: Proposed amendments aim to avoid repetition and improve the coherence and clarity of the sentence while maintaining its substantive meaning. "Water resources management" was removed from the list of specific areas of cooperation, because the sentence already refers to "sustainable use of water resources" and the broader concept of water resources management is implicit in the subsequent areas listed. "Hydrological monitoring" was removed to streamline the list and avoid making it unnecessarily detailed, while the broader objective of strengthening cooperation in sustainable water resources use. "Capacity building" in water use efficiency and in other areas was included to emphasize the need to strengthen institutional and technical capacities. This is also providing a more action-oriented and development-oriented formulation. Overall, the amendments are intended to make the language more concise, avoid overlapping concepts and ensure that the listed areas complement rather than duplicate one another.

development banks, in accordance with national priorities, national laws, and based on mutually agreed terms;

~~34.~~38. **Extend** deep appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the excellent arrangements and able chairmanship of the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM); Express gratitude to all ECO Member States for their participation in the Meeting, reflecting steadfast commitment to regional cooperation;

~~35.~~39. **Appreciate** the support of the ECO Secretary General, Dr. Asad M. Khan, and his team at the Secretariat in Tehran, whose dedicated efforts contributed significantly to the preparation and successful holding of the COM Meeting.

No: CFU /2026/849

Priority: Most Urgent

Date: 23/8/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose copy of Note Verbale dated August 22, 2026, together with comments on the Zero Draft Islamabad Communiqué, from Turkmenistan.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran





**EMBASSY
OF TURKMENISTAN
TEHRAN**

28/3-1145

The Embassy of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization and, in response to the Secretariat's note №CFU/2026/758 dated 3 August 2026, has the honor to forward the proposals and amendments of the Turkmen side in Russian and English regarding the Islamabad Communique, the final document of the 30th Meeting of the COM of the ECO.

In this regard, the Embassy kindly requests the esteemed Secretariat to incorporate the proposals and amendments of the Turkmen side into the draft document.

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



Attachment: 8 pages.

Tehran, «22» August 2026.

**SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
Tehran**

TURKMENISTAN'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ISLAMABAD COMMUNIQUÉ

*30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) Islamabad,
Pakistan (November 16, 2026)*

AMENDMENT TO PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 13 (PP13) – PERMANENT NEUTRALITY

Proposed Amendment:

“**Commending** the timely and constructive diplomatic initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in promoting dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes, reaffirming the importance of respect for international law and diplomacy, **as well as the valuable role of the policy of Permanent Neutrality, recognized by the United Nations, in fostering mutual trust, stability, and peaceful conflict resolution,** and calling upon all parties to continue supporting peaceful processes and to work collectively within the ECO framework to promote lasting peace, security and stability in the region;”

AMENDMENT TO PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 21 (PP21) – ECOTA FLEXIBLE AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH

Proposed Amendment:

“**Welcoming** the outcomes of the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade, hosted by the Republic of Türkiye on November 26, 2025; Commending the adoption of the Trade Negotiation Strategy and Roadmap for amending the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the recommendation to establish a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC); Appreciating the convening of the First Meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) on April 15, 2026, and encouraging the maintenance of the momentum generated towards the advancement of the ECOTA amendment process and regional trade integration; **Recognizing the importance of a flexible, inclusive, and phased negotiation approach that takes into account the diverse economic development levels and national priorities of all ECO Member States, including those not yet Party to ECOTA, to ensure broad and meaningful participation in the amendment process.**”

AMENDMENT TO DECISIONS PARAGRAPH 4 (OP4) – ECOTA CONSULTATIONS

Proposed Amendment:

“**Encourage** Member States to actively participate in the ongoing ECOTA amendment process and invite those Member States that are not yet Parties to ECOTA to engage in consultations, taking into account national development levels, economic priorities, and flexible accession mechanisms, with a view to advancing trade liberalization and regional market integration;”

NEW PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH – ASHGABAT CONSENSUS FOR ACTION

Proposed Insertion Point: This paragraph should be placed in the preambular section, following the recitals that mention the Treaty of Izmir and ECO Vision 2025, immediately after paragraph 6.

Proposed Text:

“**Reaffirming** the significance of the “Ashgabat Consensus for Action” adopted at the 15th ECO Summit in Ashgabat on November 28, 2021, as a mainline document that provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation across all key areas, including trade, transport, connectivity, energy, industry, economic growth, social welfare, environment, and climate change; **Emphasizing** its continued relevance as a roadmap for realizing the principal goal of sustainable socio-economic development and prosperity in the ECO region; **Commending** the ECO Secretariat for its effective measures to fulfil the goals and objectives arising from the Ashgabat Consensus for Action, and resolving to further strengthen our collective efforts to implement its provisions for the benefit of all Member States;”

NEW PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH – JOINT TRADE ZONES

Proposed Insertion Point: This paragraph should be placed after paragraph 29, or as a new paragraph before the “Have decided to:” section.

Proposed Text:

“**Welcoming** the successful outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on the Establishment of the ECO Joint Trade Zones, held in

Gorgan, Iran, on November 3, 2025, and the subsequent endorsement by the Council of Permanent Representatives in February 2026 of the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan to develop a feasibility study for the creation of joint trade zones in the ECO region; **Recognizing** the critical importance of actively leveraging the potential of cross-border and regional trade to consistently increase trade turnover between ECO Member States; **Underscoring** the need to create a comfortable cross-border environment and stimulate regional cooperation through a system of agreed priorities and mutual benefits; **Encouraging** all Member States to actively participate in the formulation of this initiative to support the development of joint trade zones, drawing on successful examples, such as the joint trade zone established between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the proposed trade market at the “Altyn Asyr (Turkmenistan) – Incheh Boroun Islamic Republic of Iran” border crossing, with a view to creating a modern infrastructure for efficient trade and increasing intra-regional trade volumes;”

NEW DECISIONAL PARAGRAPH – JOINT TRADE ZONES IMPLEMENTATION

Proposed Insertion Point: This new paragraph should be placed after Decisions Paragraph 4 as a standalone paragraph emphasizing Turkmenistan's trade facilitation initiatives.

Proposed Text:

“**Call** for the timely implementation of the feasibility study on the establishment of joint trade zones within the ECO region, as proposed by the President of Turkmenistan and unanimously supported by the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives in February 2026, recognizing that such zones represent a practical and effective mechanism for increasing intra-regional trade turnover, strengthening cross-border cooperation, and creating a favorable environment for business contacts through a system of agreed priorities and mutual benefits; **Encourage** Member States to consider replicating the successful model of the joint trade zone established between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has demonstrated clear benefits for trade growth and business confidence;”

NEW PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH – YEAR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, 2028

Proposed Insertion Point: This paragraph should be placed in the preambular section after paragraph 14.

Proposed Text:

“**Welcoming** the unanimous adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on July 24, 2026, of the resolution entitled “Year of International Law, 2028,” initiated by Turkmenistan and co-sponsored by 78 UN Member States, **recognizing** the strategic importance of this initiative for strengthening the rule of law, promoting peaceful resolution of disputes, and enhancing international legal cooperation, and **expressing** sincere appreciation to all ECO Member States that co-sponsored this significant resolution;”.

ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ ТУРКМЕНСКОЙ СТОРОНЫ ПО ИЗМЕНЕНИЯМ В ИСЛАМАБАДСКОЕ КОММЮНИКЕ

30-е заседание Совета министров (СМ) ОЭС

Исламабад, Пакистан (16 ноября 2026 года)

ИЗМЕНЕНИЕ В ПРЕАМБУЛЯРНЫЙ ПУНКТ 13 (ПП13) -- ПОСТОЯННЫЙ НЕЙТРАЛИТЕТ

Предлагаемое изменение:

«**Высоко оценивая** своевременные и конструктивные дипломатические инициативы Исламской Республики Пакистан по содействию диалогу и мирному урегулированию споров, подтверждая важность уважения к международному праву и дипломатии, **а также ценную роль политики Постоянного нейтралитета, признанного Организацией Объединенных Наций, в укреплении взаимного доверия, стабильности и мирного урегулирования конфликтов,** и призывая все стороны продолжать поддерживать мирные процессы и совместно работать в рамках ОЭС для содействия прочному миру, безопасности и стабильности в регионе;»

ИЗМЕНЕНИЕ В ПРЕАМБУЛЯРНЫЙ ПУНКТ 21 (ПП21) -- ГИБКИЙ И ИНКЛЮЗИВНЫЙ ПОДХОД В РАМКАХ ЭКТА

Предлагаемое изменение:

«**Приветствуя** итоги 5-го Министерского совещания ОЭС по торговле и внешней торговле, состоявшегося в Турецкой Республике 26 ноября 2025 года; Высоко оценивая принятие Стратегии ведения переговоров по торговле и Дорожной карты по внесению поправок в Соглашение ОЭС по торговле (ЭКТА) и рекомендацию о создании Технического переговорного комитета (ТПК); Выражая признательность за проведение Первого заседания Технического переговорного комитета (ТПК) 15 апреля 2026 года и призывая сохранить набранный импульс в целях продвижения процесса внесения поправок в ЭКТА и региональной торговой интеграции; **Признавая** важность гибкого, инклюзивного и поэтапного подхода к переговорам, учитывающего различные уровни экономического развития и национальные приоритеты всех государств-членов ОЭС, включая те, которые еще не являются Сторонами ЭКТА, для

обеспечения широкого и значимого участия в процессе внесения поправок».

