



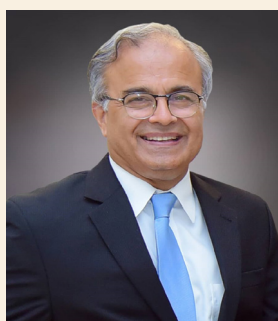
ECO Newsletter

Economic Cooperation Organization

September, 2026- No. 25



Dear Readers,



The month of September 2026 was marked by continued engagement and cooperation for the Economic Cooperation Organization, with a range of high-level meetings and sectoral activities contributing to the Organization's ongoing efforts to advance regional cooperation.

One of the key engagements during the month was the 27th Informal ECO Council of Ministers Meeting in New York, chaired by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly. Foreign Ministers and senior representatives reaffirmed their commitment to deepening economic integration. Member States looked forward to the 30th Council of Ministers Meeting in Islamabad and also acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat in maintaining the momentum and continuity of ECO's work during a challenging period for the region.

September also brought rich sectoral engagement. The Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Dushanbe marked the resumption of high-level ECO engagement on industry after a two-decade hiatus. Chaired by H.E. Sherali Kabir, it brought together Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegation, and adopted the Dushanbe Declaration on Revitalizing Regional Industrial Cooperation. I also participated in the Second International Textile Forum held alongside it.

In the judicial domain, Kazakhstan hosted the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States in Turkistan, reaffirming regular engagement for strategic alignment and regional legal cooperation. I held bilateral meetings with the Prosecutors General of Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and Iran.

The month was also marked by important diplomatic engagements. I received Ms. Yumiko Ishikawa Takashima, Representative of UNHCR in Iran, to discuss the situation of refugees and migration in the region.

ECO continued its engagement with international and regional partners through the first trilateral Joint Working Group with ETDB and IsDB, participation in the UN-ECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics in Geneva, and a webinar with IOFS on agricultural cooperatives. The Secretariat also participated in the Tenth North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on SDGs and the Grape Festival and investment conference in Urmia.

As September's accomplishments show, ECO's strength lies in collective action. Amid economic fragmentation, climate vulnerability, and security uncertainty, the Organization remains committed to turning regional cooperation into tangible results.

Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO HOLDS 27th INFORMAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN NEW YORK



New York – September 2026

The 27th Informal Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers was held on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, under the chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and attended by Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation from ECO Member States, along with observer members.

The Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Dr. Asad M. Khan, presented a brief report on the activities of the Organization to the Council. He thanked Pakistan for its able stewardship of the Organization in 2026 under the new arrangement wherein each Member state would steer the organization for a period of two years.

The Council reviewed the progress of ongoing ECO projects and initiatives, with a particular focus on advancing trade and enhancing regional connectivity. The Council also reaffirmed the collective commitment to comprehensive reforms aimed at revitalizing ECO as a dynamic and result-oriented regional forum.

The Secretary General emphasized the importance of greater political ownership and commitment from Member States to unlock the full potential of the Organization. He underscored that fostering economic cooperation among Member States remains an integral part of ECO's agenda.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to deepen regional cooperation, expand ECO corridors for greater intra-and-inter-regional connectivity, and to translate discussions into concrete action for the benefit of the people of the ECO region. Looking forward, the Council also highlighted the Council of Ministers Meeting scheduled to take place in November in Islamabad which would serve as an important occasion to strengthen collective commitments, and chart the future direction of ECO cooperation.



ECO SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, SENATOR M. ISHAQ DAR, AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF PAKISTAN, ASIM IFTIKHAR



On the sidelines of the 27th Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers in New York, ECO Secretary General, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and the newly appointed Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Asim Iftikhar Ali.



ECO SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE ON THE SIDELINES OF UNGA 2026

New York- September 25, 2026

The Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Dr. Asad M. Khan, met with H.E. Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, Foreign Minister of the Turkish Cypriot State (TCS), on the margins of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2026) in New York.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the ongoing cooperation between the ECO and the Turkish Cypriot State, which holds observer status within the Organization since 2012.

The ECO Secretary General appreciated the Turkish Cypriot State's participation in ECO activities and commended its constructive engagement across various areas of cooperation. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Ertuğruloğlu underlined the TCS's dedication to making substantive contributions to the ECO's objectives. He also provided the Secretary General with an update on recent developments and stressed the need to further consolidate the Turkish Cypriot State's role in both regional and international fora. Both sides also exchanged views on ways to further strengthen collaboration across various sectors of mutual interest, including tourism, higher education, trade, and connectivity.



