Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

312th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

November 8, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 312th CPR Meeting

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1297

Priority: Most Urgent
Date: 29/10/2026
Attachment: No

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 inform that, in consultation with the Chair, the 312th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), earlier scheduled for November 10, 2026, has been re-scheduled for November 8, 2026 (1000 hours) at the ECO Secretariat.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1249

Priority: Urgent
Date: 26/10/2026
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 312th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), scheduled to be convened on November 10, 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.

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ECO/CPR/312th /2026
November 10, 2026

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

312th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Agenda
And
Annotated Draft Agenda

November 10, 2026
at the ECO Secretariat

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 312th CPR Meeting;
2. Adoption of Draft Report of the 311th CPR Meeting;
3. Consideration of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
4. Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit;
5. Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
6. Any Other Business;
7. 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 312th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Report of the 311th CPR Meeting;
- Consideration of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
- Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit, 2026;
- 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 311th CPR Meeting

3. The Draft Report of the 311th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held on October 21, 2026, was circulated amongst the Member States vide Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/1236 dated October 25, 2026.

4. The Council may consider and adopt the Draft Report of the 311th CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3
Consideration of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

5. At its Sixth Meeting, held on September 14, 2026, the PrepCom considered the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, following a technical and editorial review by the Secretariat and finalized the text without substantive changes, thereby closing the document to further proposals/comments and agreeing to submit it to the CPR for endorsement and onward submission to the Council of Ministers for adoption.

6. The 311th CPR meeting agreed to reconcile Türkiye's proposals with the objective of preserving the text previously finalized by the Preparatory Committee and ensuring timely finalization of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Vision – 2035 by the Preparatory Committee meeting to be held on October 26, 2026, followed by CPR consideration and endorsement for submission to the 30th Council of Ministers Meeting.

7. The Council may consider the matter and decide to endorse the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 for submission to the 30th Council of Ministers Meeting for adoption.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit, 2026

- ***30th Council of Ministers Meeting***

8. The 311th CPR Meeting acknowledged the preparations for the 30th COM Meeting and the SOM, has being informed that the invitations, the tentative programme, hospitality details, and an information note on venues and accommodation had already been shared with the Member States. As regards confirmations, so far, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan conveyed the confirmations of their participation, while other Member States were encouraged to expedite the process. The invitations have also been extended to relevant regional and international organizations, ECO observers, and ECO specialized and subsidiary institutions.

9. Regarding the Draft Islamabad Communiqué, the Council noted that the most paragraphs had been agreed upon, while a few remained outstanding, including one concerning the geopolitical situation in the region. A further meeting of the Preparatory Committee was scheduled for October 26, 2026, to address the outstanding issues.

10. During the discussion of the 311th CPR meeting, it was stated by the Representative of Kazakhstan, that the circulated draft agenda of the upcoming Council of Ministers, was under consideration in Astana, indicating that an additional item might be proposed by Kazakhstan for inclusion in the COM's agenda.

11. The Chair of the PrepCom and the Secretariat will brief the Council on the latest status of preparations for the 30th COM Meeting. The Council may take note of the progress made and take appropriate final decisions in regard to the Draft Islamabad Communiqué and draft agenda of 30th COM for endorsement to 30th COM.

- ***Preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, 2026***

12. The Council was briefed by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran **o**n preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, scheduled for December 3–4, 2026, informing that the internal coordination process was underway and that the information note and programme were being finalized. Invitations had also been extended to all Member States, while confirmations regarding the level of participation were awaited. It was noted by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran that a retreat for Heads of State and Government would be scheduled according to their arrival arrangements, either on December 3 or 4, 2026.

13. The matter concerning the participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the Summit was stated by the representative of Iran without any objection referring with the agreed modality.

14. The Council may take note of the status of preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and provide further guidance, as appropriate.

Agenda Item No. 5
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

15. The Secretariat will brief the Council on those administrative and budgetary matters which require its consideration.

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

Agenda Item No. 6
Any other business

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

Agenda Item No. 7
Date of the next CPR Meeting

18. The Council may decide the date of its next (**313th)** Meeting in consultation with the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Report of the 311th CPR Meeting

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1236

Priority: Urgent
Date: 25/10/2026
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 honor to enclose herewith the Draft Report of 311th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held on October 21, 2026, for consideration.

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

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All ECO Member States - Tehran

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

311th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Draft Report

October 21, 2026
ECO Secretariat - Tehran

Draft Report

Held on October 21, 2026 under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the 311th 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.**

The Meeting began with the **Chairman Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui** and the **ECO Secretary General Ambassador Asad M. Khan** welcoming **Ambassador Ahmed Aydin Doğan**, the newly appointed **Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye** to ECO. The Chairman, the Secretary General and the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States expressed confidence in his constructive contribution to the Organization's work. Ambassador Doğan thanked the Council for the warm welcome and reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to furthering regional cooperation through ECO.

The **ECO Secretary General** briefed the Council on three ministerial meetings held recently. He informed that the Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Dushanbe (September 22-23, 2026), convened after a 20-year interval, mandated the Secretariat to develop a new framework for industrial cooperation; the informal meeting of ECO Foreign Ministers in New York provided an opportunity for ministerial exchanges and a briefing by Pakistan on preparations for the forthcoming formal Ministerial Meeting in Islamabad, the Transport Ministerial Meeting in Astana (October 14–15, 2026) adopted the ECO Sustainable and Resilient Transport Strategy 2026–2035 and the Astana Declaration. Turkmenistan also announced its intention to host the next Transport Ministerial Meeting in Ashgabat in November 2027. The Secretary General further highlighted the importance of institutionalizing engagement between policy communities and the private sector.

The **Chairman** underscored the importance of collective action to advance regional economic integration and called on Member States to maintain the momentum generated by the recent ministerial meetings and translate their outcomes into concrete initiatives for the mutual benefit of ECO Member States.

Agenda Item No. 1
Adoption of the Agenda

1. While moving towards formal proceedings, the **Council** adopted its following agenda for discussion and deliberations:

- Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 311th CPR Meeting;
- Adoption of Draft Reports of the 309th and 310th CPR Meetings;
- Consideration of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035
- Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit;
- Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors"

- Launching of the joint ECO-UNIDO regional project on strategic foresight for circular economy transition in the ECO region
- Consideration of Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities
- Follow-up to the Fourth Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) Working Group and its decisions
- Administrative and Budgetary Matters;
- Any Other Business;
- Date of the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Adoption of Draft Reports of the 309th and 310th CPR Meetings

2. The Council adopted the Draft Report of the 310th CPR Meeting held on September 15, 2026, and circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/2026/1035 dated September 17, 2026.

3. The **Chair/Permanent Representative of Pakistan** recalled that the adoption of the report of the 309th CPR Meeting was deferred in view of certain language adjustments proposed by some member states. The **Council** adopted the Draft Report, along with the amendments proposed by Iran and some minor adjustments suggested by Türkiye.

Agenda Item No. 3
Consideration of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

4. The **Chairman/Permanent Representative of Pakistan H.E. Amb. Imran Ahmed Siddique** recalled that, following the expiry of ECO Vision 2025, the Organization had been operating on an interim basis pending the finalization of a new Strategic Vision. He noted that the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 had already been finalized by the Preparatory Committee in September 2026, following consideration by Member States, and emphasized that the document was non-binding and intended to provide strategic direction to the Organization. In view of the approaching 30th Council of Ministers Meeting, he stressed the need to finalize the document without further delay. **The ECO Secretary General, Amb. Asad M. Khan** supported this position, noting that the new vision was already approximately one and a half years behind schedule and urging Member States to facilitate its timely adoption.

5. The **Representative of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kazbek Bokobayev** informed the Council that Türkiye's proposed amendments had been referred to the relevant national authorities for consideration and that Kazakhstan would communicate its final position following the internal review.

6. The **Permanent Representative of Türkiye H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aydin Doğan** reaffirmed his country's commitment to facilitating the finalization and adoption of the document at the forthcoming Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting in Pakistan. He explained that, following consultations with his authorities and in the spirit of consensus, Türkiye had withdrawn some of its earlier proposals while retaining four amendments that it considered essential for its approval. These concerned: (i) reconsideration of the proposed ECO Artificial Intelligence Centre in light of the ongoing reform process and the need to review the establishment of new institutions;

(ii) deletion of references to the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC), which remained under consideration; (iii) inclusion of a paragraph addressing digital health projects, water, and environmental issues; and (iv) inclusion of a paragraph on a Performance Monitoring Framework. He noted that these proposals had previously been communicated to the Secretariat and expressed hope that the revised proposals would receive the support of other Member States.

7. In response, the **Chairman** welcomed Türkiye's flexibility and stressed that further amendments could trigger additional consultations with national authorities across Member States, potentially delaying the process. He therefore proposed that the outstanding proposals be considered at the Preparatory Committee meeting scheduled for October 26, 2026, with a view to provisionally finalizing the document, followed by a subsequent CPR meeting to endorse it for submission to the Council of Ministers.

8. The **Permanent Representative of Iran, H.E. Mr. Alireza Toutounchian** recalled the previous discussions concerning the inclusion of an executive summary and an implementation component in the document. The **Secretariat** clarified that the implementation plan would be developed after adoption and that an executive summary could likewise be prepared once the text had been finalized.

9. The **Council** agreed to reconcile Türkiye's proposals with the objective of preserving the text previously finalized by the Preparatory Committee and ensuring timely adoption of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Vision - 2035. The **Chairman** proposed that the outstanding issues be considered at the Preparatory Committee meeting on October 26, 2026, followed by CPR consideration and endorsement for submission to the 30th Council of Ministers Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit 2026

- **30th Council of Ministers Meeting**

10. The **Chair** requested the delegation of the **Islamic Republic of Pakistan** to brief the Council on the status of preparations for the 30th Council of Minister (COM) Meeting scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, 2026.

11. The **Chair of PrepCom/Representative of Pakistan Mr. Kashif Ali** briefed the Council on preparations for the 30th COM Meeting and the SOM, informing those invitations, the tentative programme, hospitality details, and an information note on venues and accommodation had already been shared with the Secretariat. As regards confirmations, so far, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan conveyed the confirmations of their participation, while other Member States were encouraged to expedite the process. He mentioned that the invitations have also been extended to relevant regional and international organizations, ECO observers, and ECO specialized and subsidiary institutions. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD), Ambassador Silapberdi Nurberdiyev** added that the Eighth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee had considered the draft agendas and annotated draft agendas for the SOM and the 30th COM Meeting.

12. Regarding the Draft Islamabad Communiqué, the **Chair of PrepCom** informed the Council that most paragraphs had been agreed upon, while a few remained outstanding, including one concerning the geopolitical situation in the region. A further meeting of the Preparatory Committee was scheduled for October 26, 2026, to address the outstanding issues.

13. The **Chair** suggested that the Preparatory Committee consider language used in previous meetings of the Council of Ministers to facilitate consensus on the Draft Islamabad Communiqué and invited further guidance from Member States. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** highlighted that Azerbaijan intended to share certain amendments to the Draft Islamabad Communique which will be shared in the 9th PrepCom Meeting scheduled on the October 26, 2026.

14. The Representative of **Kazakhstan, Mr. Kazbek Bokebayev** informed the Council that the agenda of the upcoming Council of Ministers circulated by the Secretariat was under consideration in Astana, indicating that an additional item might be proposed by Kazakhstan for inclusion in the COM's agenda.

15. The **Chair** urged the Member States to expedite the finalization of the Draft Islamabad Communique in and suggested that the necessary amendments to the Agenda of COM may also be shared with the Secretariat in a timely manner. He emphasized that timely finalization of the draft documents would facilitate smooth holding of the event.

16. The **ECO Secretariat** informed the Council about the request made by ECO Clean Energy Center for participation in the upcoming COM Meeting in Islamabad, which has been conveyed to the host authorities.

- ***Preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, 2026***

17. The **Chair** requested the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to brief the Council on the status of preparations for the 18th ECO Summit and the matter concerning the participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the Summit.

18. The **Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Behzad Azarsa** briefed the Council on preparations for the 18th ECO Summit, scheduled for December 3–4, 2026. He informed that the internal coordination process was underway and that the information note and programme were being finalized. Invitations had been extended to all Member States, while confirmations regarding the level of participation were awaited. He further noted that a retreat for Heads of State and Government would be scheduled according to their arrival arrangements, either on December 3 or 4, 2026. Regarding Türkiye's request for the participation of the Turkish Cypriot State in the Summit, the representative of Iran stated that Iran had no objection with the invitation in accordance with the agreed modality.

19. The **Chair** encouraged all Member States to confirm their participation in the forthcoming COM Meeting and ECO Summit at the earliest opportunity to facilitate the host countries' preparatory arrangements.

Agenda Item No. 5
Adoption of the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors"

20. The **Chair** recalled that the Concept Note for the "Honorary ECO Tourism Ambassadors" had been deferred at the 310th CPR Meeting pending receipt of Iran's comments. The Representative of **Iran** expressed readiness to support the initiative.

21. The Permanent Representative of **Türkiye** informed the Council that the proposed initiative remained under consideration by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and that a final response was awaited. The **ECO Secretary General** agreed to wait for Türkiye's concurrence and assured Member States that the nomination process would be conducted transparently and in close consultation with them. He encouraged Member States to finalize the matter to enable the process to proceed.

22. In light of Türkiye's request for additional time to examine the proposal, the **Council** deferred the matter for consideration by its next Session.

Agenda Item No. 6
Launching of the joint ECO-UNIDO regional project on strategic foresight for circular economy transition in the ECO region

23. The **Chair** recalled that the proposal for the joint ECO–UNIDO regional project was considered following the decision of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment, held in Samarkand on June 3, 2026. He further recalled that the 308th CPR Meeting had tasked the Secretariat with circulating the proposal to Member States for their consideration and consultations. The Chair invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on progress towards finalization of the proposal.

24. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR), Mr. Çağatay Emrah Ongut,** informed that the proposed project was developed under the Regional Initiative on Resource Efficiency, Sustainability and Circular Economy (RESCUE), launched during COP29 in Baku in November 2024. He highlighted that the proposal was considered by relevant ECO sectoral meetings, including the 36th Regional Planning Council (RPC) and the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment. He further informed that UNIDO had submitted the draft project document, entitled "Circular Economy in the Economic Cooperation Organization Region: A Multi-Country Foresight Study for a Just Transition to a Resource-Efficient and Circular Economy," which was circulated on October 6, 2026. He emphasized that the project aimed to assess regional readiness for circular economy transition, identify priority intervention areas and provide a foundation for future policy roadmaps. He sought the Council's endorsement for launching the project and allocating USD 50,000 from the ECO Feasibility Fund.

25. The Representative of **UNIDO, Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya**, presented the project's objectives, methodology and expected outcomes. She explained that the initiative aimed to strengthen the capacities of ECO Member States to formulate and implement policies supporting a just and resource-efficient circular economy transition. She highlighted that the project would include regional needs assessments, institutional capacity-building, stakeholder networking, identification of transition pathways and development of policy recommendations and investment opportunities. She also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and cross-border value chains in promoting circular economy practices.

26. The Representative of **Iran** appreciated the presentation and sought clarification on whether similar foresight initiatives were implemented in other regions and the lessons learned from those experiences.

27. The **UNIDO Representative**, in response, elaborated on UNIDO's experience in applying strategic foresight methodologies in various countries, including Ukraine, and referred to relevant experiences in Finland and ongoing initiatives in Armenia and Moldova. She highlighted that the methodology had contributed to the development of national circular economy strategies, sector-specific roadmaps and practical recommendations for industries and policymakers. She further underscored the relevance of cross-border cooperation in applying the approach within the ECO region.

28. The **Chair** observed that several ECO Member States were already implementing circular economy initiatives under their national development strategies. He sought clarification on whether Member States' existing activities had been considered in developing the proposal and requested information regarding UNIDO's anticipated financial contribution.

29. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admn, EME & IR)** clarified that the project would commence with a stocktaking exercise covering existing circular economy initiatives across Member States. He informed that Member States had expressed interest in the project during relevant ECO meetings. Regarding financing, he indicated that the estimated project cost was approximately USD 600,000, of which USD 50,000 was expected from ECO, while the remaining resources would be mobilized by UNIDO through potential donors.

30. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** informed the Council that Kazakhstan would further examine the project documents circulated on October 6, 2026 and communicate its position subsequently. He indicated that Kazakhstan was not yet in a position to support or oppose the proposal.

31. In light of Kazakhstan's request for additional time to examine the proposal, the **Council** deferred the matter for consideration by its next Session.

Agenda Item No. 7
Consideration of Afghanistan’s participation in ECO activities

32. The **Chair** recalled the discussions held during the 309th CPR Meeting concerning Afghanistan’s participation in ECO activities, particularly the outstanding issues relating to its official title and flag. He emphasized the importance of continuing the gradual and step-by-step approach, taking into account bilateral consultations and Afghanistan’s representation in international organizations, and invited the Secretariat to brief the Council on recent developments.

33. The **ECO Secretary General** informed the Council that Afghanistan had participated in the recent ECO Transport Ministerial Meeting in Astana without displaying its official title or flag, in accordance with the established practice. He clarified that decisions concerning Afghanistan’s participation in ministerial meetings remained at the discretion of the respective host governments, in consultation with the Afghan side.

34. The **ECO Deputy Secretary General (Tourism, JPC and EAPA), Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash**, recalled the Council's previous deliberations and informed that no significant progress had been achieved over the preceding two months concerning the outstanding protocol issues. He reiterated that Member States independently determined whether to invite Afghan delegations to ECO events hosted on their territories, while the Secretariat continued its engagement with Afghanistan in line with the Council's guidance.

35. The Representative of **Iran** noted the gradual increase in Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities, including summit and ministerial meetings, while observing that the issues concerning its official title and flag remained unresolved. He sought clarification regarding Afghanistan's possible participation in CPR meetings and the Secretariat's engagement with the Afghan side in this regard.

36. The **ECO Secretary General** informed that the Secretariat had maintained communication with the Afghan side, which had expressed its willingness to participate in CPR meetings and host ECO events, including a future Summit, subject to acceptance of its preferred official title and flag. He emphasized that any decision regarding Afghanistan's participation in CPR meetings under these conditions rested with the Council, while invitations to other ECO events remained at the discretion of host governments.

37. The Permanent Representative of **Türkiye** reaffirmed Türkiye's unchanged position concerning Afghanistan's official title and flag, while expressing no objection in principle to its participation in CPR meetings. He emphasized the importance of maintaining engagement with Afghanistan under the established practice and informed that Türkiye intended to invite Afghanistan to the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy, scheduled for December in Istanbul, without displaying its official title or flag.

38. The **Chair** noted the broad agreement among Member States to maintain the prevailing practice concerning Afghanistan's participation in ECO activities. He concluded that the existing arrangements would continue, allowing host governments to determine Afghanistan's participation in meetings held on their territories, while maintaining the established practice regarding its official title and flag.

Agenda Item No. 8
Follow-up to the the Fourth Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) Working Group and its decisions

39. The **Chair** recalled that the 310th CPR Meeting had considered the outcome of the third meeting of the High-Level Committee Working Group, held on September 2, 2026, during which Kazakhstan had indicated that the revised concrete proposals remained under consideration by its capital. He invited the Secretariat to update the Council on progress made towards their finalization.

40. The **DSG (Admin, EME, IR)** informed the Council that consensus had been reached among Member States on the concrete proposals concerning the first three chapters of the HLC recommendations, except for Kazakhstan, whose concurrence remained pending. He further informed that the Secretariat had prepared draft proposals for the remaining chapters but had not yet circulated them, pending

Kazakhstan's response. He emphasized the importance of expediting the process to enable consideration of the remaining chapters and their eventual submission to the forthcoming Council of Ministers (COM) meeting for final approval.

41. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** informed the Council that the relevant authorities in Astana were requested to expedite their response; however, no formal communication had yet been received.

