Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

310^{th} Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

September 15, 2026
ECO Secretariat

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 310th CPR Meeting

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/919

Priority: Urgent
Date: 1/9/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran, and has the honour to enclose herewith the Draft Agenda of the 310th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled to be convened on September 15, 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.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

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

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

310th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Agenda
And
Annotated Draft Agenda

September 15, 2026
at the ECO Secretariat

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 310th CPR Meeting;

2. Adoption of Draft Report of the 309th CPR Meeting;

3. Follow-up to the 5th Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom):

   - ***Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;***
   - ***Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit;***

4. Preparations for 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;

5. Adoption of ECO Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030;

6. Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors";

7. Endorsement of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard
   (Single Digital Portal of Statistics of the ECO Countries);

8. Administrative and Budgetary Matters;

9. Any Other Business;

10. Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Draft Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 310th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 309th CPR Meeting;
- Follow-up to the 5th Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom):
  - ***Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;***
  - ***Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit;***
- Preparations for 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;
- Adoption of ECO Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030;
- Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors";
- Endorsement of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard (Single Digital Portal of Statistics of the ECO Countries);
- 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 309th CPR Meeting

3. The Draft Report of the 309th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on August 25, 2026, was circulated amongst the Member States vide Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/895 dated August 28, 2026.

4. The Council may consider and adopt the Draft Report of the 309th CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up to the 5th Meeting of the PrepCom

- ***Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035***

5. The 309th 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 finalize the limited outstanding issues through consultations and agreed that the PrepCom would expedite its final deliberations at its Fifth Meeting on August 31, 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 5th PrepCom Meeting and the status of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035.

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

7. The 309th CPR Meeting reviewed the preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th COM Meeting. The Council urged Member States to continue 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 circulation of the draft Islamabad Communiqué for consideration by Member States and conveyed of invitations to the Honourable Ministers.

8. The Chair of the PrepCom and the Secretariat will brief the Council regarding the status of preparations for the 30th COM Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for 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

9. The 309th CPR Meeting took note on the progress made by Chair side informing that both meetings would be held back-to-back on 25 September 2026, from 10:00–13:00 p.m., and that the venue had been confirmed, while the agendas were under the process of confirmation by the Chair side.

10. According to the applicable rules and past practice concerning the participation of ECO Observers in Informal COM Meetings, the Secretary General recalled the past participation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the Informal COM while stating that the participation of Observers remained subject to the concurrence of the Council.

11. As agreed by the Council, the Secretariat circulated Türkiye's formal request among the member states concerning participation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in both meetings, under a one-week silence procedure for securing CPR's endorsement.

12. The Chair may invite the Secretariat to brief the Council on the matters.

Agenda Item No. 5
Adoption of ECO Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030

13. Following the background of the mater, it should be recalled that initially, the Honourable President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, proposed the development of a roadmap for the expansion of tourism services in the region during the 17th ECO Summit, held on 4 July 2025 in Khankendi, Azerbaijan. Subsequently, in line with this proposal, a draft document was received from the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan through Note Verbale No. 011/1559 dated 6 October 2025, and the Secretariat circulated the draft to the Member States through its Note Verbale No. T/2025/575 dated 13 October 2025.

14. The 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, hosted by Azerbaijan in Shusha on 29 April 2026, welcomed the progress achieved towards the finalization of the Roadmap and encouraged Member States to actively contribute to its implementation and, as appropriate, align their national policies with its objectives.

15. Subsequently, the 36th Regional Planning Council (RPC) urged Member States to actively participate in the 2nd ECO-ACT Meeting and contribute to the finalization of the Roadmap, while emphasizing the strengthened coordination and implementation oversight role of ECO-ACT in line with ECO's Vision towards 2035.

16. The 2nd ECO-ACT Meeting, held on 28 July 2026, finalized the Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030. Thereafter, the Secretariat sought the final position of the Member States through Note Verbale No. T/2026/735 dated 3 August 2026, with a deadline of 1 September 2026, indicating that the Roadmap would be considered approved as revised in the absence of objections. To date, the Secretariat has received no objection from any Member State.

17. The Council may consider the matter and approve the proposed finalized ECO Roadmap, as enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Agenda Item No. 6
Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors"

18. The ECO Vision 2025 Tourism Guiding Lines envisaged strengthening the ECO Tourism brand through effective promotional means at the regional, national and international levels. In this context, the **"Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors"** initiative aims to harness the influence of opinion makers, including well-known personalities, to promote tourism destinations, starting with the ECO Tourism Capitals, with particular emphasis on enhancing the use of electronic media in tourism promotional activities.

19. The initiative was first welcomed by the 34th Regional Planning Council (RPC) in 2024, following which the Secretariat prepared a concept note on the matter. Subsequently, the 35th RPC in 2025 urged Member States to expedite the submission of their necessary feedback on the initiative entitled "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors," which had been circulated through the Secretariat's Notes Verbales No.

Tourism/2024/635 dated 14 May 2024 and Tourism/2024/1102 dated 8 August 2024, and instructed the Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparations for the subsequent phases required for the implementation of the project.

20. More recently, the 36th RPC, held in May 2026, called for the continuation of the project and authorized the ECO Secretary General to select the personas for the year 2027. Subsequently, the Secretariat updated the draft Concept Note and circulated it to the Member States for their feedback through Note Verbale No. T/2026/617 dated 14 July 2026, setting **20 August 2026** as the deadline for submission of comments. Within the stipulated timeframe, only the Kyrgyz Republic responded to the Note Verbale, indicating no objection or proposing any further amendment to the draft Concept Note.

21. In order to initiate the selection process for the Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors, commencing in 2027, it needs the endorsement. Further, the ECO Secretary General, in consultation with the concerned Member States, will select three (3) individuals to serve as ECO Tourism Ambassadors from 2027 onwards. At least one of the designated personas shall represent the ECO Member State holding the current ECO Tourism Capital title. The designation of the ECO Tourism Ambassadors shall be formally announced during an appropriate major regional tourism event, such as an ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.

22. The Council may consider and approve the proposed Concept Note, as enclosed at **Annexure-II**, as deem appropriate.

Agenda Item No. 7
<u>Endorsement of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard (Single Digital Portal of Statistics of the ECO Countries);</u>

23. The proposal for an ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard originates from the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan forwarded via Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran through Note Verbale No. 30/331 dated August 13, 2025, to the Secretariat a proposal to establish a "Single Digital Portal of Statistics of ECO Countries."

24. The initiative was formally presented by the Chair (Kazakhstan) at the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO), held virtually on 16 September 2025. The project has been endorsed by the meeting.

25. Following the meeting, the Secretariat reviewed a draft Terms of Reference for the "Development of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard." The review found the draft Terms of Reference well-structured, with a clearly defined scope and deliverables, and recommended, inter alia, that the project first be introduced to the Council for official approval to launch, followed by formal engagement of Member States' National Statistical Offices and the establishment of a pilot phase with a limited number of Member States.

26. The initiative was subsequently reflected in the ECO Work Programme 2026 (Economic Research and Statistics sector, as endorsed through the RPC process) and was presented to the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), held in

Tehran from 17 to 20 May 2026, in hybrid mode under the Economic Research and Statistics Committee within the Priority Areas on Implementation of Projects.

27. The Council may consider the matter and approve as deem appropriate, the proposed Concept Note and draft Terms of Reference for the "ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard" as enclosed at **Annexure-III**, and **Annexure – IV**.

Agenda Item No. 8
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

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

- 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;
- Outcome of the Third Meeting of the HLC Working Group;
- Financial compensation for ECO Staff arising from exceptional circumstances.

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

Agenda Item No. 9
Any other business

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

Agenda Item No. 10
Date of the next CPR Meeting

31. The Council may decide the date of its next (**311th**) Meeting in consultation with the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 309th CPR Meeting

Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO

No: CFU/2026/895

Priority: Urgent
Date: 28/8/2026
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, has the honour to enclose herewith the Draft Report of 309th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on August 25, 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.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States, Tehran

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

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

Draft Report

August 25, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Draft Report

Held on August 25, 2026 under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the 309th 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.**

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

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

- 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.

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

2. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report of the 308th CPR Meeting held on July 21, 2026, and circulated vide Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/696 dated July 23, 2026.

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up to the 4th PrepCom Meeting

- ***Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035***

3. The Chairperson and the Deputy Head of Mission of Pakistan, **Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial**, recalled that the 308th CPR agreed to convene the Fourth PrepCom Meeting on August 10, 2026 to address the remaining outstanding issues concerning the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035. She invited the Chair of the PrepCom and the Secretariat to brief the Council on the outcome of the Meeting and the status of the draft.

4. The Chair of the PrepCom/Representative of Pakistan, **Mr. Kashif Ali**, informed the Council that the Fourth PrepCom Meeting concluded its consideration of the Draft Strategic Goals, finalizing the text for consideration by the CPR. He, however, noted that new proposals were subsequently received from Uzbekistan despite the earlier deadline for comments already elapsed on July 9, 2026. He, therefore, requested the Council to resolve the remaining matter and finalize the document for its submission to the forthcoming Council of Ministers.

5. The Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), **Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev,** reiterated that the Fourth PrepCom Meeting reached consensus on the text and concluded the substantive negotiations, following which a clean version was circulated. Referring to the additional proposals subsequently received from Uzbekistan, he invited the Council to consider them so that the document could be finalized, including through some technical and editorial adjustments by the Secretariat, before its submission to the Council of Ministers.

6. The Representative of Türkiye, **Mr. Murat Sogangoz**, informed the Council that an outstanding issue remained concerning Türkiye's earlier proposal under the section on Energy, Minerals and Environment, particularly the reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted Iran's reservations regarding the reference and reiterated Türkiye's position to retain it in the text as its removal would substantially affect the intended meaning of the provision.

7. The Representative of Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev**, requested additional time to consult the relevant national authorities on certain provisions under the transport section, particularly those concerning a centralized management system for ECO transport corridors and a single-window mechanism for issuing flight permits. He also indicated that Kazakhstan might have further comments on other parts of the draft.

8. In light of the outstanding issues and additional proposals raised during the discussion, the **Chairperson** proposed convening another meeting of the PrepCom to consider and resolve these matters and prepare an updated draft for consideration at the next CPR Meeting.

9. **The Chair of the PrepCom** recalled that the next PrepCom Meeting would be held on August 31, 2026 to address the remaining issues. Given the limited time available, he urged Member States to refrain from submitting further new proposals and to demonstrate flexibility in reaching consensus, so as to avoid reopening the document and enable its timely finalization.

10. The ECO Secretary General, **Amb. Asad M. Khan,** stressed the need to finalize the Draft Strategic Goals ahead of the forthcoming Council of Ministers and called for a firm deadline beyond which no new proposals would be entertained. He encouraged the concerned Member States to resolve remaining differences through bilateral consultations, with the good offices of the Chair where necessary, and recalled that the document was declaratory rather than legally binding, expecting a flexible approach to reaching consensus.

11. The Permanent Representative of Iran, **Amb. Alireza Toutounchian**, emphasized that, to facilitate the early finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals, provisions on which consensus could not be reached may be omitted, while retaining the agreed text.

12. The Chairperson underscored the need to adhere to the agreed timeline for finalizing the Draft Strategic Goals in view of the forthcoming Council of Ministers and Summit. Taking note of the outstanding and new proposals, she requested the Secretariat to circulate an updated document well ahead of the next CPR to facilitate their consideration. She proposed that the next PrepCom Meeting be used to **resolve** the remaining differences and agree on compromise language acceptable to all Member States, with a view to having the document ready for adoption at the next CPR Meeting. Meanwhile, she encouraged the concerned Member States to engage bilaterally to facilitate consensus.

13. The **Chair of the PrepCom** requested the Member States to come prepared with their final proposals for the meeting on August 31, 2026, so that the remaining issues may be addressed to finalize the text, allowing the Secretariat sufficient time to undertake the necessary technical and editorial review before presenting the document at the next CPR Meeting.

14. The **Chairperson** concluded that the remaining issues would be considered at the next PrepCom Meeting, with a view to agreeing on language acceptable to all Member States and presenting the finalized document for adoption at the next CPR Meeting.

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

15. The **Chairperson** recalled the 308th CPR's consideration of preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the 30th Council of Ministers Meeting. She welcomed Iran's timely confirmation of December 3–4, 2026 for the Summit and encouraged Member States to expedite confirmation of participation by their respective Heads of State/Government.

16. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed that Iran confirmed December 3–4, 2026 for the 18th ECO Summit and that the dates were circulated amongst Member States for confirmation of participation by their respective Heads of State/Government. He further informed that Türkiye, through its Note Verbale dated 19 August 2026, conveyed that the proposed dates were not convenient for their President and that the communication was also shared with Member States.

17. The Representative of Iran, **Mr. Behzad Azarsa,** informed that preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, scheduled for December 3–4, 2026 in Tehran, were underway in close coordination with the Secretariat. He indicated that the invitations and programme were expected to be finalized and shared with Member States within the next ten days and encouraged participation at the highest level. He further expressed the expectation that the remaining details would be available by the next CPR Meeting.

18. Regarding 30th COM Meeting, the **Chairperson** recalled that the dates and details of the event were already communicated and that the draft Islamabad Communiqué was circulated for Member States' comments. She encouraged Member States to provide their feedback ahead of its consideration by the Fifth PrepCom Meeting.

19. The Representative of **Pakistan** informed the Council that invitations for the 30th COM Meeting were already extended to Member States, while the agenda and hospitality arrangements are being finalized. He noted that, except for Türkiye and Turkmenistan, comments on the draft Islamabad Communiqué were still awaited and urged Member States to provide their feedback before the Fifth PrepCom Meeting, to facilitate timely finalization of the document.

- ***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;***

20. The **Chairperson** requested the status of preparations for the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 17th ECO–ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, proposed to be held on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly.

21. The Representative of **Pakistan** informed the Council that both meetings would be held back-to-back on 25 September 2026, from 10:00–11:00 p.m., and that the venue had been confirmed, while the agendas were under preparation. The Secretary General confirmed that the logistical arrangements had been finalized in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Philippines, as ASEAN Coordinator in New York, and formally communicated to Member States. He encouraged delegations to facilitate early confirmation of participation.

22. The Representative of **Türkiye** proposed the participation of ECO Observers, including the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in the meetings. The Representative of **Pakistan** sought clarification on past practice, while the Secretariat clarified that ECO Observers had participated in Informal COM Meetings in the past, subject to the concurrence of the CPR. The Representative of **Uzbekistan** requested formal circulation of the proposal for consultations with its capital.

23. **Iranian delegation** sought further clarification on the applicable rules and past practice concerning the participation of ECO Observers in Informal COM Meetings. It emphasized that, if such participation was in line with established practice, all ECO Observers should be treated equally rather than singling out one. It also underscored the importance of participation at the highest possible level in both the Informal COM and the ECO–ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, noting the need for an appropriate balance in the level of representation between ECO and ASEAN. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled the past participation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the Informal COM and clarified that participation of Observers remained subject to the concurrence of the Council.

24. The **Council** agreed that, upon receipt, Türkiye's formal request concerning the participation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in both meetings would be circulated by the Secretariat amongst Member States under a one-week silence procedure for securing CPR’s endorsement.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

25. The **Chairperson** recalled that, in accordance with the modalities for utilization of the ECO Special Support Fund (SSF), the Secretariat prepared a prioritized list of meetings proposed for SSF support during 2026 within the framework of the 36th RPC Meeting. She invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the proposed list.

26. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** explained that the events under SSF were arranged on the basis priority, with particular emphasis on major ministerial meetings. He further informed that the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, scheduled to be held on 15 October in Astana, along with the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to finalize the ministerial outcome documents, was currently not included in the provided list. With a view to ensuring the participation of technical experts from Member States in its preparatory process, he proposed extending SSF support to one delegate from each Member State attending the Senior Officials Meeting. To comply with the SSF modalities, the Secretariat proposed that the CPR might designate the SOM as a high-level expert meeting, thereby enabling it to qualify for SSF support and be included in the eligible list of events.

27. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** sought clarification regarding the adequacy of SSF resources to cover the proposed events and the need for prioritization, as well as information on past practice. The Secretariat reiterated that the events were ranked according to priority, with major ministerial meetings receiving particular attention, and confirmed that there was established practice in this regard.

28. The **ECO Secretary General** explained that SSF support was provided on a prioritized basis and could not cover every meeting. He recalled that financial and procedural constraints had often affected Member States' participation and quorum, contributing to long gaps in convening several important ECO meetings. He emphasized that supporting participation through the SSF was an effective use of Member States' contributions, as the resources directly facilitated their participation and helped revive important ministerial processes. He therefore supported strengthening this budget line, including through available savings where possible.

29. The **Council** recognized the importance of prioritizing Special Support Fund (SSF) to facilitate Member States' participation and ensure the required quorum for important ECO meetings, and approved the proposed List of Events for 2026 to be covered from the SSF. In light of the clarification provided by the Secretariat, the Council considered that Senior Officials Meetings are, in technical terms, Expert Group Meetings and may accordingly be covered under the SSF.

Agenda Item No. 5:
ECO Relationship with Other Regional Organizations

- ***Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)***

30. The Chairperson recalled the ongoing engagement between ECO and the GCC since 2024, including the meeting between the ECO Secretary General and GCC Assistant Secretary General in November 2025, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on progress and the proposed way forward.

31. The Deputy Secretary General (Admn & IR), **Mr. Cagatay Emrah,** recalled that ECO's engagement with the GCC had intensified since 2024 and that, following consultations and the Secretary General's meeting in Riyadh in November 2025, both sides expressed readiness to explore practical cooperation. He informed the Council that the Secretariat had prepared and circulated a concept note, incorporating inputs from Türkiye and Pakistan, for consideration by Member States.

32. The **ECO Secretary General** clarified that the concept note was prepared at the GCC's request to identify possible areas of cooperation and sought the Council's approval for its transmission to the GCC. He emphasized that this would not entail any immediate commitment to substantive cooperation or a formal agreement, but would constitute an initial step towards institutionalizing the relationship and exploring areas of mutual interest, in line with the Council's earlier concurrence for engagement with the GCC.

33. **In** regard to cooperation with the GCC, the Representative of **Iran** emphasized that, in view of the prevailing regional instability, a cautious and phased approach was required. He stated that Iran did not support further cooperation with the Persian GCC at the present stage and requested the Secretariat to prepare a concept note on the possible future course of cooperation.

34. The **ECO Secretary General** explained that the engagement with the GCC had commenced well before the recent regional developments and that the concept note did not envisage the immediate initiation of a formal agreement, but was intended as an ECO proposal to identify areas of possible mutual cooperation. He added that, if Iran wished to further consider the matter, ECO would fully respect its position.

35. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** reiterated that, at this stage, he was not in a position to support enhancing or continuing cooperation with the GCC and that the matter could be revisited in the future.

36. The **Chairperson** noted the views expressed by Member States and concluded that the matter of cooperation with the GCC would be considered further in a staggered and stage-by-stage manner, with a view to developing the necessary understanding among Member States before proceeding further.

- ***Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)***

37. The **Chairperson** introduced the proposal concerning ECO's Observership Status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and invited the Council to consider and approve the initiation of formal negotiations with the SCO for acquiring Observer Status for ECO.

38. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn & IR)** informed the Council that the Secretariat sought Member States' approval to initiate formal negotiations with the SCO for acquiring Observer Status for ECO, as part of the Organization's efforts to strengthen cooperation with relevant regional organizations.

39. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that ECO's engagement with the SCO had been pursued with the concurrence of the Council. He described the SCO as an important partner, referred to ECO's participation in SCO Summits and ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with China, including in connection with the proposed International Conference on Financing Transport Connectivity, and emphasized the importance of formalizing the existing relationship with the SCO.

40. The Representative of **Iran** emphasized that cooperation with regional organizations should be pursued within the mandate authorized by the CPR. He expressed support for proceeding with the SCO proposal, noting that ECO's engagement with the Organization had already received the Council's concurrence

41. Taking into account the discussion and the support expressed, the **Chairperson** concluded that the Council endorsed the initiation of formal negotiations with the SCO for acquiring Observer Status for ECO.

- ***Cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)***

42. The **Chairperson** introduced the matter regarding cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the proposed further engagement with the EEC, including the possible development of a Memorandum of Understanding.

43. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn & IR)** informed the Council that the Secretariat sought its approval to proceed with further coordination with the EEC. He clarified that discussions on a possible Memorandum of Understanding would continue and that, once a draft was finalized, it would be circulated to Member States for their consideration.

44. Providing further background, the **ECO Secretary General** highlighted the growing relevance of the EEC for ECO, noting that several ECO Member States were already associated with, or pursuing engagement with, its economic arrangements. He recalled that, with the Council's concurrence, he had met the Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission, who had responded positively to exploring cooperation with ECO. He supported further engagement with the EEC and reiterated that any proposed MoU would be brought before the Council.

45. The Representative of **Türkiye** sought clarification as to whether the draft MoU proposed to be concluded with the EEC would be submitted to the CPR for consideration.

The **Secretariat** clarified that, once finalized, the draft MoU would be circulated among all Member States.

46. The Representative of **Iran** supported further engagement with the EEC, noting that the initiative had already been pursued within the mandate provided by the CPR.

47. The **Chairperson** concluded that the Council approved further coordination with the EEC, with the understanding that Member States would be kept duly informed and any draft MoU would be submitted to the CPR for consideration in due course.

- ***Trilateral MoU among ECO, ECO TDB and IsDB***

48. The Legal Advisor, **Mr.** Hojjat **Moghavem**, introduced the draft trilateral MoU among ECO, ECO TDB and IsDB, which had already been circulated among Member States. He noted that the proposed instrument would establish a framework for the identification, preparation and implementation of potential projects, building on the existing bilateral cooperation between ECO and IsDB. He further informed that the initiative had been discussed during the Secretary General's recent visit to ECO TDB and informally shared with IsDB, and sought the Council's concurrence to proceed formally in accordance with the relevant modalities.

49. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that ECO's existing MoU with IsDB dated back to 1993, when the Bank had not yet evolved into its present Group structure. He highlighted the need to update the existing framework to reflect the current structure of the IsDB Group, thereby enabling broader cooperation with its relevant entities, and requested Member States to take this aspect into account while considering the proposed trilateral MoU.

50. The Representative of **Türkiye** informed the Council that consideration of the proposal by its capital was still ongoing.

51. The Representative of **Iran** emphasized that the proposed MoU should ensure that all Member States of ECO TDB benefit from the envisaged cooperation without exclusion, and requested that this principle be appropriately reflected in the draft MoU by the Secretariat.

52. Noting that the proposal remained under consideration, including by Türkiye, the **Chairperson** concluded that no final decision would be taken at this stage, adding that the Secretariat would keep the Council informed of further developments, and the proposed MoU would be considered further at a future meeting.

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

53. The **Chairperson** recalled the 308th CPR's consideration of Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities. She invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on the communication received from Afghanistan regarding its participation in ECO activities and Specialized Institutions, as well as its offer to host the Fifth ECO Trade Promotion Organizations Forum in 2026.

54. The Deputy Secretary General (JPC & EAPA), **Amb. Yerzhan Mukash,** recalled that the Secretary General had sought clarification from the Afghan side on the modalities of its participation in CPR meetings, its voting rights in light of outstanding budgetary contributions and its participation in other international organizations. He informed that Afghanistan had subsequently conveyed its readiness to expand cooperation with ECO and pay its outstanding contributions, while requesting resumption of formal participation **on par** with other Member States, including representation at the ECO Secretariat and the use of the flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan at official ECO meetings. He further informed the Council of Afghanistan's requests to host the **Fifth ECO Trade Promotion Organizations Forum** and the **First Technical Consultative Meeting on Visa Facilitation for Business Persons** in 2026, as well as to participate in the **Technical Negotiations Committee for revision of ECOTA**, relevant Regional Institutions and other upcoming ECO activities. He sought the Council's guidance on the modalities of Afghanistan's participation, its hosting of ECO events and engagement in relevant technical and regional mechanisms.

55. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that, with the Council's concurrence, ECO had followed a gradual and incremental approach towards Afghanistan, progressively expanding its engagement from technical-level participation to selected high-level meetings and interaction with its representatives. He noted Afghanistan's growing interest in participating in ECO policy, technical and working-level mechanisms, as well as its repeated offers to host ECO meetings. Given Afghanistan's status as a Member State and its importance for regional connectivity, he considered it appropriate to bring these developments, particularly its requests to host ECO events, to the Council's attention for consideration.

56. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** highlighted Afghanistan's key role in ECO regional connectivity, particularly its participation in the KTAI (Kyrgyz Republic–Tajikistan–Afghanistan–Iran) and proposed KTAP (Kazakhstan–Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan) corridors. He noted that effective implementation of ECO transport corridors required the involvement of all en-route countries and referred to growing transport cooperation between Afghanistan and other Member States. He invited the Council to take these considerations into account in its deliberations on Afghanistan's engagement with ECO.

57. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** welcomed the gradual and step-by-step approach towards Afghanistan's reintegration into ECO and emphasized its importance as a Member State. Regarding Afghanistan's offers to host ECO events, he highlighted the need to address the issues of its official title and flag, particularly where meetings would be held in Afghanistan. He further emphasized that ECO's engagement with Afghanistan should take into account developments at the bilateral, international and ECO levels, while reaffirming Iran's support for Afghanistan's full participation and contribution, subject to the agreed conditions.

58. The **Chairperson** took note of the observations made and the communications circulated by the Secretariat concerning Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities. She concluded that the Secretariat would remain engaged with the Afghan side within the ongoing gradual approach, while the Council would continue its consideration of the matter at future meetings

Agenda Item No. 7
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- ***Follow-up on the proposed amendment to Article 18 of the ECO Financial Regulations concerning the composition and quorum of the Audit Board;***

59. The **Deputy Secretary General (Administration & IR)** informed the Council that, pursuant to the amended Article 18.1 of the ECO Financial Regulations, the Audit Board would comprise four Member States for a three-year term. In light of Kazakhstan's request, the Secretariat proposed the composition of **Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Türkiye** and sought the Council's endorsement for submission to the Council of Ministers through a two-week silence procedure.

60. The Council endorsed the proposed composition of the Audit Board comprising **Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Türkiye**, and authorized the Secretariat to initiate a **two-week silence procedure** for securing the approval of the Council of Ministers.

- **Status of Member States' assessed contributions;**

61. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**Admn & IR**) informed the Council that the Secretariat had received 2026 assessed contributions from three Member States and expressed appreciation for the payments. He emphasized the importance of timely contributions for the Organization's financial stability and uninterrupted implementation of its programmes and activities, and encouraged the remaining Member States to remit their contributions at an early convenience.

62. The **Chairperson** took note of the Secretariat's request and encouraged Member States to take the necessary action with regard to transfer of their annual contributions to ECO.

- ***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;***

63. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**Admn & IR**) informed the Council that, pursuant to the decision of the 308th CPR**,** the draft ECO Budget 2027 had been considered by the Budget Working Group on August 18, 2026**.** He noted that the Secretariat would circulate a revised draft, together with the relevant explanations and supporting information, for further consideration by Member States.

64. The Chairperson took note of the briefing and invited Member States to consider the revised draft upon its circulation.

- ***Recommendations of the Selection Panel***

65. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**Administration**) informed the Council that the Selection Panel, comprising representatives of Iran and Türkiye and supported by the relevant Secretariat officials, had met earlier that day to consider the nomination for the position of Desk Officer (Category-II/P2). The Panel recommended the appointment of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, a Pakistani national, for the full four-year tenure effective from the

date of joining, against the position falling vacant upon completion of the tenure of Mr. Javed Ali on November 9, 2026, for consideration by the CPR.

66. The Council approved the recommendation of the Selection Panel for the appointment of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, a Pakistani national, as Desk Officer (Category-II/P2) for a full four-year tenure, effective from the date of joining the ECO Secretariat.

- ***HLC Working Group***

67. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**Admn & IR**) recalled that the 307th CPR had tasked the Secretariat with preparing and circulating draft concrete proposals based on the recommendations of the High-Level Committee (HLC)**.** He informed the Council that the Secretariat accordingly circulated proposals covering the first three chapters of the HLC recommendations and would convene the Third Meeting of the HLC Working Group on September 1, 2026**.** He encouraged Member States to consider the proposals at the earliest to facilitate their timely finalization.

- ***Financial compensation for ECO Staff arising from exceptional circumstances***

68. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled the extraordinary circumstances faced by the Secretariat during the conflict affecting the host country, during which international staff had to evacuate with their families, in some cases relocating their children and arranging temporary accommodation while continuing to maintain their residences in Tehran. Local Iranian staff had also faced considerable hardship, with some having to relocate their families, while a core group continued to maintain the Secretariat's operations. Despite these challenges, he emphasized that the work of the Organization never stopped. The Secretariat continued functioning remotely and successfully supported two Ministerial Meetings, Trade Negotiations Committee meetings, ETB Board of Governors and various expert and specialized meetings. He commended the exceptional commitment of the staff in keeping the Secretariat functioning throughout this difficult period.

69. In recognition of both the additional financial burden incurred by staff and their exceptional performance, the **Secretary General** proposed a special bonus, without distinction among categories, nationalities, or between local and international staff. While noting that the applicable rules authorized him for giving a bonus of up to one month's salary for certain categories, he proposed a more modest half-month salary, subject to a maximum ceiling of USD 4,000 for all the staff, including in Category-I, II and III . He further assured the Council that the expenditure would be accommodated, to the extent possible, within the existing budget without additional financial implications for Member States, and sought the Council's concurrence.

70. The **Chairperson** appreciated that, despite the exceptional challenges during the conflict, the Organization remained operational in Iran and continued to implement its mandated activities. She noted that the proposal had been provided to the delegations and, as highlighted by the Secretary General, entailed no additional budgetary implications, and invited comments from the representatives.

71. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** sought clarification on the amount and application of the proposed special bonus, including whether it would be uniform or differentiated among staff, and on the specific source of financing, particularly whether resources from the General Reserve Fund (GRF) would be used.

72. The **Secretariat** clarified that the proposed bonus would amount to half of each staff member's salary, from the Secretary General down to the lowest staff categories, subject to a maximum ceiling of USD 4,000. The Secretariat emphasized that the proposal covered all staff categories and had been brought before the Council in the interest of transparency and keeping Member States fully informed. The Secretariat further clarified that the expenditure would be met from unused resources and savings within the approved 2026 budget, through necessary re-appropriations between budget chapters, without recourse to the General Reserve Fund or any additional financial implications for Member States.

73. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** indicated the need to consult its capital before taking a position.

74. The **Secretary General** emphasized that the proposal represented a minimal compensatory measure to recognize the hardship and additional costs borne by Secretariat staff and their families during the exceptional circumstances. He recalled that the applicable rules allowed for a higher special bonus, while the present proposal had deliberately been kept limited and entailed no additional budgetary implications for Member States. He therefore sought the understanding and support of all Member States for its approval.

75. The **Chairperson** noted the Secretariat's clarification that the proposal would be financed within the existing budget without additional budgetary implications and invited the Council to consider its approval. She accordingly noted that feedback from Kazakhstan, as well as any other Member States, would be awaited, and that the matter would be considered for a final decision at the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8
<u>Any other business</u>

76. The Representative of Kazakhstan proposed inviting the Coordination Council of Prosecutors General of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a special guest to the 7th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States, noting that the proposal had already been circulated for Member States' concurrence. The Representative of **Türkiye** separately proposed inviting the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), as an ECO Observer, to the same meeting.

77. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** sought clarification on the procedure and past practice concerning the participation of ECO Observers. The ECO **Secretary General** clarified that a distinction existed between **special guests**, whose invitation may be proposed by the host subject to CPR's concurrence, and ECO Observers**,** whose participation could be proposed either by an Observer itself or by any Member State, subject to consensus in the CPR. **Iranian delegation** emphasized that participation of Observers should be considered in accordance with the relevant ECO modalities. The

Legal Advisor confirmed that ECO Observers may be invited, without voting rights, to sectoral ministerial or high-level meetings subject to prior consensus of the CPR.

78. Regarding Türkiye's proposal for TRNC's participation in the Attorneys/Prosecutors General Meeting, the Representative of **Kazakhstan** indicated that it would need to consult the relevant authorities in Astana and requested information on past practice before taking a position. It was therefore understood that the matter would remain under consideration pending Kazakhstan's response. On Kazakhstan's proposal concerning the CIS Coordination Council of Prosecutors General’s invitation, Türkiye indicated that it would need to consult its capital before conveying its position. The Representative of **Türkiye** further proposed inviting the TRNC to the forthcoming Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Tajikistan.

79. The **Secretary General** informed the Council that a review of record confirmed that the TRNC, as an ECO Observer, had previously been invited to the 2nd Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States held in Türkiye, thereby establishing a precedent for Observer participation in such meetings.

80. The **Chairperson** concluded that the proposal concerning participation of the TRNC in the 7th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General would remain under consideration pending consultations by Kazakhstan, while Türkiye would consult its capital on Kazakhstan's proposal to invite the CIS Coordination Council of Prosecutors General as a special guest. She further noted, in the absence of objections, the Council's concurrence with Türkiye's proposal concerning the participation of the TRNC in the Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Tajikistan**.**

81. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**Admn & IR**) sought the Council's approval to increase the accommodation ceiling for the Secretary General and the Head of International Relations attending the Informal COM and 17th ECO–ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in New York on September 25, 2026. In view of exceptionally high hotel rates during the UN General Assembly, he proposed a ceiling of USD 600 per night for up to three nights, specifically for this visit. The **ECO Secretary General** recalled that, during the 2024 UNGA visit, accommodation costs had exceeded the prescribed ceiling, requiring ex-post facto approval by the Council. He clarified that USD 600 represented the maximum ceiling, efforts would be made to secure accommodation at a lower rate, and the request was limited to this particular visit.

82. In the absence of any objection, the **Council** approved, on an exceptional and one-time basis, the accommodation ceiling of up to USD 600 per night and per ECO delegate for a maximum of three nights for the visit.

83. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** briefed the Council on preparations for a kick-off meeting on the implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action in the ECO region, proposed to be held on the sidelines of the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport in Bangkok in November 2026. He recalled that the initiative followed ECO's side event at the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in August 2025, and was subsequently considered by the CPR and included in the 2026 Calendar of Events. He informed that consultations with relevant UN entities and development partners had received positive support, including following the Secretary General's meeting with UN Under-Secretary-General Ms. Rabab Fatima. Given the

expected participation of ECO Member States in the ESCAP Ministerial Conference, the sidelines were considered a suitable opportunity to launch the initiative. The Secretariat was preparing the concept paper and had sought information from Member States on their level of participation. He requested Member States' support in facilitating participation of their Transport Ministers and proposed that the Secretary General would lead the ECO delegation.

84. The **Council** endorsed the proposal for the Secretary General to lead the ECO delegation to the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport and the proposed side event in Bangkok.

85. The **Deputy Secretary General** (**Admn & IR**) informed the Council that the ECO–UNESCO Memorandum of Understanding had expired in December 2025. Following consultations with Member States and incorporation of inputs received from Türkiye and Kazakhstan, the draft MoU had been revised and re-circulated. As no further comments were received, he informed that the final text was being shared with UNESCO.

86. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that H.E. Ambassador Hicabi **Kırlangıç,** the Permanent Representative of Türkiye was nearing completion of his tenure in Tehran and that the meeting could be his last CPR. He expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's distinguished contribution to the work of the Council and ECO, as well as his support for regional cooperation, and wished him success in his future assignments.

87. The **Participating delegations** joined the **Secretary General** in appreciating the Ambassador's valuable contribution to the Council and regional cooperation and conveyed their best wishes for his future endeavours.

88. The Permanent Representative of **Türkiye**, in his farewell remarks, expressed appreciation to Member States, the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their cooperation during his tenure and highlighted the cordial and family spirit within ECO. He also thanked the host country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, for its hospitality and expressed hope for a peaceful and prosperous future for the ECO region.

Agenda Item No. 9
Date of the next CPR Meeting

89. The Council decided to hold its next **(310th)** Meeting on **September 15, 2026** at 10:00 a.m. at the ECO Secretariat.