ECO Secretary General Talks About ECO activities and Pakistan's role as current Chair





Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry Held in Dushanbe

ЧАЛАСАИ ЧОРУМИ ВАЗИРОНИ
САНОАТИ ДАВЛАТҶОИ АЪЗОИ
СОЗМОНИ ҲАМКОРИИ ИҚТИСОДИ

23 сентябри соли 2026
шаҳри Душанбе
Ҷумҳурии Тоҷикистон



THE FOURTH ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON INDUSTRY

September 23, 2026
Dushanbe
Republic of Tajikistan



Dushanbe – September 23, 2026

The Fourth ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry was held on 23 September 2026 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, following the Third High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry on 22 September. The Meeting marked the resumption of high-level ECO engagement on industry after a two-decade hiatus, giving renewed momentum to the regional industrial agenda.

The Meeting, chaired by H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, brought together Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegation from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) also participated.

The Meeting was jointly inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, and H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan, Secretary-General of ECO. The Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan, particularly H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, for

its warm hospitality, excellent arrangements and leadership in bringing high-level dialogue on industry back to the ECO agenda. He noted that the Meeting marked significant re-engagement after twenty years, presenting both an opportunity and a responsibility to advance the regional industrial agenda which is fundamental to the region's economic future. He also called for a shift from dialogue to implementation, with greater emphasis on joint initiatives, regional partnerships and practical results.

A key outcome was the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Revitalizing Regional Industrial Cooperation. The Declaration establishes a forward-looking framework focused on the agreed priority areas within the industry sector, including regional quality infrastructure, the nanotechnology network, industrial property rights, MSMEs and entrepreneurship, private-sector partnerships, and enhanced engagement with international partners, with a greater focus on advanced technologies and innovation. It also calls for the renewal and consolidation of the existing Regional Strategy on Industrial Cooperation and related Plans of Action into a coherent framework aligned with the Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation-2035.



3rd High Level Working Group Meeting on Industry Convenes



Dushanbe- September 22, 2026

The 3rd High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) Meeting on Industry was convened in Dushanbe today. The Meeting brought together delegates from across the ECO region, representatives of ECO-RISCAM, WIPO and UNIDO, and the ECO Secretariat delegation led by the Deputy Secretary General.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Aziz Nazar Savzali, Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan. In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed the participants and commended the ECO Secretariat for its efforts in organizing the session. He underlined that the primary mandate of the HLEG is to discuss and prepare the substantive documents for the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, which will convene tomorrow, September 23, 2026.

The participants engaged in extensive deliberations and reviewed the progress in industrial cooperation within the ECO framework

and identified concrete measures to strengthen collaboration. The meeting finalized the draft agenda, draft report, and the draft Dushanbe Declaration for submission to the Ministerial Meeting for adoption.

The Dushanbe Declaration sets out a forward-looking agenda for joint action in nanotechnology cooperation, protection of industrial property rights, development of MSMEs and entrepreneurship, enhanced engagement of the private sector, and stronger partnerships with international organizations. It also proposes measures to address challenges related to divergent industrial capacities, regulatory gaps, and insufficient regional coordination.

The Meeting concluded with sincere thanks to the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.

ECO Secretary General Meets Tajikistan's Minister of Industry and New Technologies

Dushanbe, September 23, 2026

ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan met with H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the sidelines of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, focusing on strengthening regional industrial cooperation and private-sector engagement.

Dr. Khan welcomed Tajikistan's leadership in convening the Ministerial Meeting after a 20-year interval and expressed appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for its support and hospitality.

Highlighting Dushanbe Declaration as the main outcome of the Meeting, the Secretary General underscored its importance in renewing Member States' commitment to regular high-level policy dialogue on industry, developing a consolidated regional strategy for industrial cooperation, and operationalizing existing ECO frameworks and mechanisms for industrial development.

Dr. Khan commended Tajikistan for organizing the Second International Textile Forum alongside the Ministerial Meeting, noting that such platforms strengthen connections between governments, industry and the private sector and help turn regional cooperation into concrete business opportunities.

Minister Sherali Kabir emphasized the need for stronger Member State participation in ECO's industrial cooperation and greater involvement of private-sector and industry stakeholders, highlighting the region's substantial potential for expanded industrial partnerships.