42. The **Chair** emphasized the urgency of securing Kazakhstan's concurrence ahead of the forthcoming COM meeting in Islamabad. He urged Kazakhstan to expedite consultations with its capital to facilitate the finalization of the proposals before the meeting, thereby avoiding reopening substantive discussions at the ministerial level.

Agenda Item No. 9
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- **Draft ECO Budget for 2027**

43. The **DSG (ADMN)** recalled that the 310th CPR Meeting had provisionally adopted the draft ECO Budget for 2027 with the concurrence of all Member States except Kazakhstan. He informed that the Secretary General had addressed a letter to the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan on October 11, 2026, explaining the Secretariat's position and seeking concurrence on the revised draft budget. He requested Kazakhstan to expedite its response to facilitate timely finalization of the budget and its submission to the forthcoming Council of Ministers (COM) meeting for approval.

44. The **Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Ontalap Onalbayev** informed that the matter remained under consideration in Astana and that a response to the Secretary General's letter to the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan was still awaited. He assured the Council that Kazakhstan would communicate its position upon receiving instructions from its capital.

45. The Representative of **Iran** highlighted the growing economic challenges arising from evolving regional and global developments, which had placed considerable pressure on national economies and necessitated the adoption of austerity measures across governments and international organizations. He emphasized that ECO, as a regional organization, should continue to align its administrative and financial practices with the prevailing economic realities of Member States, ensuring prudent utilization of resources without compromising operational efficiency. While appreciating the Secretariat's ongoing efforts towards financial discipline, he stressed that austerity measures should be reflected more visibly in the Organization's day-to-day operations, particularly in staffing arrangements, official travel and the composition of delegations. He commended the Secretary General and his team for revitalizing ECO's activities, strengthening coordination among Member States and facilitating the resumption of sectoral ministerial meetings after prolonged intervals. He underscored that the positive momentum achieved in regional cooperation should be sustained through a careful balance between financial restraint, institutional efficiency and effective implementation of ECO's programmes. Referring to practices followed by national foreign ministries, he further suggested reviewing the necessity of accompanying senior officials on overseas missions and sought clarification regarding existing ECO protocols and guidelines governing official travel and participation in meetings.

46. The **ECO Secretary General** assured the Council that the Secretariat had been exercising utmost austerity and financial discipline in its administrative and operational activities, emphasizing that considerable efforts had been made to control expenditures and make the best use of available resources. He referred to various cost-saving measures, including restrictions on official travel and efforts to contain personnel-related expenses. He also highlighted his personal commitment to austerity, including avoiding business-class travel, and acknowledged the increasing costs and difficulties associated with official missions. He noted that these measures had required considerable adjustments within the Secretariat but remained necessary in view of the financial constraints faced by Member States. He further emphasized that, despite significant inflationary pressures in Tehran and globally, the proposed ECO Budget for 2027 reflected only a fractional percentage increase, demonstrating the Secretariat's efforts to keep expenditures to a minimum while maintaining operational efficiency. Reaffirming his commitment to continued austerity and prudent financial management, he drew attention to the Organization's liquidity situation and stressed the importance of regular and timely payment of Member States' contributions. He urged Member States with pending contributions to expedite their national procedures, particularly in view of the increasing difficulties associated with international financial transfers, to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted functioning of the Organization.

47. The **Deputy Secretary (Admn, EME, IR)** clarified that the draft budget had been prepared with utmost care, reflecting the minimum operational requirements of the Organization. Referring to the Compendium of ECO Rules and Guidelines circulated to Member States, he informed that the principles governing the attendance of Secretariat officials at meetings and events were outlined therein, including provisions aimed at ensuring financial discipline and austerity.

48. The **Chair** appreciated the observations of the Iranian delegation and the comprehensive clarifications provided by the Secretary General and DSG (ADMN) regarding the Secretariat's financial management, austerity measures and official travel regulations. He acknowledged the Secretary General's personal commitment to fiscal discipline and prudent utilization of organizational resources, emphasizing the importance of sustaining these practices. In the absence of further comments, the Chair concluded the discussion, while Kazakhstan's concurrence on the draft ECO Budget for 2027 remained pending.

- **Audit Team**

49. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admin, EME, IR)** informed the Council that the audits of the accounts of the ECO Cultural Institute and ECO Secretariat for the financial year 2026, scheduled for October 18–20, 2026, respectively, could not be conducted due to the inability of the nominated Pakistani auditors to travel to Tehran following flight cancellations. Consequently, the audits had to be postponed owing to the lack of the requisite quorum of the Audit Board. In order to ensure efficient utilization of resources and avoid separate audit exercises, he proposed that the audits for the financial years 2025 and 2026 be conducted jointly in 2027 and sought the Council's concurrence.

50. The **Chair** observed that flights between Iran and Pakistan were operational, although services of one airline was cancelled, and noted that alternative travel

arrangements could have been explored. He further indicated that the proposed joint audit could be conducted during the first quarter of 2027.

51. The Representative of **Iran** welcomed the proposal to conduct the audits for two financial years jointly, recalling that a similar arrangement had been followed for the financial years 2023 and 2024. He conveyed the concerns of the Iranian auditors regarding the insufficient time allocated for the audit exercises and suggested that at least two days be allocated for the ECO Cultural Institute and two to three days for the ECO Secretariat to ensure a thorough examination of the accounts.

52. The **Deputy Secretary General (Admin, EME, IR)** acknowledged the concerns raised and assured the Council that the Secretariat would take them into consideration while making arrangements for the forthcoming audits.

53. The Representative of **Kazakhstan** supported the proposal to allocate additional time for the audit exercises, emphasizing that the previously allotted duration was insufficient for conducting comprehensive audits.

54. The **Council** approved the proposal to conduct the audits of the accounts of the ECO Secretariat and ECO Cultural Institute for the financial years 2025 and 2026 jointly in 2027, taking into account the need to allocate sufficient time for the audit exercises.

- **ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard**

55. The **DSG (ADMN)** recalled that the 310th CPR Meeting had endorsed the establishment of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard, an initiative proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, with the understanding that the platform would be owned and managed by the ECO Secretariat. He informed the Council that, following further consultations with the Kazakh authorities and a review of the Secretariat's relevant internal procedures, the Secretariat proposed to implement the initiative through two separate small-scale projects at a total estimated cost of USD 18,000, which had already been endorsed by the Council at its previous meeting. He elaborated that the proposed financial arrangements comprised an allocation of USD 10,000 under the first project, to be financed from the Feasibility and General-Purpose Fund of the 2026 Budget, and an allocation of USD 8,000 under the second project, to be financed from the 2026 ECO Budget, with payment scheduled for 2027. He clarified that payments under both projects would be subject to the completion of the requisite contractual formalities. He sought the Council's concurrence with the proposed financial arrangements and sources of funding to facilitate the timely implementation and operationalization of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard.

56. The **Council** considered and endorsed the financial arrangements and sources of funding proposed by the Secretariat for the implementation of the ECO Statistics Interactive Dashboard.

Agenda Item No. 10
Any other business

57. The Permanent Representative of **Türkiye**, informed the Council that the invitation letters for the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy, scheduled to be held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on December 9–10, 2026, had been received and would be forwarded

to the ECO Secretariat for necessary action. He further informed the Council that, in line with established practice and in its capacity as the host country, Türkiye intended to extend invitations to Afghanistan and the Turkish Cypriot State to participate in the aforementioned Ministerial Meeting.

58. The **ECO Secretary General** clarified that the participation of the Turkish Cypriot State in the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy would require a formal proposal from Türkiye, followed by the necessary procedural formalities. He also urged Member States to confirm their participation in the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meeting of Interior Ministers in Islamabad, noting that the required quorum had been secured and the draft Declaration and Agenda circulated.

59. The Permanent Representative of **Türkiye** stated that a Note Verbale regarding the proposed invitation to the Turkish Cypriot State would be submitted the same day and suggested a seven-day silence procedure to seek Member States' concurrence.

60. The Representative of **Iran** expressed appreciation to Türkiye and emphasized the need to follow the established modality regarding the participation of the Turkish Cypriot State, while noting that the invitation to Afghanistan fell within the prerogative of the host country. He also supported the proposed seven-day silence procedure.

61. The **Council** endorsed the proposal to proceed with the established modality and the seven-day silence procedure, in the absence of any objections.

62. The **Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD)** informed the Council that an invitation was received on October 16, 2026 from the Minister of Railway Transport of Turkmenistan for the Secretary General to attend the 5th International Forum and Exhibition on "International Transport and Transit Corridors: Connectivity and Development 2026," scheduled to be held in Ashgabat on November 24–26, 2026. In view of the event's relevance to ECO priorities and Turkmenistan's hosting of the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, he sought the Council's concurrence for the participation of the **Director for Transport and Communications**, with related expenses to be covered by the Secretariat.

63. The **Council** endorsed the participation of the Director for Transport and Communications in the aforementioned event.

Agenda Item No. 10
Date of the next CPR Meeting

64. The Council decided to hold its next (**312th**) Meeting on **November 10, 2026** at 10:00 a.m. at the ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 3
Consideration of Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1325

Priority: Most Urgent
Date: 3/11/2026
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 honor to enclose Report of the 10th PrepCom Meeting, held on October 26, 2026, together with the **finalized version of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035**, and the **updated Draft Islamabad Communiqué** in track-changes format. The updated **Draft Agendas of 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM),** preceded by **Senior Officials Meeting (SoM)** to be held on November 15-16, 2026 are also enclosed.

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

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Report of the Tenth PrepCom Meeting
November 3, 2026
ECO Secretariat – Tehran

The Tenth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was held on November 3, 2026, under the chairmanship of the representative of Pakistan and coordinated by the ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD). The meeting was attended by representatives of the ECO Member States including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat.

2. The Meeting considered the Draft Islamabad Communiqué concerning the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, 2026, with particular emphasis on new paragraphs proposed by certain Member States and on the paragraphs that remained unsettled from previous PrepCom Meetings.

3. Following deliberations, the Committee reached mutual consensus on most of the paragraphs. It was agreed that further discussions on the remaining text would continue at the next PrepCom Meeting.

4. The Meeting also considered the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, with particular emphasis on some fresh proposals/editorial changes conveyed by Member States. Following discussions, the Committee agreed to finalize the draft document by incorporating the amendments and changes proposed by Member States.

5. The Secretariat was tasked to prepare and circulate the updated versions of the documents in track-change format among Member States for their further consideration, together with the updated agendas of SoM and COM. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a concise paragraph on the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB), consolidating the relevant information contained in the existing paragraphs concerning the Bank.

6. The Committee agreed to convene its next (11th) Meeting on November 8, 2026, following the 312th CPR Meeting, at the ECO Secretariat.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

FINAL VERSION
(Agreed by 9th PrepCom)

DRAFT

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE

ECONOMIC COOPERATION – 2035

ECO VISION 2025

BRIEF BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION – 2035

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CORE PILLARS

Strengthening Regional Integration

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

Advancing Sustainability

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

Fostering Innovation and Inclusive Growth

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

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SECTORAL APPROACH

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

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



Trade & Investment (TI)



Transport & Communications (TC)



Energy, Minerals & Environment (EME)



Agriculture & Industry (AI)



Tourism



Human Resources &
Sustainable Development (HRSD)



Economic Research & Statistics
Operating Tool



Judicial & Parliamentary Coordination (JPC)
Operating Tool



International Relations (IR)
Operating Tool

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- To ensure sustainable growth in intra-regional trade through an efficient and operational preferential trading system, including its progressive modernization among Member States, with the aim of promoting regional trade, increasing ECO's share in global trade, attracting greater investment to the region to unlock its trade and investment potential, and diversifying the exports of Member States.

- To enhance investment cooperation among member states and achieve national, regional as well as sustainable development goals by attracting investment in priority sectors under APPI and IPAs collaboration.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Enhanced intra-regional trade through:

  - Paying special attention to simplifying trade in goods and services by identifying and reducing technical and non-tariff barriers to trade. Building on the modernization of the ECOTA, promote the gradual development of an efficient, inclusive and operational preferential trading framework with broader participation of all ECO Member States, while encouraging accession to the revised ECOTA upon its finalization.

  - Strengthen regional economic cooperation within the ECO framework, in accordance with the goals of ECO Vision. Discussions should be initiated to identify practical arrangements that will enhance mutual trade and economic ties. Member States and the Secretariat need to prepare the required groundwork at national and regional levels.

  - Strengthen the role of ECO Trade Development Bank by expanding the Bank's memberships and increasing its capital to support the Bank's operation including bolster project funding in trade sector. Broaden its correspondent banking relationships through open accounts with other banks and explore financing options in multiple currencies. Furthermore, deepen collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to amplify financing the priority projects in priority areas with active role of ECO TDB.

  - Improve trade facilitation in the region by implementing ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) with a view to imbibe greater transparency, predictability and uniformity in cross border trade by:

    a. Identifying and reducing unnecessary technical barriers to trade.

    b. Reducing unnecessary non-tariff barriers through simplification and digitalization of trade procedures and enhancing cooperation among Member States.

    c. Strengthening cooperation in practical digital solutions, artificial intelligence and use of digital technologies, and e-commerce.

    d. Finalize ongoing negotiations on ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement**.**

  - Adopt a Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy with an aim to:

    a. Harmonize investment regulations, simplify administrative procedures, improve the region's business environment by reducing costs, and attracting sustainable investment with appropriate incentives
    b. Promote intra-regional trade with enhanced participation across ECO Member States to develop regional supply chains, contributing to regional value chains and connect with global value chains.

  - Development of regional energy supply chains, including refining and petrochemical industries, should be promoted to enhance value-added opportunities. Member States with

downstream processing capacity may be supported in strengthening linkages with upstream hydrocarbon producers within the ECO region on a mutually beneficial basis, fostering industrial development and economic diversification.

- Implement "ECO Invest Program" drafted by the Republic of Uzbekistan to strengthen cooperation among ECO Member States by improving the investment climate, increasing inflow of mutual foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhancing investment efficiency.

- Adopt 'Regional Quality Policy' and utilize ECO-RISCAM to promote harmonized standards, conformity assessment procedures and best practices in the region for risk free, predictable and cost effective intra-regional trade, taking into account Member States' existing obligations under international and regional standardization and accreditation frameworks

- Implement joint trade promotion activities in the ECO by organizing meaningful trade promotion events in the region, including organization of trade exhibitions, trade fairs and expos, to enhance business engagement through closer ties among the national trade bodies and Export Promotion Agencies to foster cross-border partnerships and joint export promotion activities on digital platforms.

- Ensure participation of business communities of the region through ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as critical in following:

  a. Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
  b. Create unified digital platform of the ECO national chambers in the ECO CCI to establish an online database to provide information on trade *(export and import)* opportunities in the ECO region, and national regulations/mutual recognition of the quality certification, markets' conditions in the region etc, to help traders in the region.

- Given the difficulty in trade related payment systems which hampers movement of goods and services, may focus on trade in national currencies among ECO Member States as a catalyst and accelerator.

- Create an online mentors' network aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs in the member states of the ECO;

- Develop a unified online platform for small and medium-sized business representatives.

Enhanced National & Intra Regional Investment through:

- Facilitate the development of a Comprehensive ECO Investment Platform to facilitate identification of investment opportunities, connect investors and projects, provide up-to-date information on investment regulations in member countries by providing project database, investor profiles, risk assessment tools and market analysis.

- Focusing on priority sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, information and communication technology (ICT), tourism and agriculture.

- Develop human resources and knowledge sharing by joint training programs, scholarships in investment facilitation, management, finance and expert exchanges.

- Strengthening private sector cooperation by encouraging them to identify opportunities, implement project as well as financing them through organizing investment conferences and exhibitions, facilitation of the formation of investment consortiums.

- Cooperation between the IPAs of the member states to promote market investment opportunities, providing integrated services to investors, facilitate the creation of funds that

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

Expected Outcomes

i) Conclusion of re-negotiations to modernize ECOTA followed by its progressive implementation and broader participation of ECO Member States through accession to the revised Agreement.

ii) Implementation of the adopted ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy to improve trade facilitation in the region.

iii) Finalization of negotiations on the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

iv) Effective implementation of ECO agreements on customs i.e. ECO Agreement on Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank, and ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters, encourage wider use of EDI and digital trade.

v) Full operationalization of ECO-RISCAM and adoption of the 'Quality Policy' to streamline conformity assessment and boost trade in industrial and agricultural products.

vi) Signing/ratification of the 'Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment' and implement a 'Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy' by 2035.

vii) Signing and ratification of the adopted 'MoU on Joint Trade Promotion Activities in the ECO' and organize meaningful trade promotion events in the region. The ECO country assuming annual ECO chair, may organize one 'ECO Trade Fair'.

viii) Establishment of a permanent secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.

ix) Operationalization of the ECO Re-Insurance Company for secure trade in the region.

x) Initiation of technical discussions on establishing trade in national currencies among ECO Member States and/or on other payment mechanisms.

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

xii) Enhanced cooperation with tangible results among Member States in the field of investment promotion, attraction and facilitation.

xiii) Strengthening tax cooperation by following up on holding ECOTAX meetings.

xiv) Establishment of ECO Clearing Union.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

ECO cooperation in artificial intelligence should/will promote innovation, productivity and public value, and support the development and use of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems, including through capacity-building, joint research and the sharing of best practices among Member States, while respecting the sovereignty, national legislation, cybersecurity requirements, personal data protection rules, intellectual property rights and national development priorities of Member States.

Strategic Objectives

- Ensure full operationalization and commercialization of the major ECO transport corridors, through infrastructure upgrades and legal frameworks, developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors among the interested Member States, implementing the roadmap of each corridor and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade, and extending ECO corridors beyond ECO region corridors and freight sources. It is essential to streamline customs and transportation-associated procedures.

- Harmonize transport regulations and customs procedures across ECO Member States, through coordinated implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

- Digitalize transport sector, corridors and transit facilities, including border crossing procedures.

- Accelerate the establishment of the ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent, with its mandate, operational scope, and data governance arrangements to be further clarified in line with applicable laws of Member States.

- Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across all ECO Member States by 2030, with special focus on rural and underserved areas.

- Develop and launch a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance, and knowledge-sharing, enabling secure data exchange and fostering digital entrepreneurship across ECO Member States without prejudice to their applicable laws.

- Strengthen cooperation among national IT parks, promote mutual exchange of experiences and best practices, and support IT companies' access to the markets of ECO Member States.

- Encourage experience and mutual knowledge sharing among technology park companies operating in the ICT sector.

- Apply emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Blockchain, Machine learning, Quantum Computing, 5G, Digital Twin

- Establish an AI Cooperation Platform within the ECO framework to promote joint AI projects, technology exchange and regional coordination among Member States in a manner that supports innovation while ensuring risk-based AI governance, cybersecurity, data protection and model security safeguards.

- Expand the ECO regional cooperation in digital skills development and IT education to strengthen human capital, support AI capacity-building, and enhance regional collaboration among Member States.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Ensure the full and active participation of all ECO Member States in the comprehensive implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), with the aim of harmonizing customs and transit regulations, reducing delays and facilitating seamless cross-border movement.

- Prioritize investment in regional corridors, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multilateral funding to upgrade and expand transport infrastructure across corridors.

- Further develop ECO Gates initiative- multimodal logistic hubs, Caspian ports, open seaports and inland dry ports, encourage interoperability in transport systems and equipment, enhance the logistical interconnectivity and align technical standards across Member States to ensure integrated road, rail, sea and air networks for seamless transport.

- Increase the number of container trains on regional rail corridors and further promote the safe, sustainable and high-quality development of rail transport.

- Develop international passenger rail transport and tourism between the Member States mainly between their capital cities and cultural and touristic centers.

- Promote transit, transport and connectivity in line with the third priority of the Awaza Programme for Landlocked Developing Countries (2024–2034), focusing on developing regional transport corridors, enhancing multimodal networks and harmonizing cross-border transit procedures.

- Encourage exchanging best practices, technical guidelines and capacity-building activities on cybersecurity, secure data exchange and personal data protection, in line with national legislations and institutional mandates of Member States.