ИЗМЕНЕНИЕ В РЕШИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ПУНКТ 4 (РП4) -- КОНСУЛЬТАЦИИ ПО ЭКТА

Предлагаемое изменение:

«**Призвать** государства-члены активно участвовать в текущем процессе внесения поправок в ЭКТА и предложить тем государствам-членам, которые еще не являются Сторонами ЭКТА, участвовать в консультациях, учитывая национальные уровни развития, экономические приоритеты и гибкие механизмы присоединения, с целью содействия либерализации торговли и региональной рыночной интеграции;»

НОВЫЙ ПРЕАМБУЛЯРНЫЙ ПУНКТ -- АШХАБАДСКИЙ КОНСЕНСУС ДЛЯ ДЕЙСТВИЙ

Предлагаемое место вставки: Данный пункт должен быть помещен в преамбулярную часть, после пунктов, в которых упоминаются Измирский договор и Видение ОЭС-2025, непосредственно после пункта 6.

Предлагаемый текст:

«**Подтверждая** значение «Ашхабадского консенсуса для действий», принятого на 15-м Саммите ОЭС в Ашхабаде 28 ноября 2021 года, в качестве основополагающего документа, представляющего собой всеобъемлющую основу для сотрудничества по всем ключевым направлениям, включая торговлю, транспорт, связанность, энергетику, промышленность, экономический рост, социальное благосостояние, окружающую среду и изменение климата; **Подчеркивая** его сохраняющуюся актуальность в качестве дорожной карты для реализации главной цели устойчивого социально-экономического развития и процветания в регионе ОЭС; **Высоко оценивая** эффективные меры Секретариата ОЭС по выполнению целей и задач, вытекающих из Ашхабадского консенсуса для действий, и выражая решимость активизировать наши коллективные усилия по выполнению его положений на благо всех государств-членов;»

НОВЫЙ ПРЕАМБУЛЯРНЫЙ ПУНКТ -- СОВМЕСТНЫЕ ТОРГОВЫЕ ЗОНЫ

Предлагаемое место вставки: Данный пункт должен быть помещен после пункта 29 или в качестве нового пункта перед разделом «Приняли решение:».

Предлагаемый текст:

«Приветствуя успешные итоги 2-го заседания Подрабочей группы по созданию Совместных торговых зон ОЭС, состоявшегося в Горгане, Иран, 3 ноября 2025 года, и последующее одобрение Советом Постоянных представителей в феврале 2026 года инициативы Президента Туркменистана по разработке технико-экономического обоснования создания совместных торговых зон в регионе ОЭС; **Признавая** критическую важность активного использования потенциала трансграничной и региональной торговли для последовательного увеличения товарооборота между государствами-членами ОЭС; **Подчеркивая** необходимость создания комфортной трансграничной среды и стимулирования регионального сотрудничества через систему согласованных приоритетов и взаимных выгод; **Поощряя** все государства-члены к активному участию в разработке этой инициативы по поддержке развития совместных торговых зон, опираясь на успешные примеры, такие как совместная торговая зона, созданная между Туркменистаном и Республикой Узбекистан, и предлагаемый торговый рынок на пограничном переходе «Алтын Асыр (Туркменистан) - Инчебурун (Исламская Республика Иран)», с целью создания современной инфраструктуры для эффективной торговли и увеличения объемов внутрирегиональной торговли;»

НОВЫЙ РЕШИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ПУНКТ - РЕАЛИЗАЦИЯ ПРОЕКТА СОВМЕСТНЫХ ТОРГОВЫХ ЗОН

Предлагаемое место вставки: Данный новый пункт должен быть помещен после Решительного пункта 4 в качестве отдельного пункта, подчеркивающего инициативы Туркменистана по упрощению процедур торговли.

Предлагаемый текст:

«**Призвать** к своевременному выполнению технико-экономического обоснования по созданию совместных торговых зон в регионе ОЭС, как предложено Президентом Туркменистана и единодушно поддержано Советом Постоянных представителей ОЭС в феврале 2026 года, признавая, что такие зоны представляют собой практический и эффективный механизм для увеличения внутрирегионального товарооборота, укрепления трансграничного сотрудничества и создания благоприятной среды для деловых контактов через систему согласованных приоритетов и взаимных выгод; **Поощрять** государства-члены рассмотреть возможность воспроизведения успешной модели совместной торговой зоны, созданной между Туркменистаном и Республикой Узбекистан, которая продемонстрировала явные преимущества для роста торговли и деловой уверенности;»

НОВЫЙ ПРЕАМБУЛЯРНЫЙ ПУНКТ -- ГОД МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО ПРАВА, 2028

Предлагаемое место вставки: Данный пункт должен быть помещен в преамбулярную часть после пункта 14.

Предлагаемый текст:

«**Приветствуя** единодушное принятие Генеральной Ассамблеей ООН 24 июля 2026 года резолюции под названием «Год международного права, 2028», инициированной Туркменистаном и поддержанной в качестве соавтора 78 государствами-членами ООН, **признавая** стратегическую важность этой инициативы для укрепления верховенства права, содействия мирному урегулированию споров и активизации международного правового сотрудничества, и **выражая** искреннюю признательность всем государствам-членам ОЭС, которые выступили соавторами этой значимой резолюции;»

Agenda Item No. 4
Consideration of the List of Events-2026 to be covered out of
Special Support Fund (SSF)

No: CFU /2026/823

Priority: Normal
Date: 2026/08/18
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and with reference to Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/789 dated August 9, 2026, has the honour to enclose a revised Draft Annotated Agenda of the 309th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), and the List of meetings/events of 2026 proposed to be supported from the Special Support Fund (SSF), during the 309th CPR Meeting scheduled for August 25, 2026 (10:00 hours, Tehran time) at the ECO Secretariat.

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



All ECO Member States, Tehran

LIST OF MEETINGS/EVENTS
CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

PUT IN ORDER OF THEIR PRIORITY

TO BE SUPPORTED FROM SPECIAL SUPPORT FUND (SSF) IN 2026

A. SECTOR: TRADE AND INVESTMENT

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	1st Meeting of ECO Trade Facilitation Committee	Türkiye (In-person)	November 2026
2.	7th Meeting of the ECO Committee on Customs Cooperation (ECCC) (On the primary agenda of EDI)	TBD (In-person)	2026
3.	2 nd Meetings of Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) (on ECOTA Revision)	TBD (In-person)	2026
4.	3 rd Meetings of Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) (on ECOTA Revision)	TBD (In-person)	2026
5.	2 nd Meeting of Heads of Capital Markets Supervisory Authorities	IR of Iran (In-person)	23-24 Nov. 2026
6.	2 nd Meeting of ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPAs) Forum	IR of Iran (In-person)	2026
7.	2 nd Meeting of the Heads of SW/NDFs of the ECO Member States	IR of Iran (In-person)	2026
8.	5th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum	Afghanistan (In-person)	2026
9.	11 th Meeting of ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA)	TBD (In-person)	2026
10.	3 rd Experts Group Meeting on Banking, Financial Matters of ECO and Forming ECO Clearing Union	TBD (In-person)	2026
11.	2 nd Meeting of the ECO Heads of Tax Administration	TBD (In-person)	2026
12.	3 rd Meeting of the Heads of SEZs/FTZs of the ECO Member States	TBD (In-person)	2026