The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment to translating the Dushanbe Declaration into practical initiatives and stronger industrial partnerships across the ECO region.



ECO Participates at the Second International Textile Forum in Dushanbe



Dushanbe, September 23, 2026

The Second International Textile Forum was held in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Industry, organized by the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the support of the Government of Tajikistan and the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). An ECO Delegation headed by Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan participated in the Forum.

The Forum was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Usmonali Usmonzoda, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. H.E. Mr. Sherali Kabir, Minister of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan, Dr. Asad M. Khan ECO Secretary General, Mr. Mustafa Denizer Vice Chairman of ITMF, and the high-level representatives of participating countries delivered statements.

In his opening statement, Dr. Asad M. Khan acknowledged the vision and leadership of Honorable

President Emomali Rahmon in advancing Tajikistan's industrialization agenda under the country's 2026–2030 development framework. He noted that Tajikistan's focus on accelerated industrialization, diversification and productive capacity has provided important momentum for advancing the ECO industrial cooperation agenda.

Dr. Khan emphasized that government dialogue alone is not enough and that regional cooperation must be better connected with companies, investors, technology providers and financial institutions that can turn policies and priorities into concrete projects.

The Forum also highlighted Tajikistan's priorities in cotton, processing and textiles, presenting investors with a pipeline of projects, investment opportunities and access to decision-makers and technology providers. Three thematic panels focused on Digitalization, Automation and AI; Green Value Chains, Sustainable Cotton and Workforce Training; and Investments in Modernization, Green Financing and Export Support Mechanisms.

Kazakhstan Hosts the 7th Meeting of the ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General in Turkistan



The 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States was convened in Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan on 11 September 2026. The Meeting was actively participated by the Attorneys/Prosecutors General and Heads of Delegations of the ECO Members States, including Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan (Host), Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

Warmly welcoming delegations to Turkistan, the Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Assyllov Berik Nogayevich, expressed Kazakhstan's strong commitment to further strengthening ECO regional cooperation in prosecutorial and judicial domain among the Member States within the frameworks of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

In his inaugural statement, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, profoundly appreciated Kazakhstan for graciously hosting the 7th Meeting in the beautiful and historic City of Turkistan, as well as organizing the Meeting in an efficient manner. The Secretary General underscored the importance of pragmatic implementation of Plan of Interaction

among the Offices of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of ECO Member States and early operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation among Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen. He also highlighted Pakistan's proposal on "Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance among ECO Member States in the Criminal Matters", which would further strengthen the institutional linkages among the ECO Member States.

The Attorneys/Prosecutors General and Heads of Delegation from the Member States while delivering their country statements, extensively engaged themselves in comprehensive and constructive deliberations, and expressed confidence that collective efforts would strengthen a cohesive and effective prosecutorial framework within the ECO region for fortifying judicial cooperation, institutional capacities, transparency and accountability.

The Meeting also reaffirmed the significance of regularly convening the Meetings of Attorneys/Prosecutors General as essential platforms for strategic alignment, mutual trust-building, and advancing regional legal cooperation.

ECO Secretary General Meets with Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan

Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan – September 11, 2026

On the sidelines of the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Assylov Berik Nogayevich, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 11 September 2026 in Turkistan.

ECO Secretary General, Dr. Khan, appreciating Kazakhstan very active role in fostering regional cooperation for economic development, congratulated the re-appointment of Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan and conveyed sincere appreciation to the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan sustained attention and valuable contribution to the work of the Organization, particularly for hosting the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States.



In the Meeting, both sides further underscored the importance of expanding regional cooperation to develop a vision to address new law enforcement challenges, including cyber-crimes, as well as expressed commitment on advancing judicial and anti-corruption cooperation among ECO Member States.

ECO Secretary General Meets with Prosecutor General of Türkiye

Turkistan – September 11, 2026

On the sidelines of the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan held a bilateral meeting with Prosecutor General of the Supreme Court of Appeal of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Mr. Muhsin Şentürk.

ECO Secretary General, appreciating the regular meetings of ECO Prosecutors General and the active participation of Türkiye in the 7th Meeting, called for collective efforts for enhancing the cooperation among the Office of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the Member States through implementation of the Plan of Interaction and ratification of ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) by the Member States for its early operationalization.