- Prioritize the corridors connecting the ECO region to China, Persian Gulf and Europe.

- Support the development of strategic railway links, with a view to strengthening the ECO region's access to China and South Asia and enhancing its role as a major transit bridge between Asia and Europe. (Moved from below]

- Prioritized, as part of regional energy diversification and connectivity, the north–south corridors linking Central Asia with South Asia. In this context, development of regional ports and logistics hubs may be supported through enhanced investment facilitation and regional cooperation.

- Establish cooperation among national IT parks and support them through the creation of international IT hubs, fostering collaboration, innovation, and integration within the ECO region.

- Enhance the involvement of youth, women, and the private sector in the transport and ICT sectors throughout the ECO region.

- Promote the exchange of best practices and successful experiences among ECO Member States in the development and application of artificial intelligence technologies, including public sector, education, healthcare and industry use cases.

- Encourage cooperation in the development, adaptation and responsible use of open-source artificial intelligence models, datasets and educational resources, taking into account national priorities and local languages of ECO Member States.

- Expand cooperation in artificial intelligence education and digital skills development through joint training programs, workshops, seminars, expert exchanges and capacity-building initiatives among ECO Member States.

- Strengthen collaboration among universities, research institutions, technology parks and innovation centers through joint research activities, academic exchanges, internships and knowledge-sharing programs in emerging digital technologies.

Expected Outcomes

i) Full operationalization and commercialization of major ECO transport corridors through infrastructure upgrades, completing the missing links and harmonized regulations. Developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors, implementing the roadmap for each corridor and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade extending ECO corridors beyond ECO region corridors and freight sources.

ii) Streamlined And Digitalized Border Procedures Across All member states Under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

iii) Establishment of multimodal logistics hubs (ECO Gates), integrated transport networks (road, rail, sea, air) and reduced cross-border transit time.

iv) Integration of Awaza Programme priorities into ECO transport strategy, leading to improved regional corridors, harmonized transit procedures and strengthened connectivity among Member States.

v) Achieving deep/wide broadband internet penetration across ECO Member States by 2030, with improved digital access in rural areas.

vi) Launching a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance and digital transformation, transport documents, supporting secure data exchange and entrepreneurship.

vii) Enhanced cooperation and exchange of best practices on cybersecurity and data protection standards to secure -electronic data exchange contributing to the development of a more secure and efficient regional digital ecosystem.

viii) Strengthened public-private partnerships and increased investment in smart and prioritized infrastructure, project and ICT-enabled services.

ix) Enhanced regional cooperation in transport, trade, tourism, agriculture, education and health through improved physical and digital connectivity.

x) Development of digital skills among the population and youth, and establishment of regional IT hubs in cooperation with national IT parks.

xi) Greater collaboration in the application of emerging technologies.

xii) Establishment of the single window among the interested Member States for issuing flight permits to facilitate the passage of cargo and passenger flights in the regional airspace, especially on China-Europe routes.

xiii) Establishment regional capacity committees and technical supervision in field of transport and transit, including civil aviation, rail, road and maritime, among the interested Member States.

xiv) Enhanced regional cooperation on safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence through capacity-building, joint research and the sharing of best practices, including through the ECO Science Foundation, with any institutional arrangements to be considered at a later stage on the basis of consensus among Member States.

xv) Creation of a collaborative regional AI ecosystem, expansion of cross-border cooperation, implementation of joint AI initiatives, and responsible and safe use of artificial intelligence technologies, in line with the national legislation of Member States.

xvi) Development of a skilled regional digital workforce, increased mobility and cooperation among young IT professionals and researchers, wider participation of women in the digital economy, and strengthened regional capacity in AI, innovation, and digital transformation.

ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade: ECO will facilitate diversification of energy mix, improving energy connectivity, enabling and upgrading policy and regulatory framework, and strengthening the role of ECO region in global energy architecture.

- Regional energy connectivity shall be advanced through mutually beneficial cross-border projects, to enhance energy security, economic integration, and sustainable development. A consensus-based approach supporting the gradual reintegration of all countries into ECO energy frameworks and infrastructure projects, recognizing its importance for regional stability and cooperation.

- Create Regional Power System Connectivity and Electricity Market: Multilateral and multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources will be established gradually at the sub-regional and regional levels through harmonization and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral electricity grids under the single platform.

- Recognizing the challenges of harmonizing grid codes, regulatory frameworks, and tariff structures among Member States, a phased approach shall be pursued, beginning with bilateral and sub-regional electricity trade and progressively advancing toward a more integrated regional electricity market. Existing cross-border transmission interconnections shall be recognized as foundational elements of the regional power architecture.

- Mainstream Sustainable Energy Transition: ECO will support unlocking the ECO region's renewable energy and energy efficiency potential, market expansion and transformation of

sustainable energy into local energy value chains, and creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments, particularly via the ECO Clean Energy Centre.

- A balanced and just energy transition approach shall be adopted, taking into account the diverse energy endowments and development levels of Member States. Natural gas may be recognized as a transitional fuel in support of energy security, alongside the expansion of renewable and other low-emission energy sources, ensuring that the transition does not compromise energy security, affordability, or economic growth.

- Promotion of production and deployment of high-tech energy equipment: support for local manufacturing and technology transfer in renewable energy and energy efficiency, alongside the development of innovative solutions and joint research projects to strengthen the region's industrial capacity.

- Forge Sustainable Resource Management: ECO will contribute to the sustainable management of mineral resources in the ECO region underpinned by a set of regional actions and a multi-year ECO Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation, to be adopted and implemented.

- Strengthen Environmental Protection and Resilience to tackle climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss: ECO will develop regional regulations to improve resource efficiency promoting circular economy principles and zero-waste approaches, including the reuse of treated wastewater and manage emissions, waste, and other pollutants from various activities, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health. Furthermore, the robust collective attitude that engages the entire region in environmental action on climate, biodiversity, desertification and other relevant areas will be achieved to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships on environment and sustainable development.

- Establish specialized consortiums among Member States to enhance short-term project efficiency, optimize resource utilization, and accelerate implementation timelines by leveraging shared expertise and capacities by 2035.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Sustainable energy transition, particularly policy, capacity development and knowledge management, as well as market and investment promotion in renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure, services, businesses and industry with the strong support of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.

- Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market, most notably multilateral, multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources for harnessing the benefits of larger integrated systems.

- Sustainable resource management with the focus on creating stronger regulatory environment, investing in sustainable mining practices and technologies, and bolstering multi-stakeholder approach and international partnerships, as well as capacity-building and public awareness-raising in minerals.

- Environmental protection and shift to low-carbon development model, including integration and mainstreaming environmental safeguards into national development plans and projects, promotion of a regional cooperation platform that will advocate for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, including through application of zero-waste approaches and implementation of climate action on adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation with enhanced inclusion of businesses, women and youth.

- Promotion of local manufacturing of high-tech energy equipment, including solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries, through joint ventures, technology transfer, and harmonized standards across the region shall be supported.

- Ensuring regional supply chain security for the critical minerals required to manufacture solar panel, wind turbine, battery, and smart meter manufacturing.

- Adopting water-saving technologies in energy and mining sectors for environmental protection with regard to the region's sustainability strategy.

- Supporting the security of supply for critical minerals by developing sustainable and integrated recycling systems capable of recovering critical minerals—such as lithium, cobalt, and silicon—from end-of-life solar panels and batteries, with the aim of effectively utilizing waste generated when technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, and battery systems reach the end of their commercial lifespan.

- Establish a dedicated environmental fund within the Organization to support advanced innovations in air purification.

- Formation and promotion of consortiums among ECO member countries to pool technical, financial, and human resources, thereby boosting the efficiency and timely completion of regional agricultural and industrial projects.

- Promote the formulation, alignment, and implementation of the cross-border "GREEN PROGRAM" of the ECO Member States for 2026–2030, designed to advance afforestation in desert areas and mitigate the risks of natural disasters, strengthening regional cooperation and joint operational capacity for combating forest fires and land degradation

- Enhance regional climate resilience by establishing an ECO Early Warning Systems to safeguard agricultural productivity, water security, and forestry ecosystems against extreme weather events.

Expected Outcomes

i) Expansion of local production and deployment of advanced energy equipment, stimulating regional industrial cooperation, job creation, and innovation uptake.

ii) Enhanced regional energy security and sustainability through expanded access, diversified energy mix, improved connectivity and strengthened policies aligned with global energy trends.

iii) Established integrated regional power system and electricity market, enabling multilateral and multidirectional power trading and better integration of renewable energy resources.

iv) More diverse and resilient energy architecture will be supported through accelerated sustainable energy transition by unlocking regional renewables potential, expanding markets, transforming local value chains and attracting investments via dedicated ECO clean energy initiatives, including ECO Clean Energy Center.

v) Improved sustainable mineral resource management guided by a multi-year regional cooperation roadmap, fostering responsible mining practices and technology upgrading.

vi) Strengthened environmental protection and resilience, targeting resource efficiency, emission and pollution control, ecosystem preservation and coordinated climate change, biodiversity and desertification actions.

vii) Developed robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and tailored action plans aligned with the strategic objectives through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government, private sector and communities.

viii) Mobilized sustainable financing and public private partnerships to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.

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

x) Integrated ECO strategies with relevant internationally agreed sustainable development and climate agendas and established monitoring systems for transparent progress tracking.

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

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

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

xiv) Enhanced project efficiency and expedited delivery through the establishment of cross-border consortiums, fostering stronger cooperation and resource-sharing among Member States.

xv) Increased efficiency in establishing protective desert forests, expanded green zones in vulnerable border areas, and advanced professional qualifications for regional experts, achieved through the institutionalization of cross-border coordination mechanisms, joint innovative research, and structured multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange across the ECO Member States.

AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance policy development and implementation capacity of Member States in the agriculture and industry sectors for driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and productivity by 2035.
- Foster cooperation through operationalized intra-regional platforms and strategic partnerships with other international and regional organizations, maximizing collective action to drive sectoral development and address shared challenges by 2035.
- Strengthen regional food security and agricultural resilience through regional food security initiatives, seed supply, animal health, sustainable and efficient water utilization, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology capacities by 2035.
- Advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development across priority sectors of common interest by promoting quality infrastructure, nanotechnology utilization, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement by 2035.
- Establish and develop regional agricultural supply chains among Member states.
- Enhance Research and Development (R&D) capacity in agriculture by strengthening the research and development infrastructure sector to foster innovation and improve sustainable agriculture technology by 2035. This will involve promoting collaboration among agricultural universities, research institutions, and rural industries to develop new and sustainable practices that enhance productivity, food security, and resilience in rural communities.
- To promote regional research cooperation in priority domains such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, the circular economy, green technologies, and smart cities through the establishment of joint centers of excellence, coordinated by the ECO Science Foundation on a voluntary basis, subject to consensus among Member States and within existing resources.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

- Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:

    - Strengthening collaboration among relevant institutions
    - Promoting innovation in sustainable agriculture practices
    - Enhancing access to research outputs
    - Encouraging sustainable practice through appropriate funding and incentives.
    - Establishing 5 joint regional research centers by 2030 on a voluntary basis, subject to consensus among Member States and within existing resources.
    - Forming a regional university network with a minimum of 20 member universities by 2032.
    - Expanding scholarship and research fellowship programs in emerging technologies.

Expected Outcomes

i) Strengthened policy development and implementation capacities across Member States to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture and industry by 2035.

ii) Enhanced regional cooperation through operational platforms and strategic partnerships, maximizing collective action on shared sectoral challenges for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.

iii) Improved regional food security, enhanced agricultural productivity, and strengthened agricultural resilience to climate-related challenges through better seed supply, animal health, sustainable water utilization, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology use, along with the application of agri-technologies.

iv) Advanced, inclusive, and sustainable industrial development focusing on quality infrastructure, digital and advanced technologies such as nanotechnology, intellectual property, MSMEs, entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement.

v) Established and harmonized regional standards and quality infrastructure supporting efficient trade and innovation.

vi) Increased financial sustainability through the ECO Vision Fund and strengthened partnerships with multilateral donors and UN agencies for technical and financial support.

vii) Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensuring transparency, measurable progress, and alignment with Member States' priorities.

viii) Greater engagement and empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and industry, fostering entrepreneurial capability, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic transformation.

ix) Improved coordination, communication, and accountability mechanisms among Member States and ECO bodies for effective implementation and timely decision-making.

Five regional research centers operational by 2030 in accordance with the modalities agreed by Member States.

x) A 20% improvement in the ECO region's Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking by 2035.

TOURISM

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance the tourism competitiveness of the region through efficient and effective guidance of the ECO-ACT in formulating and implementing relevant actions such as adopting common quality standards and enhancing visitor experiences. Encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders within through ETON and ECO-TEN.

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

- Promote sustainable tourism practices with a primary focus on adopting eco-friendly policies where special emphasis will be placed on climate change adaptation, environmental conservation and regulation of activities in ecologically sensitive areas, diversifying tourism offerings in niche areas such as health tourism, gastronomy tourism, nature tourism, business tourism and winter tourism as well as operational sustainability models.

- Strengthen tourism infrastructure encouraging investments in transportation, hospitality, digital infrastructure, and tourism services. The expansion of current efforts on standardization to all relevant aspects of modernizing travel and tourism facilities. By 2035, the ECO Member States will work towards aligning regional infrastructure with international hospitality and transport standards.

- Enhance connectivity for tourism facilitating seamless travel experiences through integrated travel routes taking Silk Road and several regional concepts, easier visa procedures and collaborative tourism packages under ETON. To this end, direct flight routes in collaboration with aviation sector will be expanded and border procedures for passenger transport will be simplified.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

- Human Resource Development: Establishing training programs (workshops, seminars and training courses) for tourism professionals in collaboration with the members of the ECO Tourism Educational Network.

- Private Sector Involvement: Supporting to creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.

- Innovative and Digital Transformation: Contributing to the national efforts for digitizing tourism industry with advanced digital tools such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence to enhance the tourism experience, including digital marketing, upskilling the tourism workforce with digital transformation.

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

Expected Outcomes

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

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

  ii) Increase in tourism's GDP contribution to 5% by 2035.

  iii) Improved regional tourism infrastructure, achieving an average TTDI score increase from 3.76 (2024) to 4.25 by 2035.

- Completion of the actions below for abovementioned strategic objectives including:

  i) Unified regional tourism marketing strategy implemented across all Member States, including joint participation in international tourism fairs and exhibitions.

  ii) Improved cross-border travel through simplified visa processes, expanded direct flight routes and integrated digital travel systems.

  iii) Adoption of sustainable tourism practices and eco-friendly policies, with specific focus on climate resilience and ecological protection

  iv) Greater private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.

  v) Enhanced use of modern and digital technologies in tourism promotion and delivery.

  vi) Increased capacity and skills in tourism through training programs and workshops.

  vii) Empowerment of women, youth and communities in tourism development, development ensuring further benefits for underrepresented groups from tourism revenues.

  viii) Active engagement of stakeholders, including local communities and civil society

  ix) Operationalization of ECO-ACT for regional tourism coordination and monitoring

  x) Stronger partnerships with international organizations (e.g., UN Tourism, UNESCO, OIC)

  xi) Diversified tourism financing, including reactivation of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund

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

HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

- Promote employment opportunities, including through dialogue between competent authorities, public employment services and other relevant institutions, exchange best practices and information about labour market needs, skills, legislation and labour migration procedures.

- Mainstream a family-centered perspective across all social development policies, with priority given to initiatives that strengthen the family unit as a foundational social institution create a social environment that enables people to establish and sustain families in accordance with their aspirations and values and promote policies and programmes that support family well-being, demographic sustainability and the preservation and sustainable strengthening of the population structure.

- Prioritize population-related issues by endorsing human capital as a driver of social advancement rather than conceptualizing it as a burden.

- Tackle irregular migration, transnational organized crime, including human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality, strengthen family institution and promote conditions conducive for strong population structure by adopting inclusive social protection and environmental policies to improve living standards and overall well-being.

- Advance transformative urban development across the ECO region by fostering sustainability, innovation and resilience, and by levering the unique opportunity presented by the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku in 2026 – the first global forum of this kind to take place in the region.

- Establish a regional disaster risk reduction system to minimize disaster-related losses in lives and assets through integrated preparedness and response mechanisms.

- Establish a specialized working group within the ECO focused on the development of science and innovation.

- Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, entrepreneurial capability and participation in development, entrepreneurship, STEM-related fields, and climate action to promote inclusive and resilient communities, through accessible financing mechanisms and transformative education, while sustaining Youth and Women's Forums launched at the ECO Summit 2025 in Khankendi, as key platforms for engagement and collaboration across the ECO region.

- Strengthen regional health cooperation by addressing non-communicable diseases and advancing equitable, inclusive universal health coverage systems.

- Sharing good practices of member states on culture-centered recovery, uniting physical reconstruction, social and cultural revitalization, and legal and institutional frameworks in conflict-affected and post-crisis settings.

- Advance regional education and skills development by establishing frameworks for higher education, vocational training, and capacity-building, with a focus on youth and women's empowerment, as well as inclusive education systems that ensure access, participation and achievement for all learners.

- To design and implement a "Comprehensive Professional Development Program for Teachers' Use of Technology" across the ECO region, aimed at enhancing the digital pedagogical competencies of educators to ensure effective technology integration in teaching and learning.

- Develop disaggregated data systems, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking, targeted interventions, and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.

- Develop disaggregated data systems, that are in conformity with data protection principles and, in particular, safeguards aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.

- Establish regional training programs on inclusive education practices for teachers and educational administrators, focusing on curriculum adaptation, classroom support strategies, individualized education planning, and collaborative teaching.

- Enhance sustainable development policies for the integrated management of water resources by the ECO member states to ensure efficient utilization by 2035.

- Accelerate Digital Transformation: To transform digitally education and research by launching inclusive regional platforms that prioritize underserved and less-developed areas, under the guidance of the ECO Educational Institute. To Encourage Member States to initiate joint efforts towards the development of a regional digital cultural heritage platform, including integrated museum and information systems, drawing on best practices such as Türkiye's National Museum Information System (MUES), to support sustainable tourism, digital promotion, and coordinated cultural heritage management.

- Strengthen Cultural Diplomacy: To reinforce cultural diplomacy and civilizational dialogue by leveraging the region's shared historical and cultural heritage, particularly along historic routes such as the Silk Road in close coordination with the ECO Cultural Institute with participation of member states.

- Enhance Inter-School Collaboration in Primary and Secondary Education: To cultivate a foundation of regional solidarity and shared civilizational consciousness by facilitating various partnerships, student exchange programs, and joint extracurricular projects centered on the region's common heritage.

- Empower Youth and Women: To empower youth and women as primary drivers of sustainable development through scholarships, academic exchange programs, and green/climate education initiatives, in a collaborative effort among the three ECO institutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- **Sustainable Development**

  - Ensure including a framework for mobilizing financial resources and operationalizing bankable projects.

  - Develop a regional action plan for sustainable development goals-aligned policy coherence and adopt voluntary monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable development goals, human capital and inclusive development performance, taking into account, the different national circumstances, priorities, and capacities of ECO Member States.

  - Institutionalize the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development to share experiences and challenges.

  - Address irregular migration, transnational organized crime, including human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality and declining fertility rates, and demographic trends and their socioeconomic implications in accordance with national priorities

    Strengthening the family institution and promoting population growth by maintaining the fertility rate above the population replacement level.
  - Promote sustainable development policies for the integrated management of water resources between the relevant ECO Member States to ensure long-term resource preservation.

  - Promote the empowerment of youth and women for inclusive development by establishing regional platforms to support sustained engagement, communication, and leadership (networking), and by providing financing for youth and women-led projects.

  - Strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations on sustainable development goals practices.

  - Establish a dedicated platform within the framework of sustainable cities to promote collaboration, knowledge exchange, and integrated urban development across the ECO Region.

  - Formulate ECO Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework - a benchmark mechanism, supported by Pakistan, to encourage data-driven reforms and transparent showcased via an ECO Dashboard.