Annexure-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

309th CPR Meeting
25.08.2026,
ECO Secretariat, Tehran

Delegation / Organization	Participants
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**	-
Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan	1) Mr. Asgar Asgarov, **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)** Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial**, Deputy Head of Mission - Current Chair** 2) 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) H.E. Ambassador Hicabi Kırlangıç, **Permanent Representative** **2)** Mr. Murat Sogangoz, **Counselor** 3) Mr. Ahmet Biçer, **Third Secretary**
Embassy of **Turkmenistan**	1) H.E. Mr. Ylyas Gayypov, **Permanent Representative** **2)** Mr. Merdan Bayjanov, **Third Secretary**
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. Yerzhan Mukash, **Deputy Secretary General** **3)** Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, **Deputy Secretary General** **4)** Mr. Behzad Saberi Ansari, **Deputy Secretary General** **5)** Mr. Çağatay Emrah Ongut, **Deputy Secretary General** 6) Mr. Hojjat Moghavem, **Legal Adviser** 7) Mr. Osman Selçuk Gündoğdu, **Chef de Cabinet** **8)** Ms. Ghaibullozoda Lola Ibrohim, **Head of Section for CFU** **9)** Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, **Senior Desk Officer** **10)** Mr. Muhammad Irfan, **Desk Officer** 11) Ms. Marryam Moin, **Desk Officer**

Agenda Item No. 3
Follow-up to the 5th Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom)

Priority: Most Urgent
No: ECO /2026/911 Date: 31/8/2026
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 Report of the 5th PrepCom Meeting, held on August 31, 2026, together with the updated version of the Draft Islamabad Communiqué updated by the PrepCom based on the proposals received from member states.

The PrepCom agreed to hold its next round of discussion on September 14, 2026 (10000 hours) at the ECO Secretariat.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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

Report of the Fifth PrepCom Meeting
August 31, 2026 – Hybrid Mode

The Fifth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was held in hybrid mode on August 31, 2026, under the chairmanship of the representative of Pakistan and coordinated by the ECO Deputy Secretary General. The meeting was attended by representatives of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat.

The Meeting discussed the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 and considered the fresh proposals received from Member States. Following discussions, the Committee finalized the content of the document and agreed to close the text in line with the decision of the 309th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The Secretariat was tasked with undertaking the necessary textual harmonization and adjustments in the draft for its final consideration and endorsement by the CPR.

The Committee further agreed that no additional comments or proposals would be entertained on the Draft Strategic Goals, taking into account the extensive deliberations already undertaken and the delay in finalizing the document, as well as the need for its approval by the upcoming 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) in Islamabad.

The Meeting also considered the Draft Islamabad Communiqué for the 30th COM, together with the proposals received from Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Following discussions, the Committee reached agreement, ad referendum, on certain paragraphs proposed by Member States, while leaving their final consideration to its next meeting in order to provide Member States appropriate time to review the proposed formulations and provide their feedback thereon. **Copy of the Draft Communiqué updated by PrepCom is enclosed.**

The Committee also discussed the ongoing preparations for the 18th ECO Summit to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the 30th COM to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as the informal COM and ECO-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings in New York. Member States were urged to expedite confirmation of their participation in these important ECO meetings.

The Committee agreed to hold its next (6th) Session in person at the ECO Secretariat on September 14, 2026, at 10:00 hours.

The participants further agreed to convene the Third Meeting of the HLC Working Group on September 2, 2026 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat, to consider and finalize the proposals on the HLC recommendations prepared and circulated by the ECO Secretariat.

***

Zero Draft
(Updated by 5th PrepCom)

Formatted: Superscript

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:

Formatted: Superscript

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;~~ with a view to finding a peaceful settlement of the crisis through peaceful/diplomatic means (Türkiye August 30)

   Expressing concern over the challenging geopolitical environment in the region following the recent military crisis involving the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing the importance of restraint, peaceful dialogue and diplomatic engagement, and recognizing the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a founding Member State of the ECO and its significant contributions to the development of the Organization; (Proposed by Uzbekistan - 31.08.2026)

Formatted: Highlight

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 of Economic Cooperation – 2035 will build upon its achievements and guiding principles to further strengthen regional integration, connectivity, resilience and sustainable prosperity across the ECO region; (Ad-ref)

7. **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; (Ad-ref)

Formatted: Font: Book Antiqua, 14 pt, Font color: Auto

8. **Recalling** the successful holding of the 29th COM Meeting chaired by the Republic of Kazakhstan in an online format on November 28, 2025;

9. **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;

10. **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;

11. **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;

12. **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;

13. **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;

14. **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

Formatted: Font: 14 pt, Font color: Auto peaceful processes and to work collectively within the ECO framework to promote lasting peace, security and stability in the region; **(Ad-ref)**

Formatted: Font color: Auto

15. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

Formatted: Font: Book Antiqua, 14 pt, Font color: Auto

16. **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;

17. **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;

18. **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;

19. **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 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

Commented [MM1]: In Türkiye, ECOEI BoT meeting will be held on 14-15 October 2026. Ministrial meeting on education cannot be convened.

that these engagements will further strengthen policy coordination and the implementation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035; (Ad-ref)

20. **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;

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

22. 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; (Ad-ref)

Commented [ŞÖ2]: 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: Font: 14 pt

23. **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;

24. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

Formatted: Font: Book Antiqua, 14 pt, Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font: Book Antiqua, 14 pt, Font color: Auto

25. **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;

26. **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;

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

Commented [MM3]: 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.

Fully aware of the transformative potential of emerging technologies — including artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum computing, 5G, robotics, and others — and the need to harness these technologies to foster sustainable economic development, inclusive growth, and regional prosperity, ~~while~~

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Strikethrough

~~remaining vigilant of associated risks and emphasizing collaborative approaches to mitigate them~~ taking into account the associated risks and the need to exchange experience on ways to mitigate such risks; (Uzbekistan – 31.08.2026)

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

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

28. **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;

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

30. **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;

31. ~~**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~~ Appreciating the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment ~~held~~ on 3 June 2026 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~~, which provided a valuable platform to reaffirm the critical importance of enhanced regional environmental coordination, collaborative policy-making, shared innovation, and inclusive multilateralism in safeguarding our common future, as reflected in the outcomes of Ministerial Meeting and the First Meeting of the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation held in Astana in April 2026; (Uzbekistan – 31.08.2026)

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Highlight

32. **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 through strengthened regional cooperation; (Ad-ref)

Commented [MM4]: "Sustainable water use" is closely aligned with the water use efficiency thereby ensuring greater consistency throughout the text.

33. **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, aligned standards taking into account Member States' international obligations and enhanced regional cooperation in advancing the common development objectives of ECO Member States; (Ad-ref)

34. **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;

35. Commending the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 1st Meeting of the ECO Advisory Committee on Tourism on 26–27 November 2025 in Tashkent, which provided an important platform for enhancing regional cooperation, raising the profile of the ECO region, and advancing sustainable and inclusive tourism development; (Uzbekistan – 31.08.2026) (Ad-ref)

Formatted: Not Highlight

36. **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;

37. **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;

38. **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;

39. **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;

40. **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);

41. **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;

42. **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;

43. **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"; (Turkey August 8) (Iran proposes to keep in track-change)

Commented [MM5]: 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.

44. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

Formatted: Font: Book Antiqua, 14 pt, Font color: Auto

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 consultations, taking into account national development levels, economic priorities, and flexible accession mechanisms, with a view to advancing trade liberalization and regional market integration **(Ad-ref)**

Formatted: Font color: Auto

5. **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,

Formatted: Font: Book Antiqua, 14 pt, Font color: Auto which has demonstrated clear benefits for trade growth and business confidence; **(Ad-ref)**

6. **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;

7. **Further underscore** the importance of the expeditious conclusion of the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and tasked the Joint Working Group with intensifying its technical negotiations toward the Agreement's early finalization and submission for adoption; and in this regard, noted with appreciation the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, made during the 36th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council, to host the 4th Meeting of the Joint Working Group in the third quarter of 2026. (Uzbekistan – 31.08.2026) (Ad-ref)

8. **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;

9. **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;

10. **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

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Font: 14 pt

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; (Ad-ref)

11. 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; (Ad-ref)

12. 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; (Ad-ref)

13. **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 relevant partners to enhance transport, transit corridors and ICT initiatives in the ECO Region; (Ad-ref)

14. **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);

15. **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;

16. **Welcome** the adoption of "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on minerals cooperation for 2026– 2030" as the first ever overarching and

Commented [ŞÖ6]: 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.

Commented [ŞÖ7]: 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.

Commented [MM8]: 1.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;

2.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

3. 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;

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;

17. **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;

18. **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;

19. Support the continuation and consolidation of the High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation, initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as a vital mechanism for bringing together all relevant stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share best practices, identify practical solutions, and advance coordinated regional environmental action; (Uzbekistan – 31.08.2026) (Ad-ref)

Formatted: Not Highlight

20. **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;

21. **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;

22. **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;

23. **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;

24. **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;

25. **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;

26. **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;

27. **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;

28. **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;

29. **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;

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

31. **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;

32. **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;

33. **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;

34. **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;

35. **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;

36. **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; (Turkey August 8) (Iran proposes to keep in track-change)

37. **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.~~ (Turkey August 8) (Iran proposes to keep in track-change)

Commented [MM9]: 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 [MM10]: 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.

Formatted: Default Paragraph Font, Font: 11 pt

38. **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;

39. **Call** upon ECO Member States and the ECO Secretariat to strengthen cooperation on sustainable use of water resources, 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, , and early warning systems; and encourage the development of bankable regional water resilience projects supported by international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, in accordance with national priorities, national laws, and based on mutually agreed terms; (Ad-ref)

Commented [MM11]: 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.

40. **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;

41. **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.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for 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

Agenda Item No. 5
Adoption of ECO Roadmap on the Expansion of Tourism Services – 2030

Annexure-I

Draft Version as of 28/7/2026

Roadmap on Expansion of Tourism Services ~~for 2026~~ - 2030

Introduction

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region stands as one of the world's most culturally vibrant and naturally diverse geographies, echoing the spirit of the ancient Silk Road and boasting 85 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. From its rich cultural tapestry and sacred pilgrimage routes to its ecotourism treasures, wellness retreats, and unique gastronomy, the region offers immense potential to attract a wide array of international travelers.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted this potential, with a sharp 74% drop in tourist arrivals and a 67 % decrease in tourism receipts across ECO Member States in 2020. While several countries have since rebounded others continue to navigate recovery through innovative policies, expanded connectivity, and regional outreach.

In 2024, ECO Member States collectively welcomed over 100 million international tourists. Building on this momentum, the Draft Roadmap for the Expansion of Tourism Services~~ (2026~~–2030) has been prepared as a key implementation tool for the "Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation for 2035. (SGEC-2035)" The roadmap outlines targeted actions to strengthen intra-regional collaboration, enhance tourism infrastructure, diversify offerings, and position the ECO region as a premier and sustainable destination on the global tourism map.

Through closer coordination among public and private stakeholders, and the activation of regional platforms and partnerships, this roadmap seeks to elevate tourism as a driving force for economic growth, cultural exchange and sustainable development across the ECO region with a 155 million total international visitors by 2035.

Tourism Related Objectives and Priority Areas SGEC-2035

The SGEC-2035 outlines a series objectives and priority areas in the field of tourism:

- Enhance the tourism competitiveness of the region through efficient and effective guidance of the ECO-ACT in formulating and implementing relevant actions. Encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders within through ETON and ECO-TEN.

- Boost regional tourism marketing via implementation of a well-coordinated marketing strategy to increase global visibility and position of the ECO region as a unique, attractive, and sustainable tourism destination. A unified promotion campaign prioritizing the ECO Tourism Capitals in particular and various destinations in the Member States consisting of modern and digital destination marketing tools will be created.

- Promote sustainable tourism practices with a primary focus on adopting eco-friendly policies, diversifying tourism offerings in niche areas such as health tourism, gastronomy tourism, nature tourism, business tourism and winter tourism as well as innovative 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 ECO Tour Operators' N. To this end, direct flight routes in collaboration with aviation sector will be expanded and border procedures for passenger transport will be simplified.

In line with the objectives abovementioned, priority areas are listed below:

- 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 innovative technologies such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence to enhance the tourism experience, including digital marketing, upskilling the tourism workforce with digital transformation.

- Inclusive Tourism Development: Foster innovation and equitable growth by empowering women, youth and the private sector through inclusive policies and initiatives.

Implementation of the Roadmap

The roadmap has been developed as a guiding document outlining the implementation of identified activities ~~during the first five-year phase (2026–2030) of SGEC-2035~~until 2030. It defines the how, where, when, with whom, and for what purpose these activities will be carried out. The table of initiatives below presents a structured overview of the roadmap, detailing specific activities, expected outcomes, proposed indicators, and the key stakeholders responsible for implementation.