B. SECTOR: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	3 rd High Level Working Group Meeting on Almaty–Tehran–Istanbul and Almaty–Bandar Abbas Train Corridors	Iran (In-person)	2026
2.	7 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Reference Maritime Organizations	Iran (In-person)	25-27 October, 2026
3.	1 st Meeting of the ECO Freight Forwarders Association	TBD in coordination with ECO-CCI (In-person)	2026
4.	5 th Working Group Meeting on Civil Aviation Authorities and Second High-Level Meeting of Private Airlines of the ECO Region	TBD (In-person)	2026
5.	16 th Meeting of the ECO Heads of Railway Authorities	A Member State/ECO Secretariat (In-person)	2026
6.	1 st Meeting of TTCC Multimodal Transport Committee	Iran In-person	2026
7.	• 7th Meeting of TTCC Insurance Committee • 11th Meeting of TTCC Road Committee • 10th Meeting of TTCC Railway Committee	TBD/or back-to-back with relevant meetings (In-person)	2026
8.	Kick-off meeting on implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO Region	Secretariat/an ECO landlocked Member State (In-person)	2026
9.	Meeting of Consular Officials of the ECO on Visa Simplification for Drivers and Transport Personnel	Secretariat (In-person)	2026
10.	First HLWG Meeting of Kyrgyz Republic - Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Türkiye corridor (KUTIT)	Secretariat/or an en-route country (In-person)	2026
11.	9 th Meeting of TTCC Customs Committee and Workshop on Border Crossing Facilitation and Best Practices back-to-back with 2 nd Meeting of the ECO TIR Advisory Group (TIRACG)	Iran	2026
12.	2 nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on KTI Railway Corridor/and 2 nd Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on Commercialization of the KTI Railway Corridor	TBD (In-person)	2026
13.	3 rd HLWG Meeting of Tajikistan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Türkiye corridor (TUTIT)	TBD (In-person)	2026
14.	15 th Meeting of the HLWG on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Train Corridor	Iran	2026
15.	Meeting on establishment of the proposed ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office	Uzbekistan	2026

C. SECTOR: ENERGY, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT

No	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
Energy			
1.	5 th High-Level Experts Group Meeting on Energy (back-to back with the Ministerial Meeting on Energy)	Republic of Türkiye (In-person)	Autumn 2026 (tbc)
2.	3rd Experts Group Meeting on establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)	TBD (In-person)	October 2026
3.	5 th ECO Experts Group Meeting on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources (EERES)	TBD (In-person)	2026
4.	First ECO Experts Group Meeting on Power System Operators Convention (ECO-PSOC)	IR. Iran (In-person)	Autumn 2026
Minerals			
5.	10 th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting	Mashhad, I.R. Iran	11-13 October 2026

D. SECTOR: AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Agriculture

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	7th High Level Experts Meeting (HLEM) on Agriculture	Iran (in-person) Approved by 293 rd Meeting of CPR	4 th quarter of 2026
2.	9 th ECOSA International Seed Trade Congress	Uzbekistan (in-person) Approved by 36 th RPC	15–16 September 2026

Industry

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
3.	3 rd High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry	Tajikistan (In-person) Approved by 293 rd Meeting of CPR	22 September 2026
4.	5 th Steering Committee Meeting on Entrepreneurship and MSME Development Meeting	Iran (in-person)	6–7 October

			2026
5.	First General Council Meeting of ECO-RISCAM	Iran (in-person) Approved by 36 th RPC	4 th quarter of 2026

E. SECTOR: TOURISM

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	4 th Confobition on Health Tourism and the 1 st Meeting of the ECO-ACT Sub-Committee on Health Tourism	Iran (in-person)	2026
2.	The 2 nd ECO-TEN (ECO Tourism Educational Network) Meeting	Iran (in-person)	2026
3.	2 nd Meeting of the ECO Silk Road Task Force and 6 th ECO Silk Road Food Festival	Iran (in-person)	4 th quarter of 2026
4.	2 nd ECO Tourism Investment and Business Forum	TBD	2026

F. SECTOR: HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

No.	Event/Activity	Venue	Date
1.	2 nd Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities and	Pakistan	2026
2.	3 rd Training workshop on “Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance”	Pakistan	2026
3.	The 5 th Expert Group Meeting on DRR	Mashhad, Iran	2026

Agenda Item No. 5
ECO Relationship with Other Regional Organizations

No: IR /2026/220

Priority: Normal

Date: 15/3/2026

Attachment: No

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Permanent Missions of the ECO Member States in Tehran and as requested by the Republic of Türkiye during the 304th Session of CPR, has the honour to share the following additional information for consideration:

1. Inaugural Meeting of ECO-ASEAN Contact Group

The ECO-ASEAN Contact Group, envisaged under the Framework of Cooperation adopted at the 15th ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2023, is to regularly engage to assess the progress of implementation of the said Framework and to identify new areas of cooperation.

The need to operationalize the ECO-ASEAN Contact Group in Jakarta was reiterated during the 16th ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, held on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2024. However, the inaugural meeting of the envisaged Contact Group has yet to take place.

In this regard, the Secretariat proposes that the Pakistan side, as the current ECO Chair, may request the distinguished Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia to coordinate and convene the inaugural meeting of the ECO-ASEAN Contact Group, comprising the ECO and ASEAN Ambassadors based in Jakarta. This initiative would not only activate the Contact Group but also further strengthen ECO-ASEAN interregional cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

2. Observership Status at SCO

On the sidelines of the 25th SCO Summit of the Heads of State in Tianjin in September 2025, the ECO Secretary General held a meeting with his counterpart from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The discussions explored pathways toward structured cooperation and formal partnership.

It is pertinent to mention that the ECO Secretary General participated in the SCO Plus Summit in Tianjin at the invitation of the host. The aforementioned meeting with the SCO Secretary General was held on that occasion, during which the two sides continued their discussions on formalizing institutional relations. Moreover, the CPR, in its 269th Session, formally approved the institutionalization of ties between the ECO and the SCO, paving the way for enhanced inter-organizational cooperation and dialogue. In line with these discussions, formal approval from the CPR has been

requested to send a letter to SCO Secretariat to initiate formal negotiations for acquiring observer status of ECO within the SCO.

Such a status would carry strategic importance, as all ECO member states are already connected with the SCO either as full members, observers, dialogue partners, or special guests. Given this overlap, closer and more effective cooperation would help prevent duplication in areas of shared interest between the two organizations.

Strengthening the ECO's institutional role could also yield substantial advantages. It would facilitate deeper political and economic engagement with major economies, provide access to SCO-led initiatives in key sectors such as trade and energy, and significantly enhance the ECO's visibility and standing on the international stage.

3. Cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)

Following a meeting between the Secretary General of ECO and the Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) held on 1st September 2025 on the margins of the 25th Summit of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tianjin, enhanced collaboration between the two organizations was discussed. In light of the discussions, both sides recognized that exchange of expertise between the EEC and the ECO Secretariat would contribute to coordination and synergy of efforts aimed at economic development. Subsequently, a formal letter from Chairman EEC was received expressing interest in deepening dialogue and cooperation between the two organizations

Accordingly, the formal approval of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) has been sought to initiate discussions with the EEC with the objective to explore potential areas of mutual interest and to formalize cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would establish a comprehensive framework for joint activities, capacity-building, and the exchange of expertise.

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Missions of the ECO Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

All ECO Member States - Tehran



Agenda Item No. 6
Consideration of Afghanistan's participation in ECO
activities

No: JPC /2026/549

Priority: Normal

Date: 28/6/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of self-explanatory Note Verbale No. 1471 dated 23 June 2026, received from the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran, concerning Afghanistan's readiness to further expand its cooperation with the Organization and to continue its active participation in the meetings and activities of ECO.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran





سفارت افغانستان
تهران

Embassy of Afghanistan
Tehran

د افغانستان سفارت
تهران

No: 1471

Date: 23/6/2026

Note Verbale

The Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran presents its compliments to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) secretariat and, with reference to Note Verbale 2025/1799 dated 20 November 2025, has the honor to express that after reassuming power, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has implemented a balanced economic-focused, and neutral foreign policy aimed at broadening and strengthening its engagement with countries of the region as well as regional and international organizations, in accordance with the principles of Islamic Sharia and Afghanistan's national interests.

In this regard, Afghanistan side has carried out responsible and tireless efforts and continues to engage in consultations with various countries and relevant parties to develop productive cooperation and regional engagement.

Considering to its strategic geographical location, as a crucial bridge connecting the northern and southern regions of Asia, Afghanistan plays a considerable role in enhancing regional connectivity and cooperation. The active participation of Afghanistan in regional meetings, conferences, and organizations can help meaningfully to economic development, security and the facilitation of trade and transit throughout the region.

Accordingly, Afghanistan, as a permanent and active member of the Economic Cooperation Organization, declares its readiness to further expand its cooperation with the organization in different fields and is ready to pay its membership contribution in full, according to the following conditions:

- 1: The formal interaction of organization with Afghanistan, similar to the other member states.
- 2: The presence of the Islamic Emirate's flag at the official meetings of the organization.
- 3: The acceptance of the representative of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan at the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The Embassy of Afghanistan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) the assurance of its highest consideration.

June 23, 2026

To: The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)- Tehran



No: TI/2026/671

Priority: Normal

Date: 22/7/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and with reference to Secretariat's earlier Note Verbale no. TI/2026/522 dated June 21, 2026, has the honour to enclose a self-explanatory Note Verbale no. 2227 dated 15 July 2026 received from the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran, for the information of the Member States.