  - Establish an ECO Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator Labs which designs cross-border solutions to common regional challenge

  - Establish an ECO Collaboration Taskforce, coordinated through the ECO Framework, with the participation of interested member states to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practice in sustainable development goals' implementation.

- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

  - Revise the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and its five-year roadmap and monitor its implementation.

  - Incorporate actions on youth, women, researchers and private sector engagement in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through technological innovation into ECORFDRR.

- Leverage AI and emerging technologies, and enhance coordination among existing ECO institutions and mechanisms working on climate resilience and DRR to champion regional initiatives and advocacy.

- Enhance the capacity and operational effectiveness of the ECO-RCRM.

- Improve intergovernmental collaboration on DRR efforts.

- Foster partnerships with global and regional organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.

- Adopt a long-term "Eco-Invest" Program to invest in climate action, climate resilience and DRR and encourage private sector for green investment.

- Ensure disability and age-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, including accessible early warning systems and evacuation plans for persons with disabilities, and older persons.

Health

- Update and implement the ECO Health Action Plan based on Member States' needs.

- Build strong partnerships with WHO and other key organizations for technical and financial support.

- Strengthen regional cooperation on digital health by promoting the exchange of experience and best practices in national health information systems, telemedicine, artificial intelligence-enabled health solutions, health data governance and interoperable digital health infrastructure, in accordance with Member States' national legislation and data protection frameworks.

- Establish a Regional Consultation Mechanism for better cooperation on communicable diseases.

- Promote health cooperation in line with the sustainable development goals by further strengthening regional collaboration to enhance national healthcare systems, prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, support the training and retraining of medical personnel, and expand access to equitable, inclusive and affordable healthcare services for all.

- Promote role of youth and women in ECO Health Action Plan.

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

Education

- Strengthen regional education systems, harmonize academic standards and promote internationalization of higher education.

- Develop an action plan for internationalizing higher education in the ECO Region and monitor its implementation.

- Strengthen collaboration with ECO Educational Institute and other related global partners.

- Conduct targeted training and capacity-building initiatives, with a focus on youth and women and children.

- Promote curriculum enhancement by integrating climate resilience, digital skills, and entrepreneurship.
- Encourage youth, women and children participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields
- Prioritize the digital upskilling of the teaching workforce through standardized regional modules that focus on innovative teaching-learning methodologies and digital content creation.
- Foster cultural cooperation to consolidate cultural affinities and common heritage that bind the people of the region and mobilize ECO's contribution to Member States' initiatives on intercultural dialogue.
- Launch the ECO Regional Digital Education and Research Platform with multilingual content.
- Design and implement green and sustainability education programs in cooperation with the ECO Science Foundation and the ECO Cultural Institute.
- Organize regular regional events focused on culture, arts, sports, and tourism to highlight our shared heritage.
- Produce and disseminate multilingual media content.

Inclusive Education

⊙ Strengthen inclusive education policies and practices across the ECO region by:

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

Expected Outcomes

i) Improved regional policy coherence on sustainable development goals through actionable frameworks and coordinated implementation mechanisms.

ii) Development of a scorecard mechanism to track the performance of member states on inclusive development, sustainable development goals, and human capital indicators

iii) Enhanced disaster resilience via a functional ECO Regional DRR system and operational ECO-RCRM.

iv) Expanded universal health coverage and strengthened response to non-communicable and communicable diseases through regional collaboration and the updated ECO Health Action Plan.

v) Elevated quality and access to education, including vocational, non-formal and higher education, with increased youth, children and women's participation and institutional cooperation.

vi) Greater inclusion of youth, children and women in leadership, problem-solving and entrepreneurship and regional policy processes across all HRSD priority areas.

vii) Operationalized regional platforms like the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development and ECO Youth and Women Engagement Mechanism for cross-sector collaboration.

viii) Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, using data-driven tools to track progress on DRR, health, education and sustainable development goals implementation.

ix) Increased mobilization of resources and institutional capacity through strategic partnerships with UN bodies, development banks and civil society.

x) Strengthened cooperation in innovation, artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

xi) Mainstreamed cross-sectoral linkages, connecting HRSD with climate action, trade, agriculture and energy for integrated development outcomes.

xii) A 60% increase in student and researcher participation in academic exchanges by 2035.

xiii) A 50% increase in student and teacher mobility specifically for primary and secondary education levels by 2035

xiv) 80% coverage of underserved areas by the digital education platform by 2028.

xv) The training of 100,000 youth, children and women in green and sustainability programs by 2035.

xvi) The participation of at least 20 universities in the ECO University Network by 2032.

xvii) The delivery of 8 cultural festivals and 10 co-produced media works by 2035.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Operationalize the ECO Research Centre (ECO-RC) in Baku as a regional hub for economic research and innovation, with a specific mandate to produce applied research that addresses critical data gaps in intra-regional trade, investment flows, and sustainable development indicators.

- Elevate the ECO Economic Journal (EEJ) into a peer-reviewed internationally recognized publication, with a focused agenda on translating research findings into tangible policy recommendations.

- Institutionalize the ECO Think-Tank Forum, making it a recurring, high-level platform hosted across Member States, with a focused agenda on translating research findings into tangible policy recommendations.

- Produce applied research and analytical publications focused on key regional priorities such as trade, investment, transport, climate change, green economy, food security and water efficiency. This will be supported by a commitment to using harmonized, high-quality data.

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Regional Economic Analysis

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

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

- Strengthen regional cooperation among the national statistical offices of ECO Member States in harmonizing data, metadata standardization, improving the quality and comparability of official statistics, and promoting the use of artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, and digital technologies in the collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of statistical data.

- Strategic Publications and Research

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

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

- Capacity Building and Networking

  - Support training, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among statistical offices and research institutions.

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

Expected Outcomes:

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

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

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

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

v) Production of applied research and analytical reports addressing priority regional issues including trade, investment, climate change, green economy and food security and water efficiency, while ensuring that this research is accessible and easily understood by policymakers.

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

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

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

ix) The publication of the result of research conducted on the identified priority sectors in the ECO's "Economic Journal).

JUDICIAL & PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND EAPA

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

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

Expected Outcomes

i) Strengthened regional judicial cooperation through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination among Member States' institutions authorized central Authorities.

ii) Effective establishment and functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), boosting anti-corruption efforts across the region.

iii) Development of a robust regional law enforcement coordination platform (ECOPOL or alternative) to improve intelligence sharing and cross-border crime prevention, without prejudice to national security legislation and constitutional requirements of each Member State.

iv) Increased legislative collaboration through full ratification and active engagement within the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO), supporting harmonized policies and rule of law.

v) Expanded capacity-building programs targeting emerging challenges such as cybercrime, financial crimes and organized crime, enhancing institutional competencies.

vi) Successful reintegration of Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, enabling its meaningful participation in regional judicial, legislative and security cooperation.

vii) Sustained multi-stakeholder partnerships with international organizations and donors to ensure financial sustainability and technical support.

viii) Enhanced inclusion of women and youth in legislative processes via PAECO's dedicated committees, promoting diversity and regional stability.

ix) Regular monitoring and reporting frameworks established to track progress on judicial cooperation, anti-corruption initiatives, parliamentary activities and Afghanistan's engagement.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

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

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- **Increasing Synergies**
  - Developing a centralized digital platform, featuring shared calendars, document repositories, and project management tools, to facilitate seamless coordination among the ECO Secretariat and ECO bodies.
- **Strengthening Subsidiary Agencies**
  - Launching targeted outreach programs such as presentations, regional workshops, and bilateral meetings, to engage potential Member States, highlighting the benefits of joining ECO Subsidiary Agencies.
  - Offering training and development programs to enhance the capabilities of agency staff and member representatives.
- **Hosting Sideline Events**
  - Developing and publishing an annual calendar of sideline events at major international forums.
  - Collaborating with regional and international organizations and host countries to co-organize events that align with global agendas and ECO priorities.
  - Planning and executing at least two sideline events annually at major UN conferences and member state-hosted events.
- **Media Engagement and Presence**
  - Establishing a dedicated media team to manage public relations and increase ECO's visibility.
  - Developing a comprehensive media strategy to engage with international media outlets and promote ECO initiatives.
  - Utilizing social media platforms to share updates, success stories, and upcoming events to reach a wider audience.
  - Organizing press conferences and media briefings to highlight key achievements and upcoming projects.
  - Creating engaging content, such as videos and infographics, to effectively communicate ECO's impact and goals.

Expected Outcomes

i) Strengthened existing collaborations and new agreements with international organizations will improve ECO's capacity to address transboundary challenges effectively.

ii) ECO's media presence, web content, and participation in international forums will be significantly enhanced, raising public awareness and stakeholder engagement.

iii) All ECO subsidiary agencies will be active and well-coordinated, promoting organizational efficiency and cohesive implementation of ECO's mandates.

iv) Centralized digital platforms and streamlined communication channels will enable seamless cooperation among the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies, and member states.

v) A dedicated media team and comprehensive communication strategy will effectively promote ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

vi) The mobilization of USD 15 million in international resources by 2035.

vii) ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

Report of the Ninth PrepCom Meeting
October 26, 2026
ECO Secretariat – Tehran

The Ninth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was held on October 26, 2026, under the chairmanship of the representative of Pakistan and coordinated by the ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD). The meeting was attended by representatives of the ECO Member States including Azerbaijan, Iran, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat.

2. The Meeting considered the Draft Islamabad Communiqué concerning the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, 2026, with particular emphasis on the paragraphs on which consensus had yet to be reached.

3. Following deliberations, the Committee encouraged the relevant ECO Member States to resolve the outstanding issues expeditiously and reach consensus on the paragraphs that remained unsettled. The Committee also accepted *ad referendum* paragraphs on which consensus had been reached at the PrepCom level.

4. The Meeting also considered the technical and linguistic amendments proposed by Member States to the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 (SGEC). It was agreed that the proposed amendments would be retained in track-changes format and circulated among Member States for further consultations. The Committee also accepted *ad referendum* paragraphs on which consensus had been reached at the PrepCom level.

6. The Secretariat was tasked to prepare and circulate the updated version of the documents in track-change format among Member States for their further consideration.

7. The Committee agreed to convene its next (10th) Session on November 3, 2026 at 1000 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

FINAL VERSION
(Updated by 6th PrepCom)

DRAFT

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE

ECONOMIC COOPERATION – 2035

ECO VISION 2025

BRIEF BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION – 2035

~~OVERVIEW~~EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CORE PILLARS

Strengthening Regional Integration

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

Advancing Sustainability

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

Fostering Innovation and Inclusive Growth

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

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SECTORAL APPROACH

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

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



TRADE & INVESTMENT

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- To ensure sustainable growth in intra-regional trade through an efficient and operational preferential trading system, including its progressive modernization among Member States, with the aim of promoting regional trade, increasing ECO's share in global trade, attracting greater investment to the region to unlock its trade and investment potential, and diversifying the exports of Member States.

- To enhance investment cooperation among member states and achieve national, regional as well as sustainable development goals by attracting investment in priority sectors under APPI and IPAs collaboration.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Enhanced intra-regional trade through:

  - Paying special attention to simplifying trade in goods and services by identifying and reducing technical and non-tariff barriers to trade. Building on the modernization of the ECOTA, promote the gradual development of an efficient, inclusive and operational preferential trading framework with broader participation of all ECO Member States, while encouraging accession to the revised ECOTA upon its finalization.

  - Strengthen regional economic cooperation within the ECO framework, in accordance with the goals of ECO Vision. Discussions should be initiated to identify practical arrangements that will enhance mutual trade and economic ties. Member States and the Secretariat need to prepare the required groundwork at national and regional levels.

  - Strengthen the role of ECO Trade Development Bank by expanding the Bank's memberships and increasing its capital to support the Bank's operation including bolster project funding in trade sector. Broaden its correspondent banking relationships through open accounts with other banks and explore financing options in multiple currencies. Furthermore, deepen collaborative relationships with relevant international and regional organizations to amplify financing the priority projects in priority areas with active role of ECO TDB.

  - Improve trade facilitation in the region by implementing ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) with a view to imbibe greater transparency, predictability and uniformity in cross border trade by:

    a. Identifying and reducing unnecessary technical barriers to trade.

    b. Reducing unnecessary non-tariff barriers through simplification and digitalization of trade procedures and enhancing cooperation among Member States.

    c. Strengthening cooperation in practical digital solutions, artificial intelligence and use of digital technologies, and e-commerce.

    d. Finalize ongoing negotiations on ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

  - Adopt a Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy with an aim to:

    a. Harmonize investment regulations, simplify administrative procedures, improve the region's business environment by reducing costs, and attracting sustainable investment with appropriate incentives
    b. Promote intra-regional trade with enhanced participation across ECO Member States to develop regional supply chains, contributing to regional value chains and connect with global value chains.

  - Development of regional energy supply chains, including refining and petrochemical industries, shall be promoted to enhance value-added opportunities. Member States with

downstream processing capacity shall be supported in strengthening linkages with upstream hydrocarbon producers within the ECO region, fostering mutual industrial development and economic diversification.

- Implement "ECO Invest Program" drafted by the Republic of Uzbekistan to strengthen cooperation among ECO Member States by improving the investment climate, increasing inflow of mutual foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhancing investment efficiency.

- Adopt 'Regional Quality Policy' and utilize ECO-RISCAM to promote harmonized standards, conformity assessment procedures and best practices in the region for risk free, predictable and cost effective intra-regional trade, taking into account Member States' existing obligations under international and regional standardization and accreditation frameworks

- Implement joint trade promotion activities in the ECO by organizing meaningful trade promotion events in the region, including organization of trade exhibitions, trade fairs and expos, to enhance business engagement through closer ties among the national trade bodies and Export Promotion Agencies to foster cross-border partnerships and joint export promotion activities on digital platforms.

- Ensure participation of business communities of the region through ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as critical in following:

  a. Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.
  b. Create unified digital platform of the ECO national chambers in the ECO CCI to establish an online database to provide information on trade *(export and import)* opportunities in the ECO region, and national regulations/mutual recognition of the quality certification, markets' conditions in the region etc, to help traders in the region.

- Given the difficulty in trade related payment systems which hampers movement of goods and services, may focus on trade in national currencies among ECO Member States as a catalyst and accelerator.

- Create an online mentors' network aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs in the member states of the ECO;

- Develop a unified online platform for small and medium-sized business representatives.

Enhanced National & Intra Regional Investment through:

- Facilitate the development of a Comprehensive ECO Investment Platform to facilitate identification of investment opportunities, connect investors and projects, provide up-to-date information on investment regulations in member countries by providing project database, investor profiles, risk assessment tools and market analysis.

- Focusing on priority sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, information and communication technology (ICT), tourism and agriculture.

- Develop human resources and knowledge sharing by joint training programs, scholarships in investment facilitation, management, finance and expert exchanges.

- Strengthening private sector cooperation by encouraging them to identify opportunities, implement project as well as financing them through organizing investment conferences and exhibitions, facilitation of the formation of investment consortiums.

- Cooperation between the IPAs of the member states to promote market investment opportunities, providing integrated services to investors, facilitate the creation of funds that

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

Expected Outcomes

i) Conclusion of re-negotiations to modernize ECOTA followed by its progressive implementation and broader participation of ECO Member States through accession to the revised Agreement.

ii) Implementation of the adopted ECO Trade Facilitation Strategy to improve trade facilitation in the region.

iii) Finalization of negotiations on the draft ECO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

iv) Effective implementation of ECO agreements on customs i.e. ECO Agreement on Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank, and ECO Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters, encourage wider use of EDI and digital trade.

v) Full operationalization of ECO-RISCAM and adoption of the 'Quality Policy' to streamline conformity assessment and boost trade in industrial and agricultural products.

vi) Pursue all ECO Member States to sign/ratify the 'Agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment' and implement a 'Regional Investment Facilitation Strategy' by 2035.

vii) Sign and ratify the adopted 'MoU on Joint Trade Promotion Activities in the ECO' and organize meaningful trade promotion events in the region. The ECO country assuming annual ECO chair, may organize one 'ECO Trade Fair'.

viii) Establishment of a permanent secretariat of the ECO Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.

ix) Operationalize the ECO Re-Insurance Company for secure trade in the region.

x) Initiate technical discussions on establishing trade in national currencies among ECO Member States and/or on other payment mechanisms.

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

xii) Enhanced cooperation with tangible results among Member States in the field of investment promotion, attraction and facilitation.

xiii) Strengthening tax cooperation by following up on holding ECOTAX meetings.

xiv) Establishment of ECO Clearing Union.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

ECO cooperation in artificial intelligence should/will promote innovation, productivity and public value, and support the development and use of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems, including through capacity-building, joint research and the sharing of best practices among Member States, while respecting the sovereignty, national legislation, cybersecurity requirements, personal data protection rules, intellectual property rights and national development priorities of Member States.

Strategic Objectives

- Ensure full operationalization and commercialization of the major ECO transport corridors, through infrastructure upgrades and legal frameworks, developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors among the interested Member States, implementing the roadmap of each corridor and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade, and extending ECO corridors beyond ECO region corridors and freight sources. It is essential to streamline customs and transportation-associated procedures.

- Harmonize transport regulations and customs procedures across ECO Member States, through coordinated implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

- Digitalize transport sector, corridors and transit facilities, including border crossing procedures.

- Accelerate the establishment of the ECO Digital Transport and Customs Office in Tashkent, with its mandate, operational scope, and data governance arrangements to be further clarified in line with applicable laws of Member States.

- Achieve deep/wide broadband internet penetration across all ECO Member States by 2030, with special focus on rural and underserved areas.

- Develop and launch a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance, and knowledge-sharing, enabling secure data exchange and fostering digital entrepreneurship across ECO Member States without prejudice to their applicable laws.

- Strengthen cooperation among national IT parks, promote mutual exchange of experiences and best practices, and support IT companies' access to the markets of ECO Member States.

- Encourage experience and mutual knowledge sharing among technology park companies operating in the ICT sector.

- Apply emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Blockchain, Machine learning, Quantum Computing, 5G, Digital Twin.

- Establish an AI Cooperation Platform within the ECO framework, ~~without establishing new institutional structure~~, by interested Member States (Iran 26.10.26) to promote joint AI projects, technology exchange and regional coordination among Member States in a manner that supports innovation while ensuring risk-based AI governance, cybersecurity, data protection and model security safeguards. (Türkiye – 20 October)

- Establish an AI Cooperation Platform within the ECO framework to promote joint AI projects, technology exchange and regional coordination among Member States in a manner that supports innovation while ensuring risk-based AI governance, cybersecurity, data protection and model security safeguards.

- Expand the ECO regional cooperation in digital skills development and IT education to strengthen human capital, support AI capacity-building, and enhance regional collaboration among Member States.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Ensure the full and active participation of all ECO Member States in the comprehensive implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), with the aim of harmonizing customs and transit regulations, reducing delays and facilitating seamless cross-border movement.

- Prioritize investment in regional corridors, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and multilateral funding to upgrade and expand transport infrastructure across corridors.

- Further develop ECO Gates initiative- multimodal logistic hubs, Caspian ports, open seaports and inland dry ports, encourage interoperability in transport systems and equipment, enhance the logistical interconnectivity and align technical standards across Member States to ensure integrated road, rail, sea and air networks for seamless transport.

- Increase the number of container trains on regional rail corridors and further promote the safe, sustainable and high-quality development of rail transport.

- Develop international passenger rail transport and tourism between the Member States mainly between their capital cities and cultural and touristic centers.

- Promote transit, transport and connectivity in line with the third priority of the Awaza Programme for Landlocked Developing Countries (2024–2034), focusing on developing regional transport corridors, enhancing multimodal networks and harmonizing cross-border transit procedures.

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Commented [HİU1]: We support an AI Cooperation Platform as a programme-type mechanism. To keep it consistent with the AI paragraph under the Vision Statement, we suggest clarifying that it does not establish a new institutional structure.