To ensure successful execution, the engagement of a dedicated team of tourism professionals, supported by well-designed modalities and relevant technical content, is essential. Execution of all initiatives shall follow the main principles within the strategic objectives of SGEC-2035, in particular focusing on sustainable, inclusive and digital tourism development. Equally important is the allocation of adequate financial resources to support these efforts, ensuring that all activities are sufficiently funded and effectively implemented.

Annexure-I

Draft Version as of 28/7/2026

TABLE OF INITIATIVES

№	Strategic Objective/Policy Action	Initiatives	Planned Activities For the Inititiave	Implementation period	Financing Source	Leading Member State(s) / Coordinating authorities	Expected Outcomes with Suggested Indicators
1.	Diversifying Tourism Products and Promotion Activities	Establish ECO Gastronomy Capitals (or Cities) Program to Boost Culinary Tourism and Cultural Identity	The submitted nominations from the Member States in annual basis will be evaluated by ECO-ACT within a specified timeline.-. The final decision will be made Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and/or ECO's relevant decision making bodies. Current ECO Silk Road Food Festival events could be upgrated into new events within this initiative.	2026 onwards	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	Organizing at least one gastronomy event in selected two cities from the Member States for each year
2.		Development of ECO Gastronomy Guidebook & Digital Map	Inputs from the Member States will be requested. The Secretariat will work on the draft Guide Book and Digital Map. The final products will be launched	2026–2027	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	Complete publication of the ECO Gastronomy Guidebook and Digital

Formatted Table

Annexure-I

Draft Version as of 28/7/2026

			along with relevent events in the Member States.		the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat		Map within ECO Tourism Website by the end of 2027.
3.		Developing ecotourism map and adventure travel itineraries in member countries	Draft concept and modalities for ECO Sustainable Mountain and Ecotourism Network will be prepared. This network could be expansion of the Current Expert Group on Ecotourism with new expert nominations as ECO Subcommittee on Ecotourism and Mountain Tourism. This mechanism will prepare content on the ecotourism map.	2027-2028	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	Completed Ecotourism map and adventure travel itineraries will be published in 2028.
.4.	Boost regional tourism marketing	Launch of ECO "Silk Road" historical route connecting	Concept for the relevant inputs for the initiative will be requested from the Member States and a digital catalogu will be prepared	2027-2028	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and	ECO Secretariat, Authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	Digital catalogue will be published in approproate by the end

Draft Version as of 28/7/2026

		member states			the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat		of 2028.
5.		Organizing ECO Tourism Expo-Fair & Hosted Buyer Program on the sidelines of tourism fairs of each ECO Member States.	Member States will be asked to allocate stands/ a special pavilion for the ECO Tourism Fair within regional and intnernational tourism fairs such as KITF, BITF, PTM, TITE, ITB and TITF as previously proposed. ECO Tour Operators Forum events gathering the member of the ECO Tour Operators' Network will continue, they could be organized along with ECO Tourism Expo-Fair events in upcoming years.	2026 onwards	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	Organizing the ECO Tourism Expo-Fair at least 2 times between 2026 and 2030.
6.	• Enhancing Connectivity	Establishing a working	The Member States, particularly the railway	2026-2027	The voluntary	ECO Secretariat,	Feasibility Study of the

	For Tourism • Strenghten Tourism Infrastructure	group to pilot ECO "heritage train route" to boost travels between countries by railways.	transport authorities will be asked to nominate professionals for Working Group under the ECO-ACT SubCommittee on Transport to study on piloting ECO heritage traing route. Interested railway organizations could pilot a multicountry rail travel.		contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	Working Group in 2026 or 2027 Pilot travel of a touristic heritage train by the end of 2027.
7.	Human Resource Development	Establishing training programs on gastronomy tourism – as an asset to protect cultural identity with support of ECO Tourism Education network	ECO-TEN Members and other relevant gastronomy institutions including tourism and hospitality training centers will be asked to formulate specific gastronomy training programs and organize them in collaboration with the Secretariat	2026 onwards	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	At least 3 gastronomy tourism training programs (on the job training, webinar, workshop etc.) will be conducted between 2026 and 2030.
8.		Joint training in Halal,	ECO-TEN Members and other relevant institutions	2027 onwar	The voluntary	ECO Secretariat,	At least 2 halal, 2

Draft Version as of 28/7/2026

		Wellness & Health Tourism with support of ECO Tourism Education network.	will be asked to define training programs for Halal Tourism and Health&Welness Tourism and organize them in collaboration with the Secretariat	ds	contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	health and wellness tourism training programs (on the job training, webinar, workshop etc.) will be conducted between 2027 and 2030.
9.	• Innovative and Digital Transformation • Inclusive Tourism Development	ECO start-up competition on the best digital solutions in sustainable and inclusive tourism.	Draft Concept for ECO-TIES (ECO Tourism Innovation and Entrepreneurs Support) will be prepared by the Secretariat. According to the adopted Concept, the ECO Start-up Competition will be held with the available funds	2026–2028	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	At least 5 digital tourism solutions which will be shortlised in ECO Tourism Start-up Competition will be supported within

Draft Version as of 28/7/2026

							ECO-TIES program
10.	• Inclusive Tourism Development • Human Resource Development	ECO Youth Tourism Leadership Program	At least 3 young persons under age of 25 will be nominated by the Member States. This group of young tourism leaders will be invited by the Member States to relevant tourism events. A workshop could be organized for capacity building and experience sharing for this group.	2028-2030	The voluntary contributions of the Member States and the donor organization and the available budget items from the ECO Secretariat	ECO Secretariat, authorized bodies of the ECO Member States	At least 15 young leaders working in tourism will be defined and group of the young tourism leaders will be expected to attend at least one workshop and one regional tourism event.

Agenda Item No. 6
Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors"

Annexure-II

Ver as of 12 July 2026

Draft Concept Note for ECO Tourism Ambassadors

1. Proposed Title	**Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors**

2. Background and Justification:

ECO Vision 2025 Tourism Guiding Lines reflect that the ECO Tourism brand through effective mediums at the regional, national and international levels would be strengthened.

The "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors" project aims to harness the power of opinion makers including the well-known personalities to promote tourism destinations starting with ECO Tourism Capitals, particularly focusing on increasing the utilization of electronic media in tourism promotional activities.

For this initiative, prominent individuals (athletes/artists/social media influencers and industry leaders) well-known for their significant support in the promotion of regional tourist destinations will be selected as honorary ambassadors to create engaging content that showcases the natural beauty, cultural richness, and economic potential of the ECO Member States as well as to appraise their contribution for tourism in the region. By leveraging the enthusiasm of the popular personalities and the influence of social media, this initiative has a goal of presenting the ECO region as an attractive tourism destination with diverse offerings stemming from the region's rich historical civilizations, cultural assets and natural landscape.

3. Overall Objective:

The primary objective of the initiative is to raise awareness about the diverse and unexplored tourist destinations within the ECO region, thereby improving tourism and fostering economic growth. It also aims to ensure that activities and outcomes align with the key goals of ECO Vision 2025 and upcoming Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation for 2035, such as economic integration, sustainable development, and cultural exchange.

4. Proposal:

Taking into account the priorities of tourism cooperation among the ECO Member States, the ECO Secretary General who was authorized by the 36th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council shall, in consultation with the concerned Member States, select three (3) individuals as the ECO Tourism Ambassadors, commencing in 2027. One of the designated personas shall represent the ECO Member State which holds the current ECO Tourism Capital title.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">The designation of the ECO Tourism Ambassadors shall be formally announced during an appropriate major regional tourism event like the ECO Ministerial Meetings on Tourism.

The host country of a tourism related event inviting the ECO Tourism Ambassadors shall extend full hospitality, including transportation, accommodation, and other related local expenses.

The ECO Secretariat shall facilitate cooperation between the ECO Tourism Ambassadors and relevant national tourism organizations, tourism enterprises, local communities, and other stakeholders. To maximize regional outreach and collaboration, the Secretariat may utilize existing ECO cooperation platforms, including the ECO Tour Operators' Network and other relevant tourism initiatives.</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.<u>Potential stakeholders</u>:</td><td>• Tourism Ministries, Tourism Promotion Agencies and other related authorities of the ECO Member States including culture and media institutions,
• Private Tourism Stakeholders including tourism associations and tour operators,
• Social media influencers from the ECO Member States,
• Local businesses and local people in the ECO Member States including tourism businesses that include mainly hotel and restaurant owners,
• Travelers from ECO and non-ECO Member States.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">6. <u>Required Activities to be undertaken to launch the initiative:</u>
• Selection of the personas who could be the potential ECO Tourism Ambassadors by the ECO Secretary General, getting prior contact with them to get their consent and consulting with the relevant Member States
• Formal announcement of the designated individuals inviting the selected ECO Tourism Ambassadors within the high-level ECO events for tourism cooperation.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">7. <u>Potential opportunities and benefits to the region:</u>
• Enhanced online visibility of ECO as an international organization and ECO</td></tr>
</table>

region as a prime tourist destination.

- Improved awareness and enhanced people to people connections in the region.
- Positive impact on local economies through growing tourism with increased tourist flows to the region.
- Greater understanding and appreciation of ECO's strategic goals.

8. <u>Risks:</u>

The risks that surround the development of the undertaking include:

a) All the ECO Member States may not be interested in the initiative and it may cause delay in announcing the selected personalities.
b) The selected people can be hesitant to receive such a title and attend the relevant events and partner with the ECO Secretariat.
c) Potential financial issues to provide hospitality services to the Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors regarding the invitation to the events.
d) Selected candidate might not be suitable to represent the ECO region.

9. <u>Assumptions:</u>

Assumptions related to the initiative include:

a) The ECO Member States will have an interest in this arrangement due to more promotion of their tourist destinations.
b) The selected Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors will not cause any extra financial burden to the ECO Secretariat.
c) The practicality of the initiative will allow smooth implementation initially among the interested Member States with the collaboration of their previous experiences in this matter.
d) The selection of impactful personas within this the initiative will allow easy marketing and promotion of the ECO regional tourism potential.
e) The local tourism businesses and promotion agencies can facilitate for more activities with the selected ECO Tourism Ambassadors through some promotional events for tourism destinations.

Current status: **Not started yet**.

Agenda Item No. 7
Endorsement of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard
(Single Digital Portal of Statistics of the ECO Countries)

Annexure – III

CONCEPT NOTE

for the Consideration of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Development of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard

CPR-310 Meeting — Agenda Item: Economic Research & Statistics / Any Other Business (to be assigned by the Secretariat)

Submitted by: Project Management Section (PMS), in coordination with Economic Research & Statistics (ERS)

1. Background and Origin of the Initiative

The proposal for an ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard originates from the Republic of Kazakhstan. By Note Verbale No. 30/331 of 13 August 2025, transmitted by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran to the Secretariat a proposal to establish a "Single Digital Portal of Statistics of ECO Countries," to be presented at the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO) of ECO Member States

The initiative was formally presented by the Chair (Kazakhstan) at the 8th HNSO Meeting, held virtually on 16 September 2025. At that stage, the Dashboard was announced as a new initiative and was not yet among the three statistical/research projects formally tracked as "ongoing" by ERS.

Following the meeting, the Secretariat (PMS/ERS) prepared a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the "Development of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard," which was subjected to a project management review by the Project Management Section (Internal Memo of 2 October 2025, addressed to the Secretary-General). This Concept Note consolidates that work for the Council's consideration and requests CPR endorsement of the ToR so that implementation can proceed on a fully mandated basis.

2. Objective and Scope

Objective: to design and implement an interactive dashboard enabling users to explore, compare, and monitor priority indicators across ECO Member States and thematic domains (Economy, Trade, Transport & Communications, Energy, Social Development, Environment), supported by open metadata and annual updates.

Rationale: ECO statistical information is currently presented by country and theme, largely in static PDF/Word formats, which limits cross-country and time-series comparison and complicates regular updates. An interactive, BI-based platform would align ECO with the practice of peer international organizations.