H.E. Mr. Muhsin Şentürk appreciated the ECO Secretary General for the Secretariat's continued assistance and support to the Member States in organizing such important events and programs. He also reaffirmed Türkiye's support in enhancing the ECO's ambitious regional agenda, especially in strengthening institutional linkages among the Offices of Attorneys/Prosecutors General and collective efforts in addressing issues of transnational organized crimes, including money laundering, illicit financial flows, human trafficking, and corruption.

ECO Secretary General Meets with Prosecutor General of Iran on sidelines of the 7th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General in Turkistan

Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan – September 11, 2026

On the sidelines of the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States, ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Mohammad Movahhedi, Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 11 September 2026 in Turkistan.



ECO Secretary General, Dr. Khan, appreciating the leading role of Iran in advancing ECO's regional agenda of the economic development and prosperity, emphasized on effective implementation of the Plan of Interaction among the Offices of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States. While recalling Iran's hosting of the First Meeting of this mechanism in 2012 in Tehran, he also called for enhancing institutional linkages among Attorneys/Prosecutors General Office of the Member States through fully operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) headquartered in Iran, which will play essential role for effective and coherent response to transnational organized crime across the ECO Region.

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Movahhedi, Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran reciprocated his thoughts and appreciated ECO Secretary General for the Secretariat's continued assistance and support to the Member States in organizing such important events and programs, and underscored the need for organization of more regional activities under framework of ECO on raising awareness, information sharing and capacity building programs in judicial and prosecutorial domain.

ECO Secretary General Visits Cultural sites in Turkistan

The ECO Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan had a wonderful cultural experience in Turkistan, visiting the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and other heritage sites. He expressed his appreciation for the Kazakh hosts for showcasing the region's rich history, traditions and cultural heritage.



Preparatory Meeting for the 7th Attorneys/Prosecutors General Meeting

September 2, 2026

An online Preparatory Expert-Level Meeting was convened on September 2, 2026, to review and finalize the Draft Turkistan Declaration for the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States.

The meeting was chaired by the representative of Kazakhstan, as the host country and Chair of the Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General, and co-chaired and moderated by the ECO Secretariat team. Representatives of ECO Member States participated in the meeting.



Participants conducted a detailed review of the draft Declaration and considered the proposals and observations put forward by Member States. Member States agreed to continue consultations with a view to finalizing the text of the Turkistan Declaration ahead of the 7th Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General.

Permanent Representative of Türkiye Pays Farewell Visit to ECO

Tehran – September 3, 2026

The Ambassador of Türkiye to Iran and Permanent Representative to the ECO, H.E. Hicabi Kırılancı paid a farewell call on the ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan as he completed his tenure in Tehran.

During the meeting, the Secretary General thanked the Ambassador for his strong support to advancing regional cooperation within the ECO framework. Noting his scholarly expertise and deep understanding of the region, Dr. Khan wished the Ambassador to continue his efforts to bring the region together in his future work.

Acknowledging the fundamental role of ECO as a unique platform for regional economic cooperation, Ambassador Kırılancı appreciated the Secretary General's active efforts in advancing ECO agenda and reaffirmed his commitment to work for better regional integration.



ECO Secretary General Receives UNHCR Representative

Tehran – September 3, 2026

ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan received Ms. Yumiko Ishikawa Takashima, the Representative of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Iran.

Referring to the longstanding institutional relationship between ECO and the UN and its agencies, the meeting exchanged views on the activities of the two institutions in connection with the current situation of refugees and migration within the region. Both sides agreed on continuing the dialogue with a view to develop concrete proposals regarding migration issues in the region on the basis of a mutually agreeable framework.



ETON Maintains the Regional Tourism Business Cooperation

Tehran – September 23, 2026

The 9th Meeting of the ECO Tour Operators' Network (ETON) was held virtually on 23 September 2026, bringing together representatives of ECO Member States, tour operators and delegates from national tourism administrations to strengthen private-sector cooperation and advance practical initiatives for regional tourism development.

The meeting reviewed the outcomes of the 2nd ECO Tour Operators Forum, jointly hosted by Türkiye and the Turkish Cypriot State in Mersin and Girne last year. The participants also exchanged views on the preparation of the 3rd ECO Tour Operators Forum, to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tabriz and Aras Free Zone before the end of 2026 with a detailed briefing from Iranian stakeholders on planning and timing of said event.