- Encourage exchanging best practices, technical guidelines and capacity-building activities on cybersecurity, secure data exchange and personal data protection, in line with national legislations and institutional mandates of Member States.

- Prioritize the corridors connecting the ECO region to China, Persian Gulf and Europe.

- Support the development of strategic railway links, with a view to strengthening the ECO region's access to China and South Asia and enhancing its role as a major transit bridge between Asia and Europe. (Moved from below]

- Prioritized, as part of regional energy diversification and connectivity, the north–south corridors linking Central Asia with South Asia. In this context, development of regional ports and logistics hubs may be supported through enhanced investment facilitation and regional cooperation.

- Establish cooperation among national IT parks and support them through the creation of international IT hubs, fostering collaboration, innovation, and integration within the ECO region.

- Enhance the involvement of youth, women, and the private sector in the transport and ICT sectors throughout the ECO region.

- Promote the exchange of best practices and successful experiences among ECO Member States in the development and application of artificial intelligence technologies, including public sector, education, healthcare and industry use cases.

- Encourage cooperation in the development, adaptation and responsible use of open-source artificial intelligence models, datasets and educational resources, taking into account national priorities and local languages of ECO Member States.

- Expand cooperation in artificial intelligence education and digital skills development through joint training programs, workshops, seminars, expert exchanges and capacity-building initiatives among ECO Member States.

- Strengthen collaboration among universities, research institutions, technology parks and innovation centers through joint research activities, academic exchanges, internships and knowledge-sharing programs in emerging digital technologies.

Expected Outcomes

i) Full operationalization and commercialization of major ECO transport corridors through infrastructure upgrades, completing the missing links and harmonized regulations. Developing multimodal transport, centralized management of corridors, implementing the roadmap for each corridor and supporting the role of the transport operators and private sector in promotion of transit and trade extending ECO corridors beyond ECO region corridors and freight sources.

ii) Streamlined And Digitalized Border Procedures Across All member states Under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

iii) Establishment of multimodal logistics hubs (ECO Gates), integrated transport networks (road, rail, sea, air) and reduced cross-border transit time.

iv) Integration of Awaza Programme priorities into ECO transport strategy, leading to improved regional corridors, harmonized transit procedures and strengthened connectivity among Member States.

v) Achieving deep/wide broadband internet penetration across ECO Member States by 2030, with improved digital access in rural areas.

vi) Launching a regional digital platform for trade, e-governance and digital transformation, transport documents, supporting secure data exchange and entrepreneurship.

vii) Enhanced cooperation and exchange of best practices on cybersecurity and data protection standards to secure -electronic data exchange contributing to the development of a more secure and efficient regional digital ecosystem.

viii) Strengthened public-private partnerships and increased investment in smart and prioritized infrastructure, project and ICT-enabled services.

ix) Enhanced regional cooperation in transport, trade, tourism, agriculture, education and health through improved physical and digital connectivity.

x) Development of digital skills among the population and youth, and establishment of regional IT hubs in cooperation with national IT parks.

xi) Greater collaboration in the application of emerging technologies, ~~including the establishment of ECO bodies/centers, e.g. on applied artificial intelligence~~. Türkiye 20 October

xii) Establishment of the single window among the interested Member States for issuing flight permits to facilitate the passage of cargo and passenger flights in the regional airspace, especially on China-Europe routes.

xiii) Establishment regional capacity committees and technical supervision in field of transport and transit, including civil aviation, rail, road and maritime, among the interested Member States.

xiv) ~~Establishing regional standards in artificial intelligence to accelerate the creation of the ECO AI Centre~~. Enhanced regional cooperation on safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence through capacity-building, joint research and the sharing of best practices, including through the ECO Science Foundation, with any institutional arrangements to be considered at a later stage on the basis of consensus among Member States. Türkiye 20 October

xv) Creation of a ~~unified~~ collaborative regional AI ecosystem, expansion of cross-border cooperation, implementation of joint AI initiatives, and ~~regulating~~ responsible and safe use of artificial intelligence technologies, in line with the national legislation of Member States. Türkiye 20 October

~~xv)~~

xvi) Development of a skilled regional digital workforce, increased mobility and cooperation among young IT professionals and researchers, wider participation of women in the digital economy, and strengthened regional capacity in AI, innovation, and digital transformation.

Commented [MAR2]: For the same reason as above, we propose deleting the reference to the establishment of new ECO bodies/centers on applied AI. Collaboration in the application of emerging technologies is fully supported.

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Commented [TPGM3]: The concept paper on the proposed ECO AI Center (Note TC/2026/790) is still under consideration by Member States and no decision on its establishment has been taken. A strategic document running to 2035 should not prejudge that outcome. We therefore propose replacing this expected outcome with language centred on capacity-building and best-practice sharing, including through the ECO Science Foundation, and leaving any institutional arrangement to a later consensus decision.

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Commented [MAR4]: 'Unified' and 'regulating' could be read as implying regional regulatory harmonisation of AI, which falls within the national competence of Member States. We propose 'collaborative' and 'responsible and safe use … in line with the national legislation of Member States', consistent with the AI paragraph under the Vision Statement.

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ENERGY, MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance regional energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade: ECO will facilitate diversification of energy mix, improving energy connectivity, enabling and upgrading policy and regulatory framework, and strengthening the role of ECO region in global energy architecture.

- Regional energy connectivity shall be advanced through mutually beneficial cross-border projects, to enhance energy security, economic integration, and sustainable development. A consensus-based approach supporting the gradual reintegration of all countries into ECO energy frameworks and infrastructure projects, recognizing its importance for regional stability and cooperation.

- Create Regional Power System Connectivity and Electricity Market: Multilateral and multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources will be established gradually at the sub-regional and regional levels through harmonization and mobilization of bilateral and multilateral electricity grids under the single platform.

- Recognizing the challenges of harmonizing grid codes, regulatory frameworks, and tariff structures among Member States, a phased approach shall be pursued, beginning with bilateral and sub-regional electricity trade and progressively advancing toward a more integrated regional electricity market. Existing cross-border transmission interconnections shall be recognized as foundational elements of the regional power architecture.

- Mainstream Sustainable Energy Transition: ECO will support unlocking the ECO region's renewable energy and energy efficiency potential, market expansion and transformation of

sustainable energy into local energy value chains, and creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments, particularly via the ECO Clean Energy Centre.

- A balanced and just energy transition approach shall be adopted, taking into account the diverse energy endowments and development levels of Member States. Natural gas may be recognized as a transitional fuel in support of energy security, alongside the expansion of renewable and other low-emission energy sources, ensuring that the transition does not compromise energy security, affordability, or economic growth.

- Promotion of production and deployment of high-tech energy equipment: support for local manufacturing and technology transfer in renewable energy and energy efficiency, alongside the development of innovative solutions and joint research projects to strengthen the region's industrial capacity.

- Forge Sustainable Resource Management: ECO will contribute to the sustainable management of mineral resources in the ECO region underpinned by a set of regional actions and a multi-year ECO Roadmap on Minerals Cooperation, to be adopted and implemented.

- Strengthen Environmental Protection and Resilience to tackle climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss: ECO will develop regional regulations to improve resource efficiency promoting circular economy principles and zero-waste approaches, including the reuse of treated wastewater and manage emissions, waste, and other pollutants from various activities, thereby protecting ecosystems and public health. Furthermore, the robust collective attitude that engages the entire region in environmental action on climate, biodiversity, desertification and other relevant areas will be achieved to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships on environment and sustainable development.

xvii) ~~Implement the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC) to strengthen cross-border operational coordination, emergency preparedness, and system reliability. This includes harmonizing regulatory frameworks for generation, transmission, and demand-response management, advancing grid moderation foe renewable integration to mitigate supply disruption and climate-related risks.~~ Türkiye 20 October (Ad-ref 26.10.26)

- Establish specialized consortiums among Member States to enhance short-term project efficiency, optimize resource utilization, and accelerate implementation timelines by leveraging shared expertise and capacities by 2035.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- Sustainable energy transition, particularly policy, capacity development and knowledge management, as well as market and investment promotion in renewable energy and energy efficiency infrastructure, services, businesses and industry with the strong support of the ECO Clean Energy Centre.

- Establishment of the ECO Regional Electricity Market, most notably multilateral, multidirectional power trading linked to the integration of renewable energy resources for harnessing the benefits of larger integrated systems.

- Sustainable resource management with the focus on creating stronger regulatory environment, investing in sustainable mining practices and technologies, and bolstering multi-stakeholder approach and international partnerships, as well as capacity-building and public awareness-raising in minerals.

- Environmental protection and shift to low-carbon development model, including integration and mainstreaming environmental safeguards into national development plans and projects, promotion of a regional cooperation platform that will advocate for a just transition to a resource-efficient, circular, and regenerative economy, including through application of zero-

Commented [MAR5]: Electricity network operation conventions are a set of standardized technical rules, guidelines, and protocols that ensure the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of power grids. These conventions govern how transmission and distribution systems are managed, how generation meets demand, and how networks recover from incidents.

"Implementing Electricity Networks Operation Convention(ECO-ENOC) is a strategic objective and its scope needs to be defined carefully. Its importance is more visible especially when neighbouring electrical power systems are working in synchronous mode.

After all the studies are completed within the ECO region, it could be evaluated again if there is a need to define it as a strategic objective.

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waste approaches and implementation of climate action on adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation with enhanced inclusion of businesses, women and youth.

- Promotion of local manufacturing of high-tech energy equipment, including solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries, through joint ventures, technology transfer, and harmonized standards across the region shall be supported.
- Ensuring regional supply chain security for the critical minerals required to manufacture solar panel, wind turbine, battery, and smart meter manufacturing.
- Adopting water-saving technologies in energy and mining sectors for environmental protection with regard to the region's sustainability strategy.
- Supporting the security of supply for critical minerals by developing sustainable and integrated recycling systems capable of recovering critical minerals—such as lithium, cobalt, and silicon—from end-of-life solar panels and batteries, with the aim of effectively utilizing waste generated when technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, and battery systems reach the end of their commercial lifespan.
- Establish a dedicated environmental fund within the Organization to support advanced innovations in air purification.
- Formation and promotion of consortiums among ECO member countries to pool technical, financial, and human resources, thereby boosting the efficiency and timely completion of regional agricultural and industrial projects.
- Promote the formulation, alignment, and implementation of the cross-border "GREEN PROGRAM" of the ECO Member States for 2026–2030, designed to advance afforestation in desert areas and mitigate the risks of natural disasters, strengthening regional cooperation and joint operational capacity for combating forest fires and land degradation
- Enhance regional climate resilience by establishing an ECO ~~Drought Monitoring and~~ Early Warning ~~Mechanism~~ Systems to safeguard agricultural productivity, water security, and forestry ecosystems against extreme weather events. Türkiye 20 October (Ad-ref) 26.10.26

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Expected Outcomes

i) Expansion of local production and deployment of advanced energy equipment, stimulating regional industrial cooperation, job creation, and innovation uptake.

ii) Enhanced regional energy security and sustainability through expanded access, diversified energy mix, improved connectivity and strengthened policies aligned with global energy trends.

iii) Established integrated regional power system and electricity market, enabling multilateral and multidirectional power trading and better integration of renewable energy resources.

iv) More diverse and resilient energy architecture will be supported through accelerated sustainable energy transition by unlocking regional renewables potential, expanding markets, transforming local value chains and attracting investments via dedicated ECO clean energy initiatives, including ECO Clean Energy Center.

v) Improved sustainable mineral resource management guided by a multi-year regional cooperation roadmap, fostering responsible mining practices and technology upgrading.

vi) Strengthened environmental protection and resilience, targeting resource efficiency, emission and pollution control, ecosystem preservation and coordinated climate change, biodiversity and desertification actions.

vii) Developed robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and tailored action plans aligned with the strategic objectives through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including government, private sector and communities.

viii) Mobilized sustainable financing and public private partnerships to support clean energy, sustainable mining, and climate action projects.

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

x) Integrated ECO strategies with relevant internationally agreed sustainable development and climate agendas and established monitoring systems for transparent progress tracking.

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

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

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

~~xiv) Collaborative partnership under the ECO Electricity Networks Operation Convention (ECO-ENOC) to systematize exchange of technical expertise, operational best practices, and crisis management protocols. Establish regional platforms to accelerate innovation, enhance grid resilience, and harmonize regulatory approaches. This synergy will optimize resource utilization, mitigate systematic risks, and enable collective responses to emerging challenges such as renewable integration, cyber threats, and climate-induced disruption.~~ Türkiye October 20(Ad-ref)26.10.26

~~xv)~~xiv) Enhanced project efficiency and expedited delivery through the establishment of cross-border consortiums, fostering stronger cooperation and resource-sharing among Member States.

~~xvi)~~xv) Increased efficiency in establishing protective desert forests, expanded green zones in vulnerable border areas, and advanced professional qualifications for regional experts, achieved through the institutionalization of cross-border coordination mechanisms, joint innovative research, and structured multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange across the ECO Member States.

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Commented [MAR6]: This expected outcome is related to ECO-ENOC objective. In line with the removal of the objective, this phrase has also been deleted.

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AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance policy development and implementation capacity of Member States in the agriculture and industry sectors for driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and productivity by 2035.
- Foster cooperation through operationalized intra-regional platforms and strategic partnerships with other international and regional organizations, maximizing collective action to drive sectoral development and address shared challenges by 2035.
- Strengthen regional food security and agricultural resilience through regional food security initiatives, seed supply, animal health, sustainable and efficient water utilization, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology capacities by 2035.
- Advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development across priority sectors of common interest by promoting quality infrastructure, nanotechnology utilization, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement by 2035.
- Establish and develop regional agricultural supply chains among Member states.
- Enhance Research and Development (R&D) capacity in agriculture by strengthening the research and development infrastructure sector to foster innovation and improve sustainable agriculture technology by 2035. This will involve promoting collaboration among agricultural universities, research institutions, and rural industries to develop new and sustainable practices that enhance productivity, food security, and resilience in rural communities.
- To promote regional research cooperation in priority domains such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, the circular economy, green technologies, and smart cities through the establishment of joint centers of excellence, coordinated by the ECO Science Foundation on a voluntary basis, subject to consensus among Member States and within existing resources. Türkiye 20 October (Ad-ref) 26.10.26

Commented [TPGM7]: Establishment of joint centres of excellence and five regional research centres by 2030 would entail hosting, financing and governance arrangements that are not yet defined. We suggest qualifying these targets so that they proceed on a voluntary basis, by consensus of Member States and within existing resources, without prejudice to their eventual consideration.

Commented [MAR8]: Establishment of joint centres of excellence and five regional research centres by 2030 would entail hosting, financing and governance arrangements that are not yet defined. We suggest qualifying these targets so that they proceed on a voluntary basis, by consensus of Member States and within existing resources, without prejudice to their eventual consideration.

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Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

- Enhanced Regional Industrial Cooperation Capabilities through:
  - Strengthening collaboration among relevant institutions
  - Promoting innovation in sustainable agriculture practices
  - Enhancing access to research outputs
  - Encouraging sustainable practice through appropriate funding and incentives.
  - Establishing 5 joint regional research centers by 2030 on a voluntary basis, subject to consensus among Member States and within existing resources. Türkiye 20 October (Ad-ref) 26.10.26
  - .
  - Forming a regional university network with a minimum of 20 member universities by 2032.
  - Expanding scholarship and research fellowship programs in emerging technologies.

Expected Outcomes

i) Strengthened policy development and implementation capacities across Member States to drive sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture and industry by 2035.

ii) Enhanced regional cooperation through operational platforms and strategic partnerships, maximizing collective action on shared sectoral challenges for coordinating the activities of the business community and elaborating agreed approaches to increase mutual trade.

iii) Improved regional food security, enhanced agricultural productivity, and strengthened agricultural resilience to climate-related challenges through better seed supply, animal health, sustainable water utilization, meteorological cooperation, and biotechnology use, along with the application of agri-technologies.

iv) Advanced, inclusive, and sustainable industrial development focusing on quality infrastructure, digital and advanced technologies such as nanotechnology, intellectual property, MSMEs, entrepreneurship, and private sector engagement.

v) Established and harmonized regional standards and quality infrastructure supporting efficient trade and innovation.

vi) Increased financial sustainability through the ECO Vision Fund and strengthened partnerships with multilateral donors and UN agencies for technical and financial support.

vii) Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensuring transparency, measurable progress, and alignment with Member States' priorities.

viii) Greater engagement and empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and industry, fostering entrepreneurial capability, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic transformation.

ix) Improved coordination, communication, and accountability mechanisms among Member States and ECO bodies for effective implementation and timely decision-making.

x) Five regional research centers operational by 2030 in accordance with the modalities agreed by Member States. Türkiye 20 October (Ad-ref)26.10.26

~~x)~~xi) .

~~xi)~~xii) A 20% improvement in the ECO region's Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking by 2035.

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TOURISM

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

- Enhance the tourism competitiveness of the region through efficient and effective guidance of the ECO-ACT in formulating and implementing relevant actions such as adopting common quality standards and enhancing visitor experiences. Encourage knowledge-sharing and best practices exchange among tourism stakeholders within through ETON and ECO-TEN.

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

- Promote sustainable tourism practices with a primary focus on adopting eco-friendly policies where special emphasis will be placed on climate change adaptation, environmental conservation and regulation of activities in ecologically sensitive areas, diversifying tourism offerings in niche areas such as health tourism, gastronomy tourism, nature tourism, business tourism and winter tourism as well as operational sustainability models.

- Strengthen tourism infrastructure encouraging investments in transportation, hospitality, digital infrastructure, and tourism services. The expansion of current efforts on standardization to all relevant aspects of modernizing travel and tourism facilities. By 2035, the ECO Member States will work towards aligning regional infrastructure with international hospitality and transport standards.

- Enhance connectivity for tourism facilitating seamless travel experiences through integrated travel routes taking Silk Road and several regional concepts, easier visa procedures and collaborative tourism packages under ETON. To this end, direct flight routes in collaboration with aviation sector will be expanded and border procedures for passenger transport will be simplified.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

- Human Resource Development: Establishing training programs (workshops, seminars and training courses) for tourism professionals in collaboration with the members of the ECO Tourism Educational Network.

- Private Sector Involvement: Supporting to creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.

- Innovative and Digital Transformation: Contributing to the national efforts for digitizing tourism industry with advanced digital tools such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence to enhance the tourism experience, including digital marketing, upskilling the tourism workforce with digital transformation.

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

Expected Outcomes

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

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

  ii) Increase in tourism's GDP contribution to 5% by 2035.

  iii) Improved regional tourism infrastructure, achieving an average TTDI score increase from 3.76 (2024) to 4.25 by 2035.