As set out in the ToR, the scope covers:

- Data preparation — cleaning, harmonization, handling of gaps/outliers, and cross-country consistency checks;
- Data model and calculations — semantic model, relationships, and calculated measures (latest value, year-on-year change, ranks, ECO aggregates);
- Dashboard design and development, navigation and user experience (filters, drillthrough, bookmarks);
- Metadata and documentation — definitions, sources, formulas, quality flags, data dictionary;
- Update workflow — standard Excel/CSV templates for Member States, automated ingestion with schema checks, and a Standard Operating Procedure for annual updates;
- Integration and hosting — secure embedding on the ECO website, with access control and workspace governance;
- Quality assurance and performance testing; and
- Training and handover — user/admin guides, a training session, and transfer of source files and scripts to the Secretariat.

Expected results include a title/introduction page, country profile pages, an indicator-based map and bar-chart view, an indicator trend page, a country-to-country comparison page, a full data table, a metadata section, an annual update kit, and website integration — accompanied by user/admin documentation and one training session for Secretariat staff.

3. Strategic Alignment

- ECO Vision 2025: the Dashboard directly supports the Vision's emphasis on a conducive, transparent decision-making environment and on "project-based economic activities" that strengthen the Secretariat's analytical capacity.
- KPI monitoring instrument: the Dashboard would provide the practical means to track ECO Vision goals (e.g., doubling intra-regional trade) as measurable, visualized, and reportable indicators — supporting objective, evidence-based follow-up by the Secretariat and Member States.
- ECO Five-Year Strategic Plan on Statistics (2021–2026) and its successor, the Strategic Plan on Statistics 2026–2030 (finalization of which is foreseen in the ECO

Work Programme 2026), both of which prioritize digital transformation and automated data exchange.

4. Project Management Assessment

The Project Management Section's review found the draft ToR well-structured, with an exceptionally clear scope and defined deliverables, an Agile-like delivery model (monthly sprints and demonstrations) appropriate to an IT project, and unambiguous acceptance criteria tied to a Certificate of Completion and transfer of all source files to the ECO repository.

The principal risk identified is data dependency: the project's success hinges on the timely collection, cleaning, and harmonization of datasets from all ten Member States' National Statistical Offices (NSOs). To mitigate this risk, the review recommended:

1. Formalizing Member State engagement — dispatching a Note Verbale to the Heads of NSOs underscoring the Dashboard's role as a KPI-monitoring instrument for ECO Vision 2025 and requesting the nomination of a dedicated national focal point for each NSO; in line with established ECO practice, the proposal would be treated as endorsed under the silence procedure absent objections within the stipulated timeframe, after which the Secretariat would submit the finalized ToR to CPR for official endorsement;
2. Establishing a pilot with two to three Member States with more advanced statistical capacity, to test and refine data-ingestion and validation workflows ahead of full-scale rollout; and
3. Constituting an internal, PMS-led project team to oversee the contractor, participate in all demonstrations and User Acceptance Testing, and ensure effective knowledge transfer and the Secretariat's ability to maintain the Dashboard after handover.

5. Implementation Status and Timeline

The ECO Work Programme 2026 (Statistics sector, as endorsed through the RPC process) set a target of launching the pilot version of the ECO Statistical Dashboard by June 2026, under Kazakhstan's lead.

The pilot launch is scheduled for September 2026, led by Kazakhstan in cooperation with the Secretariat. The Secretariat will approach the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) to co-finance the pilot phase as a near-term technical-assistance opportunity.

The Council is invited to note this revised timeline and the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to secure complementary financing and technical support for the pilot.

6. Financial Considerations

Kazakhstan's Bureau of National Statistics has obtained a commercial offer for development of the dashboard, covering a target scope of approximately 30 indicators (four to six per strategic direction), for a quoted cost of KZT 8,137,734.83, excluding VAT; the offer notes that the final cost may vary depending on the number of indicators retained.

On the basis of the documentation available, the development cost above relates to Kazakhstan's own procurement of a contractor for the pilot build; the Secretariat's parallel request to ECO-TDB concerns co-financing of the pilot phase more broadly (e.g., scaling, hosting, or technical-assistance needs) rather than a confirmed substitution for, or addition to, the quoted amount. The precise division of costs and funding sources between Kazakhstan, the Secretariat, and any co-financing partner has not yet been fully documented and should be clarified before the pilot is scaled beyond the initial partner(s).

7. Recommended Decision by the Council

In light of the above, the Secretariat recommends that the Council of Permanent Representatives:

- Endorse the Terms of Reference for the "ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard," subject to (or following) completion of the silence procedure among the Heads of National Statistical Offices;
- Take note of the current implementation status — pilot launch expected in September 2026, led by Kazakhstan in cooperation with the Secretariat — and of the resulting adjustment relative to the June 2026 target set in the ECO Work Programme 2026;
- Take note of the Secretariat's engagement with ECO-TDB on co-financing of the pilot phase, and encourage Member States and the Secretariat to identify complementary funding sources as the project moves from pilot to full-scale rollout;
- Invite Member States that have not yet done so to designate a dedicated National Statistical Office focal point to support data submission under the agreed templates and update workflow; and
- Request the Secretariat (PMS/ERS) to report on implementation progress at the next appropriate HNSO, HLEG, or CPR meeting.

Annexure - IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Development of A Single Digital Portal of Statistics of the ECO Countries (ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard)

Proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, in coordination with the ECO Secretariat

1. Relevance of the Project

ECO statistical information is currently presented across separate country reports and thematic tabs, largely in PDF/Word formats. This arrangement limits cross-country and time-series comparison and complicates regular updates, while many peer international organizations have already adopted interactive, BI-based data portals.

The proposal for an ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard originates from the Republic of Kazakhstan. By Note Verbale No. 30/331 of 13 August 2025, transmitted by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran, the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan forwarded to the Secretariat a proposal to establish a "Single Digital Portal of Statistics of ECO Countries (ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard)."

The initiative was formally presented by the Chair (Kazakhstan) at the 8th Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices (HNSO), held virtually on 16 September 2025. The project has been endorsed by the meeting.

Following the meeting, the Secretariat reviewed a draft Terms of Reference, (Internal Memo of 2 October 2025, addressed to the Secretary-General). The initiative was subsequently reflected in the ECO Work Programme 2026 (Statistics sector) and presented to the 36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), held in Tehran from 17 to 20 May 2026, under Priority Area 3 (Implementation of Projects) of the Economic Research and Statistics Committee's working paper.

2. Target of the Project

To design and implement an interactive dashboard enabling users to explore, compare, and monitor priority indicators across ECO Member States and thematic domains (Economy, Trade, Transport & Communications, Energy, Social Development, Environment), supported by open metadata and annual updates.

3. Objectives of the Project

To achieve the above target, the project will address the following tasks:

- Data preparation: cleaning, transformation and harmonization of datasets; handling of gaps and outliers; validation of cross-country and cross-year consistency;
- Data model and calculations: semantic model, relationships and calculated measures (latest value, year-on-year change, ranks, ECO aggregates);
- Dashboard design and development: page layouts, filters and interactions;
- Navigation and user experience: synchronized slicers, drillthrough, report tooltips, bookmarks and dynamic titles;
- Metadata and documentation: definitions, sources, formulas, index bases, quality flags and a data dictionary, embedded in the dashboard;
- Update workflow: standard Excel/CSV templates for Member States, automated ingestion with schema checks and error logs, and a Standard Operating Procedure for annual updates;
- Integration and hosting: secure embedding on the ECO website (test and production), with access control and workspace governance;
- Quality assurance and performance testing: verification of data accuracy and user experience, optimization of visuals and queries; and
- Training and handover: user/admin guides, one training session for Secretariat staff, and transfer of source files and scripts.

4. Requirements for the Contractor

Given the technical scope of the assignment (data harmonization, BI-based data modelling, interactive dashboard development, and secure website integration), the Contractor is expected to demonstrate proven experience in business-intelligence platform development and statistical data visualization, including prior delivery of comparable multi-country or multi-institutional data dashboards.

Note on data gap: the specific qualification criteria, corporate profile and cost of the Contractor engaged for the pilot were submitted by Kazakhstan's Bureau of National Statistics as a commercial offer (KZT 8,137,734.83, excluding VAT, covering approximately 30 indicators). This offer is held only as a scanned attachment (non-machine-readable) and detailed CV-level qualification criteria for the assigned specialists are not otherwise documented in the Secretariat's files; these should be confirmed directly from that attachment before finalization of this section.

5. Completion dates and work plan

The ECO Work Programme 2026 (Statistics sector, as endorsed through the RPC process) set an initial target of launching the pilot version of the ECO Statistical Dashboard by June 2026, under Kazakhstan's lead. As of this Terms of Reference, the pilot has been initiated (July 2026), with the pilot launch now expected in September 2026, led by Kazakhstan in cooperation with the Secretariat.

The Contractor is to provide a sprint/demonstration schedule monthly. Upon completion, the Contractor submits the Certificate of Completion within five (5) business days of final acceptance.

6. Expected results

Upon completion, the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard is expected to comprise the following core sections:

- Title / introduction page;
- Country profile pages (country and year slicers, theme tabs, indicators with optional drillthrough);
- Indicator-based map and bar-chart view (choropleth map, indicator and year slicers, click-through to country trends);
- Indicator trend page (country and indicator slicers, labelled line charts);
- Country-to-country comparison page (side-by-side bar charts, radar chart of country ranks, drillthrough to indicator details);
- Full data table, filterable by country and year;
- Metadata section (definitions, sources, units, coverage, quality flags);
- Annual update kit (standard Excel/CSV templates, loading/validation scripts, step-by-step guide);
- Website integration package (test and production embed, with basic access control); and
- User/admin documentation and one training session for Secretariat staff.
- The handover package delivered on completion is to include the published dashboard, workbook file, data model, ingestion scripts/templates, configuration notes, and user/admin guides, with all source files and documentation transferred to the ECO workspace/repository (test and production).

7. Application of the results

The Dashboard is designed to serve as the principal KPI-monitoring instrument for the transition from ECO Vision 2025 to the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, providing the practical means to track ECO goals (e.g., the doubling of intra-regional trade) as measurable, visualized and reportable indicators.

Within ECO, the results will support evidence-based follow-up by the Secretariat and Member States and inform reporting to the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), the Regional Planning Council (RPC) and relevant Sectoral

Committees. At the national level, National Statistical Offices will use the agreed update workflow and templates to maintain data comparability and consistency across annual cycles.

8. Language of presentation of materials

Note on data gap: the language regime for the Dashboard interface, metadata and accompanying documentation is not specified in the draft Terms of Reference or the Concept Note reviewed by the Secretariat. Consistent with standard ECO practice for similar consultancy assignments, materials would typically be required in English (with Russian and/or Persian as needed); this should be confirmed with PMS/ERS and the Contractor before finalization.

9. Format of interaction with the Contractor

Work is performed remotely using the Contractor's own workspace; meetings and demonstrations are conducted online on a monthly (sprint) basis. Services are deemed delivered upon signing of the Certificate of Completion and transfer of all source files and documentation to the ECO workspace/repository (test and production).

The Secretariat will approach the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) regarding co-financing of the pilot phase as a near-term technical-assistance opportunity; the precise division of costs and funding sources between Kazakhstan, the Secretariat and any co-financing partner has not yet been fully documented and should be clarified before the pilot is scaled beyond the initial partner(s).

Agenda Item No. 8
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

No:ACC/2026/933

Priority: Normal
Date: 3/9/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and, with reference to the Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ACC/2026/774 dated August 5, 2026, has the honour to inform that the First Working Group Meeting convened to facilitate the finalization of the ECO Draft Budget 2027 was held at the ECO Secretariat on August 18, 2026.

Based on the discussions and deliberations held during the said Working Group Meeting, the revised ECO Draft Budget 2027, along with the Report of the Working Group Meeting, is enclosed herewith for consideration of the esteemed Member States.

In this regard, the Second Working Group Meeting on the ECO Draft Budget 2027 is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 10:30 hours** at the ECO Secretariat.

The esteemed Member States are kindly requested to ensure the participation of their distinguished representatives in the Second Working Group Meeting with a view to facilitating the early finalization of the ECO Draft Budget 2027 for its subsequent consideration by the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM).