Afghanistan has conveyed its readiness to host **the 5th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum** in 2026. Given the importance of the issue, the esteemed Member States are kindly requested to give due consideration to the offer extended by the Afghanistan.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry and the embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran - ECO Affairs Bureau
All ECO Member States, Tehran





سفارت افغانستان
تهران

Embassy of Afghanistan
Tehran

د افغانستان سفارت
تهران

No: 2227

Date: 15/7/2026

Note Verbale

The Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran presents its compliments to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretariat and, with reference to Note Verbale No. 2026/522 dated 21 June 2026, has the honor to convey the readiness of Afghanistan to host the 5th ECO Trade Promotion Organizations (ECO-TPOs) Forum in 2026, at a mutually agreed date, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat.

The Embassy would appreciate the secretariate's kind consideration of this proposal and its circulation among the ECO Member States, as appropriate.

The Embassy of Afghanistan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) the assurance of its highest consideration.

July 15, 2026

To: The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)- Tehran



Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

No: ACC /2026/712

Priority: Normal

Date: 28/7/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and pursuant to the Article 3.1 of ECO Financial Regulations has the honor to submit the Draft Budget of ECO Secretariat for the year 2027 for examination by the concerned authorities of the Member States.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran

Cc.





Economic Cooperation Organization

Budget Proposal for the Financial year 2027

2026/07/21

Table of Content

1. General.....	1
2. Salary and Allowances	5
3. Staff Benefits	6
3.1 Medical	7
3.2 Uniform (Clothing Allowance)	7
3.3 Children Allowance.....	7
3.4 Rent of Residence of Secretary General.....	7
3.5 Transfer and Installation Grants (Non-resident Staff)	6
3.6 Special Bonus and Honorarium.....	9
3.7 Social Security Insurance	9
3.8 End of Service Gratuity	10
3.9 Encashment Leave.....	10
3.10 Provident Fund	11
3.11 Overtime & Labor Coupon.....	11
4. Travel Expenses.....	12
5. Transport.....	15
6. Reception and Diplomatic Obligations.....	15
7. Utilities	16
8. Publications	16
9. Post & Telecommunications.....	16
10. Stationery.....	16
11. Contingencies	16
12. Furniture and Office Equipment.....	16
13. IT Expenses	17
14. Purchase of Car.....	17
15. Special Support Fund.....	17
16. ECO awards.....	17
17. Maintenance of Building and Equipment.....	18
18. Consumable Items and Temporary Services	18
19. Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.....	19

1. General

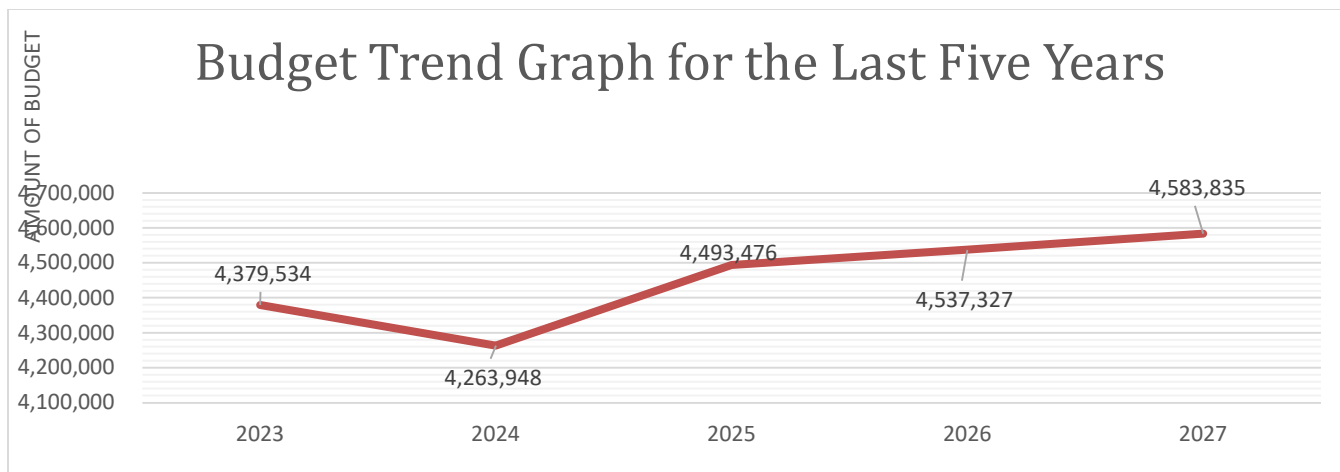
The proposed budget of the ECO Secretariat for the year 2027 is US\$ 4,583,835.00, which incorporates a modest nominal increase of US\$ 46,508.00 (1.03%) compared to the previous year. The main reason for the budget increase is the expected rise in staff turnover next year, which has been reflected in “Staff Benefits” and “Travel Expenses” chapters.

Salaries and allowances have been calculated in accordance with the salary scale. The salary scale of the ECO Secretariat remains the same as the previous year, and is presented in Annex II of this document.

The trend in the ECO Budgets from year 2023 to 2027 is presented below:

Budget Comparison Table (Last Five Years)

Year	Budget
2023	4,379,534
2024	4,263,948
2025	4,493,476
2026	4,537,327
2027	4,583,835



The following points are also noted regarding the budget for the financial year 2027.

- In the budget for the financial year 2027, around 90% of the total allocation has been dedicated to personnel related costs. As a result, only around 10% of the budget is available for projects, organizational activities, missions and administrative operations, which clearly highlights the Secretariat's need for additional financial resources.
- The share of contributions for each member country for the year 2027 is presented in Annex I, in accordance with the decision of the 24th Council of Ministers (COM). Delayed and/or unpaid contributions of member countries may create severe liquidity constraints, and pose major challenges to the implementation of the budget. To ensure operational continuity and effective accomplishment of ECO's commitments, it is essential that member countries fulfill their financial obligations in a timely manner and in line with the approved scale of assessments.
- There is a deficit of US\$ 15,585 in the budget of 2027 as a result of the continued non-alignment of one-member state with the aforementioned COM decision. This deficit will be financed from the General Reserve Fund (GRF), as was also done in previous years.
- The exchange rate of IRR 1,500,000 (IRR to USD) has been used for assessing relevant parts of the administrative budget, particularly those related to procurement from the local market such as utilities, office equipment, maintenance and consumable items as well as tickets, accommodation and medical costs. To limit adverse effects of exchange rate fluctuations, the Secretariat will maintain its policy of conducting currency exchange at short intervals in the year 2027.
- During budget implementation, payments may be made from the GRF for obligations incurred in previous years, as well as for unforeseen requirements arising during the current budget period as a

result of such obligations. These may include, but are not limited to, end-of-service benefits, installation and transfer grants, home leave, leave encashment, and incoming and outgoing tickets.

- The decrease in the “Salary and Allowances” chapter is mainly attributable to the increase in the exchange rate, which decreases the USD cost of staff who are paid in IRR. The allocation for the “Reception and Diplomatic Obligations” chapter has increased to cover costs related to the organization of the second high-level committee meeting. The decrease in the “Publications” chapter is related to the finalization of the ECO maps project financed under this chapter. Allocations for the “Contingencies” chapter have increased to cover potential currency exchange losses due to heightened fluctuations in the exchange rate. Due to the expected finalization of the replacement of the Secretariat’s old car, no allocation is proposed under the “Purchase of Car” chapter.
- Detailed explanations of the assessed allocated budget under each chapter are provided in the respective sections hereunder.

Head-wise details of the proposed Budget-2027 are as follows:

Account Heads	Budget 2023 (Reallocation)		Budget 2024		Budget 2025		Budget 2026		Budget 2027	
	Amount	% of	Amount	% of	Amount	% of	Amount	% of	Amount	% of
	\$	Total	\$	Total	\$	Total	\$	Total	\$	Total
Salary and Allowances	3,301,060	79.14	3,278,823	80.74	3,198,738	74.75	3,382,829	78.28	3,366,139	77.11
Staff Benefits	526,275	12.62	442,981	10.91	677,463	15.83	460,110	10.65	522,418	11.97
Travel Expenses	156,150	3.74	154,900	3.81	217,500	5.08	255,625	5.92	262,500	6.01
Transport	9,000	0.22	9,000	0.22	8,500	0.20	12,200	0.28	12,500	0.29
Reception & Dip. Obligations	10,000	0.24	17,000	0.42	20,000	0.47	20,000	0.46	30,000	0.69
Utilities	12,000	0.29	10,000	0.25	10,000	0.23	12,000	0.28	12,000	0.27
Publications	4,000	0.10	5,500	0.14	4,500	0.11	14,500	0.34	5,500	0.13
Post & Telecommunications	5,000	0.12	3,000	0.07	3,000	0.07	3,500	0.08	3,500	0.08
Stationary	5,000	0.12	6,000	0.15	5,000	0.12	5,000	0.12	5,000	0.11
Contingencies	2,000	0.05	2,000	0.05	1,000	0.02	2,000	0.05	4,000	0.09
Furniture & Office Equipment	9,500	0.23	9,500	0.23	9,500	0.22	10,000	0.23	10,000	0.23
IT Expenses	15,000	0.36	27,000	0.66	22,500	0.53	35,000	0.81	35,000	0.80
Purchase of Cars	0	0.00	-	-	12,500	0.29	12,500	0.29	-	-
Special Support Fund	10,000	0.24	20,000	0.49	20,000	0.47	50,000	1.16	50,000	1.15
ECO Awards	50,000	1.20	-	-	32,500	0.76	-	0	-	-
Maintenance of Building & Equipment	15,000	0.36	58,700	1.45	20,800	0.49	27,000	0.62	27,000	0.62
Consumable Items & Other Services	41,000	0.98	16,500	0.41	16,000	0.37	19,000	0.44	20,000	0.46
Sub-Total	4,170,985	100.00	4,060,903	100.00	4,279,501	100.00	4,321,264	100.00	4,365,557	100.00
Feasibility & General Purpose Fund (5% of the Budget)	208,549	5/00	203,045	5/00	213,975	5/00	216,063	5/00	218,278	5/00
Grand Total	4,379,534	105/00	4,263,948	105	4,493,476	105	4,537,327	105/00	4,583,835	105/00