- Completion of the actions below for abovementioned strategic objectives including:

  i) Unified regional tourism marketing strategy implemented across all Member States, including joint participation in international tourism fairs and exhibitions.

  ii) Improved cross-border travel through simplified visa processes, expanded direct flight routes and integrated digital travel systems.

  iii) Adoption of sustainable tourism practices and eco-friendly policies, with specific focus on climate resilience and ecological protection

  iv) Greater private sector investment in tourism infrastructure and services.

  v) Enhanced use of modern and digital technologies in tourism promotion and delivery.

  vi) Increased capacity and skills in tourism through training programs and workshops.

  vii) Empowerment of women, youth and communities in tourism development, development ensuring further benefits for underrepresented groups from tourism revenues.

  viii) Active engagement of stakeholders, including local communities and civil society

  ix) Operationalization of ECO-ACT for regional tourism coordination and monitoring

  x) Stronger partnerships with international organizations (e.g., UN Tourism, UNESCO, OIC)

  xi) Diversified tourism financing, including reactivation of the ECO Tourism Promotion Fund

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

HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

- Empower youth and women by fostering their leadership, entrepreneurial capability and participation in development, entrepreneurship, STEM-related fields, and climate action to promote inclusive and resilient communities, through accessible financing mechanisms and transformative education, while sustaining Youth and Women's Forums launched at the ECO Summit 2025 in Khankendi, as key platforms for engagement and collaboration across the ECO region.
- Strengthen regional health cooperation by addressing non-communicable diseases and advancing equitable, inclusive universal health coverage systems.
- Sharing good practices of member states on culture-centered recovery, uniting physical reconstruction, social and cultural revitalization, and legal and institutional frameworks in conflict-affected and post-crisis settings.
- Advance regional education and skills development by establishing frameworks for higher education, vocational training, and capacity-building, with a focus on youth and women's empowerment, as well as inclusive education systems that ensure access, participation and achievement for all learners.
- To design and implement a "Comprehensive Professional Development Program for Teachers' Use of Technology" across the ECO region, aimed at enhancing the digital pedagogical competencies of educators to ensure effective technology integration in teaching and learning.
- Develop disaggregated data systems, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking, targeted interventions, and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.
- Develop disaggregated data systems, that are in conformity with data protection principles and, in particular, safeguards aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, including disability data, to ensure evidence-based policymaking and inclusive progress monitoring across the ECO region.
- Establish regional training programs on inclusive education practices for teachers and educational administrators, focusing on curriculum adaptation, classroom support strategies, individualized education planning, and collaborative teaching.
- Enhance sustainable development policies for the integrated management of water resources by the ECO member states to ensure efficient utilization by 2035.
- Accelerate Digital Transformation: To transform digitally education and research by launching inclusive regional platforms that prioritize underserved and less-developed areas, under the guidance of the ECO Educational Institute. To Encourage Member States to initiate joint efforts towards the development of a regional digital cultural heritage platform, including integrated museum and information systems, drawing on best practices such as Türkiye's National Museum Information System (MUES), to support sustainable tourism, digital promotion, and coordinated cultural heritage management.
- Strengthen Cultural Diplomacy: To reinforce cultural diplomacy and civilizational dialogue by leveraging the region's shared historical and cultural heritage, particularly along historic routes such as the Silk Road, led exclusively by the ECO Cultural Institute.
- Enhance Inter-School Collaboration in Primary and Secondary Education: To cultivate a foundation of regional solidarity and shared civilizational consciousness by facilitating various partnerships, student exchange programs, and joint extracurricular projects centered on the region's common religious, historical, and cultural heritage.
- Empower Youth and Women: To empower youth and women as primary drivers of sustainable development through scholarships, academic exchange programs, and

green/climate education initiatives, in a collaborative effort among the three ECO institutions.

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- **Sustainable Development**

  - Ensure including a framework for mobilizing financial resources and operationalizing bankable projects.

  - Develop a regional action plan for sustainable development goals-aligned policy coherence and adopt voluntary monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable development goals, human capital and inclusive development performance, taking into account, the different national circumstances, priorities, and capacities of ECO Member States.

  - Institutionalize the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development to share experiences and challenges.

  - Address irregular migration, transnational organized crime, including human and drug trafficking, poverty, inequality and declining fertility rates, and demographic trends and their socioeconomic implications in accordance with national priorities

    Strengthening the family institution and promoting population growth by maintaining the fertility rate above the population replacement level.
  - Promote sustainable development policies for the integrated management of water resources between the relevant ECO Member States to ensure long-term resource preservation.

  - Promote the empowerment of youth and women for inclusive development by establishing regional platforms to support sustained engagement, communication, and leadership (networking), and by providing financing for youth and women-led projects.

  - Strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations on sustainable development goals practices.

  - Establish a dedicated platform within the framework of sustainable cities to promote collaboration, knowledge exchange, and integrated urban development across the ECO Region.

  - Formulate ECO Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework - a benchmark mechanism, supported by Pakistan, to encourage data-driven reforms and transparent showcased via an ECO Dashboard.

  - Establish an ECO Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator Labs which designs cross-border solutions to common regional challenge

  - Establish an ECO Collaboration Taskforce, coordinated through the ECO Framework, with the participation of interested member states to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practice in sustainable development goals' implementation.

- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

  - Revise the ECO Regional Framework on DRR and its five-year roadmap and monitor its implementation.

  - Incorporate actions on youth, women, researchers and private sector engagement in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through technological innovation into ECORFDRR.

- Leverage AI and emerging technologies, and enhance coordination among existing ECO institutions and mechanisms working on climate resilience and DRR to champion regional initiatives and advocacy.
- Enhance the capacity and operational effectiveness of the ECO-RCRM.
- Improve intergovernmental collaboration on DRR efforts.
- Foster partnerships with global and regional organizations to exchange expertise and best practices.
- Adopt a long-term "Eco-Invest" Program to invest in climate action, climate resilience and DRR and encourage private sector for green investment.
- Ensure disability and age-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, including accessible early warning systems and evacuation plans for persons with disabilities, and older persons.

Health

- Update and implement the ECO Health Action Plan based on Member States' needs.
- Build strong partnerships with WHO and other key organizations for technical and financial support.
- Strengthen regional cooperation on digital health by promoting the exchange of experience and best practices in national health information systems, telemedicine, artificial intelligence-enabled health solutions, health data governance and interoperable digital health infrastructure, in accordance with Member States' national legislation and data protection frameworks. Türkiye 20 October (Ad-ref) 26.10.26
- Establish a Regional Consultation Mechanism for better cooperation on communicable diseases.
- Promote health cooperation in line with the sustainable development goals by further strengthening regional collaboration to enhance national healthcare systems, prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases, support the training and retraining of medical personnel, and expand access to equitable, inclusive and affordable healthcare services for all.
- Promote role of youth and women in ECO Health Action Plan.

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

Education

- Strengthen regional education systems, harmonize academic standards and promote internationalization of higher education.
- Develop an action plan for internationalizing higher education in the ECO Region and monitor its implementation.
- Strengthen collaboration with ECO Educational Institute and other related global partners.
- Conduct targeted training and capacity-building initiatives, with a focus on youth and women and children.

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- Promote curriculum enhancement by integrating climate resilience, digital skills, and entrepreneurship.
- Encourage youth, women and children participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields
- Prioritize the digital upskilling of the teaching workforce through standardized regional modules that focus on innovative teaching-learning methodologies and digital content creation.
- Foster cultural cooperation to consolidate cultural affinities and common heritage that bind the people of the region and mobilize ECO's contribution to Member States' initiatives on intercultural dialogue.
- Launch the ECO Regional Digital Education and Research Platform with multilingual content.
- Design and implement green and sustainability education programs in cooperation with the ECO Science Foundation and the ECO Cultural Institute.
- Organize regular regional events focused on culture, arts, sports, and tourism to highlight our shared heritage.
- Produce and disseminate multilingual media content.

Inclusive Education

⊙ Strengthen inclusive education policies and practices across the ECO region by:

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

Expected Outcomes

i) Improved regional policy coherence on sustainable development goals through actionable frameworks and coordinated implementation mechanisms.

ii) Development of a scorecard mechanism to track the performance of member states on inclusive development, sustainable development goals, and human capital indicators

iii) Enhanced disaster resilience via a functional ECO Regional DRR system and operational ECO-RCRM.

iv) Expanded universal health coverage and strengthened response to non-communicable and communicable diseases through regional collaboration and the updated ECO Health Action Plan.

v) Elevated quality and access to education, including vocational, non-formal and higher education, with increased youth, children and women's participation and institutional cooperation.

vi) Greater inclusion of youth, children and women in leadership, problem-solving and entrepreneurship and regional policy processes across all HRSD priority areas.

vii) Operationalized regional platforms like the ECO Forum on Sustainable Development and ECO Youth and Women Engagement Mechanism for cross-sector collaboration.

viii) Strengthened monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, using data-driven tools to track progress on DRR, health, education and sustainable development goals implementation.

ix) Increased mobilization of resources and institutional capacity through strategic partnerships with UN bodies, development banks and civil society.

x) Strengthened cooperation in innovation, artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

xi) Mainstreamed cross-sectoral linkages, connecting HRSD with climate action, trade, agriculture and energy for integrated development outcomes.

xii) A 60% increase in student and researcher participation in academic exchanges by 2035.

xiii) A 50% increase in student and teacher mobility specifically for primary and secondary education levels by 2035

xiv) 80% coverage of underserved areas by the digital education platform by 2028.

xv) The training of 100,000 youth, children and women in green and sustainability programs by 2035.

xvi) The participation of at least 20 universities in the ECO University Network by 2032.

xvii) The delivery of 8 cultural festivals and 10 co-produced media works by 2035.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH & STATISTICS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

- Strengthen regional cooperation among the national statistical offices of ECO Member States in harmonizing data, metadata standardization, improving the quality and comparability of official statistics, and promoting the use of artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data, and digital technologies in the collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of statistical data.

- Strategic Publications and Research

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

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

- Capacity Building and Networking

  - Support training, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration among statistical offices and research institutions.

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

Expected Outcomes:

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

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

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

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

v) Production of applied research and analytical reports addressing priority regional issues including trade, investment, climate change, green economy and food security and water efficiency, while ensuring that this research is accessible and easily understood by policymakers.

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

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

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

ix) The publication of the result of research conducted on the identified priority sectors in the ECO's "Economic Journal).

JUDICIAL & PARLIAMENTARY COORDINATION AND EAPA

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

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

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

Expected Outcomes

i) Strengthened regional judicial cooperation through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination through fully operationalized institutional mechanisms and enhanced coordination among Member States' institutions authorized central Authorities.

ii) Effective establishment and functioning of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO), boosting anti-corruption efforts across the region.

iii) Development of a robust regional law enforcement coordination platform (ECOPOL or alternative) to improve intelligence sharing and cross-border crime prevention, without prejudice to national security legislation and constitutional requirements of each Member State.

iv) Increased legislative collaboration through full ratification and active engagement within the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO (PAECO), supporting harmonized policies and rule of law.

v) Expanded capacity-building programs targeting emerging challenges such as cybercrime, financial crimes and organized crime, enhancing institutional competencies.

vi) Successful reintegration of Afghanistan into ECO mechanisms, enabling its meaningful participation in regional judicial, legislative and security cooperation.

vii) Sustained multi-stakeholder partnerships with international organizations and donors to ensure financial sustainability and technical support.

viii) Enhanced inclusion of women and youth in legislative processes via PAECO's dedicated committees, promoting diversity and regional stability.

ix) Regular monitoring and reporting frameworks established to track progress on judicial cooperation, anti-corruption initiatives, parliamentary activities and Afghanistan's engagement.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Operating Tool)

Introduction

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

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

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

Vision Statement

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

Strategic Objectives

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

Priority Areas & Policy Focus

- **Increasing Synergies**
  - Developing a centralized digital platform, featuring shared calendars, document repositories, and project management tools, to facilitate seamless coordination among the ECO Secretariat and ECO bodies.
- **Strengthening Subsidiary Agencies**
  - Launching targeted outreach programs such as presentations, regional workshops, and bilateral meetings, to engage potential Member States, highlighting the benefits of joining ECO Subsidiary Agencies.
  - Offering training and development programs to enhance the capabilities of agency staff and member representatives.
- **Hosting Sideline Events**
  - Developing and publishing an annual calendar of sideline events at major international forums.
  - Collaborating with regional and international organizations and host countries to co-organize events that align with global agendas and ECO priorities.
  - Planning and executing at least two sideline events annually at major UN conferences and member state-hosted events.
- **Media Engagement and Presence**
  - Establishing a dedicated media team to manage public relations and increase ECO's visibility.
  - Developing a comprehensive media strategy to engage with international media outlets and promote ECO initiatives.
  - Utilizing social media platforms to share updates, success stories, and upcoming events to reach a wider audience.
  - Organizing press conferences and media briefings to highlight key achievements and upcoming projects.
  - Creating engaging content, such as videos and infographics, to effectively communicate ECO's impact and goals.

Expected Outcomes

i) Strengthened existing collaborations and new agreements with international organizations will improve ECO's capacity to address transboundary challenges effectively.

ii) ECO's media presence, web content, and participation in international forums will be significantly enhanced, raising public awareness and stakeholder engagement.

iii) All ECO subsidiary agencies will be active and well-coordinated, promoting organizational efficiency and cohesive implementation of ECO's mandates.

iv) Centralized digital platforms and streamlined communication channels will enable seamless cooperation among the Secretariat, subsidiary bodies, and member states.

v) A dedicated media team and comprehensive communication strategy will effectively promote ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

vi) The mobilization of USD 15 million in international resources by 2035.

vii) ECO's achievements and goals to a wider audience.

Agenda Item No. 4
Preparations for the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting and the 18th ECO Summit

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1325

Priority: Most Urgent
Date: 3/11/2026
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 honor to enclose Report of the 10th PrepCom Meeting, held on October 26, 2026, together with the **finalized version of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035**, and the **updated Draft Islamabad Communiqué** in track-changes format. The updated **Draft Agendas of 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM),** preceded by **Senior Officials Meeting (SoM)** to be held on November 15-16, 2026 are also enclosed.

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

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Report of the Tenth PrepCom Meeting
November 3, 2026
ECO Secretariat – Tehran

The Tenth Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was held on November 3, 2026, under the chairmanship of the representative of Pakistan and coordinated by the ECO Deputy Secretary General (TC & HRSD). The meeting was attended by representatives of the ECO Member States including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat.

2. The Meeting considered the Draft Islamabad Communiqué concerning the 30th Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on November 15-16, 2026, with particular emphasis on new paragraphs proposed by certain Member States and on the paragraphs that remained unsettled from previous PrepCom Meetings.

3. Following deliberations, the Committee reached mutual consensus on most of the paragraphs. It was agreed that further discussions on the remaining text would continue at the next PrepCom Meeting.

4. The Meeting also considered the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, with particular emphasis on some fresh proposals/editorial changes conveyed by Member States. Following discussions, the Committee agreed to finalize the draft document by incorporating the amendments and changes proposed by Member States.

5. The Secretariat was tasked to prepare and circulate the updated versions of the documents in track-change format among Member States for their further consideration, together with the updated agendas of SoM and COM. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a concise paragraph on the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB), consolidating the relevant information contained in the existing paragraphs concerning the Bank.

6. The Committee agreed to convene its next (11th) Meeting on November 8, 2026, following the 312th CPR Meeting, at the ECO Secretariat.

(Updated by 10th PrepCom)
November 3

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

Draft Islamabad Communiqué

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

1. **Recalling** the principles enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir and the goals set within the ECO framework, as well as the shared resolve of our Heads of State and Government to strengthen regional cooperation, advance sustainable development and foster inclusive economic growth; **(Ad-ref)**

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) (Deletion proposed by Iran dated 14.09.2026) Retention proposed by Uzbekistan (Turkiye 11.10.2026)

Expressing concern over the challenging geopolitical environment in the region, **condemning** military strikes on the territory of the

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Islamic Republic of Iran that caused numerous civilian casualties and significant infrastructure damage, violated international law and the UN Charter, and pose serious risks to international peace, security and stability; **expressing solidarity** with the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and **emphasizing** restraint, peaceful dialogue and diplomatic engagement, support for a peaceful settlement through diplomatic means; (Iran 29.9.2026) Tajikistan supports (03.11.26)

Expressing *concern over the challenging geopolitical environment in the region and the loss of civilian lives as a result of military strikes on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran; considering unacceptable any attacks targeting civilian objects and condemning strikes against civilian infrastructure, including residential and social facilities, sites of global and national cultural and historical heritage, as well as energy supply systems; considering unacceptable the use of force in violation of the UN Charter, and calling for the resolution of international disputes exclusively through peaceful means, grounded in dialogue and mutual respect; (a new proposal of Tajikistan if Iran's proposal 29.09.2026 is not accepted) (03.11.2026)*

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3. Appreciating and commending the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's consistent and constructive diplomatic support for ECO Member States and its mediation efforts towards de-escalation during the recent Iran-United States crisis, including the Islamabad Peace Talks and the resulting Islamabad MoU, as well as its participation in the post-agreement negotiations in Burgenstock, Switzerland; reaffirming the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, respect for international law and promoting mutual trust, stability and the peaceful resolution of disputes, and calling for continued cooperation within the ECO framework towards lasting peace and stability in the region. ; in addition to Pakistan's commendable efforts, highly appreciating the State of Qatar for its important role as a trusted facilitator of international diplomacy, most notably demonstrated by its mediation efforts at the 81st United Nations General Assembly. **(Ad-ref)**

4. **Commending** the Organization for demonstrating that regionalism can remain effective and operational even under conditions of acute geopolitical stress; **(Ad-ref)**

5. **Underscoring** the importance of convening regular and timely in-person meetings of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) and other

high-level meetings as essential mechanisms for strengthening policy coordination, providing strategic guidance, advancing regional cooperation and ensuring the effective implementation of ECO decisions, priorities and joint initiatives. **(Ad-ref)**

6. Recalling the adoption of ECO Vision 2025 at the ~~13th ECO Summit~~22nd Meeting of the COM in Islamabad in 2017, and welcoming the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, ~~to be~~ adopted ~~at the~~by the ~~18th~~ 30th Meeting of the COM ~~ECO Summit~~ in ~~Tehran~~ Islamabad ~~in~~ on November 16, 2026, as a comprehensive framework building upon the achievements and guiding principles of ECO Vision 2025 to further advance regional integration, connectivity, resilience and sustainable prosperity, and resolving that Member States and ECO institutions take the necessary steps for its timely and effective implementation. **(Ad-ref)** **– Iran proposes to keep this in track-change**

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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)**

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

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; **(Ad-ref)**

10. **Acknowledging** with deep appreciation the assumption by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan of the ECO Chairmanship for 2026-2027 under the newly established two-year Chairmanship formula; welcoming its theme, "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO," and expressing full support for the Chairmanship's efforts to advance this theme through enhanced dialogue, strengthened multilateral cooperation, expanded regional connectivity and greater people-to-people exchanges, with a view to furthering the Organization's shared regional objectives; **(Ad-ref)**

~~10.~~11. Acknowledging with appreciation the successful convening of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in January 2026; the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan, in April 2026; the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, in June 2026; the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport in October 2026, and the 7th Prosecutors General Meeting in the Republic of Kazakhstan in September 2026; the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group on Industry in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan in September 2026; Also acknowledging the First Meeting of the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan in April 2026, and the First Meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee on ECOTA held in April 2026; Welcoming the substantive outcomes of these meetings, including the adoption of relevant strategies, frameworks, roadmaps and recommendations aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in their respective sectors; Expressing sincere appreciation to the host Member States for their valuable contributions to advancing the objectives of the Organization;

~~11.~~12. **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)**

~~12.~~13. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~13.~~14. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~14.~~15. **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 Expressing confidence that these engagements will further strengthen policy coordination and the implementation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035; **(Ad-ref)**

~~15.~~16. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~16.~~17. **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;

while taking into account the different levels of development and national circumstances of Member States; **(Ad-ref)**

~~17.~~18. Acknowledging the outcomes of relevant United Nations processes on artificial intelligence, including General Assembly resolutions 78/265 and 78/311 , *79/322 and 80/302* 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)**

~~18.~~19. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~19.~~20. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~20.~~21. **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, taking into account the associated risks and the need to exchange experience on ways to mitigate such risks; **(Ad-ref)**

~~21.~~22. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~22.~~23. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~23.~~24. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~24.~~25. **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)**

~~25.~~26. **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)**

~~26.~~27. **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 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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~27.~~28. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~28.~~29. **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 sustainable development goals 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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~29.~~30. **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 and promoting the participation, skills development and empowerment of young people, while giving due attention to their physical, psychosocial and digital well-being, including through preventive approaches to substance use and behavioural addictions; Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to advancing the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035; **(Ad-ref)**

~~30.~~31. Welcoming the convening of the 2028 United Nations Water Conference, to be held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 4–6 May 2028, and recognizing its importance in accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and advancing international cooperation on water and sanitation; Expressing support for the preparatory process and encouraging ECO Member States to actively engage in the Conference and contribute to its action-oriented outcomes, including the Dushanbe Water

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Framework, with a view to strengthening regional and international water cooperation (Tajikistan proposal) Tajikistan 03.11.26) (Ad-ref)