The Secretariat 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.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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

ECO

Economic Cooperation Organization

Budget Proposal for the Financial year 2027

2026/08/30

Table of Content

1. General

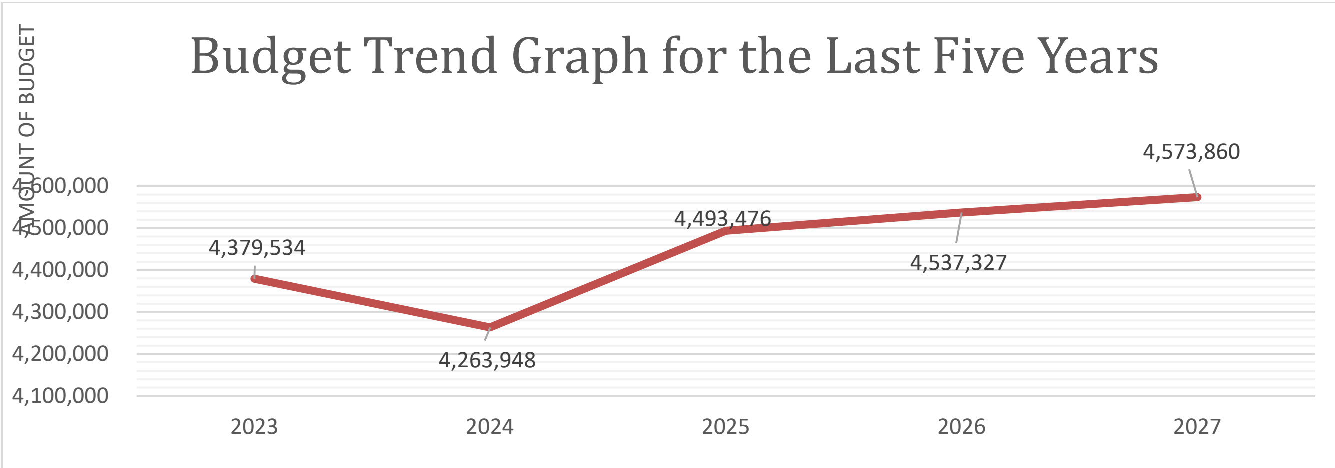
The proposed budget of the ECO Secretariat for the year 2027 is US$ 4,573,860.00, which incorporates a modest nominal increase of US$ 36,533.00 (0.8%) compared to the previous year. The main reason for the budget increase is the expected rise in staff turnover next year, which has been reflected in "Staff 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	4,573,860



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$ 15,551 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.

- 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 Total	Amount $	% of Total	Amount $	% of Total	Amount $	% of Total	Amount $	% of 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	77.27
Staff Benefits	526,275	12.62	442,981	10.91	677,463	15.83	460,110	10.65	522,418	11.99
Travel Expenses	156,150	3.74	154,900	3.81	217,500	5.08	255,625	5.92	262,500	6.03
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	25,000	0.57
Utilities	12,000	0.29	10,000	0.25	10,000	0.23	12,000	0.28	12,000	0.28
Publications	4,000	0.10	5,500	0.14	4,500	0.11	14,500	0.34	4,000	0.09
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	7,000	0.16
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	**4,356,057**	**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	217,803	5.00
Grand Total	**4,379,534**	105.00	**4,263,948**	105	**4,493,476**	105	**4,537,327**	105.00	**4,573,860**	**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 Allowar	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 Aygül	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	Turkiye	600	5	3,000	0	3,000
3	Successor of Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev	D3	Turkmenista	1350	5	6,750	0	6,750
4	Successor of Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov	D2	Azerbaijan	825	5	4,125	4125	-
5	Vacant	D2	Turkmenista	1350	5	6,750	6750	-
6	Vacant	D1	Afghanistan	825	5	4,125	4125	-
7	Vacant	D1	Kyrgyzistan	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	Turkiye	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	Turkiye	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 under this account head for 2027 is US$25,000, representing an increase of US$5,000 compared with the previous year.

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$ 4,000.00. 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	2,000
2	Other Publications	2,000	1600	2,000	11,500	2,000
	Total	4,000	5,500	4,500	14,500	4,000

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$ 7,000.00 for the year 2027 which is less than 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 Purchase of Accessories	3,000	16,000	10,000	20,000	20,000
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$ 217,803.00 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	**91,478**	90,747	731
2	Azerbaijan	4/00	**182,954**	181,493	1,461
3	Iran	22/00	**1,006,249**	998,212	8,037
4	Kazakhstan	18/00	**823,295**	816,719	6,576
5	Kyrgyz Republic*	0/66	**30,188**	29,946	242
6	Pakistan	22/00	**1,006,249**	998,212	8,037
7	Tajikistan	1/00	**45,739**	45,373	366
8	Turkiye	22/00	**1,006,249**	998,212	8,037
9	Turkmenistan	4/00	**182,954**	181,493	1,461
10	Uzbekistan	4/00	**182,954**	181,493	1,461
Total		**99/66**	**4,558,309**	4,521,900	36,409
Deficit of Scale of Assesment**		0/34	**15,551**	15,427	124
Total			**4,573,860**	4,537,327	36,533
****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 15,551.00 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 Grade**	**3 Basic Salary**		**4 Children Allowance**		**5 Increment**		**6 Conveyance Allowance**		**7 House Allowance**		**8 Total (3+6+7)**	
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.

<u>Report of the Working Group Meeting on the</u>
<u>ECO Draft Budget 2027</u>
(August 18, 2026)

In line with the decision of the 308th Meeting of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on July 21, 2026, the Working Group on the ECO Draft Budget 2027 met on August 18, 2026, under the chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** and coordinated by the ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration). The meeting was attended by representatives of the Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyz** Republic and the Republic of **Türkiye** as well as relevant ECO officials including Head of Section for Administration & Management, Chief Accountant and Legal Advisor.

2. The Working Group reviewed the Secretariat's proposed budget for 2027, amounting to US$ 4,583,835.00, reflecting an increase of US$ 46,508.00 (1.03%) as compared to the previous year. The Secretariat explained that the main reason for the increase was the expected rise in staff turnover during 2027, with the related financial implications reflected mainly under the Staff Benefits and Travel Expenses chapters.

3. The Working Group noted that around 90% of the proposed budget was related to personnel costs, leaving approximately 10% for projects, organizational activities, missions and administrative operations. The Secretariat also informed the Working Group that the deficit arising from the scale of assessment would be financed from the General Reserve Fund (GRF). The importance of timely payment of assessed contributions by Member States was also discussed in the context of the Secretariat's liquidity requirements. It was also noted that, since a significant portion of the Secretariat's budget is spent in USD terms, the impact of a possible further appreciation of the exchange rate on the overall budget is expected to be minor. The effect of high level of inflation was also discussed and the adverse effect of continued price increases were also explained.

4. The Working Group reviewed the budget chapter by chapter. The Secretariat explained the basis of the allocations under the chapters of **Salary and Allowances** and **Staff Benefits**, including medical expenses, uniforms, installation and transfer grants, end-of-service entitlements, encashment of leave and the Provident Fund. It was clarified that the Provident Fund was governed by the relevant provisions of the ECO Staff Regulations and calculated in accordance with the applicable rules.

5. Under **Special Bonus and Honorarium** chapter, the Secretariat explained the importance of retaining adequate provision as an incentive for staff performance and dedicated service. It was explained that this incentive provides the Secretariat with a flexible means of recognizing exceptional performance and encouraging staff members to maintain a high level of commitment and flexibility. It was also noted that the Secretariat does not implement an overtime system and this mechanism is also utilized in place of overtime.

6. The Working Group reviewed the proposed allocations under **Travel Expenses** chapter. The Secretariat explained that the increase was mainly attributable to the higher number of incoming and outgoing staff members expected during 2027.

7. Under **Reception and Diplomatic Obligations** chapter, the Secretariat explained that the proposed increase from US$ 20,000 to US$ 30,000 was intended to cover the anticipated cost of convening the next High-Level Committee meeting at the ECO Secretariat. It was noted that the expenditure relating to the High-Level Committee meeting could instead be considered from the General Reserve Fund, subject to the applicable rules and authorization.

8. Under **Publications** chapter, the Working Group noted the substantial reduction already proposed for 2027 in view of the expected completion of the ECO Road and Railway Maps project and the increasing use of electronic dissemination. Following discussion on previous expenditure and possible further savings, it was agreed to reduce the proposed allocation by a further US$ 1,500.

9. The Working Group discussed the exchange rate used for calculating the relevant parts of the administrative budget. The Secretariat explained that an exchange rate of IRR 1,500,000 to US$ 1.00 was used on the basis of the prevailing market rate at the time of preparation of the Draft Budget. In view of the current exchange-rate fluctuations, the Secretariat explained that the healthy estimate of the exchange rate is extremely difficult and there is no official estimate that can be referred to.

10. Under **Furniture and Office Equipment** chapter, the Working Group requested further justification for the proposed allocation of US$ 10,000, noting that replacement should be undertaken only where repair was not feasible. Following discussion, it was agreed to reduce the proposed allocation by US$ 3,000.

11. The Working Group reviewed the allocation of US$ 35,000 under the chapter of **IT Expenses**, including the provision for internet connectivity, purchase of computers and accessories, hardware repair, software and website hosting. A proposal was made to reduce the provision for computers and components. The Secretariat undertook to provide further details and justification regarding the planned purchase of computers and components before finalization of the revised budget.

12. Under the **Special Support Fund (SSF)** chapter, the Secretariat emphasized the importance of the Fund in facilitating participation of Member State representatives in ECO meetings, particularly in view of the increase in international airfares. The Secretariat requested the support of Member States for maintaining adequate resources under this Account Head.

13. The Working Group also reviewed the remaining budget chapters, including Utilities, Post and Telecommunications, Stationery, Contingencies, Maintenance of Building and Equipment, Consumable Items and Temporary Services, and the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund.

14. The Working Group emphasized the need to exercise maximum possible economy and financial discipline in the implementation of the budget. The Secretariat took note of the observations and proposals made during the meeting and agreed to incorporate the agreed reductions and provide the additional information/ justifications requested by the Working Group in the revised Draft Budget 2027.

15. It was agreed that the revised Draft Budget 2027, together with the relevant explanations and supporting information, would be circulated for further consideration of the Member States.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No:ADM/2026/956

Priority: Normal
Date: 7/9/2026
Attachment: Yes

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Tehran and with reference to the Secretariat's Note Verbale No. ADM/2026/825 dated August 18, 2026 has the honour to inform that the Third HLC Working Group Meeting convened on September 2, 2026 at the ECO Secretariat to finalize the concrete proposals pertaining to the first three chapters of the HLC Recommendations.

Based on the deliberations held during the said Working Group Meeting, the revised concrete proposals, incorporating the amendments in track-changes, together with the Report of the Working Group Meeting are enclosed herewith for the kind consideration of the esteemed Member States.

In this regard, the esteemed Member States are kindly requested to review the revised Concrete Proposals and convey comments/feedback (if any), prior to the upcoming 310th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled to be held on September 15, 2026, with a view to facilitating early finalization of the proposals.

The Secretariat 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.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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

Concrete Proposals by Working Group on the Recommendations of the First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC)

1. Financial & Budgetary Matters

S#	HLC Recommendations	Concrete Proposal by Working Group	Decision of CPR/COM
1)	Prepare the annual budget (s) in timely manner and submit it to the Member States in alignment with their financial cycles to avoid delays in operational processes and obtaining approvals for payment of their respective contributions.	○ Establishmentof a Budget Working Group to strengthen the Organization's financial planning and management framework by preparing and circulating the proposed annual budget to Member States not later than four months before the beginning of the financial year, thereby enabling Member States to obtain necessary approval from their respective capitals in a timely manner.	
2)	Hold consultations at appropriate levels to ensure that Member States fulfill payments of their contributions timely and according to the scale of assessments approved by the 24th COM, to maintain a consistent and reliable flow of funding.	○ ~~Member States may take into account an indicative yearly average increase of approximately 5% in the ECO budget when preparing their national budgets, in order to make the necessary budgetary allocations accordingly, while the ECO Secretariat will continue to observe austerity measures and financial discipline in the preparation and implementation of its budget.~~ (Kazakhstan)	
3)	Timely payment of contribution by the Member States should be ensured for the smooth functioning of the organization.	○ Emphasize on the timely and full payment of the assessed contributions and introduce appropriate measures to encourage early and full payment of contributions, including recognition at various forums~~ or priority consideration for project funding~~, and the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) oversee effective implementation of such measures particularly with regard to outstanding assessed contributions. (Kazakhstan proposes to elaborate further)	
4)	Conduct regular reviews of operational expenses to ensure efficient use of resources.		
5)	Figure out a plan to replenish reserve funds, ensuring that they are used effectively for their intended purposes,	○ Establishment of a minimum General Reserve Fund threshold equivalent to the 1/4th of the total Budget (not exceeding USD 100,000/-) to ensure financial resilience. (Kazakhstan)	

	without being depleted for budget deficits.		
6)	Manage administrative and operational costs effectively, ensuring sufficient coverage for the Secretariat's developmental projects and activities, thereby enabling the Secretariat to operate more efficiently.	○ Revision of the procurement thresholds under the current Procurement Regulations by increasing Small-value Procurements from USD400 to USD800, for Medium-value Procurements from USD4000 to USD5000, while maintaining Large-value Procurements exceeding USD5000, in order to reduce the administrative burden and the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments to the "ECO Secretariat's Rules of Procurement of Goods and Services".	