2. Salary and Allowances

Budget proposals for sub accounts under the Salary and Allowances Account Head amount to US\$ 3,366,139.00 as set out in the table presented below:

Details of Grades Salary and Allowances Chapter

Item	Grade (D)	Grade (P)	Grade (A)	Total
Basic salary	971,698	686,190	127,200	1,785,088
Previous Increment	27,480	42,075	62,520	132,075
Increment 2027	10,125	11,925	2,510	24,560
Conveyance Allowance	104,196	78,803	16,608	199,607
House Allowance	526,972	532,323	117,264	1,176,559
Cook and Housekeeper				15,000
3 Guards				33,250
Sub Total	1,640,471	1,351,316	326,102	3,366,139

Sub Account for the Salary and Allowances

Row	Item					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Basic Salary	1,790,616	1,738,392	1,728,960	1,786,868	1,785,088
2	Increments	133,796	163,644	129,468	157,273	156,635
3	Conveyance Allowance	211,191	204,705	194,577	199,832	199,607
4	House Allowance	1,193,457	1,145,082	1,132,533	1,177,656	1,176,559
5	cook and housekeeper		27,000	13,200	13,200	15,000
6	3 Guards			-	48,000	33,250
Total		3,329,060	3,278,823	3,198,738	3,382,829	3,366,139

The decrease in the Salary and Allowances for the financial year 2027 compared with 2026 mainly arises from the reduced USD-equivalent salary and allowances of three guards, resulting from the increase in exchange rate. The amount of USD 33,250 estimated for 3 guards.

It is worth mentioning that the Secretariat will maintain its policy of limiting the overlapping period to a maximum of seven days in order to prevent any further increase in the Salary and Allowances expenses. Annex-II presents the scale of salary and allowances of the ECO Staff.

3. Staff Benefits

Budget proposals for the sub accounts under the Staff Benefits Account Head amount to US\$ 522,418.00 as presented in the table below.

Sub Accounts for Staff Benefits

Row	Sub Accounts for the Staff Benefit Account Head					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Medical	20,000	33,213	32,000	42,000	47,000
2	Uniform	1,000	500	-	-	800
3	Children Allowances	84,100	87,944	91,240	88,688	88,773
4	Rent of Residence of Secretary General	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
5	Installation Grant	41,817	13,310	44,392	29,860	38,773
6	Transfer Grant	30,894	14,753	39,624	28,293	41,543
7	Special Bonus and Honorarium	10,000	10,000	9,000	13,000	15,000
8	Social Security Insurance	30,000	20,844	-	-	-
9	End of Service Gratuity	88,659	56,735	224,882	60,015	71,310
10	Encashment of Leave	74,456	60,777	99,847	59,654	80,638
11	Provident Fund	48,149	47,406	46,478	48,600	48,581
12	Overtime	-	-	-	-	-
13	Labor Coupon	7,200	7,500	-	-	-
Total		526,275	442,982	677,463	460,110	522,418

3.1 Medical

The estimated budget under the Medical sub-account for the year 2027 is US\$ 47,000.00, reflecting a 10% increase due to the expected inflation in medical costs in the host country, which has increased considerably in 2026. This amount covers all staff members and their replacements and has therefore been estimated at the minimum cost that may be incurred. The Secretariat has considered an average amount of approximately US\$ 770 per staff member for the budgetary year.

3.2 Uniform (Clothing Allowance)

The proposed budget for this sub account is US\$ 800.00 for the year 2027.

3.3 Children Allowance

Children allowance is paid to the staff as per Article 13.1 of the ECO Staff Regulations. The assessed budget under this sub account for the financial year 2027 is US\$ 88,773.00. The Children allowance is paid as a monthly allowance up to a maximum of three children less than 21 years of age. The maximum number of children was estimated for the assessment of the allowance under this sub account for the incoming staff. As for the incumbent staff the same number of children in 2026 has been used as the basis for the assessment of the amount mentioned.

3.4 Rent of Residence of Secretary General

According to the Annex-III of ECO Staff Regulations, the rent of Residence for Secretary General of ECO is US\$ 7,500.00 per month and US\$ 90,000.00 in a year.

3.5 Transfer and Installation Grants (Non-resident Staff)

Transfer and Installation Grants are paid to the outgoing and incoming non-resident staff as per Article 17 of Staff Regulations. As shown in the following table, the tenure of 10 non-resident ECO staff members will end, and 14 new non-resident staff members are expected to join the Secretariat in the year 2027 to fill positions left by outgoing staff as well as those that have been vacant. The total estimated budget as

the Installation Grant is US\$ 38,773.00 and the Transfer Grant is US\$ 41,543.00 for non-resident staff. The tables below reflect the allocated amounts regarding the transfer and installation grants. As can be observed for the posts for which the Installation or Transfer Grants have already been allocated under the budget of 2026 or previous years, the relevant amounts have been deducted from the total proposed items and secured from General Reserve Fund (GRF).

Detail Table of Installation Grant

Row	Name	Grade	Installation Grant	Allocated and Secured from previous Budget(s) in GRF	Allocation under the Budget of 2027
1	Successor of H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan	SG	9060	0	9,060
2	Successor of Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt	D3	5222	0	5,222
3	Successor of Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	5222	0	5,222
4	Successor of Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	4157	4157	-
5	Vacant	D2	4157	4157	-
6	Vacant	D1	3092	3092	-
7	Vacant	D1	3092	3092	-
8	successor of Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza	P3	4837	4837	-
9	Successor of Mr. Hasan Tufan	P3	4837	0	4,837
10	Successor of Zeinolla R. Kalymbetov	P1	3608	0	3,608
11	Successor of Mr. Muhammad Irfan	P1	3608	0	3,608
12	Successor of Mr. Muhammad Shafqat Zahoor	P1	3608	0	3,608
13	Successor of Mr. Naimatullah	P1	3608	0	3,608
14	Vacant	P2	4050	4050	-
Total			62,158	23,385	38,773

Detailed Table of Transfer Grant

Row	Name	Grade	Transfer Grant	Allocated and Secured from previous Budget(s)-GRF	Allocation under the Budget of 2027
1	H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan	SG	9,460	0	9,460
2	Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt	D3	5,627	0	5,627
3	Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	5,627	0	5,627
4	Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	4,517	4337	180
5	Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza	P3	5,362	5362	-
6	Mr. Hasan Tufan	P3	5,097	0	5,097
7	Zeinolla R. Kalymbetov	P1	3,908	0	3,908
8	Mr. Muhammad Irfan	P1	3,908	0	3,908
9	Mr. Muhammad Shafqat Zahoor	P1	3,868	0	3,868
10	Mr. Naimatullah	P1	3,868	0	3,868
Total			51,242	9,699	41,543

3.6 Special Bonus and Honorarium

According to the Article 14.3 of ECO Staff Regulations, the maximum amount that may be allocated for Special Bonus and Honorarium is 5% of the total budget allocated under “Salary” Account Head. However, the Secretariat is proposing US\$ 15,000.00 for this sub account for the year 2027, which is around 0.44% of the Salary budget.

3.7 Social Security Insurance

According to COM decision in April 2024, the expenses of the social security insurance (ECO share) is included in the total expenses of the salary for resident staff in Cat A.

3.8 End of Service Gratuity

In the year 2027, 11 outgoing staff members of the Secretariat will be entitled to receive the End of Service Gratuity. They will receive 15 days of salary and allowances (excluding Housing Allowance) for every completed year of satisfactory service according to the Article 23 of the Staff Regulations. Therefore, an amount of US\$ 71,310.00 is estimated as the End of Service Gratuity sub account, according to the table below.