~~31.~~32. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~32.~~33. **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); **(Ad-ref)**

~~33.~~34. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~34.~~35. **Acknowledging** the need for continued consultation with Member States to address the issues of Afghanistan's engagement with the Organization in relevant areas, with a view to achieving the country's full and effective participation once circumstances permit; (alternative to preceding proposed by Pakistan) **(Türkiye wishes to retain the original version)**

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~~35.~~36. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~36.~~37. **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)~~ including through potential cooperation with the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB) **(Türkiye 19.10.26)** 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) (Ad-ref) 26.10.26

~~37.~~38. **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)**

Have decided to:

1. Welcome with appreciation the convening of the next ECO Ministerial Meetings on Commerce and Foreign Trade and Agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy in the Republic of Türkiye; and the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meetings on Interior and ICT, including the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Also Welcome the planned ECO Ministerial Meetings on Finance/Economy and Health and Agriculture in Iran, and; Appreciate the readiness of Member States to host the relevant meetings during 2026 and 2027; Encourage the timely convening of these meetings and participation of Member States at the highest appropriate level, with a view to sustaining the momentum of sectoral cooperation, strengthening policy coordination and advancing

the implementation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;

2. **Request** ECO Member States to participate at the highest level in the 18th ECO Summit in Tehran, which will provide an important opportunity to endorse the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 as a roadmap for advancing regional integration, connectivity and shared prosperity; ~~Secretariat's alternative version to preceding para as mandated by PrepCom~~ (Iran will come up with an alternative word to 'endorse' 12.10.2026)

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

4. **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, national circumstance and development priorities of Member States; **(Ad-ref)**

5. **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)**

6. **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

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cross-border cooperation, and creating a favorable environment for business contacts through a system of agreed priorities and mutual benefits; **Encourage** Member States to consider replicating the successful model of the joint trade zone established between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has demonstrated clear benefits for trade growth and business confidence; **(Ad-ref)**

7. ***Call upon*** Member States to undertake joint measures aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, developing free economic zones, establishing joint manufacturing enterprises and regional value chains, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as enhancing export potential; further call upon Member States to intensify cooperation in promoting domestic products in regional and international markets, organizing joint trade and investment exhibitions and forums, exchanging export-related information and developing e-commerce, as well as facilitating the establishment of direct business contacts among entrepreneurs, simplifying trade procedures through the digitalization of export and import procedures, developing the Single Window system, the electronic exchange of trade documents, reducing customs clearance costs and timeframes, in compliance with the national legislation of the Member States; (Tajikistan- 03.11.26)

8. **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. **(Ad-ref)**

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

10. **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, as well as the importance of developing transport and transit corridors, improving access of landlocked ECO Member States to international seaports, reducing transportation costs and removing existing barriers to the carriage of goods; **(Ad-ref)**

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

12. 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)**

13. Underline the importance of strengthening the security and resilience of critical digital infrastructure and essential services across the ECO region, and encourage enhanced cooperation amongst Member States in the field of ICT security including through capacity-building and voluntary exchange of information and best practices, cooperation amongst the relevant national relevant bodies and joint training and exercises for preparedness in accordance with national legislation and relevant international frameworks. **(Ad-ref)**

14. **Emphasize** the importance of ensuring equal, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory access, particularly for developing countries, to global markets for ICT security products, technologies and services, as a confidence-building measure to address security capability gaps, strengthen supply chain resilience and integrity, and enhance mutual trust among Member States. **Encourage** international cooperation, including the exchange of knowledge and best practices, capacity-building and technology transfer, as appropriate, while avoiding

unjustified restrictions and unnecessary barriers that impede access to ICT security tools. **(Ad-ref)**

15. **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).**

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

17. **Take note of** 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 industrialization, energy and climate goals in the ECO region and beyond; **(Ad-ref)**

18. **Welcome** the adoption of "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on minerals cooperation for 2026– 2030" as the first ever overarching and inclusive framework document for regional cooperation in the field of minerals, including critical minerals essential for advanced and emerging technologies, and, in this regard; Reaffirm the commitment to promoting the sustainable management of mineral resources across the region; **(Ad-ref)**

19. ~~Reiterate the resolve to support stronger regional action for addressing climate change, desertification, by promoting a transition towards resource efficient and low emission while underscoring the need to secure adequate means of implementation, including financing, technology transfer, and capacity building **(Ad-ref)**~~

Reiterate the resolve to support stronger regional action for addressing climate change and desertification, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the adverse effects of climate change, reducing vulnerability and climate risks, as well as transitioning to resource-efficient and low-emission development; to underscore the importance

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of pursuing climate cooperation on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, taking into account the objectives of the Paris Agreement, relevant international obligations, and national conditions and priorities of Member States; to promote the implementation of nationally determined contributions, national adaptation strategies and plans through enhanced access to climate finance, transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building; (alternative to preceding paras by Tajikistan) *03.11.26* (Iran proposal to make it generic without reference to any international frameworks and agreements)

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

21. ***Recognize*** the importance of preserving glaciers and other components of the cryosphere for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change; to note the importance of further international cooperation in advancing the outcomes of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025, and within the framework of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034; to promote the strengthening of scientific research, systematic observations and monitoring of the state of glaciers, the assessment of climate risks associated with changes in glaciers, the training of specialists, and the exchange of scientific information on mutually agreed terms, including through cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; *(Proposal of Tajikistan). 03.11.26*

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

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

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

25. Welcome the continued implementation of the ECO Tourism Capital initiative and encouraging all Member States to actively support and participate in the programme, recognizing its contribution to cultural exchange, local economic development and the preservation of cultural heritage, and note with appreciation the designated ECO Tourism Capitals, commencing with Lahore in 2027, followed by Mary in 2028, Karakol in 2029 and Aktau in 2030; **(Ad-ref)**

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 and the development, within the ECO Youth Forum, of thematic workshops, experience-sharing and capacity-building initiatives in areas of common interest, including entrepreneurship, innovation, sustainable development and technology; Call upon Member States to consider, subject to their national legislation, priorities and available resources, allocating appropriate financial resources to support youth engagement in regional economic integration **(Ad-ref)**

27. **Emphasize** the importance of strengthening the capacity of national hydrometeorological services, modernizing observation networks, improving forecasting, and developing people-oriented early warning systems for hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena; to promote cooperation in these areas in support of the implementation of the United Nations initiative 'Early Warnings for All – EW4ALL', in cooperation with the relevant national authorities and international partners; *(proposed by Tajikistan November 3, 2026).*

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, complemented, as appropriate, by evidence-based prevention, early intervention and referral to treatment; **(Ad-ref)**

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; **(Ad-ref)**

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; **(Ad-ref)**

Underscore the need for achieving meaningful progress on all concerns of Member States as a prerequisite for fostering regional cooperation and laying the basis for Afghanistan's participation in any ECO activities and processes; (alternative to preceding by Pakistan) **(Türkiye wishes to retain the original version)**

~~30.~~31. Reject unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and economic pressures and their extraterritorial economic, technological, financial or trade impacts which are contrary to the purposes and principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations, the fundamental norms of International law, and the right to development of nations, adversely affecting international peace and security, impeding sustainable development, jeopardising regional and global economic stability and undermining provision supply chain of food, pharmaceutical and energy and humanitarian assistance. **(Proposed by Iran as per agreed language of the Mashhad Communique 26.10.26) Azerbaijan needs time to consult further**

~~31.~~32. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

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~~32.~~33. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~33.~~34. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~34.~~35. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~35.~~36. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~36.~~37. **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),~~ (Türkiye 19.10.2026) 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) (Türkiye 29.09.2026) (Ad-ref)

Commented [MM2]: We support the ECO Secretariat's efforts to engage with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs). However, we are not in favor of explicitly naming any specific institution in the context of cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, as this could be perceived as limiting or prioritizing potential partnerships. Accordingly, we consider it preferable to maintain a broader and more inclusive approach by referring to IFIs and MDBs in general terms.(Turkiye 19.10.26)

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~~37.~~38. ~~**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~~; **Reiterate** the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB), including through the expansion of its membership to a broader range of interested ECO Member States (Proposed by Kazakhstan~~)~~, *providing that the participation of the Member States in financing mechanisms shall be carried out taking into account national interests and financial capacities, and in accordance with established procedures (Tajikistan) 3.11.26* – *PM Section to comment on it*) **Re-emphasize the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Development Bank (TDB) by both expanding its membership to all interested ECO Member States; Recommend also strengthening the Bank's role in project financing and in fund raising from international partners for prioritized ECO projects. (proposed by Iran as alternate – agreed language from Mashhad Communique) 8th Prepcom 12.10.2026 – Comment received from Türkiye on 19.10.2026 (Ad-ref) 26.10.26 (Secretariat will come up with a concise version of this**

Reiterate the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB), including through expanding its membership to interested ECO Member States, taking into account their national interests, financial capacities and established procedures, while recognizing the importance of enhancing the Bank's role in financing priority ECO projects and mobilizing resources from international partners, in accordance with its mandate and established governance mechanisms. (As tasked by 10th PrepCom, Secretariat proposes this version to replace the preceding para on ECO TDB)

~~38.~~39. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~39.~~40. **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, water quality improvement, wastewater treatment and reuse, climate-resilient water infrastructure, , and early warning systems; and encourage the development of bankable regional

Commented [MM3]: The newly proposed paragraph 39 still remains unacceptable to us. We believe that language directly referring to the Bank's operational activities, particularly those related to project financing and fundraising, is inappropriate. ECO TDB is an independent international financial institution whose governance structure, mandate, and decision-making processes are determined by its member countries. In this regard, we consider it inappropriate for COM to assign tasks to, or issue directives to the Bank; whose decisions should be taken solely through its decision-making bodies.

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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)**

~~40.~~41. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~41.~~42. **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. **(Ad-ref)**

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
(Preceding the 30th Meetingof the Council of Ministers)

Draft Agenda
And
Annotated Draft Agenda

November 15, 2026
Islamabad, Pakistan

Draft Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting and Remarks by ECO Secretary General;
2. Remarks by the Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
3. Appointment of the Drafting Committee;
4. **Preparation for the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM):**
   - **a)** Draft Agenda of the **30th** COM;
   - **b)** Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization;
   - **c)** Review and Approval of:
     - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
     - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
     - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies;
   - **d)** Adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035
   - **e)** Adoption of the Draft Decisions on 1st HLC Report
   - **f)** Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat:
     - ECO Budget for 2027
     - Re-appointment/tenure extension of the Incumbent President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
   - **g)** Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué;
   - **h)** Treaty Event;
   - **i)** Any other business;
   - **j)** Date and venue of the next COM meeting;
   - **k)** Finalization of Draft Report of the 30th Meeting of Council of Ministers.
5. Closing Remarks.

Annotated Draft Agenda

Agenda Item No.1
Opening

1. The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan will make his opening remarks. The Secretary General may welcome the participants and brief the Meeting on the current state of affairs of ECO and present an overview on the Preparatory process for 30thMeeting of Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2
Remarks by the Chairman

2. As per practice, the Secretary General will invite the Head of Delegation of the host country/the Senior Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to chair the Meeting. The Chairman of the Meeting will make his remarks and call the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No.3
Appointment of Drafting Committee

3. A Drafting Committee may be established by Meeting to facilitate its work.

Agenda Item No.4
Preparation for the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

4. The Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) decided to establish a Preparatory Committee to be chaired by the current Chair (**Pakistan**) to discuss all the issues relating to the preparations for upcoming SOM and COM Meetings in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Preparatory Committee, so far, held 11 meetings, in this regard.

5. In line with the deliberations made at PrepCom level, the CPR discussed and finalized the Draft Agenda of COM meeting, as well as Draft Islamabad Communiqué, for further consideration by SoM.

a. Draft Agenda of 30th COM Meeting

6. The SOM may consider the following Draft Agenda and Annotated Draft Agenda of the 30th COM Meeting and endorse it:

Draft Agenda

- Welcoming the distinguished Ministers/Heads of Delegation by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- Family Photo;

- Statement by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the current ECO Chair;
- Statement by the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as the ECO Chair in 2025;
- Statement by the ECO Secretary General.

1) Adoption of the Agenda;
2) Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Member States;
   Other statements:
   - Statements by the ECO Observers *(if any)*;
   - Statements by Heads of International Partner Institutions
   - Statement by Heads of ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies;
3) Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization;
4) Review and Approval of:
   - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
   - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
   - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies;
5) Adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035
6) Adoption of the Draft Proposals on 1st HLC Report
7) Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat:
   - ECO Budget for 2027
   - Re-appointment/tenure extension of the Incumbent President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
8) Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué;
9) Treaty Event;
10) Any other business;
11) Date and venue of the next COM meeting;
12) Adoption of Report and closing of the Meeting.

b. Consideration of the Report of the Secretary General on activities of the Organization

7. Pursuant to Article IX (2) of the Treaty of Izmir, the Secretariat prepared and circulated Annual Report of the ECO Secretary General dated October 31, 2026.

8. The Report outlines the activities and major achievements of the Organization since the 29th Session of the Council of Ministers. It also highlights progress in regional projects and programmes, institutional effectiveness, global visibility and cooperation with regional and international partners.

9. The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) may consider the Report of the ECO Secretary General and submit its recommendations thereon to the Council.

c. Review and Approval of:

- Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
- Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
- Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies.

10. Since the 29th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on November 28, 2025, the CPR held (10) Meetings. The adopted Reports were circulated among the Member States. The SoM may review and recommend these reports for adoption by the COM.

11. The SoM may also review Report of the ECO Ministerial Meetings on DRR, Tourism, Environment, Industry and Transport, for adoption by the COM:

12. In accordance with Article X of the Treaty of Izmir, ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies are required to submit their Annual Reports to the COM on their activities.

13. The SoM may review all such reports for adoption by the COM.

d. Adoption of Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035

14. The 29th Council of Ministers mandated the continuation of intergovernmental deliberations on the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 and extended the validity of the ECO Vision 2025 until the new Strategic Goals are formally adopted.

15. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Member States through the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and written consultations, has finalized the draft for submission to the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

16. The SOM may consider the document and recommend its adoption by the Council as the Organization's new strategic framework, superseding the ECO Vision 2025.

e. Adoption of the Draft Decisions on 1st HLC Report

17. The 1st Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) of the ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers, held on February 3, 2025, made a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the administrative, financial and operational effectiveness of the ECO Secretariat.

18. Pursuant to the decision of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), an HLC Working Group was established to develop concrete proposals for the implementation of these recommendations.

19. The Working Group held three meetings so far, thereby drafting proposals on the first three chapters of the HLC recommendations. However, given the pending position of Kazakhstan, the finalization of these proposals is yet to be made.

20. The SOM may consider the matter and make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Council.

f. Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat

- ***ECO Budget for 2027***

19. Given the pending position of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the 310th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), provisionally adopted the Draft ECO Budget for 2027 with the understanding that the Secretariat would further engage with Kazakhstan side regarding its assessed contribution and revert to the Council on the outcome.

20. The ECO Secretary General, vide his letter dated October 8, 2026, approached the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, seeking his support for the ECO Budget 2027. However, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, at the 311th CPR Meeting, informed that following a letter from the ECO Secretary General, they are waiting for the response of their relevant authorities in this regard. The final position of Kazakhstan is expected to be received at 312th CPR Meeting scheduled for November 8, 2026.

21. The SOM may consider the matter and make necessary recommendations to the Council for approval of ECO Budget 2027.

- ***Re-appointment/tenure extension of the Incumbent President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)***

22. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, vide Note Verbale No. ECO/7/10/2026 dated August 24, 2026, forwarded a request from ECOSF regarding the extension of the tenure of its incumbent President, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi.

23. Subsequently, ECOSF, vide Note No. ECOSF/6th BoT/2026 dated September 7, 2026, informed that its Board of Trustees, at its 6th Meeting held on July 22, 2026, unanimously recommended his re-appointment for a further three-year term, from August 10, 2025 to August 10, 2028, without further extension.

24. In accordance with Article 5 of the Additional Protocol to the ECOSF Charter, the appointment requires approval of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM). Accordingly, ECOSF requested the inclusion of this matter in the agenda of the forthcoming COM for consideration and approval.

25. The SOM may consider the matter for approval by the Council.

g. Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué

26. Under this item, the SoM may review and finalize the Islamabad Communiqué for adoption by the COM.

h. Treaty Event

27. The ECO Secretariat vide communication No. _____ dated _____, circulated the latest status of agreements concluded within the framework of ECO.

28. A treaty event will be held under this agenda item of the COM, if member states appear to convey their willingness for signing any ECO agreement (s).

i. Any Other Business

29. The delegations may discuss any other issue(s) under this Agenda Item.

j. Date and Venue of the next COM meeting

30. The 31st Session of the Council of Ministers (COM) will be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2027, as part of its two-year Chairmanship of the Organization under the new rotational mechanism.

i. Endorsement/finalization of the Draft Report of 30th COM Meeting

31. Under this Agenda Item, the Meeting may consider and endorse the Draft Report of 30th COM prepared/finalized by the Drafting Committee for further submission to the COM for adoption.

Agenda Item No.5

Closing

32. The Meeting may express its appreciation to the senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for his able chairmanship and the efficient conduct of the Meeting. The Meeting may also appreciate the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

33. The Meeting may further express its appreciation to the ECO Secretary General and the Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documentation and effective coordination with the ECO Member States in organizing the Meeting.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)

Draft Agenda and Annotated Draft Agenda

November 16, 2026
Islamabad, Pakistan

Draft Agenda

Inaugural Ceremony

- Welcoming the distinguished Ministers/Heads of Delegation by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- Family Photo

Opening Statements

- Statement by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the host and current ECO Chair;
- Statement by the Honourable Foreign Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan as the ECO Chairin 2025;
- Statement by the distinguished ECO Secretary General.

1. Adoption of the Agenda;

2. Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Member States;
   Other statements:
   - Statements by the ECO Observers, if any.
   - Statement by the Heads of International Partner Institutions**.**
   - Statement by Heads of ECO Bodies;

3. Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization;
4. Review and approval of:
   - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
   - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
   - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies;
5. Adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035
6. Adoption of the Draft Proposals on 1st HLC Report;
7. Administrative and Financial Matters of the ECO Secretariat;
   - ECO Budget for 2027
   - Re-appointment/tenure Extension of the Incumbent President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)
8. Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué;
9. Treaty Event;
10. Any other business;
11. Date and venue of the next COM meeting;
12. Adoption of Report and closing of the Meeting.

Annotated Draft Agenda

Inaugural Ceremony

- **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar**, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will welcome the Distinguished Heads of Delegation;
- The Heads of Delegation will be invited for a Family Photo.

Opening Statements

- **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar**, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistanwill make his statement and preside over the event, as the current ECO Chair;

- **H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, will deliver his statement, as the ECO Chair in 2025;

- **H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan**, ECO Secretary General, will deliver his statement on the activities of the Organization;

Agenda Item No.1
Adoption of the Agenda

1. As proposed by the Senior Officials Meeting (SoM), the Council may adopt the Agenda of its Meeting.

Agenda Item No.2
Statements by:

- **Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Member States**

2. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs/Heads of Delegation of the Member States will be invited to make their statements in alphabetical order (*priority to be given to the Ministers*).***7-minute duration is recommended for each statement.***

Other statements:

- **ECO Observers**

3. After the ECO Member States, Heads of Delegation of the ECO Observers will be invited to deliver their statements. ***4-minute duration is recommended for each statement.***

- **International Partner Institutions**

4. The Heads of International Partner Institutions (if representing), will be invited to make their statements. 4-minute duration is recommended for each statement.

- **ECO Bodies**

5. The Heads/Presidents of the under-mentioned ECO Bodies will be invited to make their statements. ***3-minute duration is recommended for each statement.***

i) ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI)
ii) ECO Cultural Institute (ECO-ECI)
iii) ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF)
iv) ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB)
v) Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Member States (PAECO)

Agenda Item No.3
Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization

6. As laid down in Article IX (2) of the Treaty of Izmir, the Secretary General presents his annual report to the COM that will be circulated among the Member States in due course.