2. Efficiency of the Secretariat and Organizational Structure

S#	HLC Recommendations	Concrete Proposal by Working Group	Decision of CPR/COM
1)	Rationalize the roles of Category-III staff, ensuring that their job descriptions and responsibilities are clearly defined and that their positions align with their skills to optimize their contribution to the Secretariat's goals.	○ Authorize the Secretary-General to make any changes to title of posts and job descriptions in Category-III, assignments of Category III staff and merit based up-gradation of Category-III staff to one grade higher, and to report back to the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on the actions taken.	
2)	Look in to the possibility of creating or upgrading Category-III positions to establish A4 and A5 positions to retain and attract experienced professionals.		
3)	Re-define the responsibilities of desk and program officers to ensure that their roles are clearly aligned with their respective job descriptions.	○ **R**e-define job descriptions of desk and program officers as set out in Annex-I, and to align their responsibilities with the said job descriptions.	

3. Recruitment and Capacity Building

<table>
<tr><th>S#</th><th>HLC Recommendations</th><th>Concrete Proposal by Working Group</th><th>Decision of CPR/COM</th></tr>
<tr><td>1)</td><td>Overall recruitment process should be merit based, transparent and aligned with the relevant provisions of ECO Staff Regulations.</td><td rowspan="3">~~o~~ Member States submit at least three suitably qualified candidates for each allocated position, meeting the requirements of the relevant job description and adequately trained prior to their assignment at the ECO Secretariat. (Kazakhstan & Türkiye proposes deletion) (Iran requested for further elaboration in the matter)

o ~~Positions that have remained vacant for more than one year be circulated to all Member States for their nomination.~~ (Kazakhstan)

o Secretariat shares the annual performance assessments of ECO staff with their concerned Member States on a confidential basis.</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>2)</td><td>Review the overall recruitment process to ensure it is consistently merit-based, transparent and aligned with the relevant provisions of the ECO Staff Regulations, to enable the selection of highly qualified professionals and prevent the limitation of choices to a single nominated candidate.</td></tr>
<tr><td>3)</td><td>Improvements can be made in the qualifications required for ECO staff and in the recruitment processes that will not prejudice the candidate selection of the Member States.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4)</td><td>Ensure staff salaries and benefits are competitive and aligned with international standards to attract and retain top talent, considering annual salary adjustments based on inflation.</td><td>o Salaries and allowances be subject to review every two years, taking into account inflation, rate of exchange and the changes in the overall living conditions. Budget Working Group will be responsible to discuss such revision in salaries. (Kazakhstan)

o ~~The Secretary General to undertake a~~The Secretariat will propose comprehensive revision and adjustment of the salary scale for the staff of the Secretariat, as well as to eliminate any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or anomalies that may exist in the current salary scale. (Kazakhstan)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>5)</td><td>Focus for capacity-building initiatives to maximize staff development within existing budget constraints, helping the</td><td>o</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

Formatted: Underline

	Secretariat to better meet its objectives.		
6)	Establish a working group on the recruitment process which can address the common recommendations in a holistic manner.		
7)	Establish the structured engagement with academic institutions, to foster collaboration and promote capacity-building opportunities for Secretariat staff.		
8)	Develop formal internship programs aimed at nurturing young professionals from the Member States, providing them with valuable experience and developing future talent for Organization.	○ In the future, ~~D~~development of a formal internship program, aimed at nurturing young professionals from the Member States~~,~~ based on the principal of fairness and equal opportunity, providing them with valuable experience and developing future talent for the Organization. (Kazakhstan) ○ In the future, look for ~~E~~establishment of a mechanism to provide ~~monthly stipends~~financial support to interns to support their participation in the internship program. (Kazakhstan) ○ In the future, Secretariat will ~~Encourage~~ the Member States may ~~to~~ send young officers and students on secondment for short-term training opportunities at the ECO Secretariat, at their own expense. (Kazakhstan)	
9)	English proficiency should be made compulsory for the Cat-III staff, including for new recruits.	○ For newly recruited Category-III staff, conversant in English be a mandatory requirement; ○ In the future, ~~F~~for existing Category-III staff, the Secretariat arrange basic English language training to enhance their professional effectiveness; (Kazakhstan) ○ In the future, ~~I~~incentives such as performance-based salary increments or one-time bonuses be considered for Category-III staff who demonstrate the required level of proficiency. (Kazakhstan) ○ The Secretariat arrange basic Persian language training for Staff	

		Members and their family members, to facilitate integration into the local environment, with the option for their family members to participate in such training. (Kazakhstan proposes correct placement to be identified otherwise will be deleted)	

Concrete Proposals by Working Group on the Recommendations of the First Meeting of High-Level Committee (HLC)

1. **Financial & Budgetary Matters**

S#	HLC Recommendations	Concrete Proposal by Working Group	Decision of CPR/COM
1)	Prepare the annual budget (s) in timely manner and submit it to the Member States in alignment with their financial cycles to avoid delays in operational processes and obtaining approvals for payment of their respective contributions.	○ Establishmentof a Budget Working Group to strengthen the Organization's financial planning and management framework by preparing and circulating the proposed annual budget to Member States not later than four months before the beginning of the financial year, thereby enabling Member States to obtain necessary approval from their respective capitals in a timely manner.	
2)	Hold consultations at appropriate levels to ensure that Member States fulfill payments of their contributions timely and according to the scale of assessments approved by the 24th COM, to maintain a consistent and reliable flow of funding.	○ ~~Member States may take into account an indicative yearly average increase of approximately 5% in the ECO budget when preparing their national budgets, in order to make the necessary budgetary allocations accordingly, while the ECO Secretariat will continue to observe austerity measures and financial discipline in the preparation and implementation of its budget.~~ (Kazakhstan)	
3)	Timely payment of contribution by the Member States should be ensured for the smooth functioning of the organization.	○ Emphasize on the timely and full payment of the assessed contributions and introduce appropriate measures to encourage early and full payment of contributions, including recognition at various forums~~ or priority consideration for project funding~~, and the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) oversee effective implementation of such measures particularly with regard to outstanding assessed contributions. (Kazakhstan proposes to elaborate further)	
4)	Conduct regular reviews of operational expenses to ensure efficient use of resources.		
5)	Figure out a plan to replenish reserve funds, ensuring that they are used effectively for their intended purposes,	○ Establishment of a minimum General Reserve Fund threshold equivalent to the 1/4th of the total Budget (not exceeding USD 100,000/-) to ensure financial resilience. (Kazakhstan)	

	without being depleted for budget deficits.		
6)	Manage administrative and operational costs effectively, ensuring sufficient coverage for the Secretariat's developmental projects and activities, thereby enabling the Secretariat to operate more efficiently.	○ Revision of the procurement thresholds under the current Procurement Regulations by increasing Small-value Procurements from USD400 to USD800, for Medium-value Procurements from USD4000 to USD5000, while maintaining Large-value Procurements exceeding USD5000, in order to reduce the administrative burden and the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments to the "ECO Secretariat's Rules of Procurement of Goods and Services".	

2. Efficiency of the Secretariat and Organizational Structure

S#	HLC Recommendations	Concrete Proposal by Working Group	Decision of CPR/COM
1)	Rationalize the roles of Category-III staff, ensuring that their job descriptions and responsibilities are clearly defined and that their positions align with their skills to optimize their contribution to the Secretariat's goals.	○ Authorize the Secretary-General to make any changes to title of posts and job descriptions in Category-III, assignments of Category III staff and merit based up-gradation of Category-III staff to one grade higher, and to report back to the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on the actions taken.	
2)	Look in to the possibility of creating or upgrading Category-III positions to establish A4 and A5 positions to retain and attract experienced professionals.		
3)	Re-define the responsibilities of desk and program officers to ensure that their roles are clearly aligned with their respective job descriptions.	○ **R**e-define job descriptions of desk and program officers as set out in Annex-I, and to align their responsibilities with the said job descriptions.	

3. Recruitment and Capacity Building

S#	HLC Recommendations	Concrete Proposal by Working Group	Decision of CPR/COM
1)	Overall recruitment process should be merit based, transparent and aligned with the relevant provisions of ECO Staff Regulations.	~~o~~ Member States submit at least three suitably qualified candidates for each allocated position, meeting the requirements of the relevant job description and adequately trained prior to their assignment at the ECO Secretariat. (Kazakhstan & Türkiye proposes deletion) (Iran requested for further elaboration in the matter) o ~~Positions that have remained vacant for more than one year be circulated to all Member States for their nomination.~~ (Kazakhstan) o Secretariat shares the annual performance assessments of ECO staff with their concerned Member States on a confidential basis.	
2)	Review the overall recruitment process to ensure it is consistently merit-based, transparent and aligned with the relevant provisions of the ECO Staff Regulations, to enable the selection of highly qualified professionals and prevent the limitation of choices to a single nominated candidate.		
3)	Improvements can be made in the qualifications required for ECO staff and in the recruitment processes that will not prejudice the candidate selection of the Member States.		
4)	Ensure staff salaries and benefits are competitive and aligned with international standards to attract and retain top talent, considering annual salary adjustments based on inflation.	o Salaries and allowances be subject to review every two years, taking into account inflation, rate of exchange and the changes in the overall living conditions. Budget Working Group will be responsible to discuss such revision in salaries. (Kazakhstan) o ~~The Secretary General to undertake a~~The Secretariat will propose comprehensive revision and adjustment of the salary scale for the staff of the Secretariat, as well as to eliminate any discrepancies, inconsistencies, or anomalies that may exist in the current salary scale. (Kazakhstan)	
5)	Focus for capacity-building initiatives to maximize staff development within existing budget constraints, helping the	o	

Formatted: Underline

	Secretariat to better meet its objectives.		
6)	Establish a working group on the recruitment process which can address the common recommendations in a holistic manner.		
7)	Establish the structured engagement with academic institutions, to foster collaboration and promote capacity-building opportunities for Secretariat staff.		
8)	Develop formal internship programs aimed at nurturing young professionals from the Member States, providing them with valuable experience and developing future talent for Organization.	○ In the future, ~~D~~development of a formal internship program, aimed at nurturing young professionals from the Member States~~,~~ based on the principal of fairness and equal opportunity, providing them with valuable experience and developing future talent for the Organization. (Kazakhstan) ○ In the future, look for ~~E~~establishment of a mechanism to provide ~~monthly stipends~~financial support to interns to support their participation in the internship program. (Kazakhstan) ○ In the future, Secretariat will ~~Encourage~~ the Member States may ~~to~~ send young officers and students on secondment for short-term training opportunities at the ECO Secretariat, at their own expense. (Kazakhstan)	
9)	English proficiency should be made compulsory for the Cat-III staff, including for new recruits.	○ For newly recruited Category-III staff, conversant in English be a mandatory requirement; ○ In the future, ~~F~~for existing Category-III staff, the Secretariat arrange basic English language training to enhance their professional effectiveness; (Kazakhstan) ○ In the future, ~~I~~incentives such as performance-based salary increments or one-time bonuses be considered for Category-III staff who demonstrate the required level of proficiency. (Kazakhstan) ○ The Secretariat arrange basic Persian language training for Staff	

		Members and their family members, to facilitate integration into the local environment, with the option for their family members to participate in such training. (Kazakhstan proposes correct placement to be identified otherwise will be deleted)	

Agenda Item No. 9
Any Other Business

Agenda Item No. 10
Date of the next CPR Meeting