Detail of End of Service Gratuity

Row	Name	Grade	End of Service	Allocated and Secured from previous Budget(s) GRF	Allocation under the Budget of 2027
1	H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan	SG	14,190		14,190
2	Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt	D3	9,419		9,419
3	Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	9,359		9,359
4	Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	10,338	7,484	2,854
5	Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza	P3	17,625	13,800	3,825
6	Mr. Hasan Tufan	P3	6,600		6,600
7	Mr. Hojjat Moghavem	P3	6,680		6,680
8	Mr. Zeinolla R. Kalymbetov	P1	4,636		4,636
9	Mr. Muhammad Irfan	P1	4,636		4,636
10	Mr. Muhammad Shafqat Zahoor	P1	4,556		4,556
11	Mr. Naimatullah	P1	4,556		4,556
Total			92,594	21,284	71,310

3.9 Encashment Leave

In the year 2027, 11 outgoing staff members of the Secretariat are completing their term of duty and will be entitled for leave encashment to compensate their unused annual leave up to 45 days (based on the report of administration department), as per Article 28.2 of ECO Staff Regulations. The following table shows the estimated amount for leave encashment for each staff member with the total amount of US\$ 80,638.00 representing an increase compared with the previous year.

Detail of Encashment Leave

No.	Name	Grade	Emoluments	Allocated and Secured from previous Budget(s)-GRF	Allocation under the Budget of 2027
1	H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan	SG	14,190	-	14,190
2	Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt	D3	13,923	-	13,923
3	Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	13,863	-	13,863
4	Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	11,423	11,153	270
5	Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza	P3	7,983	7,871	112
6	Mr. Hasan Tufan	P3	7,646	-	7,646
7	Mr. Hojjat Moghavem	P3	7,307	-	7,307
8	Mr. Zeinolla R. Kalymbetov	P1	5,862	-	5,862
9	Mr. Muhammad Irfan	P1	5,862	-	5,862
10	Mr. Muhammad Shafqat Zahoor	P1	5,802	-	5,802
11	Mr. Naimatullah	P1	5,802	-	5,802
Total			99,662	19,024	80,638

3.10 Provident Fund

Under the Article 21 of the ECO Staff Regulations, 2.5% of the salary of the ECO Staff is contributed by the Secretariat to the Provident Fund, which amounts to US\$ 48,581.00.

3.11 Overtime & Labor Coupon

No overtime and Labor Coupon payment has been considered under the budget of 2027.

4. Travel Expenses

The estimated amount under the Account Head of Travel Expenses for the year 2027 is US\$ 262,500.00. The increase in the allocated amount is mainly due to the increase in the number of incoming and outgoing staff.

Detail of Travel Chapter

Row	Sub accounts for the Travel Account Head					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Missions of Officials	50,000	54,000	68,000	75,000	75,000
2	Home Leave Passage	29,600	56,200	26,300	47,200	40,600
3	Travel Exp. for Outgoing Staff	19,900	5,700	37,200	24,950	34,125
4	Travel Exp. for Incoming Staff	12,496	11,000	42,000	43,475	47,775
5	Daily Subsistence Allowance/Accommodation	44,154	28,000	44,000	65,000	65,000
Total		156,150	154,900	217,500	255,625	262,500

4.1 Missions of Officials

The estimated amount under this sub account is US\$ 75,000.00 the same as year 2026.

4.2 Home Leave

The estimated amount under this sub account is US\$ 40,600.00 which is less than year 2026. Home leave tickets must be used within one year from the date of entitlement and unused entitlements expire after this period. The details of estimated budget for Home Leave are presented below:

Detail of Home leave

Row	Name	Grade	Date of Joining	Country	Famaily member	Price of round trip ticket*	Allocation under the Budget of 2027 Ticket for homeleave of staff
1	Ms. Amina Batool	D2	13/11/2025	Pakistan	5	1500	7,500
2	Mr. Can Aygöl	D2	03/03/2025	Turkiye	5	800	4,000
3	Mr. Faizrakhman M. Kassenov	D1	20/04/2025	Kazakhstan	5	2000	10,000
4	Mr. Ikramboy Khayitbaev	P3	20/01/2025	Uzbekistan	2	1500	3,000
5	Mr. Nurlan Darimov	P2	08/02/2021	Kazakhstan	5	2000	10,000
6	Mr. Ukubaev Mamatmusa	P2	20/06/2021	Kyrgyz	3	1300	3,900
7	Mr. Ahmad Ghorbanzadeh	A1	12/07/2011	Afghanistan	2	1100	2,200
Total							40,600

*Due to limited number of available flights during the budget preparations, estimated ticket prices have been kept unchanged from previous year. (Annex III).

4.3 Travel Expenses of Outgoing and Incoming Staff

The estimated amounts under these sub accounts are US\$ 34,125.00 and US\$ 47,775.00 respectively. Expected increase in the number of incoming and outgoing staff has resulted in an increase in the allocated amount for cost of passage of incoming staff and outgoing staff in comparison with the year 2026 budget.

Detail of Travel Expense for Outgoing Staff

Row	Name	Grade	Country	Price of Ticket	Famaily Members	Amount of Ticket for Outgoing Staff	Allocated and Secured from previous Budget(s) GRF	Alocation under the Budget of 2027
1	H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan	SG	Pakistan	1125	2	2,250		2,250
2	Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt	D3	Turkiye	600	4	2,400		2,400
3	Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	Turkmenistan	1350	3	4,050		4,050
4	Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	Azerbaijan	825	4	3,300	3,300	-
5	Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza	P3	Pakistan	1125	4	4,500	3,600	900
6	Mr. Hasan Tufan	P3	Turkiye	600	4	2,400		2,400
7	Mr.Zeinolla R. Kalymbetov	P1	Kazakhstan	1500	5	7,500		7,500
8	Mr. Muhammad Irfan	P1	Pakistan	1125	5	5,625		5,625
9	Mr. Muhammad Shafqat Zahoo	P1	Pakistan	1125	4	4,500		4,500
10	Mr. Naimatullah	P1	Pakistan	1125	4	4,500		4,500
Total						41,025	6,900	34,125

Detail of Travel Expense for Incoming Staff

Row	Name	Grade	Country	Price of Ticket	Famaily members	Ticket for incoming staff	Allocated and Secured from previous Budgets(GRF)	Allocation under the Budget of 2027
1	Successor of H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan	SG	Pakistan	1125	5	5,625	0	5,625
2	Successor of Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt	D3	Türkiye	600	5	3,000	0	3,000
3	Successor of Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	Türkmenistan	1350	5	6,750	0	6,750
4	Successor of Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	Azerbaijan	825	5	4,125	4125	-
5	Vacant	D2	Türkmenistan	1350	5	6,750	6750	-
6	Vacant	D1	Afghanistan	825	5	4,125	4125	-
7	Vacant	D1	Kyrgyzstan	975	5	4,875	4875	-
8	successor of Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza	P3	Pakistan	1125	5	5,625	3600	2,025
9	Successor of Mr. Hasan Tufan	P3	Türkiye	600	5	3,000	0	3,000
10	Successor of Mr. Zeinolla R. Kalymbetov	P1	Kazakhstan	1500	5	7,500	0	7,500
11	Successor of Mr. Muhammad Irfan	P1	Pakistan	1125	5	5,625	0	5,625
12	Successor of Mr. Muhammad Shafqat Zahoor	P1	Pakistan	1125	5	5,625	0	5,625
13	Successor of Mr. Naimatullah	P1	Pakistan	1125	5	5,625	0	5,625
14	Vacant	P2	Afghanistan	825	5	4,125	4125	-
15	Vacant	A1	Türkiye	600	5	3,000	0	3,000
Total						75,375	27,600	47,775

5. Transport

The estimated budget in the Transport Account Head is US\$ 12,500.00, which includes sub accounts such as Petrol, General Service, Repair, Car Insurance, Taxi Charge, and Transportation Fee and It is increased by only US\$ 300 compared with the previous year by taking into account increasing cost of car insurance, general service and repair of cars in the host country.

6. Reception and Diplomatic Obligations

The estimated allocation of the Secretariat under this account head is US\$ 30,000.00 for the year 2027. It has increased due to the expected expenses related to the HLC meeting.

7. Utilities

The Secretariat allocates US\$ 12,000.00 for Utilities (Electricity, Gas, Water etc.) for the year 2027 for both the Secretariat premises and SG's Residence.

8. Publications

For the year 2027 the estimated budget for the Publications is US\$ 5,500.00. The breakdown is presented below:

Detail of Publications

Row	Publications					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Newspaper/Book/CDs and Bulletins	2,000	3900	2,500	3,000	2,500
2	Other Publications	2,000	1600	2,000	11,500	3,000
Total		4,000	5,500	4,500	14,500	5,500

9. Post & Telecommunications

The budget estimation for communication expenses such as post, telephone, mobiles and fax are US\$ 3,500.00 for the year 2027.

10. Stationery

The Budget proposal for the Stationery Account Head is US\$ 5,000.00 for the year 2027.