The meeting also discussed the draft concept regarding possible establishment of an ECO Tourism Agencies Federation (ECO-TAF) as a mechanism to strengthen and institutionalize private-sector cooperation. The Tourism Directorate of the ECO Secretariat explained the concept and process for the establishment of such structure, clarifying the issues raised by the participants.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on continued cooperation among ECO Member States and tourism stakeholders organizing joint fam trips and facilitating the participation of interested stakeholders in ECO tourism cooperation events, as well as the development of concrete follow-up actions to transform the current works for partnership of tour operators into a permanent private sector cooperation mechanism.



ECO Explores Regional Innovation Cooperation at INOTEX 2026

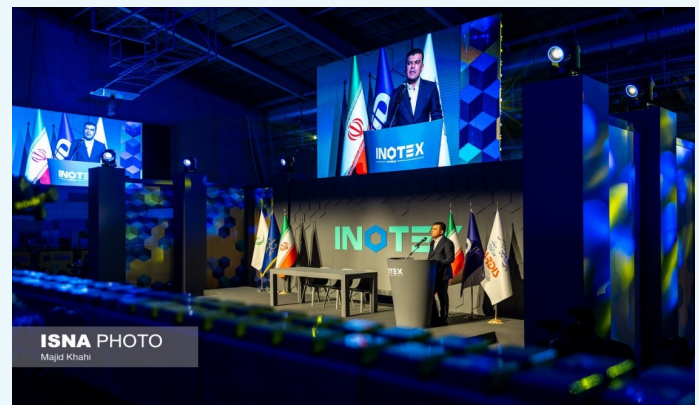
On 2 September 2026, Mr. Can Aygul, Director of Agriculture and Industry at the ECO Secretariat, visited the 15th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2026) at Pardis Technology Park in Tehran.

Held from 2–5 September 2026, INOTEX brings together startups, knowledge-based and technology companies, investors, industries and innovation professionals from Iran and abroad. The flagship event showcases emerging technologies and provides a platform for investment, business matchmaking and cooperation across the innovation ecosystem.

On the margins of the opening ceremony, Mr. Aygul held discussions with officials from Pardis Technology Park on opportunities to strengthen engagement between INOTEX and the innovation ecosystems of ECO Member States. The two sides agreed to continue discussions on possible ECO participation in future editions of INOTEX, including the establishment of a dedicated ECO booth to showcase innovative companies and technologies from Member States.

They also explored the possibility of organizing the first ECO International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ECO-TEX) on the margins of INOTEX next year, subject to further consultations and arrangements.

The proposed initiative could provide a regional platform for connecting startups, technology companies, investors and industries across the ECO region and promoting innovation-driven cooperation among Member States.



ECO and IOFS Hold Joint Webinar on Agricultural Cooperatives

On 29 September 2026, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) jointly organized a webinar titled "Towards Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives in OIC and ECO Member Countries: Sharing Good Practices, Identifying Priority Actions, and Advancing Regional Cooperation."

The webinar brought together representatives from ECO and OIC Member States, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye, to share national experiences, good practices and challenges, and discuss the role of agricultural cooperatives in supporting producers, strengthening agricultural value chains, improving market access and advancing regional cooperation.

Opening the webinar, Mr. Can Aygöl, Director for Agriculture and Industry at the ECO Secretariat, highlighted the importance of economically viable and well-governed cooperatives in improving producers' access to finance, technology and markets. He stressed that regional exchanges should go beyond knowledge-sharing and lead to concrete cooperation, joint initiatives and practical projects.

Dr. Memduh Ünal, Director of the Programs Department of IOFS, emphasized the importance of identifying successful cooperative models that can be adapted across countries and developed into practical projects, including in areas such as agricultural services, processing, storage, logistics and market access. The IOFS side also presented regional data, key challenges and opportunities for further cooperation on agricultural cooperatives.

The discussions highlighted the importance of the exchange of experiences among Member States and practical follow-up initiatives to strengthen agricultural cooperatives and their contribution to agricultural development and regional value chains.



ECO, ETDB and IsDB Reaffirm Commitment to Regional Cooperation at First Joint Working Group Session

Tehran – September 7, 2026

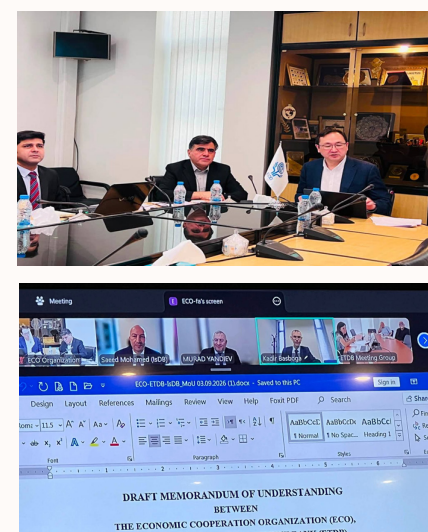
The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) held the first session of the trilateral Joint Working Group, hosted virtually by the ECO Secretariat in Tehran, underscoring their shared commitment to deepening cooperation in support of regional economic development.