7. The Report will highlight the ECO's key activities and achievements since the 29th COM Meeting (November 28,2025). Moreover, it will cover progress on regional projects and programmes, institutional effectiveness and efforts to strengthen the Organization's global visibility and partnerships.

8. The Council may consider the Report of the ECO Secretary General on activities and engagements of the Organization.

Agenda Item No.4
Review and Approval of:

- Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings
- Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings
- Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies

9. The Reports of CPR and Sectoral Ministerial Meetings, held since the 29th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on November28, 2025, will be considered by the COM for adoption.

10. In accordance with Article X of the Treaty of Izmir, ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies are required to submit their Annual Reports to the COM on their activities. The COM will review and adopt all such reports presented to it for consideration.

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

11. The 29th Council of Ministers mandated the continuation of intergovernmental deliberations on the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 and agreed to extend the validity of the ECO Vision 2025 until the new Strategic Goals are finalized and formally adopted.

12. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Member States through successive rounds of Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings and written consultations, has finalized the draft.

13. The Council may consider and adopt the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation–2035 as the Organization's new strategic framework, superseding the ECO Vision 2025.

Agenda Item No.6
Adoption of the Draft Proposals on 1st HLC Report

14. The 1st Meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) of the ECO Deputy Foreign Ministers, held on February 3, 2025, made a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the administrative, financial and operational effectiveness of the ECO Secretariat.

15. Pursuant to the decision of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), an HLC Working Group was established to develop concrete proposals for the implementation of these recommendations.

16. The Working Group held three meetings so far, thereby drafting proposals on the first three chapters of the HLC recommendations.

17. The Council may consider the matter in light of the recommendations of SOM.

Agenda Item No.7
Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat

- **ECO Budget for 2027**

18. Given the pending position of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the 310th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), provisionally adopted the Draft ECO Budget for 2027 with the understanding that the Secretariat would further engage with Kazakhstan side regarding its assessed contribution and revert to the Council on the outcome.

19. The ECO Secretary General, vide his letter dated October 8, 2026, approached the Honourable Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, seeking his support for the ECO Budget 2027. However, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, at the 311th CPR Meeting, informed that following a letter from the ECO

Secretary General, they are waiting for the response of their relevant authorities in this regard.

20. Given the importance of matter for the smooth functioning of the Organization, the Council may consider and approve the Draft ECO Budget 2027.

- **Re-appointment/tenure extension of the Incumbent President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF)**

21. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, vide Note Verbale No. ECO/7/10/2026 dated August 24, 2026, forwarded a request from ECOSF regarding the extension of the tenure of its incumbent President, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi.

22. The ECOSF, in its Note No. ECOSF/6th BoT/2026 dated September 7, 2026, informed that its Board of Trustees, at its 6th Meeting held on July 22, 2026, unanimously recommended his re-appointment for a further three-year term, from August 10, 2025 to August 10, 2028, without further extension.

23. In accordance with Article 5 of the Additional Protocol to the ECOSF Charter, the appointment requires approval of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM).

24. The Council may consider and approve the requested re-appointment/tenure extension of the incumbent President of the ECOSF.

Agenda Item No.8
Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué

25. Under this item, the Council will consider and adopt the Islamabad Communiqué, to be proposed by the Senior Officials Meeting, preceding the COM.

26. Upon presentation, the Council may consider and adopt the document.

Agenda Item No.9
Treaty Event

27. The ECO Secretariat vide communication No._____ dated _____, circulated the latest status of agreements concluded within the framework of ECO.

28. A treaty event will be held under this agenda, if member states appear to convey their willingness for signing any ECO agreement (s).

Agenda Item No.10
Any other business

29. The delegations may discuss other issue(s), if any, under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No.11
Date and Venue of the next COM meeting

30. The 31th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) will be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistanin 2027, being the two-year Chair of the Organisation under the new rotational mechanism.

Agenda Item No.12
Adoption of Report and closing of the Meeting

31. Under this agenda item, the Council may consider and approve the Report of its 30th Session.

32. The Council may express its appreciation to **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for his excellent Chairmanship of the 30th Session of the COM, and to the Government of Pakistan for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

33. The Council may also express its appreciation to **Ambassador Asad M. Khan**, ECO Secretary General, and the Secretariat for the preparation of the meeting documentation and the effective coordination of the 30th Session.

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

No: CFU /2026/1262

Priority: Urgent
Date: 27/10/2026
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 honor to enclose Report of the 9th PrepCom Meeting, held on October 26, 2026, together with the **updated versions of the Draft Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035**, and the **Draft Islamabad Communiqué** in track-changes format.

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

All ECO Member States - Tehran

(Updated by 9th PrepCom)

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

Draft Islamabad Communiqué

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

1. **Recalling** the principles enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir and the goals set within the ECO framework, as well as the shared resolve of our Heads of State and Government to strengthen regional cooperation, advance sustainable development and foster inclusive economic growth; **(Ad-ref)**

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) (Deletion proposed by Iran dated 14.09.2026) Retention proposed by Uzbekistan (Turkiye 11.10.2026)

Expressing concern over the challenging geopolitical environment in the region, **condemning** military strikes on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran that caused numerous civilian casualties

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and significant infrastructure damage, violated international law and the UN Charter, and pose serious risks to international peace, security and stability; **expressing solidarity** with the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and **emphasizing** restraint, peaceful dialogue and diplomatic engagement, support for a peaceful settlement through diplomatic means; (Iran 29.9.2026)

3. Appreciating and commending the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's consistent and constructive diplomatic support for ECO Member States and its mediation efforts towards de-escalation during the recent Iran-United States crisis, including the Islamabad Peace Talks and the resulting Islamabad MoU, as well as its participation in the post-agreement negotiations in Burgenstock, Switzerland; reaffirming the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, respect for international law and promoting mutual trust, stability and the peaceful resolution of disputes, and calling for continued cooperation within the ECO framework towards lasting peace and stability in the region. ; in addition to Pakistan's commendable efforts, highly appreciating the State of Qatar for its important role as a trusted facilitator of international diplomacy, most notably demonstrated by its mediation efforts at the 81st United Nations General Assembly. **(Ad-ref)**

4. **Commending** the Organization for demonstrating that regionalism can remain effective and operational even under conditions of acute geopolitical stress; **(Ad-ref)**

5. **Underscoring** the importance of convening regular and timely in-person meetings of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) and other high-level meetings as essential mechanisms for strengthening policy coordination, providing strategic guidance, advancing regional cooperation and ensuring the effective implementation of ECO decisions, priorities and joint initiatives. **(Ad-ref)**

6. Recalling the adoption of ECO Vision 2025 at the 13th ECO Summit in Islamabad in 2017, and welcoming the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035, to be adopted at the 18th ECO Summit in Tehran in 2026, as a comprehensive framework building upon the achievements and guiding principles of ECO Vision 2025 to further advance regional integration, connectivity, resilience and

sustainable prosperity, and resolving that Member States and ECO institutions take the necessary steps for its timely and effective implementation. **(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)**

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

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; **(Ad-ref)**

10. **Acknowledging** with deep appreciation the assumption by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan of the ECO Chairmanship for 2026-2027 under the newly established two-year Chairmanship formula; welcoming its theme, "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO," and expressing full support for the Chairmanship's efforts to advance this theme through enhanced dialogue, strengthened multilateral cooperation, expanded regional connectivity and greater people-to-people exchanges, with a view to furthering the Organization's shared regional objectives; **(Ad-ref)**

11. **Acknowledging with appreciation** the successful convening of the 10th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Islamic

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Republic of Pakistan in January 2026; the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Shusha, Republic of Azerbaijan, in April 2026; the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, in June 2026; the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport in the Republic of Kazakhstan in October 2026; the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry and the 3rd Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group on Industry in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan in September 2026; **Also acknowledging** the First Meeting of the ECO High-Level Dialogue Platform on Environmental Cooperation held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan in April 2026, and the First Meeting of the Technical Negotiation Committee on ECOTA held in April 2026; **Welcoming** the substantive outcomes of these meetings, including the adoption of relevant strategies, frameworks, roadmaps and recommendations aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in their respective sectors; **Expressing** sincere appreciation to the host Member States for their valuable contributions to advancing the objectives of the Organization; (one consolidated para on meetings held) **(Ad-ref)** 26.10.26

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~~10.~~12. **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)**

~~11.~~13. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~12.~~14. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~13.~~15. **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 Expressing confidence that these engagements will further strengthen policy coordination and the implementation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035; **(Ad-ref)**

~~14.~~16. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~15.~~17. **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; while taking into account the different levels of development and national circumstances of Member States; **(Ad-ref)**

~~16.~~18. 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)**

~~17.~~19. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~18. **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)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para given the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s) (Ad-ref)26.10.26**

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~~19.~~20. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~20. **Confident** that the 14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, held in October 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; **(Ad-ref)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

21. **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, taking into account the associated risks and the need to exchange experience on ways to mitigate such risks; **(Ad-ref)**

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

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

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

~~25. **Appreciating** the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment on 3 June 2026 in Samarkand, 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; **(Ad-ref)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

~~26.~~25. **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)**

~~27.~~26. **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)**

~~28.~~27. **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~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)** 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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~29.~~28. 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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~30.~~29. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~31.~~30. **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 sustainable development goals 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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~32.~~31. **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 and promoting the participation, skills development and empowerment of young people, while giving due attention to their physical, psychosocial and digital well-being, including through preventive approaches to substance use and behavioural addictions; Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to advancing the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035; **(Ad-ref)**

~~33.~~32. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~34.~~33. **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); **(Ad-ref)**

~~35.~~34. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~36.~~35. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~37.~~36. **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)~~ including thought potential cooperation with the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECOTDB) **(Turkiye 19.10.26)** 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) (Ad-ref)26.10.26

Commented [MM2]: While encouraging the ECO Secretariat to explore diversified financing mechanisms, we believe that direct references to the financial resources of the ETDB should be avoided, given that the Bank operates within its own mandate and institutional framework. Accordingly, the wording could be refined to adopt a more measured tone, avoiding language that may be construed as directly tasking the ETDB, whose decision-making processes are governed by its own Board of Directors and Board of Governors.

~~38.~~37. **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)**

Have decided to:

1. **Welcome with appreciation** the convening of the next ECO Ministerial Meetings on Commerce and Foreign Trade and Agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy in the Republic of Türkiye; and the forthcoming ECO Ministerial Meetings on Interior and ICT, including the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan; **Also Welcome** the planned ECO Ministerial Meetings on Finance/Economy and Health, and appreciate the readiness of Member States to host the relevant meetings during 2026 and 2027; **Encouraging the timely convening of these meetings and participation of Member States at the highest appropriate level**, with a view to sustaining the momentum of sectoral cooperation, strengthening policy coordination and advancing the implementation of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035; (one consolidated para on meetings to be held)

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; **(Ad-ref)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

2. ~~**Request** ECO Member States to participate at the highest level in 18th ECO Summit in Tehran in which the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation 2035 to be adopted? as a roadmap for advancing regional integration, connectivity and prosperity; (Iran – 14.09.2026)~~

Request ECO Member States to participate at the highest level in the 18th ECO Summit in Tehran, which will provide an important opportunity to endorse ~~—~~the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035 as a roadmap for advancing regional integration, connectivity and shared prosperity; ~~Secretariat's alternative version to preceding para as mandated by PrepCom~~ (Iran will come up with an alternative word to 'endorse' 12.10.2026)

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

4. **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, national circumstance and development priorities of Member States; **(Ad-ref)**

5. **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)**

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

7. ~~**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; **(Ad-ref)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

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8. **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. **(Ad-ref)**

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

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

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

12. 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)**

13. Underline the importance of strengthening the security and resilience of critical digital infrastructure and essential services across the ECO region, and encourage enhanced cooperation amongst Member States in the field of ICT security including through capacity-building and voluntary exchange of information and best practices, cooperation amongst the relevant national relevant bodies and joint training and exercises for preparedness in accordance with national legislation and relevant international frameworks. **(Ad-ref)**

14. **Emphasize** the importance of ensuring equal, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory access, particularly for developing countries, to global markets for ICT security products, technologies and services, as a confidence-building measure to address security capability gaps, strengthen supply chain resilience and integrity, and enhance mutual trust among Member States. **Encourage** international cooperation, including the exchange of knowledge and best practices, capacity-building and technology transfer, as appropriate, while avoiding unjustified restrictions and unnecessary barriers that impede access to ICT security tools. **(Ad-ref)**

15. **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).**

16. ~~**Take** note with appreciation the intention of the Republic of Türkiye to host the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy in 2026;~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

~~16.~~17. 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); **(Ad-ref)**

~~17.~~18. **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 industrialization, energy and climate goals in the ECO region and beyond; **(Ad-ref)**

~~18.~~19. **Welcome** the adoption of "ECO Five-Year Roadmap on minerals cooperation for 2026– 2030" as the first ever overarching and inclusive framework document for regional cooperation in the field of minerals, including critical minerals essential for advanced and emerging technologies, and, in this regard; Reaffirm the commitment to promoting the sustainable management of mineral resources across the region; **(Ad-ref)**

~~19.~~20. Reiterate the resolve to support stronger regional action for addressing climate change, desertification, by promoting a transition towards resource efficient and low emission while underscoring the need to secure adequate means of implementation, including financing, technology transfer, and capacity building **(Ad-ref)**

~~20. **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~~

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~~Level Dialogue Platform, thereby transforming the ECO region into a leading example of climate smart and resilient regional cooperation; **(Ad-ref)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

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

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

23. ~~**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; **(Ad-ref)**~~ **Secretariat proposes deletion of this para give the fact that, as proposed by Iran, all meeting related paras have been merged in single para (s)**

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

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

26. **Welcome** the continued implementation of the ECO Tourism Capital initiative and encouraging all Member States to actively support and participate in the programme, recognizing its contribution to cultural exchange, local economic development and the preservation of cultural heritage, and note with appreciation the designated ECO Tourism Capitals, commencing with Lahore in 2027, followed by Mary in 2028, Karakol in 2029 and Aktau in 2030; **(Ad-ref)**

27. **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 and the development, within the ECO Youth Forum, of thematic workshops, experience-sharing and capacity-building initiatives in areas of common interest, including entrepreneurship, innovation, sustainable development and technology; Call upon Member States to consider, subject to their national legislation, priorities and available resources, allocating appropriate financial resources to support youth engagement in regional economic integration **(Ad-ref)**

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

29. **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, complemented, as appropriate, by evidence-based prevention, early intervention and referral to treatment; **(Ad-ref)**

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

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

~~31.~~**32.** Reject unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and economic pressures and their extraterritorial economic, technological, financial or trade impacts which are contrary to the purposes and principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations, the fundamental norms of International law, and the right to development of nations, adversely affecting international peace and security, impeding sustainable development, jeopardising regional and global economic stability and undermining provision supply chain of food, pharmaceutical and energy and humanitarian assistance. **(Proposed by Iran as per agreed language of the Mashhad Communique 26.10.26) Azerbaijan needs time to consult further**

~~32.~~33. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~33.~~34. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~34.~~35. **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

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events that effectively promote ECO priorities, objectives and regional cooperation agenda; **(Ad-ref)**

~~35.~~36. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~36.~~37. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~37.~~38. **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),~~ (Turkiye 19.10.2026) 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) (Turkiye 29.09.2026) (Ad-ref)

39. ~~**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~~; ~~**Reiterate** the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB), including through the expansion of its membership to a broader range of interested ECO Member States; (Proposed by Kazakhstan)~~ **(Ad-ref)** ~~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~~

Commented [MM3]: We support the ECO Secretariat's efforts to engage with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs). However, we are not in favor of explicitly naming any specific institution in the context of cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, as this could be perceived as limiting or prioritizing potential partnerships. Accordingly, we consider it preferable to maintain a broader and more inclusive approach by referring to IFIs and MDBs in general terms.(Turkiye 19.10.26)

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

~~38.~~40. Recognize the role of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO TDB) in financing regional projects and programmes and its potential for cooperation with international financial and development institutions, in line with its mandate and operational priorities. **(Türkiye 19.10.2026)** Re-emphasize the need to strengthen the ECO Trade and Development Bank (TDB) by both expanding its membership to all ECO Member States; Recommend also 5 strengthening the Bank's role in project financing and in fund raising from international partners for prioritized ECO projects. **(proposed by Iran as alternate – agreed language from Mashhad Communique)** 8th Prepcom 12.10.2026 **– Comment received from Turkiye on 19.10.2026 (Ad-ref) 26.10.26**

~~39.~~41. **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; **(Ad-ref)**

~~40.~~42. **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, 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)**

~~41.~~43. **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

Commented [MM4]: 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.

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Commented [A5]: The proposed wording recognizes the role of ECO TDB in supporting regional development while avoiding language that could be interpreted as directing the Bank's operational activities, which fall within its own mandate and decision-making framework. ECO TDB is an independent international financial institution, and its governance and decision-making processes rest with its member countries, in accordance with its constituent documents.

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Commented [MM6]: The newly proposed paragraph 39 still remains unacceptable to us. We believe that language directly referring to the Bank's operational activities, particularly those related to project financing and fundraising, is inappropriate. ECO TDB is an independent international financial institution whose governance structure, mandate, and decision-making processes are determined by its member countries. In this regard, we consider it inappropriate for COM to assign tasks to, or issue directives to the Bank; whose decisions should be taken solely through its decision-making bodies.

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participation in the Meeting, reflecting steadfast commitment to regional cooperation; **(Ad-ref)**

~~42.~~44. **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. **(Ad-ref)**

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Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
(Preceding the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers)

Draft Agenda
And
Annotated Draft Agenda

November 15, 2026
Islamabad, Pakistan

Draft Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting and Remarks by ECO Secretary General;
2. Remarks by the Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
3. Appointment of the Drafting Committee;
4. **Preparation for the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM):**
   - **a)** Draft Agenda of the **30th** COM;
   - **b)** Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization;
   - **c)** Review and Approval of:
     - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
     - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
     - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies;
       - Adoption of the appointment of the nominee of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for a further term of three (3) years as President of ECOSF;
   - **d)** Adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
   - **e)** Adoption of the Draft Decisions on 1st HLC Report
   - **f)** Administrative and Financial Matters of ECO Secretariat:
   - **g)** Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué;
   - **h)** Treaty Event;
   - **i)** Any other business;
   - **j)** Date and venue of the next COM meeting;
   - **k)** Finalization of Draft Report of the 30th Meeting of Council of Ministers.
5. Closing Remarks.

Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO

30th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)

Draft Agenda and Annotated Draft Agenda

November 16, 2026
Islamabad, Pakistan

Draft Agenda

Inaugural Ceremony

- Welcoming remarks by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- Family Photo

Opening Statements

- Statement by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the host and current ECO Chair;
- Statement by the Honourable Foreign Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan as the ECO Chair in 2025;
- Statement by the distinguished ECO Secretary General.

1. Adoption of the Agenda;

2. Statements by Ministers/Heads of Delegation of Member States;
   Other statements:
   - Statements by the ECO Observers, if any.
   - Special Guest (s), if any.
   - Statement by the Heads of Regional and International Partners, if any.
   - Statement by Heads of ECO Bodies;

3. Consideration of the Report of ECO Secretary General on activities of the Organization;
4. Review and approval of:
   - Reports of ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meetings;
   - Reports of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
   - Reports of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies:
     - Adoption of the appointment of the nominee of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for a further term of three (3) years as President of ECOSF;
5. Adoption of the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035;
6. Adoption of the Draft Decisions on 1st HLC Report;
7. Administrative and Financial Matters of the ECO Secretariat;
8. Adoption of Islamabad Communiqué;
9. Treaty Event;
10. Any other business;
11. Date and venue of the next COM meeting;
12. Adoption of Report and closing of the Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5
Administrative and Budgetary Matters

Agenda Item No. 6
Any Other Business

Agenda Item No. 7
Date of the next CPR Meeting