11. Contingencies

In order to compensate for potential exchange rate losses in converting currencies such as the US Dollar to IR Rial or other currencies, as well as the cancellation of air travel tickets, bank charges for the ECO bank account, and possible write-offs, the proposed budget for Contingencies for the year 2027 is US\$ 4,000.00.

12. Furniture and Office Equipment

The estimated budget under this Account Head is US\$ 10,000.00 for the year 2027 which is the same as in 2026.

13. IT Expenses

The budget of IT for the year 2027 is estimated US\$ 35,000.00, and the breakdown of this total amount is presented as follows:

Detail of IT Expenses

Row	Sub Account					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Internet Connection	6,000	4,849	5,500	6,000	8,000
2	Purchase of Computers	3,000	16,000	10,000	20,000	20,000
	Purchase of Accessories					
3	Repair of Hardware	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
4	IT new projects and Software	3,000	3,125	3,000	5,000	3,000
5	Hosting of the website	1,000	1,026	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total		15,000	27,000	22,500	35,000	35,000

14. Purchase of Car

The Secretariat's proposal for this Account head is US\$ 0.00 for the year 2027.

15. Special Support Fund

The estimated amount under this Account Head is US\$ 50,000.00 to support participation of the delegates from the Member States in ECO Meetings by covering the travel cost of one participant from each Member State as per the rates set forth in the respective modalities. Extra amount up to US\$ 20,000.00 may be utilized under the balance of previous years of Special Support Fund in the Secretariat accounts.

16. ECO Awards

Following an assessment of the effectiveness of the ECO Award program and in consultation with the Member States during HLC meetings in 2025, the practice of granting the award has been discontinued. Moving forward, the ECO Award will only be conferred in cases of exceptional

significance, subject to specific approval. As a result, and in alignment with this revised approach, the amount of ECO Award is US\$ 0.00 in the 2027.

17. Maintenance of Building and Equipment

The estimated budget for Maintenance of Building and Equipment of the Secretariat is US\$ 27,000.00. The budget breakdown of this Account Head is as follows:

Detail of Maintenance

Row	Maintenance Sub Accounts					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Air conditions (Heating and Cooler System)	1500	3000	3000	4000	4500
2	Repair of Building of the Secretariat	6000	48000	12000	14500	14500
3	Repair of equipment of the Secretariat (and Residence)	4000	4000	3000	5000	5000
4	Photocopy, printers, fax and publishing machineries	3000	3000	2000	2500	2000
5	Insurance of Building and Equipment and Elevator mintenance	500	700	800	1000	1000
Total		15,000	58,700	20,800	27,000	27,000

18. Consumable Items and Temporary Services

The Secretariat proposes total amount of US\$ 20,000.00 for the Consumable Items and Temporary Services Account Head. The budget breakdown for this Account Head is presented in the following table:

Detail of Consumable Items and Other Services

Row	Consumable items and Temporary Services Sub Accounts					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	Temporary staff, workers and other services	33,000	9500	8,500	11,000	10,000
2	Consumable Items	7,000	7000	7,500	8,000	10,000
Total		41,000	16,500	16,000	19,000	20,000

19. Feasibility and General-Purpose Fund

The amount allocated to Feasibility and General-Purpose Fund is US\$ 218,278.00 equal to 5 percent (5%) of total budget as previous years.

Annex: I

Share of Contributions of the ECO Member States to the Budget as Final Scale

Row	Member State	Share of Contribution%	Share of Contribution for year 2027(\$)	Share of Contribution for year 2026(\$)	The Diference(\$)\$between the Contribution between year 2026 and 2027
1	Afghanistan	2/00	91,677	90,747	930
2	Azerbaijan	4/00	183,353	181,493	1,860
3	Iran	22/00	1,008,444	998,212	10,232
4	Kazakhstan	18/00	825,090	816,719	8,371
5	Kyrgyz Republic*	0/66	30,253	29,946	307
6	Pakistan	22/00	1,008,444	998,212	10,232
7	Tajikistan	1/00	45,839	45,373	466
8	Turkiye	22/00	1,008,444	998,212	10,232
9	Turkmenistan	4/00	183,353	181,493	1,860
10	Uzbekistan	4/00	183,353	181,493	1,860
Total		99/66	4,568,250	4,521,900	46,350
Deficit of Scale of Assesment**		0/34	15,585	15,427	158
Total			4,583,835	4,537,327	46,508
**Covered from GRF by the Authorization of COM					

*The Kyrgyz Republic noted that the share of contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic remains at the rate of 0.66% whereas possible increase must be further discussed after 2022.

**The Budget deficit equal to USD 15,585.00 may be covered by General Reserve Fund.

Annex: II

The Salary Scaled for various Grades shall be as follows:

Approved at 25th COM Meeting held on 27 November 2021 as Annex II of the budget 2022 & Auxiliary Iranian Staff Cat III based on COM decision in April 2024 with some modification by the Secretariat

1 Category	2	3 Basic Salary		4 Children Allowance		5 Increment		6 Conveyance Allowance		7 House Allowance		8 Total (3+6+7)	
	Grade												
Secretary General	-	9060				200		-		-		9060	
Directing Staff (Cat. 1)	D 3	5,222		80		135		532		3,003		8,757	
	D 2	4157		80		90		532		2446		7135	
	D 1	3092		80		90		400		2088		5580	
										for resident	for non-resident	for resident	for non-resident
Professional Staff (Cat. 2)	P3	2,638		80		75		242		1531	1797	4411	4677
	P2	1,955		80		75		242		1439	1693	3636	3890
	P1	1,616		80		75		242		1348	1590	3206	3448
		Non-Iranian staff	Iranian staff	Non-Iranian staff	Iranian staff**	Non-Iranian staff	Iranian staff*	Non-Iranian staff	Iranian staff	Non-Iranian staff	Iranian staff	Non-Iranian staff	Iranian staff***
Auxiliary Staff (Cat. 3)	A3	799	580	80	40	60	20	121	50	598	430	1518	1060
	A2	598	500	80	40	60	15	121	50	598	410	1317	960
	A1	400	420	80	40	60	10	121	50	598	390	1119	860

*Increment for Iranian staff is up to 20 years of service (Due to decrease in the amount)

**Child allowance for Iranian staff will be US\$ 40 for each child (up to 3 children)

***Total expenses which includes monthly share of social insurance

Annex: III:

Average round trip ticket price from Tehran to ECO member countries

Ticket Price Inquiry(Round trip)						Average Amount at the time of calculation(\$)
Country	City	Airline	Less Economy	High Economy	Business	
Pakistan	Islamabad	Turkish	960,000,000	2,670,000,000	2,700,000,000	1500
		Emirate	900,000,000	1,770,000,000	2,530,000,000	
		Fly Dubai	500,000,000	1,400,000,000	2,420,000,000	
	Lahore	Mahan	360,000,000	450,000,000	800,000,000	
		Fly Dubai	450,000,000	1,350,000,000	2,400,000,000	
		Turkish	940,000,000	2,600,000,000	2,880,000,000	
		Emirate	850,000,000	1,750,000,000	2,530,000,000	
	Karachi	Fly Dubai	550,000,000	1,350,000,000	3,000,000,000	
		Iran Air	320,000,000	510,000,000	Don't have	
		Turkish	780,000,000	2,600,000,000	2,500,000,000	
		Emirate	670,000,000	1,600,000,000	2,300,000,000	
Azerbaijan	Baku	Iran Air	310,000,000	470,000,000	650,000,000	1100
		Turkish	600,000,000	1,800,000,000	1,790,000,000	
		Fly Dubai	660,000,000	1,390,000,000	2,700,000,000	
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Turkish	1,130,000,000	2,190,000,000	3,950,000,000	1800
		All airline to Mashhad	30,000,000	60,000,000	Don't have	
Kazakhstan	Almaty	Qeshm Air(one day every two weeks)	550,000,000	-	Don't have	2000
		Emirate and fly Dubai	760,000,000	2,670,000,000	2,430,000,000	
	Astana	Emirate and fly Dubai	760,000,000	2,660,000,000	2,440,000,000	
		Turkish	1,110,000,000	2,330,000,000	2,450,000,000	
Turkey	Istanbul	Charter flights and a system of different airlines are available.	140,000,000	1,500,000,000	Don't have	800
	Ankara	Mahan	190,000,000	290,000,000	450,000,000	
		Turkish	520,000,000	1,400,000,000	1,750,000,000	

Kyrgyz	Bishkek	Turkish	790,000,000	2,630,000,000	3,720,000,000	1300
		Emirate	770,000,000	2,830,000,000	2,600,000,000	
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Qeshm Air Zagros	400,000,000	-	Don't have	1500
		Emirate and fly Dubai	930,000,000	2,930,000,000	2,590,000,000	
		Turkish	1,200,000,000	2,900,000,000	2,970,000,000	
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Varesh	350,000,000	550,000,000	Don't have	1200
		Turkish	880,000,000	2,610,000,000	3,300,000,000	
		Emirate and fly Dubai	980,000,000	2,950,000,000	2,680,000,000	

Estimated ticket prices by different airlines in July 2025. Due to limited number of available flights during the budget preparations, estimated ticket prices have been kept unchanged from previous year.