Briefing the meeting, Mr. Faizrahman Kassenov, Head of the Project Management Section at the ECO Secretariat, acknowledged the key role of ETDB and IsDB in supporting and financing ECO's ongoing and upcoming regional projects, and highlighted the potential of closer trilateral cooperation to advance regional economic activities and connectivity.

Mr. Murad Yandiev, Manager, Investor Relations, Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), while appreciating IsDB's active collaboration with ECO since signing of the MoU in 1993, expressed readiness to exploring the possibility of enhancing cooperation with ECO Secretariat in various priority areas, including trade and investment and transport connectivity, through trilateral MoU with collaboration of ECO-TDB.

Mr. Fazli Sak, Director (Policy and Compliance Department) of ECO-TDB and his team actively participated in the meeting and also supported the idea of this new trilateral mechanism between ECO, ECO-TDB and IsDB.

The session discussed the first draft of the proposed trilateral Memorandum of Understanding, as the three institutions expressed keen interest in strengthening joint efforts to identify and support high-impact regional projects, and agreed to work closely together toward finalizing the MoU.



ECO Congratulates Tajikistan on the 35th Anniversary of State Independence



The Economic Cooperation Organization extends its warmest congratulations to the Government and the people of the Republic of Tajikistan on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of State Independence.

On this important national occasion, ECO conveys its best wishes for the continued peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development of Tajikistan.

The Organization highly values Tajikistan's important and constructive role in advancing the objectives of ECO and remains committed to further strengthening cooperation with Tajikistan, under the able leadership of President Emomali Rahmon, particularly in the areas of regional connectivity, economic integration and sustainable development.

ECO looks forward to Tajikistan's continued active contribution to the realization of the Organization's common goals and to the further advancement of regional cooperation and shared prosperity across the ECO region.

ECO Marks the 35th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan



The Economic Cooperation Organization extends its warm congratulations to H.E. Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, the Government and the people of Turkmenistan on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the country's Independence.

Turkmenistan has maintained an important role in advancing regional cooperation and promoting greater economic interaction across the ECO region. Its engagement in areas including connectivity, transport, energy, trade and regional dialogue continues to contribute to the Organization's broader objectives of a more integrated region and shared prosperity.

Turkmenistan's emphasis on neutrality, peaceful dialogue, good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation provide an important foundation for its engagement with regional and international partners.

On this significant national occasion, the ECO conveys its best wishes for the continued peace, prosperity and development of Turkmenistan and looks forward to further strengthening cooperation with the country in pursuit of the Organization's common goals.

ECO Celebrates the World Tourism Day 2026

Tehran, 27 September 2026

On the occasion of World Tourism Day 2026, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) extends its warmest congratulations to all tourism stakeholders across our region and beyond. This year's theme "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism," resonates deeply with the transformative journey the ECO has undertaken.

In our Strategic Goals of Economic Cooperation – 2035, ECO has placed innovative and digital transformation at the heart of our tourism agenda. We recognize that augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and digital marketing are not merely tools of convenience they are catalysts for reimagining how travellers experience our rich cultural heritage, how tourism enterprises operate, and how our workforce competes in an increasingly digital global economy. These technologies hold the promise of enhancing visitor experiences, improving operational efficiency, and unlocking sustainable growth across our Member States.



The ECO region possesses immense tourism potential, from the historic Silk Road cities to pristine natural landscapes and vibrant cultural traditions. Realizing this potential requires embracing the digital frontier with purpose and vision. As we mark this important day, the ECO Secretariat reaffirms its commitment to supporting Member States in upskilling their tourism workforce, developing digital infrastructure, and fostering an environment where artificial intelligence and digital tools serve the traveller, the entrepreneur, and the community alike.

We call upon all partners governments, private sector, and civil society to join us in shaping a tourism future that is not only technologically advanced but also inclusive, sustainable, and rooted in the shared heritage that defines our region.

Happy World Tourism Day 2026!



Economic Cooperation Organization



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