No:ADM/2026/547

Priority: Normal

Date: 24/6/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran and has the honour to inform that the post of **Desk Officer (Category-II, P2)** would fall vacant in the ECO Secretariat upon completion of service tenure of Mr. Javed Ali (Pakistan national) on November 9, 2026.

The tenure of service for posts in Category-II is four years from the date of joining by the selected candidate(s). The **"Job Description"** required for the subject post is attached.

The esteemed Embassy is requested to kindly convey nomination against the circulated post along with CV of the nominee at the early convenience. Upon receipt of nomination, the selection of candidate would be processed for approval of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the ECO Staff Regulations.

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

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan - Tehran



Cc.

Afghanistan Embassy Afghanistan

Iran MFA Iran MFA

Azerbaijan Embassy Azerbaijan

All ECO Member States - Tehran

Kazakhstan Embassy Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Embassy Kyrgyz

Pakistan Embassy Pakistan

ECO Secretariat, No. 1, Golbou Alley, Kamranieh, Tehran, Iran - Postal Code: 19519 33114 - P.O.Box: 14155-6176

Tel: +98 (21) 22831733-4 Fax: +98 (21) 22831732 Email: registry@eco.int Website: <http://www.eco.int>

Desk Officer

Job Title: Desk Officer

Area of responsibilities: Stenography

Category: II

Grade: P2

Salary & Allowances:

Basic Salary	Children Allowance	Annual Increment	Conveyance Allowance	House Allowance (Non-Resident)	Total (USD) (1+4+5)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1,955	80	75	242	1,693	3,890

The term of appointment to this post is 4 years. The appointment takes place by the decision of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

The post-holder renders his/her services under supervision of the relevant Deputies Secretary General and Directors.

The post-holder may on a temporary basis be assigned by the Secretary General to discharge the function of a post, in the same category, which may fall vacant.

Job Description:

The post-holder will be responsible for:

- i) Preparing the draft of the reports of the ECO Meetings;
- ii) Filing reports of the meetings along with the respective audio records and preparing the minutes of the meetings as and when necessary;
- iii) Arranging all the working documents, as well as stationary items needed for the ECO meetings;
- iv) Distributing working papers and other documents among delegations and participants;
- v) Assisting the programme officer for recording important notes, points, recommendations, chairman's decisions and any other issues of high importance brought up during the meeting;
- vi) Collecting all the documents which might be submitted, distributed by delegates during the meetings;
- vii) Arranging all the outcomes of the meetings for circulation;

- viii) Preparing summary of internal working meetings of the Secretariat as and when necessary;
- ix) Drafting correspondences as per instruction of Secretary General/Deputies Secretary General;
- x) Ensuring grammatical correctness and observance of syntactic structure of the contents of correspondences;
- xi) Preparing the minutes of the bilateral meetings, if required;
- xii) Archiving, compiling all reports, notes verbale and other relevant documents in soft version in order to be available for directorates and sections;
- xiii) Performing any other duties and responsibilities that may be assigned to him/her by the Secretary General.

Skills and Qualifications:

- i) Minimum Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences. Degree in English literature would be an added qualification;
- ii) English language proficiency (Written, spoken);
- iii) Typing speed 30-40 words per minute;
- iv) Shorthand speed 80-100 words per minute;
- v) Social and communication skills;
- vi) Excellent knowledge of IT (Certificate is required);
- vii) Ability to co-work in a multinational environment.

Experience Requirement:

- i) 6 years of professional work experience with public and/or private sector and International/Multinational Organizations related to the area of the responsibilities;
- ii) Work experience in international and regional organizations would be an added qualification.

No:ADM/2026/714

Priority: Normal

Date: 28/7/2026

Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of ECO Member States in Tehran and has the honour to enclose a self-explanatory Note Verbale No.ECO-7/3/2026-A/08/07 dated July 23, 2026 received from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, conveying the nomination of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed (Pakistan national), for the post of Desk Officer (Cat-II, P2) as successor of Mr. Javed Ali. The Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the nominee is also attached.

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



All ECO Member States - Tehran





Most Immediate

**Embassy of Pakistan
Tehran**

No. ECO-7/3/2026-A/08/07

23th July , 2026

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran presents its compliments to the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran and with reference to ECO Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ADM 2026/547 dated 24th June, 2026, regarding completion of service tenure of Mr. Javad Ali , Desk Officer P2 (Pakistan National), has the honour to state that Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has nominated Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed as replacement of Mr. Javad Ali , Desk Officer P2 (Pakistan National) in ECO Secretariat. His CV profile is enclosed.

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

**ECO Secretariat,
Tehran**



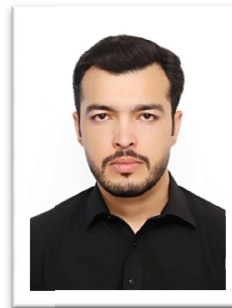
MUSHTAQ AHMED

Assistant Private Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan

☎ +92-345-9283755

✉ mushtaqahmed755@gmail.com



PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Date of Birth: 21 August 1992
- Nationality: Pakistani
- Marital Status: Married with two daughters

EDUCATION

- Master of Commerce (M.Com)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

➤ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Pakistan

○ July 2025 – Present:

Assistant Private Secretary - Human Resources & Career Planning Division

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Manage the office and daily schedule of the Director General for Human Resource & Career Planning.
- ✓ Coordinate appointments, meetings, official visits, and administrative engagements.
- ✓ Prepare official correspondence, briefs, notes, and other communications.
- ✓ Maintain confidential records, personnel files, and official documentation.
- ✓ Screen and prioritize communications, phone calls, emails, and visitors.
- ✓ Coordinate human resource matters including appointments, postings, transfers, and maintenance of personnel databases.
- ✓ Record discussions, take notes during meetings, and assist in preparation of meeting summaries and official records.

○ 2019 – 2021:

Desk Assignment - Personnel Directorate

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Assisted in personnel administration and human resource management.
- ✓ Maintained records relating postings, transfers, promotions, and service matters.
- ✓ Supported preparation of official documents, reports, and administrative briefs.

➤ **Embassy of Pakistan, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

○ **2021 - 2025:**

Administrative & Consular Officer

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Assisted the Ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission in political and economic reporting.
- ✓ Provided consular services to Pakistani diaspora in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- ✓ Maintained official records and ensured proper documentation of Mission's activities.
- ✓ Administered Mission's online systems including Pakistan Online Visa System, Pakistan Citizen's Portal, Consular Affairs Portal, Machine Readable Passport System, Content Management System of the Mission's website and E-Office System
- ✓ Assisted in logistical and administrative arrangements for high-level official visits and diplomatic engagements including:
 - *Visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Tajikistan to attend the Jubilee Summit of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held on 16-17 September 2021.*
 - *Visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Uzbekistan to attend the Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Samarkand on 15-16 September 2022.*
 - *Visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Uzbekistan to attend the 16th Economic Cooperation Organization Summit held on 8-9 November 2023.*
 - *Bilateral visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Uzbekistan 25-26 February 2025.*

➤ **Federal Government Organization**

○ **2018 - 2019:**

Stenotypist

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Prepared official correspondence and maintained office records.
- ✓ Provided secretarial and administrative support to senior officers.

➤ **Supreme Court of Pakistan**

○ **2017 - 2018:**

Stenotypist

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Served as Personal Assistant to a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- ✓ Assisted in preparation of official documents including court orders and judgments.
- ✓ Maintained confidential judicial records and documentation.

➤ **Federal Government Organization**

- **2014 - 2017:**
Stenotypist

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Prepared official correspondence and maintained office records.
- ✓ Provided secretarial and administrative support to senior officers.

➤ **Establishment & Administration Department, Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

- **2012 - 2014:**
Stenographer

Key responsibilities:

- ✓ Performed stenographic, typing, and administrative duties.
- ✓ Managed office records and documentation.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Minute-Taking and Record of Proceedings
- Official Correspondence and Drafting
- Records Management and Filing Systems
- Meeting Coordination and Scheduling
- Administrative and Executive Support
- Human Resource Administration
- Diplomatic Protocol Support
- Event and Visit Coordination
- Database Management
- Confidential Information Handling

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English
- Urdu
- Pashto

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- English Shorthand (100 WPM)
- English Typing Speed (60 WPM)
- MS Office (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint)
- Internet and Online Information Systems
- Digital Consular Platforms and Databases
- E-Office system

Agenda Item No. 8
Any Other Business

Agenda Item No. 9
Date of the next CPR Meeting